

**Meeting Minutes  
Board of License Commissioners  
Caroline County, Maryland**

**DATE:** September 22, 2021

**PLACE:** Hybrid Meeting via Microsoft Teams  
Health & Public Services Building  
403 S. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Room 111  
Denton, Maryland 21629

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Gregory Eigenbrode, Chairman  
Nicholas A. Loukides, Vice-Chairman

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Katheleen Freeman, Director of Planning & Codes  
Crystal Dadds, Assistant Codes Director  
Robert Merriken, Attorney  
Kendra Blake, Board Administrative Assistant

Chairman Eigenbrode called the meeting of the Caroline County Board of License Commissioners to order at 9:31 a.m.

**(Per Diem) Temporary License Applications**

**Caroline County Historical Society – “Evenings at the Mill Fall Fest” October 23, 2021**

Chairman Eigenbrode swore in Mr. Charles Andrew, Vice President of the Caroline County Historical Society.

The Caroline County Historical Society is requesting a temporary license for their “Evenings at the Mill Fall Fest” to be held on October 23, 2021 from 3-9 p.m. at the Linchester Mill in Preston, Maryland. They are requesting to sell beer, wine, and liquor by cash bar and there will be musical entertainment provided. Chairman Eigenbrode asked if the location was the same as before.

Ms. Dadds confirmed that this is the second event request of this type this year and the location and set up is the same as before.

Chairman Eigenbrode asked Mr. Andrew if there were TIPS certified servers.

Mr. Andrew stated yes.

Chairman Eigenbrode stated that there have been no problems in the past.

**Motion:** Mr. Loukides made a motion to approve the temporary license for the Caroline County Historical Society for October 23, 2021.

**Second:** Chairman Eigenbrode seconded the motion.

**Vote:** The motion was unanimously approved (2:0).

**Adkins Arboretum – “Beer Garden” October 23, 2021**

Adkins Arboretum is requesting a temporary license for a “Beer Garden” event to be held on October 23, 2021 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. They are requesting to sell beer only by cash bar and will be providing musical entertainment at the event.

Jenny Houghton, Assistant Director of Adkins Arboretum stated that Ten Eyck Brewing Company and Bull & Goat Brewery from Queen Anne’s County will be on site handling all beer sales.

Chairman Eigenbrode asked if they would be providing their own TIPS trained servers.

Ms. Houghton stated that they were, although Adkins Arboretum had just completed their own TIPS training on the Monday before the meeting.

Mr. Loukides asked if everyone had to enter through the entrance near the offices.

Ms. Houghton confirmed that Mr. Loukides was correct.

**Motion:** Mr. Loukides made a motion to approve the temporary license for Adkins Arboretum for October 23, 2021.

**Second:** Chairman Eigenbrode seconded the motion.

**Vote:** The motion was unanimously approved (2:0).

**Caroline County Chamber of Commerce – “Mactoberfest – Mac & Cheese Festival” October 30, 2021**

Chairman Eigenbrode swore in Tracey Snyder, Executive Director of the Caroline County Chamber of Commerce.

The Caroline County Chamber of Commerce is requesting a temporary license for their annual Mactoberfest, Mac & Cheese Festival to be held on October 30, 2021 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. They are requesting to sell beer only by cash bar and they will have music at the event. The event was originally planned to be held at the Community Garden in the Town of Denton however, it was just discovered that they couldn’t have alcohol at that location. A revised application has been submitted with the new location.

Ms. Snyder stated that she originally thought that since the Community Garden is enclosed, they could use that location, but a precedence had already been set that there’s no alcohol permitted in that garden and the Chamber of Commerce doesn’t want to change that in any way. She went on to say that the Chamber of Commerce can use the Arts Way on 4<sup>th</sup> Street behind the Arts Council building. They will be using the 200, 300 and 400 blocks; but the beer garden itself will be on the 400 block. It will be blocked off by the garden and at the entrance of the road. There are two options for the Board to consider: 1) if they utilize that space, they could control who entered by checking ID’s and issuing wrist bands and this would still allow patrons to do some shopping in that section of the street, or 2) they could enclose the immediate grassed area. Ms. Snyder stated that they are open to whichever option the Board preferred.

Chairman Eigenbrode asked if customers would be able to be in the street with beer.

Ms. Snyder stated that the streets would be closed. Market Street would be closed from the 200 block by the Market Street Pub (2<sup>nd</sup> Street) down to Pizza Empire (4<sup>th</sup> Street), a portion of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and 4<sup>th</sup> Street. The beer garden would just be located on the closed portion of 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Patrons would not be able to leave that area and go to the 200 or 300 block(s); they will only be able to partake in that area. The DJ would be located at the corner of the 300 block.

Chairman Eigenbrode questioned whether alcohol could be allowed in the street or in a parking lot if it's being closed off to traffic or parking?

Ms. Dadds responded stating that a past determination by the Board was that as long as the area is not being used at that moment for parking or driving a car and was roped off, that it would not be considered "consumption of alcohol in public" because it was not being used for that purpose.

Mr. Loukides asked Ms. Snyder if the people selling beer are TiPS certified.

Ms. Snyder responded saying Dave Whaley is the designated person on-site that is TiPS certified however, there will be others there as well. The beer garden is just an accent to the event as the main attraction will be the mac & cheese competition. There will be 10-12 chefs making their best mac & cheese for tasting and vendors would be spread out due to COVID.

Chairman Eigenbrode referenced the last event, held at the Chesapeake Culinary Center.

Ms. Snyder stated that due to COVID last year, it was in 10 different locations throughout Federalsburg, Denton, Ridgely, Greensboro, and Preston where they drove around and tasted the dishes. For this reason they did not request an alcohol license. The first year, it was held at the 4-H Park. This year they wanted to bring it downtown to help the businesses. Ms. Snyder believes it will be a more advantageous event for the community if it's downtown.

Chairman Eigenbrode stated that he assumed what was included in the packet was an old map.

Ms. Snyder stated that she had a new street map that she would provide to the Board later in the day. She has been working with the Town of Denton to get everything worked out and to get anything else that would be needed. The goal was to get everything done before the end of the month.

Chairman Eigenbrode asked Ms. Snyder to provide an updated map to Ms. Dadds.

Ms. Snyder said that she had emailed Ms. Dadds a picture of the area and she would make sure that she got the rest of the information required to Ms. Dadds later in the day.

Mr. Merriken mentioned to the Board that the statute only requires that the place be described on the application so the applicant has met that requirement.

**Motion:** Mr. Loukides made a motion to approve the temporary license for the Caroline County Chamber of Commerce for October 30, 2021.

**Second:** Mr. Eigenbrode seconded the motion.

**Vote:** The motion was unanimously approved (2:0).

## **Beer and Wine Tasting Applications**

### **Wetcher Whistle – 305 Bloomingdale Avenue, Federalsburg, MD**

Ms. Dadds stated that Wetcher Whistle has applied for a beer and wine tasting license to allow them to hold up to 26 events for the calendar year. They are working on scheduling an event with Harvest Ridge Winery to do a wine tasting. They had planned for it in September, but because of their suspension, they were unable to hold it. They are working on a date later in the fall. In accordance with the Annotated Code as well as the Board Rules and Regulations, they can obtain up to 26 events for the calendar year and they cannot charge the customer for the sampling. The customer can sample one (1) ounce of wine from a single brand and up to four (4) ounces from all brands in one day. For beer, its three (3) ounces from a single brand, eight (8) ounces from all brands in one day. All consumption must be on premises, and they must dispose of unconsumed bottles at the end of the event.

For each event they must submit a letter stating the date and time of the event, the name of the TIPS certified person that will be present and pay the \$50.00 license fee.

Chairman Eigenbrode asked if the Board approved the application, would it be a blanket approval for 26 events and each time they held one, they will not have to come back before the Board.

Ms. Dadds confirmed that was correct, and that the approval would only be valid until the end of the calendar year. A new application would be required for next year.

Chairman Eigenbrode asked if Wetcher Whistle has had tastings in the past or is this the first time.

Ms. Dadds stated that they have received licenses in the past, although it has been a couple of years.

**Motion:** Mr. Loukides made the motion to approve the beer and wine tasting license application for Wetcher Whistle.

**Second:** Chairman Eigenbrode seconded the motion.

**Vote:** The motion was unanimously approved (2:0).

## **Request to Change Licensed Premise**

### **Wetcher Whistle – 305 Bloomingdale Avenue, Federalsburg, MD *Renovation and Addition to Existing Establishment***

Chairman Eigenbrode brought forth a request by Wetcher Whistle to change the licensed premise.

Ms. Dadds stated that Wetcher Whistle is requesting to build a small addition on to the store as well as remodel the inside of the existing establishment. In accordance with Board Rule and Regulation No. 2.02, "Any licensee proposing to expand or reduce the size of the licensed premises or establishment must submit a written request to the Board along with a copy of the proposed plans. The licensee must obtain the Board's approval of the plans before any construction or alteration begins." A copy of the building permit and plans has been provided.

As the board viewed the floor plan, they questioned where the addition would occur. Ms. Dadds stated that she believed the addition was to be located off the rear of the store.

Mr. Merriken asked if the space would be used for storage or retail display area.

Ms. Dadds responded stating that it would be a new addition off the rear of the building and the existing interior would be renovated.

Mr. Merriken asked if the application stated how much space would be expanded, the square footage or what percentage would be expanded.

Ms. Dadds stated that neither the application nor building permit contained that information.

Chairman Eigenbrode asked if it stated what the expansion would be used for.

Ms. Dadds stated that the addition would be for the storage of alcohol. She then referenced a previous report from the Liquor Inspector stating that the applicant at that time was using an existing bathroom to store alcohol, so they find themselves in need of additional storage area for alcohol.

The Board continued to review the proposed floor plan and determined that the license holders would be almost doubling the size of their store with the proposed addition. Ms. Dadds stated that her understanding was that the applicants plan to complete the work while under their suspension.

Mr. Merriken asked if the applicant was present.

Ms. Dadds responded stating that she contacted them via email on the Friday prior to the meeting, and again on the following Monday but did not receive a response.

Chairman Eigenbrode stated that the building permit was paid for on December 1, 2020. According the the Board's rules and regulations, the applicants should have come to the Liquor Board first for approval.

Ms. Dadds responded stating that they are required to come to the Liquor Board to get written approval before they start any construction. They had not started construction at the time of the meeting.

Mr. Merriken questioned if the building permit was expired. The permit states that construction had to start within 180 days of the permit being issued.

Ms. Freeman stated that the applicant may have gotten an extension for the building permit. She then read directly from the building permit that "Construction must be initiated within 180 days and completed within eighteen (18) months."

Mr. Loukides stated that if the permit is expired, the Board cannot approve the request.

Mr. Merriken stated that the Board could approve the request subject to the condition that the applicant has an extension of the building permit or a new building permit. The applicants may have that information; however, they were not present to clarify this issue.

**Motion:** Mr. Loukides made the motion to approve the request for a change to the licensed premise for Wetcher Whistle, pending the approval of an extension of the building permit for the addition.

**Second:** Chairman Eigenbrode seconded the motion.

**Vote:** The motion was unanimously approved (2:0).

## **Board Administrator's Report**

Ms. Dadds stated that all three (3) violation hearings from the previous month for Bodie's Dairy Market, Wetcher Whistle, and Walker's Grocery Store have paid their fines in full. The suspensions for Wetcher Whistle and Walker's were set to begin on Monday, September 27, 2021. Wetcher Whistle's suspension was for thirty (30) days and Walker's suspension was for ten (10) days. There was no suspension for Bodie's Dairy Market. There were no appeals filed.


Ms. Dadds concluded that there would be two (2) violation hearings on next month's agenda as well as a new license request for Earth Tones Café in the Town of Denton.

There were no further comments from the Board Members.

## **Adjournment**

**Motion:** Mr. Loukides made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:04 a.m.  
**Second:** Chairman Eigenbrode seconded the motion.  
**Vote:** The motion was unanimously approved (2:0).

**BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS**  
**Greg Eigenbrode, Chairman**



Minutes prepared by:  
Kendra Blake, Board Administrative Assistant