



**City of Somerville
Licensing Commission**

**Tuesday
November 18, 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 ensure the accuracy of the date provided, do not rely on this information without first checking with the Secretary of the Licensing Commission.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Joseph Lynch at 6:01 p.m. and adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Attendance:

Chair Joseph Lynch – Present
Commissioner Christopher Allen – Present
Commissioner Jacques Thomas Jr. – Present

Others present:

Michael Potere – Licensing Operations Manager; Lieutenant Francis Otting – Fire Department;
Captain Sean Sheehan – Police Department; Nikki Aurora – ADA Field Associate.

Communications

1. Minutes of the Licensing Commission Regular Meeting of 10/21/2025.

The Licensing Commission approved the minutes on a voice vote.

2. Communication from Commissioner Lynch in his capacity as Chair conveying the 2026 Licensing Commission meeting dates.

The Licensing Commission placed this item on file.

3. Communication from Commissioner Lynch, in his capacity as Chair, requesting approval to allow Wine and Malt establishments to open until 1 AM on New Year's Eve, conditioned on providing notice to the City Clerk's office.

Commissioner Allen asked if there would be fees associated with this, and Manager Potere stated there would not.



The Licensing Commission approved this item on a voice vote.

4. 2025 Licensing Commission Licensee Status

2AM Closing Establishments:

Business Name	Address
The Independent	75 Union Square
Casey's	171 Broadway
Vera's	70 Union Square
Olde Magoun Saloon	518 Medford Street
Foundry on Elm	255 Elm Street
The Burren	247 Elm Street
Trina's Starlight Lounge	3 Beacon Street
El Potro	61 Union Square
Earl's Kitchen and Bar	698 Assembly Row #102
La Posada Restaurant	505 Medford Street
Holiday Inn	30 Washington Street
Premiere on Broadway	519 Broadway
The Tall Order	70 Beacon Street
PJ Ryan's	239-241 Holland Street
Lucky Strike	325 Revolution Drive

Issued Licenses:

Common Victualer (without alcohol)	153
Restaurants (All Forms)	96
Restaurants (Wine and Malt)	18
Package Stores (All Forms)	20
Package Stores (Wine and Malt)	9
Inns (with Alcohol)	3
Inns (without Alcohol)	3
Clubs	10
Farmer Pourer	3
Educational Institution	1



Returned Alcohol Service Licenses:

Business Name	Address
Rudy's Café	248 Holland Street
Southern Kin Cookhouse and Bar	500 Assembly Row
The Basement	1133B Broadway
Taco Party	711 Broadway
The Thirsty Scholar	70 Beacon Street
Frank	400 Assembly Row
Papa Sushi	499 Broadway

Manager Potere noted for the record that the agenda listed Gauchao Brazilian Cuisine as having a 2AM License in error, and these minutes have been corrected to address that.

The Licensing Commission placed this item on file.

5. Licensing Commission requesting a status report from Distinct Beer and Wine, Inc., d/b/a Distinct Beer and Wine, 14 McGrath Highway, AL17-000323, regarding use of their Wine and Malt Package Store License.

This item was continued from the October 2025 Licensing Commission meeting.

Havshad Patel, the licensee, appeared before the Commission and explained that they closed their package store location in January 2024 due to competitors opening nearby, and that they are looking for a new location to reopen, or else to find a buyer for their license. Chair Lynch asked what they are doing to find a new location, and the licensee replied they have a real estate agent and are in talks with local convenience stores. The licensee asked if the city could assist them in finding a new location, and Chair Lynch stated that the city cannot act as a broker or get involved in the sale of any licenses.

The Licensing Commission continued this item to the March 2026 meeting by unanimous consent.

6. Civility Inc d/b/a Civility Social House, 490 Foley Street, AL22-000016, conveying removal of public parklet seating; maintaining private patio seating, ALM23-000001.

The Licensing Commission placed this item on file.



7. H and P Restaurant Group Inc d/b/a Gauchao Brazilian Cuisine, 102 Broadway, AL24-000025, conveying removal of public sidewalk and parklet seating.

The Licensing Commission placed this item on file.

8. Fire Department Liaison conveying to the Commission fire safety violations at Kongdog Somerville Inc d/b/a Kong Dog Somerville, 236 Elm Street, AL23-000033.

Lieutenant Otting stated for the record that this licensee was required to make changes to its establishment to come into compliance with fire code, and that as of the date of the meeting, has taken nearly all the steps required for compliance. Lt. Otting continued that they would be visiting the establishment to confirm the required changes were implemented.

The Licensing Commission continued this item to the January 2026 meeting by unanimous consent.

2026 ABCC License Renewals

9. Requesting approval of all 2026 ABCC license renewals.

The Licensing Commission approved this item on a voice vote.

Violations

10. Hearing for Mike's Bar Inc d/b/a Mike's Bar, 97 Washington Street, AL17-000049, pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 138 §§ 23 and 64, to show cause as to why their All Forms Alcoholic Beverages 7 Day Restaurant License, Common Victualer License, Entertainment by Devices and Performers Licenses, and 10AM Sunday Opening License, should not be modified, suspended, revoked or forfeited, or the hours during which alcoholic beverages be reduced, for alleged violations of the following Somerville Licensing Commission Rules and Regulations:

Somerville Licensing Commission Rule 1.09(a) –

It shall be the obligation of licensees to ensure that a high degree of supervision is exercised over the conduct of the licensed establishment at all times. Each licensee will be held accountable for all violations that are related to the licensed premises to determine whether or not the licensee acted properly in the given circumstances.

Somerville Licensing Commission Rule 1.09(b) –

Licensees shall maintain compliance with all health and safety laws for the areas outside and contiguous to the licensed premises.



Somerville Licensing Commission Rule 1.09 (d) –

Licensees shall take such steps as are necessary to ensure that patrons or employees do not leave the premises with alcoholic beverages. Such steps may include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Having an employee stationed at the door to watch patrons as they leave;
- (2) Refusing to serve beer in bottles;
- (3) Refusing to serve alcohol beverages in disposable cups. When the Commission's agents observe patrons leaving the premises with beer bottles, beer cans, or cups or glasses filled with liquids that smell like alcoholic beverages, it shall be presumed that the vessels contain alcoholic beverages...

Somerville Licensing Commission Rule 1.09 (e) –

When any noise, disturbance, misconduct, disorder, act or activity occurs in the licensed premises, or in the area in front of or adjacent to the licensed premises, or in any parking lot provided by the licensee for the use of its patrons, which in the judgment of the Commission adversely affects the protection, health, welfare, safety or repose of the residents of the area in which the licensed premises are located, or results in the licensed premises becoming the focal point for police attention, the licensee may be held in violation of the license and subject to proceedings for suspension, revocation or modification of the license.

Joe Kilduff, the licensee, appeared before the Commission, and noted this was the only incident for their establishment since last appearing in February, and noted changes made to the business to improve its operations. Specifically, the licensee stated that: several bartenders were terminated for failing to follow policy; cameras were installed to monitor activity; proper signage was installed indicating that the side door is for emergency exits only; cameras for the exterior are planned; their new bartenders were receiving additional training and receiving TIPS certifications; the back outdoor area has received new locks and had the picnic tables there removed; an alarm for the side door is planned; the establishment now keeps a running list of individuals banned from the premises and has been able to successfully enforce it; and the fence between their establishment and their neighbors is being extended to provide the neighbor more privacy. The licensee also stated they have been hiring door staff for busier nights, usually Fridays and Saturdays, and when they host special events.

The Commissioners agreed that the licensee was taking appropriate action to remedy what caused the complaint and recommended no disciplinary action be taken by unanimous consent. The Licensing Commission placed this item on file.



Special Alcohol Licenses

11. Warehouse XI, 255 Washington Street, requesting approval of a Special Alcohol License (Wine and Malt) for Live at WXI, to be held indoors at 255 Washington Street, on 11/21/2025, 11/22/2025, 11/28/2025, 12/5/2025, 12/6/2025, 12/8/2025, 12/12/2025, 12/13/2025, 12/15/2025, 12/19/2025, 1/9/2026 from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. and 12/31/2025 from 7:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. (Alcohol Service)
(SAL25-000023)

Peggy Morrissey, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained that these licenses will be for music events, and that the one requested for New Years Eve is tentative and may not take place, but that they wanted to have the option.

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

12. Somerville Museum, 1 Westwood Road, requesting approval of a Special Alcohol License (Wine Only) for Annual Holiday Party and Opening Exhibition “Crafting the Mind,” to be held indoors at 1 Westwood Road, on 12/12/2025 and 1/15/2026 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (Alcohol Service)
(SAL25-000024)

Stephanie Marlin-Curiel, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained that the first date is for a private event and does not need a Special Alcohol License, and the second date is for a museum exhibit opening event. Commissioner Allen asked if the alcohol will be purchased from an authorized distributor, which the applicant confirmed.

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

13. St. Anthony Parish, 12 Properzi Way, requesting approval of a Special Alcohol License (All Forms) for Reveillon 2026, to be held indoors at 12 Properzi Way, on 12/31/2025 from 8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. (Alcohol Service)
(SAL25-000021)

The applicant for this item did not attend this meeting. The Commissioners noted that this specific applicant has had numerous special alcohol licenses before the Commission for several years now and has not previously missed a meeting or had any issues or complaints about their events. In light of this, Chair Lynch noted that this event is scheduled to take place before the next Licensing Commission meeting in January 2026 and proposed approving this item in the absence of the applicant. Chair Lynch asked how many people would be attending, and Manager Potere replied that the application referred to around 300-400 people. Chair Lynch asked Captain Sheehan if, based on that number, a police detail would be required, and



Captain Sheehan replied in agreement and requested a police detail as a condition of this license.

The Licensing Commission approved this Special Alcohol License, conditioned on the licensee requesting a police detail, on a voice vote.

14. Dormition of the Virgin Mary, 29 Central Street, requesting approval of a Special Alcohol License (All Forms) for New Year's Eve Party, to be held indoors at 29 Central Street, on 12/31/2025 from 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. (Alcohol Service)
(SAL25-000022)

John Kourafalos, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained this license is for a New Years Eve party where attendance is expected to be around 200 people. Commissioner Allen asked if the alcohol will be purchased from an authorized distributor, which the applicant confirmed. Chair Lynch confirmed that the applicant contacted Fire Prevention to obtain a fire detail for the event due to its size.

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

Special Farmer Winery Licenses

15. Blisspoint Meadery, 1 Fox Run Road, Bedford, requesting approval of a Special Farmer Winery License for Somerville Winter Farmers Market, to be held indoors at 191 Highland Avenue, on Saturdays from 11/22/2025 through 4/11/2026, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (Alcohol Service).
(SFW25-000006)

This item was continued from October 21, 2025 Licensing Commission meeting.

Tony Venuti, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained that this is the applicant's fourth year participating in this farmer's market, and that they sample and sell bottles of mead at the market.

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



New
Common Victualer License and Entertainment by Devices Indoors

16. Goodgrain Inc d/b/a Wildgrain, 29 Properzi Way, requesting approval of a common victualer license and entertainment by devices indoors.

Hours of Operation:

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

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Indoor Seats: 23

(AL25-000034)

Chair Lynch recused himself from this item as an abutter.

Colin Spillane, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained their existing business ships baked goods to customers all over the country, and that they would like to add this restaurant to provide their customers an opportunity to eat at their baking location. The applicant added that the proposed entertainment by devices is a small Bluetooth speaker. Commissioner Thomas asked if there will be wheelchair accessible seating, which the applicant confirmed.

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 Devices Indoors License on a voice vote with one recusal (Lynch).

Private Club (Without Alcohol)
Entertainment by Devices, Performers, and Patrons Indoor and Outdoor

17. King's Court Comedy LLC d/b/a King's Court Comedy, 71 Union Square, requesting approval of a private club license (without alcohol) and entertainment by devices, performers, and patrons indoors and outdoors.

Hours of Operation:

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

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

Indoor Seats: 0

(AL25-000030)

Owen Nelson, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained this would be a members-only club for people over the age of 21, and that the space would be used for comedy shows and other artistic events. Commissioner Allen asked what becoming a member would entail, and the applicant stated the public could apply on their website, but that no one could enter the premises unless they



were a member. Chair Lynch asked where the establishment would be in the building, and the applicant stated it would be the second floor, which also has a terrace. Commissioner Thomas asked if they would be seeking a common victualer license, and the applicant replied that they would serve pre-packaged food at first, but might want to prepare and serve food in the future. Commissioner Allen asked about the type of entertainment the establishment would offer, and the applicant replied a DJ, musical performances, and comedy shows, and also that a DJ might play on their outdoor terrace.

Manager Potere noted for the record that this item was properly and timely advertised in the newspaper for this public hearing.

Chair Lynch asked if the applicant would pursue different signage because the current sign on the building is for Cookies, and the applicant replied they would not be adding signage because they are a private, members-only club. Chair Lynch noted for the record that the first floor of the building is occupied by Cookies, a cannabis retailer, and asked the applicant how members would enter the proposed space. The applicant stated that there would be some overlap between the space used by Cookies and their proposed license. Specifically, the applicant stated that they would have a staff member on the first floor of the building at the elevator to ensure only members are allowed inside, and that they would be sharing that space on the first floor with Cookies, which uses the space in front of the elevator for check-ins for its Marijuana Establishment. Commissioner Allen noted that this space will effectively become a combination of a cannabis dispensary and a comedy club, and expressed concern that this application is proposing an amendment to that licensee's floor plan, which is cause for concern because it creates ambiguity as to who is responsible for the area.

Chair Lynch stated a concern for the record that the Cookies Marijuana Establishment License covers 71-72 Union Square, and that he believes the Commission needs more information regarding that overlap.

Chair Lynch asked what the proposed space is currently being used for, and the applicant stated it is currently vacant.

Chair Lynch proposed continuing this item to the January meeting to allow time for the city to further review the overlap between this item and an existing licensee. Manager Potere noted the public hearing for this item was properly advertised and could still take place.

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



Chair Lynch moved to continue this item to the January 2026 Licensing Commission meeting, which was approved on a voice vote.

Existing All Forms Club License
Change of Manager

18. Dante Club Inc d/b/a Dante Club, 5 Dante Terrace, requesting approval of a change of manager.

Current manager: James Aufiero

Proposed manager: Kevin C. Hanifin

(ALM25-000036, amending AL17-000016)

Kevin Hanifin, the applicant and proposed manager, appeared before the Commission and explained the previous manager retired. Chair Lynch asked how long the applicant has been involved with this license, who replied 38 years. The applicant stated they would seek TIPS certification.

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

Existing All Forms Restaurant License
Entertainment by Devices Outdoors

19. Atelier PRB LLC d/b/a Café Saint Germain, 120 Beacon Street, requesting approval of entertainment by devices outdoors.

(ALM25-000033, amending AL24-000007)

The applicant for this item was not present during this meeting. Because the public hearing for this item was timely and properly advertised, Chair Lynch opened the public hearing. There were no speakers.

The Licensing Commission continued this item and the public hearing to the January 2026 meeting on unanimous consent.



Existing All Forms Restaurant License
Change of DBA and Change of Ownership Interest

20. MCKD LLC d/b/a Novel, 1153 Broadway, requesting approval of change of DBA and change of ownership interest.

Current DBA: Novel

Proposed DBA: Liars

Current Ownership Interest:

Mary Kurth (100%)

Proposed Ownership Interest:

Mary Kurth (80.5%)

Martha Campbell (12.5%)

Aubrey Harris (7.0%)

(ALM25-000035, amending AL24-000014)

Mary Kurth, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained that this location is still under construction, and that the change of ownership is intended to assist in financing it, and that the funding is all private capital. The applicant also stated the name change is meant to be intriguing and catch attention to drive their customer base. The applicant also stated they operate another establishment in the city, Spoke Wine Bar.

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

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

Existing All Forms Restaurant License
Change of DBA, 2AM License, Outdoor Dining, and Entertainment by Performers Indoors

21. Ebi Sushi Inc. d/b/a Ebi Sushi, 10 Prospect Street, requesting approval of a change of DBA, 2AM License, outdoor dining, and entertainment by performers indoors.

Current DBA: Ebi Sushi

Proposed DBA: Ebi Sushi and Dashizen

Current Hours:

Sunday-Thursday: 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., 5:00p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

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

Proposed Hours:

Sunday- Thursday: 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

Friday-Saturday: 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 a.m.

Public Sidewalk Outdoor Seating:

Seats: 14



Square Feet: 252
(ALM25-000034, amending AL25-000010)

Commissioner Thomas recused himself from this item as an abutter.

Estefania Ladner, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained this is to include some amendments that require public hearing but were inadvertently omitted from the newspaper advertisement for the October 2025 Licensing Commission meeting.

ADA Field Associate Aurora stated that this application for outdoor dining has been reviewed and is recommended for approval.

Chair Lynch asked if the outdoor dining arrangement is on public or private property, and Manager Potere stated that it is primarily on public property on the sidewalk, but that a small portion includes the private property for the building itself.

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

The Licensing Commission approved these Change of DBA, 2AM License, Outdoor Dining, and Entertainment by Performers Indoors license amendments on a voice vote with one recusal (Thomas).

New
All Forms 7 Day Restaurant License
Common Victualer, Outdoor Private Dining, and Entertainment by Devices
Outdoors

22. The Lawn Bar Inc d/b/a The Lawn Bar, 300 Assembly Row, requesting approval of an all forms 7-day restaurant license, common victualer, private outdoor dining, and entertainment by devices outdoors.
Hours of Operation (Outdoors only):
Monday-Sunday: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.
Indoor Seats: 0
Outdoor Seats: 168
(AL25-000006)

Chris Damian, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained that the concept here is an entirely outdoor eating and drinking space, with no indoor component, and that the property owner is considering an ice skating rink or igloos in the winter, in addition to a set up during warmer weather months. Commissioner



Thomas asked if there would be heating elements during winter use, and the applicant replied that they do not know yet, but confirmed they would consult with Fire Prevention before installing any.

ADA Field Associate Aurora stated that this application for outdoor dining has been reviewed and 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 All Forms 7 Day Restaurant License, Common Victualer License, Outdoor Private Dining License, and Entertainment by Devices Outdoors License on a voice vote.

New
All Forms 7 Day Restaurant License
Common Victualer and Entertainment by Devices Indoors

23. L'Emporio Inc d/b/a Olivia's Kitchen, 711 Broadway, requesting approval of an all forms 7-day restaurant license, common victualer, and entertainment by devices indoors.
Hours of Operation
(Alcohol Service):
Monday: Closed
Tuesday-Friday: 5:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday: 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
(Food Service):
Monday: Closed
Tuesday-Friday 5:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Indoor Seats: 34
(AL25-000029)

Simona Sbano, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained that this restaurant will be their second location, as they have a sandwich shop in Stoneham and have been looking for a suitable location for a dinner restaurant, and found one in the city. The applicant stated they will be serving authentic Italian food, and that they and their staff are and will be TIPS certified.

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

The Licensing Commission approved this New All Forms 7 Day Restaurant License,



Common Victualer License, and Entertainment by Devices Indoors License on a voice vote.

New
All Forms 7 Day Restaurant License
Entertainment by Devices Indoors
Existing Common Victualer License

24. AYT Foods LLC d/b/a The Blue Elephant, 719 Broadway, requesting approval of an all forms 7-day restaurant license and entertainment by devices indoors.
Hours of Operation (Alcohol and Food Service):
Monday: Closed
Tuesday-Friday: 11:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday: 12:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Indoor Seats: 44
(AL25-000031)

Alvin Pratama, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and stated they have had their common victualer license for a while, and as customers have been requesting that they serve alcohol, they submitted this application to be able to serve beer, wine, and cocktails. Commissioner Allen asked if the applicant was TIPS certified, and the applicant confirmed they intend to obtain that certification.

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

The Licensing Commission approved this New All Forms 7 Day Restaurant License and Entertainment by Devices Indoors License on a voice vote.