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APRIL 1, 2020 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS	APPOINTMENT	PRESENT	ABSENT
Mr. Joseph McNamee	Chairman, Master Gas Fitter	X	
Mr. Wayne Thomas	Member, Journeyman Gas Fitter	X	
Mr. Bahig A. Kaldas, P. E.	Member, Plumbing Engineer	X	
Ms. Sarah Badway	Public Member	X	
Mr. Joseph V. Waskiewicz	Member, Master Plumber	X	
Ms. Ruth Alfasso	Member, Dept. of Public Health	X	
Mr. John Cruz	Member, LP Installer	X	
Mr. Harold Knight	Member, Journeyman Plumber	X	
Mr. Dan Kilburn	Member, DPL Designee	X	

9:00 A.M. AGENDA REVIEW: By Chairman Joseph McNamee

TENTATIVE UPCOMING BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

May 6, 2020 – Plumbers Local 12 – 1240 Massachusetts Avenue - Dorchester

DISCUSSIONS

- ☐ **D1:** Board approvals of Pre-Licensure Education
- ☐ **D2:** The COVID-19 State of Emergency
- ☐ **D3:** Expiration of license during and directly after the state of emergency, consideration of extension to obtain continuing education
- ☐ **D4:** Inspection of Plumbing and Gas Fitting during State of Emergencies

DISCUSSION

D1- BOARD APPROVAL OF PRE-LICENSURE EDUCATION

Board Counsel Charles Kilb spoke about the challenges Tier training schools and students are now facing as a result of the current pandemic. Online education during state of emergency may help schools and students complete their classes so long as the Board has a comfort level that the proper education is being provided. In light of the State of Emergency declared on March 10, 2020, the Board of State Examiners of Plumbers and Gas Fitters (“Board”) should consider adopting guidelines for use



BOARD OF STATE EXAMINERS OF PLUMBERS AND GAS FITTERS – APRIL 1, 2020

by its approved educational providers in moving education to a distance/online/correspondence format to ensure minimal disruption to students.

A motion was made by John Cruz and seconded by Joe Waskiewicz to create a policy allowing Board approved educational providers to use distance/online/correspondence formats for the provision of education so long as the following conditions are met:

- 1. The Educational provider and curriculum are currently Board approved and in good standing.*
- 2. The educational provider has sent an electronic communication to the Board office describing the format utilized for distance/online/correspondence education.*
- 3. Any program meeting the requirements of the new policy shall be approved by the office with the office having the right, on demand to request any materials used by the provider to ensure providers meet all Board educational requirements.*

Absent special Board action, the policy and any approval associated with it shall expire 90 days after the expiration of the state of emergency.

Result: Unanimous

D2- THE COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY

Board Members discussed what upcoming meetings may look like. It appears the May 4th meeting will also need to be run virtually.

D3 – EXPIRATION OF LICENSE DURING AND DIRECTLY AFTER THE STATE OF EMERGENCY, CONSIDERATION OF EXTENSION TO OBTAIN CONTINUING EDUCATION

On March 18, 2020, Governor Baker signed an Executive Order extending the registrations of individual licensed professionals to conform to their respective license renewal process. All licenses that were in good standing as of the date of this Order that will expire during the state of emergency were extended and will remain valid until 90 days following the termination of the state of emergency or until rescinded, whichever happens first. Because of the current pandemic, licensees no longer have access to live continuing education classes which are required to be completed before renewing.

A motion was made by John Cruz and seconded by Dan Kilburn to extend continuing education guidelines with the following provisions:

- 1. Continuing education for license renewals does not need to be completed until 90 days after the expiration of the state of emergency.*
- 2. Licensees are free to renew now, even if they have not completed their continuing education. The Board's online portal is fully functional and allows immediate renewals. For purposes of renewal attestations, licensees may check "yes" as to any questions regarding completion of continuing education so long as they understand they must complete their continuing education by 90 days after the state of emergency.*
- 3. The Governor's order extends license renewals 90 days after the state of emergency ends, however, if the state of emergency ends before May 1, 2020, licensees should renew their licenses, even if they have not completed their continuing education.*

Result: 8 in favor and Wayne Thomas against

D4 – PLUMBING & GAS FITTING INSPECTIONS DURING COVID-19

Governor Baker considers plumbing and gas inspections to be an essential service. Inspectors may require some guidance during the current crisis.

A motion was made by Harry Knight and seconded by Dan Kilburn to provide an advisory to Massachusetts plumbing and gas fitting inspectors to continue to provide inspectional services, as necessary for the protection of the public's safety. Inspectors should use their best judgment to conduct inspections safely including remote means such as utilizing pictures and videos.

Result: Unanimous

VARIANCE REQUESTS

PV-189 – POLAR PARK – MADISON STREET - WORCESTER

The applicant, Shane Wise from R.W. Sullivan was requesting a variance for 248 CMR, 10.10 (10) and 10.17 (2) to allow floor drains in the concourse area which is open on two sides drain into the storm system in lieu of sanitary. The Worcester Board of Health has been properly notified.

A motion was made to approve this request by John Cruz and seconded by Joe Waskiewicz.

Result: Unanimous

BOARD WILL CONSIDER ANY MATTERS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY THE CHAIR:

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 10:37 am by John Cruz and seconded by Harry Knight

Result: Unanimous

LIST OF DOCUMENTS USED:

1. Meeting agenda
2. Minutes from prior meeting
3. Variance applications for above referenced agenda items

Respectfully Submitted By;

Laurent Lemieux

Laurent Lemieux, Executive Director
Board of Examiners of Plumbers and Gasfitters

Respectfully Authorized by;

Joseph McNamee

Joseph McNamee., Chairman
Board of Examiners of Plumbers and Gasfitters