



New restaurant gets beer and wine license

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DANVERS — Selectmen have agreed to serve up the beer, wine and cordials license held by Grappa's restaurant to a young Danvers couple who want to open at the same location in the square.

The transfer of the license paves the way for Nine Elm American Bistro to open in September.

Matthew Sanidas, a chef and manager of the new eatery, and his wife, Jean, appeared before selectmen Tuesday night looking for the liquor license transfer.

Nine Elm plans to supplant Grappa's, which plans to close Aug. 27, Sanidas said. The timing of the opening depends on when the state Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission approves their application.

"I like to see a high-quality restaurant make it in Danvers Square," Selectman Bill Clark said. "I know it's been a tough nut to crack."

Clark noted he had Sanidas as a student when he taught at Danvers High, and that Sanidas, 32, had been a good cook back then.

Sanidas said he grew up in the restaurant business, as his father ran a restaurant in Rockport. He works as a chef in Boston now, but said he wanted something more.

"Now I have a place of my own," Sanidas said.

Selectmen also took action to help a Danvers Square brewery, granting Cody Brewing Company and manager Sean Cody a permanent entertainment license to host musical acts.

In June, Cody won permission to hold six shows as a test. Selectmen also asked Cody to reach out to the neighborhood to measure their concerns.

Cody said the brewery was able to hold four shows, not six, due to scheduling conflicts. Still, they were a success, he said, and neighbors did not seem to mind the noise.

"We only had one abutter come down and they were in complete support," Cody said. The Maple Street brewery is mostly hemmed in by businesses that close at night. The closest neighbors live on Cherry Street, Cody said.

Selectmen Chairman Keith Lucy wished Cody luck, given Cody has to appear several times before the board because of issues relating to his liquor license.

"I hope the next time I see you is across your bar and not across this bar," Lucy said.

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