



Licensing Board
CITY OF WATERTOWN
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
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BOARD MEMBERS

DONNA B. DOUCETTE
SANDRA KASABIAN HOFFMAN
JOHN LABADINI

ALTERNATE MEMBER
JIM TSEREKAS

MINUTES MARCH 21, 2024

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: FEBRUARY 15, 2024

1. Special Licenses

- Hellenic Association of Watertown** **Approved 3-0**
Special Wine and Malt License, Passover Seder
Hellenic Cultural Center, 25 Bigelow Avenue **April 20**

Irene Cobb, function manager for the Hellenic Cultural Center, appeared in support of the application. Chair Doucette reviewed the elements of the application. A religious event – Passover seder for another congregation; hours of 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; 150 expected attendees; layout/floor plan; ABCC-approved wholesaler receipt; TIPS certification; crowd manager certification; certificate of alcohol liability insurance. Ms. Cobb stated that the event will be held in the largest hall of the facility, Metaxas Hall. The attendees will provide their own food. There will be a process to ensure alcohol is served only to those 21 and over. The Building and Fire Departments and Zoning Enforcement Officer had no comment on the application. The Health Department reported “pending application,” but Chair Doucette noted that no food permit will be required since this is a pot luck event. Sgt. Swift stated that the Police Department had no objection to the granting of the license requested, subject to the conditions in the department’s written report. The Board voted to grant the license, subject to the conditions requested by the Police Department.

- Hellenic Association of Watertown** **Approved 3-0**
Special All Alcohol License, Dancing with the Stars Fundraiser
Hellenic Cultural Center, 25 Bigelow Avenue **April 26**

Irene Cobb, function manager for the Hellenic Cultural Center, appeared in support of the application. Chair Doucette reviewed the elements of the application: a Rotary Club event with hours of 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.; estimated 250 attendees, all adults; ABCC-approved wholesaler receipt. Ms. Cobb stated that there will be table seating surrounding the stage as well as stadium seating and standing areas. The Building and Fire Departments and Zoning Enforcement Officer had no comment on the application. The Health Department reported “pending application.” Ms. Cobb stated that a caterer had not yet been chosen. Chair Doucette requested that notice of the selected caterer be provided to the Board. Sgt. Swift stated that the

Police Department had no objection to the granting of the license requested, subject to the conditions in the department's written report. The Board voted to grant the license, subject to the conditions requested by the Police Department and to any pending food permit application to the Health Department.

2. Comments by Board and Police Department

Chair Doucette referred the members to the discussion at the February 15, 2024 Board meeting regarding possible amendments to its rules and regulations. Board clerk Gilligan reported there were some potential applicants for livery licenses who were deferring, pending possible amendment of the licensing requirements. Chair Doucette noted that at the February 15 meeting clerk Gilligan had reported on requests for modification of the livery process, elimination of the license but retention of vehicle inspection by the Police Department. Clerk Gilligan commented that the request is, essentially, to eliminate a local process that would duplicate state requirements, including through the Registry of Motor Vehicles. Sgt. Swift noted that the issue was how to address a duplication of reviews. Chair Doucette stated that parking of vehicles would be a subject for Town oversight, and noted that most livery licenses go to individual operators, who park their vehicles as they would a personal vehicle. She stated that many regulations relating to hackney/taxi licenses grew out of businesses expanding beyond just individual operators, and noted a concern of an entity acquiring a fleet of vehicles and then looking to garage them, without Town oversight. Sgt. Swift noted that an open air parking license would be required for outdoor parking of multiple vehicles.

Member Tsekrekas noted that in his experience every application for a livery license had been by a single owner-operator, and that duplication of effort was a concern. Member Kasabian Hoffman stated her agreement, but commented that if a single person or entity came to control many vehicles there may be a parking concern and a need for local control.

Chair Doucette recommended that the Board direct David Doneski, of City Attorney KP Law, to make a presentation on removal of livery license requirements at the Board's next meeting. Members Kasabian Hoffman and Tsekrekas concurred.

Clerk Gilligan reported she had not been able to communicate with Subway, whose application for a change of hours of operation at 59 Mt. Auburn Street had been continued from the February 15 Board meeting, regarding completion of the abutter notification process.

In response to questions from the Board, clerk Gilligan stated that operations at the Wicked Bagel restaurant were expected to begin by mid-May, and that the alcohol license for Taffer's Tavern, a restaurant that had closed, would be turned in to the Town once the alcohol had been removed from the premises.

Start: 7:15PM
End: 7:35PM


Donna B. Doucette, Chair

Present: Donna B. Doucette, Sandra Kasabian Hoffman, Jim Tsekrekas
Also Present: Watertown Police Sergeant Kenneth Swift, Licensing Board Clerk –
Noelle Gilligan