



**City of Somerville
Licensing Commission**

Regular Meeting Agenda

**Tuesday
April 21, 2026
6:00 p.m.**

City Council Chamber and Remote Participation

Published April 16, 2026, at 4:30 p.m.
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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 8:22 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 Diogo DeOliveira – Police Department; Niki Aurora – ADA Field Associate.

Communications

1. Minutes of the Licensing Commission Regular Meeting of 3/17/26.

The Licensing Commission accepted the minutes on a voice vote.

2. Licensing Commission requesting a status report from Somerville City Club Inc., d/b/a Somerville City Club, 20 Inner Belt Road, AL17-000025, regarding the use of their All Forms Alcohol Service License.

Continued from October 21, 2025, and February 17, 2026, Licensing Commission meetings.



Donald Johnson, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and stated that, due to some legal issues with their current location, they are looking to keep their alcohol license and move it to a smaller location within the city.

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

3. Communication from Commissioner Lynch, in his capacity as Chair, regarding the option for licensees to extend their operating hours during the upcoming World Cup event, from June 11, 2026 through July 19, 2026.

Chair Lynch stated that the goal with this initiative is to allow Somerville restaurants to easily extend their hours to accommodate the showing of World Cup soccer matches to stimulate business, and that the hours permitted for alcohol service would be from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 a.m., and a closing time of no later than 3:00 a.m. Commissioner Thomas asked if this would apply to other types of businesses, and Chair Lynch replied it would just be for restaurants with alcohol service. Captain DeOliveira stated that the Police Chief has some concerns with the proposal and how it might impact department staffing, and noted that a single incidence of someone driving under the influence can require as many as three officers. Captain DeOliveira recommended having additional police during days where games would be played later in the night. Chair Lynch noted that additional staffing would depend on how many establishments opt-in to the program, which Captain DeOliveira confirmed. Assistant City Clerk Potere noted that a list of businesses who opt-in to this program will be shared with the Police Department; Lieutenant Otting requested that Fire Prevention also receive a copy of this list, which Assistant City Clerk Potere confirmed.

Chair Lynch stated that, when a business extends their hours under this program, it is essential that all permit holders remain mindful of local regulations and community impact. Chair Lynch continued that restaurants should ensure that noise is kept to a minimum, and that they are addressing any other compliance issues to avoid potential penalties or the revocation of their permits. Lastly, Chair Lynch stated that any Excessive noise, over-serving patrons, underage alcohol consumption, or loitering outside the establishment could result in the immediate revocation of the extended permit hours.

Chair Lynch stated that there will be no fee for restaurants to participate in this extended hours program.

The Licensing Commission approved this extended operating hours program during the upcoming World Cup on a voice vote.



Special Farmer Winery Licenses

4. Blisspoint Meadery, 1 Fox Run Road, Bedford, requesting approval of a Special Farmer Winery License for Union Square Farmer's Market to be held outdoors at 66-70 Union Square, on Saturdays beginning 5/9/2026 and ending 10/31/2026 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Alcohol Service)
(SFW26-000001)

Tony Venuti, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and stated that this is their annual application to participate in the Union Square Farmers Market.

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

5. Far From the Tree LLC, 102 Jackson Street, Salem, requesting approval of a Special Farmer Winery License for Union Square Farmer's Market to be held outdoors at 66-70 Union Square, on Saturdays beginning 5/9/2026 and ending 10/31/2026 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Alcohol Service)
(SFW26-000002)

Alex Goldman, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and stated that this is their annual application to participate in the Union Square Farmers Market.

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

Special Alcohol Licenses

6. Dormition of the Virgin Mary, 29 Central Street, requesting approval of a Special Alcohol License (All Forms) for GyroFest to be held indoors and outdoors at 29 Central Street, on 5/8/2026 from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and 5/9/2026 from 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
(Alcohol Service)
(SAL26-000009)

John Kourafalos, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and stated this is their annual application to host GyroFest to accompany the city's Porchfest celebration in May, that they are planning to have a fire detail present, and that the event will be indoors and outdoors on their property.

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



7. St. Anthony Parish, 12 Properzi Way, requesting approval of a Special Alcohol License (All Forms) for Baile das Maes (Mother's Day Dance), to be held indoors at 12 Properzi Way, on 5/9/2026 from 8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. (Alcohol Service)
(SAL26-000006)

Raphael Alves, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and stated this their annual application for their Baile das Maes event, that they are expecting around 200-300 people to attend, that their bartenders are TIPS certified, and that they will be purchasing their alcohol from an authorized distributor.

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

8. Bronwyn Restaurant, 255 Washington Street, requesting approval of a Special Alcohol License (Wine and Malt) for Weihenstephan Tiny Biergarten, to be held at the Union Square municipal parking lot, on 5/14/2026, 5/15/2026, 9/18/2026 from 5:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.; 9/19/2026 from 12:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.; and 9/20/2026 from 12:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (Alcohol Service)
(SAL26-000007)

Bronwyn Wiechmann, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained that this application is to host a "tiny pub" in a small RV near their restaurant in conjunction with their sponsor Weihenstephan. Chair Lynch asked about the location of the structure, and the applicant replied it would be across the street from their storefront, and that they would encourage staff and patrons to utilize the crosswalk. Chair Lynch asked who would be serving the alcohol, and the applicant replied that it will be staff from their restaurant. Chair Lynch asked how power would be provided, and the applicant replied via a generator, to which Chair Lynch recommended that the applicant have that reviewed by Fire Prevention. Commissioner Thomas asked if this will occupy an accessible parking space, and the applicant stated it would not.

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

9. Somerville Chamber of Commerce, 561 Windsor Street, requesting approval of a Special Alcohol License (All Forms) for Taste of Somerville, to be held outdoors at Boynton Yards, on 6/10/2026, with a rain date of 6/11/2026, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Alcohol Service)
(SAL26-000012)

Meghan Smith, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained that this is the 20th year this event has occurred, that they are expecting around 2,000 people to attend the event, that they will have police and fire details for the event, and that they will be verifying IDs and using wristbands for alcohol service.



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

10. St. Anthony Parish, 12 Properzi Way, requesting approval of a Special Alcohol License (All Forms) for Festa Junina 2026, to be held outdoors at 12 Properzi Way parking lot, on 6/20/2026 from 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. and 6/21/2026 from 2:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. (Alcohol Service)
(SAL26-000011)

Raphael Alves, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and stated this their annual application for their Festa Junina event, that they are expecting around 2000-3000 people to attend, that their bartenders are TIPS certified, and that they will be purchasing their alcohol from an authorized distributor.

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

11. LEGO Discovery 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 7/10/2026, 8/14/2026, 9/11/2026, 10/30/2026, 11/13/2026, and 12/11/2026 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. (Alcohol Service)
(SAL26-000008)

Jonathan Tanco, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and stated that this is their annual application to host adult nights at LEGO Discovery Boston, that they have been doing this since the business opened in 2014, and that they hire a local brewery to serve the alcohol with bartenders who have their own licenses and training certificates.

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

Existing All Forms Restaurant License
Adding Private Outdoor Dining

12. K-Bok Korean Fried Chicken LLC d/b/a K-Bok Korean Fried Chicken, 249 Washington Street, requesting approval of private outdoor dining.
Number of tables: 6
Number of seats: 24
(ALM25-000023, amending AL24-000029)

Attorney Tyler Henseler appeared before the Commission and stated that this is a straightforward application to use the same private outdoor patio that was used by the prior business at this location. Chair Lynch asked about ADA compliance, and Attorney Henseler replied that patrons can exit the patio and go around the building



to enter the main restaurant area to use the restroom. ADA Field Associate Aurora stated that having the entrance around the corner satisfies ADA compliance, that in the past all patrons have used the same route, that the route is under 100 feet in distance, and that this item is recommended to be approved.

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

The Licensing Commission approved this Private Outdoor Dining License on a voice vote.

Existing All Forms Restaurant License
Change of Manager and Change of Officers/Directors

13. Urban Axes Boston LLC d/b/a Urban Axes, 2 Union Square, requesting approval of a change of manager and change of officers/directors.
Current manager: Kenya Claytor
Proposed manager: Dominique Reade
Current officers/directors:
Krista Paton, LLC Manager
Matthew Paton, LLC Manager
Shaun Hurley, LLC Manager
Danielle Palmer, LLC Manager
Proposed officers/directors:
Dominique Reade, General Manager
Jennifer Johansson, HR Director
(ALM26-000009, amending AL18-000006)

The applicant for this item did not appear during this meeting. The Licensing Commission continued this item to the May 2026 meeting by unanimous consent.

Existing All Forms Restaurant License
Change of Hours and 2AM License

14. H and P Restaurant Group LLC d/b/a Gauchao Brazilian Cuisine, 102 Broadway, requesting approval of a change of hours and a 2AM license.
Current hours: Monday-Sunday: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.
Proposed hours: Sunday-Thursday: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m., Friday-Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m.
(ALM26-000013, amending AL24-000025)

Attorney Anne Vigorito appeared behalf of the licensee, Rony Figueroa, and Ashley Herrera, one of the establishment's shift managers, and explained that they have



learned a lot in the time since the noise complaints first arose in July 2025, and that they have made significant efforts to reduce impact to the surrounding neighborhood, including by hiring a person to monitor sound levels and mixing. Attorney Vigorito continued that the licensee has also hired security for weekend nights, typically hiring three or four guards, and that they are no longer hiring DJs to perform to reduce the impact of large crowds. Chair Lynch asked the licensee if they have been keeping a log of incidents as requested during their show cause hearing in July 2025, and the licensee replied that they have but that they did not bring it with them to this meeting. Captain DeOliveira stated that this licensee has shown improvement, reducing the number of noise complaints from 62 in 2025 to only 10 in 2026. Captain DeOliveira added that what happens outside of their establishment is their responsibility, as patrons leave the restaurant intoxicated and can cause disturbances in the public space beyond the restaurant itself.

Chair Lynch opened the public hearing. J. Santana stated they are an abutter to this business and that they have never heard any noise and expressed support for the licensee's 2AM license. There being no additional speakers, Chair Lynch closed the public hearing.

Chair Lynch moved to approve a 60-day period for a 2AM license, and to have the licensee come back for the June 2026 meeting to revisit the item. The Licensing Commission approved this conditional 60-day 2AM License on a voice vote.

Existing All Forms Restaurant License
Alteration of Indoor and Outdoor Premises

15. Soba Ya LLC d/b/a Sugidama, 234 Elm Street, requesting approval of an alteration of indoor and outdoor premises.
Current indoor seating: 52
Proposed indoor seating: 44
Current outdoor seating: 0
Proposed outdoor seating: 16
(ALM26-000014, amending AL22-000010)

Attorney Kristine Lee appeared before the Commission and explained that this is the establishment's annual amendment application to remove indoor seats and place them outdoors to comply with state plumbing and bathroom requirements.

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 amendment on a voice vote.



Existing Common Victualer License
Change of Hours

16. Chipotle Mexican Grill of Colorado LLC d/b/a Chipotle Mexican Grill #1036, 274-276 Elm Street, requesting approval of a change of hours.
Current Hours (Indoor and Outdoor Private Patio):
Monday-Sunday: 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Proposed Hours (Indoor and Outdoor Private Patio):
Monday-Sunday: 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.
(ALM26-000012, amending AL17-000211)
Continued from March 17, 2026, Licensing Commission meeting.

The applicant for this item did not appear during this meeting. Chair Lynch asked Assistant City Clerk Potere to inform the applicant that if they do not attend the meeting in May 2026 this application will be denied, which he confirmed. The Licensing Commission continued this item to the May 2026 meeting by unanimous consent.

New
Entertainment by Devices, Patrons, and Performers

17. Life Drawing Boston LLC d/b/a Life Drawing Boston, 86 Joy Street, requesting approval an entertainment by devices, patrons, and performers license.
(AL26-000010)

David London, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and stated this application is for an artists' space that will allow for live performances, shows, and dancing of many different varieties. Commissioner Thomas asked if the space is ADA accessible, and the applicant replied that it is not, and that it is not required to be based on the building's age.

Chair Lynch opened the public hearing. Alexandra Klotz, a resident of the Brickbottom Artists Building, Erin Morris, a comedian in the greater-Boston area, Jeremy Guillette, a resident of the Brickbottom Artists Building, Helena Wurzel, and Jasson Garcia, expressed strong support for this applicant and item. There being no additional speakers, Chair Lynch closed the public hearing.

Lieutenant Otting stated that the Fire Department has conveyed specific requirements that the applicant must meet before their license can be issued.

The Licensing Commission approved this Entertainment by Devices, Patrons, and Performers License on a voice vote.



New
Common Victualer and Entertainment by Devices

18. Poke SDS LLC d/b/a Pokeworks, 261 Elm Street, requesting approval of a common victualer and entertainment by devices license.

Hours of operation:

Monday-Sunday: 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Indoor Seats: 21

(AL26-000003)

Qide Zhu, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained that they are taking over this business from the previous franchisee, but that otherwise nothing is changing.

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

The Licensing Commission approved this Common Victualer License and Entertainment by Devices License by a voice vote.

19. Somerville BBQ Inc d/b/a bb.q Chicken, 248 Elm Street, requesting approval of a common victualer and entertainment by devices license.

Hours of operation:

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

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

Indoor Seats: 17

(AL26-000008)

Attorney Russell Chin appeared before the Commission and explained that this is the applicant's eighth franchise and that the entertainment by devices will be one monitor that might display the menu or other media.

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

The Licensing Commission approved this Common Victualer License and Entertainment by Devices License by a voice vote.



New
All Forms 7-day Restaurant License
Common Victualer, Entertainment by Devices, Sunday Hours

20. Marinho's Brazilian Grill Corp d/b/a Marinho's Brazilian Grill, 85 Broadway, requesting approval of an all forms alcohol license, common victualer, entertainment by devices, and Sunday hours.

Hours of Operation (Food and Alcohol Service):

Monday-Sunday: 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Indoor Seats: 24

(AL25-000042)

Ronilton Marinho De Lima, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and stated that they have been in the restaurant industry since 2002 but that this will be their first alcohol license. Commissioner Allen asked that the applicant become TIPS certified, learn to identify when a patron has been overserved, and to reach out to the city if they have any questions, which the applicant confirmed. Chair Lynch asked who would be serving the alcohol in this establishment, and the applicant replied that their son is the manager of record, and that he is TIPS certified.

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

The Licensing Commission approved this All Forms 7-day Restaurant License Common Victualer License, Entertainment by Devices License, and Sunday Hours License on a voice vote.

Existing Farmer Pourer (Brewery) License
New All Forms 7-day Restaurant License

21. Indignant Brewing Co LLC d/b/a Winter Hill Brewing, 328 Broadway, requesting approval of a new all forms alcohol license to replace their existing Farmer Pourer (Brewery) License.

Hours of Operation:

Monday: 1:00 pm. to 12:00 a.m.

Tuesday-Thursday: 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.

Friday-Saturday: 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 a.m.

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

Indoor Seats: 60

Outdoor Seats (Private): 22

(AL26-000011, replacing AL17-000125)



Bert Holdridge, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained that this change is intended to bolster business by allowing them to offer more drink options with their food menu. Commissioner Thomas asked for additional details about their plans, and the applicant replied that it would be a small menu of seasonal cocktails and wine. Chair Lynch congratulated the applicant on 10 years of being in business in Somerville.

Chair Lynch opened the public hearing. Ward Four City Councilor Jesse Clingan and expressed strong support for this applicant, noting that they have not had any issues or complaints in their 10 years of operating in the city. There being no additional speakers, Chair Lynch closed the public hearing.

The Licensing Commission approved this New All Forms 7-day Restaurant License on a voice vote.

Transfer of License and Pledge of License and Inventory

All Forms 7-day Restaurant License

Common Victualer, Entertainment by Devices, 2AM License, Private Outdoor Dining

22. Saint Brigid's Well LLC d/b/a Saint Brigid's Well, 525 Medford Street, requesting approval of transfer of an all forms alcohol license from Demeter Hospitality Group d/b/a Daddy Jones and a common victualer, entertainment by devices, 2AM license, and private outdoor dining.

Hours of Operation (Indoor Alcohol Service):

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

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

Hours of Operation (Indoor Food Service):

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

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

Hours of Operation (Outdoor Alcohol Service):

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

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

Hours of Operation (Outdoor Food Service):

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

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

Indoor Seats: 55

Private Outdoor Seats: 40

(AL26-000013, transferring from AL17-000059)

Attorney Matthew Porter and applicant Michael Queally appeared before the Commission and explained that this is a transfer of license and pledge of license and inventory to occupy the space formerly held by Daddy Jones, and that there will be no significant changes in the building, but a change in some aesthetic upgrades and



an Irish Pub theme. Attorney Porter stated the applicant has 16 years of experience as a bartender and manager at The Druid in Cambridge with no violations. Chair Lynch asked if the sale included the property, and Attorney Porter replied that it did not and that the applicant will lease the space from the current owner of the building. Commissioner Allen stated he is comfortable approving a 2AM license for this applicant based on their significant experience in the industry.

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

The Licensing Commission approved this Transfer of License and Pledge of License and Inventory for an All Forms 7-day Restaurant License, Common Victualer License, Entertainment by Devices License, 2AM License, and Private Outdoor Dining License on a voice vote.

Late Items

Special Alcohol License

23. Somerville Museum, 1 Westwood Road, requesting approval of a Special Alcohol License (All Forms) for Haus Party 003, to be held indoors at Somerville Museum, 1 Westwood Road, on 5/15/2026, from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. (Alcohol Service) (SAL26-000010)

Gregory Mathieu, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained that this is for a 21-plus event at the museum with a TIPS certified bartender and all forms of alcohol, and that it will be a low-key event with minimal noise for neighbors.

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

Special Farmer Winery Licenses

24. Blisspoint Meadery, 1 Fox Run Road, Bedford, requesting approval of a Special Farmer Winery License for Assembly Row Farmer's Market to be held outdoors at 375 Assembly Row, on Fridays beginning 6/12/2026 and ending 10/9/2026 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Alcohol Service) (SFW26-000003)

Assistant City Clerk Potere stated that this applicant may have departed the meeting before this item because they had an item earlier in the agenda and thought that their appearance satisfied both. Chair Lynch stated that this applicant is well known to the city, and that they are present at most of the city's farmers markets.



Commissioner Allen stated that because this applicant is known to the Commission, that he does not oppose approving this item in their absence.

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

25. Saltbox Cidershop, 22 North Broadway, Haverhill, requesting approval of a Special Farmer Winery License for Assembly Row Farmer's Market to be held outdoors at 375 Assembly Row, on Fridays beginning 6/12/2026 and ending 10/9/2026 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Alcohol Service)
(SFW26-000004)

Nate Chase, the applicant, appeared before the Commission and explained that there are a Haverhill-based company that makes cider, and that they recently participated in Somerville's winter market with Arts at the Armory, and that they offer samples of their product, as well as options to purchase it.

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