

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION

BUILDING & PLANNING COMMITTEE

**MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 2026
6:40 PM (Approximately)**

Chairperson: Sean Whalen

Vice Chairperson: Jeremiah Woodring, Shelby Sparrow

AGENDA

1. **WAIVER OF TOWNSHIP CODE SECTION 111-4.2 REGULATING OPEN CONTAINERS FOR TWO ARDMORE FIRST FRIDAY EVENTS**



Township of Lower Merion
A FIRST CLASS TOWNSHIP

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION

COMMITTEE: Building & Planning

ITEM: **WAIVER OF TOWNSHIP CODE SECTION 111-4.2 REGULATING OPEN CONTAINERS FOR TWO ARDMORE FIRST FRIDAY EVENTS**

Consider for recommendation to the Board of Commissioners approval of waivers of Township Code §111-4.2 as requested by co-applicants, Tired Hands Fermentaria and Downtown Ardmore District, to permit patrons to possess open containers with alcoholic beverages and serve alcoholic beverages in public rights-of-way within regulated areas on September 4, 2026, and October 2, 2026, between the hours of 4:00 pm and 10:00 pm, subject to the Downtown Ardmore District providing the required insurance certificate documenting adequate coverage as required by the Township.

PUBLIC COMMENT

ATTACHMENT(S):

[Ardmore First Friday - Issue Briefing](#)

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION

Building & Committee

Issue Briefing

Topic: Waiver of Township Code § 111-4.2 regulating open containers for two Ardmore First Friday events

Prepared By: Libby Horwitz, Economic Development Specialist

Date: July 31, 2026

I. Action To Be Considered By The Board:

Approve waivers of Township Code § 111-4.2 as requested by co-applicants, Tired Hands Fermentaria and Downtown Ardmore District, to permit patrons to possess open containers with alcoholic beverages and serve alcoholic beverages in public rights-of-way within regulated areas for Ardmore First Friday events on September 4, 2026, and October 2, 2026, between the hours of 4:00 pm and 10:00 pm, subject to the Downtown Ardmore District providing the required insurance certificate documenting adequate coverage as required by the Township.

II. Why This Issue Requires Board Consideration:

The Township Code restricts serving and consumption of alcohol on Township property, which is defined as a public place in the Township. Township Code § 111-4.2 states: *No person shall drink an alcoholic beverage, nor shall any person, firm, corporation, or other organization possess an open container containing an alcoholic beverage, whether inside or outside of a motor vehicle or any part thereof, on or in any public place within the Township of Lower Merion.*

III. Current Policy Or Practice (If Applicable):

The Board of Commissioners has permitted alcohol for events on Township Property in the past and this code provision has been waived for similar special events in Ardmore and other commercial districts in the Township.

IV. Other Relevant Background Information:

A map of the event space within Lot 6 / Schauffele Plaza is attached.

This outdoor dining event is hosted in celebration of Ardmore's First Friday program. The requested waiver will provide additional room for outdoor seating that includes alcohol service on premises. The site preparation and dismantling will be from 2:00pm to 11:00pm.

Event staff will monitor the event space. All alcohol servers will be RAMP certified and will not serve visibly intoxicated individuals. In order to purchase alcohol, attendees will have their IDs checked by RAMP certified staff.

The Downtown Ardmore District has provided the required insurance certificate documenting adequate coverage as required by the Township. DAD will contact surrounding properties to make residents and businesses aware of the event.

V. Impact On Township Finances:

The Township will be compensated for the six parking meters used for both events in Lot 6, Schauffele Plaza, for a total of \$60.00.

VI. Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of the waiver.

2026 FIRST FRIDAY – EVENT MAP

