



Janet T. Mills
Governor

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL & FINANCIAL REGULATION
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL REGULATION
BOARD OF LICENSURE OF FORESTERS



Joan F. Cohen
Commissioner

Penny Vaillancourt
OPOR Director

Public Board Meeting
July 23, 2026
Agenda

Location: 76 Northern Ave. Gardiner ME 04345

Room: Central Conference Room

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Contact: Shara Chesley- 207-624-8521- Shara.Chesley@maine.gov

Information regarding virtual attendance to this meeting will be posted on the Board's website at:
<https://www.maine.gov/pfr/professionallicensing/professions/board-licensure-foresters/home/board-meeting-information>

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS AND APPROVAL**
- III. MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL**
Review and approve May 28, 2026, minutes.
- IV. COMPLAINT/HEARING PROCESS PRESENTATION BY AAG SUZANNE BURKE**
- V. PROPOSED DISMISSALS**
None
- VI. PROPOSED CONSENT AGREEMENTS**
None
- VII. ADMINSTRATOR'S REPORT**
 - Rulemaking Reconsideration Memo

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<https://www.maine.gov/pfr/professionallicensing/professions/board-licensure-foresters>

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Shara.Chesley@maine.gov

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Under this item, the Board will offer an opportunity to members of the public in attendance to comment on any public matter under the jurisdiction of the Board, except for any open application or complaint. While the Board cannot take action on any issues presented, the Board will listen to comments and may ask staff to place the issue on a subsequent agenda. At the discretion of the Board Chair, a time limit on comments may be set.

IX. MEETING SCHEDULE

The next meeting is currently scheduled for Thursday, September 24, 2026.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Minutes of the Maine Board of Licensure of Foresters Meeting

May 28, 2026

MEMBERS' PRESENT	STAFF PRESENT
John Ackley, Chairperson	Catherine Pendergast, Director
Theodore Shina, Complaint Officer	Suzanne Burke, Assistant Attorney General
Harold Burnett	Jazmyne Marks, Professional Licensing Supervisor
Joseph Dembeck	Shara Chesley, Office Specialist 1
	Heidi Lincoln, Office Specialist 1
MEMBERS ABSENT	
Keith Kanoti- Vice Chairperson	

Location: 76 Northern Ave Gardiner ME 04345 **Start:** 9:01 a.m. **End:** 10:04 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson Ackley at 9:00 a.m.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS AND APPROVAL

None.

MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL

A motion was made by Shina and seconded by Dembeck to approve the minutes of July 31, 2025, Minutes. Unanimous.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A motion was made by Dembeck and seconded by Burnett to elect Ackley as Chairperson, Kanoti as Vice-Chair and Shina as Compliant Officer. Unanimous.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Delegation Memo: A motion was made by Burnett and seconded by Dembeck to approve the Board policy of Limited Delegation of Authority to Board Staff for various actions including application review, criminal conviction disclosure and complaints with issues outside of the authority of the Board. The policy expires June 30, 2028, unless rescinded earlier. Unanimous.

UMFK Degree Memo: The Board reviewed a Society of American Foresters (SAF) pre-candidacy self-assessment report from the University of Maine at Fort Kent (UMFK) for a Bachelor of Science in Forest Management Program. Andrew Egan of UMFK was in attendance to answer questions. UMFK is in the process of accrediting the program with SAF. A motion was made by Ackley and seconded by Shina to approve the educational program. Shina, Burnett and Ackley voted in the affirmative. Dembeck abstained. Motion carried.

Rule Memo: The Board discussed that the incorporated references to the Society of American Foresters and accreditation handbook and standards are outdated in Chapter 40 Sections 2 (2)(A) and 3(B) of Board Rules. A motion was made by Burnett and seconded by Ackley to initiate the APA Rulemaking Process for Chapter 40: Qualifications for Intern Forester License and put the proposed rule out for comment. Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 23, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Shina and seconded by Dembeck to adjourn the meeting at 10:04 a.m. Unanimous.

DRAFT

Maine Board of Licensure of Foresters
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Department of Professional & Financial Regulation

To: Board Members
From: Catherine E. Pendergast, Administrator
Date: June 17, 2026
Subject: Reconsideration of Vote to Initiate Rulemaking

The Board voted to initiate rulemaking and put Chapter 40: Qualifications for Intern Forester License out for public comment at the May 28, 2026 meeting. The purpose of the rulemaking is to update the rule reference from the 2016 edition of the Society of American Foresters (SAF) Accreditation Handbook to the current January 1, 2024 edition.

Since the last Board meeting, board staff discovered that SAF is currently in the process of a comprehensive Accreditation Handbook update. Their goal is for changes to be finalized in January, and no later than March 2027.

In light of the upcoming handbook changes and expense of rulemaking, the question before the Board is whether or not they wish to reconsider the May 28, 2026 vote to initiate rulemaking and address rulemaking after the 2027 SAF Accreditation Handbook is finalized.