

**ELECTRICIANS' EXAMINING BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Date: July 15, 2016  
Meeting Location: Central Conference Room, State of Maine – Gardiner Annex  
Northern Avenue, Gardiner, Maine

Meeting Began: 8:00a.m.

Roll Call of Officers:

The following members were present:

Brian McDougal  
Gerard Caron  
Earl Sherwood  
Peter Wilson  
Donald Berry  
Ryan Morgan

Staff Present:

Catherine Carroll, Board Administrator  
Donna Fairfield, Board Clerk  
Amanda Sabins, Clerk for the Maine Fuel Board and Plumbers' Examining Board  
Michelle Lovering, Clerk for the Elevator and Tramway Safety Program and  
Accountancy Board  
Raymond Stanford, Senior Electrical Inspector

AAG Present:

Christopher Mann

**Board Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made to accept the May 20, 2016 minutes upon correcting a typographical error on page 2 which shows the name of the respondent in the Streeter adjudicatory hearing as "Mr. Campbell" when it should show the respondent to be "Mr. Streeter".

Motion: Gerard Caron  
Seconded: Peter Wilson

Unanimous

**Adjudicatory Hearing – 2016-ELE-12337-Ballinas**

Mark Ballinas was present and not represented by counsel. Witness, Richard Reardon, was present and available to testify.

Mr. Ballinas was preliminarily denied to sit for the journeyman electrician exam on the basis that it did not appear Mr. Ballinas met the licensed work experience requirements. Mr. Ballinas was told by his instructor that he did not need to have a Helper Electrician license while enrolled in Eastern Maine Community College's electrical program because he would be conducting electrical installations exclusively in the lab.

Witness, Mr. Reardon, introduced himself as the instructor of the electrical program at Eastern Maine Community College, and stated that he told Mr. Ballinas that he did not need a Helper Electrician license while attending the electrical program at the college.

In closing Mr. Ballinas asked the board to grant him approval to sit for the journeyman exam.

A motion was made to grant the appeal and approve Mr. Ballinas to sit for the journeyman exam. The Board, in its deliberations, stated the practice of implementing §1202(3) has been to give 4,000 hours credit of working experience upon successfully completing an electrical program offered at Maine community colleges, without being licensed, if all electrical installations are exclusively conducted in a laboratory environment. Therefore, the Board concluded that Mr. Ballinas met the working experience requirements set forth in statute and approved him to sit for the exam.

Motion: Peter Wilson  
Seconded: Ryan Morgan

Unanimous

**Senior Inspector's Report**

Raymond Stanford is working on developing a half hour to one hour curriculum on common violations and Board's laws and rules to be included in the 2017 NEC 15 hour code update and 45 hour code course. Raymond is also revising the limited electrician licenses for wiring signs and cranes. Raymond talked about two large solar panel installations requiring licensed electricians to do the work.

**Other Business**

Dale Canning informed the Board that some licensed heating and cooling contractors installing residential heat pump systems are limited to working on the control and power wiring from the electrical panel to the heat pump unit. In the case of non-residential systems, however, they are not approved to wire low or high voltage units under the jurisdiction of their heating license. These non-residential heat pump systems require the licensed heating contractors to be trained and authorized by the manufacturers of these systems to install their systems and not electricians. Mr. Canning suggested that if a heating

contractor has completed the training provided by the manufacturer of the heat pump installation, they should be allowed to install the low voltage control wiring which can be communication wiring. The high voltage wiring would still have to be installed by a properly licensed electrician. Mr. Canning noted that the law requires a person to complete a 270 hour electrical training course, have several thousand hours of work experience, pass an exam, and be issued a license before that person could install communication wiring on one of these systems. Mr. Canning asked the Board to consider expanding the existing authority licensed fuel technicians currently have to allow them to install electrical wiring specifically for units that these technicians are receiving manufacturer training. The Board stated that Mr. Canning's request is valid and worthy of further discussion and noted that their laws and rules do permit individuals with low voltage and/or refrigeration limited electrician licenses to do this type of wiring.

### **Presentation of Complaint 2014-ELE-10233-Bedell**

Michael Bedell, in a letter, requested the Board to extend the deadline date for him to complete a live 45 hour course in the 2014 NEC pursuant to a consent agreement previously issued by the Board. Mr. Bedell was not present for the presentation.

The Board authorized Mr. Bedell to complete a live 45 hour code course in the 2014 NEC by January 16, 2016. However, Mr. Bedell violated the Board's order and did not enroll or take the course because he was severally injured rendering him unable to meet the January 16, 2016 deadline.

A motion was granted to modify the decision made by the board and grant an extension and allow Mr. Bedell to complete a live course no later than January 31, 2017.

Motion: Peter Wilson  
Seconded: Ryan Morgan

Unanimous

### **Presentation of Complaint 2014-ELE-11786-LaFrance**

Brian LaFrance was not present for the presentation. A motion was made to accept a consent agreement signed by Mr. LaFrance admitting violating eight National Electrical Codes and agreeing to pay penalties.

Motion: Ryan Morgan  
Seconded: Don Berry

Unanimous

**Presentation of Complaint 2014-ELE-11791-Finley**

Dan Finley was not present for the presentation. Mr. Finley was in violation of not conforming to the standards of the National Electrical Code. Mr. Finley has corrected all violations, and entered into a consent agreement. A motion was made to accept the consent agreement signed by Mr. Finley to resolve this complaint.

Motion: Peter Wilson  
Seconded: Gerard Caron

Unanimous

**Presentation of Complaint 2014-ELE-12135-Pollis**

James Pollis was not present for the presentation. Mr. Pollis, a helper electrician, was in violation for working beyond the scope of his license and not maintaining the standards of the National Electrical Code. Additionally, a permit was not obtained for the job, and consequently the inspector was not notified by Mr. Pollis to inspect the work at the time of rough-in construction. Mr. Pollis did the work while his father, Dana Pollis, a master electrician, was out of state. Dana Pollis has since corrected the violations, and the work passed inspection. Mr. James Pollis signed the consent agreement. A motion to was made to accept the consent agreement.

Motion: Ryan Morgan  
Seconded: Don Berry

Unanimous

**Presentation of Complaint 2014-ELE-12146-Pollis**

Dana Pollis was not present for the presentation. Mr. Pollis was alleged to be aiding and abetting unlicensed practice, failing to supervise a helper electrician, and to not obtaining an electrical permit. Mr. Pollis has since corrected the violations, obtained a permit, had the job inspected, and agreed to a consent agreement. After review of the case, the Board made a motion to dismiss the complaint as it was determined that no violations of rules or law occurred by Dana Pollis.

Motion: Peter Wilson  
Seconded: Ryan Morgan

Unanimous

**Administrator's Report**

Catherine Carroll announced that Donna Fairfield is the new clerk for the Board and started her new job in May. Catherine explained the changes being proposed to Chapter 17 including a wholesale repeal and replacement of §1202 in which she solicited feedback from Board members. Catherine told the Board

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that the staff will be randomly auditing licensees on the completion of 15 hours in the 2017 NEC. Catherine mentioned the upcoming NERA conference that Chairman McDougal would be attending in August.

**Adjournment**

Meeting ended: 12:50 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
Donna T. Fairfield, Board Clerk