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For Immediate Release

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Representative Kane testifies in support of two local bills

BOSTON – Representative Hannah Kane (R-Shrewsbury) joined Town Officials from Shrewsbury and Westborough, along with representatives from Whole Foods Markets and Grossman Development Group on Wednesday to testify before the Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure.

House Bill 3880, *An Act authorizing the Town of Shrewsbury to grant an additional liquor license* and **H3896**, *An Act authorizing the Town of Westborough to grant an additional liquor license* were both scheduled to be heard by the Joint Committee during a public hearing Wednesday afternoon. “Legislation to permit the issuance of additional liquor licenses within towns has become a common practice throughout the State House,” commented Representative Kane, “However, both of these pieces of legislation will do more than grant an additional liquor license, each will have a direct impact on the economic development within their respective towns and in the case of Shrewsbury revitalize an area that has been under-utilized for many years.”

H3880 will authorize the issuance of a liquor license for the sale of beer, wine and liquor for off-site consumption to the Whole Foods Market that is slated to be a substantial part of the Lakeway Commons Development. The fully permitted, mixed use development project will generate significant and much needed commercial tax revenue for the town, while reviving a plaza that has been absent of retailers for years.

"The Board of Selectmen and the Town of Shrewsbury overwhelmingly support **H3880** to grant an additional license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages to Whole Foods Market. Whole Foods Market is a key anchor for the Lakeway Commons mixed-use development which will revitalize a blighted area, create jobs and greatly contribute to the Shrewsbury tax base." said Chair of the Shrewsbury Board of Selectmen, Moira Miller.

President of Grossman Development Group, Howard D. Grossman also commented on the importance of the legislation, “Grossman Development Group supports **H3880** as Whole Foods is an integral component of the Lakeway Commons development. Passage of the bill will ensure that Whole Foods becomes the full-service draw that allows it to maximize its potential and bring additional customers to the center and to the Route 9 corridor.”

The ability for Whole Foods Markets to offer beer, wine and liquor paired with their specialty items will give the market the tools needed to remain competitive in a unique, emerging field of supermarkets that are offering a wide range of products, including alcoholic beverages.

A spokesperson from Whole Foods commented, “Whole Foods Market would like to express its thanks for the support of the Town of Shrewsbury as well as Representative Kane and Senator Moore. We are so excited for the opportunity to open in Shrewsbury. We are committed to being strong, responsible community partners and are eager for the opportunity to offer our customers a full shopping experience.”

Chairwoman of the Board of Selectmen, Moira Miller, Regional President for Whole Foods Markets, Laura Derba, and President of Grossman Development Company, Howard Grossman testified alongside Representative Kane in support of the legislation.

As the hearing continued, the Joint Committee received testimony from Representative Kane and Westborough Town Manager, Jim Malloy in support of **H3896**. The legislation will allow for the sale of beer, wine and liquor for on-site consumption at the site of the Nathan Fisher House. The Nathan Fisher House, a historical property sold by the town in June, 2015 is to be redeveloped by the new owner, Release Well Being Center, LLC in to a multi-use facility featuring a wellness center, restaurant and retail space. The ability for the restaurant to sell alcohol to its patrons will likely contribute to its viability and success.

“The Town of Westborough is appreciative of our legislative delegation and their efforts in working with the Town on obtaining an additional liquor license which is seen as vital to the rehabilitation and renovation of the historic Nathan Fisher House. The developers of this project believe the addition of a quality restaurant will enhance the project and assist in making the renovation cost effective.”

The legislation and testimony offered in regard to both pieces of legislation will now be reviewed by the Joint Committee before any recommendations are made relative to the future of the bills.

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