

LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD FOR HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND
16 North Main Street, Bel Air, MD 21014

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 29, 2023

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Liquor Control Board for Harford County was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Majewski at the Board's office. In attendance were Vice Chair Burdette, Commissioners Welch, Merchant, and Goddard along with Board Counsel Amy K. Finneran and W. Michael Crabbs, General Manager.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Commissioner Welch moved to pay one bill listed below; Commissioner Merchant seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Malissa Roche	Maintenance	60.00
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PERSONS SCHEDULED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE BOARD

1) First-Time Applicant – Route 40 Business Association – Per Diem BW&L

Previous applicant Leslie Stein appeared along with first-time applicant Bob Jordan on behalf of Route 40 Business Association in connection with a Per Diem Beer, Wine & Liquor License Application to be used on April 28 at La Banque at the Seaplane Base in Havre de Grace for their "Spring Roundup" fundraising event. Motion was made by Commissioner Goddard and seconded by Commissioner Merchant to approve the application and the vote was unanimous.

2) First-Time Applicant – Mary's Army – Per Diem BW&L

Previous applicant Mary Simpler appeared along with first-time applicant Melodie Alchimowicz on behalf of Mary's Army in connection with a Per Diem Beer, Wine & Liquor License Application to be used on April 29 at The Barn, 3520 Woodsdale Road, Abingdon for a wine and music festival fundraising event. Motion was made by Commissioner Merchant and seconded by Commissioner Goddard to approve the application and the vote was unanimous.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1) Elks Lodge 2354, Inc., T/A Abingdon Elks Lodge 2354 – Supplemental Application

Elks Lodge 2354, Inc., T/A Abingdon Elks Lodge 2354, 600 Harford Boat Club Road, Abingdon, has submitted a Supplemental Application as a result of club elections. The purpose of the application is to remove Stephen J. Rose, Richard Eckert, and Joseph Gagliardi, Jr. and replace them with Michael W. Ford, House Committee Chair, John T. Kozak, Esteemed Leading Knight, and Lou Muller, Exalted Ruler. Motion was made by Vice Chair Burdette to approve the application and was seconded by Commissioner Merchant and the vote was unanimous.

PERSONS SCHEDULED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE BOARD

1) Harford County 4-H Clubs – Pig Roast – 04/07

Previous applicant Denise Sawyers appeared along with first-time applicant Jessica Cochran on behalf of Harford County 4-H Clubs in connection with a Per Diem Beer & Wine License Application to be used on April 7 at Deer Creek Overlook, 6 Cherry Hill Road, Street, for a pig roast. Motion was made by

Commissioner Welch and seconded by Commissioner Goddard to approve the application and the vote was unanimous.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1) Parikh & Parikh, L.L.C. T/A 3rd Base Liquors – Retail Delivery Application

Parikh & Parikh, L.L.C. T/A 3rd Base Liquors has submitted a Retail Delivery Application; no violations have been issued to license holders in at least 12 years. Motion was made by Commissioner Goddard and seconded by Commissioner Welch to approve the application; the vote was unanimous.

2) Battery Island Brewing Company, L.L.C. T/A Battery Island Brewing Company – Outside Event Application

Battery Island Brewing Company, L.L.C. T/A Battery Island Brewing Company has submitted an Outside Event Application to be used for Havre de Grace First Fridays on May 5, June 2, July 7, August 4, September 1, and October 6. Motion was made by Commissioner Welch and seconded by Commissioner Goddard to approve the application; the vote was unanimous.

3) Forest Hill Wine & Liquor, L.L.C. T/A Forest Hill Wine & Liquor – Outside Event Application

Forest Hill Wine & Liquor, L.L.C. T/A Forest Hill Wine & Liquor has submitted an Outside Event Application to be used on April 8 for their 1st Anniversary Celebration on the west side parking lot. Motion was made by Commissioner Merchant and Vice Chair Burdette to approve the application; the vote was unanimous.

RENEWALS TO BE APPROVED

Twenty-six renewals were presented for approval. Motion was made by Vice Chair Burdette and seconded by Commissioner Merchant to approve the 26 renewal applications; the vote was unanimous.

SHOW CAUSE HEARING

1) LLCC, Inc. T/A Edge Crab House

Jing Lin, President, LLCC, Inc. T/A Edge Crab House, 1845 B Pulaski Highway, Edgewood appeared in proper person in connection with a show cause hearing indicating violation of the following:

Charge 1: failure of an individual certified by a state-approved alcohol awareness program to be present on the licensed premises during the hours in which alcoholic beverages may be sold, which individual shall be the license holder or an individual designated by the license holder who is employed in a supervisory capacity by violating Md. Code Ann., Alcoholic Beverages Article, Sections 4-505(f) and 22-1903 and Board Rule 3:14.

Subsequent to the Hearing, the Board considered all the evidence presented. Based upon the statement of facts (i.e., the written report of Board Inspector William Colburn), as well as applicable License Holder's testimony, her concession to the violation and presentation of mitigating evidence and with further consideration to License Holder's relevant past record (if any), the Board made the following finding:

On Charge 1, motion was made by Commissioner Goddard and seconded by Commissioner Merchant to find License Holder in violation and assessed a penalty of \$250.00; the vote was unanimous.

PER DIEM BEER & WINE LICENSES TO BE APPROVED BY THE BOARD

1) Community Projects of Havre de Grace – Defenders Day Celebration – 05/06

Per diem beer and wine license application submitted by Taryn Martin and Christy Silverstein on behalf of Community Projects of Havre de Grace for a Defenders Day Celebration to be held on May 6 (rain date May 7) at Concord Point Park in Havre de Grace. Motion was made by Commissioner Goddard and seconded by Commissioner Welch to approve the application; the vote was unanimous.

2) Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians – Team Trivia and Lunch – 04/29

Per diem beer and wine license application submitted by Kathy Lay and Margaret Weiderhold on behalf of Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians for a team trivia and lunch to be held April 29 at St. Mark Fallston church hall. Motion was made by Commissioner Goddard and seconded by Vice Chair Burdette to approve the application; the vote was unanimous.

STAFF REPORT / PUBLIC COMMENT / BOARD COMMENT

1) Chief Inspector's Report

Chief Inspector Colburn distributed and read his report for the first quarter of 2023 detailing compliance tests, premises inspections and routine inspections that he has conducted. Discussion was held regarding bringing license holders into compliance with noncompliant items during and after inspection, and the duties of a part-time inspector.

Additionally, various concerns were raised including efficiency, the cadet issue during the compliance test, finances, the public's misconceptions concerning fines, a timely agenda and meeting minutes, responsibility for the accounts payable approval, executive sessions process, mistrust by the County Executive of the Liquor Board, an Attorney General's opinion regarding return of license fees, and legal counsel's contract renewal.


Recommendation was made by General Manager Crabbs and was supported by Chair Majewski to request bids from forensic audit firms in the Baltimore Metropolitan area to conduct an audit of the Board's finances from May 2016 to the present. Motion was made by Commissioner Goddard to solicit bids to have a forensic audit of the finances of the Liquor Control Board from May 1, 2016, to the present; the motion was seconded by Vice Chair Burdette, and the vote was unanimous.

2) Budget Letters

Letters were presented to be sent to the County Executive and County Council and required for the proposed 2023-2024 budget and require the Commissioners' signatures. Commissioner Goddard refused to sign the letters.

Commissioner Goddard moved to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Merchant; the vote was unanimous.


Paul J. Majewski, II, Chair


Mary Sporre, Secretary