

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

June 5, 2018

The Board of License Commissioners of Queen Anne's County met on Tuesday, June 5, 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, Joyce E. Jones, Esq., and Thomas E. Beery, Members; Crystal Richard, Esq., Attorney for the Board; Cathy Maxwell, Clerk to the Board; and William J. Council, Liquor Inspector.

The Minutes from the May 1, 2018 Liquor Board meeting were approved as written.

There were no Special/Temporary licenses for June.

The Board held a hearing for 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. Ms. Richard administered the oath to all who were to testify. No one appeared in opposition to the granting of this license. Mr. Cook said he was here to request a conditional approval based on receipt of a few required items. Mr. McQueeney reviewed the criteria for approving a license in §4-210 of the Code. Mr. Cook said he has been operating the distilling operation for approx. 7 years and has had a good public reaction to the business. He does not feel this license will have a negative effect on other nearby license holders. His service is unique and will have no adverse impact on the health, safety and welfare of the community. The outside premises is under a roof and does not have walls around it. He plans to put up a privacy fence on at least two sides. It will be marked that no one may go outside the fence with alcohol. Mr. Cook has submitted a drawing of the premises with the area outlined in red where alcohol will be served. The fence will match the red line indicated on the drawing. There will be food trucks delivering food. Mr. Cook is aware that no one may leave the premises with alcohol and walk to the food trucks. He plans to have runners taking food from the food trucks to the business. Everyone in the company has completed TIPS training. Mr. Ransom said the Board has been working with this applicant for several months and he has met the standards of §4-210 of the Code. Mr. Ransom made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones, to approve this license, contingent upon receipt of fire marshal approval and all appropriate County zoning permits. Ms. Richard said Mr. Cook also needs to submit documentation regarding the officers and how much stock he owns. All members voted in favor.

The Board held a hearing for 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. (old Acme building). Mr. Brooks McNew and Mr. Jesse McNew appeared before the Board. Mr. McQueeney administered the

oath to all who were to testify. No one appeared in opposition to the granting of this license. Mr. McQueeney reviewed the criteria for approving a license in §4-210 of the Code. Mr. Brooks McNew said he has had a lot of interest from the community. People are always stopping by and calling to inquire when they will open. There are no similar license holders in the area. They plan to use nearby restaurants to deliver food to their premises. There will be no adverse impact on the health, safety and welfare of the community. They would like to use the outside overhang area as part of their licensed premises as highlighted in pink on the site plan submitted with the application. Ms. Jones asked if this outside portion will be petitioned off so that people drinking will not wander off the premises. Mr. McNew said these plans have not been finalized so he will not be using the outside portion yet. He may do some type of rails or planters. Mr. Ransom reminded Mr. McNew that he is responsible for anyone drinking outside the licensed area. Mr. Ransom said the applicant has met the standards of §4-210 of the Code. The Board has had no concerns about this application. Mr. Ransom made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones, to approve this license, contingent upon receipt of Tips certificate, fire marshal approval and appropriate County zoning permits. Furthermore, the applicant had agreed as a condition of approval to create an appropriate separation from the parking lot and the outdoor serving area that will be reviewed by Liquor Board staff. All members voted in favor.

Patrick Thomas, Esq. from Chestertown, MD appeared before the Board. He had general questions about a possible Class "A" beer and wine license at Duck Neck Campground near Crumpton, MD. There is a small general store on the property. The question was how to structure the operation since the Campground is owned by out of state persons. The local people running the campground have no interest in the LLC. Mr. Ransom suggested that Mr. Thomas should arrange to discuss this with the Board's attorneys, Ms. Richard or Mr. Jeff Thompson. Mr. Thomas thanked the Board for their time.

The Board held a hearing for 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. Mr. McQueeney administered the oath to all who were to testify. No one appeared in opposition to the granting of this license. Mr. Hernandez, along with his attorney, Sean Poltrack, Esq., appeared before the Board. Chairman McQueeney recused himself from participating in this matter, as his son works for Mr. Poltrack's law firm. Mr. Hernandez wishes to transfer as license holder from El Jefe to the new Squisitos at the Queenstown Outlets. Mr. Hernandez would resign as an officer at El Jefe and Ms. Paladino would accept 15% interest in the corporation and would be sole officer. No other major changes would occur at El Jefe. Mr. Beery made a motion, seconded by Ms. Jones, to approve this transfer. All members voted in favor.

The Board held a hearing for 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. Mr. Ransom administered the oath to all who were to testify. No one appeared in opposition to the granting of this license. Mr. Hernandez and his attorney, Sean Poltrack, Esq., appeared

before the Board. Chairman McQueeney recused himself from participating in this matter, as his son works for Mr. Poltrack's law firm. Mr. Hernandez has been the license holder for El Jefe for several years with no violations. He now plans to run a new business, Squisitos, at Queenstown Outlets and hopefully open in July. There are no other similar restaurants at the Outlets and there will be outdoor seating which will be fenced in and secure. You will have to enter the restaurant and purchase food before you can enter the outdoor area. There will be no negative effect to other license holders as this will be the only restaurant at the Outlets that will sell alcohol or this type of food. There will be no construction needed for additional parking. All staff will be Tips certified. Mr. Beery said he is concerned about control of the outside seating area as many young people are at the Outlets. Mr. Hernandez said he is required to have an emergency exit at the outdoor section but this will not be for the general public to enter and exit. Customers will still have to exit from the main door in the restaurant. Mr. Ransom said the applicant has met the standards of §4-210 of the Code. He reviewed the items still required before the license can be issued: Trader's License, State Sales Tax ID Certificate, fire marshal approval, Health Dept. approval, all appropriate County zoning permits, Tips certificate, a copy of the signed lease, and stock ownership. Ms. Jones made a motion, seconded by Mr. Beery, to approve this license with the conditions mentioned by Mr. Ransom. All members voted in favor.

Mr. Warren Wright, Drug Free Coalition, appeared before the Board. There are saturation patrols being conducted. Advertising posters were placed in the schools. Beth Malasky who works for the County is his social media contact. Last year the Local Management Board wrote a one year grant to get two licensed drug and alcohol counselors in the two high schools and middle schools. They were previously doing screenings, now they can do a full assessment and treatment in school at no charge. Mr. Wright feels confident this will be available next year also. There are two new recovery houses now open, both on Kent Island, one for women and one for men. The Coalition is going to speak at Romancoke Fire Dept. on June 9th. Ms. Jones said some Board members recently attended the MALA Convention in Ocean City. There were presentations by Raimee Eck from the Md. Public Health Association and Cathy Greisen from the National Alcohol Beverage Control Association. They both said for they can be contacted for funds to help with prevention programs. Mr. Wright also discussed marijuana issues with the Board.

Mr. Council did 90 business checks with no violations for the month of May. He checked all licensed premises to assure that their 2018 licenses were properly displayed. He has been contacted by a 19 yr. old female volunteer to do compliance checks. He is doing more nighttime duty. Mr. Ransom said he had inquiry about a licensed location that does weddings and children having alcohol. Mr. Council said he does not normally get involved but if a complaint was filed, he would follow up.


The Board discussed the recent MALA Conference in Ocean City. Mr. McQueeney said Queen Anne's Co. is No. 1 in the State for consumption of alcohol per capita. And No. 3 in the State, behind Talbot and Worcester, for licenses per capita. Our compliance rates are higher than anyone. Some counties have salon licenses for wine. This would require legislation to be

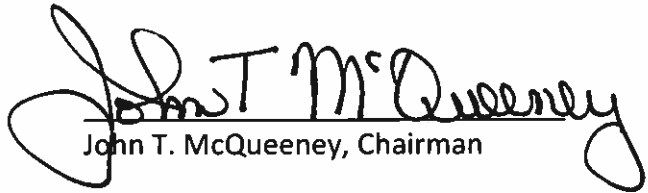
allowed for this County. Some liquor boards have a day set aside for license holders may come in talk about potential legislation.

In other business, Mr. Ransom received an inquiry about an assisted living facility obtaining a liquor license. The Board's Clerk will contact them and advise them to consult their attorney for how to proceed.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned to meet again on Tuesday, July 3, 2018.

Respectfully Submitted,


Cathy Maxwell, Clerk


John T. McQueeney, Chairman