



Town Of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Office of Planning and Community Development

Date: May 4, 2020

To: Zoning Commission

From: Michael Glidden CFM CZEO
Director of Planning and Community Development

Re: **Temporary Outdoor Dining**

Governor Lamont spoke of a tentative plan lifting certain restrictions on restaurants starting May 20, 2020. If the governor were to lift restrictions, onsite dining at restaurants will be limited to outdoor areas. It is assumed that appropriate social distancing measures would be required of any establishment to use this opportunity.

As members are aware, restaurants have been operating in a very limited capacity since mid March. Any accommodations that we can make would directly benefit the success and viability of these businesses. The concern is that some restaurants may want to expand their outdoor footprint so that they can continue to operate.

Staff has discussed this matter with the Executive Director of Simsbury Main Street Partnership. We feel that in order to provide the best economic climate for our restaurants that a flexible approach needs to be taken with respect to outdoor dining. We are also consulting with our Fire Marshall and Building Official to develop requirements that will provide a safe manner for restaurants to create additional temporary outdoor dining options.

We are proposing to authorize areas of expanded outdoor dining by an administrative zoning permit. An administrative approval was chosen for this use due to these being time sensitive, temporary expansions. An operator wishing to expand the area of outdoor dining would provide staff a plan that illustrates the physical layout of outdoor areas utilized that upon approval would be valid for 90 days. Administrative permits would be reviewed and approved by Planning staff with input from the Building Official, Fire Marshall, and Farmington Valley Health District.

Staff will provide the Commission with a report listing the locations of approvals, size/scale of the proposed outdoor dining area, and other relevant information.

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8:30 – 7:00 Monday
8:30 – 4:30 Tuesday through
Thursday
8:30 – 1:00 Friday

After 90 days, we are hoping that business will return to normal operation. Temporary outdoor dining areas would be removed and restaurants would revert to operating in a more traditional set-up. In the event restrictions are not lifted within the 90 day window, staff will discuss possible extensions with the Zoning Commission.