

**Woburn License Commission
Regular Meeting
Committee Room
Thursday, June 16, 2023**

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

Also present: Woburn Police Capt. John Murphy

Chairman Skeffington convened the meeting of the License Commission at 5:30 p.m.

- 1. Outdoor dining application from the Dog House Bar & Grill, 434 Main St. (continued from meeting of May 18, 2023):** Representing the Dog House Bar & Grill was manager Jade Archdeacon, 434 Main St., Woburn, MA. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to take from the table the outdoor dining application from the Dog House Bar & Grill; approved, 3-0. Chair Skeffington said the outdoor application is complete but it was not issued because the Common Victualer's license applications at the Dog House and Taste of Brazil were incomplete, due to the lack of a Certificate of Treasurer/Collector. He said the Deputy Treasurer/Collector has signed the tax forms and Common Victualer's license applications are now complete. Chairman Skeffington asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the commission in regard to the application. There were no respondents. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to grant the application for outdoor dining; approved, 3-0. Chairman Skeffington advised Ms. Archdeacon to tell Mr. Moraes that the application for alteration of premises for the rooftop dining component at the Dog House has not been approved by the ABCC, and Mr. Moraes should contact the ABCC to determine what steps he needs to take to have the application approved.
- 2. Hearing for License Commission Rules & Regulations (continued from meeting of May 18, 2023):** Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to take from the table the hearing for the amended License Commission Rules & Regulations; approved, 3-0. Chairman Skeffington asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the commission in regard to the proposal to amend the commission's Rules & Regulations. Attorney Mark Salvati, 57 Arlington Road, Woburn, MA, said he is representing St. Anthony Club of North Woburn, the Woburn/Stoneham Lodge of Elks, and the Irish American Club of Woburn. He said it appears some of the regulations do not differentiate between clubs and function halls. He said he thinks it may be a language issue. Chairman Skeffington said in order for there to be a function at a private club, the facility must be rented by a member of the club. Attorney Salvati asked if a third party can rent the function hall and still have the ability to invite guests other than members. He said the language is a little confusing. Commissioner Pappalardo asked if there is any delineation between the function hall and the private club. Attorney Salvati asked if a non-member rents the function hall, would guests be allowed, and the members

only area would remain private. Chairman Skeffington answered affirmatively. Capt. Murphy said a patron is in the members-only section of the club, then the rules of the members apply. He said there is a different set of rules and regulations for the function hall and the members quarters. Attorney Salvati asked about the rules at a facility like the Irish American Club that does not have a function hall. Capt. Murphy said the club can delineate a function hall, it would have a different set of rules. Chairman Skeffington said the club cannot offer an event like an open mic night and allow people off the street to attend. Attorney Salvati said it gets confusing at a club like the Irish American where the function hall and the bar area are the same. Commissioner Gilgun said the function hall needs to be rented by a member. Chairman Skeffington said some of the language needs to be reviewed. He said there are some clubs in the city where the delineation between the function hall and the private quarters has never been a problem. Attorney Salvati said he just wants to be clear in case someone asks him. Commissioner Pappalardo asked if a third party wants to rent the hall, does it have to go through a member. Chairman Skeffington said that rule is strictly for the function hall. Commissioner Gilgun said someone who is not a member of the American Legion could not rent the function hall, but he could rent it on their behalf. Chairman Skeffington said the big thing is the restriction on the members quarters. He said he would like to continue the hearing so the commission can continue to review the draft version of the rules and regulations. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to continue the hearing until the commission's meeting on July 20, 2023; approved, 3-0.

- 3. St. Anthony Club of North Woburn, 1020R Main Street, application for new amusement license (continued from meeting of May 18, 2023):** Representing St. Anthony Club of North Woburn was Attorney Mark Salvati, 57 Arlington Road, Woburn, MA. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to take from the table an application from St. Anthony Club for an amusement license from St. Anthony Club of North Woburn; approved, 3-0. Chairman Skeffington said the City Solicitor has sent an opinion that an amusement license is not needed and entertainment license covers both the upstairs and downstairs areas of the club. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to grant the entertainment license; approved, 3-0.
- 4. Bayberry Café, 502 Main St., hearing under MGL Ch. 138, Section 77 – re: cessation of operations:** Representing Bayberry Café was Jiang Long, 502 Main St., Woburn, MA. Ms. Long said it is hard to say right now whether the restaurant will re-open. She said the chef had to return to China unexpectedly. She said when that happened the staff was reduced to three employees, and they cannot run the restaurant with a staff that small. She said the chef may not return for another two months, and she is not sure when he will come back. She said they will be closed for at least the time being. Chairman Skeffington said Bayberry Café has a beer and wine license that has been inactive for at least 30 days. He said in an instance like that the commission is supposed to take back the license. He said the commission can opt to not take back the license if there is a chance the restaurant may re-open. Commissioner Pappalardo asked Ms. Long what is the soonest date the restaurant will re-open, if it does. Ms. Long said the earliest the restaurant would re-open is the end of July. Chairman Skeffington said the

commission can continue the hearing until its meeting in August, when Ms. Long can return for a status update. Commissioner Gilgun said he thinks that is a good idea. Chairman Skeffington said Ms. Long should have a better idea of what she wants to do by August. Chairman Skeffington asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the commission. There were no respondents. Capt. Murphy said there have been no police-related issues at Bayberry Café. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to table the matter until the commission's meeting on August 24, 2023; approved, 3-0. Chairman Skeffington advised Ms. Long that if something comes about between now and the August meeting to notify the clerk.

- 5. Studio Café, 327 Main St., applications for special 1-day liquor licenses for social gathering events from 7-11 p.m. on Friday, June 23, 2023; and Friday, July 21, 2023:** Representing Studio Café were Christopher Titus and Brooke Lynch, both of 327 Main St., Woburn, MA. Ms. Lynch said they are requesting two special 1-day licenses for events at the restaurant. She said they plan to sell food along with the alcoholic beverages. Commissioner Pappalardo asked what the purpose is of a 1-day liquor license. Mr. Titus said they want to offer alcohol in addition to food, for a social event. Chairman Skeffington asked what the current hours of operation are. Mr. Titus said the restaurant is open from 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. on weekdays and 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. on weekends. He said they are closed on Mondays. Chairman Skeffington there is an issue with granting a special 1-day license for an event from 7-11 p.m. if the closing hour is 3 p.m. He said another issue is the restaurant has BYOB. He said customers will not be able to bring their own liquor into an event covered by a special 1-day license. He said anyone serving the alcohol during the event must be Tips-certified. Mr. Titus said anyone who serves alcohol will be Tips-certified. He said they found a distributor who will provide the alcohol. He asked if the hours of operation can be amended. Chairman Skeffington said the premises does not have an entertainment license. Mr. Titus said they are only going to be offering dessert and drinks. Chairman Skeffington asked if there will be music. He said music was included on the advertisement that was posted on-line. Mr. Titus said they do not have to have music. Chairman Skeffington said the event will still have to adhere to the capacity limitation of the restaurant. He asked what the capacity is. Mr. Titus said the capacity is 20 people. Chairman Skeffington asked what will happen if 50 people show up. Mr. Titus said it would be similar to what would happen if 50 people showed up during regular hours. He said there would be a waiting list. He said there is no standing room. Chairman Skeffington said if the events are from 7-11 p.m. and the restaurant closes at 3 p.m., the commission will have to figure out a way to make this work. Commissioner Pappalardo said the commission should try to help out the applicant. Capt. Murphy said the commission can amend the hours on the Common Victualer's license. Chairman Skeffington suggested amending the hours of operation to 5 a.m. to 11:30 p.m., seven days, so the applicant can hold events like this in the future. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to amend the hours of operation to 5 a.m. to 11:30 p.m., seven days; approved, 3-0. Chairman Skeffington asked Mr. Titus if Mr. Titus is bringing in the alcohol on the day of the event, or the day before. Mr. Titus said the alcohol will be brought in the day of the event. Chairman Skeffington said if the alcohol arrives the day before the event, the commission will have to issue two 1-day licenses. He said a license for two days does not cost any more, but it does count

toward the annual limit of 30 1-day licenses. Chairman Skeffington said the commission can approve the special licenses contingent upon the submission of an application for an entertainment license. Chairman Skeffington said the commission will decide later in the meeting whether to allow the approval of 1-day entertainment license and set the fee, likely at either \$25 or \$40. He said Studio Café could apply for a 1-day entertainment license for each event or for an annual license for \$250, depending upon which option is more cost effective. Mr. Titus said any entertainment that occurs would be subtle. Commissioner Gilgun said the establishment is small. Ms. Lynch said they might consider some soft piano music. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to grant the special 1-day licenses contingent upon the submission of an application of an entertainment license; approved, 3-0.

- 6. Irish American Club of Woburn, 147 Main St., application for a special 1-day liquor license for a pig roast/cookout to benefit NuPath from 12-8 p.m. on Saturday, July 8, 2023:** Representing the Irish American Club of Woburn was Kevin Donovan, 147 Main St., Woburn, MA. Mr. Donovan said the club is sponsoring a pig roast to benefit NuPath. He said alcohol will be served in the area that is usually delineated for the cornhole tournaments sponsored by the club. Capt. Murphy said the Irish American Club has sponsored quite a few of these functions over the years and there have never been any problems. Chairman Skeffington asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the board in regard to the application. There were no respondents. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to grant the special 1-day license; approved, 3-0.
- 7. St. Barbara Church, 138 Cambridge Road, applications for special 1-day licenses for events from 5-9 p.m. on Saturday, July 8, 2023; and from 7-11 p.m. on Saturday, July 15, 2023:** Representing St. Barbara Church was Nicole Wilson, 138 Cambridge Road, Woburn, MA. Ms. Wilson said she has both applications for submission. She said she forwarded a floor plan to the clerk for both events. She said there will be three people serving the alcohol – Michael Millette, Maureen Ward, and her. She said she has completed Tips training and Mr. Millette and Ms. Ward are Tips certified. She said the first event is on July 8 and it will be a celebration of Fr. Edmund Ugwoegbu’s 15 years in the priesthood. She said tickets can be purchased at the door for \$5 and there will be a cash bar. She said the second event will be the following weekend and it is also a celebration for Fr. Ugwoegbu. She said this event will be a private party. Chairman Skeffington asked if the first event will be for profit. Ms. Wilson said the event is not for profit. She said they are selling tickets to get a head count. Chairman Skeffington asked Ms. Wilson if she is going to be handling applications for events at St. Barbara Church in the future. Ms. Wilson said she is and apologized for the late submissions. Chairman Skeffington said the commission accepts applications up until 10 days before the monthly meeting. Chairman Skeffington asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the board in regard to the applications. There were no respondents. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to grant the special 1-day licenses; approved, 3-0.

- 8. Status update for late Common Victualer's license:** Clerk said there are three outstanding Common Victualer's applications – for W Café, the Woburn Bowladrome and Andrea's Pizza. Chairman Skeffington asked the clerk to send a communication to Mr. Gangi at the Bowladrome asking him if the Common Victualer's license is going to be renewed or if they are not moving forward. Chairman Skeffington asked the clerk to notify Mr. Xerimeja at W Café that if he does not have his Common Victualer's application completed by next Tuesday, the commission will pursue a cease-and-desist order. He also asked the clerk to send the same notification to Andrea's Pizza. Commissioner Pappalardo said that sounds great.
- 9. Revisions to Entertainment license:** Chairman Skeffington asked if the commission wants to set a fee for the 1-day license option. He said he suggests a \$25 fee. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to establish a fee of \$25 for a 1-day entertainment license and to approve the revised application form; approved, 3-0.
- 10. Approval of meeting minutes from May 18, 2023:** Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to approve the minutes from the meeting of May 18, 2023, as amended; approved, 3-0.
- 11. Any other matters that may be legally before the Commission:** Chairman Skeffington said alcohol service compliance checks are starting this month and will continue through the summer and into the fall.
- 12. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to adjourn; approved, 3-0.** Chairman Skeffington adjourned the meeting at 6:16 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD

Gordon Vincent
Clerk of Committees

