



Hillary Draws Crowd

Former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton came to BookHampton in East Hampton Village on Saturday to sign copies of her new book, 'Hard Choices.' Above, crowds filled the street outside the bookshop and formed a line, nearly 900-strong, that reached down Newtown Lane and turned onto Main Street.

KYRIL BROMLEY

CYRIL'S: State Liquor Authority Nixes Bar License

FROM PAGE A1

again, without permission.

Two of the three SLA board members voted for the order of cancellation, while the chairman, Dennis Rosen, voted to revoke the license. A revocation is a more serious action that would prevent the restaurant from applying for a new liquor license for two years.

"That order of cancellation doesn't take effect for a few weeks, and we intend to appeal that decision as well," Ms. LeVerrier said last Wednesday afternoon. "They're not coming out today and, in all likelihood, [the SLA] will not come out at all."

Despite his attorney's remarks, Mr. Fitzsimons was disturbed by the ordeal on Thursday morning. Sitting at a back table in his restaurant on Napeague—a table covered in magazines, papers, George W. Bush's book "Decision Points," and a pack of Marlboros—he said he believes the Town Board doesn't want his business there, period, and that that will hurt his 28 employees.

"Every complaint, I've fixed," he said, explaining that he spent \$21,000 on rewiring the establishment. "I don't know why they're picking on me. I close at 9 p.m., there's never been any Health Department violations ... there's never been an accident outside [on Montauk Highway] in the 23 years I've been here. ... What is the problem?"

According to Town Supervisor Larry Cantwell, there are a lot of problems, but they all stem from one thing. "I think it's simply about following the rules and laws we have in the town and in the state," he said this week. "When you have a state liquor license, you're obligated to follow their requirements, and obviously in this case that's not what's been happening."

The argument from Cyril's side is that the town's Code Enforcement Department referred to old violations from 2012, which had



Cyril's Fish House will lose its liquor license soon since the State Liquor Authority voted to cancel it last Tuesday.

SHAYE WEAVER

been dismissed by East Hampton Town Justice Lisa Rana, according to Ms. LeVerrier. And to settle whether the business is legally operating with a certificate of occupancy it has from the 1960s, which was for a gas station and snack bar, the

'Clearly, there's been a long disrespect displayed by the licensee.'

town and Cyril's have gone to State Supreme Court. The town alleges that Cyril's has expanded its business without required building permits and certificates of occupancy and has operated over the years in an inappropriate zoning district.

The zoning for the site was changed from commercial to residential in 1984, and the existing improvements and structures there were considered nonconforming but pre-existing and therefore legal. Any additional improvements that expanded the size or intensity of use would be illegal without the requisite approvals. At the time of the zoning change, the spot was being used as a small restaurant.

Attorney Joseph Prokop, who represents East Hampton Town, said last week in a phone interview that last week's SLA decision was "the final stage in a process that has been lengthy and gone on pending for some

time." On August 12, when speaking at the SLA Board's meeting, he said he was in favor of a revocation or cancellation of the liquor license.

"When I looked at the file for the Supreme Court case, the subpoena from the State Liquor Authority, it said the license was renewed every year," he said. "The operator was swearing under oath that the premises was properly zoned ... and I believe you weren't aware of the fact they had already pleaded guilty to not being legally zoned."

Ms. LeVerrier said the Dioguardi family, which owns the property, will appeal the decision and that once that is done, there will be a stay in the cancellation during the appeals process.

Nonetheless, the SLA is adamant about keeping Cyril's from serving alcohol until its proprietors show they've been abiding with the law.

"Clearly, there's been a long-time disrespect displayed by the licensee. Just confining ourselves to the minutes of the hearing, the way they keep doing whatever they wanted to do, and there may be arguable defense to some of these things, but it's clear they don't answer to anybody," SLA Chairman Dennis Rosen said at last Tuesday night's meeting. "That scares me because there are people drinking alcohol. They're wandering onto the highway ... I've been out there and this could create very a dangerous situation, and the one thing the board has to do is protect the safety of the public."

Fishing Permit Bill Signed Into Law

BY LAURA WEIR

A bill sponsored by State Senator Kenneth LaValle and State Assemblyman Fred W. Thiele Jr. allowing an easier transfer of state fishing licenses to family members was signed into law last week by Governor Andrew Cuomo—but the new law does nothing to help a Hampton Bays commercial fisherman on whose behalf the bill was originally introduced.

As an amendment to environmental conservation law, the new measure removes certain restrictions on the transfer of commercial fishing licenses to family members in cases where a license-holder dies before being able to transfer his or her license to a relative. The amendment expands the DEC's definition of family member so that certain extended-family members are eligible to inherit fishing licenses. It also changed a residency requirement for immediate family members, which stated that they must live in the same household as the deceased license-holder to be eligible for a transferred license.

But despite the changes, the new law still does not allow licenses to be transferred to

members of an extended family, adopted children or spouses who did not live with the deceased license-holder.

The bill was introduced last year in response to appeals by the Stiansen family of East Quogue and Hampton Bays after Stian Stiansen, a commercial fisherman from East Quogue, drowned when his boat was capsized by a rogue wave in Shinnecock Inlet. His nephew, Norman Stiansen of Hampton Bays, was not able to inherit his uncle's license, even though prior to his death Mr. Stiansen had filed documents with the DEC to have all his licenses and permits transferred to his nephew, also a commercial fisherman.

The DEC's denial of the transfer prompted Mr. LaValle and Mr. Thiele to introduce the legislation. However, an amendment of the original bill in the Environmental Conservation Committee removed a retroactive clause that would have allowed Norman Stiansen to receive his uncle's licenses and permits. The new bill would not have benefited Mr. Stiansen in any event, because he did not live with his uncle at the time of his uncle's death.

"I'm not done with this issue yet," Mr. Thiele said. "I was willing to accept this amendment, because it's better than the status quo, but there's still a lot of work to do here, and the Stiansen case is a perfect example of that."

Mr. Thiele said the legislation is a good start but should be broader, and that he plans to pursue a more comprehensive bill, perhaps one that drops the residency requirement altogether, in the next legislative session in Albany.

"If you have these relationships, you shouldn't have to live in the same house to be able to transfer the license," he said. "From my perspective, we're not finished. We ended up with a bill that is status quo, but it doesn't help them," he said of the Stiansen family.

Mr. LaValle commented on the new law by saying, "I will do all I can to maintain the traditions and help the industry flourish for these hard-working fishermen. Many families have worked generations in the fishing industry on the East End, and it's vital for this to continue."

The younger Mr. Stiansen did not respond to a request for comment.

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