



Licensing Board
TOWN OF WATERTOWN
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
149 Main Street
Watertown, Massachusetts 02472
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BOARD MEMBERS

DONNA B. DOUCETTE
SANDRA KASABIAN HOFFMAN
JOHN LABADINI

ALTERNATE MEMBER
JIM TSEKREKAS

MINUTES DECEMBER 16, 2021

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: NOVEMBER 18, 2021 Approved 3-0

1. Watertown Restaurant Corp. Approved 3-0
d/b/a Porcini's
68 School Street
Change of Manager
2. Thomas and Patricia Brennan d/b/a Approved 3-0
Hardy Spa
682 Belmont Street
All Alcohol Package Goods Store
3. Archon, Inc. Approved 3-0
d/b/a Conley's Pub & Grille
160-168 Belmont Street
Modification of license suspension
4. 2022 License Renewals Approved 3-0

All Alcohol Common Victualer 6 Day	5
All Alcohol Common Victualer 7 Day	28
All Alcohol Package Goods	7
All Alcohol Club	8
Common Victualer	88
Wine & Malt Common Victualer 6 Day	0
Wine & Malt Common Victualer 7 Day	6
Wine & Malt Package Goods	6
General on Premises/ All alcohol	2
BYOB	0
Innholders License	1
24-Hour Opening	2
Sale of Food at Retail	3
Entertainment License 6 Day	13

Sunday Entertainment License	4
Automatic Amusement Device	2
Music Box	3
Class I Auto Dealer	5
Class II Auto Dealer	13

5. Comments by Board Clerk and Police Department

Sgt. Swift stated that he would be requesting a show cause hearing for the January 2022 Board meeting, for Majestic Cinema.

Start: 7:17PM
End: 8:19PM

Donna B. Doucette, Chairman

Present: Donna B. Doucette, Sandra Kasabian-Hoffman, John Labadini, Jim Tsekrekas
Also Present: Noelle Gilligan – acting clerk, Watertown Police Sgt. Ken Swift,
Attorney David Doneski

Watertown Restaurant Corp.
d/b/a Porcini's
68 School Street
Watertown, MA 02472

The Watertown Licensing Board met to consider the application of Watertown Restaurant Corp. d/b/a Porcini's for approval of a change of manager of its premises at 68 School Street licensed for all alcohol common victualer service.

Linsey Spolidoro-McGann, the proposed new manager, appeared in support of the application.

Ms. Spolidoro-McGann stated that prior to being employed by Porcini's she worked as a manager at the Pizzeria Uno location in Woburn, after starting out as a server and bartender. She began employment at Porcini's approximately three and a half years ago, and was elevated to a manager position about six months after she started. When the previously designated general manager left the restaurant to change careers he recommended Ms. Spolidoro-McGann as his replacement. She will work full-time, and is TIPS trained.

Sergeant Swift reported that the Police Department had no objection to the proposed change of manger, provided that the conditions stated below were imposed.

After hearing, the Licensing Board voted unanimously to approve Linsey Spolidoro-McGann as manager, subject to the following conditions:

1. The new manager of record, Linsey Spolidoro-McGann, shall ensure that all employees engaged in the service of alcoholic beverages attend and successfully complete an alcohol awareness training program (e.g., TIPS) immediately upon hire or expiration of certification.
2. All other conditions of the license shall remain in place.

Thomas and Patricia Brennan d/b/a
Hardy Spa
682 Belmont Street
Watertown, MA 02472

The Watertown Licensing Board met to consider the application of Thomas and Patricia Brennan d/b/a Hardy Spa for an all alcohol package goods store license to be exercised at 682 Belmont Street.

Attorney Timothy McGoldrick appeared in support of the application, together with Thomas and Patricia Brennan.

Attorney David Doneski of City Attorney, KP Law explained that the license being requested, an all alcohol package goods store license, had become available as a result of an increase in the City's population, as determined by the 2020 Census, and in accordance with the alcohol license quota system under Chapter 138 of General Laws.

Attorney McGoldrick stated that the Brennans have been married for 30 years, and purchased the Hardy Spa business nearly that long ago, and have held a beer and wine license for the premises for many years. Mr. Brennan works most of the hours at the store. The Brennans initially rented the store property, but they purchased it in about 2000 and converted it to mixed-use – residential and commercial. Mr. Brennan has been looking to upgrade to an all alcohol license for about 10 years; and has found that his business has been affected in the last several years by other stores in the area selling alcohol. Beer sales have been declining over the last several years, though wine sales have been steady. The younger demographic group is trending to mixed drinks. The store loses the sale of liquor as well as purchases of beer and wine when people purchase liquor at other locations. Attorney McGoldrick submitted that there is a special issue in the area of the store, the neighborhood of St. Luke's Church and Oakley Country Club, in that people currently need to travel to Main Street for an all alcohol beverage purchase, because there is not an option in the northwest end of the city. He stated that an all alcohol license in this area would serve consumers. He added that there is plenty of parking in the vicinity of the store, on both sides of Belmont Street and on Hardy Avenue. He also stated that all alcohol beverage sales would help the applicants' business. Attorney McGoldrick acknowledged that the store is in a neighborhood location, but commented that there is parking in the rear of the building in addition to public parking nearby.

Board chair Doucette noted that among the criteria applicable to consideration of a license application is the character of applicant which, she stated, she could accept based on their longstanding operation of a wine and malt package store at the location. She explained that the Licensing Board, in reference to the criterion of public need, has historically tried not to cluster 'all alcohol' package stores in a 1-mile area, and stated that she did not see clustering as an issue with this application.

In response to questions from the Board, Attorney McGoldrick stated that the interior of the establishment includes a long wall of shelving that is underutilized, and that it would be an area for liquor display. There is also room at the cashier area. Beer and wine is currently displayed in the grocery area at the center of the store. He stated that there is ample storage in the basement, and that the premises can accommodate additional product. There is no plan for construction or a change to the exterior; from the outside the building will look the same. Board chair Doucette commented that the Board would need a more specific plan of the space. Attorney McGoldrick responded that more detail would be appropriate. He stated that a slightly better drawing was done for the Police Department's review of the application, and that he could supplement what had been submitted with photographs and additional material as necessary.

Chair Doucette also noted that there was no evidence of alcohol liability insurance, and that confirmation of coverage would be required before a license could be issued. She also asked about store employees and Mr. Brennan stated that there is currently a woman who works at the store, in addition to him and his wife.

Chair Doucette read for the record an e-mail received on December 15 from a Kimberly Willar, of 684 Belmont Street, Watertown, directly attached to the Hardy Spa site, in support of the application for an all alcohol license.

There were no reports from the Building and Health Departments, or the Zoning Enforcement Officer.

Sgt. Swift reported that the Police Department had no objection to the granting of the requested license, provided that the conditions stated in items 1 through 3 below were imposed.

After hearing, the Licensing Board voted unanimously to approve the requested license, subject to the following conditions:

1. The hours of operation for alcohol sales will be 12:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 12:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Sunday.
2. Space designated for the storage of wine and malt beverages shall be limited to the area shown on the submitted plans and shall be secured at all times. The approved manager and/or his/her designee shall be responsible for the security, control, and maintenance of this area at all times.

3. The managers, Thomas and Patricia Brennan, shall ensure that any employees engaged in the sale of alcohol shall complete a valid alcohol awareness training program (e.g., TIPS) upon hire or expiration of certification; a copy of employee certifications shall be maintained by the licensee and available upon request to any agent of the Licensing Board.
4. The applicant submit an updated, more detailed plan of the licensed premises, and evidence of alcohol liability insurance.

Archon, Inc.
d/b/a Conley's Pub & Grille
160-168 Belmont Street
Watertown, MA 02472

The Watertown Licensing Board met to consider the request of Archon, Inc. d/b/a Conley's Pub & Grille that the dates imposed for suspension of the all alcohol common victualer license exercised at 160-168 Belmont Street, at the conclusion of the show cause hearing held on November 18, 2021, be revised from January 6 and 7, 2022 to December 24 and 25, 2021.

Attorney David Doneski of City Attorney, KP Law explained that subsequent to the date of the show cause hearing Mr. Conley contacted the Board to request that the suspension dates be revised to December 24 and December 25, 2021, in which case the licensee would waive its right to appeal the suspension to the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission.

Board chair Doucette presented Mr. Conley's request to the Board. She noted that the incident had occurred on a Friday, so that the proposal for service of the suspension on December 24 and 25 met the Board's practice of having one day of a suspension served on the same day of the week as the incident.

The Licensing Board voted unanimously to approve the request and to revise the suspension dates to December 24 and December 25, 2021.