

**MAINE FUEL BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Date: June 11, 2015
Meeting Location: Central Conference Room
Time Meeting Began: 9:00 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Board Chair, Lionel Landry, called the meeting to order.

The following members were present:

Lionel Landry
Jeffrey Choate
Charles Martin
Mark Bossie
Paul McClay
Richard McCarthy
David Foster
Dale Canning

Staff Present:

Catherine Carroll, Board Administrator
Vickey Gray, Board Clerk
Peter Holmes, Senior Inspector
Bruce Bristow, Inspector

AAG Present:

Judith Peters

OLD BUSINESS

Action on Board Minutes of March 26, 2015 - A motion was made to approve the March 26, 2015 minutes as written.

Motion: Paul McClay
Second: Charles Martin
Unanimous

NEW BUSINESS

Adjudicatory Hearing (#09/10-244)

Lionel Landry opened the hearing of an appeal of order of correction (#09/10-244). The appellant was not present and was not represented by counsel.

A motion was made to uphold the February 12, 2015 Decision and Order.

Motion:

Second:

Unanimous

Administrators Report

Catherine Carroll reported that the draft request for proposal for an examination vendor is nearly complete.

Catherine informed the members that the rulemaking for Board Rules Chapter 13, Section 13.7 received approval from the Governor's office and suggested scheduling a public hearing on Chapter 13, Section 13.7 for 9:30 a.m. on August 13, 2015.

A motion was made to schedule a public hearing on Board Rules Chapter 13, Section 13.7 for 9:30 a.m. on August 13, 2015.

Motion: David Foster

Second: Dale Canning

Another motion was made to specifically delegate to staff all rulemaking proceedings in accordance to law, including scheduling a public hearing for August.

Motion: David Foster

Second: Dale Canning

Unanimous

Catherine informed the members of a change in the process of issuing preliminary denials with offers for a consent agreement to license applicants who do not fully or partially disclose criminal convictions.

Catherine advised the members that LD 294 "An Act to Allow a Home Heating Oil Delivery Driver to Bleed a Home Heating Oil Burner" is expected to be enacted into law allowing a delivery driver to bleed a home heating oil burner without the need for a license provided the driver completed a board approved training course in bleeding oil burners.

Catherine reminded the members that the next board meeting is scheduled for August 13, 2015.

Senior Inspector's Report

Peter Holmes reported on the following:

Maine State Fire Marshal's Office/ Other Agencies

- There were three requests for assistance from the State Fire Marshal's Office.
- One minor explosion at a restaurant found to be a valve leaking during cleaning operations. When the individual went to re-light the accumulated gas was ignited.
- One fire where propane could not be ruled out due to location of origin in relation to the tanks.
- One report of a delivery driver being injured by liquid LP while filling a tank. This case is still open so no further details to share.

Dispensers

- Dispenser applications have picked up. There have been 18 applications since the March Board meeting. Companies are getting better at installations. Fewer of the stations require multiple inspections.

Bulk Permits

- Six bulk plant permits have been applied for and granted since the March Board meeting. The inspectors have done final approval for operation on four more.

Natural Gas

- Questions are on the rise concerning conversions especially about venting. The technicians doing conversions do not know how or don't use the venting tables in NFPA 54. This is going to become an issue as time goes by and there are a large number of conversions.
- Some pushback on the non-adoption of the exception in NFPA 54 for lined chimneys is coming mostly from Unitel who has a large number of rental water heaters that will now require a liner when they are replaced. Unitel admitted that they had not prepared for this change, and were looking for a temporary waiver to allow them to continue changing them without lining the chimney. Pete explained that he did not have the authority to give them such allowance, and explained the procedures they would need to take to make a request to the Board. They admitted that even though they had been involved in the rules adoption since the first public comment, they had missed this section. Their decision, as Pete understands, is to notify their customers of the issue and either line chimneys in replacement situations, or change to a PV water heater.

Code Presentation

- Since the March Board meeting, the inspectors have provided nine code update courses to technicians in addition to the PHCC program, with an attendance of approximately 520 technicians, bringing the total to over 900 technicians participating so far. The inspectors have done a great job of developing and presenting this program. When developing this program, they took a slightly different approach in that they strayed from the usual written

code format and moved to a more “this is what it means” format, which has received many favorable reviews.

- There are five more trainings scheduled with an additional 200 technicians anticipated.
- Pete gave two classes at the recent MBOIA conference to a total of 80 code enforcement officials. This presentation was adapted from our technician program and tailored for the code enforcement community instead of technicians.

OSHA Class

- Dale Hersey and Bruce Bristow recently took the 10 hour OSHA worksite training course offered by Safety Works. Cecil Hafford & Peter Holmes took the training last year. The class provides an excellent overview of general worksite safety, including fallen and falling objects safety, head/sight and hearing protection, trip and fall hazards, etc. Pete felt that this was an important class for all the inspectors as they are on many worksites.

Prometric Testing

- All of the inspectors took Prometric tests to see if the updates had been instituted. Master oil, Master solid fuel, Journeyman oil and PNG appliance connection & service examinations were taken. With the exception of the gas examination, they were for the most part okay, although the biggest complaint was poorly worded questions.
- The gas test was a disaster. Twenty-five percent of the questions asked required the use of a table or chart which was supposed to be given with the test. Unfortunately Prometric had not provided those charts to the testing sites so it was very unlikely for anyone to get a passing grade. The Board provided the charts to Prometric months ago. The minimum score for passing is 70% so a candidate would need to get every other question on the exam correct, or be a lucky guesser to just barely pass the exam. Prometric is now including the charts with the examination material.

OTHER BUSINESS

MaineStar - Request to add Residential Energy Services Network (RESNET) Home Energy Rating System (HERS) to the list of Limited Energy Auditor Technician qualified professionals

Mark Blake of MaineStar presented the RESENT HERS training and education program to the Board and asked to add this program to their list of qualified professionals to train individuals seeking a license as a Limited Energy Auditor Technician.

The members asked Mr. Blake to revise the training program to include a combustion testing component to the training and to bring back a revised program to the Board at a future meeting.

A motion was made to table the request until a future meeting.

Motion: Dale Canning
Second: Paul McClay
Unanimous

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn at 11:25 a.m.

Motion: Richard McCarthy

Second: Paul McClay

Unanimous

*Respectfully submitted,
Vickey Gray*