



# Wilmington, Massachusetts

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION

FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

October 27, 2023

TO: Select Board

RE: Michael McCoy Application for ARPA Façade/Sign grant

At the Board's October 23, 2023, meeting under the Public Comments portion of the agenda, Michael McCoy questioned why his application for a sign/façade grant was denied and the language on the grant application was later changed. Town Counsel has advised against officials responding to public comments. Instead, the Chair should refer the matter to the appropriate department for follow-up. Based upon this advice, I did not respond to the question that evening. The Board has directed me to explain the basis for the denial of the application and the revision to the application.

The purpose of the grant program is (1) to provide financial assistance to businesses that operated during the COVID pandemic, that continue to operate and that may have been impacted by the COVID pandemic, and (2) to improve the streetscape in commercial areas. Reimbursing a property owner for improvements to their building that does not have an active functioning business was not the intention of this program in round 1 and is not the intention in round 2. Using federal funds to pay for a new sign or façade on a vacant building is not consistent with the purpose of this grant program.

The fact that a building owner applied for this grant in round 1 without an active business in place indicated to me that the application needed modification to clarify the intention of the program. As a result, when the press release about round 2 grants was issued on October 2, 2023, eligibility requirements in the written grant program material were modified for round 2 funding to clearly state that applicants must be seeking funds for improvements to a building that meets the criteria as stated above. The press release for round 2 applications was issued on October 3, 2023.

The tenant that operated a restaurant in Michael's Place did not respond to the notice issued by my office in October of 2020 with information to renew their alcohol license which expired on December 31, 2020. Additionally, the common victualer license was not renewed and expired on December 31, 2020. The restaurant is also required to maintain a food establishment permit from the Health Department.

The most recent records for this permit indicate that an inspection was conducted on May 3, 2020. No inspections after that date are on file with the Health Department. A social media post dated July 21, 2023 (see attached) questioned whether Michael's Place would reopen. While social media accounts are not always accurate it appears that some people were commenting on Michael's Place being vacant as early as July 21, 2020. Even if these posts are not accurate, based upon the Town's own information it appears that the tenant ceased operations between May 3, 2020 and October 21, 2020. The communication regarding instructions for all alcohol license renewal was returned by the Post Office as being undeliverable. There has not been a business operating at Michael's Place since that time to the best of my knowledge. It appears that business had ceased operating soon after the COVID outbreak hit the United States which was in March of 2020.



Jeffrey M. Hull  
Town Manager

Attachment

# Christopher's Post



Christopher M Cook

July 21, 2020 · 🌐



## Is Michael's place ever going to reopen?



3

18 comments

Like

Comment

Send



Nikki Gounaris Top contributor

How long have they been closed?

Like Reply 3y



Christopher M Cook Author

Months

Like Reply 3y



John Gabaree

I wish they would

Like Reply 3y



Stella Smeaton

Why?



Like Reply 3y



Matt Walsh

Christopher M Cook They haven't reopened since March? They spent a ton of money on renovations before this to not reopen

Like Reply 3y



2



Christopher M Cook Author

It's only money **Matt Walsh**

Like Reply 3y



Clark D. Schuler

They were open for takeout - even put in a 'drive-through' pickup window. I've been several times and the burgers / tater tots were great !

Like Reply 3y



Palahia Francis Top contributor



Write a comment...



# Christopher's Post



Sanaa B A Kossefi

Nadaa Fahd yeah good idea just though somebody here may have his email or something 🤔

Like Reply 3y



Kristen Amico Israelson

The lights have been on the last few times we have driven by this week at night, but we haven't seen cars out front.

Like Reply 3y



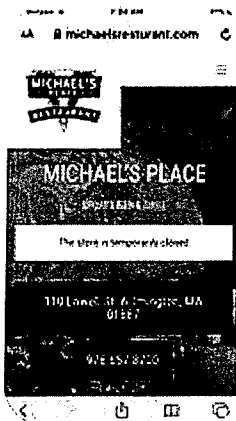
Christie Presz

They were open for take out via a takeout window for a period of time. Though we had only gone once because we were hoping for our usual pizza but it wasn't the same. It seemed they only had the owner working the day we got it, so none of the usual kitchen staff I'm sure made a difference.

Like Reply 3y



Heather Cappella



Like Reply 3y



Linda Scifo Top contributor

I was wondering where EJ s will relocate when the apartment complex goes up. He has a great place

Like Reply 3y



Sheryl Ann Stewart Queen

Ooooo. I am interested.

Like Reply 3y



Write a comment...



| Façade Improvement Grant Awards - Round 1 |                    |   |                      |   |                               |                                   |
|---|--------------------|---|----------------------|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Address                                   | Applicant/Business | Project                                 | Amount               | Committee Recommended Conditions  | Signed Contract Received      | Permitting                        |
| 380 Main                                  | Designs by Don     | Signs, landscaping, flower installation | \$ 22,500.00         | Signs must meet Zoning Bylaw or Special Permit from Planning Board  | Pending                       |                                   |
| 386 Main                                  | West Real Estate   | Sign, Pavers, Window                    | \$ 19,364.00         | Signs must meet Zoning Bylaw, Recommend Brick Paver and historically appropriate window, Planning Board Review Required | Yes                           | Received Site Plan Waiver from PB |
| 402 Main                                  | Wilson Wolfe RE    | Dog bubbler, garden, pavers,            | \$ 25,000.00         | No ramp (not perm.), No Roof, Composite shingle (not vinyl), Brick Paver, Planning Board Review Required                | Pending                       |                                   |
| 446 Main                                  | Cooke's Skate      | Restore Brick Façade                    | \$ 25,000.00         | Recommend keeping as much historic aspects as possible, Planning Board Review Required                                  |                               |                                   |
| 579 Main                                  | Heav'nly Donuts    | Paint, patio                            | \$ 25,000.00         | Planning Board Review Required  | Pending insurance information |                                   |
| 600 Main                                  | Forrest Auto       | Paint, garage doors, landscape          | \$ 25,000.00         | If Street Trees, need DPW approval to remove, Planning Board Review Required  | Yes                           |                                   |
|   |                    | <b>Total</b>                            | <b>\$ 141,864.00</b> |   |                               |                                   |