



Licensing Board
TOWN OF WATERTOWN
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
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Watertown, Massachusetts 02472
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BOARD MEMBERS
DONNA B. DOUCETTE
GEORGE B. NEWMAN
STEVEN W. AYLWARD

ALTERNATE MEMBER
SANDRA KASABIAN HOFFMAN

Minutes January 18, 2018

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

SPECIAL LICENSES:

- Mukund Pokharel/St. James 465 Mt. Auburn Street Approved 3-0
January 20, 2018 One Day Wine & Malt Beverages/ Cultural Musical Event

Muokund Pokharel appeared in support of the application. He stated that this will be a community cultural event for Nepalese persons. Tickets have been sold, and some may also be sold at the door. A hand stamp will be used to verify authorized attendees. The anticipated attendance is approximately 250 people. There will be no caterer; instead, pre-packaged food will be offered. Sgt. Grady reported 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 acknowledged receipt of reports from the Health and Fire Departments, and voted to grant the license, subject to the conditions requested by the Police, Health and Fire Departments.

- St. James Armenian Church 465 Mt. Auburn Street Approved 3-0
February 3, 2018 One Day All Alcohol License/ Fundraiser

Sylvas Markesian of the PTO for the Erebuni Dance School appeared in support of the application. The event is a Valentine's night fundraiser with a guest singer. No tickets will be sold at the door. A hand stamp will be used to verify attendees. The estimated attendance is 200 people. There will be no caterer, but food will be served, including cheese and crackers and roll-ups. There will be two bartenders on duty. Sgt. Grady reported 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 acknowledged receipt of reports from the Health and Fire Departments. Sgt. Grady stated that he would defer to the Fire Department's recommendation for one crowd manager. The Board voted to grant the license, subject to the conditions requested by the Police, Health and Fire Departments – with the requirement of one crowd manager.

- Nancy Sarris/ Taxiarchae Greek Orthodox Church 25 Bigelow Ave
February 3, 2018 One Day All Alcohol License/ Fundraiser/Dance
Withdrawn/Canceled

George Faggas of the Greek Orthodox Church was present for the application concerning an event on February 17, and he stated that the February 3 event had been canceled.

- Nancy Sarris/ Taxiarchae Greek Orthodox Church 25 Bigelow Ave
February 17, 2018 One Day All Alcohol License/ Tibetan Cultural
Event NYE Approved 3-0

George Faggas of the Greek Orthodox Church appeared in support of the application. He stated that this will be a Tibetan new year event for the Tibetan Association of Boston. It is not a ticketed event, but it is being advertised within the Tibetan community. The association will apply to the Health Department for a food permit. The anticipated attendance is 350-400 people. There will be three bartenders. Sgt. Grady reported 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 acknowledged receipt of reports from the Health and Fire Departments, and voted to grant the license, subject to the conditions requested by the Police, Health and Fire Departments.

1. Joyful Garden, LLC Approved 3-0
550 Arsenal Street, Unit# 14 (Watertown Mall)
New All Alcohol Common Victualler License
2. Dionysus, LLC
d/b/a Dionysus Continued to March 15, 2018
311 Arsenal Street
Status Hearing

Present: George B Newman, Steven W Aylward, Sandra Kasabian Hoffman (Alternate Member)

Joyful Garden, LLC
1653 Washington Street
Newton, MA 02465

The Watertown Licensing Board met to consider the application of Joyful Garden, LLC for an All Alcohol Common Victualler License to be exercised at 550 Arsenal Street, Unit #14 in the Watertown Mall.

Attorney William York appeared in support of the application, together with Henry Ho, manager.

Attorney York stated that the proposed restaurant had been well established in Brighton, MA for 10 years, but that the owner of the location took over the premises so the applicant lost its lease. The restaurant closed in 2017. A 2016 food sales/alcohol sales report prepared by the applicant's accountant shows food revenue at 96% of total sales. Henry Ho, the manager, has several years of food service business experience, having opened his first restaurant at age 27 after his arrival to the United States from China. He opened Joyful Garden in Brighton in 2008, where it operated with a 7-day alcohol license, without any alcohol service violations. The alcohol license requested is one of the additional licenses authorized by special act of the Legislature, Chapter 73 of the Acts of 2016.

The proposed location is the site of the former *Old Country Buffet* restaurant. It is anticipated that the site will be ready to open in March, after some renovations. Although requested Sunday hours are 9:00 to noon for food only, and noon to midnight for alcohol service, it is anticipated that the closing time on Sunday will likely be between 9:30 to 10:30 p.m. The midnight hour is requested on account of miscellaneous occasions when later service will be required. Mr. Ho explained that a dim sum menu will be offered from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. daily, at which time a full menu will be offered for the rest of the day. Attorney York stated that whenever the restaurant is open, there will be mall personnel on duty to oversee the common areas of the mall. Patricia Stenson, general manager of the mall stated that the space in question has been vacant for two years and that she endorsed the application and proposed restaurant. Other members of the audience, patrons of Joyful Garden's Brighton operation, also spoke in favor of the application. Town Councilor Vincent Piccirilli stated his support for the application, and noted that the special legislation authorizing additional licenses was the result of a process begun in 2012. He added that there has been new business occupancy in the area, including a hotel and apartments, so that there will be a demand for the restaurant's offerings.

Attorney York explained that because the license is one of those authorized under Chapter 73 of the Acts of 2016, it would return to the Town, and could not be transferred/sold, if the licensee chose not to continue with the business.

Sgt. Grady commented that the application made reference to employee investment in the business, and stated that any acquisition of a beneficial interest in the license holder would require a background check of the individuals in question. Attorney York acknowledged that was the case.

Sgt. Grady stated that the Police Department had no objection to the granting of the all alcohol common victualer license, provided that the conditions stated above were imposed, and no objection to approval of 7-day service, provided that the applicable conditions stated below were imposed.

The Licensing Board voted unanimously to grant an All Alcohol Common Victualler License, subject to the following conditions:

1. The description of the licensed premises shall be as follows: approximately 9,600 square feet full service restaurant and dining area, lounge with full bar, kitchen, restrooms to include handicap accessible facilities, front and rear public entrances/exits, access for employees and deliveries.
2. Hours of operation shall be Monday through Saturday 9: a.m. until 12 midnight.
3. Seating for 298 persons as shown on the plan submitted (plan entitled “Joyful Gardens – Watertown Mall 550 Arsenal St Watertown MA 02472” sheet A-1, Exist/Demo First Floor Plan).
4. The manager, Henry Ho, and all servers employed by the licensee shall attend and successfully complete an alcohol awareness training program (e.g., TIPS) immediately upon hire or expiration of certification.
5. Copies of all alcohol awareness training certifications shall be maintained by the licensee and reviewable upon request.
6. On account of location of the establishment within the Watertown Mall, some measure of security and oversight of the property shall be maintained while the licensed premises is in operation.

The Licensing Board also voted unanimously to approve Sunday sales, for seven-day service, subject to the following conditions:

1. Sunday hours of operation shall be 9:00 a.m. until 12 noon (**food service only**), with alcohol service permitted from 12 noon until 12:00 a.m.
2. All other conditions of the license shall remain in place.

Dionysus, LLC
d/b/a Dionysus
311 Arsenal Street
Watertown, MA 02472

On January 18, Attorney Kristen Scanlon appeared on behalf of the licensee, Dionysus, LLC d/b/a Dionysus, for a continued status hearing on the all alcohol common victualer license granted for exercise at Kingsbury Avenue on the Watertown Arsenal campus.

She stated that the licensee is working through a reorganization process, but that the master plan work for the site of the approved premises is on schedule. It is expected that the west parking garage will open later in the month. Attorney Scanlon also reported that she has been authorized to work with brokers regarding a possible transfer of the license to a location where it could be exercised more immediately. She explained that the licensee is therefore moving forward on two tracks regarding the license.

In response to a question from the Board, Attorney Scanlon responded that there should be more information on the company's plans by the date of the Board's meeting in March. She explained that under the present schedule, the restaurant would likely not open until the first quarter of 2019, and stated that if the Board were comfortable with that timetable, the licensee would pursue that option only. Attorney Scanlon further stated that construction for the building which would house the restaurant should start in the next month.

The Licensing Board voted unanimously to continue the status hearing to March 15, 2018. The continued hearing on this matter will be held at 7:15 p.m. in the Philip Pane Hearing Room, Administration Building, 149 Main Street, Watertown, MA.