



NORTHAMPTON LICENSE COMMISSION
City Hall, Office of the Mayor
210 Main St., 2nd Floor
Northampton, MA 01060
(413) 587-1212

COMMISSIONERS

Natasha Yakovlev, Chair
Helen Kahn
Jennifer Ewers

Executive Assistant
Annie Lesko

alesko@northamptonma.gov

MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, July 6, 2022
Virtual Meeting
4:00 p.m.

The July 6, 2022, License Commission meeting was held via remote participation.

Join Virtual Meeting

- Video Conference: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81544357118?pwd=SU1kZUs1SXBGnk5oS3hmQml3MGpLUT09>

OR

- Telephone, call: +1-929-436-2866, Meeting ID: 815 4435 7118, Password: 747360

1. **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER** by Commissioner Yakovlev at 4:07 p.m.
ROLL CALL - Commissioners Yakovlev, Kahn, and Ewers were present
ANNOUNCEMENT OF ZOOM RECORDING made by Commissioner Yakovlev
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT** - None
3. **INTRODUCTION OF JENNIFER EWERS AS THIRD LICENSE COMMISSIONER**

Jennifer Ewers introduced herself and stated she is an insurance broker, lives in Florence and has lived in Northampton since 2005 and is an UMass alum.

4. **APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER OF A COMMON VICTUALLER LICENSE**
Transfer from: GLG Corp d/b/a Friendly's
Transfer to: Friendly's Restaurants Co, LLC d/b/a Friendly's
54 Main St., Florence

Prasad Bhopale was present for this application and stated the ownership is transferring from Gary Glenn as he retires. Just took over operations on the 16th and will be operating under Friendly's Restaurants Co, LLC. Nothing has been done to the property but do plan on doing a refresh of sorts in the future.

Commissioner Kahn moved to approve the application for the transfer of common victualler license to Friendly's Restaurants Co, LLC. Commissioner Yakovlev seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3-0 by a roll call vote.

5. **PUBLIC HEARING ON AN APPLICATION FOR A CHANGE OF MANAGER, CHANGE OF OFFICERS/DIRECTORS AND A TRANSFER OF STOCK ON AN ANNUAL WINE AND MALT RESTAURANT LICENSE**
Ragam, Inc. d/b/a Bombay Royale, 1 Roundhouse Plaza
Proposed Manager: Tenneson Z. Cheeran

Attorney Jeffrey Lynch and Tenneson Cheeran were present for this application.

Commissioner Yakovlev moved to open the public hearing at 4:12 p.m. Commissioner Kahn seconded and the hearing was opened. There was no public comment on this application.

Attorney Lynch stated that Bombay Royale is looking to change the ownership of the business, change officers and directors and change the manager. There are 200 outstanding shares between two shareholders with those shareholders each selling 95 shares to result in four shareholders.

There will be no formal changes with the operations of the business. Tenneson Cheeran is applying to be the manager of the liquor license, is TIPS certified and has been working in the restaurant industry for over 10 years.

Commissioner Yakovlev moved to close the public hearing at 4:14 p.m. Commissioner Kahn seconded and the public hearing was closed.

Commissioner Kahn moved to approve the application for a change of manager, change of officers/directors and a transfer of stock for Ragam, Inc. Commissioners Yakovlev seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3-0 by a roll call vote.

6. APPLICATIONS FOR SHORT TERM LIQUOR LICENSES

Oxbow Water Ski Show Team
Location: 354 Old Springfield Rd., Northampton
Type: All Alcohol

Event: Friday Night Ski Show
Date/Time: July 8, 2022, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
July 15, 2022, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
July 28, 2022, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Event: Friday Night Water Ski Show & Tournament
Date/Time: July 29, 30 & 31, 2022, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Debbie Duda was present for these applications and stated she meant to apply for wine and malt licenses instead of all alcohol. Debbie stated that there are five teams competing for the 37th tournament and typically she only gets a license for the tournament weekend. However, because there are a lot of spectators on Friday nights she decided to incorporate beer for the Friday evening shows.

Commissioner Yakovlev moved to approve the applications for short term wine and malt licenses for the Oxbow Water Ski Show Team. Commissioner Kahn seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3-0 by a roll call vote.

7. APPLICATION FOR A TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF PREMISES INTO A PUBLIC SPACE ON AN ANNUAL WINE & MALT RESTAURANT LICENSE

Wine Witch, LLC, 159 Main St.
● 3 parking spaces on Main Street

Dave Greeman was present for this application and stated he hopes to put three round four tops and then three smaller tables. There will be chain barriers with some type of fencing to cordon off the space.

Commissioner Yakovlev moved approval of the extension of premises for Wine Witch, LLC as shown on plan on file with the License Commission to include approximately three parking spots on Main Street directly in front of the restaurant, to be cordoned off with jersey barriers placed by the city to include the sidewalk in between limited to transportation of alcoholic beverages only through November 15, 2022, 4 p.m. to 11:30

p.m. and contingent upon site inspection by the Building Department prior to operation. Commissioner Kahn seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3-0 by a roll call vote.

8. APPLICATIONS FOR SHORT TERM LIQUOR LICENSES

Drawing Board Brewing Company, 36 Main St., Florence
Event: Pints on the Patio
Type: Wine & Malt

Date/Time: July 23, 2022, 12 p.m. to 10 p.m.
July 30, 2022, 12 p.m. to 10 p.m.

This agenda item was taken after agenda item #10

Commissioner Yakovlev moved to approve the short term liquor licenses for Drawing Board Brewing Company. Commissioner Kahn seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3-0 by a roll call vote.

9. APPLICATIONS FOR SHORT TERM LIQUOR LICENSES

Building 8 Brewing, 320 Riverside Dr., Florence
Type: Wine & Malt

Date/Time: July 22, 2022, 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Location: Bombyx, 130 Pine St., Florence
Event: Live Music

Date/Time: July 30, 2022, 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Location: 320 Riverside Dr., Florence
Event: ALES for A.L.S.

Date/Time: July 31, 2022, 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Location: 320 Riverside Dr., Florence
Event: Summer Sun Day Pop-Up

O'Brian Tomalin was present for these applications and stated that the Bombyx event is being held in the same manner as usual. The July 30th event is a fundraising event for ALS with the same set up as usual and Sunday is just a fun event to utilize the tent while it's still rented.

Commissioner Kahn moved to approve the short term liquor licenses for Building 8 Brewing. Commissioner Yakovlev seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3-0 by a roll call vote.

10. UPDATE FROM JEFF FINDLAY ON THE ALL ALCOHOL CLUB LICENSE HELD BY FREEDOM POST 28, INC. D/B/A AMERICAN LEGION

Jeff Findlay was present for this agenda item and stated that he has looked at several methods of financing the American Legion and is currently in the process of getting one of the four plots of land surveyed to sell for a building lot so the proceeds can be used to pay off debt and to get caught up to where the Legion needs to be.

Jeff stated that the intention is to reopen and the hope is to have something rolling in the next 60 days.

Commissioner Yakovlev requested that Jeff Findlay appear at the September meeting for another update.

11. DISCUSSION AND VOTE TO ADOPT SECTION 8-1: RESPONSIBLE NEIGHBOR REQUIREMENT FOR INDOOR AND/OR OUTDOOR ENTERTAINMENT LICENSEES INTO THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE NORTHAMPTON LICENSE COMMISSION

Commissioner Yakovlev provided a brief background for Commissioner Ewers. gave a background for Jennifer Ewers as to why the License Commission chose to adopt this rule and regulation.

8-1: Responsible Neighbor Requirement for Indoor and/or Outdoor Entertainment Licensees -

The Northampton License Commission requires that every licensee for indoor and/or outdoor entertainment be a responsible neighbor in the community. Out of consideration for others in the community, an unreasonable increase in the level of noise in the area caused by the indoor and/or outdoor entertainment or caused by patrons entering or leaving the premises may be the subject a hearing to modify, suspend, or revoke the license. Applicants must be mindful to monitor/control behavior of attendees and performers so that the program, event or activity complies with the approved license and is not a nuisance at all times.

Commissioner Kahn pointed out that the word “of” needs to be inserted before “a hearing”.

Commissioner Yakovlev moved to approve and adopt section 8-1 into the rules and regulations of the Northampton License Commission. Commissioner Kahn seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3-0 by a roll call vote.

12. REQUEST TO RESCIND A PREVIOUSLY APPROVED SHORT TERM LIQUOR LICENSE

The Academy of Music, Inc., 274 Main St.
Date/Time: June 25, 2022, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Event: Choro Fest
Type: Wine & Malt

The clerk pointed out that this event took place but there weren't enough ticket sales in order to have a bar. The clerk also pointed out that the physical copy of the license was not returned when the request to rescind the license was made. However, the request came in before the event and a concessions report was provided to the clerk showing that there were no wine and malt sales.

Commissioner Ewers stated that there could be a concern in the future for someone wanting to return a license by claiming after the fact that there weren't enough ticket sales. In addition, not everyone is likely to be able to produce a concessions report.

Commissioner Yakovlev pointed out that the clerk was notified prior to the event so she doesn't see a problem with rescinding. However, if the clerk was notified after the fact and the license wasn't used due to poor turnout, that would be an inappropriate reason to rescind the license.

Commissioner Yakovlev moved to rescind the license for the Academy of Music for the June 25, 2022 event. Commissioner Kahn. The motion passed unanimously 3-0 by a roll call vote.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- June 1, 2022

Commissioner Kahn moved to approve the June 1, 2022 minutes as written. Commissioner Yakovlev seconded. The motion passed 2-0 with Commissioner Ewers abstaining.

14. NEW BUSINESS

The Senate has voted to approve extending the remote meeting provisions until December 2023. The House has not yet taken it up, but House Speaker Mariano has indicated that he understands that this issue is time-sensitive.

The clerk asked if the Commission wants to continue with remote meetings if the legislation is passed.

Commissioner Kahn would like to continue with remote meetings because it's easier for her schedule but also more accessible for business owners and all other attendees.

Commissioner Yakovlev misses meeting in person but also agrees that the meetings being held remotely are more accessible for everyone involved.

The clerk will research what a hybrid meeting entails and will discuss its possibilities at the August meeting.

Jon Neumann was present and asked to be recognized. Commissioner Yakovlev recognized Jon who asked what the overview of the Good Neighbor language was. The clerk will forward the approved language to Jon.

15. ADJOURN

Commissioner Yakovlev moved to adjourn the meeting at 5 p.m. Commissioners Ewers seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3-0 by a roll call vote and the meeting was adjourned.