



NORTHAMPTON LICENSE COMMISSION
City Hall, Office of the Mayor
210 Main St., 2nd Floor
Northampton, MA 01060
(413) 587-1212

COMMISSIONERS

Natasha Yakovlev, Chair
Jennifer Ewers
Amy Cahillane

Administration, Licensing and Economic Development Coordinator
Annie Lesko
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MEETING MINUTES OF THE
NORTHAMPTON LICENSE COMMISSION
Wednesday, February 19, 2025 ◆ 4:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting

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The February 19, 2025, License Commission meeting was held via remote participation.

Join Virtual Meeting

- **Video Conference:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83751491231?pwd=VMCX1GjxnGMY2l6ZVjzA2lbfghYdoX.1>
- OR**
- **Telephone, call:** +1-929-436-2866, Meeting ID: 837 5149 1231, Password: 847564

- 1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER by Commissioner Yakovlev at 4:03 p.m.**
ROLL CALL - Commissioners Yakovlev, Ewers, and Cahillane were present
ANNOUNCEMENT OF ZOOM RECORDING made by Commissioner Yakovlev
- 2. PUBLIC COMMENT - None**
- 3. APPLICATION FOR A CHANGE OF MANAGER ON AN ANNUAL ALL-ALCOHOL PACKAGE STORE LICENSE**
Table & Vine, Inc., 136 N. King St.
Proposed Manager: Corey Decker

Corey Decker was present along with Katrina, an individual from licensing with Table & Vine, Inc. Katrina stated Dominic, the former manager, accepted a management position in Springfield so Corey will be moving to store director. Corey has over 15 years of experience in the Northampton store and has been the assistant store director for several years. He was most recently the store director for Simsbury for a year which also sold alcohol. Corey has completed professional server certification.

Commissioner Ewers moved to approve the application for a change of manager on an annual all-alcohol package store license for Table & Vine, Inc. to Corey Decker. Commissioner Cahillane seconded. The motion passed 3-0 by a roll call vote.

4. APPLICATION FOR A SHORT-TERM LIQUOR LICENSE

Northampton Center for the Arts, Inc.
Location: 33 Hawley Street
Event: World of Piano - Jazz Piano Series
Dates/Times: February 27, 2025, 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.
February 28, 2025, 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.
March 1, 2025, 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Type: Wine & Malt
Requests Fee Waiver

Heather Geoffrey stated that the event will be held in the lobby at the concession stand.

Commissioner Cahillane moved to approve the application for a short-term liquor license for the Northampton Center for the Arts, Inc. at 33 Hawley St. for February 27, February 28, and March 1, 2025, to include the fee waiver request. Commissioner Ewers seconded. The motion passed 3-0 by a roll call vote.

5. APPLICATION FOR A SHORT-TERM LIQUOR LICENSE

Available Potential Enterprises, Ltd
Location: 33 Hawley St.
Event: Back Porch Festival
Date/Time: Friday, March 7, 2025, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Saturday, March 8, 2025, 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Type: Wine & Malt

Mollye Maxner, Co-Director of APE, has a running arts programming at 33 Hawley, and the Back Porch Festival will be renting spaces and serving beer and wine for two days. The festival will be in the workroom, all contained in one space. The beer and wine will be stored in locked refrigerators. Mollye requested a fee waiver.

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Commissioner Yakovlev pointed out that fee waivers have typically been offered to Forbes Library, the Academy of Music, and the Center for the Arts. The reasons for this pre-date everyone on the Commission.

The clerk pointed out that Forbes Library gets a fee waiver because it is part of the city budget, the Academy of Music building is owned by the city, and she's unsure about the Center for the Arts waiver.

Commissioner Yakovlev opined that before more fee waivers are issued, the Commission should figure out if it wants to adopt a policy for fee waivers for non-profits.

Commissioner Cahillane moved to approve the short-term liquor license for Available Potential Enterprises, Ltd for the Back Porch Festival on Friday, March 7, 2025, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Saturday, March 8, 2025, 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. at 33 Hawley St. Commissioner Yakovlev seconded. The motion passed 3-0 by a roll call vote.

6. APPLICATION FOR A SHORT-TERM LIQUOR LICENSE

Glow Studio, LLC d/b/a Glow Beauty Bar, 40 Main St., Florence

Event: Arrive @ 5

Date/Time: Wednesday, March 5, 2025, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Type: Wine & Malt

This item was taken out of order until someone arrived.

After agenda item #8, Kate Franklin stated that this was her first time hosting an Arrive @ 5 and that she still needed to provide liquor liability and TIPS information. She initially planned to have Provisions supply the beer and wine but then considered Cooper's and possibly Carla from Bishop's. She noted that securing a distributor had been challenging. The clerk informed her that Provisions and Cooper's could not provide beer and wine as they are not licensed distributors recognized by the Commonwealth. The clerk will send her a list of authorized sources.

Commissioner Ewers moved to approve the application for a short-term liquor license for Glow Studio, LLC d/b/a Glow Beauty Bar for an Arrive @ 5 on March 5th from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. contingent upon receiving liquor liability insurance, TIPS certifications, and distributor information. Commissioner Cahillane seconded. The motion passed 3-0 by a roll call vote.

7. PUBLIC HEARING ON AN APPLICATION FOR A TRANSFER OF LIQUOR LICENSE AND AN APPLICATION FOR A COMMON VICTUALLER LICENSE AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE

Transfer from: MP Majestic Enterprises, LLC d/b/a The Majestic

Transfer to: PEDIGO-WOOD, LLC D/B/A HAZE, 24 Main St.

Proposed Manager: Anja Wood

Common Victualler proposed hours: Sunday through Wednesday: 3 p.m. to 12 a.m.

Thursday through Saturday: 3 p.m. to 3 a.m.

Entertainment proposed: DJs on the weekends and live bands on other days of the week with themed nights, including karaoke and paint and sips.

Sunday through Wednesday: 3 p.m. to 12 a.m.

Thursday through Saturday: 3 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Commissioner Yakovlev moved to open the public hearing at 4:18 p.m. Commissioner Ewers seconded and the motion passed 3-0 by a roll call vote. There was no public comment.

Anja Wood, owner and manager, stated she intends to bring live music back to Northampton. Jonathan Pedigo, consultant and creative support manager was also present. Anja pointed out she has a background in food service, bartending, and has a background in music. Jonathan stated he's worked in live entertainment for 7-8 years.

Commissioner Cahillane asked if the entertainment hours would be parallel to what Majestic did.

Anja stated the proposed weekend entertainment hours would be until 2 a.m. Anja also pointed out that Majestic had late-night food until 3 a.m. which she is hoping to continue.

Commissioner Cahillane opined that 2 a.m. feels late for Northampton but also great that they want to be open that late. She asked if an entertainment license extending until 2 a.m. would permit a live band to play until that time.

Commissioner Yakovlev noted that there have been past noise complaints at this location and emphasized the Commission's goal of setting them up for success. She highlighted the presence of nearby neighbors, stressing the importance of managing the experience to minimize disruptions.

Anja Wood pointed out that she spoke with the Majestic owners who confirmed that sound dampeners have been installed and as part of the renovation she is trying to find a way to implement sound mitigation efforts to not disturb the neighbors upstairs.

Commissioner Yakovlev moved to close the public hearing at 4:26 p.m. Commissioner Cahillane seconded. The hearing closed by a 3-0 roll call vote.

Commissioner Yakovlev opined that because of past experiences, she's concerned about the requested hours of operation. She's less concerned about the proposed hours for the Common Victualler license because it is in line with Local Burger but she'd like to see the hours on the entertainment license be in line with what was there previously.

Commissioner Cahillane pointed out that she'd like to see the new place have a chance to do what it wants to do and if there are complaints the Commission can revisit the hours.

Commissioner Ewers noted that the start time of 3 p.m. should be discussed too. She also pointed out that she is concerned about the history of noise complaints.

Commissioner Cahillane hopes that the applicant can develop a good working relationship with the neighbors.

Commissioner Yakovlev asked that the applicants speak with the neighbors so they know what will be happening there.

Commissioner Cahillane stated she would like to give the applicants flexibility.

Commissioner Yakovlev moved to re-open the public hearing at 4:31 p.m. Commissioner Cahillane seconded. The hearing was re-opened by a 3-0 roll call vote.

Commissioner Yakovlev asked when they plan to have entertainment.

Anja Wood stated they will be closed two days a week for private events but in terms of live music, definitely Friday and Saturdays and Thursdays, and the rest of the days there will be some type of entertainment but not necessarily loud music.

Building Commissioner Kevin Ross asked the applicants what type of food they plan to have.

Anja Wood shared that the plan is to offer small plates and that she has been in contact with local chefs. The concept is to operate as a ghost kitchen, where food is prepared elsewhere and brought in. Since the space lacks a hood, certain food won't be possible, but they are considering options like waffles and nachos that don't require frying.

Building Commissioner Ross advised them to be in touch with the Department of Health & Human Services for a food establishment permit. He also wanted to clarify that the occupancy for this space is capped at 49. If the capacity goes over, it would trigger sprinkler and entertainment response systems. He clarified

that the 49 includes staff. He also conveyed a message from Fire Prevention Captain Stollmeyer, stating that any changes to appliances must be reported to the Fire Department.

Commissioner Cahillane moved to close the public hearing at 4:35 p.m. Commissioner Ewers seconded. The public hearing was closed by a 3-0 roll call vote.

There was a brief discussion among commissioners regarding the hours of operation for the entertainment license. The general consensus was that they would like to see this business succeed and grant them the proposed hours and revisit it if there are any issues.

Commissioner Cahillane moved to approve the transfer application for PEDIGO-WOOD, LLC d/b/a Haze at 24 Main St., proposed manager Anja Wood and to include the application for a common victualler license for Sunday through Wednesday from 3 p.m. to 12 a.m. and Thursday through Saturday from 3 p.m. to 3 a.m. and the entertainment license with DJs on the weekends and live bands on other days of the week with themed nights, including karaoke and paint and sips on Sunday through Wednesday from 3 p.m. to 12 a.m. and Thursday through Saturday from 3 p.m. to 2 a.m. Commissioner Ewers seconded. The motion passed 3-0 by a roll call vote.

8. APPLICATION FOR A TRANSFER OF STOCK ON AN ANNUAL ALL-ALCOHOL PACKAGE STORE LICENSE

Dhanvik Corp. d/b/a Northampton Liquors and Wines
104 Conz St.
New Stockholder: Kudrat Patel

Attorney Tim O'Leary was present and stated that Rita Patel is transferring 49% interest to her son Kudrat Patel. He won't be an officer or director, he's just simply becoming a shareholder.

Commissioner Ewers moved to approve the transfer of stock for Dhanvik Corp. d/b/a Northampton Liquors and Wines to include Kudrat Patel as a 49% shareholder. Commissioner Cahillane seconded. The motion passed 3-0 by a roll call vote.

9. APPLICATION FOR A NEW COMMON VICTUALLER AND ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE

Art Jannakas d/b/a The Tasty Dessert Bar
141 Main Street
Proposed Entertainment: Recorded Music, Live Music, DJs, Poetry/Book Readings
Proposed Days and Hours: Monday - Wednesday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Art Jannakas was present and stated he would be selling ice cream, acai bowls, greek donuts, greek yogurt, and more. He pointed out that he applied for an entertainment license since he's been in the entertainment industry and wants the option to have someone play a guitar and sing. He pointed out that his open hours may extend to 11 p.m. or 12 a.m. in the summer. He stated he would not have more than two people at a time for entertainment. He also pointed out that he has a great relationship with his landlord and wants to be a good neighbor. He doesn't plan on having any entertainment during the day.

There was a brief discussion about extending the hours from the proposed hours on the application. The Commission opined that they'd like to set the hours broadly so they have the flexibility in the summer to be open later if they'd like.

Commissioner Cahillane moved to approve the application for a new Common Victualler license and Entertainment license for The Tasty Dessert Bar with the hours on the Common Victualler license to be 7 days a week from 10 a.m. to 12 a.m. and the hours on the Entertainment license to be Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12 a.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 12 a.m. Commissioner Ewers seconded. The motion passed 3-0 by a roll call vote.

10. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE ON THE MEANS TO ISSUE AN ANNUAL ALL-ALCOHOL-ON-PREMISES LICENSE NOT RENEWED FOR 2025

The Commission asked about the timeline of reaching out to NoHo Social to try and get the liquor license renewed. The clerk provided a timeline. NoHo Social has been closed since May 2024.

Commissioner Yakovlev pointed out that the scenario is crystal clear and the Commission's responsibility is to follow the law. It's important to honor the spirit of the license.

There was a brief conversation on how the Commission would like to distribute this license whether they want to accept applications to hold a lottery or accept applications to choose as a Commission.

Commissioner Yakovlev suggested the Commissioners think about it over the next month and revisit this discussion in March.

11. CLERK UPDATE ON LICENSES HELD BY MEXCALITO TACO BAR, INC.

The clerk had no updates.

12. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- January 15, 2025
- February 12, 2025

Commissioner Cahillane moved to approve the January 15, 2025, minutes as written. Commission Ewers seconded. The motion passed 2-0-1 with Commission Yakovlev abstaining.

Commissioner Cahillane moved to approve the February 12, 2025, minutes as written. Commissioner Cahillane seconded. The motion passed 3-0 by a roll call vote.

13. NEW BUSINESS

Building Commissioner Ross asked if the Commission would like the Building Department to do inspections for short-term liquor licenses. He told the Commission that there was one time they went to Glow Beauty Bar and there was a tanning bed in front of an exit so he'd want to ensure that all egresses are clear before an entity gets a license. The Commission stated they'd like these inspections to take place.

14. ADJOURN

Commissioner Ewers moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:42 p.m. Commissioner Yakovlev seconded. The motion passed 3-0 by a roll call vote.