Staff Report

Devens Enterprise Commission

Date: April 22, 2025

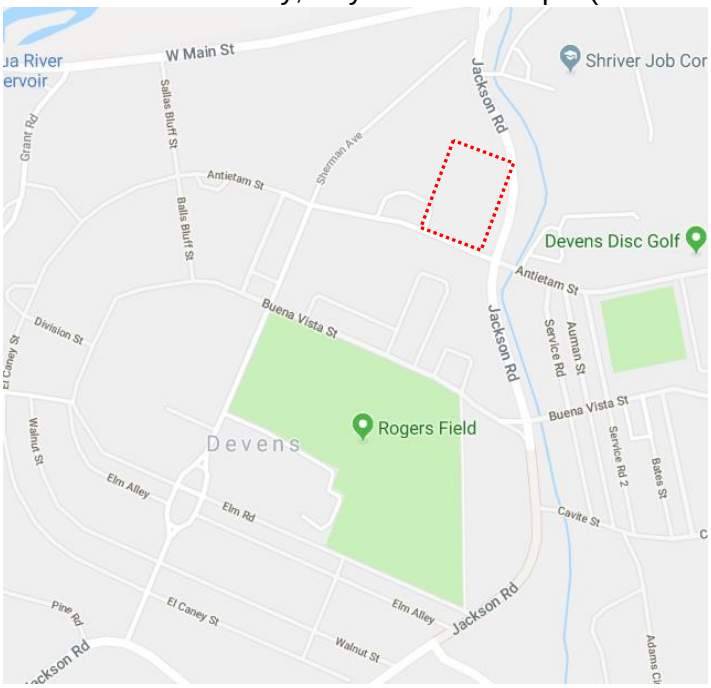
To: **Devens Enterprise Commission**

From: Neil Angus, Director

RE: **Devens Food Truck and Craft Festival – Verbeck Field (Antietam Street) Event Permit and one (1) One-Day Licenses to sell beer and wine.**

Applicant: MassDevelopment/Devens Recreation
Owner: MassDevelopment
Location: Devens Recreational Field (Verbeck Field at 27 Antietam St.)
Zoning: Open Space and Recreation and Zone II Water Res. Protection Overlay.

Event Overview:
MassDevelopment is planning to host its third annual Devens Food Truck and Craft Festival at Verbeck the field at the corner of Jackson Road and Antietam Street on Saturday, May 31st from 11-5pm (rain date June 1). The event will feature food trucks, craft vendors, beer vendors, music, and games, including an inflatable slide.

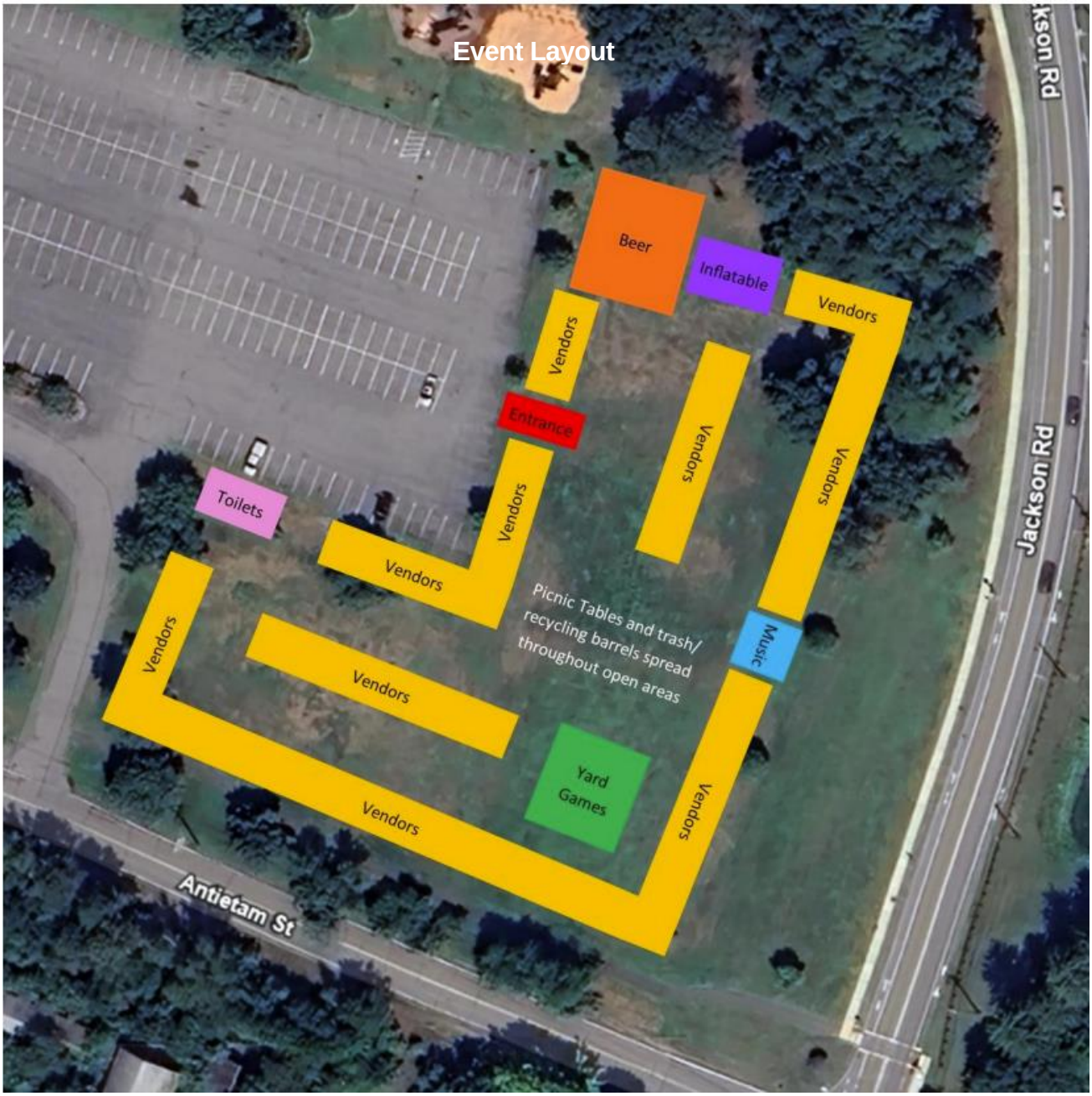


There will be a live music performance by Scott Babineau and Darren Bessette on a 16x24 ft stage constructed from metal with carpet on top, and wooden stairs. Generators will follow safety guidelines set by the DEC. There will be one inflatable bouncy house that will be secured to the ground. The blower for the inflatable will be powered by a generator (complying with DEC guidelines as well) and an employee from the inflatable company (Party People Inc.) will be supervising participants on the inflatable. The slide will be closed in the event of high winds.

One Day License Details:
This request is for a single (1) one-day license to serve beer and wine only on Saturday, May 31st from 11-5pm (rain date June 1). Beer vendors include Dirigible Brewing Co. of Littleton and Sterling Street Brewery of Clinton and Devens. Both are approved authorized sources according to the ABCC's most recent list of authorized sources dated 4/18/25.

The area where alcohol is to be served will be within a 50'x 60' galvanized steel, interlocking barricades, fenced-in area. Identification will be checked by a TIPS certified staff member on the way into this area and bracelets will be given to adults that are over 21 years. Bartenders will be TIPS certified and will also identify the age of individuals being served. As with last year's event, MassDevelopment is requesting that the DEC allow minors within the fenced area if they are accompanied by an adult. Those over 21

will have bracelets, minors would not. This process has worked well at past events and helps reduce the risk of children being separated from their parents.

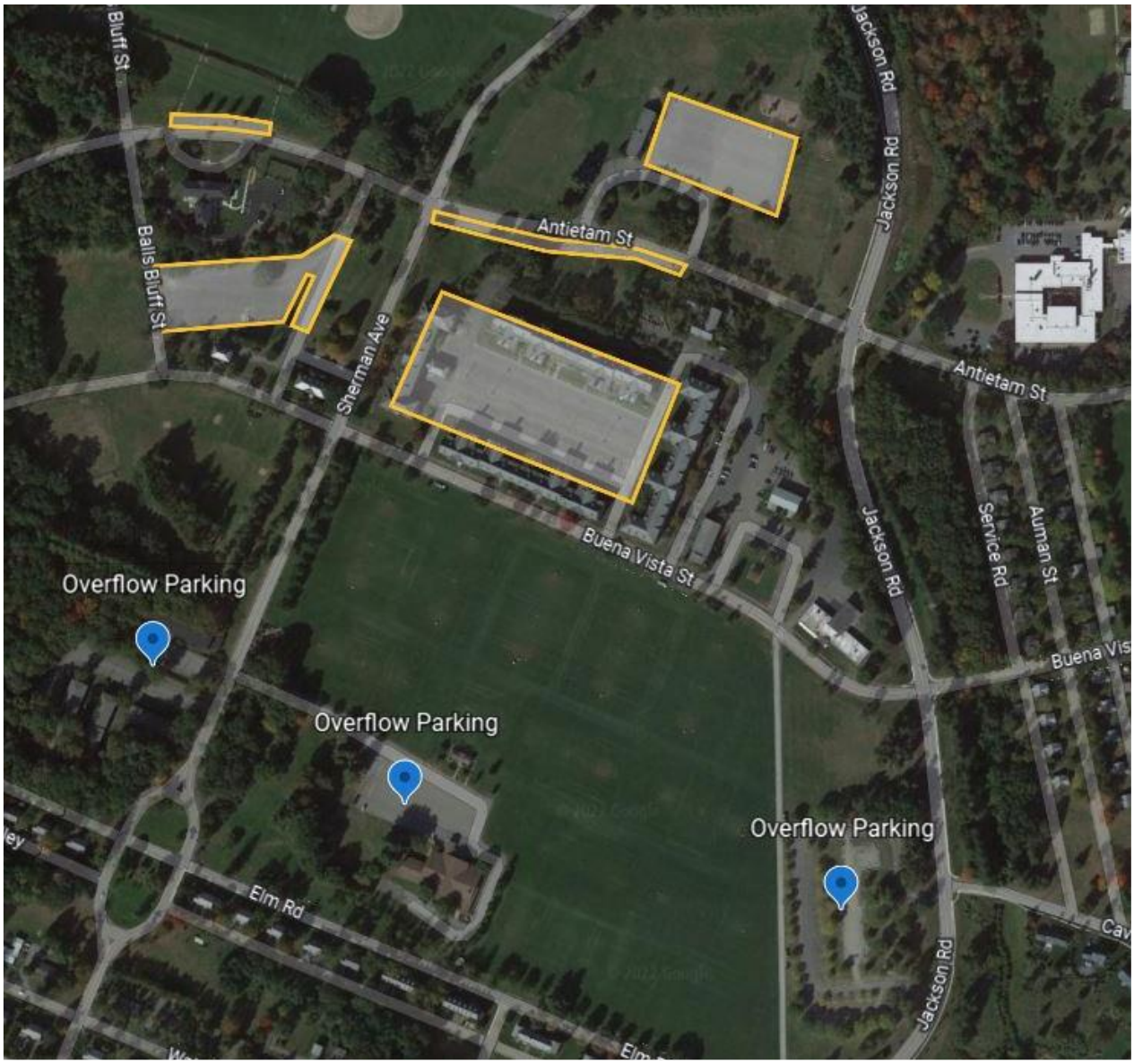


Patrons will not be allowed to take alcohol outside the fenced in area. The applicant has spoken with the State Police and will secure a detail officer to be inside the fenced in area at all times when alcohol is being served as required by the license and to monitor the area. Devens DPW staff and recreation will be overseeing the event to ensure safe operations. MassDevelopment carries their own general liability insurance for events.

Parking/Traffic Control/Safety:

The organizers are planning for up to 2000 people, but it is unlikely that there will be 2000 people all at once. Attendees are expected to come and go throughout the day. Devens Recreation will have

temporary signage and parking spaces available at the field location, several locations along Antietam, and in the overflow area behind Clear Path for Veterans and at Vicksburg Square if necessary.



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 area. Devens DPW staff will help ensure safe traffic and pedestrian flows, minimizing impacts to normal traffic patterns in and through Devens.

Food and Waste Management/Control:
The event is expecting up to 10 food trucks and craft vendors, in addition to the two beer vendors. Any proposed food vendors will need to be licensed through the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health. Devens Public Works will have trash and recycling barrels spread throughout the event area. A DPW staff member will be responsible for removing bags as they get full and putting them in Recreation trash or recycling dumpsters. Porta-potties will also be provided for public use during the event.

Other Details:
No pets, no outside alcohol, no BBQs or open flames, park in approved parking areas only. Rules will be on the marketing flyer and will be posted at the entrance to the event.

Recommended Action:
Devens Recreation and DPW have a great deal of experience running large events and all issues appear to be adequately addressed. 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 (1) One Day License to sell beer and wine, subject to the following conditions:

1. The single 1-Day License to sell beer and wine is valid on Saturday, May 31st from 11:00AM-5:00PM (rain date June 1, 2025 from 11:00AM to 5:00PM).
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.
6. ID's will be checked at the entrance to the fenced in area as well as the bars inside as well. Patrons 21 and older will be provided bracelets. Minors will be allowed into the fenced area if they are accompanied by an adult.
7. Prior to the event, the Applicant shall provide proof of general liability insurance for the event, naming the Devens Enterprise Commission as an additional insured.

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 and the Devens Fire Department, if required.
2. The Applicant shall obtain tent permits for any tents larger than 10'x 12' being used for the event.
3. The Applicant and all vendors shall comply with the DEC's Guidelines for emergency generators & fryolators: https://devensec.com/forms/Elec_Generator_and_Fryolator_Guidelines_2024.pdf .
4. The Applicant shall coordinate all traffic and safety with the State Police and the Devens Public Safety Officer. Access for Devens residents and businesses shall be maintained and advance notice shall be provided to the Devens residents and businesses. Efforts shall be made to reduce potential nuisance conditions.
5. Any excavation or ground disturbance must be approved by Devens Recreation. Personnel conducting this work must complete the required UXO training through the Devens Fire Department prior to any activity. Prior to any excavation, the Applicant shall also contact Dig Safe. All disturbed areas shall be re-stabilized to their original condition to prevent erosion and soil exposure.
6. The inflatable must be registered with the Office of Public Safety and Inspections and the rental company must be on the state list of Companies Licensed for Amusement and Small Inflatables Facilities https://www.mass.gov/info-details/companies-licensed-for-amusement-and-small-inflatables-facilities In the event of high winds, inflatables shall be shut down.