

The Board of License Commissioners of Cecil County met in a regular session at the County Administrative Building, Conference Room, 200 Chesapeake Boulevard, Elkton, MD on Wednesday, March 31, 2021 at 9:15 A.M.

PRESENT: Stephen Miller, Chairman
Kristen Ortt, Commissioner
Bernard Chiominto, Commissioner
Lawrence Scott, Board Attorney
Earl Bradford, Chief Alcoholic Beverage Inspector
Robin S. Trader, Administrative Assistant

APPLICATIONS

NEW LICENSE

Application received from Eriksson Hill, Hill Culinary Consulting, LLC T/A Hill Culinary, 1 Commercial Plaza, Elkton, MD 21921 for issuance of a new Class "B" Beer, Wine & Liquor Alcoholic Beverage License with catered events option

Eriksson Hill appeared virtually before the Board; the applicant was duly sworn by the Clerk. Mr. Lawrence read the legal notice stating it was advertised on the dates of March 17 and 24, 2021. The fully executed application packet with proper fees included: signatures of 10 registered voters and property owners in District 3. Mr. Lawrence asked if the information in the application as submitted had changed since submitting; the applicants stated no. Mr. Scott also asked if there was anything he would like to add to the application; the applicant stated no.

Chairman Miller asked, "Mr. Hill, can you give us a little brief synopsis of what your intentions are?" Mr. Hill stated: A lot of this stem from coronavirus. So our business was impacted pretty negatively. So when I opened Hill Culinary in Elkton it was primarily strictly off premise catering and we had to morph to doing carry out my intention was ultimately to get a liquor license to sell to potential catering clients like weddings and events like that and I'd sort of done a little bit of preliminary investigation into that. You know this is even pre-Covid, so when we morphed into a more carry out sort of footprint, we started to get a little traction and realize that we had you know something that we could offer to Elkton then honestly, just doesn't exist; sort of a little higher price restaurant that's not a chain that has chef driven food. And we really wanted to add value to the community and start to offer you know beer, wine and spirits. We're not a bar, we're not a packaged goods store, you know we're more of a, I will call it an adult place to come, you know it's a very nice setting so it's really a compliment to what we're currently doing and honestly, to add revenue, you know I think it's going to be game changer for us, and I think it'll be a win, win for the community. So our intention is really to offer a sort of a nicer establishment for professionals to come and even families to enjoy great food and if they want to have a glass of wine with dinner, then we can offer that were a cocktail or a martini or something.

Commissioner Chiominto asked what the hours of operation will be. Mr. Hill stated: "Currently, we are Monday or Tuesday through Sunday; we open Tuesday through Friday at 11am; we close at eight; Saturdays we open at 10 we offer brunch and close at, I believe, eight and Sundays we open at 10 or for brunch and close at six. Now with a liquor license you know we will to expand those hours a little bit not too late, we don't want to be a place where people are hanging out at 1am getting drunk that is not our intention, you know. You know, it just may naturally progress where you know. When you add something like this, or when you have an establishment that has alcohol people might want to linger a little bit longer after dinner, which is fine, but like I said we're not we're not looking to be a place where people can come at 2am and get something. I mean that's just not what we want, what I can't imagine we will be open to much later. Now the traffic just isn't there in Elkton for a late night crowd anyway, unless you're maybe C3ntral Tavern or the brewery or something.

Commissioner Chiominto asked what time the kitchen closes. Mr. Hill responded, "We close when the restaurant closes I mean that's we're not going to be like I said we're not a place where the kitchen will close it what let's put this way when we're selling up all we're going to be selling food. But I always find that's better I we don't want people just sitting there drinking, that is, honestly, not or I mean people may come there for cocktail in the afternoon, we do have a patio this enclosed, which is fine, but like I said we're not the place where people are going to come in and group just to drink, I mean that may happen, but we want to be able to offer them food and it's also good tool to make sure people don't overdo it.

Commissioner Chiominto then asked about outdoor seating and how many seats there are. Mr. Hill responded, "Currently with I think we could probably have a maximum of you know 16-ish. Right now, we have round tables, we only have 12 chairs out there, right now, so right now it's 12; we're getting some different tables for configuration, to be able to accommodate you know what they're going to be square table, so people can put them together. But right now it's like you couldn't I mean just with Covid and social distancing and guidelines, you know I don't think that's an issue for us but, but I would say, a max of 16."

Commission Chiominto asked, "There's no plans for any type of acoustic music anything like that?" Mr. Hill responded: "I hadn't given it a lot of thought if that's allowed maybe I mean when I again, you know, we're open to any ideas that will help enhance what we're doing and drive sales, you know, obviously I mean is that something we're allowed to do."

Chairman Miller stated that the Board usually grants a 30-temporary approval for outdoor use; check with the Town of Elkton to see if they will allow this and if they grant that we will bless it with the 30-day trial period. Mr. Hill stated: "Like, I can tell you I seriously doubt we get any (complaints) there's no one, there's no residences or anything around there, but obviously you know we're not we're not a live music venue

to be clear, and we're not trying to be alive music venue but an acoustic guitar player sounds like a great idea.

Chairman Miller: "Is there anybody here that would like to testify for or against this request. Okay, hearing none; Mr. Hill, the only thing we've been concerned about often blesses your live entertainment; we're all familiar with the area I don't know how for the sound would carry. What you're right it's all predominantly business so I'm not sure you would get any complaints. That would be our only concern."

Mr. Hill: "Of course yeah we wouldn't want to make any disturbances again, you know I mean I know there's live music with electric you know bands at Elk River right be you know kind of behind. You know that kind of permeates into the park we don't hear that from there. Though somebody playing acoustic guitar but obviously it's something we would be cognizant and we obviously wouldn't want to disturb anyone, there's no imminent plans for that."

Chairman Miller: "Having heard everything, I open for a motion.

Commissioner Chiominto: "I make a motion that we approve the application received from Eriksson Hill, Hill Culinary Consulting, LLC T/A Hill Culinary, 1 Commercial Plaza, Elkton, MD 21921 for issuance of a new Class "B" Beer, Wine and Liquor alcoholic beverage license with catered event options. Commissioner Ortt seconded that motion and the Board unanimously voted 3-0 to approve Eriksson Hill, Hill Culinary Consulting, LLC T/A Hill Culinary, 1 Commercial Plaza, Elkton, MD 21921 for issuance of a new Class "B" Beer, Wine and Liquor alcoholic beverage license with catered event options.

There was then a discussion between Mr. Hill and Mrs. Trader about payment and issuance of the license.

General Business

- **Approve Minutes**
Commissioner Chiominto made a motion to approve the minutes from February; Commissioner Ortt seconded that motion and the Board unanimously approved the minutes.
- **Specials – None**
-

Old Business: Nothing to report
New Business: Nothing to report

Public Comment:

Jane Bellmyer: I have a question. Okay um I saw on Facebook that New York square pizza is opening, do they have a liquor license? Are they opening without one?

Commissioner Miller: "I don't believe we can make a public comment right now."

Jane Bellmyer: "That speaks volumes okay. All right, um what's going on with Minihane's? Have we heard anything? I'm seeing traffic outside the building."

Chairman Miller: "I believe, to answer you truthfully we haven't heard anything yet."

There being no further business, Commissioner Chiominto made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Ortt seconded that motion and the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at AM.

BY:

Stephen Miller, Chairman

ATTEST:

Robin S. Trader, Administrative Assistant