



**City of Somerville
Licensing Commission**

Regular Meeting Agenda

**Tuesday
June 17, 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 7:02 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; Andrea Torres – Executive Secretary to the Licensing Commission.

Communications

1. Minutes of the Regular Licensing Commission Meeting of 5/20/2025.

The Licensing Commission approved the minutes on a voice vote.

Special Alcohol Licenses

2. Portuguese American Civic League, 26 Springfield Street, requesting approval of a Special Alcohol License (Wine and Malt) for The Annual Holy Spirit Feast, to be held indoors and outdoors at 26 Springfield Street, on 7/11/2025 from 7:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m., 7/12/2025 from 6:30 p.m. to 12:00 a.m., and 7/13/2025 from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. (Alcohol Service).
(PEL25-000082)



Applicant Joseph J. Vasconcelos appeared before the Commission and explained that this event has been taking place for 120 years. Chair Lynch asked if there will be any outdoor grilling, and the applicant stated no but that there would be a fire detail and police detail from Somerville and Cambridge. The applicant is expecting no more than 500 people across all three days of the event. Commissioner Allen asked if the alcohol would be purchased from an authorized source, and the applicant stated that alcohol would be purchased from an authorized source and that mixed drinks will only be allowed inside the premises. The applicant also stated that they will be using different color wristbands for each day of the feast.

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

3. 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 300 Assembly Row, from 6/20/2025 through 7/19/2025 from 12:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. (Alcohol Service).
(PEL25-000101)

Applicant Chris Damian appeared before the Commission and explained that the application is an extension for continuous operation of the alcohol service for The Lawn Bar. The Commissioners asked no additional questions.

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

4. Groundwork Somerville Inc, 337 Somerville Avenue, requesting approval of a Special Alcohol License (All Forms) for Assembly Row Bar Stars, to be held outdoors at Block 3 Garage Roof, on 7/10/2025 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., with a rain date of 7/11/2025. (Alcohol Service).
(PEL25-000086)

Applicant John Spangenberger appeared before the Commission and explained that Groundwork is a nonprofit organization that is co-hosting the event with Federal Realty. Applicant Haley Suarez from Federal Realty, explained that this is the 9th year of the event. The applicant stated that part of the proceeds of event goes to the nonprofit organization Groundwork Somerville. The applicant stated that they have not requested a police detail in the past as they use a security detail from Federal Realty. However, they will be contacting Fire for a fire detail. The applicant is expecting 550 people at the event. Commissioner Allen questioned if people will have wristbands for those who consume alcohol. The applicant stated that there will be wristbands and that the event is over 21. IDs will also be checked before entering.

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



5. St. Anthony Parish, 12 Properzi Way, requesting approval of a Special Alcohol License (All Forms) for Wedding of Rosario and Francisco, to be held indoors at 12 Properzi Way, on 8/2/2025 from 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. (Alcohol Service). (PEL25-000088)

Applicant Rosario Aguilar Tejada appeared before the Commission and explained that they will be serving whiskey and beer only. Those who will be consuming alcohol will wear a wristband. Commissioner Allen asked if the alcohol will be purchased from an authorized distributor, which the applicant confirmed and stated that there will be 140 guests at the event.

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

6. Elizabeth Peabody House, 275 Broadway, requesting approval of a Special Alcohol License (Wine and Malt) for Winter Hill Community Festival, to be held indoors and outdoors at 275 Broadway, on 10/18/2025 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with a rain date of 10/19/2025. (Alcohol Service). (PEL25-000090)

The applicant did not appear for this item. The Licensing Commission continued it to the July meeting by unanimous consent.

Special Farmer Winery License

7. Berkshire Mountain Distillers, 356 South Main Street, Sheffield, requesting approval of a Special Farmer Winery License for Davis Square Farmer's Market, to be held outdoors at 44 Day Street, beginning every Wednesday on 6/17/2025 and ending 11/19/2025, from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Alcohol Service). (SFW25-000005)

Applicant William Winn appeared before the Commission and explained that the business has been a craft distiller since 2007. The Commissioners had no further questions.

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



New
Common Victualer License

8. GXChange Cambridge, Inc. d/b/a Ginger Exchange & Bok Bok Chicken, 22 Highland Avenue, requesting approval of a Common Victualer License.

Hours of Operation:

Sunday-Thursday: 11:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

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

Indoor Seats: 14

(AL25-000008)

Applicant Kenny Chan appeared before the Commission and explained that they are taking over the space that was formerly Highland Pizza. The applicant has been operating local restaurants for 14 years and found an opportunity to open in Somerville. The restaurant will be serving food such as sushi and Korean fried chicken. Commissioner Thomas questioned if the seating is ADA compliant, and the applicant stated that there is wheelchair access. The Commissioners had no further questions.

The Licensing Commission approved the New Common Victualer License on a voice vote.

9. Gerlys Ice Cream LLC d/b/a Gerly's Ice Cream, 415 Medford Street, requesting approval of a Common Victualer License.

Hours of Operation:

Monday-Friday: 2:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Saturday-Sunday: 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Indoor Seats: 15

(AL25-000009)

Applicant Gerly Adrien appeared before the Commission and explained that the business was formerly The Tipping Cow. There will be bench style seating in the establishment with 15 seats. The Commissioners had no further questions.

The Licensing Commission approved the New Common Victualer License on a voice vote.



New
Common Victualer and Entertainment by Devices Indoors License

10. Le Crepe Inc. d/b/a Le Café, 85 Broadway, requesting approval of a Common Victualer and Entertainment by Devices License.

Hours of Operation:

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Monday-Thursday: 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Friday-Saturday: 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Indoor Seats: 12

(AL25-000005)

Applicant Victor Damasceno appeared before the Commission and explained that the correct address of the establishment is 91 Broadway. The applicant stated that the establishment would be a coffee shop. The applicant further stated that their business partner has 20 years of experience and there will be audio speakers for ambient music.

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

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

11. Mission Hill Donuts LLC d/b/a Dunkin', 220 Broadway, requesting approval of a Common Victualer and Entertainment by Devices License.

Hours of Operation:

Monday-Sunday: 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Indoor Seats: 22

(AL25-000011)

This is the Notice of a Public Hearing for this Item. The Public is welcome to attend and be heard.

Representative of Mission Hill Donuts, Nicole Sullivan, appeared before the Commission and explained that she is a project manager for the 59 stores across 20 towns. Commissioner Allen questioned if this was a change of ownership, and the applicant responded that it was indeed a change of ownership.

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



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

Existing Common Victualer License
Alteration of Indoor 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)

This item was continued from the May 20, 2025 Licensing Commission meeting.

Applicant Tuan Nguyen appeared before the Commission and explained that the number of seats need to be reduced to comply with the plumbing code.

Commissioner Thomas opened the public hearing. There being no speakers, Commissioner Thomas closed the public hearing.

The Licensing Commission approved the Alteration of Indoor Premises license amendment on a voice vote.

Existing Common Victualer License
Alteration of Outdoor Premises

13. Los Tacos Hermanos LLC d/b/a Los Tacos Hermanos, 253 Washington Street, requesting approval for an Alteration of Outdoor Premises.
Proposed Outdoor Parklet Seats: 16
(ALM25-000009, amending AL24-000040)

Applicant Miguel Argueta appeared before the Commission to add outdoor parklet seating to the premises. The applicant stated that the patio would help increase business as other establishments in the vicinity also have outdoor dining.

Commissioner Allen asked which part of the schematic drawing of the outdoor seating belonged to Los Tacos Hermanos, and Field Associate Aurora confirmed that the floor plan to the left side depicted the outdoor premises for Los Tacos Hermanos. It was also confirmed that this is same floor plan used by a previous applicant.

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



The Licensing Commission approved this Outdoor Parklet Seating license amendment on a voice vote.

Transfer of License
All Forms Alcohol License-Private
New Common Victualer, Sunday Hours, and Outdoor Public Dining

14. CRG Redbones Somerville LLC d/b/a Redbones Barbecue, 55 Chester Street, requesting approval for a Transfer of a Private All Forms 7 Day Restaurant License from Ambisco Inc d/b/a Redbones Barbecue and a Common Victualer, Sunday Hours, and Public Outdoor Dining License.
Hours of Operation:
Monday: Closed
Sunday, Tuesday-Thursday: 11:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.
Friday-Saturday: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m.
Indoor Seats: 215
Private Outdoor Seats: 38
(AL25-000003)

Attorney Adam Barnosky appeared before the Commission and explained that this is a transfer application for the existing Redbones Barbecue, and that the only things changing about the business are the owner and the manager of the establishment. Attorney Barnosky also noted that the purchase includes the building itself. Chair Lynch asked if this is cash purchase or a license pledge, and Attorney Barnosky confirmed that it is a cash purchase.

Sasha Nisenbaum, the proposed manager, also appeared before the Commission and described his extensive experience in the Boston-area restaurant industry. Chair Lynch asked if the applicant received any disciplinary action from the state during the past five years, and the applicant replied they have not.

Field Associate Aurora stated for the record that the way the parklet is currently constructed no longer meets the city fire guidelines, and that although they may continue to operate it as constructed in 2025, it will need to be changed and in compliance prior to opening in 2026.

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

The Licensing Commission approved this Transfer of Alcohol License and New Common Victualer License, Sunday Hours License, and Outdoor Public Parklet Seating License on a voice vote.



Existing All Forms Alcohol License
Alteration of Indoor and Outdoor Premises

15. Soba Ya LLC d/b/a Sugidama, 234 Elm Street, requesting approval for an Alteration of Indoor Premises and Public Outdoor Parklet Seating.

Current Indoor Seats: 52

Proposed Indoor Seats: 36

Proposed Public Parklet Seats: 16

(ALM25-000006, amending AL22-000010)

Applicant An Nguyen appeared before the Commission and explained that the establishment has been in business for 15 years. The applicant is adjusting their indoor seating to 36 and placing 16 seats on the parklet to comply with bathroom capacity restrictions.

Field Associate Aurora stated that the floor plan submitted is the same from last year and recommended it for approval.

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

The Licensing Commission approved this Alteration of Indoor and Outdoor Premises license amendment on a voice vote.

16. Withdrawn.

Existing All Forms Alcohol License
Change of Hours

17. K-Bok Korean Fried Chicken LLC d/b/a K-Bok Korean Fried Chicken, 249 Washington Street, requesting approval for a Change of Hours.

Current Hours:

Monday-Saturday: 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

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

Proposed Hours:

Monday-Wednesday: 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.

Thursday-Saturday: 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.

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

(ALM25-000017, amending AL24-000029)

Attorney Tyler Henseler appeared before the Commission and explained that the applicant is looking to satisfy a public demand for more late-night dining in the



area. Attorney Henseler also stated that increasing the hours would help offset a competitive disadvantage to other neighboring businesses that have similar closing hours.

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

Existing All Forms Alcohol License
Change of Officers/Directors

18. American Multi Cinema, Inc. d/b/a AMC Theatre Assembly Row 12, 395 Artisan Way, requesting approval for a Change of Officers.

Current Officers/Directors:

Adam Aron - President

Sean Goodman - CFO/Director

Daniel Ellis - Executive Vice President/Director

Kevin Connor - Secretary/Director

AMC Entertainment Holdings, Inc. – Owner

Proposed Officers/Directors:

Adam Aron - President

Sean Goodman - CFO/Director

Daniel Ellis - Executive Vice President/Director

Edwin Gladbach - Secretary/Vice President/Other Officer/Director

AMC Entertainment Holdings, Inc. - Owner

(ALM25-000019, amending AL17-000096)

Applicant Breanna Bergsma appeared before the Commission and explained that Kevin Connor, the previous Secretary/Director, retired and that Edwin Gladbeck took his place on March 14, 2025. The Commissioners asked no additional questions.

The Licensing Commission approved this Change of Officers/Directors license amendment on a voice vote.



Late Items

Existing Alcohol License

Change of DBA Name, Change of Manager, and Pledge of License

19. Carlos and Mike Inc. d/b/a The Cornerstone, 282 Beacon Street, requesting approval for a Change of DBA Name, Change of Manager, and Pledge of License.

Current DBA Name: The Cornerstone

Proposed DBA Name: Bonanza Bites & Cocktails

Current Manager: David Oshima

Proposed Manager: Wilson J. Garcia-Andrade

(ALM25-000007 and ALM25-000016, amending AL17-000040)

Attorney Tyler Henseler appeared before the Commission and explained these changes reflect an overall rebranding of this establishment. Attorney Henseler continued that the applicant for manager is familiar with state and local rules, and has experience as the manager of an alcohol license at a restaurant in Boston.

Applicant Wilson Garcia-Andrade also appeared before the Commission and further explained that the establishment is currently closed and undergoing renovations, and that its new concept will feature small plates and cocktails.

Chair Lynch asked if the applicant has had any disciplinary actions against them in the state during the past five years, and the applicant replied that they have not.

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

Existing Alcohol License

Change of DBA Name

20. Atelier PRB, LLC d/b/a PRB Boulangerie, 120 Beacon Street, requesting approval for a Change of DBA Name.

Current DBA Name: PRB Boulangerie

Proposed DBA Name: Café Saint Germain

(ALM25-000020, amending AL24-000040)

Commissioner Allen recused himself from the vote of this application as an abutter.

Applicant Loic Le Garrec appeared before the Commission and explained that they changed their concept from a full-service bakery to a bistro. The applicant stated that the business has been open for 3 years.



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