

**Brandon Board of Liquor Control Commissioners Meeting  
September 23, 2024**

**NOTE: These are unapproved minutes, subject to amendment and/or approval at a subsequent board meeting.**

**Board Members in Attendance:** Doug Bailey, Heather Nelson, Brian Coolidge, Ralph Ethier, Tim Guiles

**Others In Attendance:** Seth Hopkins, Bill Moore, Jack Schneider, Todd Nielsen, Steve Bisette, Ray Marcoux, Stephanie Jerome, Sandy Mayo, Steven Jupiter, Susan Benedict, Tom Kilpeck

**Others by Zoom:** Neil Silins, Cecil Reniche-Smith

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Doug Bailey – Chair.

**a. Agenda Adoption**

**Motion** by Heather Nelson/Tim Guiles to approve the agenda. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**2. Approval of Minutes**

**a. Board of Liquor Control Commissioners Meeting – September 9, 2024**

**Motion** by Brian Coolidge/Ralph Ethier approve the minutes of the Board of Liquor Control Commissioners meeting of September 9, 2024. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**3. Consent Agenda**

**Motion** by Tim Guiles/Heather Nelson to approve the consent agenda for items a through c. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**a. Approve Liquor License Renewals**

**- Application 48361 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Liquor – Green Mountain Smoke and Vape Shop LLC, 1410 Franklin Street, Brandon VT 10/2/2024 – 10/01/2025**

**b. Approve Tobacco and Tobacco Substitute License Renewals**

**- Application 48360 – Tobacco Substitute Endorsement – Green Mountain Smoke and Vape Shop LLC, 1410 Franklin Street, Brandon VT 10/2/2024 – 10/01/2025**

**c. Approve Special Event/Catering Permit – Approved by Clerk at time of receipt**

**- Red Clover Ale Company, LLC, Beer Garden, September 21, 2024, 11:30AM – 8:00PM, Green Park, 24 Center Street, Brandon, VT 05733**

**4. Public Comment Participation**

Brian Coolidge questioned the Town’s liability for events with liquor. Seth Hopkins advised there is liability insurance through VLCT that allows for alcohol to be served on town property and the Select Board has the authority to issue permits on town property. The event sponsor would have liability insurance and the Town as the property owner. There is a large insurance policy and there is no specified events that are not allowed. Doug Bailey asked if the Town is also covered at Estabrook field and it was noted the Town would be covered. Mr. Hopkins stated the Town’s outside consumption ordinance allows alcohol to be consumed outdoors only at events and not individually. At a sponsored event, there are rules from the Liquor Control Commission.

Jan Coolidge asked about Rec Department events. Seth Hopkins advised it is the same as the State parks allowing people to bring in alcohol. If the landowner is not involved in the catering or permitting the sale, they are not liable. Ms. Coolidge asked what the liability is for the Town for things like the corn hole league as there is no monitoring. Bill Moore stated when the Town created a park policy, it allowed for case-by-case basis for BYOB. The Town has not had an indoor corn hole league and the disc golf is observed by a Rec employee. Mr. Hopkins noted the permits are to sell alcohol. Ms. Coolidge stated it is confusing when a Rec department event has BYOB. Mr. Hopkins stated the Select Board can decide what is and is not equitable on town property and buildings.

Sandy Mayo asked if people have permission to purchase alcohol from Red Clover and go to Green Park. Seth Hopkins advised the Select Board gives them permission to sell alcohol in Green Park and it will be sold and consumed in that space. Tim Guiles stated one is not allowed to leave that area and the alcohol has to be purchased in that area. Ms. Mayo questioned where the police were as the Town was very congested last weekend and there were no police patrolling the streets. Mr. Hopkins stated the police chief has been encouraged to do patrolling. There were two officers on duty on Saturday and there were many events in Town and Mr. Hopkins was not sure where the police made their presence. Ms. Mayo stated there were no police at the Barn Opera or at Sister Wicked and the police should know that part of their job is to patrol the streets. Mr. Hopkins stated that is not part of their contract and not part of the collective bargaining agreement. The Town has made a clear and ongoing effort to have police presence in the community. Ms. Mayo stated the congestion with street walkers and things that are coming up are unsafe and asked if the people that have activities on the Towns' properties sign a contract. Mr. Hopkins reported the public parks sometime require a certificate of insurance as sometimes they are rentals but would depend on the specific events. There are events that do not pay the Town except for an itinerant vendors certificate. Ms. Mayo stated there is a no parking sign near her property but there are cars that park in the area and she has the option to install a gate but it would limit cars who want to go into the bookstore. She does not want to do that but cars are turning around and parking in her parking lot. Mr. Hopkins will ask the police to enforce the no parking sign. Jan Coolidge stated The Reporter does print the activities of the police department that includes the foot patrol. Doug Bailey stated it is not the Select Board's position to tell the police what to do, as they hire a police chief and allow the department to do their day-to-day operations. Heather Nelson stated at any given moment when the Town Manager is on duty, she does not see why he should need to know where the police officers are and the level of operation. Ms. Mayo stated the town is growing and everyone that is in public office needs to take responsibility and not pass it off. It is time to have oversight of taking care of citizens and not just the tourists. Seth Hopkins would encourage residents to consider what level of response they require from the town manager, deputy town manager, and police chief. He had an exchange over the weekend with Ms. Mayo and it would have been better directed to the police chief. He stated respectfully, if there is an event that is happening and someone wants an immediate response, contacting one who works in the office may not be checking their emails immediately. Mr. Hopkins noted he was out of Town for part of the day and he would hate to think that someone was reaching out on a time sensitive nature. There is a non-emergency response number at the police station that people can call and if it is an emergency, they should call 911. Ms. Mayo thanked Mr. Hopkins for his immediate response but did not expect a response until Monday, but she saw something and she had heard stories about the police not showing up. She asked if a meeting could be arranged with the police to work together with them. Mr. Hopkins advised the police chief would be glad to have community meetings or meet individually with people that have concerns as he is respectful of the community's desires and needs. Mr. Hopkins will schedule a meeting in October.

## 5. Adjournment

**Motion** by Brian Coolidge/Tim Guiles to adjourn the Board of Liquor Control Commissioners meeting at 7:21PM.  
**The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bryant  
Recording Secretary