

Town of Natick, Massachusetts

Department of Community and Economic Development
13 East Central Street Natick, Massachusetts 01760

Telephone
(508) 647-6450
www.natickma.org

James Freas, AICP
Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 18, 2020
TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: James Freas, Director of Community & Economic Development
RE: Permitting Downtown Outdoor Dining Areas

Meeting Date: June 24, 2020

The temporary outdoor dining permitting program has been a great success with nine restaurants served since the Board of Selectmen adopted the policy on June 8th. Preparing for outdoor dining opportunities for downtown restaurants that do not have access to private property on which to expand has also advanced. Staff is requesting Board of Selectmen approval for a first phase of the downtown outdoor dining and pedestrian safety program. This “rapid response” phase includes the creation of four outdoor dining areas, shown in the images below, each featuring protected spaces in which nearby restaurants may place tables and chairs for service.

The four locations identified in phase 1 are intended to serve restaurants in the adjacent buildings. In each case, the Town will provide concrete and steel barricades that will serve to protect restaurant patrons from passing traffic. The restaurants are responsible for providing tables and chairs as well as operating/maintaining the spaces to keep them clean and compliant with COVID 19 restaurant requirements. Town staff will need to maintain a degree of flexibility in the ability to make adjustments to these areas after they are installed as we spot concerns or potential improvements. All of these areas require the use of safety barrier materials the Town already has available.

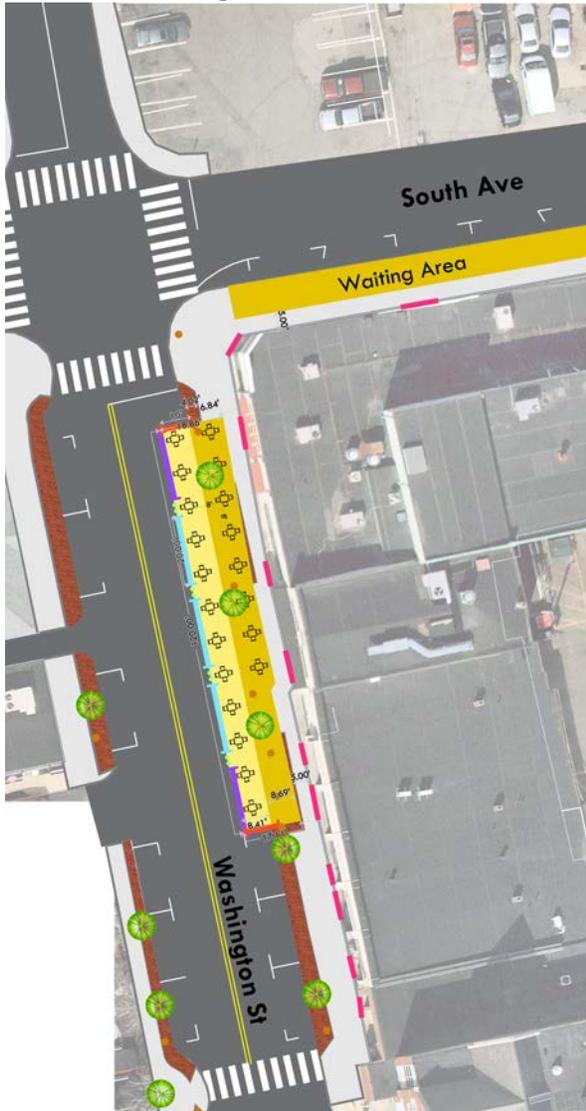
From a process perspective, each restaurant interested in making use of one of these areas has been asked to complete a Temporary Outdoor Dining permit application. The application is intended to demonstrate compliance with the COVID 19 operating requirements and inclusion of the Town on the establishment’s insurance policy.

The second phase of this project will incorporate designated pick-up areas, expand on pedestrian safety features, and consider ideas like partial street closures at certain times. This phase will include engagement of downtown businesses. The second phase will also introduce a public art component intended to create a draw for potential customers through making the space more comfortable and engaging. CED has received a \$5,000 grant from the Lawrence &

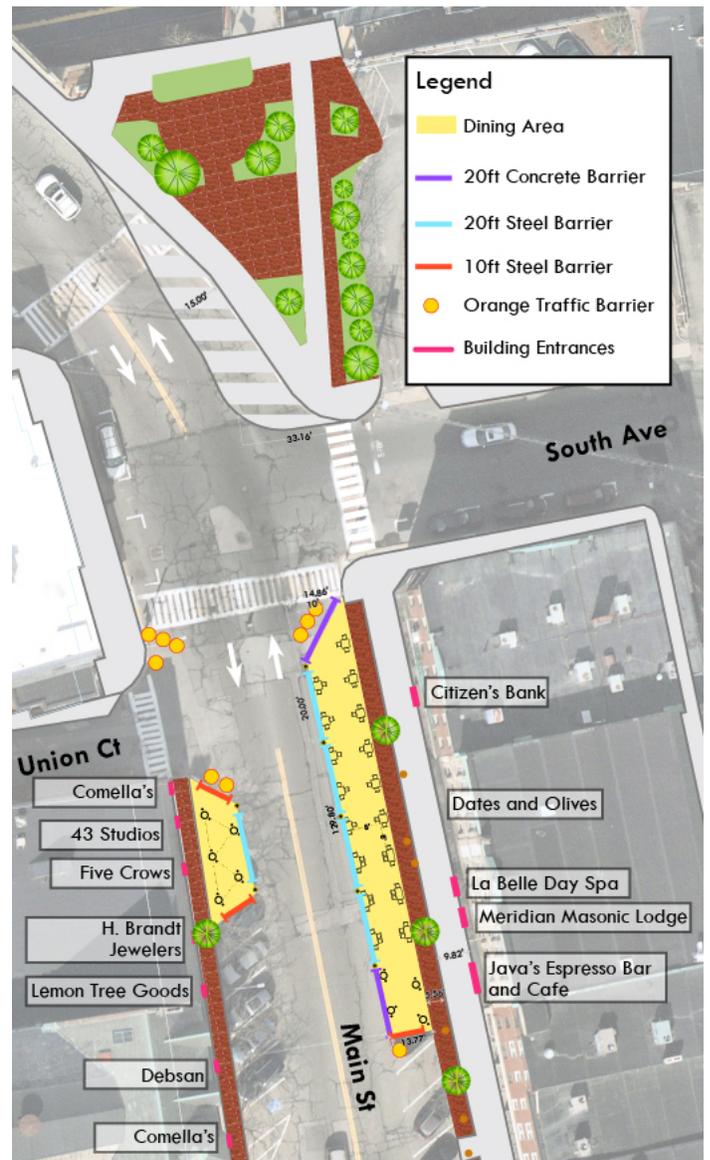
Lillian Solomon Foundation to support artist stipends and materials. This money will be provided to the Natick Center Cultural District to administer the public art component of the project.

The Temporary Outdoor Dining Committee, with membership from Police, Fire, DPW, Health, and Building Departments reviewed and approved the attached phase 1 plans. Overall, this project has been an excellent example of interdepartmental collaboration. The Downtown Outdoor Dining and Pedestrian Safety project has so far drawn a great deal of interest and excitement and we are looking forward to implementation.

Area 1 – Washington St & South Ave



Area 2 & 3 – Main St & South Ave / Main & Union



Area 4 – Main St. & W. Central

