

**Woburn License Commission
Regular Meeting
City Council Chamber
Thursday, June 17, 2021**

Voting Members present: Chairman Thomas Skeffington, Commissioner David Gilgun
and Commissioner William Pappalardo

Also present: Woburn Police Capt. John Murphy, liaison to the License Commission, and
Ward 3 Alderman Jeffrey Dillon

Chairman Skeffington convened the regular meeting of the License Commission at 6 p.m.

- 1. Salad Works, 300 Mishawum Road, application for new Common Victualer's license:** Representing the petitioner was Tosha Shah, 300 Mishawum Road, Unit 710, Woburn, MA. Ms. Shah said they intend to open what will be the first Salad Works in Massachusetts. She said their salad bar will have more than 60 toppings. She said they will offer soups, paninis, wraps, beverages, chips, and the like. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to grant the Common Victualer's license; approved, 3-0.

- 2. Jake & Joe's Sports Grille, 230 Mishawum Road, application for extended hours for UFC events on Saturday, July 10, 2021; Saturday, August 7, 2021; and Saturday, September 4, 2021:** Representing the petitioner was Brian Guglielmo, manager, Jake & Joe's Sports Grille, 230 Mishawum Road, Woburn, MA. Mr. Guglielmo said Jake & Joe's would like to open like for UFC events like they have in the past. He said the premises will close at 1:30, with no alcohol service after 12:30 p.m. and all drinks off the table by 1 p.m. He said they are asking for three dates. The July 10 event is firm, but the other two dates may be subject to change. Commissioner Pappalardo asked if the hours are the same as they have been in the past. Mr. Guglielmo said the hours are the same as in the past. Chairman Skeffington asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the commission about the application. There were no respondents. Capt. Murphy said after hours events at Jake & Joe's have been going on for a while and they have been no issues of late. He said these events have been running smoothly. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to grant the application for extended hours on the aforementioned dates; approved, 3-0.

- 3. Proposed revision to seating capacity limits for licensed premises:** Chairman Skeffington said there is a proposal before the commission to decrease the seating limits for liquor licenses. He said proposal will drop the threshold for full liquor licenses to 50 seats, and for beer and wine licenses to 25 seats. Commissioner Pappalardo said the commission has talked before about remaining consistent with surrounding towns. He said he supports this change. Commissioner Gilgun said he would like to hear from Capt. Murphy. Capt. Murphy said the current limits of 100 seats for an all-alcohol license and 50 seats for a beer and wine license were established years ago to manage some of the smaller bars that were in town around the Prohibition Era. He said from a law

enforcement perspective, having less people in an establishment that serves liquor is not a bad thing. He said he knows Woburn is trying to stay competitive with other communities. Chairman Skeffington asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the commission about the proposed change to minimum seating requirements. Alderman Dillon said he supports these changes. He said whatever the commission can do to support local establishments is a good thing. He said this is a great idea to help those establishments. He said he does not see any negatives with lowering the minimum seating requirements. He said the Woburn Police Dept. is doing a great job with oversight of liquor licenses. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to approve the reduction in minimum seating requirements for all alcohol license from 100 to 50, and to grant the reduction in minimum seating requirements for beer and wine licenses from 50 to 25; all in favor, 3-0.

4. **Update on Common Victualer license renewals:** Chairman Skeffington said the clerk distributed a list of Common Victualer license holders that have not renewed in 2021. He said three of the establishments also did not renew in 2020. Capt. Murphy said the clerk can give him a notice to deliver to the establishments that did not renew, but there is nothing he can do in the way of enforcement. He said failing to renew is a civil matter, not a criminal matter. Chairman Skeffington said the commission can invite the entities that have not renewed to the next meeting. Capt. Murphy said he would be happy to serve notices to that effect. Commissioner Gilgun said the commission should request a letter be sent from the City Solicitor to the establishments that did not renew. Capt. Murphy said he will work with the clerk on this matter.
5. **Set dates of future meetings:** Chairman Skeffington said the dates for the upcoming meetings will be July 22, August 26, and September 16.
6. **Approval of meeting minutes from April 15, 2021:** Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2021, meeting; approved, 3-0.
7. **Any other matters that may be legally before the Commission:** Chairman Skeffington said Alderman at-large Ferullo and President Tedesco have sponsored legislation in regard to rooftop dining and outdoor dining that is currently under consideration by the City Council. He said he does not necessarily disagree with the legislation, but he wishes other boards in the city would confer with the License Commission when offering legislation that impacts establishments that serve liquor that they would come to the License Commission to get the opinions of the commissioners. Alderman Dillon said he will pass that along and he agrees that communication between municipal boards is important. He said he knows the legislation regarding outdoor and rooftop dining is coming up for a second reading at the council's next meeting. He said he will advise the License Commission of any progress. Chairman Skeffington said he will be more than happy to show up to the council's next meeting. He said the License Commission sees what is going on in the restaurants every day. He said there should be some restaurants where rooftop dining and outdoor dining are not allowed. He said the commission can help out a bit. Commissioner Gilgun asked Alderman Dillon if he is comfortable with the

legislation. Alderman Dillon replied his first question will be how it works, and if the license Commission or the Building Commissioner will have final oversight. He said the License Commission should have some jurisdiction. He said that was his suggestion. Commissioner Gilgun said the commission is fortunate to have Alderman Dillon as a conduit to the City Council. He said Alderman Dillon never misses a License Commission meeting. He said Alderman Dillon helps keep the lines of communication open. Chairman Skeffington said he was surprised that he had to read about the rooftop and outdoor dining proposal in the newspaper.

- 8. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to adjourn:** Chairman Skeffington adjourned the meeting at 6:19 p.m.

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Gordon Vincent
Clerk of Committees