

Liquor License Commission Meeting Minutes

Day, Date and Time: Tuesday, November 18th, 2025 at 5pm

Place of Meeting: City Hall Auditorium, 62 Friend St.

1. Call to Order –

The meeting was called to order by Derek Balaam at 5:13pm.

2. Roll Call/Attendance –

Present were, John Kirton and Derek Balaam of the Liquor License Commission. Also present was Victoria Feger, staff liaison to the Liquor License Commission. Absent: Russ Saboo

3. Minutes for Approval – September 2, 2025

Motion by Commissioner Balaam to approve the minutes from September 2.

Commissioner Kirton seconded.

2-0, The motion passed unanimously.

4. Public Comment – No members of the public were present for public comment

5. Hearing – 14 Merrimac Street LLC is opening a restaurant at the marina, located at 2 Merrimac Street. They applied for a new Section 12 All Alcohol license, which is presented to the commission members for review and discussion. The applicant does not hold any liquor licenses in the City of Amesbury or in any other municipality. The applicant license manager, Dan Healey, is not present. Present on behalf of 14 Merrimac Street LLC is attorney for the manager, Paul Gagliardi, as well as business partner, Peter Suorsa. They were available to answer any questions.

- Commissioner Balaam asked about if there is a restaurant in agreement yet. Paul stated that there is not yet. The building is built out and the restaurant equipment is being put in. There was discussion about the timing of the opening and ABCC investigation.
- Questioned if Dan is going to be running it solely, but he anticipates hiring a manager under a management agreement.
- Mentioned the availability of the conversion process, had a full license not been available.

Derek Balaam motioned to approve the application for this license.

John Kirton seconded the motion.

2-0, The motion to approve this application passed unanimously.

- Commissioner Balaam told to applicant that it would take 3-6 weeks to receive a response from the ABCC once the signed Licensing Authority Certification has been filed.

6. One-day License Fees

- The commissioners discussed raising the fee for One Day Liquor Licenses to \$50. Non-profits remain \$0.

Motion to change one-day license fees for for-profits beginning Jan 1 to \$50, with non-profits to remain at \$0 by Commissioner Balaam

Seconded by Commissioner Kirton

2-0, *The motion passed unanimously.*

7. Section 12d Licensing

- The commissioners discussed whether we should assess a local fee for license conversions under this new conversion
- Fee discussed to be the difference in the upgraded fee for the duration of the year (prorated), for new licensees to pay the difference for an all-alcohol license since they would have already paid the current year's beer/wine fee prior to the conversion.
- No additional local fee to be established

Motion to set no local application fee beyond the ABCC's transaction fee and the established all-alcohol annual license fees for conversions by Commissioner Balaam

Seconded by Commissioner Kirton

2-0, *The motion passed unanimously.*

8. Set Next Meeting Date/Items for Future Discussion-

- Topics that Commissioner Balaam would like to include are
 - Liquor license renewals; review of renewal process for this year
 - Communication of new one-day fees to regular for-profit requestors of one-day licenses
- Next meeting set for 6pm on 12/16 in the City Hall Auditorium

9. Adjournment

Commissioner Balaam motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:44pm.

Commissioner Kirton seconded the motion to adjourn.

2-0, *The motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Feger, Executive Assistant to the Mayor

Created on: November 18, 2025

Approved on: December 16, 2025