

OFFICE OF THE
FIRST SELECTMAN

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William F. Brennan
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Second Selectman

Richard F. Creeth

Harold E. Clark

Ted W. Hoffstatter

TOWN HALL
238 Danbury Road
Wilton, CT 06897

PUBLIC HEARING
Proposed Amendment to the Alcohol Ordinance
Monday, December 7, 2009
Room B, Wilton Town Hall

PRESENT: First Selectman William Brennan, Selectman Susan Bruschi, Selectman Richard Creeth, Selectman Hal Clark, Selectman Ted Hoffstatter

GUESTS: Joan Lownds (Bulletin), Kara O'Connor (Villager), Christian Camerota (Patch), Jan Andras, eight members of the public

The public hearing was called to order at 7:30 p.m. First Selectman William Brennan read the legal notice as published in the Wilton Bulletin on 11/25/09.

Mr. Brennan noted that any new ordinance that is proposed or any amendment to an existing ordinance requires a public hearing prior to any final action by the Board of Selectmen. Tonight, the Selectmen will be considering two changes – the addition of package store permits, which was approved at the 11/3/09 referendum – and the operating hours for package stores in the Town of Wilton. He then opened the floor to public comment.

Deborah McFadden, Westport Road, understands that the ordinance has to be revised to reflect the results of the referendum. The Planning & Zoning has worked on specific regulations. She agrees with the 8:00 p.m. closing time, although the state allows for package stores to remain open until 9:00 p.m. She would like to add to the ordinance – “not to be later than the surrounding towns”.

Ken Dartley, Olmstead Hill Road asked if the Wilton Police Department would have the right to close or issue a summons to any package store that is found to be selling to minors? First Selectman Brennan answered that selling to minors would be a violation of state law. The Police Department would investigate and the state would be involved.

Selectman Creeth does not agree with requiring package stores to close earlier than the state regulations require. It should be left to the merchants if they want to close at 8:00 or 9:00 p.m. Mr. Brennan replied that Town Attorney Ken Bernhard had investigated that matter and

determined from other stores that business after 8:00 p.m. slows and they do not feel it is worth staying open until 9:00 p.m.

Hearing no further comment, the public hearing was closed at 7:15 p.m.

Jan Andras
Recording Secretary

With no further comments, the hearing was closed at 7:45 p.m.

Jan Andras
Recording Clerk