

# Allegany County Board of License Commissioners

701 Kelly Road, Room 112

Cumberland, MD 21502

Tom Farrell, Chairman

C Ron Miller, Commissioner

Danny Laffey, Commissioner

P. Terry Carolan, Chief Inspector

Tom Melvin, Inspector

Brandy Gordon, Clerk

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## MINUTES – April 4, 2023

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The Allegany County Board of License Commissioners held a meeting on Tuesday, April 4, 2023. The meeting was conducted at 10:00 A.M. in Room 100 of the Allegany County Office Complex. Present for the meeting was Chairman - Thomas Farrell, Commissioner - C. Ron Miller, Commissioner – Dan Laffey, Inspector – Tom Melvin, Inspector – Terry Carolan, and Office Clerk – Brandy Gordon. Board Attorney Ramani Pillai was present for the meeting. Also in attendance were Bill Root, Rod McIntyre, Dave Sanford, and Larry Mackereth.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Farrell. The Board approved the March 21, 2023 minutes.

A One-day special class “C” license (Beer, wine, and liquor) was approved for Larry Mackereth for the Allegany County Historical Society Gatsby Gala. The event will be held on Saturday, April 29, 2023 at the F. Brooke Whiting House, 632 Washington Street in Cumberland. Mr. Mackereth stated that there would be up to 75 tickets sold for the event. The cost of the alcohol is covered in the ticket price. It is an event where ticket holders will dress according to the 1920s era and gather for food and beverages. There will be no minors present for the event.

A One-day special class “C” license (Beer and wine) was approved for David Sanford, David Jones, and Kimberly Mouse with Allegany College of Maryland. This event is held on campus at 12401 Willowbrook Road, Cumberland. Dave Sanford addressed the Board saying that it would be a well-attended event. He said that they would be asking for identification before serving.

Rodney McIntyre was present for the meeting. Rodney addressed the board. He informed the board that he has filed the necessary paperwork with the state of Maryland. He also has renewed the current license so that he will be able to transfer the license once all necessary paperwork is filed. Rodney is to keep the board updated on the progress of getting the license transferred.

There was a violation hearing for The Balcony Lounge, 11810 Bedford Road, Cumberland, MD. Licensee, Bill Root was present for the meeting. The Balcony was requested to attend this meeting due to a picture being posted on social media (facebook) showing people behind bar doing shots with patrons. Mr. Root asked if the liquor board had a copy of the picture. At that

time Mr. Farrell handed the picture to Mr. Root. Mr. Root had the same picture in his possession. Mr. Root explained to the board that the picture was taken the night before the Balcony officially opened over a year ago. He explained that it was family and close friends in the picture celebrating the opening. Mrs. Root then said that the picture was shared a year later saying congratulations on being open a year. The board asked if they understood what was wrong in the picture. They both said yes and assured the board that it does not happen at their establishment. The board reiterated the rules about drinking behind the bar and while working.

Office Clerk, Brandy Gordon, gave an update with the renewal applications. All but one establishment have returned their applications. The Charis Winery will not be renewing their license because Charles Park said everything they need is covered under the state license issued by the comptroller. Baltimore Street Grill, 82 Baltimore Street Cumberland requested to add Sunday Sales to their current license. Chairman Farrell motioned to approve; Commissioner Laffey seconded the motion. The motion was made unanimous by Commissioner Miller. Ottaviani's Tasting Room, 27 North Centre St Unit 1, Cumberland also requested to add a special pouring permit and Sunday sales to their current license. Chairman Farrell made a motion to approve, Commissioner Laffey seconded the motion, and it was made unanimous by Commissioner Miller.

There was general discussion among the Board. The weather is getting nicer and people will be vacationing. The Board voted to move their meetings to the first and third Wednesday of the month for the months of May, June, July, and August. Chairman Farrell is working with Frostburg State University, Jeff Graham, and Frostburg Police to set up a meeting with the Beach Club to prevent further incidents at the establishment. There was discussion about a phone call received from Barbara Buehl inquiring about adding liquor to the temporary license for DelFest. In the past DelFest paid \$500 a day to serve beer and wine. The Board reached the agreement that if allowed (per event bill) there would be an additional fee of \$250 per day. Commissioner Miller brought up Class C licenses being issued to Clubs. He said that we need to remind these clubs to fill out guest sponsorship forms. Anytime the club is open to other than members these forms should be filled out. He also said that we need to keep an eye on the advertising for these clubs to make sure their publications tagged to members and guests. It was stated that the Cumberland Outdoor Club is using a wooden door wedge to prop their door open. Inspector Melvin was asked to let the establishment know that the issue needs to be fixed. It is a club and you should have to be buzzed in to the establishment if it is not open to the public. Inspector Tom Melvin asked the Board about the carpet place on center street allowing patrons to bring their own liquor and drink at their establishment. People would have open containers. The establishment does not have a liquor license. However JZ's who does have a license and is in compliance is next door. Board advised the liquor inspectors to go into the establishment and ask questions to see what is going on. If it is just open containers, then that would be Cumberland City Police to handle because the establishment in question does not have a liquor license.

Inspectors reported on 224 routine inspections between March 21, 2023 and April 3, 2023.

The next regular meeting of the Board of License Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 10:00 A.M. in Room 100 of the Allegany County Office Complex.

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Farrell made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Miller and unanimously approved by Commissioner Laffey.

  
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Thomas Farrell, Chairman

4-18-23  
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Date