



NORTHAMPTON LICENSE COMMISSION
City Hall, Office of the Mayor
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Northampton, MA 01060
(413) 587-1212

COMMISSIONERS

Natasha Yakovlev, Chair
Jennifer Ewers
Amy Cahillane

Mayoral Operations Manager
Annie Lesko
alesko@northamptonma.gov

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE
NORTHAMPTON LICENSE COMMISSION**
Wednesday, January 21, 2026 ◆ 4:00 p.m.
Remote Meeting

The City of Northampton does not discriminate based on disability and is committed to hosting accessible meetings. To request a reasonable accommodation to attend any City meeting, please contact the ADA Coordinator at: adacoordinator@northamptonma.gov or call 413-587-1288.

The January 21, 2026, License Commission meeting was held via remote participation.

Join Virtual Meeting

- **Video Conference:**
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89561348446?pwd=ENgbQygXM0MKVlyU4aDbDkW2SHebgZ.1>

OR

- **Telephone, call:** +1-305-224-1968, Meeting ID: 895 6134 8446, Passcode: 957828

- 1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER by Commissioner Yakovlev at 4:02 p.m.**
ROLL CALL - Commissioners Yakovlev and Cahillane were present. Commissioner Ewers was absent.
ANNOUNCEMENT OF ZOOM RECORDING by Commissioner Yakovlev
- 2. PUBLIC COMMENT - None**
- 3. APPLICATION FOR A NEW AUTOMATIC AMUSEMENT DEVICE LICENSE**
Mala Pot & Grill, LLC, 271 Main Street
1 Claw Machine

Casey Aubrey was present from Lucky Duck Vending and noted that they have a couple of machines downtown and are now looking to put one into Mala Pot.

Commissioner Cahillane moved to approve the application for a new automatic amusement device license for a claw machine at Mala Pot & Grill. Commissioner Yakovlev seconded. The motion passed 2-0 by a roll call vote.

- 4. APPLICATION FOR A SHORT-TERM LIQUOR LICENSE**
Northampton Center for the Arts, Inc.

Date/Time: Friday, February 13, 2026, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Location: 33 Hawley Street
Event: Queer Prom
Type: Wine & Malt
Fee Waiver Requested

Heather Geoffrey, co-director of the Center for the Arts, noted this is the second time hosting this event. Last year was a huge success with around 80 people. Dancing will take place in the flex space, and mingling will happen in the mezzanine with beer and wine being sold from the concession area.

Commissioner Cahillane moved to approve the application for a short-term wine and malt license for the Northampton Center for the Arts for February 13, 2026, from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. for a Queer Prom. Commissioner Yakovlev seconded. Commissioner Cahillane moved to offer an amendment to include the fee waiver. Commissioner Yakovlev seconded. The motion passed 2-0 by a roll call vote.

5. APPLICATIONS FOR A SHORT-TERM LIQUOR LICENSES

Pedigo Services, LLC d/b/a Quonk
Location: 122 Main St.
Type: Wine & Malt

Date/Time: Saturday, January 31, 2026, 6 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Event: Dance Party

Date/Time: Saturday, February 14, 2026, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Event: Dance Party

Date/Time: Saturday, February 21, 2026, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Event: Medieval Tavern Night

Jake Gibson, Theater Manager for Quonk, stated that the events are the same as usual.

Commissioner Cahillane moved to approve the applications for short-term wine and malt licenses for Pedigo Services, LLC d/b/a Quonk at 122 Main Street for Saturday, January 31, 2026, 6 p.m. to 1 a.m., Saturday, February 14, 2026, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., and Saturday, February 21, 2026, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Commissioner Yakovlev seconded. The motion passed 2-0 by a roll call vote.

SENT FOR PAYMENT

6. REQUEST TO RESCIND A PREVIOUSLY APPROVED SHORT-TERM LIQUOR LICENSE

Pedigo Services, LLC d/b/a Quonk
Date/Time: Saturday, January 17, 2026, 6 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.
Event: Dance Party
Location: 122 Main St.
Type: Wine & Malt

Commissioner Cahillane moved to rescind the previously approved short-term liquor license for Pedigo Services, LLC d/b/a Quonk for an event at 122 Main Street on Saturday, January 17, 2026, from 6 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Commissioner Yakovlev seconded. The motion passed 2-0 by a roll call vote.

7. APPLICATION FOR A NEW COMMON VICTUALLER LICENSE

Om Aadi Restaurant Florence, LLC d/b/a Friendly's
54-56 Main St., Florence

Prasad Bhopale, the new owner of Friendly's, opened the restaurant in April 2025. All required forms were completed, with the exception of the common victualler license; he apologized for the oversight. There are no changes to the operation. The Board of Health conducted a walkthrough in April.

Commissioner Cahillane moved to approve the Common Victualler license for Om Aadi Restaurant Florence, LLC d/b/a Friendly's at 54-56 Main Street in Florence. Commissioner Yakovlev seconded. The motion passed 2-0 by a roll call vote.

8. PUBLIC HEARING ON AN APPLICATION FOR A NEW ANNUAL WINE AND MALT GENERAL-ON-PREMISES LICENSE

ALLYANCE, LLC d/b/a Blackbird, 27 Pleasant St.
Proposed Manager: Lauryn Winiarski

Commissioner Yakovlev moved to open the public hearing at 4:13 p.m. Commissioner Cahillane seconded, and the public hearing was opened. There was no public comment.

Lauryn Winiarski was present and stated that the build-out experienced a delay over the Christmas period but is otherwise back on track. She received her general contractor license, and permits are being pulled to install a dividing wall. Lauryn has approximately 10–12 years of bartending experience.

The concept is a music venue featuring a modular stage. During live band performances and drag shows, the bar will be located closer to the front of the space. The unit is approximately 1,100 square feet with a green room and an accessible bathroom, and additional restrooms located downstairs. There will be an emphasis on mocktails, while also providing beer and wine. She pointed out that the bar that was there is now gone. She has about 3 to 4 weeks before she can open. She expressed interest in opening with short-term liquor licenses. The clerk noted that it won't be possible with a pending on-premises application at the ABCC.

Commissioner Yakovlev moved to close the public hearing at 4:17 p.m. Commissioner Cahillane seconded. The hearing was closed by a 2-0 roll call vote.

Commissioner Cahillane moved to approve the application for a new annual general-on-premises license for ALLYANCE, LLC d/b/a Blackbird at 27 Pleasant Street. Commissioner Yakovlev seconded. The motion passed 2-0 by a roll call vote.

9. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE TO DETERMINE THE MEANS OF REISSUANCE FOR TWO ALL ALCOHOL ON-PREMISES LICENSES THAT WERE PREVIOUSLY HELD BY:

The clerk noted that Attorney Seewald sent a discharge of pledge to Volkan's attorney on December 16, requesting that Volkan sign an agreement releasing and discharging the pledge on the license, waiving any right, title, or interest in the License, and acknowledging that the Northampton License Commission may reissue the License free and clear of any interest. Volkan signed the discharge so the Commission can reissue the license.

Pivaye Noho, LLC d/b/a Wurst Haus

This license was not renewed during renewal season, so the Commission can choose how it wants to reissue it.

The Commission inquired about the set of criteria that had been used in prior lotteries to determine participant eligibility. The clerk read the eligibility criteria:

- Applicants must be an existing wine & malt beverages license holder or a wine & malt beverages license holder with a cordials/liqueurs permit in the City of Northampton
- Applicants must be open three or more days a week
- Applicants must exercise the liquor license no later than 90 days from the date of ABCC approval
- Applicants can not be an all alcohol liquor license holder in the City of Northampton
- Applicants can not have had any of their previous licenses revoked by the Northampton License Commission

The clerk requested that, if a lottery were to take place, the meeting be held in person or in a hybrid format.

Commissioner Cahillane moved to hold a lottery at the February 18, 2026, License Commission meeting for existing Northampton wine and malt license holders that comply with the aforementioned conditions. Commissioner Yakovlev seconded. The motion passed 2-0 by a roll call vote.

10. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- November 19, 2025
- December 17, 2025
- January 7, 2026

Commissioner Cahillane moved to approve the January 7, 2026, minutes as written. Commissioner Yakovlev seconded. The motion passed 2-0 by a roll call vote.

The November 19, 2025, and December 17, 2025, minutes will be on the February meeting agenda.

11. NEW BUSINESS

The Building Department visited Haze on January 10th. The curtain was closed at the time of the visit, and Anja was bartending. An application for the exit sign has not yet been received.

12. ADJOURN

Commissioner Cahilled moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:31 p.m. Commissioner Yakovlev seconded. The motion passed 2-0 by a roll call vote.