

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

ELECTRICAL WORK EXAMINING BOARD

-MINUTES-

OCTOBER 13, 2017

The Regular Meeting of October 13, 2017 was held in the Department of Consumer Protection - North Building, Hearing Room J, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, Connecticut 06103.

Members Present: Ronald Bish, Unlimited Contractor
Peter L. Jennings, Unlimited Contractor
Anthony Soter, Unlimited Journeyman
Laurence A. Vallieres, Unlimited Contractor, Chairman
Robert Woytowich, Unlimited Journeyman

Members Absent: John W. Yusza, Electronic Technician
Faith Gavin-Kuhn, Public Member
Bruce A. Silva, Unlimited Journeyman

Member Vacancies: One (1) Unlimited Journeyman
Three (3) Public Members

DCP Board Staff: Robert M. Kuzmich, License and Applications Specialist,
Department of Consumer Protection
Richard M. Hurlburt, Director, Department of
Consumer Protection
Karen Perham-Lippman, Deputy Commissioner, Department
of Consumer Protection
Paulette Annon, Attorney, Department of Consumer
Protection

Others Present: Amy Bonilla, Jade Learning
Marcie Addy, Construction Education Center
Paul Costello, IBEW - JATC 90

Note: The administrative functions of the Boards, Commissions, and Councils are carried out by the Department of Consumer Protection, Occupational and Professional Licensing Division. For information, contact Richard M. Hurlburt, Director, at (860) 713-6135 or Fax (860) 706-1202.

Agency Website: www.ct.gov/dcp Division E-Mail: dcp.occupationalprofessional@ct.gov

1. Call to order.

Chairman Mr. Larry Vallieres called the meeting to order at 8:38 AM.

2. Review Minutes of Previous Meetings: August 25, 2017.

The Board voted to approve the minutes as submitted. (Bish/Soter) Mr. Jennings abstained from the vote

3. Swearing-in of new Board Member Mr. Peter Jennings.

Ms. Paulette Annon swore-in new Board Member Mr. Peter L. Jennings. The Board welcomed him and looks forward to working together in the future.

4. Comments or Concerns of any Person Present Today:

None.

5. DCP Investigation Division Complaint Status Report;

1. Board to review quarterly report when provided.

Mr. John Neumon Director, Investigations Division, DCP notified Mr. Kuzmich, in advance of today's meeting, that he will be out of town and will provide the Board with an updated Complaint Report at their next meeting scheduled for December 8, 2017. Mr. Vallieres would also like an update from Mr. Neumon on the status of any pending Department Hearings.

6. Request to Appear before the Board;

A. Ms. Amy Bonilla, General Manager, JADE Learning, to discuss online electrical continuing education and their proposed application to offer an online course in Connecticut.

Ms. Bonilla introduced herself to the Board and distributed an illustrated handout of the presentation she will make to them today on her laptop computer. The presentation covered key topics of their course material including the company background, details of online education, security features, and a step-by-step course demonstration.

Members of the Board stated that the in-person interaction between students and instructors is very valuable and something that is not available through online education. In addition, they also addressed possible security concerns with the online process.

Although it was made clear to Ms. Bonilla that online courses are prohibited by regulation, she submitted to the Board three (3) applications for each of Jade Learning's two (2) courses. Mr. Vallieres noted that these course applications will most likely not be approved. That being said, Ms. Bonilla would still like the Board to review their course material and will be glad to accept any recommendations the Board may have going forward towards getting these courses approved in the future. She thanked the Board for their time. The Board also thanked her for the presentation and her effort in traveling to come to today's meeting in person.

7. Review of Correspondence:

(A) Evaluation Forms for Continuing Education Courses.

The Board reviewed this correspondence.

8. Old Business:

(A) Discussion with Mr. Michael Elliott, Director, License Services Division, concerning the license renewal process. Mr. Elliott was not present at today's meeting. An e-mail concerning the licensee renewal process which was distributed to the Board at today's meeting. The e-mail covered the complete renewal process for trade licenses including the tasks License Services completes prior to renewal and the process by which renewals are issued.

The Board would like further information on the following:

1. The fast track renewal process and the on-line requirement/interaction for photo identification.
2. The possibility of issuing licenses only to those individuals who have completed the continuing education requisite.

The Board would like Mr. Elliott to attend their December 8, 2017 Board Meeting if possible.

(B) Update from the Department regarding 2018 Continuing Education Provider submittals received to date.

The Board noted receipt of applications from the following providers:

1. Alternative Energy Solutions
2. Construction Code Education
3. National Code Seminars

(C) Update regarding ADA accessibility of IMTI Electrical Continuing Education Facility in Waterbury, Connecticut as questioned by Mr. Roy Pollack.

The Department received an-e-mail response dated September 28, 2017 from Mr. Marcel Veronneau who works at IMTI's facility in Waterbury, Connecticut. The e-mail states that there is a handicap bath room on the first floor and an elevator in the building as well. The bookstore access has three steps; and issue they are currently working on to correct.

(D) Update from Mr. Vallieres and Mr. Bish regarding their field visit to the Continuing Education presentation by Alternative Energy Solutions held August 26, 2017.

On August 26, 2017 Board Members Larry Vallieres and Ron Bish visited the Continuing Education class held in Branford, Connecticut as presented by Mr. Robert Boender of Alternative Energy Solutions.

Mr. Vallieres spoke to Mr. Boender about the inappropriate advertisement that he had originally used for this class. Mr. Boender stated that he would correct such advertisement in the future.

9. New Business:

(A) Department of Consumer Protection's 2018 Schedule for Board, Commission, and Council Meetings.

The Board so noted.

(B) Recognition of the recent passing of Board Member Mr. David Munsill.

Board Chairman Mr. Larry Vallieres, speaking on behalf of the Board, recognized Mr. Munsill's contributions to this Board and the State of Connecticut. The Board offered their sincere condolences to Mr. Munsill's family and held a moment of silence in his memory.

The Board voted to add the following items to their agenda:

(D) Ms. Marcie K. Addy, Education Director, Construction Education Center, addressed the Board. The matter concerns a complaint that was lodged against this school and brought to their attention by Mr. Vallieres on behalf of an attendee of one their continuing education classes. The class was scheduled for 4 hours and lasted on only 1 hour and 10 minutes. The instructor informed the class he needed to leave early to attend a wake. His time record was submitted for 4 ½ hours and security video footage verified that he had indeed left early.

The Instructor was terminated by the Construction Education Center. They have also scheduled two make-up continuing education classes for the affected attendees at no additional cost to them. Ms. Addy noted the details of this incident in a letter dated

October 5, 2017. She offered, on behalf of the school, their sincere apologies to the attendees, the Board, and the Department of Consumer Protection.

The Board recognized Ms. Addy's diligence in the resolution of this matter.

(E) Mr. Vallieres advised the Board of a complaint he received while attending a recent Apprenticeship Council meeting. The complaint concerns *Tradesman International*, a labor provider, and their offering of electrical apprentice labor to contractors seeking help. Mr. Vallieres noted that a *Cease and Desist Order* was issued to the respondent by the Connecticut Department of Labor.

(F) The Board would like October 27, 2017 as the review date for all 2018 Continuing Education Provider submittals.

10. Comments or Concerns of any Person Present Today:

There were no further comments from anyone present.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:36 AM. (Bish/Soter)

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert M. Kuzmich, R.A.
License and Applications Specialist

Upcoming Electrical Board Meeting Dates:

December 8, 2017
January 12, 2018
March 9, 2018
May 11, 2018
July 13, 2018
September 7, 2018
November 9, 2018

Meetings take place at the Department of Consumer Protection, 450 Columbus Boulevard, North Building, Hearing Room J, Hartford, CT, 06103 beginning at 8:30 AM.