

January 4, 2012

Newburyport Police Station Conference Room
Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 P.M.
A quorum was present.

1. Roll Call

In attendance: Margaret Lucey, Brad Duffin, Sean King

2. Approval of Minutes

Table minutes for December 7, 2011.

3. Farmer's Market Farm/Winery Vendor

Shari Wilkinson of the Farmer's Market requested approval to add Alfalfa Winery of Topsfield as a vendor to sell their wine. They make 10 to 12 wines per year. They sell at the Cape Ann Farmer's market and the Middleton Farmer's Market. They are a small operation and can't compete with distributors. They have been making wine since 1995, but it has been a farm for many years.

Alfalfa Winery would be replacing Still River Winery which is not participating in the winter market.

Brad Duffin made a motion to approve Alfalfa Winery as a vendor for the Farmer's Market. Margaret Lucey seconded the motion.

Votes Cast:

Margaret Lucey: Yes

Brad Duffin: Yes

Sean King: Yes

4) Hearing: Transfer of License from Andaman Restaurant to Brown Sugar by the Sea

The hearing was opened at 7:15pm. Caroline Joliffe of Lime Grove Corp. is planning to open a restaurant, Brown Sugar by the Sea in the Andaman location. They will be focusing on local and organic cuisine. They will have a similar menu to Brown Sugar Cafe in Boston, owned by her brother in law. They are focusing on food and will have a small bar to primarily accommodate people waiting for tables. They are updating the décor and atmosphere and kitchen and providing additional seating in the waiting area. No structural changes are planned. They are training their chefs in Boston to transition here. They have not hired any waitstaff yet. They will be open 11am to 10pm weekdays and 11am to 11pm on Saturdays. They are thinking about acoustic entertainment.

Public comment: David Hall spoke in favor, Michael spoke in favor.

Public comment closed.

Deliberations: Commissioners reviewed plans provided, discussed bar and reception area, changes to flow in kitchen. No plans to expand upward at this time and no structural changes.

Brad Duffin made the motion to approve the transfer of license. Margaret Lucey seconded the motion.

Votes Cast:

Margaret Lucey: Yes

Brad Duffin: Yes

Sean King: Yes

Hearing closed 7:40 pm.

5) Hearing: Change of Location – Mr. India Rest

The hearing was opened at 7:45pm. Attorney Robert Ciampitti spoke on behalf of the applicant, Ram Kadazryia, owner of Mr. India. They are planning to move to 114 High Street the former location of Cafe Europa. Currently the building they are in on Merrimack Street is in need of repair and maintenance. They have been maintaining the building and it is becoming an increasing monthly expense. Mr. India opened in 1999 and he purchased it in 2006. Currently have 39 seats and provide takeout. This will allow them to expand to 90 seats and to allow for a better dining experience. They serve beer and wine and they will continue with serving only beer and wine. The new location provides them with a better location and more visibility. He is a long time member of the Chamber of Commerce. Currently they are making the bathroom ADA compliant, and are not making additional changes to the space. They will be hiring more staff, almost doubling. They will need a new license for an establishment over 50 patrons. The bar will stay as is and people will be able to eat there but only beer and wine will be served. It will be staffed by a wait person who will also be covering the floor. Public comment: no one spoke in favor. Andrea Mank spoke with a concern. She lives in the condominium above the restaurant and is concerned that the current Mr. India signage is not in keeping with the historic feel of Newburyport. They are also concerned about a smoking area for the staff, and its impact when windows are open if they smoke near the building. The Commissioners stressed the need for communication between the residents and the restaurant and Mr. Ciampitti acknowledged that his client is very willing to discuss and work on solutions with the residents.

Public comment closed.

Deliberations: Commissioners reviewed plans provided, discussed parking and suggested possible valet parking in the area, outdoor dining which is not in the plans right now, and keeping an open dialogue with residents of the building.

Brad Duffin made the motion to approve the change in location. Margaret Lucey seconded the motion.

Votes Cast:

Margaret Lucey: Yes

Brad Duffin: Yes

Sean King: Yes

Hearing closed 8:10 pm.

6. Other Business

a) Informational inquiry - Belleville Church – did not appear

b) Informational inquiry - Loretta's Outdoor seating/serving of alcohol – did not appear

c) The Transient Vendor licenses for 2012 will be renewed at the March meeting. All current license holders will receive a letter with the information and application to renew. Renewal applications will need to be received by the end of February.

7. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M.