

**ALCOHOL BEVERAGE BOARD
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2023 @ 1:00 PM
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS CONFERENCE ROOM
CHESAPEAKE BUILDING
41770 BALDRIDGE STREET
LEONARDTOWN, MD 20650
MINUTES**

The meeting of the Alcohol Beverage Board of St. Mary's County was held on Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 1:00 PM in the County Commissioners Conference Room, Chesapeake Building, Leonardtown, Maryland.

Chairman David Willenborg called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Chairman David Willenborg
Vice-Chair Richard Watts
Member Leonard Kohl
Member Richard Shin
Member Barbara Hill
David Weigel, Attorney
Tamara Hildebrand, Administrator
Suzan Dean, Recording Secretary
Kevin Hall, Inspector
Dep. Steve Myers, Alcohol Enforcement Coordinator

Not Present:

Chris Beaver, Attorney

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Vice-Chair Watts moved to approve the agenda for September 14, 2023 and was seconded by Member Hill. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- July 13, 2023

Vice-Chair Watts moved to approve the modified minutes for July 13, 2023 and was seconded by Member Hill. Motion carried.

- August 10, 2023

Vice-Chair Watts moved to approve the minutes for August 10, 2023 and was seconded by Member Hill. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Extension of Conditional Approval**

The Slice House II – Maegyne Held - requesting 90-day extension to conditional approval of interior expansion.

Maegyne Held appeared before the Board and was sworn in. Mrs. Held explained that they are upgrading some of their ovens and they are waiting for SMECO to come to do some of the work. Member Kohl made a motion to approve a 90-day extension of conditional approval. The motion was seconded by Member Shin. Motion carried.

Potomac Garden – Angela Wathen – requesting 90-day extension to approval of outdoor area.

Angela Wathen appeared before the Board and was sworn in. Mrs. Wathen stated she is just waiting on the final review and approval of LUGM. Member Shin made a motion to approve a 90-day extension of conditional approval. The motion was seconded by Member Hill. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Applications**

Social Coffee House & Speakeasy - Application of Sean Coogan Jr. to transfer Social Coffee House and Speakeasy, LLC Class B (restaurant) BWL license location from 41658 Fenwick St., Leonardtown, MD 20650 to 22698 Washington St., Leonardtown, MD 20650. And requesting permission for extension of premise for exterior walk-in box and outdoor seating on Fenwick St., Washington St., both respective sidewalks, and the “alleyway”.

Sean Coogan appeared before the Board and was sworn in. Mr. Coogan explained the three outdoor seating areas and how they will be managed and staffed. Member Kohl made a motion for a 90-day conditional approval pending the Health Department, Fire Marshal and Use and Occupancy permit and was seconded by Vice-Chair Watts. Motion carried.

Cather Marine - Application for Andrew L. Cather Jr. to purchase a Class A-3 BW license and t/a Cather Marine (Cather Marine Inc.), 38270 Palmer Rd., Colton’s Point, MD 20626

Mrs. Hildebrand explained that she had a letter from the hospital from where Mr. Cather has been treated stating he was unable to attend the meeting. Chairman Willenborg made a motion to table the application and was seconded by Vice-Chair Watts. Motion carried.

Helen's Café and Catering - Application for Helen Uhler to purchase a Class B (restaurant) BWL license and t/a Helen's Café and Catering (Helen's Café and Catering, LLC), 29890 Three Notch Rd., Bldg. A, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622. And requesting outdoor seating and Catering privilege.

Helen Uhler appeared before the Board and was sworn in. Ms. Uhler explained that she had let her liquor license expire from her previous location as she was pursuing another location in Hollywood. That opportunity did not come to fruition, so she is re-applying to obtain her Class B license with the catering to continuing in her original location in Charlotte Hall. Ms. Uhler also stated that she has moved farther with approval of the outdoor seating with the other agencies. Vice-Chair Watts made a motion for a 90-day conditional approval pending the Traders license, Fire Marshal and Use and Occupancy permit, LUGM approval for the outdoor seating and clearance of the Retail Sales and was seconded by Member Hill. Motion carried.

Atrium Spirit - Application for Laxmiben Patel and Timothy Herbert to purchase a Class A-1 BWL license and t/a Atrium Spirit (Atrium Spirit, LLC), 37680 Mohawk Dr., Units 13&17, Charlotte Hall, MD 20622.

Laxmiben Patel and Timothy Herbert appeared before the Board and were sworn in. Mrs. Patel was accompanied by an interpreter. Mrs. Patel and Mr. Herbert were represented by their attorney, John Quinn. Mrs. Hildebrand explained that the attorney had sent a floor plan reduction change last night. Attorney Quinn stated that the original application was for a footprint of about 3800 square feet that they now are in negotiations with the landlord to reduce to about 3600 square feet. The application was changed to reflect these changes. Vice-Chair Watts made a motion for a 90-day conditional approval pending the Traders license, Fire Marshal, Heath Department, Use and Occupancy permit, final floor plan (no greater than 3650 square feet, delete Unit 17) and the final lease and was seconded by Member Shin. Motion carried.

- **Premise Changes**

Sweet Blue Smoke - Nancy and James Bosket - Requesting outdoor seating for approx. 912 sq. ft. fenced in patio area.

Nancy and James Bosket appeared before the Board and were sworn in. Chairman Willenborg asked about the signage and Mr. Bosket showed him the signs on his tablet. Vice-Chair Watts made a motion to approve this premise change and Member Hill seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- **Trade Name Change**

Cracker Barrel - Requesting trade name change from Cracker Barrel to Cracker Barrel Old Country Store

Member Kohl made a motion to approve the trade name change to Cracker Barrel Old Country Store and Member Shin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

BOARD ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- **Legislative Proposals**

Newtowne Players - Requesting Alcohol Beverage Board letter of support for creation of a Non-Profit Theatre Beer & Wine License

Jonathan Berry appeared before the Board and was sworn in. Mr. Berry stated that the proposed legislation would create a license for non-profit community theatres. Allowing this license would save community theatres time and money from having to obtain per diem licenses that normally cost Newtowne Players \$630.00 (63 performances) for the year for the reduction to a \$300.00 BW license. The bill also allowed the purchase of beer and wine from retailers as well as distributors.

Vice-Chair Watts made a motion to write a letter a letter in support of the legislation and Member Hill seconded the motion. Motion carried.

St. Mary's County Licensed Beverage Association - Requesting Alcohol Beverage Board letter of support for creation of a Beer, Wine, and Liquor Tasting Permit

Joe Kurley, Ron Sharma and David Dent appeared before the Board and were sworn in. Mr. Kurley explained the purpose of the request for the legislation is to create a permit for beer, wine, and liquor tasting. Mr. Dent stated what the guidelines of the permit would be similar to the already existing Beer and Wine Tasting Permit, including it to be eligible only for Class A licenses and the sampling size of spirits to be no more than three half ounce samples for a total of 1.5 ounces, the equivalent of 1 standard serving of spirits. Vice-Chair Watts made a motion to write a letter in support of the legislation and Member Shin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- **MALA Conference**

Mrs. Hildebrand stated that the MALA packets will be emailed in the next 2 weeks with all the information on the conference in October.

ALCOHOL ENFORCEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT

For the month of August, Deputy Myers reported:

- 13 Tobacco Compliance checks - 3 violations
- 14 DUI's- Sheriff
- 2 stationary surveillance - no violations
- Alcohol Violation Summons Served - 8
- 5 State Park surveillance - no violations
- RAST, CAC

BOARD INSPECTOR REPORT

For the month of August, Inspector Hall reported:

- 20 inspections,
- Virtual MALA, ATC (zoom) monthly conference call
- Taught RAST
- Attended SMCLBA meeting.

BOARD MEMBERS TIME

Chairman Willenborg opened the discussion by saying that there had been a mistake made. Chairman Willenborg stated that the number of Class A licenses in an election district are based on the population of that district. The data, by law, must come from a specific County Board report, but that Board does not include this data any longer in their reports, so accurate information is no longer available to the Alcohol Board. The law does not allow the Alcohol Board to obtain that information from any other sources. Chairman Willenborg spoke with the Chairman of that Board and explained the situation and that he hopes that they can re-introduce this information into their annual report. Chairman Willenborg apologized to the applicant, Mr. Cather, for the mistake, and that there were no Class A licenses available in District 7 and gave him some alternative options.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chair Watts made a motion to adjourn at 2:33 pm, seconded by Member Hill. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzan Dean, Recording Secretary

David Willenborg, Chair