

RECEIVED

By Darlene Brady at 3:41 pm, Oct 06, 2021



Board of Selectmen
Special Meeting

October 5, 2021
7:00 P.M.

Present: Jean Speck, Chris Garrity and Ed Matson.

Also present: Darlene Brady, Zanne Charity, Melissa Cherniske, Debbie Devaux, Tim Good, Donna Hayes, Sarah Marshall, Patricia Oris, Rick Osborne, Elissa Potts and Glen Sanchez.

Call to order:

Jean Speck called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Food Trucks and Peddler Permits:

Jean Speck read John Casey's October 4, 2021 letter into the record (attached).

Elissa Potts:

- Agrees with the content of John Casey's letter.
- Food trucks will ruin the charm and character of Kent.
- Okay with food trucks for "Special Events", not as a steady diet.
- What are food trucks contributing to the town?

Tim Good:

- Concerned about the location of food trucks on state road, Route 7 and 341.
- Food trucks at private parties – okay.
- During the first Gilmore Girls, did not allow food trucks, supported local businesses.
- Seventeen food establishments with employees they need to support.

Sarah Marshall:

- The Chamber sent out a survey to the 132 members.
- 60 responded
- 75% interested in food trucks around town with regulations.
- Private property events, okay.
- Cannot be free for all.

Chris Garrity:

- Would like to see food trucks regulated by zoning.
- No vending outside of the commercial district.

- It is a use issue.
- Can "we" regulate Route 7 and Route 341, state roads? (Jean Speck to obtain confirmation).

Donna Hayes:

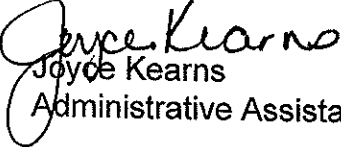
- If the BoS would like food trucks to become the responsibility of zoning, someone would have to bring the request to P&Z to change the regulations.
- Farmer's market receives a temporary site plan approval every year showing the number of vendors and parking.
- Because food trucks are not covered under the P&Z regulations, Donna sent the request to the BoS to create an ordinance to cover food trucks.

Jean Speck:

- Town attorney confirmed the current peddler permit does not fit into the current ordinance – a food truck is not goods, wears and merchandise.
- Jean Speck to get clarification from the town attorney if the ordinances are inclusive or exclusive?
- Future direction – ordinance and/or P&Z regulations.
- Keep this topic on the agenda for the next BoS meeting, Jean will do her "homework" to be prepared to continue the discussion.

Adjourn:

Jean Speck adjourned the meeting at 8:19 p.m.


 Joyce Kearns
 Administrative Assistant

These are draft minutes and the Board of Selectmen at the subsequent meeting may make corrections. Please refer to subsequent meeting minutes for possible corrections and approval of these minutes.

RECEIVED

By Darlene Brady at 10:20 am, Sep 29, 2021

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Special Meeting
Tuesday, October 5, 2021 @ 7:00 P.M.**



Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87333902691>

Meeting ID: 873 3390 2691

One tap mobile: +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

1. Call to order.
2. Food trucks and peddler permits.
3. Adjourn.

"An equal opportunity employer and service provider.



October 4, 2021

Ms. Jean Speck
First Selectman
41 Kent Green Blvd.
Kent, CT 06757

HAND DELIVERED

Dear First Selectman Speck:

I am writing to express my opinion about the food truck issue in town. I would appreciate your reading this letter into the minutes of the October 2021 Selectmen's meeting.

I have been a close observer of and a full-time participant in the Kent economy for 15 years. Current economic conditions in town are the best I've seen during that period, by a wide margin. Nonetheless, my overall perception is that the Kent economy, based on 3,000 full time residents, is fragile. At present, there are 17 food establishments in town. The last thing we need is food trucks.

The merchants, property owners, Kent Chamber of Commerce and Kent Planning and Zoning all work together to maintain an atmosphere that presents Kent in its best light. We pay taxes that support the town's infrastructure, abide by a myriad of regulations intended to protect the town's ambience, and support our charitable organizations. We, the local merchants, invest time, advertising dollars and creative thought year-round to give our visitors and local patrons the best possible experience when they come to the village.

The idea of allowing food trucks to come in and capitalize on local businesses' investment of time and money seems like a slap in the face to those of us who have invested so much for so long. Allowing food trucks to exploit the environment that Kent merchants have created, invested in, and maintained is wrong.

From a practical standpoint, are food trucks expected to open up on our streets in the raw days of February and March, when most of our restaurants are clinging by their fingernails? Or will they just come to town on the busy days of fall and summer when our food businesses are finally in a position to turn red ink into black - and compete with them?

Our existing food businesses are required by our zoning regulations to provide parking and bathrooms for their customers. As one who has worked within these regulations many times, the zoning

regulations are stringent, and do not come without cost, and rightly so. There is precious little parking on Route 7 and Route 341 in the center of the village during summer and fall. Won't food trucks compete with our full-time food businesses for the village's limited parking? How about bathrooms? If providing parking and bathrooms for patrons of our resident food businesses is important, and it is according to the zoning regulations, isn't it important for patrons of food trucks? Or will food trucks get a pass on that? And I can't think about parking on Main Street without thinking about pedestrian safety. U.S. Route 7 is an extremely narrow roadway, with unusually narrow shoulders and narrow sidewalks. Most of us who live here have had the experience of someone flinging open a car door on Main Street without looking. It is patently unsafe for food trucks and their patrons. And who will pick up the garbage on Main Street and where would the receptacles be placed?

We've all heard the argument that food trucks will bring more people to Kent. How many per day - 50? 100? By this logic, why not bring in a Duncan Donuts and a Subway? Those businesses will bring in 10 times as many people. It will also change the character of the town that P&Z, townspeople, and our merchants are trying so diligently to protect.

If we discourage big box stores and national chains from coming to town, why wouldn't we do the same with food trucks? Food trucks bring no benefit to the town, use our infrastructure but don't contribute to it, exploit the contributions of our existing businesses and compete with them, and require abrogation of nearly all of Planning & Zoning's restaurant related regulations, regulations that every other brick and mortar food service is required to live by. For these many reasons, food trucks are not a good fit for our town.

Please don't allow this to happen. Thank you.

Sincerely,



John Casey
General Manager
Kent Green