

City of Westfield, Massachusetts
LICENSE COMMISSION

Commissioners
Christopher Mowatt, Chr.
Edward Diaz
Alice Dawicki

MUNICIPAL BUILDING
59 COURT STREET
WESTFIELD, MA 01085
Phone 642-9302
Fax 572-6332

LICENSE COMMISSION
Monday, April 10, 2023
Municipal Building
59 Court Street, Westfield, MA
Council Chambers Room 207 6:00 PM

MINUTES

Meeting convened at 6:00 pm.

All Commissioners were present.

The next License Commission meeting was scheduled for May 8, 2023.

Upon motion of Chairman Mowatt, and duly seconded by Commissioner Dawicki it was unanimously VOTED: that the License Commission minutes for March 13, 2023 be TABLED until the next regular meeting of the License Commission until all the Commissioners had the opportunity to read them.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – none

Upon motion of Chairman Mowatt, and duly seconded by Commissioner Dawicki, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: That the Agenda be MODIFIED to take the Public Hearing for Connecticut Valley Restaurant Group, Inc., d/b/a Tribeca Gastro Bar & Grille present first due to a time crunch.

REGULAR MEETING

PUBLIC HEARING on the application for a New All Alcohol, On-Premises, Restaurant License for Connecticut Valley Restaurant Group, Inc., d/b/a Tribeca Gastro Bar & Grille, Anthony Long, manager. Chairman Mowatt read the Public Hearing notice aloud.

A Public Hearing was held on the above application. Manager, Anthony Long, John Eaton and Stephen Pudles were present to represent the application. Anthony Long informed the License Commission that Tribeca Gastro Bar & Grille will serve gourmet comfort food, (charcuterie boards, tapas sharable platters, upscale entrees) in a fine dining atmosphere with well trained staff.

Chairman Mowatt asked if any of the business partners have experience with serving alcohol in a restaurant, or a package store. Anthony Long explained that all the business partners have some experience but he has more experience than the others. He stated that his primary role will be onsite operating partner. He expressed that he will be working over sixty (60) hours a week. He added that he is TIPS certified and has over twenty (20) years of restaurant business experience. Anthony Long has managed nightclubs in the Springfield area and has worked in Miami as well. Stephen Puddles was a former restaurant owner in Springfield for a number of years. John Eaton has a business experience and has also worked as a bartender. Anthony Long stated that all three business partners bring experience to the table and will be hands on owner operators, he added that they were all local western Massachusetts families so there will always be one of them on duty at any given time.

Commissioner Dawicki asked what the business partners plans are for getting their employees TIPS certified.

Anthony Long answered that all members of the staff that will be working the front of the house, bartenders, food runners, servers, and hostesses will all have to be TIPS certified including the three business partners. He added that there is a zero-tolerance policy for any staff drinking while working. He reminded that Tribeca will be more of an upscale fine dining, they want their customers to come and stay a while.

Commissioner Dawicki confirmed that Tribeca will be operating more as a restaurant than a bar.

Anthony Long agreed and added that the kitchen will be open as long as the bar will be open.

Commissioner Dawicki asked what the hours of operation would be. Anthony Long answered that Tribeca will open Monday through Friday from 11:30 am but they have not finalized the closing hours due to how the market demand will be. He added that the bar and kitchen will both be closing at the same time.

Chairman Mowatt asked if they will be applying for an entertainment license. Anthony stated that they are looking into minimal entertainment like an acoustic band. He expressed that they do not want the music to overrun their dining room, but they do want to offer that to their clients as a reason for them to come and spend time at their establishment.

Chairman Mowatt made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dawicki, to open it up to the public to speak in favor or opposition. No one spoke in favor or opposition of the application.

DELIBERATION:

Chairman Mowatt expressed that the application is missing a building layout that shows the table and chair layouts including bar location and restrooms and so forth. He added that this creates a standard basis of the license for future changes with the establishment layouts. Chairman Mowatt stated that other than the setting layout, he does not see any issues with the application and thinks that it looks great.

Upon motion of Chairman Mowatt and duly seconded by Commissioner Diaz, it was unanimously VOTED: That the application for a New All Alcohol, On-Premises, Restaurant License for Connecticut Valley Restaurant Group, Inc., d/b/a Tribeca Gastro Bar & Grille, Anthony Long, manager, be APPROVED CONTINGENT upon delivery of a layout that shows location of service areas, tables/seating and restrooms.

PUBLIC HEARING on the application for a New All Alcohol, On-Premises, Restaurant License for Feng Ye Inc, Inc., d/b/a Feng Ye, Min Ming Zheng, manager. Chairman Mowatt read the Public Hearing notice aloud. Min Ming Zheng, manager, Lei Xiong, and Attorney Raymond Zenkert were present to represent the application.

Chairman Mowatt asked if Feng Ye is currently in business. Attorney Raymond Zenkert confirmed that it is currently in business but has been mostly take out since COVID. He added that its right across the street from the Courthouse at 205 Elm Street. Attorney Zenkert informed the Commission that Feng Ye is currently in the process of renovating a shop on Franklin Street and that a floor plan is submitted with the application. Feng Ye has invested several hundred thousands of dollars on the project and the owners are looking to moving their restaurant to the new location, and looking forward to making it a top class Chinese sushi restaurant. Attorney Zenkert added that the proposed manager is Min Ming Zheng, she is a naturalized United States citizen and is also a member of the Board of Directors. Attorney Zenkert then asked the Commission if they had any questions pertaining to their application.

Commissioner Diaz asked the owners of Feng Ye how long they have been on Elm Street and Lei Xiong answered that they were there five years.

Chairman Mowatt asked what the occupancy for the restaurant will be and Lei Xiong answered that around forty-five (45) to sixty (60) in the current plan.

Commissioner Dawicki asked Lei Xiong what his plans were for TIPS certification for him and his staff. Lei Xiong replied Min Ming recently renewed her TIPS certification. He later replied that he has been in the restaurant business for ten (10) years and owner for the past five (5) years. His duties including bartending, serving, kitchen help and running a restaurant business. He added that all of his employees that will be serving alcohol, will be TIPS certified.

Commissioner Dawicki asked what the hours of operation will be. Lei Xiong answered that currently they will be eleven to ten-thirty (11:00 am - 10:30 pm), Lunch hour will be eleven to three (11:00 am – 3:00 pm) and dinner will be from three to ten-thirty (3:00 pm - 10:30 pm).

Chairman Mowatt asked if they will be a take-out or a dine-in and to which Lei Xiong replied they will be a dine-in restaurant.

Commissioner Dawicki asked if he will be keeping both restaurants. Lei Xiong answered that he will only be keeping the new location once he moves.

Chairman Mowatt suggested that they need to fill out section eight (8) in the application regarding their financial disclosure that is in their best interest of completion prior to submitting to the ABCC.

Chairman Mowatt made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Diaz, to open it up to the public to speak in favor or opposition. No one spoke in favor or opposition of the application.

Upon motion of Chairman Mowatt and duly seconded by Commissioner Diaz, it was unanimously VOTED: That the application for a New All Alcohol, On-Premises, Restaurant License for Feng Ye, Inc., d/b/a Feng Ye, Min Ming Zheng, manager, be APPROVED CONTINGENT to completion of section eight (8) of the application which is the financial disclosure.

PUBLIC HEARING on the application for a New Annual Farmers Series Pouring Permit, On-Premises, for Bright Westfield, LLC d/b/a Bright Westfield, Teresa Sholes, manager. Chairman Mowatt read the Public Hearing notice aloud. Teresa Sholes, manager, Orion Howard, owner, and Raquel Sanabria were present to represent the application.

Orion Howard, owner, addressed the Commission. Orion Howard informed that he currently has a farmer series pouring in a small town of North Adams for around seven (7) years and added that this would be their second and a much larger location than their primary one in North Adams. The owner stated that they wanted to move from a small city of far north Massachusetts to a more populous area with more traffic based on I-90 and I-91. He noted that Westfield has become a brewery destination and one of the reasons why he chose Westfield for his brewery.

Mr. Howard stated the following.

- The Brewery will be in the big brick industrial building where Berkshire Industries Building used to be and added that the total is about 11,800 sq. ft.
- The Brewery would be a 15-barrel brewery system to which will produce 3,000 barrels of beer per year which is three times larger than the North Adams facility and significantly largest in Westfield.
- Tap room with seating inside with a bar and half a wall for people to plug in their electronics to work while they watch the brewery.
- Built-in stage for musical bands and will be applying for an entertainment license for that.

- Front tap room will hold roughly 150 patrons while the back rooms will hold 30-60 patrons respectfully for corporate retreats, wedding, parties and keep the tap room open at the same time.
- In event of concerts, the tap room would hold up to 400 people.

Commissioner Dawicki asked Mr. Howard about the food portion of the brewery.

Mr. Howard stated the following:

- In the process of building a 600 sq. ft. kitchen.
- Kitchen will not be fully functioning when they open.
- Food trucks for the first summer and have working kitchen by next year.
- All the bartenders/servers are TIPS certified.
- Theresa Sholes is his partner that he's been working with in North Adams and Raquel Sanabria will be the Taproom Manager.

Chairman Mowatt asked about a map layout of the seating to which Mr. Howard presented a large map of the seating layout.

Chairman Mowatt made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Diaz, to open it up to the public to speak in favor or opposition. No one spoke in favor or opposition of the application.

DELIBERATION:

Chairman Mowatt recommended for Mr. Howard to have the detailed layout included with this application but was overall impressed with the application and what the brewery has in place.

Upon motion of Chairman Mowatt and duly seconded by Commissioner Dawicki, it was unanimously VOTED: That the application for a New annual Farmers Series Pouring Permit, On-Premises, License for Bright Westfield, LLC, d/b/a Bright Westfield, Theresa Sholes, manager, be APPROVED.

PUBLIC HEARING on the application for Boisseau F&B, LLC, d/b/a 7B's Bar & Grill, Jeffery Boisseau, manager, for Alteration Of Licensed All Alcoholic Beverages Restaurant, adding a tent on the side of their premises. Chairman Mowatt read the Public Hearing notice aloud. William and Jane Boisseau were present to represent the application.

Chairman Mowatt asked if Mr. Boisseau originally had the temporary outside permit under COVID expansion and if Mr. Boisseau was wanting the tent on this premises permanently to which Mr. Boisseau responded that they would like to. Chairman Mowatt added they are doing a great job at his bar.

Commissioners Dawicki chimed in that she only heard good things about 7Bs Bar & Grill.

Commissioner Dawicki asked if the tent will be enclosed and heated to be used all year round or if this only be a summer time thing. Mr. Boisseau responded that the permanent tent will only be from spring to late fall and then it would be dismantled.

Chairman Mowatt asked if there will be music outside. Mr. Boisseau replied that the entertainment will be inside.

Commissioner Diaz asked if there is access to the tent from the parking lot. Mr. Boisseau added that there is a secure walkway to the tent and still have room to work with parking spaces.

Chairman Mowatt stated that the application looks in order and moved into deliberation.

Chairman Mowatt made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Diaz, to open it up to the public to speak in favor or opposition. No one spoke in favor or opposition of the application.

DELIBERATION:

Chairman Mowatt stated that he likes the idea of adding a tent permanently to their establishment.

Upon motion of Chairman Mowatt and duly seconded by Commissioner Dawicki, it was unanimously VOTED: that a request for Outdoor Patio Service to ABCC Outdoor Service Area Guidelines at Boisseau F&B, LLC d/b/a 7B's Bar & Grill by owner, be APPROVED.

Upon motion of Chairman Mowatt, it was unanimously VOTED: That the following Section 14, One Day Licenses, be APPROVED.

- a. Great Awakening Brewing Company, LLC, 77 Mill Street, Suite 150, Kim Grenier, mgr., requesting malt only for malt only for 5K Kooldown Post 5K Block Party, May 6, 2023, 9 am – 5 pm.
- b. Westfield Tavern Inc., Tavern Restaurant, 2 Broad Street, Peter Kantos, mgr., requesting wine & malt for 5K Kooldown Post 5K Block Party, May 6, 2023, 9 am – 5 pm.
- c. Skyline Beer Company, 98 Southwick Road, Lisa LaFreniere, mgr., requesting wine & malt for 5K Kooldown Post 5K Block Party, May 6, 2023, 9 am – 5 pm.
- d. Thunderbolt Council, Inc., 175 Falcon Drive, Sharon S. Shortt, VP, requesting all alcohol beverages for Westfield International Airshow, May 13, 2023, 8 am – 6 pm. Fee waived due to non-profit status.
- e. Thunderbolt Council, Inc., 175 Falcon Drive, Peter Rosskothén, VP, requesting all alcohol beverages for Westfield International Airshow, May 13, 2023, 8 am – 6 pm. Fee waived due to non-profit status.
- f. Thunderbolt Council, Inc., 175 Falcon Drive, Sharon S. Shortt, VP, requesting all alcohol beverages for Westfield International Airshow, May 14, 2023, 8 am – 6 pm. Fee waived due to non-profit status.
- g. Thunderbolt Council, Inc., 175 Falcon Drive, Peter Rosskothén, VP, requesting all alcohol beverages for Westfield International Airshow, May 14, 2023, 8 am – 6 pm. Fee waived due to non-profit status.
- h. Skyline Beer Company, 98 Southwick Road, Lisa LaFreniere, mgr., requesting wine & malt for a concert, May 27, 2023, 3 pm – 10 pm.
- i. Whip City Brewfest, c/o Amelia Park Children's Museum, Chuck Kelly, mgr., requesting malt only for benefit for Children's Museum, June 6, 2023, 12 pm – 5 pm. Fee waived

due to non-profit status. A letter is requested by the License Commission, for permission to use Amelia Park Children's Museum premises.

- j. Pottery Cellar, 77 Mill Street, Dawn Whitehill, mgr., requesting wine & malt for private birthday party, June 17, 2023, 3 pm – 9 pm. Fee waived due to a private event.
- k. Skyline Beer Company, 98 Southwick Road, Lisa LaFreniere, mgr., requesting wine & malt for a concert, October 21, 2023, 3 pm – 10 pm.
- l. WSU Dining, 577 Western Ave, William Connor, mgr., requesting all alcoholic beverage for a dinner, April 25, 2023, 6 pm – 7:30 pm. Fee waived due to non-profit status.

A discussion was held relative to Froggy's Saloon, 846 Airport Industrial Park Road, Terry Duval, owner, regarding one day entertainment license for outdoor concert that will be held on September 16, 2023 from 12:00 pm – 9:30 pm, that was previously APPROVED at the last meeting.

Chairman Mowatt asked to include a One Day Entertainment License for the concert with the One Day Liquor License. The Head Licensing Clerk for the License Commission will reach out to the owner to relay the information. All in favor. Motion passes.

A motion was made by Chairman Mowatt to approve 2023 Common Victualler for Babe Ruth. All in favor. Motion passes.

A motion was made by Chairman Mowatt to approve 2023 Seasonal All Alcohol License Renewal for S and N Westfield Corp d/b/a One Stop Convenience. All in favor. Motion passes.

Chairman Mowatt read the letter from the ACC Advisory regarding expansion of patio service into the record.

POLICE INCIDENT REPORTS:

Commissioner Diaz read the police incident reports into the record.

Upon motion of Commissioner Diaz and duly seconded by Chairman Mowatt, it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: That the filing police incident reports be placed on file.

23-7949 – 7Bs Bar & Grill – 1152 Southampton Rd – motion to file.

23-8163 – Gabe's 252 – 252 Elm St – motion to file.

23-8162 – Gabe's 252 – 252 Elm St – motion to file.

23-8673 – Gabe's 252 – 252 Elm St – motion to file

23-9439 – Hutghi's at the Nook – 8 Franklin St

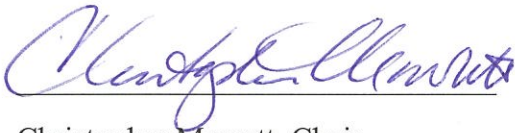
23-9560 – Gabe's 252 – 252 Elm St – Motion to call Gabe 252 in for an Informational hearing. All in favor. Motion passes. Motion made by Chairman Mowatt to add the overall increase of noise complaints relative to his establishment. All in favor. Motion passes.

At 7:15 pm and upon motion of Chairman Mowatt and duly seconded by Commissioner Dawicki, it was unanimously VOTED: To ADJOURN.

A True Record, Attest:

Valentina Rafalskiy

Head Licensing Clerk




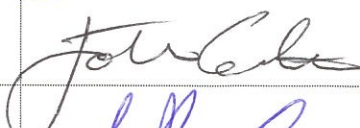
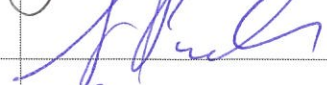


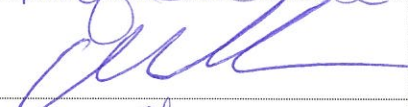

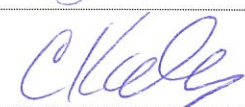

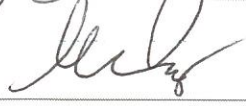
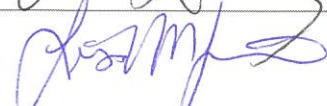
Christopher Mowatt, Chair

*WESTFIELD LICENSE COMMISSIONS MISSION STATEMENT IS TO SERVE THE PUBLIC
NEED AND PROTECT THE COMMON GOOD OF THE CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF
WESTFIELD, BY ENSURING THAT ALL LICENSES GOVERNED BY THE COMMISSION
OPERATE IN COMPLIANCE WITH ALL LAWS OF THE COMMONWEALTH.*

LICENSE COMMISSION MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

Meeting Date: April 10TH 2023

Place/Room: @ 6:00 PM

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	ADDRESS	REPRESENTING
Tony Long		262 Upper Virginia West Springfield	Tribeca
John Ertan		Southwick	Tribeca
Steve Pucos		69 FALMINGTON CIR FEEDING HILL	TRIBECA
Jeffrey Bohan		77 mall st suite 75	Potter Cellar
Jane Boisseau	Jane Boisseau	111 North Rd	TB's
William Boisseau	Wm Bo	111 NORTH Rd	TB's
Raouf SACABER		109 Apremont Way	Bright Ideas
Orion Howard		109 Apremont way	Bright Ideas
Teresa Sholes		109 Apremont Way	Bright Ideas
Chuck Kelly		106 CEDARIDGE DR	WHAIP CITY BREWERY/ADCM
Ray Zenker		48 E Silver St	Feng Ye Inc
Limming zhen		35 oakcrest RT westfield, MA	Feng Ye Inc
Lei Xiong	Lei Xiong	35 oakcrest DR westfield, MA	Feng Ye Inc.
Lisa Lawrence		431 sadhuck RD	