

Businesses accused of serving underage person

By Brian P. Nanos, Thu Feb 14, 2008, 11:08 AM EST

From the Scituate Mariner, Marshfield, MA.

Scituate - Last December, Scituate Police sent a 20-year-old to try to buy alcoholic beverages from 17 Scituate establishments.

According to police, three of the establishments served the 20-year-old without asking for identification. Seven others, police say, served the man only after they had asked for and seen his valid Massachusetts driver's license, which indicated his age.

"The subject was not allowed to offer any verbal indications of his age and if asked his age he had to show his license," Lt. Detective Mike Stewart told selectmen Tuesday night.

The 10 establishments accused of serving alcohol to a minor are Cosmo's Café, Tedeschi Food Shop, The Gannett Grill, P.J.'s Country House, Humarock Mad Fish, Mill Wharf Restaurant, Phin's, On the Water Restaurant, Harborside Wine & Spirits, and The Village Market.

In a letter the selectmen sent to the owners of these 10 establishments, board members "strongly recommended" that employees who serve alcohol receive Training for Intervention Procedures (TIPS). The Scituate Police Department has arranged for a TIPS training, which teaches employees to prevent intoxication, underage drinking and drunk driving, to be given at the town library on Saturday, Feb. 23.

At their meeting Tuesday, selectmen seemed to accept the suggestion made by Harborside Wine and Spirits manager Taylor Tibbetts that his employees go instead to a Beverage Alcohol Training geared more toward liquor stores than toward bars and restaurants.

According to Stewart, the training could help those serving alcohol better understand the underage licenses.

"It became very obvious to the investigators involved in this compliance check that there was too much confusion as it relates to the underage licenses," he said.

Selectman chairman Shawn Harris warned the establishments that they should train their employees with an eye on the fact that the police will be likely to follow up with future compliance checks.

"Plan on it happening again," he said. "That's all I can say."