

Minutes of the Licensing Board Meeting Held Wednesday, March 23, 2021

Per the March 12, 2020, Executive Order issued by Governor Baker modifying the Open Meeting Law's specific requirements, the City of Marlborough Licensing Board was held remotely. Access to the meeting was through Microsoft Teams Meeting via a link on the Board's web page or by dialing in (1-617-433-9462 / Conference ID: 387 210 296#)

Attending: Walter Bonin, Chairman; David Bouvier, Member; Tina Nolin, Clerk

Absent: Greg Mitrakas, Member

Meeting called to order by Walter Bonin, Chairman at 7:40 pm

New Business

1. Continuation of the public meeting on the application for the transfer of a Wine & Malt Package Store License Price Chopper Operating Co. of Massachusetts, Inc., 240 East Main St., Timothy Darwell, proposed manager

Chairman Bonin opened the meeting, asking for any further comments.

There was some discussion raised by Jay Benway, Plaza Liquors, 282 Boston Post Road West, on whether the license being transferred was a special license from the legislature and could not be moved. A review of the license and the minutes from the November 29, 2017, and December 27, 2021 meetings showed the license was not a special license.

There were no further comments or public comments, so the public hearing was closed.

Chairman Bonin recounted Member Bouvier's request for a register at the end of the Wine and Beer aisle and solely dedicated to alcohol sales. Price Chopper was directly opposed to the idea as they have three cameras on the aisle and cameras able to reach each cash register. The cameras will allow for continuous monitoring that could be reviewed if needed. Having a register dedicated to liquor sales would also require two-stop shopping and disrupt flow throughout the store. Also, this layout is typical to their other store with alcohol, and if problems occur, the Board could revisit in the future.

Since the last meeting, both Chairman Bonin and Member Bouvier visited grocery stores with alcohol in the area (BJ's in Berlin and Wegmans in Northborough) and saw their setups. BJ's had a dedicated register, but the alcohol is separate from the entire store at that location. Wegmans did not have a dedicated register and allowed checkout at self-serve stations.

Additionally, Chairman Bonin spoke with the inspector at the ABCC regarding inspecting and approving the license. It is pretty thorough and includes an inspection of safety measures.

Member Bouvier motioned to approve the 2940 square foot Wine & Beer aisle and 197 square foot alcohol storage area as shown on the approved plan dated 8-18-2020. There are no end caps and no other displays in other areas of the store, and the Beer & Wine aisle is to be covered by three cameras at all times. Chairman Bonin seconded the motion. The roll call vote was 2-0 in favor of the motion.

Member Bouvier motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm; Chairman Bonin seconded the motion; the Board roll call vote was 2-0 in favor of adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Walter Bonin". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Walter" and last name "Bonin" clearly distinguishable.

Walter Bonin, Chairman