

Approval of the liquor license referendum has many residents asking ‘ok, so what happens next?’

So before I get to the holiday news, let me try to answer that as best I can, given that this is first-time event for Little Silver.

First, the referendum dealt only with a retail consumption license, generally involving a bar/restaurant-style establishment. By virtue of our population, Little Silver may issue just one such license, for a single establishment.

Presently, the only active liquor license is that held by the Little Silver Bottle Shop, the liquor store on Prospect – a different kind of license that does not permit on-site consumption, but allows the retail sale of all kinds of alcoholic beverages.

Yet a third kind of license - that held by the former A&P to sell warm beer and wine - has not been transferred to the new Acme. So the Bottle Shop is now THE place to go before you ‘bring your own’ to our restaurants – which will be able to continue to offer that option, regardless of the issuance of a retail consumption license.

In short, this new license will be the first of its kind in the borough, making this a learning process for everyone.

It now falls to the Borough Council to redraft the borough’s Alcoholic Beverage Control Ordinance to allow for the license, which will include such considerations as where to allow such an establishment, how large it might be, the ratio of bar stools to dining tables, the hours of operation, whether to allow music and if so when, and other items. The council might also have to redraft the Zoning Ordinance to reflect the existence of the license.

The council will also work on the wording of the license, which will ultimately be auctioned off in a sealed bid procedure.

During this process, public meetings will provide opportunity for public comment. In addition, anyone with concerns or suggestions may come to any regularly scheduled Council meeting and be heard – as is the case with any issue. Meeting dates and times are posted on www.littlesilver.org.

And finally, once ordinances are amended and the license is sold, the purchaser will go through the process to have an establishment approved at whatever location may be proposed, with the appropriate permits, as with any new business.

So that’s the process. We will periodically update the website to reflect any developments.

Next, ‘tis the season, and we will light the tall evergreen in front of Borough Hall on Sunday, December 6 at 4 p.m., to go along with our festive Prospect Avenue lamp posts this year. We’ll have music and cheer, and perhaps a visitor bearing gifts will appear, if we’re all good. Please come join us.

The following weekend, the Library will host a Holiday open house on Saturday, December 12 from 10 a.m. to noon, with refreshments and face painting for the children. And on Sunday, December 13, the Parker Homestead will be decked out to receive visitors from 1 – 4 p.m. Stop by to learn a bit about holidays past in this historic treasure dating to 1665.

And there’s more. On Friday, December 18, from 4 to 7 pm, the Little Silver Business and Professional Association is once again sponsoring horse and carriage rides through town, starting at the firehouse. The LSBPA is enormously supportive of Little Silver, so please thank them by being sure to do all your shopping here in town. Giddyup!

And lastly, if holiday decorations are on your list, including Christmas trees, wreaths, garland and other sundries, stop by the Firehouse and support our volunteers by making your purchases here in town. The LSFD will have entertainment and things to see and has decorated its home in grand style for one of its biggest fundraisers.

On behalf of the Governing Body, we wish you a Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah, and a healthy holiday season no matter what you might celebrate with family and good friends.

As always, please call Borough Hall with any concerns, or contact me directly by calling my home phone at 732-576-8595, or emailing me at bobneff80@gmail.com.

Robert C. Neff, Jr.
Mayor, Borough of Little Silver