



City of Methuen, Massachusetts

License Board

Office of the City Clerk
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Bryan Chase, Esq. *Chair*
Cheryl Fisher, Esq.
Ana Camargo

MEETING MINUTES

METHUEN LICENSING BOARD
SEARLES BUILDING, 41 PLEASANT STREET
SECOND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM #208

Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting of the Methuen Licensing Board on July 8, 2026, 41 Pleasant Street called to order by Chairman Chase. Members present were Chairman Chase and Commissioner Camargo. Commissioners Fisher and Melendez were absent.

Approval of the agenda for July 8, 2026. Commissioner Camargo motioned to approve the agenda for July 8, 2026. Chairman Chase seconded. All in favor.

Approval of minutes from June 11, 2026, licensing meeting. Commissioner Camargo motioned to approve the minutes from June 11, 2026, licensing meeting. Chairman Chase seconded. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

An application was submitted for a One-Day Alcohol license for Saturday, July 11th, from Mariachi Foods Inc., d/b/a El Potro Mexican Grill for a Beer Garden in the parking lot adjacent to their establishment at 90 Pleasant Valley Street as part of the 4th of July Fireworks Celebration.

Steve Angelo stepped forward, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation for the city living at 20 Washington Street, Methuen. Joseph Carreiro also stepped forward as the Business Manager for Mariachi Foods Inc., living at 57 Lawrence Rd, Salem, NH. Mr. Carreiro stated they were asked by their landlords, the Loop, if they would be willing to have a beer garden in front of their location, El Potro Mexican Grill. Mr. Carreiro stated that he would be more than happy to participate in the Methuen fireworks celebration for this year (their first time participating). The intention is to have a confined space where patrons would be able to consume beverages with two managers on duty, himself included. One will be outside, one would be inside, managing crowd control and making sure no one is leaving the designated area. They would have a “dry bar” outside where people take orders. He and his staff would

be monitoring the area to keep everything under control. The beer garden would be open from 12pm until the end of the festivities. Steve Angelo stated that the City will be providing metal partitions for the beer garden. He stated that in front of El Potro is where the command center for the event will be located and that will be where most of the police and medical presence would be.

Chairman Chase asked about the exact entrance to the beer garden area. Mr. Angelo stated that access would come from Raising Cane's parking lot. Chairman Chase then asked if the restricted area marked on the "plot plan" with a thick bold line was the area where the barricades would be. Mr. Angelo stated no, that this is the area restricted from vehicular traffic and no cars would park there. It's set up for people to put their chairs to watch the festivities and also where the stage will be. Chairman Chase then asked exactly where is the restricted area where alcohol is being served? Mr. Angelo stated it is area #3 on the plot plan, right in front of El Potro. Chairman Chase asked how many points of access are in that restricted area. Mr. Angelo pointed to a sidewalk, and a driveway as areas of access. Chairman Chase asked what kind of fencing was being used in the restricted drinking area and Mr. Angelo stated it would be metal blockades. Chairman Chase asked if IDs would be checked as people enter the restricted area. Mr. Carreiro said yes, they would be checked at the dry bar. Chairman Chase clarified that IDs would be checked at point of purchase and not just for entering the area and this was confirmed. Commissioner Camargo was asking about the TIPS certification.

Chairman Chase asked if everyone working in the restricted area has TIPS or SERV Safe certification. Mr. Carreiro stated that he doesn't serve alcohol but has SERV Safe certification as manager. He said his colleague Jason is SERV Safe certified. Chairman Chase asked if everyone working in the restricted area is SERV Safe certified. Mr. Carreiro stated not everyone: their servers typically do not have SERV Safe certification, only the managers. Commissioner Camargo asked if the two people monitoring the restricted area would be serving as well. Mr. Carreiro stated that he will not be serving but will be standing next to the dry bar to be sure everyone is being cooperative and to monitor that all the alcohol is being consumed within the restricted area. He will have a walkie talkie to communicate with the interior of the restaurant.

Chairman Chase asked why all of their servers are not SERV Safe certified. Mr. Carreiro stated that this is not required by law in Massachusetts that every server be SERV Safe trained. Chairman Chase stated that he wants to look into this. Mr. Carreiro states that their bar tenders are all TIPS certified but their waitstaff is not. Chairman Chase stated that his concern is that people interacting with patrons at the tables need that training for making assessments - identifying when a patron is overserved, evaluating identification etc. Mr. Carreiro stated that they train all their staff as part of their onboarding and that they all carry iPads that have ABCC/Massachusetts information showing what's a legal ID and what is not etc. Chairman Chase asked the Licensing Clerk to get confirmation from the City Solicitor regarding any state requirement for TIPS Certification.

Commissioner Camargo made a motion to approve the application submitted for a One-Day Alcohol license for Saturday, July 11th, from Mariachi Foods Inc., d/b/a El Potro Mexican Grill for a Beer Garden in the parking lot adjacent to their establishment at 90 Pleasant Valley Street as part of the 4th of July Fireworks Celebration. Chairman Chase seconded. Motion approved.

An application was submitted for a One-Day Alcohol license for Saturday, July 18th from Sev Mar LLC, d/b/a Sevmar Mediterranean Bistro, of Salem, NH for a wedding reception to be held at St. Basils, 30 East Street.

Laura Hajjar, 33 Mohawk Lane, Brentwood, NH, mom of the groom, came forward. Ashley Green came forward as General Manager of SevMar. Chairman Chase confirmed that SevMar is catering an event at St. Basils and asked what the hours of the event would be. Ms. Hajjar stated that cocktail hour would be at 4:15pm and everything would be over at 9:00pm. Chairman Chase asked what would be done to control the flow of alcohol. Ms. Green stated she and her bar manager would be attending/working at the bar and 4 other employees that are servers would be coming. Chairman Chase asked if all the servers have TIPS certification and Ms. Green stated that all have TIPS certification. Chairman Chase asked if everything was taking place inside and Ms. Green stated that yes, it's an all-inside event. Commissioner Camargo questioned and expired Liability Insurance Certificate presented, and Ms. Green stated she would get the updated certificate from SevMar. The current presented Liability Certificate is dated 1/11/2023 – 1/11/2024. Chairman Chase said he would consider conditional approval based on getting a current Certificate of Liability Insurance to the Licensing Clerk. Ms. Green assured the Board she would get it to us.

Commissioner Camargo made a motion for a conditional approval (awaiting a current Certificate of Liability Insurance) for the application submitted for a One-Day Alcohol license for Saturday, July 18th from Sev Mar LLC, d/b/a Sevmar Mediterranean Bistro, of Salem, NH for a wedding reception to be held at St. Basils, 30 East Street. Chairman Chase seconded the motion, no other discussion. All in favor. Motion passed pending getting the updated Certificate of Liability Insurance to the Licensing Clerk.

An application was submitted for a Change of Manager for GMRI, Inc. d/b/a Olive Garden Restaurant, 90 Pleasant Valley Street.

Brenden Brandes came forward, proposed Manager, living at 386 Rimmon Street, Apt. 3, Manchester, New Hampshire. He has been with the company for 11 years and has worked at 6 Olive Gardens. He is SERV Safe certified and will get that certification into the Licensing Clerk. There were no questions and all paperwork was in order.

Commissioner Camargo made a motion to approve the application submitted for a Change of Manager for GMRI, Inc. d/b/a Olive Garden Restaurant, 90 Pleasant Valley Street to be Brenden Brandes. Chairman Chase seconded, no other discussion. All in favor, motion passed. Brenden will email his SERV Safe certification to the Licensing Clerk.

An application was submitted by KHP Valley Methuen, LLC d/b/a KPOT Korean BBQ and Hotpot at 90 Pleasant Valley Street for a new All-Alcohol License and Common Victualler Licenses.

Atty Russell Chin came forward, his practice is located at 400 Hancock Street, Quincy, MA. He was joined by Rufang Hu (owner) and Lingyan Jiang (liquor license manager). Atty Chin stated they are here for an All-Alcohol and Common Victualler license (CVIC has already been approved and granted by Inspections/Zoning and all other sign offs). Ms. Hu stated they have been open for 2 weeks and it's going well. Atty Chin stated that owner Rufang Hu has extensive experience in operating a restaurant and the liquor license manager, Lingyan Jiang, has certifications, is a United States citizen and is familiar with all the laws. Commissioner Camargo asked about service/seating capacity and Atty Chin stated that the restaurant's seating capacity is 190.

Commissioner Camargo made a motion to accept the application submitted by KHP Valley Methuen, LLC d/b/a KPOT Korean BBQ and Hotpot at 90 Pleasant Valley Street for a new All-Alcohol License and Common Victualler Licenses. Chairman Chase seconded. No further discussion. All in favor.

No other new business. Commissioner Camargo made a motion to adjourn. Chairman Chase seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting will be August 12, 2026.

Respectfully Submitted by
Beth Rizzo
Licensing Clerk