



**City of Somerville
Licensing Commission**

Regular Meeting Agenda

**Tuesday
May 19, 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 6:01 p.m. and adjourned at 7:10 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 4/21/26.

The Licensing Commission accepted the minutes on a voice vote.

2. Minutes of the Licensing Commission Special Meeting of 5/1/26.

The Licensing Commission accepted the minutes on a voice vote.



Special Alcohol Licenses

3. Groundwork Somerville, Inc., 337 Somerville Avenue, requesting approval of a Special Alcohol License (All Forms) for Bar Stars to be held outdoors at Block 3 Garage Roof in Assembly Row, on 7/9/2026 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. with a rain date of 7/10/2026 (Alcohol Service)
(SAL26-000016)

Applicant, Haley Suarez, spoke on behalf of the application and stated this is a way to showcase the restaurants. It is similar to a block party on the rooftop and there will be entertainment at the event. Commission Allen asked if there will be wristbands and I.D. verification. The applicant stated that they will be checking I.D.s. There will be security at the entry and exit points. Commission Allen asked if a fire detail will be requested. The applicant stated that a fire detail will be submitted. Chair Lynch asked how many attendees. The applicant stated 500 tickets have been sold and that there will be security.

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

Special Farmer Winery License

4. Aaronap Cellars LLC, 28 Carlisle Road, Westword, 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)
(SFW26-000005)

Applicant, Noel Powell, is the owner and wine maker of Aaronap Cellars. The applicant is seeking to join the Assembly Row Farmer's Market to sell and sample wine from the local vineyards. Commissioner Thomas asked if this is the first special farmer winery license. The applicant stated they have provided this service for the past 15 years at 20 different farmers markets.

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

5. Far from the Tree LLC, 102 Jackson Street, Salem, requesting approval of a Special Farmer Winery License for Davis Square Farmer's Market to be held outdoors at 44 Day Street, on Wednesdays beginning 5/20/2026 and ending 11/25/2026 from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Alcohol Service)
(SFW26-000006)



Applicant, Gabriella Ferraro, is the manager and is looking to join the Davis Square Farmer's Market to sell cider. Commission Thomas asked if this is the first time applying for this license. The applicant stated that they are currently in 15 different farmer markets.

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

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

6. 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)
Continued from the April 21, 2026 Licensing Commission meeting.

Applicant, Dominique Reade, appeared before this application. The applicant is the new manager and was transferred from North Carolina. The applicant has been with Urban Axes for 8 years and is TIPS certified.

Commission Thomas recused himself from the vote due to the location of the establishment.

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

Existing Common Victualer License
Change of Hours

7. 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 and April 21, 2026 Licensing Commission meetings.

Applicant, Ryan George, spoke on behalf of the application and stated that the change of hours is a corporate initiative.

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

Existing Package Store License
Change of Officers/Directors and Ownership Interest

8. LLH LLC d/b/a Trader Joe's, 145 Middlesex Avenue, requesting approval of change officers/directors and change of ownership interest.

Current Ownership Interest and Officers/Directors:

Laurie Meade (33.3%) (LLC Member)

Christopher Maguire (33.3%) (LLC Member)

Matthew Sloan (33.3%) (LLC Member)

Proposed Ownership Interest and Officers/Directors:

Isaac Chitica (33.3%) (LLC Member)

Christopher Maguire (33.3%) (LLC Member)

Matthew Sloan (33.3%) (LLC Member)

(ALM26-000016, amending AL17-000298)

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

The applicant for this item did not appear during this meeting. Commissioner Allen opened the public hearing. There were no speakers, however the public hearing will remain open and this item will be continued until the June meeting.

Existing All Forms Restaurant License
Adding Entertainment by Performers Outdoors (Private)

9. New England Neapolitan Assembly Row LLC d/b/a Salt and Stone, 463 Assembly Row, requesting approval of adding entertainment by performers outdoors (private).
(ALM26-000018, amending AL18-000001)

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

Chair Lynch asked Lieutenant Francis Otting, Fire Department, to speak on behalf of the reopening after the kitchen fire. Lieutenant Francis Otting stated that they have not been on site for a final inspection. Lieutenant Francis Otting also stated



that at least one of the pizza ovens was damaged and the applicants will be required to upgrade the ventilation, the flue, insulation, and fire protection.

The applicant for this item did not appear during this meeting. Commissioner Allen opened the public hearing. There were no speakers, however the public hearing will remain open and this item will be continued until the June meeting.

New
Common Victualer License

10. The Croff LLC d/b/a Sizzle n' Slurp, 514 Medford Street, Unit C, requesting approval of a common victualer license.

Hours of Operation:

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

Indoor Seats: 10

(AL26-000007)

Applicant, PJ, appeared on behalf of the application. The applicant stated that the establishment will be serving Japanese and Thai fusion burgers. The applicant also stated that he was a chef and had a restaurant in Brighton.

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

New
All Forms 7-day Restaurant License
Common Victualer, Entertainment by Devices and Performers

11. Parc Restaurant Group Som, LLC d/b/a Post 1917, 16-20 Medford Street, requesting approval of an all forms alcohol, common victualer, entertainment by devices and performers license.

Hours of Operation: (Alcohol Service)

Tuesday-Wednesday: 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Thursday: 5:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Friday-Saturday: 4:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

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

Hours of Operation: (Food Service)

Tuesday-Wednesday: 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Thursday: 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

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

Sunday: 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Indoor Seats: 91



(AL26-000006)

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

Applicant, Jason Carron, spoke on behalf of the application. The applicant stated this is the third restaurant location. The applicant has restaurants in Reading and Lexington. The Somerville location is a new building. Commissioner Thomas asked about ADA compliance. The applicant stated that more than half of the seating is ADA compliant. Commissioner Allen asked if there as been any violations at the Lexington and Reading location at the local licensing authority regarding underage drinking. The applicant stated that there has been no such issue. Chair Lynch asked how many employees the establishment will have. The applicant stated that there would likely be 30 full-time employees. Commission Allen asked about the entertainment by performers. The applicant stated there will be acoustic music. Chair Lynch asked when the business would be opening. The applicant stated that the plan is to open by the end of the year.

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, Entertainment by Devices and Performers on a voice vote.

New
Wine and Malt 7-day Restaurant License
Common Victualer, Entertainment by Devices and Performers (Indoors)
Outdoor Dining (Public)

12. Free Run Wine LLC d/b/a First Crush, 259 Washington Street, requesting approval of wine and malt alcohol license, common victualer, entertainment by devices and performers, and outdoor dining on public property.
Hours of Operation (Indoor and Outdoor Alcohol and Food Service)
Monday-Sunday: 2:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
Indoor Seats: 19
Public Property Outdoor Dining Seats: 14
(AL26-000016)

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



Applicant, Gabrielle, spoke that the restaurant has been a pop up for 2 years. The wine will be mostly of Spanish and Portuguese origins served with small tapas. There will also be opportunities for craft and wine nights for guests. Commission Allen asked if this is the first brick-and-mortar space for the applicant and if the applicant had experience working in the hospitality industry. The applicant stated that they have worked at other establishments before. Commissioner Allen asked if the applicant was TIP certified. The applicant states yes. Commission Thomas asked if this would be the case that constituents could bring their own wine or if it will be provided on premises. The applicant stated that the alcohol will be provided on premises. Commissioner Thomas then asked about the indoor seating and if the indoor and outdoor seating would be handicap accessible. The applicant confirmed that there will be 19 seats and that the indoor and outdoor seating are handicap accessible. Chair Lynch asked if the outdoor dining will be on the sidewalk or parklet. The applicant stated that it will be on the sidewalk. Niki Aurora, ADA Field Associate, stated that the Engineering Department does recommend the outdoor dining for approval.

Chair Lynch opened the public hearing. There was one speaker, Zachary Baum, President and Board of Union Square Main Streets and co-owner of Bow Market.

Zachary spoke in support of the application. Zachary stated that he has worked with the applicant in the past at successful events.

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

The Licensing Commission approved this Wine and Malt 7-day Restaurant License Common Victualer, Entertainment by Devices and Performers (Indoors), and Outdoor Dining (Public) on a voice vote.

Existing Farmer Pourer (Brewery) License
New Farmer Winery License and Alteration of Premises

13. TBD Brewing LLC d/b/a Aeronaut Brewing, 14 Tyler Street, requesting approval of addition of farmer winery license and alteration of premises.
Hours of Operation: (Alcohol and Food Service)
No Change
Indoor Seats: No Change
(AL26-000014 and ALM26-000017, amending AL17-000122)



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

Applicant, Ronn Friedlander, is the owner of Aeronaut Brewing. The applicant stated that they wish to add wine and cider to their brewery license as this would expand what they can offer. There is a designated area to store and serve farmer winery.

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

Chair Lynch recused himself from the vote.

The Licensing Commission approved this New Farmery Winery License and Alteration of Premises by voice vote.

Late Items

Existing Marijuana Establishment License Change of DBA and Change of Ownership and Control

14. Advesa MA, Inc., 692 Broadway, requesting approval for a change of DBA and change of ownership and control.
Current DBA: Blue River Terps
Proposed DBA: Fresh Connection
Current Ownership:
Jessica Pelletier, 51%
Tony Veruza, 39%
Proposed Ownership:
Fresh Connection Retail Partners LLC (100%)
Current Control:
Jessica Pelletier, 46%
Tony Verzura, 25%
Michael Latulippe, 18%
Shanel Lindsay, 11%
Proposed Control:
Samantha Seagaard, 51%
Frais Cannexion Inc., 49%
Indirect Control via Frais Cannexion Inc.:
William Seagaard, 8.6%
Zachary Swanson, 8.6%
Fresh Holdings LLC, 16.1%



Shawn Liu, 14.4%
Patrick Filler, 1.3%
(MEA26-000002)

Applicants, Samantha Seagaard and William Seagaard, appeared on behalf of this application. They currently run a successful business in Cambridge and a cultivation facility in Fitchburg. The applicants stated that they have experience in the industry and that there will not be a change of operation such as change of hours. Chair Lynch asked if Fitchburg was the first cultivator site that the applicants had. The applicants stated that it is the first cultivator site and they continue to use it. Chair Lynch confirmed that the controlling entity will be Fresh Connection Retail Partners LLC. Chair Lynch asked Michael Potere, Assistant City Clerk, if the new entity is required to have a new host agreement. Michael Potere confirmed that the applicants did need a new host community agreement and it has been obtained. The applicant, William, stated that the CCC (Cannabis Control Commission) has approved the change. Chair Lynch asked Michael Potere if a new license number would be needed. Michael stated that a new license number is not needed as the CCC did not change this information. Commissioner Allen asked if it is a vertical supply chain. The applicant stated that they purchase from third party vendors. Commission Allen asked if there have been any issues with the local licensing authority or the CCC regarding the Cambridge location. The applicant stated that they have not run into any issues. Commission Thomas asked Assistant City Clerk Michael Potere what class the marijuana application was approved. Michael Potere confirmed that was a priority application and that it was a EEA, a Certified Economic Empowerment applicant by the CCC. Chair Lynch asked if when the Cambridge location was approved and if there are private investors. The applicant stated that the license was received in 2022 and the transfer was approved in March. The applicant also stated that it is private investors.

The Licensing Commission approved this Change of DBA and Change of Ownership and Control by voice vote.

New
Common Victualer License

15. KoKo Coffee South Station LLC d/b/a KoKo Coffee, 101 South Street, requesting approval of a common victualer license.
Hours of Operation:
Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Indoor Seats: 44
(AL26-000020)



Applicant, Daud Kyarizov, spoke on behalf the application. The applicant explained this is a 4 chain of coffee shops in Boston. Chair Lynch asked if there will be any music. The applicant stated that there will be no music.

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

16. Sodexo Operations LLC d/b/a Sodexo, 399 Revolution Drive, requesting approval of a common victualer license.
Hours of Operation:
Monday-Friday: 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Indoor Seats: 250
(AL26-000021)

Applicant, Zulfikar Dhillia, spoke on behalf of the application. The applicant stated that this location is the Mass General Brigham cafeteria.

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

Special Alcohol Licenses

17. Somerville Museum, 1 Westwood Road, requesting approval of a Special Alcohol License (Wine Only) for Art Stays Here Opening Reception to be held indoors at 1 Westwood Road, on 6/5/2026 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Alcohol Service)
(SAL26-000015)

Applicant, Anusha Tandon, spoke on behalf of the application. The applicant stated that the event will be for an opening reception of a new art exhibit. Commission Allen asked if they would be purchasing alcohol from licensed distributor. The applicant stated that they would be purchasing alcohol from a license distributor.

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

18. Warehouse XI, 255 Washington Street, requesting approval of a Special Alcohol License (Wine and Malt) for Live Music Series to be held indoors at Warehouse XI, 255 Washington Street, on 5/21/2026, 5/22/2026, 5/23/2026, 5/26/2026 through 5/31/2026, 6/3/2026, 6/4/2026, 6/6/2026 through 6/12/2026, and 6/16/2026 from 5:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. (Alcohol Service)
(SAL26-000017)



Applicant, Carrie Dahl, spoke on behalf of the application. The applicant stated that there are no changes from the previous events. Commission Allen asked if there would be wrist banding. The applicant stated that their still be stamping “x’s.”

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

19. Revival Café and Kitchen, 197 Elm Street, requesting approval of a Special Alcohol License (Wine and Malt) for Christopher Street Project to be held indoors and outdoors at 197 Elm Street, on 6/16/2026 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (Alcohol Service) (SAL26-000018)

Applicant, Kelly O’Donnell, spoke on behalf of the application. The applicant stated that this is a private event that will supply beer and wine and appetizers. The applicant also stated that they will be purchasing alcohol from the wholesalers from their Alewife location. Commission Allen asked the applicant to describe the outdoor premises and access control. The applicant stated that the outdoor seating is access by the street and the restaurant and the street access will be sectioned off. Commission Allen asked if there will be someone designated to keep the alcohol within the bounds of the premises. The applicant stated that she and bartenders will be TIPS certified.

The Licensing Commission approved this Special Alcohol License by voice vote.

20. Aeronaut Brewing Company, 14 Tyler Street, requesting approval of a Special Alcohol License (Wine and Malt) for Aeronaut Patio-Palooza to be held outdoors at 14 Tyler Street, on 7/11/2026, 7/18/2026, 7/25/2026, from 2:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. with a rain date of 8/1/2026 (Alcohol Service) (SAL26-000013)

Applicant, Ronn Friedlander, is the owner of Aeronaut Brewing. The applicant is requesting special alcohol for 3 outdoor concert series. The event will not be ticketed; it will be free. The applicant stated that they wish to access their landlord’s patio that has access to restrooms to be applied to accommodate a larger crowd. Commissioner Allen asked how many people are expected. The applicant stated that roughly 300 people at one time outdoors and will keep track of how many people are at the event. Captain DeOliveira, Police Department, stated that no police detail will be necessary.

Chair Lynch recused himself from discussion and vote.

The Licensing Commission approved this special alcohol license by a voice vote.



Communications

21. Communication from Commissioner Lynch, in his capacity as Chair, regarding the opening of requests for licensees to extend their operating hours during the upcoming World Cup event, from June 11, 2026 through July 19, 2026, which can be submitted here effective immediately: <https://form.jotform.com/241014300358139>

Michael Potere, Assistant City Clerk, spoke regarding the efforts made to create a Jotform template in which applicants can submit their requests for the extended operating hours. He also stated that this form does not allow for establishments that do not serve alcohol to do so. Applicants are then advised to submit a special alcohol application. Chair Lynch state that the Police and Fire Department can determine if there is a problem with extended hours licensees, they have the right to pull the permits. The Police and Fire departments will then notify the Licensing Commission. Mr. Potere stated that the form is already live and communication will be sent to licensees regarding the extended operating hours for the World Cup event. Chair Lynch stated applicants can apply from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m., with last call at 2:00 a.m.