



Town of Agawam

AGAWAM LICENSE COMMISSION (ALC)

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Douglas Reed
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LICENCE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

The Agawam License Commission held a Public Meeting & Public Hearings on Tuesday May 20, 2025 at the Agawam Senior Center Dining Room, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA. In attendance was Chairman Vincenzo Ronghi, Commissioners, Doug Reed & Katie Johnston along with Secretary, Barbra Dobek. Also present was City Councilman Anthony Russo, Peter Smus.

Public Hearing NEW SECTION 12:

First heard was, Mike Fenton Atty. for, NEW ALL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES/GENERAL ON-PREMISES application for Coppola Real Estate Holding Company, LLC, manager Mark D. Coppola, at 443 North West Street, Feeding Hills, MA 01030. He explained about the new development plan for a mixed use complex. The property is over 60 acres, with hopes to build a hotel with conference center and spa, winery, greenhouse, agricultural, food processing, self-picking crops and farm stand with retail, (closer to the North West Street opening). The drawing proposed uses the space including the bluff of the mountain, all with a winding road that would cross over the wet area of the land. Mark Coppolla was not present at the meeting, however his Atty. explained that he has had a successful real-estate, and restaurant business in the Commonwealth for over 30 years, in the eastern part of the state. Fenton requested the All Alcohol License to be granted and not issued until they are ready to open with all proper inspections passed. During the public comment Laurie Cesan of 407 North West, asked to take a proposed plot plan with her. Some discussion explained that this is proposed, and that she will be notified throughout the building process to appear at any future Public Hearings. Gary brown of 489 North West St., spoke in favor, along with Scott & Julie Brown of 453 North West Street, who were all previous owners of the property. As did Mike Kosinki of 227 North West Street.

No one was there who spoke against the issuance of an All Alcohol License. The Commissioners asked if Mark Coppola will be the Manager, once they are up and running? Fenton said they will make all the appropriate changes as the development progresses and will keep the Agawam License Commission in the loop.

On the agenda was, White Glove Caterers, Inc., Manager Mark A. Tansey, at 485 Springfield Street Suite A, Feeding Hills, MA 01030, applying for a NEW All Alcohol / Restaurant license; however the Legal Notice was not published in time to be heard.

PUBLIC HEARING, NEW SECTION 15:

First heard in this section was Atty. Joshua Levine for New Wine and Malt Package Store License for One River Road, LLC, dba Quick Pic manager, Ali Khan at 1 River Road, Agawam, MA 01001. He spoke about how Mr. Khan has been in business for 25 years, and that he works 60-72 hours a week with one other employee, which both are TIPS trained, with hopes to hire an additional employee, once approved for the request. Beer & wine will add to his sales, since there is a down trend in tobacco, alcohol would be a new income stream to increase his business. He stated his customers are requesting for him to carry beer & wine, they provided a sheet with customer's signatures, however there was no language at the top indicating it was to carry alcohol so the document was not accepted into the file by the Commissioners. Neighbor Steve Cincotta, from Research Management across Main St., spoke in favor of Ali Khan and his business, at Quick Pic, stating he has known him a long time, because they both opened their business at the same time. Khan keeps his property clean, is a great manager, knows what he is doing and treats his customers well. Mary Devivo of 58 Red Wood Dr. & Jose Abel Gambo of 116 Riviera Dr. both said they have known Mr. Khan many years and said they support Beer & Wine for his shop. The next question the Commissioners had, Is there a need for beer & wine in this location? After reviewing a map of the town with other package stores in the area marked, and running traffic scenarios the commissioners determined there is a need. The Commissioners voted unanimously 3-0 for the requested license to be approved at his location.

The second applicant was represented by their Atty., Neil Phillips for New Wine and Malt Package Store License for Ronak Food Mart, Inc., dba Citgo Food Mart manager, Susan Rettura, at 650 Suffield Street, Agawam, MA 01001, for Wine & Malt Package Store. Atty. Phillips presented a petition with 250 signatures stating that the customer base would like to see beer & wine at the location. He also explains that the proposed manger is TIPS certified. Speaking in favor of the issuance of the license was, Chip Michnovetev of 597 Suffield St. & Bruce Cone of 170 Brookfield Lane who are both customers and like to shop there.

When it came time for the commissioners to ask questions Chair, Vin Ronghi had noticed a substantial error on the lease agreement, it stated that this establishment was a Restaurant. After explaining to both the Atty. and owners how significant this error is, they understood why the application was unanimously declined 3-0 for that discrepancy. In addition the lease was not submitted with the original application, it was an item that had been drafted up, after we asked for it.

The third applicant was Goodies Deli & Variety manager, Prakashbhai Patel, at 300 Springfield Street, Agawam, MA 01001 for a New Wine & Malt Package Store, represented by Atty. Matthew Porter. The Atty., started off by giving the Commission the certified green cards, immediately. At that point was explained that there was a dead line for the green cards, and that was communicated several times throughout the process. The Atty. continued to state why he thought it was okay and that he never saw the deadline. As the hearing proceeded he explained that the other applicants have gas stations attached, what makes his client different, the fact they are a deli. They need the new income for beer & wine because tobacco sales have dipped. Upon looking close at the map, used above it appeared there are 4 existing package stores within a mile of the store location. There is not a public need in the area, the community is already serviced. All three Commissioners chose to decline the application with a vote of 3-0, for lack of public need.

The fourth applicant for New Wine and Malt Package Store License for MAAHI Petroleum Corp., dba: One Stop Mart manager, Vasantlal A. Shah, at 373 Rowley Street, Agawam, MA 01001, was represented by Rakesh Parikh who resides at 55 Main St., West Springfield, MA. He explained the business has been

running since 2011, and that it is a very busy store. He said he is there 60 + hours a week, as manager. When the commissioners began to look at the location, they said there is not a public need in the area. They have plenty of options in all directions, before needing to get beer & wine at that store. In addition, the original packet handed out had a page to be filled out, for Municipal Taxes. That sheet was omitted from the returned packet. It was not returned to complete the application. The Commissioners voted 3-0 to decline the application.

Alteration of Premises for White Glove Caters existing All Alcohol/ Restaurant was not seen, because it was contingent on the approval of the New All alcohol License that they were going to be applying for, but neglected to advertise in a timely manner.

Junk Dealers applications that were tabled last month were both approved 3-0 by the commission. Both Baki's Fine Jewelry of 9 North Westfield St., Feeding Hills & Rosati Materials, Inc., of 415 Silver St., Agawam, MA.

Bowling and Billiards License application for Agawam Bowl of 359 Walnut Street Extention, Agawam, MA 01001, was tabled for lack of a Workman's Comp declaration sheet, we will ask the owner to provide that so that we can view it again next month.

Transfer of License Application Administrative Correction Review for Scoreboard Bar & Restaurant Inc., dba: Scoreboard Bar & Grill, Manager Michael Delaney at 15 King Street, Agawam, MA, to transfer All Alcohol Bar/Restaurant License to Scoreboard Bar Group Inc., dba: The Scoreboard Bar & Grill, proposed Manager, Thomas Murphy. The Commissioners went through the application that Atty. Castleman submitted after the ABCC inspectors requested changes, upon doing so the Commissioners noticed some inaccuracies that the Atty. will need to correct before the secretary submits the application back to the ABCC.

No new Business.

The minutes from April 16, 2025 meeting minutes were approved.