

**Woburn License Commission
Regular Meeting
Committee Room
Thursday, July 22, 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. Blues for Veterans, P.O. Box, 6, Woburn, MA, application for a special 1-day liquor license for a music festival at Library Park from 1-8:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 18, 2021:** Representing Blues for Veterans was Joseph Simas, 17 Day Circle, Woburn, MA. Mr. Simas said there was no Blues for Veterans event last year due to Covid, but there were concerts the seven years before that. He said approximately \$70,000 has been donated to veterans organizations throughout the state. Chairman Skeffington said he has attended the Blues for Veterans concert several times and it is a remarkable event. Capt. Murphy said there are typically no problems with the event and police touch base with the organizers prior to the concert. Chairman Skeffington said the applicant has provided a map of where the alcohol is going to be served. Chairman Skeffington asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the commission about the petition. Gary Leavitt, 2 Darling Drive, said he is all for approving the 1-day license. Chairman Skeffington asked if the beer is being delivered on Saturday or Friday. Mr. Simas said the beer vendor usually brings a truck on Friday and it is chained to the gate overnight. Chairman Skeffington said it sounds like the license ought to cover storage on Friday. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to grant a special 1-day liquor license to Blues for Veterans for an event on Saturday, September 18, 2021, with alcohol storage on Friday, September 17, 2021; approved, 3-0.
- 2. Victoria Function Hall & Décor, 36 Montvale Avenue, application for change of manager:** Representing the petitioner were Attorney Joseph Tarby, Rubin and Rudman LLP, 600 Unicorn Park Drive, Woburn, MA, and Juan Espinal, 36 Walnut Street, Peabody, MA. Attorney Tarby said Mr. Espinal has experience in the function business going back to 2012. Capt. Murphy said Victoria Function Hall & Décor hasn't been able to hold functions in quite a while. Chairman Skeffington asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the commission about the petition. There were no respondents. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to grant the change of manager application; approved, 3-0.
- 3. Elks Café, 295 Washington Street, application for Common Victualer's license:** Representing the petitioner was Jason Doward, 172 Merrimack Meadows Lane, Tewksbury, MA. Mr. Doward said he is a caterer working out of Wilmington. He said he

formerly worked at Montvale Plaza. Chairman Skeffington asked which hours lunch will be served at the Elks. Mr. Doward said lunch will be served from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays. Chairman Skeffington asked if there are plans to expand to more hours. Mr. Doward said they may be open on Wednesdays in the fall. Chairman Skeffington asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the commission about the petition. There were no respondents. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to grant the Common Victualer's license; approved, 3-0.

- 4. Nick's Roast Beef & Pizza, 901B Main Street, application for Common Victualer's license:** Representing the petitioner were Theofan Qirjazi, 764 Lowell Street, Peabody, MA; and Gary Leavitt, 2 Darling Drive, Woburn, MA. Mr. Leavitt said he has known Mr. Qirjazi for a long time. Mr. Leavitt said Mr. Qirjazi and his family operate restaurants in Tewksbury, Stoneham, Wakefield, and Peabody. Mr. Leavitt said the food is great. He said Mr. Qirjazi's restaurant will bring lots of good revenue to North Woburn. Chairman Skeffington asked if Mr. Qirjazi is occupying the place next to the old diner. Mr. Leavitt said Mr. Qirjazi bought the building. Chairman Skeffington said Mr. Qirjazi requires a special permit from the City Council for a fast food use. Chairman Skeffington asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the commission about the petition. There were no respondents. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to grant the Common Victualer's license, subject to approval of a special permit by the City Council and the acquisition of all required signatures on the Common Victualer's application; approved, 3-0.
- 5. Lord Hobo, 5 Draper Street, status update:** Chairman Skeffington said the commission received an email communication from Lord Hobo manager Daniel Lanigan, who wrote he has run into difficulties following a medical procedure and asked for a continuance until the next meeting. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to continue the matter until the commission's meeting in August; approved, 3-0.
- 6. Update on Common Victualer license renewals – Andrea's Pizza, Diner in the Park, and W Café:** Representing Andrea's Pizza was Sortirios Exarchos, 418 Main Street, Woburn, MA. Mr. Exarchos said he still has to obtain a signature from the Building Dept. He said he needs a new hood for his stove and he expects that to arrive on August 8. Chairman Skeffington asked why Mr. Exarchos didn't renew his Common Victualer's license last year. Mr. Exarchos said he probably didn't submit the forms. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to grant the Common Victualer's license subject to the submission of the completed application; approved, 3-0. Representing Diner in the Park was Eduart Allushi, 340 West Cummings Park, Woburn, MA. Mr. Allushi said their restaurant was closed for seven months due to Covid-19 and laid off their employees. He apologized for not submitting the paperwork for the Common Victualer's license. Chairman Skeffington said the business does not have to have employees to fill out paperwork. He said the business has gone more than a year without a Common Victualer's license. Mr. Allushi said it won't happen again. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to grant the Common Victualer's license to Diner in the Park; approved, 3-0. Chairman Skeffington

asked if anyone from W Café was present. There were no respondents. Chairman Skeffington asked the clerk if there has been any communication with W Café. Clerk responded he spoke to the manager earlier in the year and the manager said the restaurant may be closing in September. Clerk said he sent notices of the meeting to the manager via registered and U.S. Mail and there was no response. Chairman Skeffington asked Capt. Murphy if he can take a trip to W Café. Capt. Murphy said he would try to meet with the manager.

- 7. Approval of meeting minutes from June 17, 2021, and July 6, 2021:** Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to approve the minutes of the meetings of June 17, 2021, and July 6, 2021; approved, 3-0.

- 8. Any other matters that may be legally before the Commission:** Chairman Skeffington said there may be a liquor license application forthcoming for the former Fitzgerald Tile location on Commerce Way. Commissioner Pappalardo asked about the status of Sogno restaurant on Cambridge Road. Chairman Skeffington asked the clerk to ask officials from Sogno to attend the commission's meeting in August. Chairman Skeffington said the new restaurant at the former Waxy O'Connor's site is looking to open in September. Chairman Skeffington asked if there is anything new to report about Fortunato's. Clerk said he has not heard anything about Fortunato's since an entity came into the City Clerk's office a few weeks ago asking how to transfer the license.

- 9. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to adjourn:** Chairman Skeffington adjourned the meeting at 6:26 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD

Gordon Vincent
Clerk of Committees