



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

DEPT.: City Manager

DATE: September 30, 2020

CONTACT: Greg Usry, Interim City Manager

AGENDA ITEM: Purchase Plaza update, action on proposal to continue the Plaza through November 30 (subject to City staff discretion for exigent circumstances) and action on cold weather plan.

FOR THE MEETING OF:
October 7, 2020

RECOMMENDATION: That the Council consider the future of Purchase Plaza and outdoor dining.

IMPACT: Environmental Fiscal Neighborhood Other:

BACKGROUND: Due to COVID-19, the restaurants and other businesses in Rye cannot open their doors to allow for full capacity of patrons. This allows for greater foot traffic for our restaurants and merchants as dining can remain outdoors during the colder weather.



CITY OF RYE

To: Mayor Cohn and City Council

From: Greg Usry, Interim City Manager

Re: Modifications to Purchase Street Plaza

Date: October 2, 2020

Overview

On June 10, 2020 the City Council passed a resolution authorizing City staff to design and execute a series of street closures, parking modifications and safety measures to enable restaurants to expand their outdoor dining capacity. This was done in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Governor's Phase 2 and Phase 3 orders, significantly limiting indoor dining. As part of this action, the Council further enabled staff to waive certain City permit requirements in order to expedite the process, thereby accelerating the various restaurant openings.

Over the following months the Council extended the closures two additional times (July 15 and August 17). During this period City staff worked with the Chamber of Commerce to make modifications in response to various requests or issues raised by downtown business owners and City residents. These modifications included the addition of diagonal parking spaces, the replication of the handicap parking spaces that were lost with the street closure, the extension of the street opening to Locust (and Smith), signage improvements, etc.

As we approach colder months, City staff has undertaken a further review of the downtown layout. This review was done in recognition of:

1. Restaurants remain subject to the State orders limiting indoor dining
2. Restaurants wishing to continue outdoor dining through the colder weather will need to make significant investments in tenting, heating systems, etc.
3. Seasonal winter tenting will need Building Department and Fire Safety review prior to use
4. The outdoor plaza "feel" of Purchase Street will diminish in the colder months
5. Certain merchants and downtown businesses have reported being negatively impacted by the temporary closure
6. The City will need to make provisions for snow removal and general winter maintenance.

Tent Investment. Installing a tent that meets relevant codes and fire safety requirements is expensive and time-consuming. If restaurants are going to make an investment in buying or renting a tent they will require a level of certainty from the City that they will be allowed to maintain that structure for a reasonable period of time. If the City intends to continue providing an outdoor space for restaurants, the City Council should provide more permanency and choose a start and end date for tent installation. A decision here should favor a much longer period of time, including through the winter and into spring 2021.

Street Atmosphere. One of the compelling arguments for the City Council's decision to close Purchase Street was that it not only allowed restaurants to remain economically viable consistent with Covid safety protocols, but that it also created an atmosphere within the City that many found desirable. Closing streets to traffic emphasized a pedestrian orientation. The restaurants capitalized on this opportunity, creating attractive outdoor dining spaces with colorful umbrellas and other visually pleasing amenities, even in spite of some less appealing traffic safety measures that were required to be installed such as concrete blocks and signage. The closure also availed merchants with the same opportunity to move out onto the sidewalk, or into designated parking spots.

If heated tents are used in these same outdoor spaces during the colder months, it is difficult to envision that they will contribute to a similar pedestrian-oriented, festival-like experience that was achieved during the warmer months. They will largely be inward facing serving the needs of their customer rather than outward facing enhancing the aesthetic.

Sustaining Business. The City wants a healthy business environment and is doing all it can to support the business community during Covid. The colder months present new challenges. Retail and personal service businesses in the colder months are challenged in a pedestrian-oriented environment like Purchase Street. The customer isn't strolling Purchase Street in frigid temperatures and enjoying it the same way. Customers would prefer less walking, more parking closer to their destination and generally less aggravation. Re-opening Purchase Street will help mitigate some of these concerns and appease those businesses that have expressed the adverse impact they believe the closure has had on their revenue.

City Interests. Colder weather also brings with it inclement conditions. Snow and ice removal from streets and sidewalks will be challenged in a closed and tented environment. The existing condition likely cannot remain as is without some modification, including a reduction in the outdoor dining footprint and the installation of Jersey barriers to protect dining areas from snow removal activities. It is also in the City's interest that there be a decision that does not require continuous and time-consuming re-examination of the closure. The amount of time devoted to the Purchase Street closure over the past few months has been a significant diversion of limited City staff time and resources from other priorities.

Recommendation

In recent weeks, City staff has undertaken a comprehensive review of the downtown. The results of this review and extensive discussions with the restaurants have led to the recommendations below. Clearly it is impossible to meet 100% of each individual business' goals, but these recommendations are supported by all of the restaurants. This includes those whose outdoor space is being relocated and/or reduced. It is important to note that all the restaurants have requested a further extension of the current closure into late fall.

- The City Council should allow tents for restaurants and other businesses on private, and designated public property, through the winter months and into the spring of 2021 (i.e. April 1). The timing of the winter tenting should correspond with the opening of Purchase Street to regular traffic. Restaurants that wish to undertake the winter conversion may do so ahead of the opening of Purchase Street.
- Those businesses with tents on private property would generally not be permitted to have tents on public property in front of their business (tables would be permitted, subject to normal summer set up). In these cases, the City may offer the use of City property for refuse containers or merchant parking that required to be relocated by the installation of tents at the rear of their existing restaurants.

- Restaurants that do not have available property for tented use should be allowed to use public property, however the extent of that use would be significantly less than what is currently allowed. The extent of public use should be limited to the sidewalk area in front of their establishment or some alternative location on public property. The adjacent on-street parking spaces would be converted to a pedestrian by-pass (the details and cost of this require further input from DPW and would be installed using a City contractor). Traffic flow and on-street parking would return to pre-Covid conditions with the exception of parking spaces converted to walkways. *Candidates for this approach include Bare burger, Village Social, Ana Maria and Aurora (see attached figures).*
- Where neither of these options are practical nor available, tents will no longer be permitted on public property in their current location and configuration. *These include Sunrise (First St.) and Rafele (Carpark 3).* Rafele's existing tent (rear parking lot) can remain but will require City inspection for winter use.
- Under all scenarios, the location of tents must adhere to all necessary requirements and approvals from the NYS Liquor Authority.
- The current configuration/closure of Purchase Street is scheduled to end on October 12 (subject to further extension by City Council action). The new configuration, detailed above, would begin on the date of the Street reopening.
- Similar to previous Council action, the Council should delegate to staff the planning and execution of pedestrian and vehicle safety measures, permit approval for tents and related apparatus. In all cases (public or private property), tent permits must be secured from the City Building Department and Fire Inspector in accordance with all applicable City codes.
- The following table provides a summary of the anticipated plan for the installation of tents for those restaurants choosing to do so and the potential use of City property. City staff has been working with most of the restaurants and they've been receptive to the City's plan. This plan is subject to change as restaurants continue to secure tents and negotiate their plans with their landlords.

Summary of Restaurant Planning

Establishment	Permitted Tent Location
Ruby's	Rear property only.
Rye Bar	Private parking lot only, but continue closure of Second Street.
Water Moon	Rear property only.
Frankie and Johnny's	Rear property only.
Oko/Poppy's	Rear property only.
Bareburger	Purchase St. sidewalk with pedestrian by-pass
Village Social	Purchase St. sidewalk with pedestrian by-pass
Aurora	Purchase St. sidewalk with pedestrian by-pass
Ana Maria	Purchase St. or Elm sidewalk with pedestrian by-pass
Rafele	Existing footprint in Carpark 3.
Sunrise Pizza	Existing Footprint on First Street
LPQ	No tent use
Town Dock	No tent use, but continue closure of Second Street
Al Dente	No tent use
Longford's	No tent use
Fogama	No tent use
Little Thai Kitchen	No tent use

Next Steps

- Subject to Council action, City staff will fully authorize the use of City property consistent with the recommendations included in this memo.
- Each restaurant will provide the City Building Department and Fire Inspector with tenting plans, including lighting and heating details for approval.
- The City Engineer will begin plans for structural measures required to meet pedestrian and vehicle needs.

Attachments:

1. June 10 , 2020 Council resolution authorizing closure and Staff action
2. Summary of restaurants, including indoor/outdoor capacity
3. Map of downtown subject to recommended cold weather set up
4. Copies of restaurant survey responses

June 10, 2020

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CITY MANAGER AND CITY STAFF TO CLOSE CITY STREETS, SIDEWALKS, PARKING AREAS AND OTHER PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAYS TO PROVIDE FOR OUTDOOR DINING AND OUTDOOR SPACE FOR OTHER BUSINESSES AS A RESULT OF NEW YORK STATE GUIDELINES DUE TO COVID-19

WHEREAS, on March 7, 2020, the Governor of the State of New York declared a State of Emergency for the entire State of New York; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a COVID-19 pandemic a national emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, Governor Cuomo executed the “New York State on PAUSE” executive order, a 10-point policy that, among other things, requires nonessential businesses to close, prohibits nonessential gatherings of individuals, and encourages individuals to stay at home; and

WHEREAS, in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, new guidelines have been published by the State to allow for the re-opening of eating establishments and other businesses that require more space between tables, people, among other protocols; and

WHEREAS, the City would like to accommodate eating establishments and other businesses with more space to provide tables and chairs and other necessary amenities for customers; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The City Council authorizes the City Manager to take any necessary steps to close City streets, sidewalks, on-street and off-street parking areas and other public right-of-ways to allow for outdoor dining facilities and outdoor area for other businesses while maintaining sufficient emergency access and providing for pedestrian/cyclist safety; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council authorizes the City Manager to work with City staff to provide for an appropriate administrative review of any eating establishment requesting to use private property for outdoor dining or use of any outdoor area for businesses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council hereby waives any outdoor dining permit fees, sidewalk obstruction permit fees or other similar fees for 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that as part of the City’s closures of City owned streets, sidewalks, on-street and off-street parking areas and other public right-of-ways, the City Manager is authorized to temporarily create new parking spaces and change the direction and flow of traffic to provide sufficient access and safety; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Manager shall work with the Rye City Chamber of Commerce and any other merchant or eating establishment to determine what is a safe and appropriate use of public space and to allocate any costs incurred appropriately.

Where there is conflict between this Resolution and any other law, this Resolution shall control. This Resolution shall take effect immediately and shall expire on July 19, 2020 unless further extended by the City Council.

ROLL CALL

AYES: Mayor Cohn, Councilmembers Goddard, Johnson, Mecca Souza, Stacks, Tarlow

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Purchase Street Restaurant Planning Summary

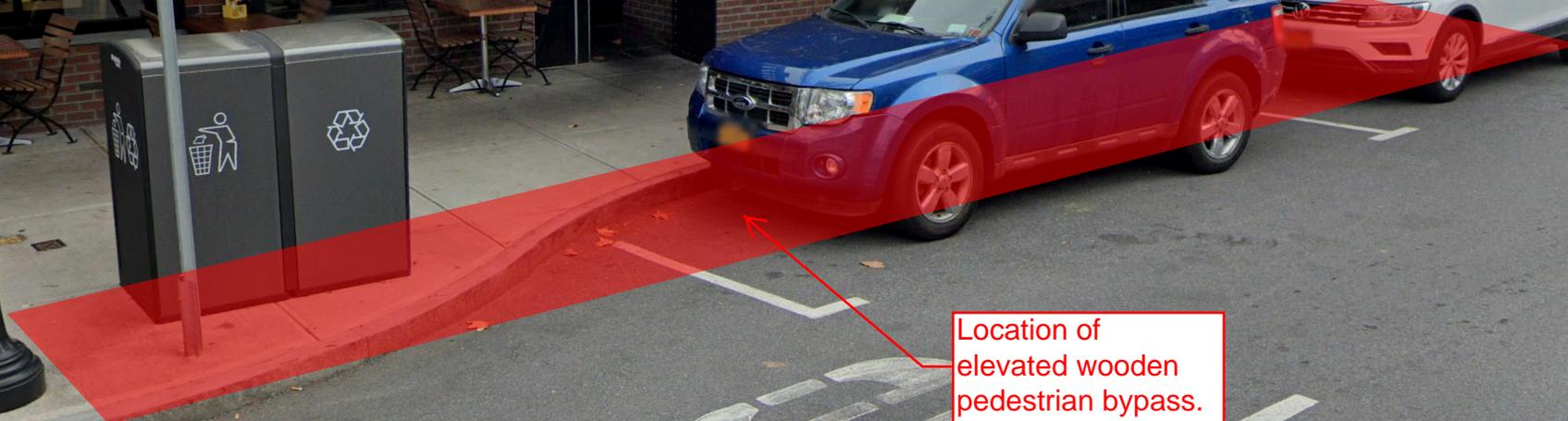
Restaurant	Indoor Seating Capacity		Estimated Outdoor Capacity		Cold Weather Plan/Comments
	Pre-COVID	Current	Current	Revised	
Aurora	70	35	80	TBD	Heaters will be used through late October. Without outdoor seating, will have to layoff staff. Will invest in tent/heaters/umbrellas if clear direction presented. Rear parking lot space not feasible because distance to kitchen, dumpster, distance to point of sale computers, sloping of lot.
Frankie and Johnnies	120	60	50	25	Currently avg 15 diners per evening indoors. Would continue outdoors through Nov if allowed. Will use small, rear employee parking for seating. Soley indoor dining will be unsustainable. 8 outdoor heaters currently set up already and have fleece blankets for guests upon request. Will likely need to cut back on server shirts because of reduced outdoor capacity. Would like to stay on Purchase St through November.
Pureganic	18	9	6	NA	No heaters. Having no outdoor seating in the winter would not affect staffing.
Ruby's	110	52	80	60-65	Maximize heaters, blankets and possibly tents. If no outdoor seating, will reduce staff by 40-50%. Those left will have reduced shifts.
Bareburger	84	42	40	18	Will stay outside as long as possible. Indoor only would decrease sales. Planning on 5 heaters. There is no rear space available. Would like garbage cleaned up on side streets and better barriers.
Poppy's	36	18	40	30	Will stay outside as long as possible. If not, hours and staff cut and may go out of business. Would share tent with OKO. Will have heat and lights. Better signage could help. Very happy so far.
Rafele	126	60	60	40-50	Would seek to create a structure (tent/awning) that would allow outdoor dining 12 months of the year. Without outdoor seating, will have to lay-off workers, reduce hours and potentially close. Will provide heaters. For fall and winter would only use rear space. Would resume Purchase St use during warm weather.

Town Dock	60	30	40-45	40-45 (through November)	Would stay outdoors through November, weather permitting. If indoor only, cut staff by 30%. Have an outdoor deck but need to look into heating solutions. Would request Second St remain closed through November.
Rye Bar and Grill	433	219	180	180	Will provide heating to section that seats 126 and will stay outside as long as possible. Will have to reduce staff if no outdoor seating allowed. Would like Second St. closed as long as possible.
Village Social	90	45	80	60-80	Purchased heat lamps already and would purchase more. Without outdoor seating will likely cut staff by 50% and struggle to meet operating costs. Currently a row of heaters down the middle and would provide more at the perimeter if outdoor dining is extended.
Sunrise Pizza	38	12-19	14-20	14-20	Already purchased heaters to utilize with existing outdoor seating. Planning on staying outside as long as humanly possible, depending on the weather conditions. No outdoor seating will severely limit the hours of employees. Would like to keep current outdoor space.
Al Dente	16	8	16	16	Would use a bigger, higher tent to accommodate cold weather outdoor seating. Outdoor seating has allowed for hiring of more staff would need to be let go if outdoor seating is no longer permitted.
Longford's	10 but a long line could form	All served outside - no limit	All served outside - no limit	All served outside - no limit	Plan for fall/winter is to continue serving customers at the door (outdoors) and take out orders only. Have tents and umbrellas for rainy days and purchased heat lamps for colder days. Customers are very satisfied with set up. Will have to reduce staff and likely not survive the winter without outdoor seating capacity. Requesting Elm Place remain closed.
Ana Maria	40	20	40	TBD	Would stay outdoors as long as weather permits. Will operate indoors only if have to but staff would be reduced.

Bare Burger

POTENTIAL WINTER PLAN FOR PURCHASE PLAZA

Legend



Location of elevated wooden pedestrian bypass. Eliminate 2 Parking Spaces.

Plan subject to approval

Google Earth

© 2020 Google

5.08 ft



Anna Maria's

POTENTIAL WINTER PLAN FOR PURCHASE PLAZA

Legend



Location of elevated wooden pedestrian bypass.
Eliminate 1-2 parking spaces.

Plan subject to approval

Google Earth

© 2020 Google

4.93 ft



Aurora

POTENTIAL WINTER PLAN FOR PURCHASE PLAZA

Legend



Location of elevated wooden pedestrian bypass. Eliminate 3 Parking Spaces.

Plan subject to approval



Village Social

POTENTIAL WINTER PLAN FOR PURCHASE PLAZA

Legend

Location of
elevated wooden
pedestrian bypass.
Eliminate 4 Parking
Spaces.

Plan subject to approval



Google Earth

© 2020 Google

4.89 ft

Sunrise

POTENTIAL WINTER PLAN FOR PURCHASE PLAZA

Legend

Continued use of 2
parking spaces.
No pedestrian
bypass.

Plan subject to approval

Google Earth

© 2020 Google

6.18 ft





Second Street to remain closed to thru traffic.
Rye Grill to continue to use private property for seating.
Town Dock to continue to use Second Street for seating as-is until weather cooperates. No tent to be constructed.

Plan subject to approval



Aurora

1. Survey of Restaurants re indoor space:
 - a. What is their indoor seating capacity as configured (pre Covid)? **Approx 70 seats.**
 - b. What is the estimated revised inside capacity, while meeting current State guidelines, including those with respect distancing and percent of capacity (number and as percentage of (a)) **35 seats.**
 - c. What are the current cold weather plans for outdoor dining **heaters and fair weather to continue outside for as long as possible.**
 1. How long would you stay outside assuming the City provided location **As long as permissible. Probably to late October.**
 2. If outdoor seating isn't provided do you have contingency plans/can you operate based upon indoor only? How would this affect your staffing, nights open etc? **It's not economically feasible to operate inside only. Some outdoor seating is required. We would lay off much of the staff we rehired without continued outdoor capacity. Expanded indoor dining will come much later than originally anticipated. So outside must continue as long as possible.**
 3. Planned outdoor capacity
 4. Describe tenting, heaters **heaters/umbrellas are in place but tenting will not come to fruition without a clear path forward from the town as it comes at considerable expense and time to coordinate the tent's setup.**
 5. How does 1-4 change if your outdoor location is moved to a rear parking lot (if applicable). **It is not feasible to operate in the rear parking lot. The distance is too far from the bar and kitchen to run food and drink. The point of sale computers are also a good distance away. Not to mention the dumpsters and condition of the sloping pavement for tables. It would not work for us.**

Respectfully, my general comment is that this is a non-issue in any other town in which we operate. No retailers are complaining elsewhere. Everyone loves the outdoor dining and one or two retailers in Rye should not be dictating what is done by the entire town. It is quite possible that a change in consumer preference is driving the decline in business. It is not a parking issue. Those retailers should look to reinvent how they operate first, as restaurants have already done, before they blame the street closure on their lack of business. Our industry requires people to come to dine in them. Retail (high end evening wear) does not.

Thank you Greg.

Frankie & Johnnie's Steakhouse

Hi Greg:

My apologies for this late response to your request for information. A mis-communication at our end.

-Frankie & Johnnie's Steakhouse had a seating capacity, pre Covid, of 120

-Our indoor seating, following current Covid safety guidelines, is 60. We are averaging 15 people a night dining inside at this time

-Our current cold weather outdoor dining plan

- We would continue outside on the plaza until the end of November if allowed

-Should the plaza close our plan is to use our small back employee parking area for dining

We don't see operating totally indoors as an option at this time. Our guests are not coming indoors in any capacity that would be sustainable for us.

-We currently have the ability to seat 50 guests outdoor on the Plaza.

-We have 8 outdoor heaters set up and purchased fleece blankets for guests upon request.

-If the plaza closes we would transition our employee parking area located at the back of the restaurant into a dining area. We can seat approximately 25 guests in that area following Covid safety measures.

-We would utilize our current propane heaters

-Our hours of operation would not change however it is likely to be necessary to cut back on server shifts

Needless to say we are hoping the Plaza continues in its' present form until the end of November. Yes, we would love to go as long as possible but understand snow removal etc would be an issue.

Again my apologies for this late response. Any questions please contact me. Cell always best. Greg, Thank you for all your hard work on our behalf.

Fran Dolan
77 Purchase St
Rye, NY 10580
914-925-3900
203-219-6125 cell

Bareburger

Hi Greg,

1. Survey of Restaurants re indoor space:
 - a. What is their indoor seating capacity as configured (pre Covid)? 84
 - b. What is the estimated revised inside capacity, while meeting current State guidelines, including those with respect distancing and percent of capacity (number and as percentage of (a)) 42
 - c. What are the current cold weather plans for outdoor dining
 1. How long would you stay outside assuming the City provided location. - *As long as possible*
 2. If outdoor seating isn't provided do you have contingency plans/can you operate based upon indoor only? How would this affect your staffing, nights open etc?
-If no outdoor seating, indoor only would decrease sales. Allow outdoor seating as long as possible before very cold weather.
 3. Planned outdoor capacity -18
 4. Describe tenting, heaters - 5 heaters
 5. How does 1-4 change if your outdoor location is moved to a rear parking lot (if applicable). - *Not applicable for Bareburger.*
2. What other physical changes do you recommend the City take re roads, sidewalks, handicap access, public safety etc. (related to the Plaza set up).

*Have the garbage cleaned up on the side streets, better barriers
on Purchase St.*

Poppy's

Hi Tony, Gerri from Poppys!!! I am 100% dying to stay and work outside All winter, weather permitting!!!! No blizzards please!!! Pre-covid seating was 36...Now 18 I cannot survive on 50% capacity, I would cut everyones hours and cut staffand probably go out of business!! I have spoken to Brian from OKO and he is supposed to be looking into a tent that would go where our tables are now. We would share this tent, me in the mornings until afternoon, and OKO late afternoon until evening! It will have heat, lights, and air circulating...he is doing all the leg work, IE: speaking to the city to see if this is even possible... I think you have done a terrific job with the parking down our end, I think this end could have better signage about the Plaza at our end! Thank you, hopefully this will all work out!!! PS.....Many Many customers have stated they love this outside dining and would like it all Year, all the time!!!!

Pureganic

1. Survey of Restaurants re indoor space:
 - a. What is their indoor seating capacity as configured (pre Covid)? 18
 - b. What is the estimated revised inside capacity, while meeting current State guidelines, including those with respect distancing and percent of capacity (number and as percentage of (a)) 9 50%
 - c. What are the current cold weather plans for outdoor dining
 1. How long would you stay outside assuming the City provided location (no heaters planned)
 2. If outdoor seating isn't provided do you have contingency plans/can you operate based upon indoor only? How would this affect your staffing, nights open etc? (No effect)
 3. Planned outdoor capacity (Currently 6)
 4. Describe tenting, heaters (None)
 5. How does 1-4 change if your outdoor location is moved to a rear parking lot (if applicable). (NA)
2. What other physical changes do you recommend the City take re roads, sidewalks, handicap access, public safety etc. (Stop bikes & skateboards)

Rafele

1. Survey of Restaurants re indoor space:
 - a. What is their indoor seating capacity as configured (pre Covid)? **126**
 - b. What is the estimated revised inside capacity, while meeting current State guidelines, including those with respect distancing and percent of capacity (number and as percentage of (a))**60**
 - c. What are the current cold weather plans for outdoor dining
 1. How long would you stay outside assuming the City provided location
Assuming the City continues to allow us to use the space contiguous (consisting of 3-4 parking spaces) to the back of Rafele Rye, we would seek to create a structure that would allow us to serve our restaurant patrons (mostly City of Rye residents) 12 months a year.
 2. If outdoor seating isn't provided do you have contingency plans/can you operate based upon indoor only? How would this affect your staffing, nights open etc?
Having no outdoor presence and assuming Covid-19 is still with us, it would have a material negative impact on our business. We would need to reduce staffing

(layoffs etc) and it would likely result in us changing our operating hours. If it persists, we would have to confront the reality of closing.

3. Planned outdoor capacity

We would create a roughly 40x50 outdoor space (tent or awning-type structure with drop panels. We are in contact with 3-4 different vendors/contractors and are currently evaluating alternatives. We look forward to working closely and expeditiously with the City on this.

4. Describe tenting, heaters

Tenting is described above. For heat we are currently evaluating propane, electric and/or natural gas as alternatives.

5. How does 1-4 change if your outdoor location is moved to a rear parking lot (if applicable).

It is only the contiguous rear space of the restaurant that we are evaluating for 12-month dining. We would have zero presence on Purchase street during the late fall/winter months.

2. What other physical changes do you recommend the City take re roads, sidewalks, handicap access, public safety etc. (related to the Plaza set up).

We think the City has done a good job.

Ruby's Oyster Bar & Bistro

Hi Greg,

The following is the answer to you questions for Ruby's Oyster Bar

1a. Our seating capacity is 110 seats

1b. Our revised indoor capacity is 52 seats, approximately 48%

1c. Our current plans for cold weather are to maximize capacity with heaters, blankets, and possibly tents (if available)

1. We would like to stay outside as long as possible

2. If outdoor seating isn't provided, and we are left with indoor only, our staff will be diminished by about 40-50% and those that are left will have hours cut. We would continue with our current hours as long as possible, but would most likely have to cut back there as well. The cost of opening and turning everything on, often doesn't make sense if the business is not there.

3. Our planned outdoor capacity is approximately 60-65 seats
4. We currently have stand alone propane heaters. We do not have any tents as of yet, but we are looking into it (waiting for longer term approval)
5. If outdoor seating is moved to the back parking lot, we feel that would make our operation extremely dangerous and much more difficult than it already is. We would have to level seating, provide more tents, and if cars are still allowed to pass through, it would be very dangerous for our staff, not to mention the distance they would have to travel (including stairs),

If parking is the issue, I believe we will lose more spots in the back than we do on Purchase Street.

2. I believe more handicap spots were created in the back parking lots, which should satisfy requirements. The current set up of the Plaza is quite good. I believe we could use better signage, directing people to the back parking lots and we could dress up the entrances.

On a side note, we allow the Farmers market every Sunday to close almost an entire lot and let outside vendors compete with business' in town for the good of the community. Purchase Street Plaza is also benefitting the community, but with only Rye business'.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter,

Lisa McKiernan
Ruby's Oyster Bar & Bistro

Town Dock

1. Survey of Restaurants re indoor space:
 - a. What is their indoor seating capacity as configured (pre Covid)? 60
 - b. What is the estimated revised inside capacity, while meeting current State guidelines, including those with respect distancing and percent of capacity (number and as percentage of (a)) - 30 or 50%
 - c. What are the current cold weather plans for outdoor dining
 1. How long would you stay outside assuming the City provided location?
THROUGH NOVEMBER, WEATHER PERMITTING
 2. If outdoor seating isn't provided do you have contingency plans/can you operate based upon indoor only? How would this affect your staffing, nights open etc?
WE WOULD OPERATE INDOOR ONLY, BUT ANTICIPATE CUTTING ABOUT 30% OF STAFF.
 3. Planned outdoor capacity - WE HAVE OUTDOOR DECK, BUT WE NEED TO FIND AN ALTERNATIVE HEATING SOLUTION THAT WILL BE EXPENSIVE AND INVOLVE NEW INDUSTRIAL SPACE HEATERS
 4. Describe tenting, heaters SEE ABOVE
 5. How does 1-4 change if your outdoor location is moved to a rear parking lot (if applicable). N/A

2. What other physical changes do you recommend the City take re roads, sidewalks, handicap access, public safety etc. (related to the Plaza set up). WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE SECOND STREET REMAIN CLOSED TO TRAFFIC THROUGH NOVEMBER. THE CLOSURE ONLY HELPS THE RESTAURANTS / EATERIES SURROUNDING THE STREET. IT DOES NOT HARM ANY RETAIL STORES OR DISRUPT THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC IN TOWN. ADDITIONALLY, DESPITE NOT BEING ON PURCHASE STREET, WE WOULD SUPPORT THE STREET EXTENDING THE CLOSURE / CONTINUATION OF PLAZA. WE KNOW FROM TALKING TO FRIENDS AND PATRONS THAT IT HAS BEEN VERY WELL RECEIVED FROM THE RESIDENTS AS A NEEDED OUTLET. AS A RESTAURANT OWNER I CAN TELL YOU THAT WE ARE VERY WORRIED ABOUT WHAT THE WINTER MONTHS WILL DO TO OUR BUSINESS. BEST CASE SCENARIO, WE WILL HAVE THE PATRON WILLINGNESS TO FILL 50% CAPACITY - WE WILL STILL INCUR FINANCIAL AND JOB LOSSES. KEEPING THE CITY AS VIBRANT AS POSSIBLE - INCLUDING EXTENDING THE OUTDOOR PLAZA - WILL HELP SOFTEN THE BLOW AND IN SOME CASES BE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A RESTAURANT MAKING IT TO SPRING OR CLOSING. I AM SYMPATHETIC TO OTHER BUSINESSES WHO HAVE FELT THEY HAVE BEEN HURT BY THE CLOSURE - HOWEVER, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO MEASURE HOW MUCH IF AT ALL THEY HAVE BEEN IMPACTED, WITH RESTAURANTS - THAT DRAMATIC IMPACT IS EASILY UNDERSTOOD. SO FOR US A BLOCK OR SO AWAY - WE SUPPORT THE PLAZA CONTINUING THROUGH NOVEMBER.

Village Social

1. Survey of Restaurants re indoor space:
 - a. What is their indoor seating capacity as configured (pre Covid)? **90 people**
 - b. What is the estimated revised inside capacity, while meeting current State guidelines, including those with respect distancing and percent of capacity (number and as percentage of (a)) **50% or 45 people**
 - c. What are the current cold weather plans for outdoor dining? **we have purchased heat lamps and will buy more if the plaza is extended**
 1. How long would you stay outside assuming the City provided location **we will provide outdoor seating through the winter if the demand persists**
 2. If outdoor seating isn't provided do you have contingency plans/can you operate based upon indoor only? How would this affect your staffing, nights open etc?
we would cut 50% of our work force and struggle to meet our operating costs
 3. Planned outdoor capacity **60 to 80**
 4. Describe tenting, heaters **we have a row of heaters in the middle of our outdoor tables and would provide more to the perimeter if the plaza is extended**
 5. How does 1-4 change if your outdoor location is moved to a rear parking lot (if applicable). **n/a**

2. What other physical changes do you recommend the City take re roads, sidewalks, handicap access, public safety etc. (related to the Plaza set up).

My name is Paul Sandolo, I am the general manager of Village Social restaurant in Rye.

I write to you today in regards to the Purchase Street plaza. The closure of the street has helped our business tremendously. Not only are we able to survive, but we have kept our entire staff employed. The street usage has enabled us to fill up to 100% of our dine-in capacity. This is huge for industry that runs on very small profit margins and is now limited to 50% indoor capacity.

Our normal indoor seating capacity is 90 people and with the new 50% capacity rule we would be allowed only 45 people to dine in our restaurant at once. This would be a devastating blow to our business. We would have to cut our entire staff to less than 50% and would struggle to cover our operating expenses. Extending the plaza is the only way restaurants will make it through the fall and winter. I have seen firsthand, over the last few colder weeks, customers request to sit outside instead of inside. There is a real fear of sitting inside in a lot of diners still. To accommodate this we have added heat lamps and are willing to purchase more of them and a tent, if allowed. We have seen that the outdoor seating will be in demand through the cold weather. This extended seating is vital to the survival of the restaurants on Purchase Street. It enables us to run our businesses successfully in order to meet our financial obligations and keep our staffs employed.

There is another side of the Purchase Street Plaza that maybe over looked by those criticizing it. The street closure allows rye residents and visitors to stroll the street safely and enjoyably. I do not believe that there has been another time when there are hundreds of people literally on Purchase Street. With the holiday season approaching the retailers on our street will have a large, captive audience that will no doubt help their businesses as well. Small changes to their hours of operations should bring them more business.

The extension of the Purchase Street plaza is not only welcome by the restaurants down here but it is necessary for our survival. We at Village Social are willing to invest and work with town to the fullest to make the extension happen.

Thank you for time and consideration in this matter.

Sunrise Pizza

Hi Ms. Ruttenberg,

I just wanted to touch base with you and let you know how successful our outdoor dining area has become.

I also wanted to note what was asked to provide:

Our indoor seating capacity pre COVID is 38 guests. The revised indoor capacity can vary from 12 to 19 seats. Our current outdoor seating at the moment can vary from 14 to 20 guests. We have purchased heaters to utilize with existing outdoor seating. We are planning on staying outside as long as humanly possible, depending on the weather conditions. Unfortunately, our premises, does not allow us a contingency plan. Need less to say, this will severely limit the hours of our employees, if we loose outdoor seating. Our outdoor planned capacity will remain as currently existing. Outdoor propane heaters will be sufficient for the current outdoor seating. Although we are not part of the Plaza set up, we would like to request to continue the use of the area designated for Sunrise Pizza.

The Plaza has received so much positive feedback and it is what the community would like to keep enjoying.

Thank you for your help,
Laura Policicchio
Sunrise Pizza

Al Dente Pizza

Good afternoon Mr. Usry ,

Sorry for the delay.

Al Dente pizzeria normally seats 16 with the tables I have indoors.

With the 50% indoor dining now do to COVID-19 we can seat 8 people or 2 tables.

So we could range from 1 person to 8 people but no more than 8 people.

We will love to have outdoor seating as long as we can it helps us tremendously with dining and even takeout because people like to eat outside no matter the weather it seams.

We have a small tent now and it wonderful. The costumers seam to love it.

I would be getting a bigger, higher tent so I can put heathers. We will also put heaters outside as well.

Keeping the outdoors going is tremendous to my business and to my staff. I have hired more waitresses and food runners to maintain the outside and the cleaning of the tables and chairs.

If we lose the outside seating I will not be able to keep those employees. We would have at best 50% capacity with 100% of the bills and overhead. I truly think the heaters and tents would be a Tremendous asset to all the businesses that are relying on them. It allows for a safe social distancing environment for all to enjoy. As for the back parking lot being an option, I think it would do more harm then good. But will make it work if that's the last resort. I want to keep my business alive and will do anything needed to do that.

Thanks again for your time and efforts.

Best Regards,
Frank Santorelli

Al Dente Pizzeria Restaurant

Longford's Ice Cream

thank you!

Our storefront is 400 square feet.

pre covid we had counter seating with four barstools and two tables indoors with six chairs.

BUT, we would allow customers to form a line indoors without social distancing. (packed store)

following covid guidelines, we removed the indoor seats. we are serving customers outdoors only. if we follow guidelines, only 1-3 individual customers would be allowed in at one time. The flow of business would be interrupted and customers would be discouraged. The average family out for ice cream is 3-5 people. that would not work for this size storefront. Longfords relies on the outdoor seating to stay in business. :)

Our plan for fall/winter is to continue serving customers at the door (outdoors) and take out orders only . We have tents and umbrellas for rainy days and purchased heat lamps for colder days. Customers are very satisfied with our set up.

If the seating is taken away, I will cut staff and Longfords will most likely not survive business this year. For 25 years prior, we have survived because of a packed store. If purchase street reopens, i wanted to request for elm place to remain closed. The wine bar and Aldente would agree. I have copies of the petition we started. The community loves the outdoor dining area and we have served a lot of new customers from outside of Rye.

please consider another month or two for outdoor seating. Customers love ice cream year round!! That's why we have served Rye for 25years!!

Thank you, Christine

Good afternoon,

I am writing to you in regards to the Purchase Street Plaza and the possibility of losing it.

I am writing on behalf of Longford's Ice Cream on Elm Place. Overall, this was the most challenging summer i have ever operated in my twenty five years at Longfords. Back in April, I couldn't see us surviving the season, and feared we would be finally forced to close our doors. With the help of the Rye Chamber and the loyal community, we fought daily to remain open. The street closure and outdoor seating truly saved our business. The reason being, I operate a significantly small space in Rye. The indoor space we have reserved for customers totals to 150 square feet. Social distancing in our quarters is nearly impossible. During a normal summer, we are used to having our storefront packed with customers. This summer we understood that was not an option. Thankfully so, the outdoor dining gave us the opportunity to serve the community in accordance with CDC guidelines in an efficient manner. It allowed us to operate as normally as possible, with customers making note that they appreciate the expanded outdoor area.

While most residents usually vacation outside of Rye. Covid had changed all of that. The outdoor seating became the residents' new pastime, as it was a safe and appropriate way to leave the house and socialize. We were able to operate like a regular business because of the outdoor dining. All of the feedback from the customers was positive. They would ask "how long will you have the seating?" My response was always "it gets voted on monthly." I strongly believe the outdoor seating would benefit Rye every season. Yes, maybe things need to be adjusted. But this was the best idea for this challenging year.

I can only speak for Longford's, but we have well acclimated to the situation. We implemented new registers, as well as handheld wireless ordering tablets and upgraded phone order-procedures. We've added tables, umbrellas, tents, sanitizers, heat lamps, new staff, cleaning staff, adjustments to websites, and advancements to social media. All of this was at the business expense to operate efficiently this season.

My questions for the complaining retailers, WHAT DID YOU DO? I am here daily day and night. I walk the streets every day. Only the same few retailers changed their operation. They did not change store hours, they are not on social media, they did not build websites. The restaurants are most affected by the pandemic. The capacity restrictions hurt the businesses in a huge way. They limit tables available during the lunch and dinner rushes. Rye likes to dine between 7 and 9pm. That is a lot less table reservations if indoor dining is only an option. Customers are still scared to dine indoors. If we move indoors, restaurants will cut staff and more people will be without jobs. These are the same loyal staff that helped fight through the challenging times. Laying them off is devastating. All because why? Because the retailers are complaining.

I will fight for the Plaza Seating to stay open until November. I will fight for even just Elm Place to stay open until November. We need the outdoor dining to survive the season and to help save for the long winter ahead. Please reconsider keeping the plaza going as long as possible.

Thank you, Christine Vita Santorelli

Rye Bar and Grill

Restaurant

- A. What is their indoor seating capacity as configured (pre Covid)? 433
- B. What is the estimated revised inside capacity, while meeting current State guidelines, including those with respect distancing and percent of capacity (number and as percentage of (a)) 219
- C. Current outdoor seating capacity? 180
- D. What are the current cold weather plans for outdoor dining
Heating in 1 section that seats 126
- E. How long would you stay outside assuming the City provided location
As long as possible
- F. If outdoor seating isn't provided do you have contingency plans/can you operate based upon indoor only? yes, but capacity lower volume
- G. How would this affect your staffing, nights open etc?
less staff if no outdoors
- H. Planned outdoor capacity
180
- I. Describe tenting, heaters
How does 1-4 change if your outdoor location is moved to a rear parking lot (if applicable).
Doesn't change
- J. What other physical changes do you recommend the City take re roads, sidewalks, handicap access, public safety etc. (related to the Plaza set up).
Keep 2nd street closed down as long as possible

Noga Ruttenberg
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