



BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS

City Hall, 718 Main Street

Fitchburg MA 01420

(978) 829-1820

FITCHBURG CITY CLERK

Jan 20 2022 9:37 am

Daniel Sarefield, Chairman

Richard Boscardin

John Zarrella

MINUTES OF MEETING

A regular meeting of the Board of License Commissioners was held on January 3, 2022 over the Zoom meeting platform, and called to order by Commissioner Sarefield at 6:08 PM. Commissioners Boscardin and Zarrella were also present at the meeting. FPD Liaison Lieutenant Howe and Provisional City Clerk Amanda Alford were present.

I. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING(S)

Commissioner Zarrella recused himself. The minutes of December 20, 2021 were approved by roll call vote 2/0

II. NEW APPLICATIONS:

Taxi Driver Application

Andrew William Grace – Twin City Kab

As the applicant was not present, Motion to continue application to the next meeting on January 19, 2022 was approved by unanimous consent. 3/0

Change of Manager

Eastwood Club, 389 Townsend Street, for change of stock manager from Jennifer McIntyre to Karen Schilling.

As the applicant was not present, Motion to continue application to the next meeting on January 19, 2022 was approved by unanimous consent. 3/0

III. RECONSIDERATION

Application for a new Retail Restaurant, Wine and Malt Beverage License

Doughboys Pizzeria, 150 Main Street

Application approved by unanimous roll call vote 3/0.

IV. RENEWAL APPLICATION

2022 Taxi/Livery

City Cab Co, Inc.

Application approved by unanimous roll call vote 3/0.

V. PUBLIC HEARING

Application for amendment – Change of Stock Ownership

Upper Common Inc. d/b/a The Boulder, 880 Main Street

Ms. Monica McNamara and Mr. Chris Bujold were present at the meeting.

Commissioner Sarefield opened the public hearing at 6:16 p.m. No one spoke in favor or opposition of the application. Public Hearing declared closed at 6:18 p.m.

Application approved by unanimous roll call vote 3/0.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

Complaint, Hollis Hills Farm, 340 Marshall Road

Mr. Joe Poznick and Mr. Jim Lattanzi were present at the meeting. Commissioner Sarefield stated that the Board takes complaints very seriously and he wanted to add this correspondence to tonight's agenda to discuss Mr. Poznick's concerns and determine any remedies to the best of their ability. He asked Mr. Poznick to provide the Board with an overview of his concerns.

Mr. Poznick stated that the email he sent was precipitated by the recent license renewals approved by the Board. His concern is that the area is zoned as rural residential and by definition this means that the neighborhood is supposed to be quiet. He mentioned that the events being held at the farm started off slow, but that this past year was very busy with events on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. He stated the noise level, the amount of traffic, and the amount of speeding had become a nuisance to him and that his neighbors feel the same way. He explained that he lives ½ mile away and he can still hear the music and he is looking for some way to reel it in. He stated that the employees in charge of directing traffic were not doing a good job because cars were being allowed to park along the road and this creates a dangerous situation that warrants police enforcement.

Commissioner Boscardin asked Mr. Poznick how long he has been a resident. Mr. Poznick replied that he has lived on Fisher Road for 36 years and this road is the main access to the farm. He stated that something needs to be done to manage the traffic.

Mr. Jim Lattanzi stated that this was the first time these concerns were brought to his attention and requested that in the future Mr. Poznick speak with him in person because the last thing he wants to do is make the neighbors unhappy. Mr. Lattanzi mentioned that it seemed Mr. Poznick's main concern was speeding and overall traffic which were out of his control. He stated that he always follows the rules established by the licenses and if there are issues with speeding, he suggested Mr. Poznick contact the police department. He mentioned that it is a public road and that the farm has been in operation for 36 years. Mr. Poznick stated that the previous owner did not serve alcohol and that this is an element that

factors into his concerns. He suggested that better signage or bollards would prevent on street parking along with better staff training to manage the parking.

Commissioner Sarefield stated that the issues have very little to do with the licenses that were granted and also suggested that Mr. Poznick contact the police department to document the problem. He also mentioned that this was the first complaint that the Board has received about the establishment. Mr. Poznick stated that he was trying to figure out how zoning is factored into the licenses that are granted. Commissioner Sarefield stated that the agricultural exemption allows Hollis Hills Farm to have entertainment and that the Board did not have grounds to make any changes to the permit that was approved for 2022.

Lieutenant Howe stated that the street is a public way so there was nothing his department could do as it relates to the number of cars that travel across the road. He stated that he empathized with Mr. Poznick's issue with the speeding and also encouraged him to contact them. Lt. Howe mentioned that the police department could put up portable speed signs but suggested that he work with his ward Councilor to request permanent no parking or cautionary signage and explained that his Councilor would file a petition to be heard by the Public Safety Committee. He asked what time the entertainment permit ran until. Commissioner Sarefield answered until 11:00 P.M. Mr. Lattanzi stated that he opens at the end of May and closes by Halloween. He explained that events take place on Friday and Saturday until evenings until 9:00 P.M. and Sundays from either 2:00 - 5:00 P.M. or 1:00 - 4:00 P.M. and that he has curtailed his hours and does not run the events to the extent of the permit. Lt. Howe stated that when the airport had events in the past, they received a lot of complaints about noise. They redirected the speakers and it fixed the problem. He suggested maybe someone with acoustic knowledge could determine if this would help the situation for Mr. Lattanzi.

Commissioner Sarefield asked Mr. Lattanzi if there was anything he would be willing to do to address Mr. Poznick's concerns. Mr. Lattanzi answered yes. He mentioned that due to the lack of foliage, he wouldn't be able to address the issue of noise until next year. He also stated that he would be willing to put up no parking signs to alleviate the issue with patrons parking on the road. He asked Mr. Poznick to stop by the farm to point out the areas of concern. Lt. Howe mentioned that due to the amount of traffic, maybe the City could paint fog lines and install solar signs that permanently displays the speed limit. He stated that it appears both sides are in agreeance but it will take some time and patience to figure out the best solution. Commissioner Sarefield asked both parties to communicate with each other and that it was refreshing the Mr. Lattanzi is willing to try and address Mr. Poznick's concerns. He stated that Mr. Poznick did the right thing by contacting the Board about his concerns and encouraged him to come forward in the future if there was anything he would like to discuss.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

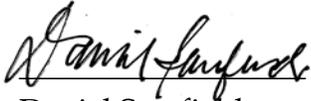
Commissioners agreed to continue having virtual meetings via the Zoom meeting platform until April 1, 2022.

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 PM

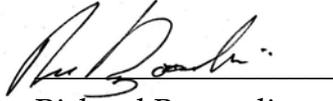
Respectfully submitted,

Amanda K. Alford, Provisional City Clerk

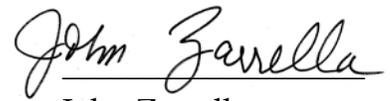
Approved:



Daniel Sarefield



Richard Boscardin



John Zarrella