



Licensing Board
CITY OF WATERTOWN
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
149 Main Street
Watertown, Massachusetts 02472
TEL. (617) 972-6486
FAX (617) 972-6595

BOARD MEMBERS

DONNA B. DOUCETTE
SANDRA KASABIAN HOFFMAN
JOHN LABADINI

ALTERNATE MEMBER
JIM TSEREKAS

MINUTES MARCH 16, 2023

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: FEBRUARY 19, 2023,

Approved 3-0

1. Special Licenses

- Daniel A. McCarthy, Hellenic Cultural Center** **Approved 3-0**
Special All Alcohol License – School Reunion
25 Bigelow Avenue, March 18

Irene Cobb, function manager for the Hellenic Cultural Center, appeared in support of the application and stated that the event is a reunion for St. Patrick's High School. Chair Doucette reviewed the elements of the application. Anticipated attendance is 200 persons; hours of 6:30 p.m. – 11:30 p.m.; bartender TIPS certifications, crowd manager certifications, and insurance information are included. Ms. Cobb noted that this group had rented the space previously, prior to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Tickets will not be sold at the door, there will be pre-paid reservations only. Chair Doucette asked about Ms. Cobb serving as both a bartender and crowd manager, given the layout of the function area, and Ms. Cobb explained that from the back part of the kitchen there is a full view. She stated that the bar faces into the lobby but that all attendees would have to pass by her to get into the room. Chair Doucette stated she would be more comfortable if there were two crowd managers. 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.

- Sandy Martin – Boston Workmen's Circle** **Approved 3-0**
Special All Alcohol License – Seder meal event
Hellenic Cultural Center, 25 Bigelow Avenue, March 25

Irene Cobb, function manager for the Hellenic Cultural Center, appeared in support of the application and stated that the event is a Passover seder for a Newton synagogue. Chair Doucette reviewed the elements of the application. Anticipated attendance is 250 persons, of all ages; hours of 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.; bartender TIPS certifications, crowd manager certifications, and insurance information are included. Ms. Cobb stated that she would be in the room during the event and that alcohol service will be controlled, with wine being served for adults only. 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.

- Matt Coppola, St. James Armenian Church Approved 3-0
Special All Alcohol License – Boxing Night Fundraiser for Chaisson Family Foundation
Church Hall, 465 Mt. Auburn Street, April 29

John Piranosian, facilities manager, appeared in support of the application. Chair Doucette reviewed the elements of the application. Anticipated attendance is 400 persons, of all ages; hours of 6:00 p.m. – midnight; bartender TIPS certifications, crowd manager certifications, and insurance information are included. Chair Doucette commented that there is not room for 400 cars at the site. Mr. Piranosian responded that the staff walk the side streets to make sure there is no illegal parking and that there is enough room for emergency vehicles to pass. He stated that the parking lot is also monitored, and noted that the church has held events with 500 people. Mr. Piranosian stated that wristbands will be issued at the door for persons 21 and over, and that the bartenders will also check identification for alcohol service. 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 acknowledged receipt of a report from the Health Department, that a food permit is required, and voted to grant the license, subject to the conditions requested by the Police Department and issuance of a food permit. [Board member Kasabian-Hoffman recused herself from this matter, noting that she was friendly with a member of the foundation, Ms. Chaisson, and Alternate Member Tsekrekas participated as a voting member.]

2. 8G Arsenal Yards LLC
d/b/a Taffer's Tavern
541 Arsenal Street
Entertainment License Modification
3. Landmark News Group, Incorporated
d/b/a Wicked Bagel
171 Massachusetts Avenue
Common Victualer License
Transfer of All Alcohol Common Victualer License
4. Arsenal Hotel, LLC
d/b/a Hampton Inn and Suites Watertown
25 Bond Street
Common Victualer License

5. Ole Tapas, LLC
d/b/a Ole Canalla
643 – 649 Mount Auburn Street
Status Hearing
Continued to May 18, 2023
6. Bar ‘Cino Watertown, Inc.
d/b/a Bar ‘Cino
45 – 51 Main Street
Status Hearing
Continued to May 18, 2023
7. Beantown Donuts
d/b/a Dunkin’
49 Main Street
448 Main Street
635 Mt. Auburn Street
640 Arsenal Street
Show Cause Hearing
Letter of Warning
8. Discussion on process for publication of legal notices of applications and fees

Ms. Gilligan reported that currently applicants pay a fee of \$100 per application, which was intended to include the cost of a legal advertisement, but the advertising cost has increased substantially. A possible change to the process is for the applicant to be responsible for the advertisement process, with the City still producing the advertisement wording to be used by the applicant. Ms. Gilligan provided information on advertising costs: Boston Herald – a flat rate; Boston Globe – about \$380 for a short ad; versus the \$30 fee that was charged by the Watertown TAB. David Doneski, of City Attorney KP Law, noted that there is not a print edition newspaper published in Watertown.

Chair Doucette asked about raising fees. Attorney Doneski stated that a change in application fees would require a separate hearing, since that is different from a modification of procedural and logistical requirements. Chair Doucette stated that the Board could direct that application forms notify persons of the obligation to place an ad in a print publication. Ms. Gilligan asked if that would be effective as of applications to be scheduled for the Board’s May meeting, and the consensus of Board members was yes.

9. Comments by Board Clerk and Police Department

Sgt. Swift reported that Capt. Unsworth had inquired about a possible change in the location of the beer garden for the annual Faire on the Square event, moving it to the rear of the library from the historical Boys and Girls Club site. He stated his understanding that children’s attractions, such as ‘bouncy houses,’ would be relocated to the club site, at the basketball court. He also noted there could be children coming and going at the rear of the library during the event.

Ms. Gilligan stated she had spoken to Tammy McKenna, the facility manager for the Commander's Mansion, regarding the relocation and she had commented that it would be easier to tie down the bouncy houses at the Boys and Girls Club site. Ms. Gilligan added that Ms. McKenna is trying to modify the Faire on the Square set-up.

Member Kasabian-Hoffman commented that there are food trucks near the library, and other things that attract families. She stated she found it nice that the alcohol service area was somewhat far away. Member Labadini stated his belief that profits are donated to the club, and that was part of the reason for locating the beer garden at the club site. He added that he saw the beer garden as having been created to be somewhat separate from the Faire on the Square event.

Ms. Gilligan noted that tables have been set up in the beer garden, and the overall set-up plan has been to spread drink vendors out from each other.

Start: 7:20PM

End: 9:24PM

Donna B. Doucette, Chairman

Present: Donna B. Doucette, John Labadini, Sandra Kasabian-Hoffman, Jim Tsekrekas

Also Present: Acting Licensing Board Clerk - Noelle Gilligan, Watertown Police Sgt. Ken Swift, Attorney David Doneski