

**THE ALCOHOL BEVERAGE BOARD
THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2026 @ 1:00 PM
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS CONFERENCE ROOM
CHESAPEAKE BUILDING
41770 BALDRIDGE STREET
LEONARDTOWN, MD 20650
MINUTES**

The meeting of the Alcohol Beverage Board of St. Mary's County was held on Thursday, April 9, 2026, at 1:00 PM in the County Commissioners Conference Room, Chesapeake Building, Leonardtown, Maryland.

Chairman David Willenborg called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Present:

Chairman David Willenborg
Member Richard Shin
Member Barbara Hill
Tamara Hildebrand, Administrator
Chris Beaver, Attorney
Kristen Hanson, Recording Secretary
Kevin Hall, Inspector
Dep. Steve Myers, Alcohol Enforcement Coordinator

Not present:

Vice-Chair Richard Watts
Member George Anas

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chairman Willenborg entertained a motion to approve the agenda. Member Hill made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Member Shin; motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – March 12, 2026

Member Shin made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting on March 12, 2026, seconded by Member Hill; motion carried

NEW BUSINESS

• **Violations:**

1 California Wine & Spirits – Bipinchandra Patel

- Commission of acts on licensed premises contrary to State law in violation of Section 5.04(b) "Acts Contrary to Law" of the Rules and Regulations of the Alcohol Beverage Board of St. Mary's County; to wit: Distribution of Tobacco Product or Paraphernalia to Minor in violation of Section 10-107 of the Criminal Law Section of the Maryland Annotated Code.

Mr. Bipinchandra Patel appeared before the Board and was sworn in. Mr. Patel admitted that the violation did occur. Attorney Beaver read the facts into the record. Mr. Patel stated that the employee who made the sale was new and was thinking that the age for someone to buy tobacco products was 18 years old and not 21 years old. Member Shin made a motion for a \$150 fine, seconded by Member Hill; 2:1 motion carried, Chairman Willenborg opposed.

2 Wildewood Wine & Spirits – Ronak A. Sharma

- Commission of acts on licensed premises contrary to State law in violation of Section 5.04(b) “Acts Contrary to Law” of the Rules and Regulations of the Alcohol Beverage Board of St. Mary’s County; to wit: Distribution of Tobacco Product or Paraphernalia to Minor in violation of Section 10-107 of the Criminal Law Section of the Maryland Annotated Code.

Mr. Ronak Sharma appeared before the Board and was sworn in. Mr. Sharma admitted that the violation did occur. Attorney Beaver read the facts into the record. Mr. Sharma stated that the employee who made the sale was new and was still training. Mr. Sharma stated that their policy is if the customer looks under 35 years old, they need to ask for ID. He also stated that moving forward he will give more training to new employees. Member Shin made a motion for a \$150 fine, seconded by Member Hill; 2:1 motion carried, Chairman Willenborg opposed.

3 Pal Liquors & Gas – Barinder Pal Singh

- Commission of acts on licensed premises contrary to State law in violation of Section 5.04(b) “Acts Contrary to Law” of the Rules and Regulations of the Alcohol Beverage Board of St. Mary’s County; to wit: Distribution of Tobacco Product or Paraphernalia to Minor in violation of Section 10-107 of the Criminal Law Section of the Maryland Annotated Code.

Mr. Barinder Singh appeared before the Board and was sworn in. Mr. Singh admitted that the violation did occur. Attorney Beaver read the facts into the record. Mr. Singh stated that his son who was home from college made the sale and knew he had made a mistake as soon as it happened. Member Shin made a motion for a \$150 fine, seconded by Member Hill; 2:1 motion carried, Chairman Willenborg opposed.

- **Applications:**

1 Mi Tierra Restaurant Corp

- Application for Amado A. Gonzalez & Septiembre E. Arevalo Matute to purchase a Class B (Restaurant) BWL license & t/a Mi Tierra Restaurant Corp, 21591 Great Mills Rd., Lexington Park, MD 20653.

Mr. Amado Gonzalez and Ms. Septiembre Arevalo Matute appeared before the Board and were sworn in. Ms. Matute stated that they believe that serving alcohol will increase their amount of customers. She said she will have employees ask for all ID’s and they will have training for all employees. Member Shin made a motion of a 90-day conditional

approval pending the approval of Fire Marshal and U&O, seconded by Member Hill; motion carried.

- **Special Privileges:**

- 1 The Good Earth Natural Food Company – Abigail Greenwell**

- Requesting a 356-day Beer Wine Tasting Permit

Mrs. Abigail Greenwell appeared before the Board and was sworn in. Mrs. Greenwell stated that she would like to give customers the option to taste different wines before they purchase them. Mrs. Greenwell said the tasting's will be held inside the business and she will have a vendor at the first tasting so she can get an idea of how it will run. Member Shin made a motion to approve the 365-day Beer Wine Tasting permit, seconded by Member Hill; motion carried.

- **Premise changes:**

- 1 Brudergarten – Geraldine A. L'Heureux**

- Requesting temporary extension of premises and outdoor serving counter for special event: Renfest, May 23 & 24, 2026, from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM

Ms. Geraldine L'Heureux appeared before the Board and was sworn in. Ms. L'Heureux stated this is her third year doing the Renfest event. She stated she received approval from the Town of Leonardtown to put up fences around the whole building during the event. Member Hill made a motion of a conditional approval until the date of the event, pending approval from the Fire Marshal and Comptroller, seconded by Member Shin; motion carried.

- 2 Social Coffeehouse & Speakeasy – Sean Coogan Jr.**

- Requesting a temporary extension of premises and outdoor serving counter for special event: Leonardtown Bar Crawl, April 17, 2026, from 11:00 AM – 9:00 PM

Mr. Sean Coogan appeared before the Board and was sworn in. Mr. Coogan stated that this is the ninth year doing the bar crawl and second year at his current location. He would like to extend the outdoor area and use the parking lot for a food trailer and separate food vendors. Member Shin made a conditional approval until the date of the event, pending the approval from Health Department and Fire Marshal, seconded by Member Hill; motion carried.

BOARD ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Hildebrand stated that April is Alcohol Awareness month.

ALCOHOL ENFORCEMENT COORDINATOR REPORT

For the month of March, Deputy Myers reported:

- 22 Compliance checks – 2 Violation
- 13 DUI arrest by the Sheriff's Office
- 15 DUI arrest by the Maryland State Police
- Stationary surveillance checks at ABC Liquors and Abell's Tavern.

Deputy Myers stated that due to a noise complaint he spent four hours at Abell's Tavern and areas surrounding the business on two separate occasions. Deputy Myers stated he checked the area and there was no excessive noise found. He heard some music right outside of the business, but no music was heard at the complainant's home or nearby residences. He also stated he visited multiple homes surrounding the business to see if they had any noise complaints and they all said that they do not.

- Park surveillance – no violations
- 7 summonses served
- Sheriff's office required training and RAST training

BOARD INSPECTOR REPORT

For the month of March, Inspector Hall reported:

- 12 Inspections
- 3 follow ups
- RAST training
- CAC meeting

ST MARY'S LICENSED BEVERAGE ASSOCIATION

Mr. David Dent could not attend

BOARD MEMBERS TIME

Member Shin wanted to explain why he choose a fine of \$150 for the violations. He stated he wanted an amount just enough for it to be a wakeup call for the businesses and maybe there should be more board discussion in the future.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Hill made a motion to adjourn at 2:16 pm; seconded by Member Shin; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Hanson, Recording Secretary

David Willenborg, Chair