

# Staff Report



**Date:** March 20, 2020  
**To:** Devens Enterprise Commission  
**From:** Neil Angus, Environmental Planner  
**RE:** Devens Dog Festival – Field P-5 (Antietam Street) Event Permit and One (1) Day All-Alcoholic beverages License.

**Applicants:** Clear Path for Veterans New England  
**Owner:** MassDevelopment  
**Location:** Devens Recreational Field P-5 (27 Antietam St.)  
**Zoning:** Open Space and Recreation and Zone II Water Res. Protection Overlay.

### Event Overview:

The Devens Dog Festival (formerly called Dogs2Vets Festival) is an event that will be taking place on Sunday May 31, 2020 from 11:00AM–4:00PM at 27 Antietam St. (UNACC Museum Field). Clear Path for Veterans New England, is hosting this event for its third year to raise funds to provide service dogs to veterans. The festival will feature a series of exercises for dogs and their trainers, including live service dog demonstrations, disc throwing/catching competition and obstacle courses/agility competitions (see attached event details). Attendees will be allowed to bring their own dogs as well. There will be vendors, including food trucks, pet accessories, as well as information for veterans. There will be amplified music as part of this event but as this is a short daytime event from 11:00AM-4:00PM in an area not directly adjacent to any residences, there is minimal concern for any nuisance conditions for existing residents and businesses.

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**Parking/Traffic Control/Safety:**

Based on last year’s event in Devens, the organizers are preparing for upwards of 600 attendees. Clear Path has coordinated parking with Devens Recreation and will have parking spaces available at the field location, several locations along Antietam, and in the overflow area behind Clear Path for Veterans. Combined, these parking areas contain sufficient parking spaces to accommodate the vendors, volunteers and participants for this event, including over 50 ADA accessible spaces. ADA parking for the event will be closest to the event fields. Clear Path plans to have volunteers on hand to assist with parking and registration. This will help ensure safe traffic and pedestrian flows, minimizing impacts to normal traffic patterns in and through Devens.

At registration/check-in, all dogs will be checked for up to date registration/rabies vaccination and must be on a leash no longer than 6’ (No retractable leashes). The Devens Animal Control Officer will be present at the event in case there are any issues. A small temporary fenced in area “doggy pound” will be set up and be used to contain any dogs that may become problematic.

The Applicant is carrying general liability insurance (\$1,000,000 ea. occurrence) and an umbrella policy of \$2,000,000. Clear Path will need to ensure that any event staff that will be digging any holes receive the required UXO training from the Devens Fire Department prior to any digging. Additional administrative permits may be required for tents and emergency generators (depending on type and size).

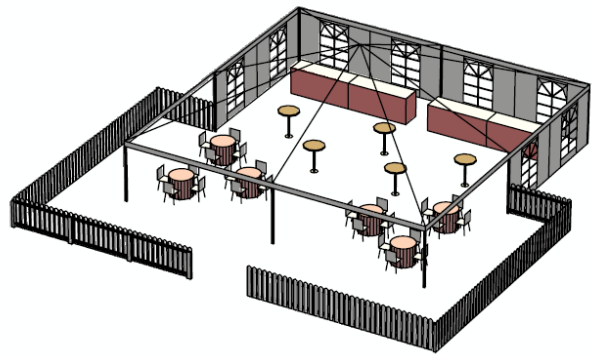
**Food and Waste Management/Control:**

Any proposed food vendors will need to be licensed through the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health. The Applicant has coordinated with Devens Public Works for trash and recycling and will have volunteers assigned to manage trash and recycling. Dog waste bags will be handed out to all participants and the event will have designated “hydrant areas” for dogs to relieve themselves (to be coordinated with Devens DPW/Recreation). Clear Path has also contracted with a company to provide porta-potties for public use during the event.

**One Day All-Alcoholic Beverages License Details:**

This one-day license request is for a special license for serving all alcoholic beverages. One day licenses are typically restricted to beer and wine consumption only, however, the ABCC allows for special licenses for all-alcoholic beverages to be issued to non-profit organizations. As part of their application, Clear Path for Veterans New England provided proof from the IRS that they are classed as a 501(c)(3) non-profit public charity so they are eligible to apply for a one-day all-alcoholic beverages license. Clear Path will be collaborating with Columbia Tavern in Leominster for this event who uses United Beverages to obtain their alcohol (ABCC authorized source).

The Applicant has secured event sponsorship with Tito’s Vodka who sponsor and support many non-profit events involving military veterans and dogs. The area where alcohol is to be served will be within a fully enclosed 40’x 40’ tent area (see right). The 40 X 40 tent will have a picket or snow fence area surrounding (250 person tent capacity). Entrance into the tent will be restricted to persons 21 years of age or older. ID’s will be checked to enter the tent (wristbands will be issued to over 21). Bartenders will be TIPS certified and will ID individuals being served regardless of wristband status (on their judgement). Patrons will not be allowed to



take alcohol outside the tent area. The applicant has spoken with the State Police and will secure a detail officer to be inside the tent at all times when alcohol is being served as required by the license. In addition, Clear Path will have donated private security personnel that will monitor inside and outside the tent area. The donated security personnel will coordinate with the police detail. Columbia Tavern will need to provide a separate \$3,000,000 server/liability policy as required by MassDevelopment for events serving alcohol.

**Recommended Action:**

Legal notices were published and all abutters were notified by certified mail. No comments were received. If the Commission is satisfied that all concerns have been addressed, Staff would recommend approval of the event permit and One Day Special License for all-alcoholic beverages, subject to the following conditions:

1. The 1-Day All Alcoholic beverages License is valid on Sunday May 31, 2020 from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM only.
2. The serving and consumption of alcohol is limited to the fenced in area at 27 Antietam Street as shown on the event layout plan. A police officer shall be inside the fenced area at all times while alcohol is being served/consumed.
3. The Applicant is an individual, as the responsible manager for the organization and shall control the dispensing of alcohol to persons not under the age of twenty-one (21), and shall not serve alcohol to individuals who are or “appear to be” under the influence of alcohol.
4. The Licensee must purchase alcoholic beverages from an authorized source. Licensees CANNOT purchase from a package store and CANNOT accept donations from anyone.
5. All waste must be contained on-site and properly disposed of. Recycling is mandatory.

In order to ensure the event permit complies with 974 CMR 8.00 (Public Health and Safety) Regulations, Staff would recommend the following conditions be added to the event permit:

1. All food vendors shall be licensed through the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health.
2. The Applicant shall obtain tent permits for any tents larger than 10'x 12' being used for the event. Electrical Permits for emergency generators are also required.
3. Any excavation shall be surrounded by orange construction fencing prior to the event.
4. The Applicant shall coordinate all traffic and safety with MassDevelopment, the State Police and the Devens Public Safety Officer and ensure all personnel working on any obstacles requiring excavation have undertaken the required UXO training. Prior to any excavation, the Applicant shall contact Dig Safe.
5. The Applicant shall coordinate with the Devens Animal Control Officer to ensure animal safety during the event.
6. All disturbed areas shall be re-stabilized to their original condition to prevent erosion and soil exposure.