



**CITY OF GLOUCESTER
LICENSING BOARD MEETING**

**City Hall Conference Room
City Hall, 1st Floor
9 Dale Avenue
Gloucester, MA 01930**

Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2026

Board Members Present:

Melissa J. Teixeira Prince, Chairperson
John Lamirande
Ted Costa

Also in Attendance:

Natasha Dale, Licensing Board Clerk
Rob Vicari, Building Commissioner

The Chair Calls to Order the Quorum of the Licensing Board at 6:30 PM.

The Chair reads the following statement;

Effective August 16, 2023 the public is welcome to attend our meetings in person. Alternatively, the public may attend through the zoom link listed on the agenda. The meeting notice will reflect if this a meeting of zoom only. As the recent amendments to the Open Meeting Law allows the Committee can continue to hold the meeting remotely. Please note that the in person meeting will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the remote connection.

Public Hearing:

Petition of Laura Lee, dba GILT on a proposed new Annual, Section 15 Seasonal, Wine Only License at **11 Lexington Ave.** Manager of Record: Laura Lee

Laura Lee, 92 Main St., Gloucester is present.

Ms. Lee currently owns The Cave in downtown Gloucester and is planning to keep both businesses at the same time with intentions of closing down the Main St. location as she gets closer to retirement.

Her new business will be GILT. This will feature gift baskets, vintage clothes and wine. There will not be a cheese counter as part of the plan for the immediate future. Chocolate and cookies will be prepackaged.

Ms. Lee states that once fully opened she would be open to having a few wine tastings.

Ms. Lee states that she believes the wine will be 15-20% of the total square footage. The total square footage is 1,100 square feet.

Ms. Lee primarily wants to open this business for gift baskets and is anticipating to be open 7 days a week.

Lexington Ave. is quiet during January, February and March. But the store will see a lot of foot traffic.

Ms. Lee does not see having more than 12 cases of wine at a time in the store. The rest of the store will be basket items.

Ms. Lee would be selling a different selection of wines and champagnes than the variety store that has a package store license down the street has. Ms. Lee is planning to sell more “boutique” wines that you cannot find at the convenient stores.

Ms. Lee is planning on having a friend help out at The Cave while she opens and settles into GILT.

There will be little to no competition in the Magnolia area for this type of store.

The chair opens the public hearing.

Speaking in favor: none

Speaking in opposition: none

The chair closes the public hearing.

Ms. Prince states that she at first was not in support of the project, but as the presentation went on she is now on board. She believes that this is something different for the area. But Ms. Prince does have concerns at how many hours Ms. Lee would be open. Ms. Lee agreed to be open for 40 hours a week.

Mr. Costa moves to approve the Petition of Laura Lee, dba GILT on a proposed new Annual, Section 15 Seasonal, Wine Only License at **11 Lexington Ave.** Manager of Record: Laura Lee with the conditions that she be open 40 hours a week and an updated financials page on her application needs to be complete.

Mr. Lamirande seconds

All in favor, 3-0

Continued Business:

Petition of Zorba Kinigstein on a change of hours for J & Z Gloucester Foods LLC, dba George's Restaurant and Bar, **178 Washington St.**

Joel Favazza, Seaside Legal Solutions, 123 Main St., Gloucester is present representing his client.

Zorba Kinigstein, 594 Western Ave., Gloucester is present.

This is a continued hearing regarding the change of hours for George's Restaurant. Mr. Favazza states that dinner service is being eliminated and he is proposing to be open for alcohol sales Monday- Saturday 8:00 AM- 3:00 and Sundays from 10:00 AM- 4:00 PM.

Breakfast and lunch will still be served daily.

Mr. Favazza states that after George's closes there is no shortage of restaurants that serve alcohol for dinner service. But on the flip side, there are not a lot of restaurants that serve alcoholic beverages for breakfast.

The sale of alcohol has gone from 11% to 8.5%.

Mr. Favazza states that dinner was not the largest money maker for the restaurant. If Mr. Kinigstein finds reliable help he can open back up for dinner.

At this time Mr. Kinigstein is trying to stay in compliance with the ABCC in terms of his hours.

Mr. Kinigstein states that it is extremely difficult to find help at the moment. He is looking for another daytime cook as well as a night time cook to open back up for dinner again. To open for dinner, Mr. Kinigstein would need three cooks and wait staff.

George's has served 52,500 guests so far this year. Last year George's served 65,500 total.

Mr. Kinigstein only has one shift of employees who work 9 and a half hour days.

Mr. Costa moves to approve the petition of Zorba Kinigstein on a change of hours for J & Z Gloucester Foods LLC, dba George's Restaurant and Bar, 178 Washington St.

Mr. Lamirande seconds
All in favor, 3-0

Special One Day Liquor License Applications:

Petition of Amber Fritsch requesting to serve wine and malt beverages only during a wedding on 9/12/2026 from 5:00 PM- 8:00 PM at **24 Hough Ave.**

Paul Tenhope, 45 Corning St., Beverly is present.

Mr. Tenhope works for Timothy S. Hopkins LLC Catering out of Essex, MA. They are a 12C caterer.

Mr. Tenhope is catering an event from 4:30-7:30 at Stage Fort Park. It is a celebration of marriage for approximately 120 guests with beer, wine and mocktails.

The alcohol will be in the designated guest tent with a bar setup. There will be 3 bartenders working. Alcohol is packaged out the catering facility and is brought back with them at the end of the event.

Staff will be monitoring guests for over consumption. The tent will have sidewalls installed to keep guests from roaming.

Mr. Costa moves to approve the petition of Amber Fritsch requesting to serve wine and malt beverages only during a wedding on 9/12/2026 from 5:00 PM- 8:00 PM at **24 Hough Ave.**

Mr. Lamirande seconds
All in favor, 3-0

Discussion by the Board:

The Licensing Board will discuss the availability of 1 (one) Annual All-Alcohol On-Premise License. The Board will also discuss and establish a timeline for the application process, including the opening and closing dates for the acceptance of applications, the review process, and any related procedural deadlines.

Applicants who are interested in the new annual year round license apply and all applications will be heard at our next meeting on October 13, 2026 with a decision being made on October 19, 2026 at 6:30 on a zoom meeting.

An advertisement will be placed in the Gloucester Daily Times on Friday, September 11, 2026 stating that the Licensing Board will be accepting applications for a new Annual All Alcohol liquor license from Monday, September 21, 2026 through Monday, September 28, 2026.

Ms. Prince moves to advertise a legal notice on September 11th stating we have a license available and applications will be accepted from Monday, September 21st through Monday, September 28th with the hours being Mon-Thurs 8:30-3:30, Friday 8:30-12.

Mr. Costa seconds

All in favor, 3-0

Adjournment:

Mr. Costa moves to adjourn at: 8:31 PM

Mr. Lamirande seconds
All in favor, 3-0