

ELECTRICIANS' EXAMINING BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: March 19, 2021

Meeting Location: This meeting occurred via remote access pursuant to 1 M.R.S. §403-A.

Time Meeting Scheduled to Begin: 8:00 a.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER – 8:01 a.m.

The meeting was called to order.

Members present:

Brian McDougal
Jonathan McKane
Peter Wilson
Alan Kenney
Gerard Caron

Members absent:

None

Staff Present:

Catherine Carroll, Board Administrator
Mary Lord, Professional Licensing Supervisor
Raymond Stanford, Senior Inspector
Kristin Racine, OPOR Attorney

AAG Present:

Timothy Steigelman

II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS AND APPROVAL

A motion was made to accept and approve the agenda as written.

Motion: Jonathan McKane

Second: Gerard Caron

Motion Carried

III. RULEMAKING HEARING

The board held a public hearing at 8:00 a.m. on proposed chapter 120 (Electrical Installation Standards)

Motion: Gerard Caron

Second: Jonathan McKane

Motion Carried

IV. ADJUDICATORY HEARINGS

a. 2020-ELE-17129 – William Robert Phelps

A motion was made to find that Mr. Phelps has met the burden of proof that he is eligible to sit for the examination as a master electrician and to grant the appeal. The motion included to make the approval effective immediately and to delegate the signing of the Decision and Order to the board chair.

Motion: Peter Wilson
Second: Jonathan McKane
Motion Carried

b. 2020-ELE-17079 – Justin Daniel Cronkhite

A motion was made to find that Mr. Cronkhite has met the burden of proof that he is eligible to sit for the examination as a master electrician and to grant the appeal. The motion included to make the approval effective immediately and to delegate the signing of the Decision and Order to the board chair.

Motion: Jonathan McKane
Second: Gerard Caron
Motion Carried

V. MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL

A motion was made to approve the February 19, 2021 minutes of the meeting, as amended. The amendment was to re-number the items in numerical order.

Motion: Gerard Caron
Second: Jonathan McKane
Motion Carried

VI. and VII. PRESENTATION OF DRAFT CHAPTER and BOARD RESPONSE TO COMMENTS AND ADOPT OR NOT ADOPT THE PROPOSED RULES

A motion was made to go into executive session at 12:28 p.m.

Motion: Peter Wilson
Second: Gerard Caron
Motion Carried

A motion was made to abandon the adoption of the proposed rulemaking and commence rule-making on the new draft and Chapter 115 (Advisory Rulings, relocated).

Motion: Peter Wilson
Second: Gerard Caron
Opposed: Alan Kenney

Motion Carried

VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ELECTRICAL EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE TO APPROVE CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES

A motion was made to approve the recommendation of the subcommittee and approve !RocketCert and MEPCON ED, LLC as continuing education providers.

Motion: Jonathan McKane
Second: Gerard Caron
Motion Carried

IX. LICENSE REINSTATEMENT APPLICATIONS

a. Justin Hall – A motion was made to reinstate the license.

Motion: Alan Kenney
Second: Jonathan McKane
Motion Carried

b. Stephen A. Tinkham – A motion was made to reinstate the license contingent upon completing a 45-hour code course.

Motion: Jonathan McKane
Second: Gerard Caron
Opposed: Peter Wilson
Motion Carried

X. BOARD ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Catherine Carroll reported on LD 126 - An Act To Allow a Journeyman Electrician To Supervise Three Helper Electricians. A work session was held on March 9th after the public hearing which took place on February 25th. At the work session, the bill was voted out as a divided report. The majority report ONTP. A minority report OTP-AM would limit the number of helper and apprentice electricians performing residential, commercial, and industrial wiring. The board asked for an update on LD 149.

XI. BOARD STATE INSPECTOR’S REPORT

Raymond Stanford reported that in January and February the electrical inspectors did 933 inspections with a 22% violation rate which works out to over 200 violations. The inspectors have been very busy with two license checks at large solar sites finding one with licensing issues, which were corrected immediately, and one with correct licensing. Ray accompanied Brian Laflamme on another large solar inspection. Ray worked with Edward “Eddie” Mathieu on details of high voltage service inspections communicated with the other inspectors. The inspectors are seeing high voltage services regularly and are better equipped now to inspect them. The inspectors are also still finding a lot of issues with heat pumps including licensing issues, no permit installations, and wiring violations. Also, still finding issues with the use of Tray Cable in heat pump installations.

XII. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Adam Lee asked the board to consider whether students enrolled or graduated from MEI qualify for the HPE license. Brian McDougal reported on NERA’s mid-year conference. Utah is no longer a member.

XIII. ADJOURN

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 2:16 p.m.

Motion: Jonathan McKane
Second: Gerard Caron
Motion Carried