



NORTHAMPTON LICENSE COMMISSION

City Hall, Office of the Mayor
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COMMISSIONERS

Brian Campedelli, Chair
Natasha Yakovlev
Helen Kahn

Executive Assistant

Annie Lesko

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MEETING MINUTES

DRAFT

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Virtual Meeting

4:00 p.m.

The March 3, 2021, License Commission meeting was held via remote participation.

Join Virtual Meeting

- **Video Conference:** <https://zoom.us/j/99729644454?pwd=dEtjRHBSVm5SMGJoeUpEUDE5Q1g3QT09>

OR

- **Telephone, call:** +1-929-436-2866, Meeting ID: 997 2964 4454, Password: 696096

1. **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER** by Commissioner Campedelli at 4:00 p.m.
ROLL CALL - Commissioners Campedelli, Yakovlev and Kahn were present.
ANNOUNCEMENT OF ZOOM RECORDING made by Commissioner Campedelli
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT** - None
3. **PUBLIC HEARING ON AN APPLICATION FOR ALTERNATION OF LICENSED PREMISES**
Blue Paws, Inc. d/b/a JJ's Tavern
99 Main St., Florence
Application to include a permanent outdoor pavilion

Commissioner Campedelli moved to open the public hearing at 4:01 p.m. Commissioner Kahn seconded. The public hearing was opened.

The clerk read an emailed public comment from Mark Cavanaugh of Florence Bank, "We reviewed their plans and it appears very similar to what they did on a temporary basis last year. I will not be available for the on-line meeting/hearing but have no issues with their proposal. The Bank supports their plans and would ask the Commission to approve their application. Let me know if there are any questions and thanks for your help."

Jon Neumann was present for the application and noted his plans are to mimic what was done last year. Jon stated he worked with Georgianna from Miss Florence Diner to make the space work for both businesses and will be doing the same this year. Jon pointed out that there were a lot of issues last year with the tent blowing over but otherwise the patrons really liked the outdoor space so he'd like to continue on a more permanent basis.

Seeing no other public comment, Commissioner Campedelli moved to close the public hearing at 4:04 p.m. Commissioner Yakovlev seconded and the public hearing was closed.

Commissioner Kahn asked if Jon will be sharing the space again this year with Miss Florence Diner.

Jon Neumann stated he would be operating the same as last year with the diner. Job plans to add some aesthetics to the area and there will be a barrier to block traffic from the outdoor parking area.

Commissioner Yakovlev asked about parking and traffic coming into the parking lot from Main Street.

Jon Neumann noted there will be a barrier and cars will not be allowed to access the back parking lot from the Main Street entrance so cars will be rerouted towards the right side of the parking lot near Florence Bank.

Commissioner Campedelli moved to approve the application for extension of premises to include a permanent outdoor pavilion space for Blue Paws, Inc. Commissioner Yakovlev seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3-0 by a roll call vote.

4. PUBLIC HEARING ON AN APPLICATION FOR A NEW ALL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 109 OF THE SPECIAL ACTS OF 2016 AS A RESULT OF THE LIQUOR LICENSE LOTTERY

Azad Bharat, Inc. d/b/a India House Restaurant
45 State St., Northampton

Omprakash and Amit Kanoujia were both present for this application.

Commissioner Campedelli moved to open the public hearing at 4:07 p.m. Commissioner Kahn seconded and the public hearing was opened.

Amit Kanoujia noted they will be doing some small changes to include alcohol storage and adding a handicapped bathroom.

Rich Cooper, owner of State Street, was present and noted that he has been a neighbor of India House for years and they are great neighbors so he wholeheartedly approves the application.

Seeing no other public comment, Commissioner Campedelli moved to close the public hearing at 4:10 p.m. Commissioner Yakovlev seconded and the public hearing was closed.

Commissioner Campedelli moved to approve the application for a new all alcoholic beverages license for Azad Bharat, Inc., in accordance with Chapter 109 Acts of 2016 as a result of the recent liquor license lottery. Commissioner Yakovlev seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3-0 by a roll call vote.

5. VOTE TO RESCIND THE FOLLOWING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED SHORT TERM LIQUOR LICENSES

Academy of Music

Location: 274 Main St.

Type: Wine & Malt

Date & Time: Sunday, February 23, 2020, 1-6 p.m.

Event: Back to the Baystate Concert

Date & Time: Wednesday, March 11, 2020, 8-11 p.m.

Event: Steve Hackett - Genesis Revisited

Date & Time: Saturday, March 14, 2020, 8-11 p.m.

Event: Jonathan Richman & Bonnie Prince Billy

Date & Time: Sunday, March 15, 2020, 8-11 p.m.

Event: Postmodern Jukebox

Notch 8, Inc. d/b/a Union Station, Tunnel Bar, Platform Bar, The Deck

Date & Time: April 1, 2020, 4-7 p.m.

Event: Arrive @ 5
Location: Smith Vocational, 80 Locust St.
Type: Wine & Malt

Click Workspace

Location: 9 ½ Market St.
Type: Wine & Malt
Event: Click Music

Date & Time: March 26, 2020, 6-9 p.m.
April 17, 2020, 6-9 p.m.
May 14, 2020, 6-9 p.m.

The clerk explained that the above approved licenses were no longer needed because all of the events were cancelled due to COVID-19. The clerk requested, for administrative purposes, that the above licenses be rescinded because they were never issued.

Commissioner Campedelli moved to rescind the aforementioned short term liquor licenses as detailed in the agenda. Commissioner Kahn seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3-0 by a roll call vote.

6. REQUEST APPROVAL OF SEASONAL LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWALS PENDING RECEIPT OF ALL APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTS

- Hampshire, Franklin & Hampden Agricultural Society – Beer Hall
- Hampshire, Franklin & Hampden Agricultural Society – Infield
- Florence Pie Bar
- Sangtawan, Inc. d/b/a Asian Taste
- Frank Newhall Look Memorial Park, Inc. d/b/a Pines Theater
- T-Roots, Inc. d/b/a T-Roots

The clerk explained that she doesn't foresee any issues with the renewal of the above licenses and requested they be renewed contingent upon receipt of all appropriate documents.

Commissioner Campedelli moved to approve the above seasonal liquor licenses pending receipt of all appropriate documents. Commissioner Yakovlev seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3-0 by a roll call vote.

7. CLERK'S UPDATE

- Update on 2021 License Renewals

The clerk noted there are a few licensees that haven't been renewed yet but she will follow up to ensure everyone renews.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- February 3, 2021

Commissioner Campedelli moved to approve the February 3, 2021, minutes as written. Commissioner Yakovlev seconded. The motion passed unanimously 3-0 by a roll call vote.

9. NEW BUSINESS

The clerk pointed out that the ABCC upheld Attorney Seewald's Motion to Dismiss the appeal submitted by Ibiza Tapas to change their dba. Now, the decision is in the License Commission's hand on how to proceed.

Commissioner Campedelli asked why the restaurant can't do business as Ibiza Tapas as long as they are reporting business as Ibiza.

The clerk noted they have been doing business as Ibiza Tapas except all marketing, signs, menus indicate they are operating as Homestead.

Commissioner Yakovlev stated this has been hanging around for a long time because no one wants to take the license back.

Commissioner Kahn asked if it would be in the Commission's power to revoke the license and reissue it to Homestead.

Commissioner Campedelli liked Commissioner Kahn's idea and asked why the Commission hasn't done that yet.

Commissioner Kahn asked if this is something that the Commission has authority to do.

The clerk pointed out that it is a non-transferable license and it is not an asset that can be sold to benefit the business.

There was a brief discussion about the history of the license and the brief iterations that the license holder tried to operate as.

Commissioner Yakovlev believes the Commission needs to know how to proceed. Commissioner Yakovlev also would like to know if the outstanding issue will jeopardize the city's chances in the future of obtaining special act over quota licenses.

The clerk noted the Mayor would feel more comfortable seeking licenses once this issue has been resolved.

Commissioner Campedelli asked to put this conversation on the agenda for the next regular meeting.

10. ADJOURN

Commissioner Campedelli moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:41 p.m. Commissioner Yakovlev seconded. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously 3-0.