

**Queen Anne's County Liquor Board
Minutes of Meeting**

May 1, 2018

The Board of License Commissioners of Queen Anne's County met on Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at 9:00 A.M. at 110 Vincit St., Centreville, MD. The meeting was called to order by Chairman John T. McQueeney. Those present were: John T. McQueeney, Chairman; Gene M. Ransom, Esq., Vice-Chairman; Maurice D. Dashiell and Joyce E. Jones, Esq., Members; Jeffrey E. Thompson, Esq., Attorney for the Board; Cathy Maxwell, Clerk to the Board; William J. Council, Liquor Inspector; Vivian Swinson, Zoning Administrator. Member Thomas E. Beery was absent.

The following Special/Temporary licenses were reviewed and approved:

Shore Kaos Lax, LLC – Date of event – May 15

Island Bay Day/Queenstown Sports Center – Date of event – June 9

The Board held a hearing for a new Class "B" beer and wine license for Michael E. Cronin, for the benefit of D'Alessio's Wood Fire Pizza, LLC, trading as D'Alessio's Wood-Fired Pizza, located at 206 Duke St., Stevensville, MD 21666. Mr. Cronin and his attorney, Joseph McQueeney, Esq., appeared before the Board. Chairman McQueeney recused himself from participating in this hearing as he is the father of Joseph McQueeney, Esq. Mr. Thompson administered the oath to all who were to testify. All advertising requirements have been met. No one opposed the jurisdiction of this Board to hear and decide this matter. All paperwork submitted was entered as Applicant's Exhibit No. 1. Mr. McQueeney reviewed the requirements of §4-109 of the Alcohol Code and Mr. Cronin met all criteria. Mr. Cronin said his business is wood fired pizza. He has had some inquiries from his patrons about selling beer and wine. He wants to sell beer and wine inside the restaurant and also on the outside patio. The LLC has been in business for approx. 5 years and he owns 20% of the company and his wife owns 20%. Mr. McQueeney reviewed the criteria for approving a license in §4-210 of the Code. Mr. Cronin feels there is a need for the license due to the inquiries from his customers. He does not think this license would have any adverse effect on other nearby license holders or the community. There is adequate parking. There will always be someone on premises with a valid TIPS certificate. Mr. Cronin's son has completed TIPS training. There is no distance requirement for Class "B" licenses from schools. Mr. Cronin will be selling on sale only. An additional drawing was submitted showing the parking lot and the licensed premises highlighted in yellow. People do not need to park in the school's parking lot. Mr. James Cronin appeared before the Board. He has 50% ownership in the company and is TIPS certified. He is on premises every day and is involved in every aspect of running the restaurant. There are security cameras on the property and he plans to purchase an ID scanner. Ms. Sandra Reed, an employee, is also TIPS trained and has 25 years experience serving alcohol. Either Mr. Cronin or Ms. Reed will be on premises at all times. The restaurant is open Tuesday thru Saturday, 11:00-9:00 p.m. He may open on Sundays during the summer. If parking at the school became a problem he is willing to post

signs. The Board has considered the requirements for issuing a license under §4-210 of the Code. There was no public opposition to this application. A motion was made by Ms. Jones, seconded by Mr. Dashiell, to approve this license. All members voted in favor.

The Board reviewed an application for advertising a new Class "B" beer, wine & liquor license for Martin Z. Hernandez, for the Benefit of MH Investments, Inc., trading as Squisito Pizza & Pasta-Queenstown, located at Queenstown Premium Outlets, Unit F070, Queenstown, MD 21658. Also on today's agenda is review of an application for advertising the transfer of a Class "B" beer, wine & liquor license from Martin Z. Hernandez to Diana E. Paladino, for the Benefit of Beam, Inc., trading as El Jefe Mexican Kitchen and Tequila Bar, located at 1235 Shopping Center Rd., Stevensville, MD 21666. Joseph McQueeney, Esq., sitting in for Sean Poltrack, Esq., attorney for the applicant, appeared before the Board. Chairman McQueeney recused himself from participating in this matter as he is the father of Joseph McQueeney, Esq. Mr. Thompson suggested that these two applications be discussed together. Mr. Hernandez is the only current license holder for El Jefe and he is also the applicant for the new license at Squisitos. Mr. Hernandez cannot hold two licenses so the Board will need to work through these logistically. Concerning the license for El Jefe, Mr. Hernandez proposes to forfeit his role as officer for Beam, Inc. and move forward solely on behalf of Squisitos. Beam, Inc. would appoint a substitute officer to come in for the purpose of holding the liquor license. The new license holder, Ms. Paladino, is not currently a stockholder in Beam, Inc. Mr. Thompson said one of the requirements for an Affidavit to Substitute an Officer (§ 4-306 of the Alcohol Code) requires them to be a current owner. Mr. McQueeney said the controlling ownership is not changing so Mr. Hernandez has a minority interest in the corporation and would be replaced with Ms. Paladino who is the current manager at El Jefe. Mr. Thompson said the statute doesn't say controlling ownership, it states that the ownership has not changed. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Dashiell, seconded by Ms. Jones to advertise El Jefe for a transfer of license (first item on June 5, 2018 Agenda) and Squisitos for a new license (second item on June 5, 2018 Agenda). All members voted in favor.

The Board reviewed an application for advertising a new Class "D" beer, wine & liquor tavern license for Christopher Cook and Jonathan Cook, for the Benefit of Blackwater Distilling, Inc., trading as Blackwater Distilling, located at 405 Cleat St., Stevensville, MD 21666. Mr. Jonathan Cook appeared before the Board. Mr. Thompson said all submitted documents were in order. Mr. Cook said the plans for this location have been submitted to Planning & Zoning for review. He plans to have an outside venue also which will be fenced in. There is a covered space behind the enclosed tavern which is open on three sides. A motion was made by Mr. Ransom, seconded by Ms. Jones, to approve this application for advertising. A public hearing on this application will be held on Tuesday, June 5, 2018.

The Board held a hearing for a new Class "B" beer and wine license for Joseph P. Candella, Sr., Eileen P. Candella and Audrey V. Candella for the Benefit of the Lion's Den Ice Cream Parlor, LLC, trading as the Lion's Den Ice Cream Parlor, located at 508 Railroad Ave., Centreville, MD 21617. Mr. Thompson administered the oath to all who were to testify. All advertising requirements have been met. No one opposed the jurisdiction of this Board to hear and decide

this matter. Mr. Joseph Candella, Sr. appeared before the Board. He and his wife are 70% owners in the business and his daughter, Audrey, owns 30%. They plan to have a 1950's ice cream parlor that serves lunch and dinner. They will be open 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. 5 or 6 days a week. He will be serving ice cream outside but not beer or wine. There will be a sliding window to serve ice cream as a walk-up, you do not have to come into the building. There is a party room in the back that will hold 40 people. He would like the beer and wine license for the adults who come to the restaurant to eat. There will be no beer or wine carry out. Mr. Ransom reviewed the criteria for approving a license in §4-210 of the Code. Mr. Candella said his understanding from past restaurants that when adults come in there is a demand for beer and wine. There are three restaurants in town and he does not feel this license will have any negative effect on them. He does not feel this will have any negative impact on traffic, parking, crime, etc. The high school is more than a quarter mile away and the middle school is approx. a half mile away. He does not anticipate any problems with the students. There will be 10-12 cameras inside and outside. Mr. Candella, his wife and daughter have all completed TIPS training. He is an ex-police officer from New York City and had 6 years in the military. He originally did not plan to call it the Lion's Den but so many people told him that the building used to be an ice cream parlor in the 1960's and it was called the Lion's Den. Mr. Jim Beauchamp, 205 Green St., Centreville, MD appeared before the Board. He lives across the street from the Lion's Den. He is a member of the Centreville Town Council and is here speaking on behalf of himself and his neighbors. He opposes the issuance of this license at this location. He does not feel that the applicant has been communicating effectively with the Town and has not strictly complied with the rules and regulations. He said the liquor license was not a part of the Planning Commission's application. The outdoor patio was not a part of the original submission. He said when this project was initially presented to the community almost everyone was in favor of it because it was targeted for the kids. However, every student that walks to the schools will walk past this restaurant. He feels the location is awkward because it is a high traffic area. He asked the Board to protect the community and let this be an ice cream parlor for the kids as originally conceived. Mr. Ransom said he does not think this Board can approve a license when the property is in non-compliance with the local zoning laws. Mr. Thompson said any approval would be contingent upon receipt of the final use and occupancy permit from the Town. Mr. Candella said Mr. Beauchamp's information is not up to date. He initially filed a plan with the Town to construct the building. Then as often happens, people made suggestions and the plans were changed. He went to the Town and advised them. The project has been going on for about 10 months to do it the right way. He has complied with all the Town's regulations. To date there are no outstanding violations and he was advised that the Certificate of Occupancy is approved and he will provide the Board a copy. It is his responsibility to assure that no alcohol is sold to anyone under age. A motion was made by Ms. Jones, seconded by Mr. Dashiell, to approve the license. Mr. Ransom made a motion to amend the motion to approve the license, contingent upon the following items. (1) The applicant provide documentation from the Town of Centreville that they are in compliance with all Town ordinances; (2) that there is the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy permit; (3) that the applicant purchase an ID scanner so employees can check licenses; (4) that someone who is TIPS certified be on site at all times; (5) that they have a policy to card everyone under the age of 35. Ms. Jones seconded the amended motion and all members voted in favor.

The Board reviewed an application for advertising a new Class "D" beer/tavern license for Brooks C. McNew and Jesse D. McNew, for the Benefit of Glass Valve Brewing, LLC, trading as Cult Classic Brewing, located at 1619 Shopping Center Rd., Stevensville, MD 21666. Mr. Brooks McNew appeared before the Board. He presented his application and associated documents for review. He plans to have his business in the old Acme building at the shopping Center in Stevensville. He would like to put some tables outside under the overhang of the building. He will not have a kitchen and has a tentative arrangement with D'Alessio's Wood Fire Pizza and El Jefe to deliver food to his location. The Board suggested he put up some sort of barrier to mark his property lines. He plans to have a soft opening in June and the grand opening in August. He and his brother will be working in the brewery and within three years he may have 4-6 full time employees. He will start with 4-5 bartenders in the tap room side. Mr. Thompson asked Mr. McNew to make some minor corrections to the application and said the Board still needs sufficient signatures and a drawing of the licensed premises by this Friday. A motion was made by Mr. Ransom, seconded by Mr. Dashiell, to approve this application for advertising. A public hearing on this application will be held on Tuesday, June 5, 2018.

Mr. Warren Wright, Drug Free Coalition, appeared before the Board. There is now an opioid awareness sign just as you come across the Bay Bridge. "Paint QA Purple" is funded and they will be in the schools. Kent, Talbot, Caroline Counties are participating in this so in theory on Sept. 1st you can start at the Bay Bridge and there will be purple lights all the way to Salisbury. He received some funds from the County Commissioners for saturation patrols. He is doing press releases through the County social media.

Mr. Council did 56 business checks and 13 compliance checks with no violations for the month of April. He has 14 more compliance checks to complete by August 1st. He has updated the drawings for all licenses premises with outdoor venues. Mr. Council had a question about the requirements for requests to expand the licensed premises. Mr. Thompson said they would have to file an application, advertise and have a hearing, unless it is done at renewal time with the reapplication. Mr. Council said everyone but one picked up their 2018 renewal licenses prior to the May 1st deadline.

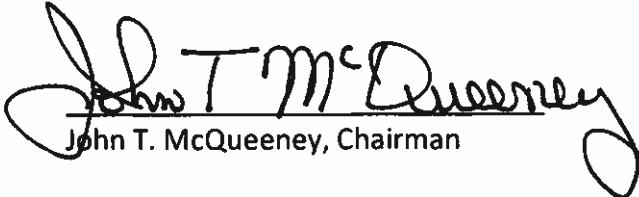
Mr. Mike Wisnosky, Dept. of Planning & Zoning, appeared before the Board He thanked Mr. Council for compiling the information for outdoor venues. Concerning new applications for licenses, Mr. Wisnosky said it becomes a problem when an application for advertisement comes in at the last minute. He suggested the Board set deadline guidelines. Mr. Thompson said most Boards have deadlines and the initial review that this Board does, while not required, is for the benefit of the applicant. A motion was made by Mr. Dashiell, seconded by Ms. Jones, that initial applications to be advertised must be received by the Board's Clerk by the close of business on Wednesday prior to the monthly Liquor Bd. meeting. Mr. McQueeney, Ms. Jones and Mr. Dashiell voted in favor. Mr. Ransom opposed. The motion passed 3-1.

Members of the Board will be attending the MALA annual conference in Ocean City on May 11 & 12, 2018.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned to meet again on Tuesday, June 5, 2018.

Respectfully Submitted,


Cathy Maxwell, Clerk


John T. McQueeney, Chairman

