



**City of Somerville
Licensing Commission**

Regular Meeting by Remote Participation

**Monday
November 15, 2021
6:00pm**

The meeting was held remotely using the GoToWebinar platform and was called to order by Chair Lynch at 6:00pm and adjourned at 6:53pm.

Commissioners Lynch and Allen were both present.

Others present: Lieutenant Timothy Mitsakis – Police; Captain Dennis Sullivan – Fire; Kimberly Wells – City Clerk

Noting that this is the last meeting of 2021, Chair Lynch thanked: former City Clerk John Long, current City Clerk Kimberly Wells, City Clerk's Office staff Lori Jean Batzek and Andrea Torres, Police Sergeant Warren Chaille, Police Lieutenant Timothy Mitsakis, Fire Captain Dennis Sullivan, Former Fire Lieutenant Bob McLaughlin, former Commissioner Christine Lindgren, and all of the licensees for all that they do for the City, with a special thank you to Commissioner Allen.

Commissioner Allen noted that the Commission is still awaiting guidance on outdoor seating from Economic Development. Chair Lynch has been in touch and is prepared to vote on regulations in January, with apologies to licensees for a short timeframe.

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Somerville Police Department conveying a report on 2AM Closing Establishments.

Chair Lynch took up item #9 in conjunction with this item and listed the establishments that this pertains to. Chair Lynch noted that the report from Lieutenant Mitaskis includes Orleans, which has been removed as it did not renew its license last year and will need to reapply, and Dark Horse, which is now closed. Liuetenant Mitaskis will make those updates.

Commissioner Allen moved to renew the 2AM closing permits for 2022. The motion was approved.



SPECIAL ALCOHOL LICENSES

2. Saint Anthony of Padua Parish - Ramone Morneau, requesting approval of a Special Alcohol License for the purpose of dispensing and/or selling alcoholic beverages for Baile Beneficente at St. Anthony's Parish to be held at 12 Properzi Way, November 20, 2021 from 8:00pm - 12:00am.
(PEL21-000156)

There was nobody present to speak on the item.

Chair Lynch suggested approval, given the timing of the event, and noting that these events have been held for over 25 years with no issues.

Chair Lynch moved to approve, with a note that the approved without anyone present and the Commission may not be so generous in the future. The motion was approved.

SPECIAL FARMER WINERY LICENSES

3. House Bear Brewing – Beth Borges requesting approval of a Special Farmer Winery License to sell mead and cider at the Somerville Winter Farmers Market, to be held at 191 Highland Ave on Saturdays December 4, 2021 through April 16, 2022 from 9:30am – 1:30pm.
(SFW21-000001)

The applicant, Ms. Borges, shared that she is one of the owners and the business has operated since 2013. The Somerville Winter Farmers Market was one of their first and they are excited for the opportunity to come back. Commissioner Allen clarified that they will be on alternating Saturdays, beginning December 4, but Ms. Borges elaborated that they may be asked to take additional days, and they can only do that if the permit covers the entire period. Chair Lynch asked if they would be pouring beginning at 9:30am, and Ms. Borges stated that it is not yet determined if there will be samples, as there are rules about the samples needing to be covered, but if so it would begin at 9:30am. Chair Lynch suggested that the start time for serving would be 10am, though sales could still occur before that.

Chair Lynch moved to approve as amended, with serving beginning at 10am, and selling at 9:30. The motion was approved.

4. 1634 Meadery – Dan Clapp requesting approval of a Special Farmer Winery License to sell mead at the Somerville Winter Farmers Market, to be held at 191 Highland Ave on Saturdays December 11, 2021 through April 16, 2022 from 9:00am – 1:00pm.
(SFW21-000002)

Mr. Clapp shared that his plan is the same as that of House Bear.

Chair Lynch again stated that samples should begin at 10am, and Mr. Clapp noted that there has never been a time restriction in the past. Chair Lynch detailed that the goal is to make the policy more consistent citywide and Mr. Clapp agreed that he will adhere to the rule and wait until 10am. Chair Lynch also suggested updating the application to reflect that the estimated



attendance at any one time is approximately 200, to represent the total in the space, rather than at one booth.

Chair Lynch moved to approve as amended, with serving beginning at 10am, and selling at 9:00. The motion was approved.

TRANSFER OF LICENSE **Restaurant (with alcohol)**

This is the Public Hearing for this item. The Public is welcome to attend and be heard.

5. Lord Hobo Somerville, 156 Highland Avenue, requesting approval of a transfer of Restaurant (with alcohol) license from Cuisine En Locale, Inc.
Hours of Operation for Food Service: Sun-Sat: 12:00pm-1:00am
Hours of Operation for Alcohol Service: Sun-Sat: 12:00pm-1:00am
(AL21-000040)

Anne Vigorito spoke on behalf of the applicant, along with Daniel Lanigan, a signatory, and John Higgins, who will be the manager for the establishment. Ms. Vigorito highlighted that the premises is two levels, with a seating capacity of 252 and total occupancy of 390. A letter of intent has been submitted by the landlord. Lord Hobo has other locations in Cambridge, Woburn, and a scheduled opening in Boston Seaport. The entertainment will include 8 televisions and an audio system to play streaming music. There will be no live music. Ms. Vigorito also noted that she reached out to a neighbor and the Ward Councilor. The new owners are committed to being good neighbors.

Commissioner Allen asked about the abutters' concerns, as shared by Councilor Ewen-Campen, specifically the use of the rear parking lot. Ms. Vigorito noted that the designated entrance is in the front of the building, and the live entertainment in the previous venue contributed to the gatherings in the rear, but the manager will be on alert for that and she is confident that any concerns will be addressed. Commissioner Allen asked as well if any of the other locations had received violations, and Ms. Vigorito noted that a former location (Amherst) received a violation in 2003, with a staff member caught drinking after hours, and the penalty was that the business was closed for one week. They no longer have ownership of that location. She added that Mr. Higgins has been the manager at the Cambridge location for 9 years.

Chair Lynch asked for confirmation that there are no liens or encumbrances with the former license holder, Cuisine en Locale, and to Ms. Vigorito's knowledge there are not and a certificate of good standing has been sent. She will forward the pledge as well. Chair Lynch also confirmed that the square footage is 12,000.

Mr. Lanigan also spoke and emphasized the excitement to be part of the Somerville community. Chair Lynch advised double checking the abutters list with the Assessor's office and Ms. Vigorito will do so.

Chair Lynch opened the public hearing at 6:30pm. Bonnie Denis asked what the extent of the renovations will be and Mr. Lanigan explained that the space will be cleared and rebuilt with a new kitchen, bar, speakers. The changes will be largely cosmetic, and no walls will be shifted.



Chair Lynch asked about the elevator, and Mr. Lanigan noted that there is a staircase and a handicapped accessible lift will be installed. The lift will serve both floors. Ms. Denis added that there is currently no ADA accessible access from the exterior of the building, and she would be happy to assist with ensuring that there is full access. Katherine Dyson, the immediate abutter on Gibbons Street, noted that there were no issues with the previous tenant and asked for clarification on the use of the back door. Mr. Lanigan noted that there are no plans to utilize the back area. The back entrance is currently the ADA access, but by adding a ramp to the front, the goal is to make that the access point, with the exception of possibly a few deliveries. Mr. Lanigan confirmed that the back door is the emergency exit.

Chair Lynch closed the public hearing at 6:36pm.

Commissioner Allen moved to grant the transfer of license. The motion was approved.

NEW **Common Victualler Licenses**

6. Gurunanak Premier Establishment LLC dba Davis Square Pizzeria
351 Highland Ave
Ashwinder Dhillon
(AL21-000037)

Mr. Dhillon introduced himself and shared that he grew up in Somerville and is opening this business with his best friend from Somerville High School. They will start small and will be replacing a business called Davis Square Pizza and Subs. They will be keeping the menu and operations the same. The restaurant is 1,260 square feet and 10 seats, focusing mostly on takeout and delivery.

Commissioner Lynch clarified that the hours of operation will also remain the same.

Chair Lynch moved to approve. The motion was approved.

7. Creations Coffee Somerville LLC dba True Grounds Café
717 Broadway
Jonathan Spees
Outdoor seating on public property. 4 seats, 60 sq ft.
(AL21-000036)

Mr. Spees noted that he and his son operate a coffee shop called Creations Coffee in Wakefield. They have always wanted to expand and grow and have entered into an asset purchase agreement with the current owner of True Grounds. No changes are anticipated for the operation, which has just celebrated 18 years in Somerville.

Chair Lynch elaborated on the outdoor seating, noting that it ends on December 31, 2021 and will be started again in the Spring. He also suggested subscribing to the Economic Development Department's newsletter to stay on top of the updates in Somerville.

Chair Lynch moved to approve. The motion was approved.



CHANGE OF MANAGER

Restaurant-All Forms, Common Victualer, Entertainment-Devices, Private Patio

8. Legal on the Mystic requesting approval for a Change of Manager from Christopher P. Castellana to Alicia P. Yates.
(ALM21-000085)

Ms. Yates shared that she has worked with Legal on the Mystic for a month, but with the company since 2013. She verified that she is TIPS certified.
Chair Lynch moved to approve. The motion was approved.

2AM CLOSINGS

9.

<u>Date Approved</u>	<u>Business</u>	<u>Address</u>
09/29/05	The Independent	75 Union Square
12/21/05	Casey's	171 Broadway
09/29/05	P.J. Ryan's	239-241 Holland Street
09/29/05	Vera's (Formerly Brass Union)	70 Union Square
04/26/06	Olde Magoun's Saloon	518 Medford Street
03/19/12	Foundry on Elm	255 Elm Street
02/26/07	The Burren	247 Elm Street
08/27/07	Fasika	145-147 Broadway
11/15/10	Trina's Starlight Lounge	3 Beacon Street
06/16/14	El Potro	61 Union Square
02/22/16	Earl's Kitchen and Bar	698 Assembly Row #102
11/18/19	La Posada Restaurant	505 Medford Street

See Item #1.

LATE ITEMS **2022 License Renewals**

10. 2022 License Renewals
Requesting Approval for all 2022 License renewals.

Chair Lynch noted that these approvals would reflect the 2AM closings, and clarified that they need to be sent into the ABCC by the end of November.
If any applicants do not apply, the Clerk's Office will notify the Commission.
Chair Lynch moved to approve all 2022 renewals. The motion was approved.