



Licensing Board
CITY 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 TSEREKAS

MINUTES NOVEMBER 17, 2022

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: DECEMBER 15, 2022 Approved 3-0

1. Special Licenses

- John Donohue – Donohue’s, 87 Bigelow Avenue Approved 3-0
Annual 5k Turkey Trot Road Race November 24

Chair Doucette reviewed the elements of the application. John Donohue appeared in support of the application. He stated that this is the 17th year of the race, which benefits the Watertown Boys and Girls Club and other charitable organizations. He estimated the number of runners as approximately 1,200, and noted there are 512 parking spaces on Bigelow Ave, in addition to spaces in the parking lot of the business across the street from the establishment. Mr. Donohue stated that the average runner’s pace is about 3 miles an hour. The route will start on Nichols Street, heading east toward Arlington Street, turning south on Arlington Street, then to Elm Street, Arsenal Street, Irving Street, Mt. Auburn Street, and onto Bigelow Avenue to the finish line in front of Donohue’s Bar and Grill. Sgt. Swift 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 voted to grant the license, subject to the conditions requested by the Police Department. [Board member Labadini recused himself from this matter, noting that he was a member of the Boys and Girls Club’s board of directors, and Alternate Member Tsekrekas participated as a voting member.]

- Lia Aftandilian, Armenian Youth Federation Approved 3-0
Special All Alcohol License – Fundraising Dance
47 Nichols Avenue, November 26

Chair Doucette reviewed the elements of the application. Lia Aftandilian appeared in support of the application, and stated she was a member of the Greater Boston chapter of the Armenian Youth Federation. She explained that the Federation is a non-profit organization and holds a fundraiser every year, and that proceeds will also benefit victims in Armenia. She stated that there will be street parking, and parking space available in the lot across the street and the school lot down the street from the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center. Patrons will be carded at the door and given wristbands to identify persons 21 and over, and these will be checked when alcohol is purchased. There will be different colored bands,

based on a patron's age. The door monitors will be persons 25 and over. Ms. Aftandilian explained that event participation is mostly limited to the Armenian community and that tickets would not be sold at the door. A ticketing app will be used for the advance sales. Attendance will be capped at 500. Sgt. Swift 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 voted to grant the license, subject to the conditions requested by the Health and Police Departments.

- John Stork, Stork Meals LLC
d/b/a Johnny Burke Catering & Events

Approved 3-0

Special All Alcohol License – Solstice Light Show
580 Mt. Auburn Street, December 9 - 21

Kathleen Girard and Bree Harvey, vice president of visitor services at Mount Auburn Cemetery, appeared on behalf of the applicant. Ms. Girard stated that the event is open to persons of all ages. Patrons will walk a marked route through the cemetery to view light displays, with an estimated route time of 45 minutes. Ms. Harvey stated that expected attendance is about 200 people per hour, or about 1,000 per night. In cold weather, it is expected that most people would not spend more than an hour at the site, meaning there would be about 200 – 300 attendees on site per hour. There will be a food truck serving pretzels, beignets, hot chocolate, spiced mulled cider, and soda. The drinks with alcohol will be hot chocolate, cider, and mulled wine. Service will be at a fully contained area, and no food or alcohol will be allowed into the chapel, which is the next tour stop after the food truck area. Staff will be present to sell and serve; all persons will be carded and different colored cups will be used for alcoholic drinks. The entire space will be roped off, and staff persons will monitor the area. Ms. Harvey explained that timed ticketing, on the half hour, will be used; and there will be controlled parking at two locations. Access will be based on parking availability. She explained that the event was developed out of a program based on the winter solstice, to provide a sense of community and some solace. For that reason, there will be an effort to maintain an appropriate mood, in keeping with the solemnity of the landscape, with some people perhaps going to visit a specific grave. The cemetery's regular night patrol personnel will also be present. Ms. Harvey stated that a test event was conducted last year, two nights with a maximum capacity of 200 persons each night and no food or beverage. For this year, some outdoor illumination has been added. There will be one entrance and one exit for the food and beverage space. Sgt. Swift 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 voted to grant the license, subject to the conditions requested by the Police Department, and the requirement that the applicant provide updated liquor liability insurance evidence. [Board chair Doucette recused herself from this matter, noting that her husband was buried at the cemetery, and Alternate Member Tsekrekas participated as a voting member.]

- **Anjila Mool, St. James Armenian Church**
Special All Alcohol License – Wedding Reception
465 Mt. Auburn Street, December 10

Approved 3-0

John Piranosian, the St. James facilities manager, appeared on behalf of the applicant. Chair Doucette reviewed the elements of the application, noting an estimated attendees number of 100. Mr. Piranosian stated that staff will monitor the area for parking compliance, and noted that no one under 21 will be admitted to the event. Sgt. Swift 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 voted to grant the license, subject to the conditions requested by the Police Department.

2. Green Peapod, Inc.
557-561 Mt. Auburn Street
Wine and Malt Common Victualer License

Approved 3-0

3. WeDriveU, Inc.
d/b/a Watertown Connector
Shuttle License

Approved 3-0

- Comments by Board Clerk and Police Department

Chair Doucette stated her recommendation that the Board send an inquiry letter to the City Council regarding how WeDriveU is operating a shuttle without having first obtained a recommendation from the Licensing Board. The other members stated their agreement.

Start: 7:19PM

End: 8:21PM

Donna B. Doucette, Chairman

Present: Donna B. Doucette, Sandra Kasabian-Hoffman, John Labadini, Jim Tsekrekas
Also Present: Licensing Board clerk Mariela Escobar, Watertown Police Sgt. Ken Swift,
Attorney David Doneski

Green Peapod, Inc.
557 – 561 Mt. Auburn Street
Watertown, MA 02472

The Watertown Licensing Board met to consider the application of Green Peapod, Inc. for a wine and malt common victualer license to be exercised at 557-561 Mt. Auburn Street.

Attorney Ken Leitner appeared in support of the application, together with Yim Leung, manager.

Attorney Leitner explained that the Green Peapod restaurant has been in operation since 1999, and that more customers have been asking for wine or beer service. He stated that the restaurant is trying to accommodate its client base; it is a closely held corporation, with Yim Leung and Ken Leung as the officers and directors. Yim will be the manager. The financing is from working capital. Attorney Leitner noted that this location was the site of Your's Chinese restaurant before Green Peapod began operations. There will be a small service bar, and storage in the basement. Yim Leung is TIPS certified and Ken is working on obtaining certification. Yim has three years of experience serving alcohol; and at the outset only the two of them will handle alcohol for service. Yim Leung stated that about 75% of the restaurant's business is take-out, and so there are not many sit-down customers for dinner.

The Building Department reported that a safety inspection is required.

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

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

1. The hours of operation will be Monday through Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.
2. Seating shall be 104, with 78 seats indoors and 26 outdoor seats, as shown on the plan submitted (plan sheet entitled "Green Peapod Restaurant 557 Mt Auburn St Watertown, MA Proposed Seating - Drawing Number A1" by Avo Asdourian, dated 10.03.22).
3. The manager, Yim Leung, and all bartenders and servers shall attend and successfully complete an alcohol awareness training program (e.g., TIPS) within 90 days of issuance of the license or within 90 days of hire or expiration of certification.
4. Alcohol service must accompany food service.
5. Copies of all alcohol awareness training certifications shall be maintained by the licensee and be reviewable upon request.
6. The applicant shall comply with the Building Department's safety inspection requirement.

WeDriveU, Inc.
d/b/a Watertown Shuttle Connector
2601 Navistar Drive
Lisle, IL 60532

The Watertown Licensing Board met to consider the application of WeDriveU, Inc. d/b/a Watertown Shuttle Connector for a shuttle/jitney license.

Michael Smith, general manager, and Kevin Berney appeared in support of the application.

Michael Smith explained that the applicant operates corporate shuttle buses to eliminate single occupancy vehicles. It has a contract with the City of Watertown for two shuttles, and with the Watertown Transportation Management Association (TMA, a nonprofit corporation with public and private partnerships). The company employs about 25 drivers, most of whom are CDL (commercial driver's license) licensed. Operations are Monday through Friday, with most drivers working split shifts, such as 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. A total of nine vehicles will operate within Watertown, traveling over a fixed route and mostly serving Alexandra Real Estate properties, including pick-up at the Arsenal on the Charles campus and other buildings it owns.

Kevin Berney stated that the company operates the Watertown Connector – Arsenal, a closed system for TMA members that provides transport between Pleasant Street and Harvard Square. Persons can register for a shuttle operated for the City, and can purchase tickets through the program app.

Sergeant Swift reported that he had checked the license status of the named vehicle drivers and all are licensed. He stated that the Police Department had no objection to the issuance of the license, provided the conditions stated below were imposed.

After hearing, the Licensing Board voted unanimously to recommend that the City Council approve the granting of the requested license, subject to the following conditions:

1. The license shall be limited to pre-arranged transportation of persons rather than on the street pick-up of persons, in the areas designated on the plan submitted (document entitled "WeDriveU The Arsenal on the Charles Watertown Connector Route Mapping, Route Schedule, Pickup/Drop-off Locations").
2. The licensee shall submit a copy of the specific route(s) that will be followed in Watertown.
3. The licensee shall maintain a current motor vehicle driving record of all employees who have been hired as drivers of any motor vehicles used in conjunction with the license.

4. If any driver has been cited for more than three (3) moving violations or more than one (1) surchargeable accident within a twelve (12) month period, the driver shall be required, within ninety (90) days of exceeding the above limits, to attend a defensive driver training course.
5. The licensee shall keep all records on file, and the records shall be made available for review by any agent of the Licensing Board upon request.