

**MAINE FUEL BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Date: August 13, 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

Members Absent:

Dale Canning

Staff Present:

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Action on Board Minutes of June 11, 2015** - A motion was made to approve the June 11, 2015 minutes as written.

Motion: David Foster  
Second: Jeffrey Choate  
Unanimous

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Complaint Presentation 2014-FUE-10036**

Peter Holmes presented the facts of the case. A motion was made to accept the proposed consent agreement in which the licensee admits to the violations, accepts a formal reprimand and agrees to surrender permanently any right to reinstate, renew or to seek licensure of any kind with the Board at any time in the future.

Motion: Paul McClay  
Second: David Foster  
Unanimous

### **Administrators Report**

Catherine reported that the Department received three RFP bids for a new examination vendor and these are being reviewed by staff.

Catherine informed the members that the staff has been very busy issuing licenses and fielding telephone calls.

Catherine informed the members that the Board receives a fair amount of applications from individuals who do not disclose or partially disclose criminal convictions on their license applications which creates a great deal of extra work for staff.

### **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 which has been ruled Arson involving an LP system.
- One fatal where no equipment mal-function was found.
- One where damages to a fitting were found – system had been recently worked on.

#### **Dispensers/Bulk Plants**

- These have leveled off as summer has progressed. Still it is a rarity when one passes on the first inspection. For the past year, we have been requiring the Electrical permit number and Electricians license number as part of the application. All dispensers and bulk plants require an Electrical permit to wire, and this move has been very beneficial in being sure there is one as well as getting an inspection by the Electrical Inspector to assure all requirements of Class 1 Divisions are met. We work closely with the State Electrical Inspectors who have been a great help and very responsive to inspection requests. Having this portion as an up-front requirement has sped up the overall licensing process and helps small business owners get in the business of selling LP. In the past, often the electrician didn't get a permit and the whole licensing process stopped while a permit was obtained and the required inspections happened after the fact.

#### **Natural Gas**

- There are still a lot of gas questions overall, many concerning conversions. The technicians still don't know or don't bother with the requirements of Z21.8. Many not even knowing what it is. Venting is the most common issue we are asked about. Unfortunately, CETP does very little on venting and using the venting tables in N.F.P.A. 54. The second most common issue is the new electrical requirements.

## CETP

- In July, we were notified (after the fact) that CEPT was no longer offering module 7.0 which was the service part of the Appliance Connection & Service license. They had supposedly moved the information from book 7 to a new module 4.4. Unfortunately, when I reviewed 4.4, I found that several critical items were missing from the 4.4, the most drastic of which was all reference to flame rectification. Nothing about how it worked, why we use it, how to test for issues with it etc. When I found that critical parts of the service issue being taught in 7.0 were totally absent from 4.4, I called Joe Rose from PGANE who found out that PERC (CETP Owners) planned to come out with a module 4.5 containing the rest of the information from module 7.0. This was obviously not acceptable for anyone such as Maine who uses CETP for direct licensure, and as a result of these changes would have people eligible for licensure without necessary information. I notified NPGA of the issues and urged them to rescind 4.4 and re-institute 7.0 until such time as they had the module 4.5 ready. They declined to do that but Joe Rose arranged for PGANE to purchase all the remaining 7.0 books in inventory so that prospective Maine technicians still had access to them through PGANE. I notified all the CETP instructors that I was aware of that until module 4.5 was available, we could not accept module 4.4 in lieu of module 7.0 due to the missing necessary information.

## Code Updates

- Since March, the inspectors have given 16 code update seminars through the State including PHCC and the Maine Building Officials & Inspectors Association. The last one was given mid-July.
- Through those seminars, the inspectors were able to present the new codes to over 1100 technicians and CEO's.
- The development of this seminar was done with a lot of hard work by my team, who deserves much credit and thanks for the time and effort they have put into development and presentation of this seminar.

## NEFI

- In June, Bruce and Dale attended the NEFI show in Worcester, MA. The logistics of the show being in Worcester rather than downtown Boston was one of several factors in the decision to send two people instead of all four of the inspectors.
- Reports were that while NEFI is still a valuable learning excursion, it has continued to change over the years to more sales and marketing centered, rather than technician centered. There is a marked increase in truck dealers, computer vendors and insurance companies, and a decrease of new products in the actual hearing equipment side.

Peter Holmes advised the members that the Legislature passed a bill this session that created a pellet license authority. Work is being done to develop a draft rule proposal to address the implementation of this law for the board's review.

Peter Holmes informed the members work is being done to develop a protocol for approving the training program(s) in response to the enactment of LD294 "An Act to Allow a Home Heating Oil Delivery Driver to Bleed a Home Heating Oil Burner" 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.

Lionel Landry, Board Chair, recessed the meeting at 9:40 a.m. and reconvened at 10:20 a.m. for the Public Rule Hearing.

### **Public Rule Hearing on Changes to Chapter 13, Section 13.7**

Lionel Landry, Board Chair, opened the public rule hearing at 10:30 a.m. Public comments were received. The hearing was closed at 10:59 a.m.

### **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**

This item was postponed to the October 8, 2015 board meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made to adjourn at 11:00 a.m.

Motion: Richard McCarthy  
Second: Paul McClay  
Unanimous

*Respectfully submitted,  
Vickey Gray*