

Aug 25 2022 2:46 pm



BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS

City Hall, 718 Main Street
Fitchburg MA 01420
(978) 829-1820

Daniel Sarefield, Chairman
Richard Boscardin
John Zarrella

MINUTES OF MEETING

A regular meeting of the Board of License Commissioners was held on June 22, 2022 over the Zoom meeting platform, and called to order by Commissioner Sarefield at 6:01 PM. Commissioner Boscardin was also present at the meeting. Commissioner Zarrella was absent. FPD Liaison Lieutenant Howe, City Clerk Joanna Bilotta-Simeone and Assistant City Clerk Amanda Alford were present.

I. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING(S)

Minutes of June 6, 2022

Minutes approved unanimous consent 2/0

II. NEW APPLICATIONS

Special One Day License

Susan Navarre, on behalf of the Fitchburg Historical Society, for a Special One Day All Alcohol Beverage License for a fundraiser event at the Pheonix Building, 781 Main Street, from 6PM to 9PM on Saturday, July 2, 2022 for 50 people.

Ms. Susan Navarre was present at the meeting. She stated that they were requesting a one day license for an upcoming fundraiser event. She noted that the two servers working are TIPS certified.

Application approved by unanimous roll call vote 2/0.

Late Closing Permit - (2AM)

Major's Café, 149 Lunenburg Street (Thursday, Friday & Saturday)

Ms. Ellen Griffin was present at the meeting. Commissioner Sarefield noted that since her attorney was not able to be present at the meeting that the Board would be willing to continue the application until he was available. Ms. Griffin stated that she would like to move forward with the application. She stated that she was applying for a late closing of 2AM on these particular evenings so that she could be competitive with other establishments that have the same closing time. She stated that the problems that occurred in the past were on the weeknights when she was the only establishment open until 2AM. Commissioners commended Ms. Griffin and her staff on the steps that she has taken to become compliant and noted that there had not been any incidents reported to them within the 90 day review period since the 1AM closing was restored. They noted that they would like to see this trend continue

over a longer period of time particularly because the incidents taking place were in the late night hours and were serious enough that the late closing was initially revoked. Commissioners suggested that she apply again in the future.

A motion to approve the application failed by a unanimous roll call vote 2/0.

Change of Manager

Knights of Columbus, 165 Electric Avenue, from David LeBlanc to Thomas Leger.

Mr. Thomas Leger was present at the meeting. It was noted that the agenda should reflect the applicant as “Knights of Columbus” and not “British American Club”. Commissioner Sarefield asked Mr. Leger if the position was hired or elected. Mr. Leger stated that it was a hired position and that he had been trying to transfer the manager on record for some time. He stated that he was not only a member, but has been working at the establishment as the bar manager. Commissioner Sarefield asked Mr. Leger about his background managing alcohol sales. Mr. Leger stated that he has been in the industry for years noting he previously worked at the Wine Cellar and Duck Inn. Commissioner Sarefield asked if he was TIPS certified. Mr. Leger stated the he was both TIPS and Serve Safe certified. Commissioner Boscardin asked how many hours he planned to be working. Mr. Leger replied that he typically works 35 hours per week.

Application approved by a unanimous roll call vote 2/0.

New Restaurant General On-Premises Wine & Malt Beverage License

Fitchburg Diner, LLC d/b/a Fitchburg Diner, 131 Westminster Street

(Per request of applicant, refer to Public Hearing on July 18th)

Mr. Ted Turner was present at the meeting. He stated that he was applying for a wine & malt license to provide an option to his patrons that wish to have an alcoholic beverage with their meal.

Commissioner Sarefield noted that a public hearing must be held for any new liquor license application.

A motion to accept the application and refer it to a public hearing on July 18, 2022 was approved by a unanimous roll call vote 2/0.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

Transfer of Annual All Alcohol Beverage License

Gomes Liquors, Inc., d/b/a Gomes Liquors, for transfer of ownership of annual, package store, all alcohol beverages license and pledge of inventory at 58 Ashby State Road to Gomes, Inc., Tapan Patel, Manager.

Mr. Tapan Patel and his Attorney, Mr. John Mooradian, were present at the meeting.

Commissioner Sarefield called the public hearing to order at 6:29 p.m.

Attorney Mooradian stated that there is a change of ownership as his client, Tapan Patel, was purchasing Gomes Liquors at 56 Ashby State Road. He stated that Mr. Patel is TIPS certified and he will require his employees receive the training as well. Mr. Mooradian noted that he plans to operate with standard business hours and will utilize an ID scanner. Commissioners noted that Mr. Patel has

experience in operating a package store and they wished him luck with his new venture. Lt. Howe stated that he had no concerns with the application. He noted to Mr. Patel to be cognizant of possible underage patrons, especially with the college in close proximity.

No one spoke in favor or opposition of the application.

Hearing declared closed at 6:33 p.m.

Application approved by a unanimous roll call vote 2/0.

IV. CONTINUED MATTERS

Taxi Driver

Kendrick Tyerrell Chestnut – City Cab Co.

(continued from June 6, 2022)

Commissioner Boscardin left the meeting at 6:45. As a quorum was not present at the time the application was brought forth for consideration, the application will appear on the next regular agenda.

V. NEW BUSINESS

None

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda K. Alford, Assistant City Clerk

Approved:

Daniel Sarefield

Richard Boscardin