



## **Vermont Board of Liquor & Lottery**

### **April Minutes**

Record of the Meeting of the Vermont Board of Liquor & Lottery held on April 13, 2022, via web and phone.

**Members Present:** Thom Lauzon, Megan Cicio, Sam Guy, Ed Flanagan

**Others Present:** Wendy Knight, Commissioner Liquor Control; Andrew Collier, Deputy Commissioner Lottery; Wesley Lawrence, Board Counsel; Jacob Humbert, Attorney General; Brian Evans, Financial Director; Skyler Genest, OCE Chief; Tonia Pryce, Purchasing Coordinator; Dustin Giles; Katie Fleury, Program Technician; Brendan Day, Program Technician; Martin Prevost, Director of Licensing; Cheryl Mowel, Executive Staff Assistant; Sylvia Buzzell; Danielle Jensen; Skip Whitman; Patrick Ross; Brandon King; Jennifer Czachor; Melanie Gaiotti; Matthew Gonyo; Michael Welch; John Stoughton; Jennifer Norton-Magnan; Brian McLaughlin; Donald Wenner; Heather Duke; Jennifer Fisher; John Gordon; David Simendinger; Krista Scruggs; Violette Maring; Chris Ruiz

**Meeting Start:** 9:00 am.

### **Additions/Deletions to the Agenda:**

None

### **Board Actions on Consent Agenda Items:**

- Approve minutes from March 9, 2022 Board Meeting motion Sam second Megan
- Approve licenses issued March 1, 2022 – March 31, 2022 motion Sam second Megan

**Public Comment:** None

### **Licensing:**

- New licenses for March 2022 approved
- Board review of renewal application for Gordon Enterprises Inc. DBA The Roadhouse
  - Requested per licensee to remove conditions and Thom Lauzon to abstain from voting
  - Conditions were met with no issues Martin recommends renewal
  - Motion to renew by Megan second Sam unanimous

**Enforcement:**

**Docket Number 2022-001 – Zafa Wines**

- Re: Violation of Title 7 V.S.A. §§ 61(a), 271(a) and 224(e), and Board of Liquor and Lottery License Condition (b)
  - Subject of docket – lease in question for Burlington location, Burlington license was surrendered and actively moving location to Isle La Mott. Application is currently in hands of DLC.
  - No action needed as it has been rendered moot.
  
- **Docket Number(s) 2022-002, 2022-003, 2022-004 – Wesco Inc. (Champlain Farms, multiple locations)**
  - Re: Alleged Violations of General Regulation 13 and Title 7 V.S.A. § 213
  - Order for witnesses to drop off meeting until testifying – John Stoughton, Michael Welch, Mary, Matt Gonyo, Brandon King
    - Three outstanding Admin tickets that require monetary fines
    - -002 St. Johnsbury \$260 fine furnishing tobacco to minor during compliance check
    - -003 219 Burlington \$100 employee not properly trained
    - -004 3570 Roosevelt Highway Colchester \$100 Employee not properly trained
    - Mr. Simendinger stipulated to admissions & exhibits.
    - Mr. Simendinger sworn in for testimony.
    - Continuance to next meeting suggested per member Thom Lauzon – continued until May meeting
  
- **Docket Number 2022-005 – CSW Food & Beverage (Pearl Street Pizza, Barre VT)**
  - Re: Alleged Violation of General Regulation 16 – Board Counsel continued hearing until May

**Commissioner Comments:**

- Two main IT projects are going well: online licensing system and Sci Games conversion
- Year over Year March lottery sales down 14% from FY21 and up 16% from FY20. March 2021 had record high lottery sales.
- Year over year March liquor sales 6.48% increase
- 8% out of stock compared to 20% or more last summer, moving in the right direction.
- 55 out of 79 audits completed at 802 Spirits stores
- Putting West Rutland store out to bid; current 802 spirits store is in a Walgreens
- Brattleboro moving from Walgreens to Hannaford this spring

- One of our strategic goals is increasing the number of kiosks from 3 to 6 stores. Evaluating our retail analysis.
- Marketing efforts showing how Vermont Lottery and 802Spirits support local communities. Current ad campaign for 802Spirits on WCAX. Vermont Lottery has new partnerships with Thunder Road, Mountaineers, and Lake Monsters.
- Liquor omnibus passed House and is with Senate Economic Development. Sports betting proposal is being looked at by legislation.
- Collocating offices in Berlin – finalizing lease

**Other Business:**

- Enforcement Hearing Protocol Change Proposal Presentation – green light to move ahead with discussion of make-up next meeting May

**Meeting Adjourned: 10:33**

**Next Meeting: May 11, 2022**