



**City of Somerville
Licensing Commission**

Regular Meeting Agenda

**Tuesday
April 15, 2025
6:00 p.m.**

City Council Chamber and Remote Participation

DRAFT MINUTES

NOTICE: This is NOT the official version of the Licensing Commission's Minutes. While reasonable efforts have been made to assure the accuracy of the data provided, do not rely on this information without first checking with the Secretary to the Licensing Commission.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Joseph Lynch at 6:00 p.m. and adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Attendance:

Chair Joseph Lynch – Present

Commissioner Christopher Allen – Present

Commissioner Jacques Thomas, Jr. – Present

Others present:

Michael Potere – Licensing Operations Manager; Captain Darrell Richardson – Fire Department; Captain Sean Sheehan – Police Department; Lieutenant Francis Ottig – Fire Department.

Communications

1. Minutes of the Regular Licensing Commission Meeting of 3/18/2025.

The Licensing Commission approved the minutes on a voice vote.

Withdrawn

2. Withdrawn.



Existing All Forms Alcohol License
Change of Manager
Change of DBA Name

3. River Bar, LLC d/b/a River Bar, 661 Assembly Row, requesting approval of a change of manager and a change of DBA name.
Current Manager: Jessica Brisette
Proposed Manager: Quang Tran
Current DBA: River Bar
Proposed DBA: Cocolee
(ALM25-000005, amending AL17-000099)

Attorney Anne Vigorito appeared before the Commission on behalf of the applicant and proposed manager, Quang Tran, who was also in attendance. Attorney Vigorito stated that the applicant is changing their concept and, with it, their manager to oversee that transition. Regarding the DBA name change, Attorney Vigorito stated that the applicant has been closed since January for renovations, that their new concept is an Asian fusion style and would feature fewer TVs, and that their plan is to open in early May. Regarding the proposed new manager, Attorney Vigorito stated that they have extensive experience in the restaurant industry and are TIPS certified.

Commissioner Allen asked the applicant directly about their experience, who replied that they have spent their entire career in the restaurant industry and have a specialty in opening new restaurants.

The Licensing Commission approved this Change of Manager and Change of DBA Name license amendment on a voice vote.

Special Alcohol Licenses

4. Dormition of the Virgin Mary, 29-31 Central Street, requesting approval of a Special Alcohol License (All Forms) for GyroFest, to be held outdoors in the parking lot at 29-31 Central Street, on 5/9/2025 and 5/10/2025 from 4:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., rain date 5/11/2025 (Alcohol Service).
(PEL25-000043)

Harry Agritha, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and stated they have been running this event to coincide with Porchfest and have been doing so ever since Porchfest began. Commissioner Allen asked about the estimated attendance of 4,000 people, and the applicant replied that the actual turnout might be lower, but



the figure is intended to reflect the possible total number of people attending the entire two-day event.

Captain Richardson stated for the record that if they intend to have tents and propane grilling that they should contact fire prevention to coordinate.

The applicant noted for the record that they have already coordinated police and fire detail for the event.

The Licensing Commission approved this Special Alcohol License on a voice vote.

Special Farmer Winery License

5. Far From the Tree LLC, 108 Jackson Street, Salem, requesting the approval of a Special Farmer Winery License for the Union Square Farmer's Market, to be held outdoors at 66-70 Union Square, on Saturdays beginning 05/10/2025 and ending 10/25/2025 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Alcohol Service).
(SFW25-000002)

Roy Szolwinski, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained that this is their annual application to take part in the Union Square Farmer's Market. The Commissioners asked no additional questions.

The Licensing Commission approved this Special Farmer Winery License on a voice vote.

Late Items

Special Alcohol Licenses

6. Somerville Museum, 1 Westwood Road, requesting approval of a Special Alcohol License (Wine and Malt) for Exhibition Openings, to be held indoors at 1 Westwood Road, on 5/1/2025 and 6/5/2025 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Alcohol Service).
(PEL25-000060)

Chair Lynch recused himself from this item.

The applicant for this item did not appear before the Commission. Commissioner Allen noted for the record that, in some case, an application may be approved when the applicant does not appear, but that is the exception, not the rule, and added that this would only be done for applicants who have appeared before the Commission in the past, not first-time applicants. Commissioner Thomas noted for the record that all applicants are expected to appear before the Commission if they would like their



application approved, but also noted that this applicant has regularly appeared before the Commission in a timely manner and with no other issues.

Manager Potere noted for the record that the City Clerk's Office has reliable contact information for this applicant and that two separate emails were sent to the applicant in advance of the meeting.

Commissioner Allen moved to approve the application's 5/1/25 date and to continue its 6/5/25 date to the May 20, 2025 Licensing Commission meeting.

The Licensing Commission approved this item's 5/1/25 date and continued its 6/5/25 date to the May 20, 2025 Licensing Commission meeting on a voice vote.

7. Point Person Event Services, 28 Goreham Avenue, Stoneham, requesting approval of a Special Alcohol License (Wine & Malt) for the Michael Pare & Anya Posey Wedding, to be held indoors at 11 Sanborn Court, on 6/22/2025 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Alcohol Service).
(PEL25-000048)

Jennifer Hodgson, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained that this application is for alcohol service at a wedding reception that will take place at Warehouse XI. The applicant continued that the event will use Warehouse XI's usual bartender, who is TIPS certified, that about 60 guests will be in attendance, and that all alcohol will be purchased from an authorized distributor.

The Licensing Commission approved this Special Alcohol License on a voice vote.

Special Farmer Winery License

8. Far From the Tree LLC, 108 Jackson Street, Salem, requesting the approval of a Special Farmer Winery License for the Davis Square Farmer's Market, to be held outdoors at 44 Day Street, on Wednesdays beginning 05/21/2025 and ending 11/26/2025 from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Alcohol Service).
(SFW25-000003)

Roy Szolwinski, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained that this is their annual application to take part in the Davis Square Farmer's Market. The Commissioners asked no additional questions.

The Licensing Commission approved this Special Farmer Winery License on a voice vote.