

**Southbridge Liquor Licensing Board**  
**Minutes of July 29, 2021**

**Agenda Item #1** – Open meeting/Roll Call – Chairman Bruce Newlands called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Bruce Newlands, Vice Chair Chad Splaine and Member Mike Daniels. Also present were Attorney Patrick Flynn and George Daou representing Casa de Liquors, Joseph Daou, Jim Keyes, Pete Cournoyer, Alpesh Patel and KK Swadia. Liquor Agent Sgt. Ryan Roettger was excused.

**Agenda Item #2** – Chairman’s Announcements – none.

**Agenda Item #3** – Reorganization – Selection of Chairman and Vice-Chairman – Mr. Daniels made a motion to appoint Bruce Newlands as Chair. Mr. Splaine seconded that motion. Mr. Daniels and Mr. Splaine in favor. Mr. Daniels made a motion to appoint Chad Splaine as Vice Chair. Chairman Newlands seconded that motion. Chairman Newlands and Mr. Daniels in favor.

**Agenda Item #4** – Accept the minutes of June 24, 2021 – Mr. Daniels made a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. Splaine seconded that motion. All in favor.

**Agenda Item #5** – Citizens Forum – none present.

**Agenda Item #6** – Liquor Agent updates – Sgt. Roettger was excused.

**Agenda Item #7** – Licenses to be signed

- SL-04 St. George Greek Orthodox Church – all Alcohol – Annual Picnic August 15, 2021 – Cancelled due to COVID.
- SL-05 LaSalle Reception Center – All Alcohol – Celebration of Life August 21, 2021 – Mr. Daniels made the motion to approve, Mr. Splaine seconded the motion. All in favor.
- SL- 06 LaSalle Reception Center – All Alcohol – After funeral August 10, 2021 – Mr. Splaine made the motion to approve, Mr. Daniels seconded the motion. All in favor.

**Agenda item #8** – Public Hearing – Casa De Liquor, Inc. d/b/a The Lounge – Application for transfer of license from the Molina Group, inc., d/b/a The Lounge.

- Mr. Newlands asked if George Daou has ever worked in the liquor industry. George Daou – Yes. Mr. Newlands – Where? George Daou – Helping a family member.
- Attorney Flynn presented the application.
- Mr. Newlands – What is the anticipated date of operation? George Daou – Late Fall/ Early 2022. Bar menu would consist of pub fare.
- Mr. Splaine – Who owns the premises? Atty Flynn – F&G Real Estate
- Mr. Splaine – How many tables will there be? George Daou – 10
- Mr. Daniels – How many seats at the bar? George Daou – approximately 20.
- Check for \$58.80, made out to Stonebridge press was received.

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Mr. Daniels made the motion to approve the transfer. Mr. Splaine seconded the motion. All in favor. Transfer approved.

**Agenda item #9** – Discussion regarding “Nip” bottles - which are 1.5 oz plastic liquor bottles - and the public nuisance they are causing in town. Four liquor store owners attended the meeting, trying to come up with suggestions to resolve the issue. Some of the ideas to address the problem:

- Eliminate the sale of nips
- Increase price of nips by 10 cents - 5 cents as a deposit, 5 cents as a sur-charge toward the cost of cleaning up the parking lots and streets. Owners felt that if the additional cost of 10 cents per nip were required by Southbridge, it would put the responsibility of enforcement on the town, making it a mandate.
- Store owners would contribute \$500 each toward a “bottle refund project”. Two to three times a year, a “Nip bottle refund event” would be held, enabling residents to turn in the bottles for a dollar amount.
- Town does not want to penalize the businesses as nips represent approximately 60% of the liquor stores revenue. The liquor board wants to work with the store owners to come up with a viable solution by working with the store owners.

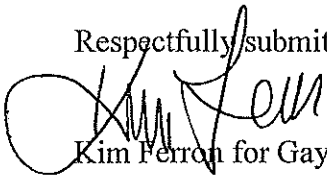
It was decided to continue the nip discussion at the September Liquor Licensing Board meeting in order for more ideas to be presented.

**Agenda item #10** – Board Member Discussion – Question regarding which bars/restaurants are in the process of reopening after the COVID shut down.

**Agenda Item #11** – Discussion of next meeting date- The August meeting will be held August 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

**Agenda Item #12** – Adjournment – A motion was made by Mr. Daniels and seconded by Mr. Splaine to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 2:01.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Ferron for Gayle Raducha  
Recording Clerk