



TOWN OF NEW MILFORD
Office of Economic Development
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PRESS RELEASE

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ATTN: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW MILFORD FOOD TRUCK APPLICATIONS BEGIN AUGUST 5

NEW MILFORD, CT: Local business owners Dave Littlefield (Housatonic River Brewing) and Jeffrey Buzaid (Powerhouse Kitchens and Appliances) were the first to contact Economic Development Director Karen Pollard for applications under the newly approved Food Truck Ordinance, passed unanimously at the New Milford Town Council meeting held July 22nd. This ordinance is unique in that it is designed to encourage small businesses to work together with a host to apply for the location permit while the food truck manages the permit process required by state and local health regulations.

The Town Council spent several months reviewing and refining the criteria before its unanimous approval. “Our intent is to increase tourist traffic, improve our economy and the success of the small business population,” stated Councilwoman Lisa Hida. “At the same time, we wanted to acknowledge there are concerns from the brick and mortar restaurants. It’s a balance of trying something new that will do good things for our economy and recognize our established businesses.”

Location permits will be limited to the first twenty locations to apply and eligibility will be determined by reviewing critical elements of the application by the Mayor, the Chief of Police, Fire Marshall and Health Department. A map of the site must be attached showing that the location of the food truck is at least 250 feet away from the entrance of any restaurant or food service business, that the food truck will not block travel lanes or entrance or exit lanes and provide a clear line of sight for traffic. Location permits can be for a five-day term for \$80 or a full month for \$160 which allows one vendor at a time per location, but the food trucks can be scheduled for variety as long as the operators have a current valid Health Department approval. The New Milford Police Department will handle enforcement and any traffic concerns. "Critics have called this cumbersome and expensive, but we've done the research and our fees are in line or more affordable than other towns. The process is designed to make sure we start small with quality results and then as needed we can consider changes," explained Karen Pollard, Economic Development Director.

"One of the topics we heard from the public was what about the food trucks already at the Elephant's Trunk? These are grandfathered and will continue as is" stated Mayor Bass.

The complete ordinance and Food Truck Location Permit, as well as Frequently Asked Questions can be found on the Economic Development Page:

<http://www.newmilford.org/content/3014/3016/default.aspx>

The Health Department Temporary Food Service Application can be found here:

http://www.newmilford.org/filestorage/3088/3146/Temporary_Application_Packet.pdf

Location applications will be available on the Town of New Milford website and may be submitted for review starting August 5, 2019. The first date that a food truck approved by this ordinance can operate is August 23, 2019.

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