

A meeting of the **Connecticut Board of Examiners for Optometrists** was held on **February 9, 2022** via "Microsoft TEAMS"

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Matthew Blondin, OD, Chairman
Susan Barrett
Carol Goldberg, Esq.
Lawrence Lefland, OD
Joseph Pavano, III, OD
Regina A. Strand, OD
Lawrence M. Sweeney

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Alfreda Gaither, Esq., Hearing Officer, Public Health Hearing Office
Jeffrey Kardys, Board Liaison
Jill Kennedy, Legislative Liaison, DPH

The meeting commenced at 9:00 a.m. All participants were present via Microsoft TEAMS.

I. MINUTES

The minutes from the December 8, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Ms. Barrett, seconded by Dr. Pavano.

II. New Business

A. PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Dr. Pavano made a motion seconded by Ms. Goldberg to add discussion of proposed legislation to the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed a proposal that would increase the expiration of a contact lens prescription from one year to two years.

Board members spoke in opposition to this proposal in that it would pose a danger to public health and safety.

Jill Kennedy, Legislative Liaison, DPH asked that Board members can send her their comments and DPH will forward them on.

Dr. Lefland made a motion, seconded by Ms. Barrett, that the Connecticut Board of Examiners for Optometrists, cannot and will not support a change to the one year expiration date for a contact lens prescription. The Standard of Care has been and continues to be to evaluate all contact lens wearers on a yearly basis. The one year contact lens expiration date ensures that a CL patient visits his/her eye care provider annually to confirm that the contact lenses are not causing medical complications or injury to the eyes.

Yearly examination also allows the practitioner to reinforce proper care and wearing schedules and to discuss new modalities and options that may be appropriate as the patient's age or visual situation changes.

The Board therefore firmly opposes any changes to Section 1, Section 19a-908 of the CT General Statutes as proposed in LCO 154.

B. MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

Ross Zeldes, OD – Petition No. 2021-220

The Board reviewed the Memorandum of Decision in the referenced matter. Dr. Lefland made a motion seconded Ms. Barrett to adopt the decision which imposes license suspension for six months with concurrent probation for 2 and one half years.

The motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Goldenberg who was opposed.

III. Adjourn

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Matthew Blondin, OD, Chairman
Connecticut Board of Examiners for Optometrists

A meeting of the **Connecticut Board of Examiners for Optometrists** was held on **June 8, 2022** via "Microsoft TEAMS"

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Matthew Blondin, OD, Chairman
Susan Barrett
Carol Goldberg, Esq.
Lawrence Lefland, OD
Joseph Pavano, III, OD
Regina A. Strand, OD
Lawrence M. Sweeney

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Alfreda Gaither, Esq., Hearing Officer, Public Health Hearing Office
Jeffrey Kardys, Board Liaison

The meeting commenced at 9:03 a.m. All participants were present via Microsoft TEAMS.

I. MINUTES

The minutes from the February 9, 2022 meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Ms. Barrett, seconded by Ms. Goldberg.

II. NEW BUSINESS

Schedule Administrative Hearing

Ross Zeldes, OD – Petition No. 2022-351

The Board reviewed a Statement of Charges in this matter dated May 3, 2022. A hearing will be scheduled for the next board meeting on September 14, 2022.

III. Adjourn

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:157 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Matthew Blondin, OD, Chairman
Connecticut Board of Examiners for Optometrists

The following minutes are draft minutes which are subject to revision and which have not yet been adopted by the Board.

A meeting of the **Connecticut Board of Examiners for Optometrists** was held on **September 14, 2022** via "Microsoft TEAMS"

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Matthew Blondin, OD, Chairman
Susan Barrett
Carol Goldberg, Esq.
Joseph Pavano, III, OD
Regina A. Strand, OD
Lawrence M. Sweeney

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Lawrence Lefland, OD

ALSO PRESENT: Stacy Schulman, Esq., Hearing Officer, Public Health Hearing Office
Jeffrey Kardys, Board Liaison

The meeting commenced at 9:03 a.m. All participants were present via Microsoft TEAMS.

I. MINUTES

The minutes from the June 8, 2022 meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Ms. Barrett, seconded by Dr. Pavano.

II. OPEN FORUM

There was discussion regarding continuing education requirements.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING

Ross Zeldes, OD – Petition No. 2022-351

Following the business portion of the meeting, the Board conducted a hearing in the matter of Ross Zeldes, OD. Staff Attorney Joelle Newton was present for the Department of Public Health. Respondent was not present or represented.

Following close of the record, the Board conducted fact-finding. Ms. Goldberg made a motion, seconded by Ms. Barrett, that the Statement of Charges was proven. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Goldberg made a motion, seconded by Ms. Barrett, that respondent's license in Connecticut be revoked. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Adjourn

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:42 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Matthew Blondin, OD, Chairman
Connecticut Board of Examiners for Optometrists