

Town of Franklin

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OFFICE OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Memorandum

October 30, 2020

To: Town Council
From: Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator

Re: Catering & Food Trucks Update

In response to last week's discussion on food trucks and catering, I have discussed with the Board of Health the issues raised at last week's meeting. I have decided to forgo the food truck temporary license proposal and update you on our resolution based on the feedback from last weeks from the Council.

In short, food trucks will be more difficult to permit, secure their services and are likely to be less advantageous for local businesses to weather the storm this winter. They are expensive, require a usual amount of business and many may even shut down for the Winter. As you know, Franklin has rarely allowed food trucks and we are not a hot spot for food trucks to rely on.

Alternatively, the Board of Health will allow catering to venues who do not have a kitchen and cannot prepare food. Food establishments permitted by the health department can cater to a business who is unable to prepare food. During the pandemic, alcohol has to be served with a meal and those businesses who serve alcohol and who are utilizing caterers must use the catering business servers to serve the patrons; or staff at a facility can obtain the required certificates (Servsafe, Allergy Awareness and Choke Saver certificates) to serve the patrons themselves. In other words, local restaurants will be allowed to cater and serve. If all of the employees at a venue have the required certificates, they may serve the food.

Additionally, any person wanting to share a kitchen with a permitted facility must go before the Board of Health to discuss the shared kitchen plan. The Board may offer recommendations, approve or disapprove the plan. I have consulted with both the staff and Chair of the Board on this matter and they are open to working with caterers on these requests during the pandemic like the Board has with many other business sectors in town throughout.

Any business who wishes to exercise these accommodations should call the Board of Health at 508-520-4905. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.