



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, February 18, 2026 ◆ 4:00 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

City Council Chambers, 212 Main St., Northampton, MA 01060

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 February 18, 2026, License Commission meeting was held via hybrid participation.

Join Virtual Meeting

- **Video Conference:**
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88454008745?pwd=gSNLBSuejRRaoxR9Ge0Oa5CpmvQgD.1>

OR

- **Telephone, call:** +1-305-224-1968, Meeting ID: 884 5400 8745, Passcode: 710062

- 1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER by Commissioner Yakovlev at 4:01 p.m.**
ROLL CALL - Commissioners Yakovlev and Cahillane were present in person. Commissioner Ewers was present on Zoom.
ANNOUNCEMENT OF ZOOM RECORDING made by Commissioner Yakovlev
- 2. PUBLIC COMMENT - None**
- 3. LIQUOR LICENSE LOTTERY**
Sub Rosa, LLC

There was only one establishment that expressed interest in the liquor license lottery. Since there were two licenses, Sub Rosa, LLC, was the winner and is able to apply for all alcohol license.

- 4. APPLICATION FOR A SHORT-TERM LIQUOR LICENSE**
Northampton Center for the Arts, Inc.
Location: 33 Hawley Street
Dates/Times: Thursday, February 26, 2026, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Friday, February 27, 2026, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 28, 2026, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Event: A World of Piano - Jazz Piano Series
Type: Wine & Malt
Fee Waiver Request

Heather Geoffrey was present and stated that this has been an annual event since 1995, where the Center for the Arts hosts three different artists over three days.

Commissioner Cahillane moved to approve the application for a short-term liquor license for the Northampton Center for the Arts for February 26, February 27, and February 28, 2026, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and to include the fee waiver. Commissioner Ewers seconded. The motion passed 3-0 by a roll call vote.

5. APPLICATION FOR A SHORT-TERM LIQUOR LICENSE

Available Potential Enterprises, Limited d/b/a A.P.E., 126 Main St.
Dates/Times: Friday, March 27, 2026, 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Saturday, March 28, 2026, 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Event: Back Porch Festival
Location: 33 Hawley St., Northampton
Type: Wine & Malt
Fee Waiver Request

Sandy Timmerman, Space Use Coordinator for APE, pointed out this is the second year APE is participating in the Back Porch Festival. They are hosting three bands a night and would like to sell beer and wine in the workroom and the flex space at 33 Hawley Street.

Commissioner Ewers moved to approve the short-term liquor license for Available Potential Enterprises, Limited, for Friday, March 27, and Saturday, March 28, 2026, for the Back Porch Festival at 33 Hawley St., contingent upon receiving liquor liability insurance, and to include the fee waiver request. Commissioner Cahillane seconded. The motion passed 3-0 by a roll call vote.

6. APPLICATION FOR SHORT-TERM LIQUOR LICENSES

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

Date/Time: Saturday, March 7, 2026, 6 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Event: Dance Party

Date/Time: Saturday, March 14, 2026, 6 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Type: Medieval Tavern Night

Jake Gibson was present and stated that the proposed events are being held in the same manner as usual.

Commissioner Cahillane moved to approve the short-term liquor licenses for Pedigo Services, LLC d/b/a Quonk for March 7, and March 14, 2026, at 122 Main Street. Commissioner Ewers seconded. The motion passed 3-0 by a roll call vote.

7. APPLICATION FOR A NEW COMMON VICTUALLER LICENSE

Uya Florence, LLC, 89 Main St., Florence
Manager: Julius Berman

Commissioner Cahillane moved to approve the Common Victualler license for Uya Florence, LLC. Commissioner Ewers seconded. The motion passed 3-0 by a roll call vote.

8. APPLICATION FOR A NEW COMMON VICTUALLER LICENSE AND AUTOMATIC AMUSEMENT DEVICE LICENSE

Annakoch, Inc. d/b/a Nice Tea, 211 Main Street
Ganna Kochetkova
1 Claw Machine

Commissioner Ewers moved to approve the Common Victualler and Automatic Amusement Device license for Annakoch, Inc. d/b/a Nice Tea. Commissioner Cahillane seconded. The motion passed 3-0 by a roll call vote.

9. APPLICATION FOR A SHORT-TERM LIQUOR LICENSE

Euphoria Proud, Inc.
Date/Time: Saturday, May 2, 2026, 8 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.
Location: 33 Hawley Street
Event: Euphoria Unbound
Type: All Alcoholic

Patrick Wade Wofford stated he is trying to keep Pride weekend alive by throwing a party after the parade.

Commissioner Cahillane moved to approve the short-term liquor license for Euphoria Proud, Inc. on Saturday, May 2, 2026, at 33 Hawley Street and to include the fee waiver for a non-profit. Commissioner Ewers seconded. The motion passed 3-0 by a roll call vote.

10. APPLICATION FOR NEW AUTOMATIC AMUSEMENT DEVICE LICENSES

Bowl New England, Inc. d/b/a Spare Time Northampton
525 Pleasant St.
11 New Automatic Amusement Device licenses
2 Super Bikes
2 Cruis'n Blast
Aliens Armageddon
Pushing Points
Big Buck Reloaded
4 Skill Fall

Commissioner Ewers moved to add 11 new automatic amusement devices licenses to the existing license for Bowl New England, Inc. Commissioner Cahillane seconded. The motion passed 3-0 by a roll call vote.

11. REQUEST TO ADD TWO ARTS NIGHT OUT VENUES TO THE 2026 ARTS NIGHT OUT SHORT-TERM LIQUOR LICENSE

Megliola Real Estate, Inc. d/b/a Coldwell Banker Community Realtors, 112 Main St., and Available Potential Enterprises, Ltd. d/b/a A.P.E., 126 Main St.

Amanda Shafii was present for this application and stated she's requesting that two additional venues be added to the 2026 Arts Night Out liquor license.

Commissioner Cahillane moved to add Megliola Real Estate, Inc., and Available Potential Enterprises, Ltd, to the 2026 Arts Night Out liquor licenses. Commissioner Ewers seconded. The motion passed 3-0 by a roll call vote.

**12. HEARING ON NOISE AND SAFETY COMPLAINTS AT 24 MAIN STREET AND
CONSIDERATION OF POTENTIAL MODIFICATION OF THE ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE
HELD BY PEDIGO-WOOD, LLC D/B/A HAZE**

Commissioner Cahillane moved to open the public hearing at 4:17 p.m. Commissioner Ewers seconded and the public hearing was opened by a 3-0 roll call vote.

Eric Bennett, who lives upstairs, shared that over the past six weeks there have been almost no incidents. He can hear the club at times, but it has not been vibrating his apartment. When things get a little out of hand, Anja has been very responsive and addresses the issue quickly. He feels there is currently a happy compromise and does not want to put her out of business or be seen as the "bad guy." He appreciates Anja's responsiveness and is withdrawing any complaints for the time being.

Toni Hall, who works at Haze, shared that Haze is very important for many people in the community. They noted that there have been noticeable improvements to the sound, and both residents and visitors have expressed that they are happy to be out later at night. Toni emphasized that finding a good compromise is essential to ensuring Haze can remain a sustainable business.

Melissa Bonaccorso, a patron of Haze, spoke about the significance of this space and pointed out the recent decline in downtown activity. Currently, Haze is one of only two establishments in the city offering late-night options. She emphasized that restricting the hours of a venue like Haze would be debilitating for the business and downtown.

Rory Cronin, a Ward 4 resident and DJ at Haze, spoke about how important the space has been to the community. They shared that the Iron Horse no longer books local artists, so opportunities for local performers have diminished. Rory expressed concern that the city's culture is being lost as venues close. They concluded that the city should support businesses that contribute to the community.

Anja Wood was present on behalf of Haze. She shared that she has been working hard to find a path forward and has taken several steps to address concerns. Ms. Wood reported that the fire exit sign has been installed and that staff have been diligent about ensuring bands leave ample egress space during performances. Security personnel are now present at all events. She also noted that she is continuing efforts to improve sound mitigation. Haze recently held a fundraiser and launched a GoFundMe campaign to raise additional funds for soundproofing improvements. In addition, she has been working with Eric and the upstairs neighbors and is exploring repositioning speakers to reduce sound impact.

Building Commissioner Kevin Ross stated that the exit sign was installed and inspected on February 6th, the same day Ms. Wood came in to discuss soundproofing options. He noted that much of the noise appears to be traveling through the brick wall, particularly in the area where the band performs, and that sound paneling along that brick wall would likely help mitigate the issue. He confirmed that with the exit sign now properly installed and inspected, the curtain may remain closed during performances.

Anja explained that the incident discussed at the last meeting was an isolated occurrence and that the individual involved is no longer employed at Haze. She stated that there have been no other incidents requiring police involvement and that operations have otherwise been running smoothly. She expressed that a new business, it has been challenging to survive, and the reduction in hours has created an additional hardship. She respectfully requested that Haze's entertainment license hours be reinstated to their original schedule.

Commissioner Cahillane moved to close the public hearing at 4:37 p.m. Commissioner Ewers seconded and the hearing was closed by a 3-0 roll call vote.

The Commission had a brief discussion and was all satisfied with the outcome of this trial period and concurred that the safety requirements and the noise mitigation efforts were sufficient.

Commissioner Ewers moved to restore the previously approved hours of entertainment for the entertainment license held by Pedigo-Wood, LLC d/b/a Haze, due to safety compliance and improvement of noise complaints. Commissioner Cahillane seconded. The motion passed 3-0 by a roll call vote.

13. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- November 19, 2025

Commissioner Cahillane moved to approve the November 19, 2025, minutes as written. Commissioner Ewers seconded. The motion passed 2-0-1 with Commissioner Yakovlev abstaining.

- December 17, 2025

Commissioner Ewers moved to approve the December 17, 2025, minutes as written. Commissioner Yakovlev seconded. The motion passed 2-0-1 with Commissioner Cahillane abstaining.

- January 21, 2026

Commissioner Cahillane moved to approve the January 21, 2026, minutes as written. Commissioner Yakovlev seconded. The motion passed 2-0-1 with Commissioner Ewers abstaining.

14. NEW BUSINESS

The clerk will add a discussion to the March meeting agenda to decide how the Commission wants to issue the remaining all alcohol license.

15. ADJOURN

Commissioner Cahillaned moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:41 p.m. Commissioner Yakovlev seconded. The motion passed 3-0 by a roll call vote.