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### **Town Reinstates Claddagh Entertainment License, With Conditions**

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Article Text:

HARWICH -After a two-month intermission, it's time to strike up the band again at the **Claddagh**. Selectmen Monday re-issued the business an indoor entertainment license, with more than a half dozen conditions designed to keep the lid on noise.

The owners of the Cape Cod **Claddagh Inn** and Irish Pub still need to negotiate with the town over the reinstatement of their outdoor entertainment license. Both licenses were revoked by the board in December following unresolved noise complaints.

Attorney William Gens, representing **Claddagh** owners Jack and Eileen Connell, said his clients have made a number of improvements designed to reduce noise levels outside the building. Musical acts have now been moved about 20 feet back from the north side of the building, where Gens said noise control is most important; the entire northern part of the building has now been carpeted, and all of the windows have been fitted with thick wooden blinds and heavy curtains with backing made of soundproofing materials, he said. "Each and every window has that," he said.

Customer access will now be through a door at the southeast end of the building, where a vestibule will help contain noise levels; the front door will be used only for handicap access and as an emergency exit, Gens said.

"These are substantial changes that we've made at considerable expense," he said. The reconfiguration involved the sacrifice of a significant amount of floor space, he added.

As for the outdoor entertainment license, "that might require other measures on our part," Gens said, and his clients will consider applying at some point in the future.

The board's revocation of the entertainment license has had "a very significant impact on this business," including its employees and suppliers. "It's been two months now and it's a very significant issue for a lot of people," he said. Attorney Joseph Cavanaugh, representing a handful of neighbors who have been complaining about noise levels from the business for several years, applauded the owners' efforts, and asked about the state of the **Claddagh's** air conditioning system. Providing air conditioning in the summer would significantly reduce the noise coming from the building when windows or doors are open, he said.

The air conditioning units have been repaired and will be used, Gens said. "We intend to maintain it and do not anticipate any situation that would involve opening these windows" or propping open doors, he said. "In fact, it's our intention to keep the blinds shut, and the acoustic curtains to be closed on the windows," he added.

The new indoor entertainment license stipulates that the noise will not exceed the premises, and will cease at 12 a.m. The manager will maintain control of the volume levels, and contracts with any musical performers will stipulate that fact. The license is also conditional on the use of the rear door, the use of air conditioning and noise-muffling window treatments, and requires the use of signs to remind patrons to keep their voices down in the parking lot. Staff members must also periodically patrol outdoor areas "to quiet customers as needed," the license reads. Violations of the conditions will prompt selectmen to hold another show-cause hearing to consider revocation.

Despite Cavanaugh's request, selectmen did not stipulate the use of a noise monitoring device that alerts the management if sound levels exceed certain decibel levels.

Board Chairman Larry Ballantine reminded the owners that selectmen have seen evidence in the past of "the lack of management of the **Claddagh Inn**," and that requests made by town officials had not been carried out. "We want to give you a chance to show that you can manage the indoor entertainment," he said. Selectmen will consider the restaurant's performance when addressing any forthcoming request for an outdoor entertainment license, board member Peter Hughes added.

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ATTORNEY WILLIAM GENS,  
REPRESENTING THE CAPE COD  
**CLADDAGH INN AND IRISH PUB**  
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