

# PUBLIC EVENT/SPECIAL ALCOHOL LICENSE APPLICATION

City of Somerville, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Application #: PEL25-000168

File #: 25-001834

**Event Name:** Mystic River Herring Run and Paddle

**Business Name:** Mystic River Watershed Association

**Application Type:** Public Event License

**Location:** 32 Shore Dr

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## APPLICANT

**Company Name:** Mystic River Watershed Association

**Contact Name:** ShaSha Kingston

**Business Address:**

23 Maple St  
Arlington, MA 02476

**Home Address:**

**Work Phone:**

**Home Phone:**

**Email:** shasha.kingston@mysticriver.org

**# of days:** 1

**Does this event occupy a public space or significantly affect nearby residents?:** Yes

**Are you the party applying for the Public Event License?:** Yes

**Describe the location in detail:** A 5K run starting from Blessing of the Bay Boathouse (32 Shore Dr.) going along the bike path around Mystic River, Mystic Valley Parkway, and Fellsway and ending back at 32 Shore Dr. Also three paddling races starting from Blessing of the Bay Boathouse along Mystic River and Mystic Lakes.

**In the last 5 years, have you been found guilty, liable, or responsible, in any judicial or administrative proceeding, for any violation of the City Wage Theft Ordinance or any State or Federal laws or regulations regulating the payment of wages?** [City Wage Theft Ordinance](#): No

**Date:** 05/17/2026

**Event Setup Begins:** 06:00 AM

**Start Time:** 09:00 AM

**End Time:** 02:00 PM

**Event Cleanup Ends:** 03:00 PM

**Do You Have a Proposed Rain Date for Your Public Event?:** No

**Organization name; if none, your name:** Mystic River Watershed Association

**Describe any social or cultural benefits of this event for Somerville residents :** This 5K run and three paddling races are open to the public. In the past, cultural groups and youth groups have created teams and participated in the race.

**Describe any financial benefits of this event for Somerville businesses or organizations:** Paddle Boston, located at Blessing of the Bay Boathouse will receive business due to participants renting kayaks for their paddling race. Local business have been invited to sponsor the event, providing prizes to participants, which is great for exposure. Local nonprofits have been invited to table at the event.

**What is the budget for this event?:** \$10,000

**Complete Mailing Address :** 23 Maple St. Arlington, MA 02476

**Contact name for follow-up questions (Will be available to the public):** ShaSha Kingston

**Email:** shasha.kingston@mysticriver.org

**Phone (Will be available to the public):** (617) 865-6580

**Event Name :** Mystic River Herring Run and Paddle

**Describe the Event:** The Mystic River Herring Run and Paddle includes a 5K run/walk race and three paddling races (3, 9, and 12 miles), and a guided bike ride courtesy of Bike to the Sea. Walk, run, paddle, bike or cheer. There's something for everyone! All events are held at the DCR Blessing of the Bay Boathouse in Somerville. The 5K course continues along the Mystic River bike path and through DCR Torbert Macdonald Park. There are no street crossings on this flat course. Children's activities, music, information booths, food, and an awards ceremony are part of the event.

**Describe any Entertainment at the Event (if none, type None):** Music

**Describe any tents, inflatables, or other temporary structures to be used (if none, type None):** Tents for local organizations to table. Size of tents is approximately 6 feet

**Describe any accessibility features available to attendees/participants:** Handicap Porta-potty, back pads for kayaks

**Estimated maximum attendance at one time :** 500

**Estimated total number of people attending:** 500

**Estimated total number of Somerville residents attending :** 75

**Maximum number of attendees you will accommodate:** 600

**Attendee fees or suggested donations :** Those who want to participate in the races will have a fee between \$25-\$40. Spectators are free.

**Will this event be open to the public?:** Yes

**Describe your outreach/publicity:** Social media posts, email outreach

**Will food be served?:** Yes

**If yes, describe::** Light breakfast donated by local organization. Granola bars, fruit, pastries.

**Will the event be catered?:** No

**Will a grill/open-flame device be used? :** No

**Will any streets be blocked? :** Yes

**If yes, describe::** Lane closure: the right lane on Fellsway southbound from the barracks down to Shore Drive in Somerville near the Blessing of the Bay.

**Road to be closed:** Lane closed on Fellsway

**Cross street where road closure will start:** N/A

**Cross street where road closure will end:** N/A

**Will any sidewalks be blocked? :** No

**Will any public parks be used? :** Yes

**If yes, name of park(s) :** Blessing of the Bay Park

**Has this event occurred in the last two years? :** Yes

**If yes, prior dates :** May 18th, 2025; May 19th, 2024

**Police Detail :** Yes

**If yes, describe::** Two Massachusetts State Police officers will be on site during race registration, assisting with traffic management. Once the race begins, one officer will relocate to the corner of Shore Drive and the Fellsway Bridge (racers turn onto Shore Drive at this point), assisting with race direction and/or the lane closure. The other officer will remain at the boathouse to be available if needed.

**Parking for Attendees :** No

**Restrooms :** Yes

**If yes, please describe the restrooms being provided, and if you are providing portable toilets, state how they will be delivered and removed::** Flush will deliver two porta potties on the Friday before the event (May 15), and pick them up the Monday after the event (May 18)

**Liability Insurance :** Yes

**If yes, describe::** We have insurance from Great American and Paddlesport

**Approval Conditions:**

**Reviewer:** Maureen Lee, ISD Health, Approved with Conditions

1. Approved with the condition that the applicant applies for a Somerville Temporary Food License. Please note: if the food and beverage offerings are limited to single??service, commercially packaged food and beverages and ISD Health is notified in writing, a license will not be required.

**Reviewer:** CS Mayor, Mayor's Office, Approved

**Reviewer:** Kevin Roche, Engineering, Approved

**Reviewer:** Eric Weisman, Public Works, Approved

**Reviewer:** Jesse Moos, Engineering, Complete

**Reviewer:** Yianny Tsirigotis, Recreation, Approved

**Reviewer:** Charles Breen, Fire Prevention, Approved

**Reviewer:** Suzanne Rinfret, Traffic and Parking, Approved

**Reviewer:** Mackenzie Richardson, Police, Approved

**Reviewer:** Kimberly M. Wells, City Clerk, Approved