

Minutes of the Licensing Board Meeting Held Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Per the March 12, 2020, Executive Order issued by Governor Baker modifying specific requirements of the Open Meeting Law, 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: 957 611 666#)

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

Meeting called to order by Walter Bonin, Chairman at 7:30 pm

New Business

1. 2021 License Renewal Fees for Pouring Licenses

Upon the mayor's suggestion and agreement from the City Council, given the extraordinary times we are in with the COVID-19 pandemic and its toll on the restaurant industry, the Licensing Board, voted to waive the 2021 Section 12 pouring license fees. This waiver would be for 2021 only, expecting that 2022 will see life closer to normal, and we would reinstate the fees for the 2022 renewal.

Chairman Bonin suggested that such a decision helps the city's reputation as an excellent place to do business. Over the years, the city as a community development effort has been aggressively pursuing restaurants to attract them to the city, so this is a message that when people do business here and difficult times beyond their control come, the city will support them as best it can. It shows we are pro-restaurant and pro-business.

Member Mitrakas motioned to suspend the section 12 pouring license fees for 2021 renewals with the fees to be reinstated in 2022; Member Bouvier seconded the motion. A roll call vote was 3 – 0 in favor of the motion.

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The Board requested that the clerk send an email and letter to all section 12, pouring license holders, letting them know of the 2021 fee waiver.

2. Reports from Chairman: New COVID-19 Requirements - ABCC

The Board listened to the ABCC seminar that took place remotely yesterday morning. Chairman Bonin reviewed the highlights of the seminar:

- Operators that are closed can renew their licenses without renewing their liability coverage or worker's compensation insurance until they reopen.
- Establishments that are open, but do not have employees at this time, do not have to renew their worker's comp until they bring employees back on the premises.

- No licensee (section 12, section 15, class 19, etc.) may sell alcohol after 9:30 pm and the premises vacated by 10:00 pm. Essential businesses, including grocery, convenience stores, and restaurants doing takeout or delivery, may remain open for regular hours but cannot sell alcohol after 9:30 pm.
- Anyone approved for outside service can continue through next year without reapplying.
- Video/auto amusement play is allowed provided there is not eating and drinking while playing. Employees and patrons must wear masks at all times.
- Masks are required at ALL times in restaurants, except while eating and drinking.
- ABCC will do inspections for all outside licenses in the spring of 2021.
- New license applications for outside seating are taking 3 to 4 weeks to approve.
- ABCC has visited 9600 establishments this year, and 97% were in compliance.
- In some areas, there are about 35% of businesses have closed due to the pandemic
- About 260 people signed on to the seminar

Chairman Bonin confirmed with the clerk that the information in the seminar was shared with all the license holders.

Member Bouvier motioned to approve the application, Member Mitrakas seconded, Roll call vote was 3 – 0 in favor of the motion to approve.

3. Review minutes from the October 21, 2020 meeting

Member Bouvier motioned to approve the October 21, 2020, meeting minutes. Member Mitrakas seconded the motion; the roll call vote was 3-0 in favor of approving the meeting minutes.

The next meeting of the Licensing Board will be Wednesday, November 16, 2020.

Member Mitrakas motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 pm; Member Bouvier seconded the motion; the Board roll call vote was 3-0 in favor of adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Walter Bonin". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Walter Bonin, Chairman