Woburn License Commission
Regular Meeting
Committee Room
Thursday, March 27, 2025

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

Also present: Woburn Police Capt. John Murphy, liaison to the License Commission

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

1. **Woburn Kiwanis, 42 Pleasant St., application for a special 1-day liquor license for a Flag Day Festival at Library Park from 2-11 p.m. on Saturday, June 14, 2025:** Representing the applicant were Mark Kiklis and James Juliano. Mr. Juliano said the event is scheduled for June 14. He said this year's event will be very similar if not identical to last year's event. He said beer will be served from a keg truck. He said club members who are Tips-certified will be pouring draughts. He said the area of alcohol service will be blocked off so people cannot come and go. He said Harrison Avenue will be blocked off. He said the event will be very well regulated. He said there will be food trucks. He said there will be no carnival rides again this year. Mr. Kiklis said there will be live music all day. He said everything for kids is free except for the food from the food trucks. Commissioner McGrath asked if there will be fireworks this year. Mr. Juliano said there will be fireworks starting between 9:30-10 p.m. He said the fireworks lasted 22 minutes last year. Capt. Murphy said this event has not been a problem in recent years. He said he will swing by and meet with the organizers in June. Chairman Skeffington said last year's event went very well. He said he is a big advocate for discontinuing the carnival rides. Mr. Juliano said it is like night and day without the carnival rides. He said it is a much better event. 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 McGrath and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to grant the special 1-day license and waive the application fee; approved, 3-0.

2. **Nikolov & Sons, Inc., 85 River St., Suite 1, Waltham, MA, application for a new Section 12 all alcoholic beverages license at 130 New Boston St., Woburn, MA:** Representing the applicant was Attorney James Juliano, Juliano Law Group, 607 Main St., Woburn, MA. Attorney Juliano said after discussion his client has decided to withdraw the application. He said this is the old Café Leonardo restaurant. He said it is not an appropriate site for an all alcohol license. He said he will re-submit an application for a beer and wine license. Commissioner McGrath said that's fine. Chairman Skeffington said he talked to Attorney Juliano yesterday. He said he made a site visit. He said it is not the best place for a full liquor license. He said the applicant's lease indicates no alcohol can be served. 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 Councilor McGrath and seconded by Councilor Gilgun to grant the petition leave of withdrawal without prejudice; approved, 3-0.

3. **Woburn Bowling Entertainment LLC, 32 Montvale Avenue, application for a change of category for a restaurant wine and malt beverages license to an all alcoholic beverages license at 32 Montvale Avenue, Woburn, MA:** Representing the applicant were Attorney Michael Vigorito, Vigorito Woolf P.C., 100 State Street, Boston, MA; Dominic Sicari, Dominic Sicari Associates, 400 Tradecenter, Suite 5900, Woburn, MA; and Celio De Oliveira Sousa, 32 Montvale Avenue, Woburn, MA. Attorney Vigorito said his client is seeking to covert the existing beer and wine license to an all-alcohol license. Mr. Sicari said he recently met with Building Commissioner Thomas Quinn about the progress at the bowling alley. He said they have a contractor putting in fire apparatus. He said they are installing emergency lighting and updating smoke detectors to make sure everything is up to code. He said they are working on a preliminary plan for the bowling alley, which will hopefully include the service of all alcoholic beverages. He said Mr. Sousa wants to remove some of the existing alleys, put in more games and get the restrooms up to code. He said Mr. Sousa also wants to relocate the kitchen to improve delivery service. He said there is still quite a bit of rearranging to do. He said they are working on preliminary plans. Chairman Skeffington asked about the discussion with Commissioner Quinn. Mr. Sicari said they talked several months ago. He said he has hired an electrician who is working on the second floor. He said the general contractor has about a week and a half ahead of him. Chairman Skeffington said Mr. Sicari and Commissioner Quinn have not spoken in several months. He said the License Commission has never given out a full liquor license without a set of plans. He said he has never done that. He said he is not opposed to what the applicant wants to do but he feels like he is being asked to make a blind decision with which he does not feel comfortable. Commissioner McGrath asked when everything is going to come together. Mr. Sicari said the plans will include all of the technical components. He said he would be able to provide the commission with documentation once he gets plans from his engineer. Chairman Skeffington said he would definitely need to see a floor plan. Mr. Sicari said he is clear about everything he needs to submit. Commissioner Gilgun said he believes the commission's rules and regulations require an occupancy permit. Chairman Skeffington said he agrees with Commissioner Gilgun. Commissioner Gilgun said otherwise what you're seeing is how high is up. He said he does not object to this at all but MGL Ch. 138 is clear about the rules the commission has to follow. He asked what the big rush is to change the category of the liquor license. Attorney Vigorito said his client has made a big investment into the space. He said a full liquor license could allow Mr. Sousa to create a martini bar. He said a full liquor license will create more jobs in the city of Woburn because it will change the whole structure of the business. Commissioner Gilgun said the tie up is not on the commission. Attorney Vigorito said his client is in an awkward situation. He said a full liquor license is available and his client has applied for it. Commissioner Gilgun said he is not against a full liquor license but he is against breaking the law, and the law states the establishment has to have an occupancy permit. Chairman Skeffington said Mr. Sousa has been here every time the commission has asked, and he has been honest with the commission every time. He asked Commissioner McGrath and Commissioner Gilgun if they would be opposed to making the approval of the change of category contingent upon the submission of a seating plan and the approval of an occupancy permit. He said the fact of the matter is Mr. Sousa has been very cooperative. Capt. Murphy said that works for him. Chairman Skeffington asked if

anyone in the audience wished to address the commission in regard to the application. There were no respondents. Commissioner Gilgun said he wants all signoffs on the occupancy permit - fire department, police department, etc. Chairman Skeffington said he wants a seating plan first. He said he does not know if this process is going to take 6-8 months. He said people are dying for the bowling alley to re-open again. He said he thinks it's going to be a huge asset to the city. He said it helps the city. Motion made by Commissioner McGrath and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to approve the change of category with the conditions the applicant must obtain an occupancy permit and provide the commission with a seating plan; all in favor, 3-0.

4. **James L. McKeown Boys & Girls Club of Woburn, application for a special 1-day liquor license for a 5k Road Race & Health Walk at Charles Gardner Lane from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 4, 2025:** Representing the applicant was Robert Maguire, 1 Charles Gardner Lane, Woburn, MA. Mr. Maguire said this is the Boys & Girls Club's annual event and the club is seeking a special 1-day beer and wine license for Sundy, May 4, 2025. Commissioner McGrath said he is very much in support of approving the license for this event. He said the Lions Club helps out at this event. He said it is one of the highlights of the year. Chairman Skeffington said there have never been problems with this event. Chairman Skeffington asked if the alcohol will arrive the day of the event or the day before. Mr. Maguire said that's a good question. Chairman Skeffington said the commission can amend the license to account for a storage day. Mr. Maguire said he thinks he should ask for two days just in case. Chairman Skeffington said the applicant has asked to amend the application to include May 3 and May 4, with the former as a storage day. 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 McGrath and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to grant the special 1-day license and waive the application fee; approved, 3-0.

5. **Greek Orthodox Community of Woburn, Inc., 70 Montvale Ave., application for a special 1-day liquor license for a feast day dinner fundraiser from 12-2:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 30, 2025:** Representing the applicant was Peter Lambropoulos, 70 Montvale Avenue, Woburn, MA. Mr. Lambropoulos said this event will be held on Sunday. Chairman Skeffington asked if this event is a fund-raiser for the church. Mr. Lambropoulos answered affirmatively. Commissioner McGrath asked if the event will last only 2 ½ hours. Mr. Lambropoulos answered affirmatively. Capt. Murphy said the Greek Church has always been great to work with. 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 McGrath and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to grant the special 1-day license and waive the application fee; approved, 3-0.

6. **St. Barbara Church, 138 Cambridge Road, application for a special 1-day liquor license for a Lenten fish dinner from 6-9 p.m. on Friday, April 11, 2025**: Representing the applicant was Elizabeth Cogan, 138 Cambridge Road, Woburn, MA. Ms. Cogan said

this is the church's annual fish dinner. Chairman Skeffington asked if this is the event that is held every year. Ms. Cogan answered affirmatively. Capt. Murphy said there have never been problems with this event. 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 McGrath and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to grant the special 1-day license and waive the application fee; approved, 3-0.

7. **Lord Hobo Brewing Co., 5 Draper St., applications for special 1-day liquor licenses for a wedding from 4 p.m.-12 a.m. on Friday, April 4, 2025; and a 10-year Anniversary Family Fest from 12-5 p.m. on Sunday, July 20, 2025**: Representing the applicant was Christopher Welch, 5 Draper St., Woburn, MA. Mr. Welch said the request for the April 4 event is for a full alcohol license for a wedding. He said the July event is for beer and wine only. Commissioner Gilgun asked about Lord Hobo's status with the Treasurer/Collector's office. Clerk said Lord Hobo's accounts are current and the Treasurer/Collector's office has submitted a signed tax certification. Capt. Murphy said there have been very few complaints with Lord Hobo. 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 McGrath and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to grant the special 1-day licenses; approved, 3-0. Commissioner Gilgun asked Mr. Welch if Lord Hobo is going to start hosting weddings and similar events. Mr. Welch said this will be Lord Hobo's fourth wedding. He said they have also hosted baby showers and wedding showers.

8. **Wild Fox Restaurant LLC, dba The Fox Den, 482 Main St., application for change of hours:** Representing the applicant were Adam Dziki and Julie Dziki, 474-482 Main St. Mr. Dziki said their current hours on weekends are from noon-midnight and they could like to open at 10 a.m. on Saturdays and Sunday. Ms. Dziki said they would like to serve brunch. 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 McGrath and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to grant the request for change of hours; approved, 3-0.

9. **The Smoke Shop BBQ, 2 Elm St., application for new Common Victualer's license:** Representing the applicant was Andrew Husbands, 2 Elm St.. Chairman Skeffington said he has heard great things about the Smoke Shop since it opened. Mr. Husbands said the trial period has gone well so far. Commissioner McGrath said he is glad to see there has been a lot of action. Commissioner Gilgun said he was there Saturday night and the restaurant is excellent. Capt. Murphy said he is glad the restaurant is open and he is sure it will run well. Motion made by Commissioner McGrath and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to grant the Common Victualer's license; approved, 3-0.

10. **Approval of meeting minutes from February 27, 2025**: Motion made by Commissioner Gilgun and seconded by Commissioner McGrath to approve the minutes from the meeting of February 27, 2025; approved, 3-0.

11. **Any other matter that is legally before the commission:** Chairman Skeffington said the commission will be holding a special meeting on April 17 to determine if there will be sanctions against the Dog House Bar & Grille and Taste of Brazil. He said these will be public hearings. He said the public is more than welcome to attend. He said the commission will be represented by City Solicitor Mark Salvati and Attorney Mark Dickison. He said Capt. Murphy will be a big part of the meeting. He said Police Chief Robert Rufo will be here too. He said to stay tuned.

12. **Motion made by Commissioner Gilgun and seconded by Commission McGrath to adjourn**; approved, 3-0. Chairman Skeffington adjourned the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD

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Gordon Vincent
Clerk of Committees