



**City of Somerville
Licensing Commission**

Regular Meeting Agenda

**Tuesday
May 20, 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 7:11 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; Niki Aurora – ADA Field Associate.

Communications

1. Minutes of the Regular Licensing Commission Meeting of 4/15/2025.

The Licensing Commission approved the minutes on a voice vote.

2. Communication from the Office of the Attorney General's investigation finding Cafua Management Company LLC d/b/a Dunkin Donuts at 282 Somerville Avenue in violation of Massachusetts child labor laws.

The Licensing Commission placed this item on file.



Special Alcohol Licenses

3. 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 as a sponsor and benefactor of the Somerville Museum.

Stephanie Marlin-Curiel, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained that this application is for the opening of the summer art exhibit at the museum featuring artist Flor Delgadillo. Chair Lynch reminded the applicant that they need to purchase alcohol for the event from an authorized distributor as identified by the state.

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

4. Somerville Museum, 1 Westwood Road, requesting approval of a Special Alcohol License (Wine and Malt) for The World as a Supermarket, to be held indoors at 1 Westwood Road, on 5/30/2025 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Alcohol Service). (PEL25-000064)

Chair Lynch recused himself from this item as a sponsor and benefactor of the Somerville Museum.

Stephanie Marlin-Curiel, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained this application is for an event for a Cuban artist to draw attention to their annual trip to Cuba. The applicant further stated that their bartenders are TIPS certified and would be getting their alcohol from an approved distributor.

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

5. Somerville Chamber of Commerce, 561 Windsor Street, requesting approval of a Special Alcohol License (All Forms) for Taste of Somerville, to be held indoors and outdoors at Boynton Yards, 0 Windsor Place, on 6/11/2025 with a rain date of 6/12/2025 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Alcohol Service). (PEL25-000044)

Wendy Dalwin, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained that this is the annual Taste of Somerville event that has taken place for the past 27 years. The applicant continued that the event is three hours long, police and fire



have been contacted to provide details, that around 2,000 people will attend, and that alcohol will be obtained from authorized distributors.

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

6. Winter Hill Brewing, 328 Broadway, requesting approval of a Special Alcohol License (Wine and Malt) for Winter Hill at Boston Figurative Arts Center, to be held indoors and outdoors at Boston Figurative Art Center parking lot, 285 Washington Street, on 6/7/2025 from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Alcohol Service).
(PEL25-000067)

Bert Holdredge, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained that this is the inaugural Music and Arts Festival that will have various local artists displaying their work and bands playing music. Commissioner Allen asked who would be checking IDs and serving the alcohol, and the applicant confirmed that it would be Winter Hill Brewing.

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

7. Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church, 29 Central Street, requesting approval of a Special Alcohol License (All Forms) for GreekFest, to be held indoors and outdoors at the Dormition of the Virgin Mary parking lot, 29 Central Street, on 9/05/2025 from 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., and on 9/06/2025 and 9/7/2025 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Alcohol Service).
(PEL25-000071)

Harry Agritha, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained that this is an annual community event that celebrates Greek food and culture, and that around 6,000 people are expected to attend over the course of the three-day event. The applicant added that they will be requesting police and fire details for the event. Chair Lynch reminded the applicant to be mindful of noise in the residential neighborhood.

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

8. Diesel Cafe, 257 Elm Street, requesting approval of a Special Alcohol License (Wine and Malt) for Sangwha Hong Celebration, to be held indoors at Diesel Cafe, 257 Elm Street, on 6/21/2025 from 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. (Alcohol Service).
(PEL25-000074)

David Borge, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained that this is for a wedding with about 40-50 attendees, that they will be purchasing alcohol from an authorized distributor, and that the bartenders are TIPS certified.



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

9. Warehouse XI, 11 Sanborn Court, requesting approval of a Special Alcohol License (Wine and Malt) for Warehouse XI Music, to be held indoors at Warehouse XI, 11 Sanborn Court, on 6/6/2025, 6/13/2025, 6/19/2025, 6/20/2025, 6/23/2025, 6/27/2025, and 6/28/2025 from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. (Alcohol Service). (PEL25-000079)

Carrie Dahl, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained that this license is for the venue's live music shows, and that one of the dates is for a wedding. The applicant added that the alcohol would be purchased from an authorized vendor, that their bartenders are TIPS certified, and that each event will feature around 50 people.

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

New
Common Victualer, Entertainment by Devices Indoors, and
Private Outdoor Dining License

10. Samay Warmipak LLC d/b/a Zaruma Gold Coffee, 37 Woodbine Street, requesting approval of a Common Victualer, Entertainment by Devices Indoors, and Private Outdoor Dining License.
Hours of operation (Indoor and Private Outdoor Seating):
Monday-Sunday: 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Indoor Seats: 18
Private Outdoor Seats: 10
(AL24-000039)

Maria Tacuri, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained that this application reflects a change in ownership for this business, which has been open for five years, but that no other changes are being made. The applicant continued that the business sells coffee from Ecuador, pastries, sandwiches, and cakes, and that the entertainment by devices license is for a speaker to play background music. Commissioner Thomas asked if the seating is wheelchair accessible, which the applicant confirmed.

Field Associate Aurora stated for the record that the outdoor dining plan is recommended for approval.

Chair Lynch opened the public hearing. There being no speakers, Chair Lynch closed the public hearing.



The Licensing Commission approved this New Common Victualer License, Entertainment by Devices License, and Private Outdoor Dining License on a voice vote.

New
Common Victualer and
Entertainment by Performers Indoors License

11. New Leaf Espresso LLC d/b/a New Leaf Espresso, 310 Highland Avenue, requesting approval of a Common Victualer and Entertainment by Performers Indoors License.
Hours of operation:
Monday-Sunday: 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Indoor Seats: 15
(AL25-000001)

Andrew DeBenedictis, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained that this application is to add seating to an existing coffee bar that exists inside the Razors barbershop. The applicant further explained that the type of performances anticipated are from local singer-songwriters. Chair Lynch asked if the entrance to the barbershop is ADA compliant, and the applicant replied that it is not, which Field Associate Aurora confirmed. Manager Potere noted for the record that this application received all departmental approvals, including from ISD Building.

Chair Lynch opened the public hearing. There being no speakers, Chair Lynch closed the public hearing.

The Licensing Commission approved this New Common Victualer License and Entertainment by Performers License on a voice vote.

Existing Common Victualer License
Alteration of Premises

12. Pound House Concept LLC d/b/a Pound House Coffee, 703 Broadway, requesting approval for an Alteration of Indoor Premises.
Current Indoor Seats: 36
Proposed Indoor Seats: 12
(ALM24-000057, amending AL24-000006)

The applicant for this item did not appear; the Licensing Commission continued it to its June meeting.



Existing Common Victualer License
Change of Hours

13. HappyFaceEats LLC d/b/a Wicked Cafe, 199C Highland Avenue, requesting approval for Change of Hours.

Current Hours (Indoor and Public Parklet Seating):

Monday-Saturday: 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Sunday: 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Proposed Hours (Indoor and Public Parklet Seating):

Sunday-Thursday: 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Friday-Saturday: 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

(ALM25-000013, amending AL23-000045)

Mike Alacron, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and stated that they have been open for 18 months and would like to extend their hours to serve ice cream in the evenings. The Commissioners asked no additional questions.

The Licensing Commission approved this Change of Hours license amendment on a voice vote.

Existing Wine and Malt Alcohol License
Change of Category and Change of Hours

14. X&W PaPa Inc d/b/a Papa Sushi, 499 Broadway, requesting approval for a Change of Category from Wine and Malt to All Forms Alcohol License and Change of Hours.

Current Hours:

Monday-Saturday: 11:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Sunday: 12:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Proposed Hours:

Monday-Saturday: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.

Sunday: 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

(ALM25-000010, amending AL22-000031)

Yi Xu, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and stated that this change of category is intended to allow for increased business based on the sale of mixed drinks.

Chair Lynch opened the public hearing. There being no speakers, Chair Lynch closed the public hearing.

The Licensing Commission approved this Change of Category license amendment on a voice vote.



Existing All Forms Alcohol License
Change of Manager and Change of Hours

15. Rebel Restaurants Somerville LLC d/b/a Tony C's Sports Bar and Grill, 699 Assembly Row, requesting approval for a Change of Manager and Change of Hours.
Current Manager: George C. Mugford
Proposed Manager: Christopher M. Lundsten
Current Hours:
Monday-Sunday: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.
Proposed Hours:
Monday-Friday: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.
Saturday-Sunday: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.
(ALM25-000015, amending AL17-000101)

Attorney Kevin Coutier appeared before the Commission, along with Christopher Lundsten, the applicant, and stated that this application is to open one hour earlier on the weekends and replace their manager. The applicant stated they have 29 years of experience in the restaurant industry.

The Licensing Commission approved these Change of Hours and Change of Manager license amendments on a voice vote.

Existing All Forms Alcohol License
Change of Manager

16. Colwen Management Inc d/b/a The Row Hotel, 360 Foley Street, requesting approval of a Change of Manager.
Current Manager: Carol Fitzgerald
Proposed Manager: Beth Osborne
(ALM25-000012, amending AL17-000300)

Attorney Kevin Butler appeared on behalf of the applicant, Beth Osborne, who was also present, and explained that the applicant has 10 years of experience in the hospitality industry and is TIPS certified. Commissioner Allen asked if the applicant has experience in hotels that sell liquor, and the applicant replied that they do, both in Albany and Toronto.

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



Late Items

Special Alcohol Licenses

17. Warehouse XI, 11 Sanborn Court, requesting approval of a Special Alcohol License (Wine and Malt) for Warehouse XI Music, to be held indoors at Warehouse XI, 11 Sanborn Court, on 5/30/2025, 5/31/2025, 6/1/2025, 6/3/2025, 6/4/2025, 6/7/2025, 6/8/2025, 6/9/2025, 6/14/2025, 6/15/2025, and 6/18/2025 from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. (Alcohol Service).
(PEL25-000078)

Carrie Dahl, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained that this license is for the venue's live music shows, and that one of the dates is for a wedding. The applicant added that the alcohol would be purchased from an authorized vendor, that their bartenders are TIPS certified, and that each event will feature around 50 people.

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

18. The Lawn Bar Inc., 300 Assembly Row, requesting approval of a Special Alcohol License (Wine and Malt) for The Lawn Bar at Club Volo, to be held outdoors at The Lawn Bar at Club Volo, from 5/21/2025 through 6/20/2025 from 12:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. (Alcohol Service).
(PEL25-000080)

Chris Damian, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and said that this is for the bar at VOLO and will be similar to what was hosted by Downeast Cider in past years. Commissioner Allen asked if the applicant had any violations or infractions at their restaurants in the past five years, and the applicant replied they have not.

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

Special Farmer Winery License

19. Pony Shack Cider, Inc. 31 Willow Road, Ayer, requesting approval of a Special Farmer Winery License for the Davis Square Farmer's Market, to be held outdoors at 44 Day Street, beginning on 5/21/2025 and ending on 11/26/2025 from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Alcohol Service).
(SFW25-000004)

Nathan McKinley, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained that this is their application to serve cider at the Davis Square Farmer's Market.



The applicant further explained that they plan to participate in the market in November and may have the opportunity to do so earlier, and that is why specific days of the week are not being requested. Chair Lynch asked how long the applicant has been in business, who replied around 9 years.

The Licensing Commission approved this Special Farmer Winery License.

Existing All Forms Alcohol License
Change of Hours

20. Premiere Restaurant Group LLC d/b/a The Public, 563 Broadway, requesting approval of a Change of Hours.

Current Hours to Serve Food Indoors:

Monday-Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Thursday-Sunday: 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Proposed Hours to Serve Food Indoors:

Monday-Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Thursday-Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.

Sunday: 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Current Hours to Serve Alcohol Indoors:

Sunday-Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Thursday-Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.

Proposed Hours to Serve Alcohol Indoors:

Sunday-Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Thursday-Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.

Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m.

(ALM25-000011, amending AL23-000006)

Koryn Zammuto, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and made a correction to the application to clarify that their hours would be extended to 2:00 a.m. on both Friday and Saturday nights, as opposed to just Saturday as indicated on their initial application. Commissioner Allen asked if the applicant has had any issues requiring police involvement, who replied that they needed to have a person removed for a disruption after losing a pool game, but otherwise they have not. Commissioner Thomas asked if the applicant has received any complaints from neighbors, who replied they have not, and that many of their neighbors are regular customers. The applicant added that they installed soundproofing when they built out the space to reduce the risk of noise complaints.

The Licensing Commission approved this Change of Hours license amendment, with the change that alcohol service will extend to 2:00 a.m. on both Fridays and Saturdays.