



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 October 25, 2021

Acceptance of Minutes September 16, 2021,

Approved 3-0

1. Special Licenses:

- Gordons Fine Wine & Liquors
One Day Wine & Malt License

October 30th, 2021

Jessica Reed, marketing director for Arsenal Yards, appeared on behalf of the applicant. Ms. Reed presented a PowerPoint outline, via screenshare, of the proposed event, the New England Cheese Festival. This is an event being held by Roche Bros supermarket, in coordination with Gordon's Liquors. The event is to be held on the Arsenal Yards River Green, from 3-6 p.m., which is different from the noon to 3:00 time slot originally planned. Ms. Reed noted that all alcohol would be served and consumed under a tent, set up outside, where they could monitor the amount of people and age status of 21 or over. About 300 attendees are expected, over the course of the event, with the maximum number of people in the tent at a time between 50 and 75. A line may be set up, to have fewer people inside, and to enhance the patron experience. Attendees will have their ids checked and will get a hand stamp if they are 21 or over; they can also be asked for id at any subsequent time. TIPS certified bartenders will be used, and there will be no alcohol storage at the site. Staff will be stationed at entrance and exit points and in the general area – about 10 person's total. There will also be a police detail and a crowd manager.

Ms. Reed added this event is an opportunity for the community to discover existing and new favorites and all that Arsenal Yards has to offer. The Board noted that there were no comments from the Health Department or the Fire Department. The Police Department reported that it had no objection to the granting of the Wine & Malt License, subject to the conditions outlined in the department's submitted report. The Board voted to grant the One Day Wine & Malt License, subject to the conditions requested by the Police Department.

2. ATE Superfoods 1, LLC
d/b/a Vitality Bowls
30 School Street
Needham, Ma 02492

The Watertown Licensing Board met to consider the application of ATE Superfoods 1, LLC d/b/a Vitality Bowls for a Common Victualer License to be exercised at 130 Bond Street.

Tim Johnson, manager of the LLC, appeared in support of the application.

Mr. Johnson stated that the restaurant concept is a superfood café, specializing in acai bowls and smoothies, and offering wraps and salads. It is a franchise business, about five years old, and with about 100 locations nationwide; this is the first in New England. Board chair Doucette stated that the applicant should file an amended site plan that includes the seats and asked about the status of the lease with Arsenal Yards. Mr. Johnson responded that he would submit a copy of the lease. In response to a Board question about Mr. Johnson's background, he stated that it was in technology and that he had built up some tech companies, the last of which he sold in 2018, and then took some time off with his family.

The Health, Building and Fire Departments reported no objections.

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

After hearing, the Licensing Board voted unanimously to grant a Common Victualer License, subject to the following conditions:

1. The description of the licensed premises is as follows: estimated 800 square feet, consisting of service and storage areas with one bathroom and kitchen area.
2. Seating capacity shall be 11 persons, 7 indoors and 4 outdoors.
3. The hours of operation shall be 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Sunday through Saturday.
4. There shall be no alcoholic beverages on the premises.

3. Chef Jason Santos, LLC
d/b/a Buttermilk & Bourbon
100 Eastern Ave
Woburn, Ma 01801

The Watertown Licensing Board met to consider the application of Chef Jason Santos, LLC d/b/a Buttermilk & Bourbon for a 6-day Entertainment License (Monday through Saturday) to be exercised at 1 Arsenal Yards Boulevard.

Jason Santos, manager of the LLC, appeared in support of the application.

Mr. Santos stated that the initial plan is to have one musician, performing from 10:00 p.m. to midnight on Friday and Saturday, and that he is envisioning a guitarist and/or keyboard player. He explained that, currently, the Arsenal Yards area moves to a slow pace at about 9:00 p.m. and the entertainment would help in attracting some diners at a later hour.

The Health, Building and Fire Departments reported no objection.

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

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

1. The hours of exercise will be Monday through Saturday, 8:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.
2. Musicians shall be limited to three, including one singer.
3. Neither the band nor the patrons shall impede access to the entrance or exits of the restaurant.
4. The entertainers shall perform in the area designated on the plan submitted (floor area sketch/drawing received in the office of the Town Clerk on September 1, 2021).
5. Music must be kept at a reasonable and unobtrusive level.
6. A full-service menu must be available during hours of entertainment.

4. Comments by Board Clerk and Police Department

Board Clerk, Mrs. Swenson, noted that she had no comments.

Sgt. Swift stated he had no comments. He did continue to say that he had sent an email regarding a show cause hearing to be scheduled for next month's meeting, and that there should be another email shortly thereafter regarding another issue he is still investigating.

The Board Chair mentioned to the Board Clerk that the departments that are to be contacted for comments on applications include the Zoning Department. In addition, the Board Chair added that when it comes time to renew licenses for any group, the Treasurer's Department needs to be notified, so it can report if it has any objection, for example liens, unpaid tax bills etc.

Start: 7:22PM

End: 8:00PM

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