

MINUTES

ELECTRICAL WORK EXAMINING BOARD

JUNE 10, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Larry Vallieres, Chairperson on June 10, 2020 at 9:09 a.m. The meeting was held remotely via Zoom.

Members Present:

Laurence A. Vallieres	Unlimited Contractor, Chairman
Peter L. Jennings	Unlimited Contractor
Anthony Soter	Unlimited Journeyman
John W. Yusza	Electronic Technician

Members Absent: None

Board Vacancies: One (1) Unlimited Contractor
Three (3) Unlimited Journeymen
Four (4) Public Members

DCP Board Staff: Richard M. Hurlburt, Director, Occupational and Professional Licensing Division
Karen Layman, License and Applications Analyst

Others Present: Commissioner Michelle Seagull
Deputy Commissioner Arunan Arulampalam
Leslie O'Brien, Legislative Program Director

Continuing education providers:

Mark Veronneau, IMTI
Paul Costello, IBEW
Pat Remes, CASIA
Marc Candels, Candels Estimating Training
Victor Mitchell, Tunxis Community College
George Ballard, Ballard Electrical
Tim Mikloiche, Electrical Training Services
Naomi Yencich, Jade Learning
Marcie Addy, CEC
Richard Bird, IECNE
Allie French, IECNE
Amy Bonilla, Jade Learning
Ramon Lopez, Electrical Training Course
Joel Kent, CASIA
Al Carosella, Carosella Electrical

Note: The administrative functions of the Boards, Commissions and Councils are carried out by the Department of Consumer Protection, Occupational and Professional Licensing Division, Richard M. Hurlburt, Director. For more information, refer to DCP Agency website: www.ct.gov/dcp. Division E-Mail: dcp.occupationalprofessional@ct.gov

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

1. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of February 7, 2020 Electrical Work Examining Board meeting as submitted. (Soter, Jennings)

COMMENTS OR CONCERNS OF ANY PERSON PRESENT TODAY:

None

DCP INVESTIGATION DIVISION:

1. The Board will review quarterly complaint status report when provided.

This item will be tabled until the August 7, 2020 meeting.

2. The Board requested that the Investigations Division provide additional information on Case No. 2019-1578 and 2019-949 for today's meeting.

These two cases are open at this time therefore there is no new information to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Discussion regarding potential changes to regulations and statutes

Larry Vallieres, at the October 25, 2019 meeting, noted that the Board would like to discuss potential changes to the regulations and statutes in the following areas at future meetings:

- Annual renewal applications due by August 1 versus September 30
- Exemption of continuing education requirements for certain limited license types
- Exemption of continuing education requirements for licensees residing out of state
- Requirement for continuing education CE providers to hold a minimum of four classes per year
- Combining limited license types

This item will be tabled until the August 7, 2020 meeting.

2. Discussion regarding application review and credit for licensure from other jurisdictions

An Application Review Working Group has been established. The Board determined, at their last meeting, that all applications except for those with a Connecticut Department of Labor letter of apprenticeship completion and contractor applications that have met the two-year requirement as a journey person should come before this group.

Larry Vallieres reported that this Working Group met once while the Department was still in the office prior to the pandemic. Applications were reviewed and this new procedure worked well.

3. Review of continuing education provider application for the 2020 cycle – New Provider - Lamothe Electrical Training

Larry Vallieres reported that Mr. Lamothe, Lamothe Electrical Training has elected to withdraw this continuing education provider submission for the 2020 cycle.

4. Legislative Session 2020 - Governor's Bill No. 13

At the February 7, 2020 meeting, Leslie O' Brien provided an overview of the items in this proposed bill which are of specific interest to DCP and occupational licensing, such as:

- Providing online renewal options for licenses, permits, and certifications or registrations
- Allowance for online training for occupational licenses
- Implementation of measures to reduce or eliminate barriers to participation in licensed occupations for those with a criminal history.

Leslie O'Brien stated that, due to the shortened 2020 Legislative Session, this bill will most likely not be reviewed until the 2021 Legislative Session.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Resignation of Ronald Bish, Unlimited Contractor member, dated March 4, 2020.

Board members thanked Ronald Bish for his many years of dedicated service and requested that DCP draft a letter stating such to be sent to Ronald.

2. Continuing education requirements

- Discussion regarding on-line CE, extension of time to complete CE, or eliminate the CE for 2020 year.
- Document regarding continuing education: Proposed virtual live interactive classroom rules

Prior to today's meeting, Larry Vallieres and Plumbing Board Chairperson Charles Appleby developed a proposal for temporary virtual online classes. The document entitled "Proposed Virtual Live Interactive Classroom Rules" was drafted in response to the difficulty in conducting in-person classes due to the social distancing rules in place because of the pandemic. This proposal was sent to all board members and approved continuing education providers for review.

All providers also had the opportunity to answer the following questions and submit responses via email to the Board prior to the meeting:

1. *Are you in favor of temporary online continuing education for the 2020 cycle, with the following provisions?
Online classes would end no later than December 31, 2020. Regular in person classes would resume as soon as permitted by Governor Lamont. Licensees would have until December 31, 2020 to complete the class, without penalty. The license renewal date would remain as is.*
1. *What questions do you have for the Board regarding online classes?*
1. *Do you have specific concerns or comments you would like to share?*

Larry Vallieres reviewed all responses to the above questions prior to today's meeting and provided a summary. Larry also provided an overview of additional comments and concerns submitted by providers.

Commissioner Michelle Seagull and Deputy Commissioner Arunan Arulampalam informed the Board that, once a recommendation is made by the Board, it will then go to the Governor's Office, and most likely be addressed by an Executive Order.

The following motion was proposed: The Electrical Work Examining Board hereby requests that the Commissioner seek an amendment by Executive Order to Sec.20-334d-1(c)(2) of the regulations for a temporary approval to allow for Electrical Continued Education by way of Virtual-Live-Interactive Classroom On line classes, in addition to that which is already approved. The approval shall be in accordance with the document entitled "Instructions and Requirements for Approved Providers Requesting Temporary Approval for an on line Virtual-Live-interactive Classroom" dated May 8, 2020. This executive order shall expire on December 31, 2020.

After discussion, it was moved by Peter Jennings, John Yusza 2nd, and the motion carried. Tony Soter was opposed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence regarding continuing education format for 2020:

1. Letter from Paul Costello, JATC Director dated May 8, 2020
2. Letter from IBEW, NECA, UA LU 777, and MCAA dated May 11, 2020
3. Letter from Tony Sotor, IBEW

Board so noted.

COMMENTS OR CONCERNS OF ANY PERSON PRESENT TODAY:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Layman,
License and Applications Analyst

2020 MEETING SCHEDULE:

- August 7
- November 13