

**Woburn License Commission  
Regular Meeting  
City Council Chamber  
Thursday, June 23, 2022**

Voting Members present: Chairman Thomas Skeffington, Commissioner William Pappalardo, and Commissioner David Gilgun

Chairman Skeffington convened the regular meeting of the License Commission at 6 p.m.

- 1. Sogno, 304 Cambridge Road, status update:** Representing the applicant was Ronald Martignetti, 304 Cambridge Road. Mr. Martignetti said there have been some delays due to the Covid pandemic, but construction is proceeding at a rapid rate now and they hope to complete whatever work is necessary within 6-8 weeks. He said he hopes to be taking inspections in August and serving food in September. He said they are starting to paint and lay flooring, which he said is a sign the construction phase is nearing completion. Chairman Skeffington said the commission received an email from Woburn Police Capt. John Murphy, the police department's liaison to the commission, indicating there is a buzz of construction activity at Sogno. He said Mr. Martignetti should let the commission know if he needs anything. He said the next time he sees Mr. Martignetti may be to order a pizza at Sogno. Mr. Martignetti said he expects the pizza oven to be installed in the next couple of weeks. He said they need to install the pizza oven early because it takes so long to heat up. He said the pizza oven will cook a pizza in 90 seconds at 900 degrees.
- 2. 99 West LLC, 291 Mishawum Road, application for change of manager:** Representing the applicant was Skye Sealy, 291 Mishawum Road. Ms. Sealy said she is looking to get her name on the liquor license. She said she has been with the 99 Restaurants chain since 2006 and for the past two years she has been the general manager at the restaurant in Billerica. Chairman Skeffington asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the commission in regard to the petition. There were no respondents. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun that the petition for change of manager be granted; approved, 3-0. Chairman Skeffington asked Ms. Sealy if she is Tips-certified. Ms. Sealy answered affirmatively. Chairman Skeffington said Tips certification likely will be required by the state next year. He encouraged Ms. Sealy to reach out to Capt. Murphy if she has any questions.
- 3. 99 Restaurants of Boston LLC, 194 Cambridge Road, application for change of manager:** Representing the applicant was Nicholas Srybny, 194 Cambridge Road. Mr. Srybny said he has been the manager of the 99 Restaurant on Mishawum Road for the past three years and he is moving across town. He said he has been with the company since 2014. He said there have been no issues at the Mishawum Road location as long as he has been the manager there. Chairman Skeffington asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the commission in regard to the petition. There were no respondents. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun that the petition for change of manager be granted; approved, 3-0. Chairman Skeffington

advised Mr. Srybny that a requirement for Tips certification is coming and everyone in the building will have to comply.

- 4. Wild Fox, dba Fox Den, 474-482 Main St., alteration of premises:** Representing the applicant were Julie Dziki and Adam Dziki, 474-482 Main St. Mr. Dziki said they applied last year for a liquor license and they have since changed the layout of the premises. He said the bar will move from the far wall to the wall on the left of the restaurant. Chairman Skeffington said he is familiar with the old layout and asked where bar is moving to. Mr. Dziki said where the booths are no is where the bar was. Chairman Skeffington asked if Mr. Dziki has communicated the proposed changes with the Building Dept. Mr. Dziki said they are okay with the Building Dept. but the Plumbing Inspector is waiting for the commission to approve the revised floor plan. Commissioner Gilgun asked the applicants when they intend to open. Mr. Dziki said they have been having supply chain issues but they are looking to open in August. Commissioner Pappalardo asked if the seating arrangements are the same. Mr. Dziki said the only change has been the location of the bar. Ms. Dziki said the number of seats will remain at 68. Chairman Skeffington asked if access to the kitchen will be from the left side. Ms. Dziki answered affirmatively. Chairman Skeffington asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the commission in regard to the petition. There were no respondents. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun that the petition for alteration of premises be granted; approved, 3-0.
- 5. Citra A Fresh, 300 Trade Center, application for new Common Victualer's license:** Representing the applicant was Prakash Shrestha, 300 Trade Center. Mr. Shrestha said the restaurant will be located in a building owned by Cummings Properties. He said the chain was started in 2011. There are four cafes, including inside Brigham & Women's Hospital and next to Lahey Clinic. He said he has already gotten permits from the Board of Health and the Woburn Fire Dept. Chairman Skeffington asked if the hours will be 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mr. Shrestha said the hours will be from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday-Friday., with no weekends. Chairman Skeffington asked if wanted to amend the hours in case Mr. Shrestha ever wants to stay open later. He said Mr. Shrestha has the option of asking for a 5 p.m. closing hour at a contingency. Chairman Skeffington said the can still close at 3 p.m. He said if Mr. Shrestha wants to stay open past 3 p.m., he will have to come back to the commission to extend the hours. Mr. Shrestha said he is fine with a 3 p.m. closing hour. Chairman Skeffington asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the commission in regard to the petition. There were no respondents. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun that the petition for a new common victualer's license be granted; approved, 3-0. Chairman Skeffington recommended that all employees achieve ServSafe certification. He said the is getting word the state is going to require ServSafe certification. Commissioner Gilgun said employees can become certified by taking on-line training. Chairman Skeffington said he is pretty sure ServSafe training is going to be a requirement for everyone in the state who serves food.
- 6. Sonesta Select Boston Woburn, 240 Mishawum Road, application for transfer of Common Victualer's and Innkeepers licenses:** Representing the applicant was Darshak

Patel, 240 Mishawum Road. Chairman Skeffington asked if there have been any issues with the license. Clerk responded the former management of Sonesta and before that Courtyard by Marriott were very responsive. Chairman Skeffington asked if Sonesta is relinquishing its liquor license. Mr. Patel answered affirmatively. Chairman Skeffington asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the commission in regard to the petition. There were no respondents. Commissioner Gilgun said he hopes Mr. Patel heard the clerk when he said the cooperation from the previous management was outstanding, and he hopes that will continue. Mr. Patel said he will cooperate with the commission and the new management hopes to be an exemplary business. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun that the Innkeepers and Common Victualer's licenses be transferred to the new management; approved, 3-0.

**7. Showcase Cinema de Lux, 25 Middlesex Canal Park Drive, application for new amusement license:** Representing the applicant was Shaun Judge, area manager, 25 Middlesex Canal Park Drive. Mr. Judge said Showcase Cinema previously had a license for video games but relinquished it when the theater was renovated. He said Showcase would like to start offering video games at almost all of its locations again. Chairman Skeffington asked if the video games are going to be located where they were located before. Mr. Judge said the video games will be located in an area where seating is located now. He said the seating will be relocated. Chairman Skeffington asked if there is a policy for the consumption of liquor while playing video games. Mr. Judge said Showcase Cinema is licensed to serve alcohol throughout the building. He said the video games area will be highly visible to staff. Commissioner Gilgun asked if Showcase Cinemas has a stand-up drinking permit. Clerk said he would have to check his files and determine if the Showcase has a standup drinking permit, and if not he will send an application to the representative with whom he has been communicating about the amusement license. Commissioner Pappalardo said the Showcase complex is looking pretty good and asked if the video games will create more activity. Mr. Judge said he hopes so. Chairman Skeffington asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the commission in regard to the petition. There were no respondents. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to grant the amusement license and the standup drinking permit contingent upon the submission of the appropriate paperwork. Chairman Skeffington said he hopes business is getting better at the cinema. He said it looks like there is more traffic in the parking lot.

**8. Ginger Root of Woburn, 486 Main St., notification of cessation of operations:** Chairman Skeffington said the commission received notification from the manager of Ginger Root that the restaurant is out of business. He said this unfortunately has to do with the pandemic. He said he hates to see that happen to anybody. Clerk said he has seen signs in the window that the restaurant is closed temporarily and will open again soon. He said he has seen construction equipment including a ladder inside the building. Commissioner Gilgun asked if sending Capt. Murphy to the premises might be a good idea. Clerk said he has spoken to the Building Commissioner who will advise him if any building permits are sought. Chairman Skeffington asked if you be better to have the clerk call the former owner to ask what is happening at Ginger Root. Motion made by

Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to ask the clerk to contact the former owner; approved, 3-0.

**9. Approval of meeting minutes from May 19, 2022:** Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 19, 2022; approved, 3-0.

**10. Any other matters that may be legally before the Commission:** Chairman Skeffington said he spoke to Capt. Murphy and he will be providing the commission at its next meeting with an update on calls from the city's hotels. He said the other item he would like to discuss is Tips certification. He said the commission does not currently require Tips certification and he would like to. Clerk said the proprietor of a restaurant contacted him about the availability of a beer and wine license and asked if any training certifications are required. Clerk searched the rules and regulations and found nothing that requires alcohol servers to be Tips certified. Clerk sent an email to members of the commission as well as Capt. Murphy and City Solicitor Ellen Callahan Doucette confirming there is nothing in the commission's rules about Tips certification. Both Capt. Murphy and City Solicitor Callahan Doucette recommended adding a rule that all servers of alcohol should be Tips certified. Commissioner Gilgun said he agrees. Chairman Skeffington said it's crazy the commission doesn't already require Tips training. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to amend the commission's rules and regulations to require any restaurant employee involved in alcohol service to be Tips or similarly certified and any restaurant employee to be ServSafe or similarly certified; approved, 3-0. Chairman Skeffington said Tips and ServSafe are two different things. He said anyone handling both food and liquor has to be both Tips and ServSafe certified. He said ServSafe certification will be required of anyone who works in an establishment with a common victualer's license. Commissioner Pappalardo asked about the status of the ninth package store license in the city. Clerk said he sent an email to City Solicitor Callahan Doucette who advised him a post hearing brief for one of the appellants was due on Wednesday and she does not expect a decision to be rendered imminently. Chairman Skeffington said the commission should have been more involved in the appeal process. He said the commission made the decision and should have been kept in the loop.

**11. Motion made by Commissioner Pappalardo and seconded by Commissioner Gilgun to adjourn; approved, 3-0.** Chairman Skeffington adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD

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Gordon Vincent  
Clerk of Committees

