



City of Somerville Licensing Commission

**Tuesday
January 20, 2026
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 6:00 p.m. and adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Attendance:

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

Others present:

Michael Potere – Assistant City Clerk; Lieutenant Francis Otting – Fire Department; Captain Sean Sheehan – Police Department.

Communications

1. Minutes of the Licensing Commission Regular Meeting of 11/18/2025.

The Licensing Commission approved the minutes on a voice vote.

2. Lt. Francis Otting, Somerville Fire Department, Fire Prevention, conveying to the Commission fire safety violations at Kongdog Somerville Inc d/b/a Kong Dog Somerville, 236 Elm Street, AL23-000033.

Continued from November 18, 2025, Licensing Commission meeting.

Lt. Otting reported that this licensee is now in compliance with the fire code. The Licensing Commission placed this item on file.

3. Communication from the ABCC (“Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission”) regarding license suspension for Triple F Pub Inc d/b/a The Pub, to commence on Monday, February 9, 2026, and terminate on Sunday, February 22, 2026.

The Licensing Commission placed this item on file.



Special Alcohol Licenses

4. 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 1/22/2026, 1/28/2026, 1/30/2026, 2/5/2026, 2/6/2026, 2/13/2026, 2/14/2026, 2/19/2026, 2/22/2026, 2/25/2026, 2/26/2026, 2/27/2026, 2/28/2026, and 3/1/2026 from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. (Alcohol Service)
(SAL26-000001)

Peggy Morrissey, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained that these licenses will be for their normally occurring live music events.

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

5. Forge Baking Company, 11 Bow Street, requesting approval of a Special Alcohol License (Malt Only) for Private Party (Wedding Reception), to be held indoors at 11 Bow Street (Bloc Café), on 2/13/2026 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. (Alcohol Service)
(SAL25-000027)

Henry MacDonnell, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and stated this application is for an upcoming wedding, that the music would be speakers, not a band, and that around 70 people will be attending. Commissioner Allen asked if the alcohol would be purchased from an authorized distributor, which the applicant confirmed. Lt. Otting requested that the applicant ensures all life safety protections are in place if the event exceeds 80 people.

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

6. LEGO Discovery Center Boston, 598 Assembly Row, requesting approval of a Special Alcohol License (Wine and Malt) for Adult Nights, to be held indoors at 598 Assembly Row, on 2/14/2026, 3/13/2026, 4/10/2026, 5/8/2026, 6/12/2026 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. (Alcohol Service)
(SAL25-000026)

Jonathan Tanco, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained that this is LEGO Discovery Center's annual series of adult events that take place in the evening, and that beer will be served by local breweries, who will be checking IDs.

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



Existing All Forms Restaurant License
Entertainment by Devices Outdoors

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

(ALM25-000033, amending AL24-000007)

Continued from November 18, 2025 Licensing Commission meeting, during which a Public Hearing was held.

Commissioner Allen recused himself from this item as an abutter.

Loic Le Garrec, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained that this amendment will allow them to add an outdoor speaker to their outdoor dining license, and that it would be operated at a low level during brunch and dinner.

The Licensing Commission approved this Entertainment by Devices Outdoors license amendment on a voice vote with one recusal (Allen).

Existing All Forms Restaurant License
Change of Ownership Interest

8. MCKD LLC d/b/a Liars, 1153 Broadway, requesting approval of a change of ownership interest.

Current Ownership Interest:

Mary Kurth (80.5%)

Martha Campbell (12.5%)

Aubrey Harris (7.0%)

Proposed Ownership Interest:

Mary Kurth (70%)

Martha Campbell (12.5%)

Todd W. Lemke (10.5%)

Aubrey Harris (7.0%)

(ALM25-000039, 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.

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

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



Existing All Forms Restaurant License
Change of Hours

9. RCSH Operations Inc d/b/a Ruth's Chris Steak House, 375 Revolution Drive, requesting approval of a change of hours.

Current Hours: (Indoor and Outdoor (Private Patio) Food and Alcohol Service)

Monday-Friday: 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Saturday: 4:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Sunday: 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Proposed Hours: (Indoor and Outdoor (Private Patio) Food and Alcohol Service)

Monday-Sunday: 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.

(ALM25-000040, amending AL19-000026)

The applicant for this item did not appear. The Licensing Commission continued this item to the February 17, 2026 meeting by unanimous consent.

10. Prospect Hill Properties Inc d/b/a The Independent, 75 Union Square, requesting approval of a change of hours.

Current Hours: (Indoor Food and Alcohol Service)

Monday-Thursday: 4:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

Friday: 4:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.

Saturday: 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m.

Sunday: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.

Current Hours: (Outdoor Food and Alcohol Service)

Monday-Friday: 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.

Saturday-Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.

Proposed Hours: (Indoor Food and Alcohol Service)

Monday-Thursday: 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

Friday: 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.

Saturday: 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m.

Sunday: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.

Proposed Hours: (Outdoor Food and Alcohol Service)

Monday-Friday: 12:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.

Saturday-Sunday: 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.

(ALM26-000003, amending AL 17-000050)

Jess Willis, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained that this amendment is to add lunch hours to their restaurant to try to utilize the space more effectively during the day.



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

Existing Package Store License
Change of DBA

11. Jaswant Nathji Corp d/b/a Jerry's Liquors, 329 Somerville Avenue, requesting approval for a change of DBA.

Current DBA name: Jerry's Liquors

Proposed DBA name: Union Sq. Market & Liquors
(ALM25-000038, amending AL25-000018)

Attorney Alexandra Bourgeois appeared before the Commission on behalf of their client, Brijesh Kapadia, who was also present, and explained that this request to change the licensee's DBA is intended to reflect the updated business model for the establishment, which will also be a convenience store that sells various other items. Chair Lynch asked if the licensee has an expected opening date, and Attorney Bourgeois replied they are planning to open on or around April 15th. Lt. Otting stated for the record that the licensee will need a final inspection by Fire Prevention and any related permits based on this change of ownership.

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

12. Withdrawn.

This item was withdrawn by the applicant in advance of the meeting.

New Innholder License (Without Alcohol)

13. JHM Beacon Hospitality LLC d/b/a Beacon Suites Hotel, 371 Beacon Street, requesting approval of an inn license (without alcohol).

Rooms: 35

(AL25-000038)

Ravi Patel, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained that they recently purchased this hotel and will be operating it without food or alcohol service. They added that they have a meeting room space that they may lease to a separate business, and that business may seek a food or alcohol license, independent of the innholder license. Commissioner Allen asked when they plan to open, and the applicant replied around May. Commissioner Thomas asked if there will be handicapped accessible rooms, which the applicant confirmed.



The Licensing Commission approved this Innholder (without alcohol) License on a voice vote.

Transfer Package Store License
Wine and Malt and Sunday Hours

14. MKG Corporation d/b/a 350 Food Mart, 350 Broadway, requesting approval for a Transfer of License from Vatika Corporation d/b/a 350 Food Mart, and for Sunday Hours. Hours of Operation:
Monday-Saturday: 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.
Sunday: 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.
(AL25-000039)

Attorney Arthur Pearlman appeared before the Commission on behalf of the applicant and explained that the owner will also be the alcohol license manager and has experience in the industry as the operator of a package store in Waltham. Commissioner Thomas asked if the applicant has had any issues with their package store in Waltham, and Attorney Pearlman stated they have not. Lt. Otting stated for the record that a change of ownership for this establishment may require new fire permits and recommended that the applicant contact Fire Prevention to confirm this.

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

The Licensing Commission approved this Transfer of a Package Store License (Wine and Malt) License on a voice vote.

Late Items

Existing All Forms Restaurant License
Change of Directors/Officers

15. L'Emporio Inc d/b/a Olivia's Kitchen, 711 Broadway, requesting approval for a Change of Directors/Officers.
Current Director:
Simona Sbano
Proposed Directors:
Simona Sbano
Salvatore Lo Brutto
(ALM26-000002, amending AL25-000029)



Simona Sbano and Salvatore Lo Brutto, the applicants, appeared before the Commission for this amendment application. The Commissioners did not have additional questions about this application.

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