

PLUMBING AND PIPING WORK EXAMINING BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 28, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Charles Appleby, Sr. on October 28, 2021 at 9:03 a.m. and was held remotely via Zoom Webinar.

Members Present:

Charles Appleby, Sr.	Unlimited Contractor, Chairperson
James Piccoli	Unlimited Contractor
Christopher M. Bowman	Unlimited/General Contractor
Aaron Nachbar	Well Drilling Contractor
Jay More	Unlimited Journeyperson
Peter Alfieri	Unlimited Journeyperson
Vinnie Valente	Unlimited Journeyperson
Kimberly Fortin	Unlimited Journeyperson
Joyce Topshe	Public Member

Members Absent:

Melissa Sheffy	Public Member
----------------	---------------

Board Vacancies:

Two Public Members

DCP Board Staff:

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

Others present:

Leslie O'Brien, DCP Legislative Program Director
Janita Hamel, DCP Supervising Special Investigator
Pamela Brown, DCP Director, Investigation Division
Ernest Thigpen, DCP Investigator
Paulette Annon, DCP Asst. Legal Director
Cynthia Fernandez, DCP Staff Attorney
Steve Minicucci, Owner,
Benjamin Franklin Plumbing
Felix Jiminez, Service Manager,
Benjamin Franklin Plumbing
Julie Burdacki Krugel, Chesprocott Health District

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The Board voted to approve the draft minutes of the July 29, 2021 and August 12, 2021 Plumbing and Piping Work Examining Board meetings as written. Joyce Topsche abstained from voting.

SWEARING IN OF NEW BOARD MEMBER:

Kimberly Fortin was sworn in as an Unlimited Journeyperson Member by Cynthia Fernandez, DCP Legal Division.

COMMENTS OR CONCERNS OF ANY PERSON PRESENT TODAY:

Steven Minucucci, Owner and Felix Jiminez, Service Manager of Benjamin Franklin Plumbing were in attendance. Felix Jiminez spoke of the shortage of licensed plumbers and how this is impacting their business, as they are unable to keep up with customer's needs. Board members agreed that this is an important issue, however, the four-year apprenticeship guidelines need to remain "as is" to ensure that licensed plumbers have received the proper training. Felix was advised to contact his local legislator(s) with this concern, as it is not the Board's role to change legislation.

DCP INVESTIGATION DIVISION COMPLAINT STATUS REPORTS:

The Board reviewed the complaint report dated 07-01-21 to 8-31-21 provided by the Investigations Division. Pamela Brown and Janita Hamel were present for this review. Upon review of this complaint report, Chairperson Charles Appleby reminded everyone of the importance of obtaining a permit before doing any work.

Pamela Brown introduced Ernest Thigpen as a newly hired DCP Inspector for the Investigations Division.

Aaron Nachbar inquired about the status of a possible investigation by DCP into a fatal accident in August of 2021 involving Dandelion Geothermal. Pamela Brown confirmed that there is an ongoing investigation, however, no information can be released since it is an open case.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Substitute House Bill No. 6100 - Public Act 21-37 - An Act Concerning Department of Consumer Protection Licensing and Enforcement, Antitrust Issues, and the Palliative Use of Marijuana and Revisions to the Liquor Control Act

Bill No. 6100 includes changes to Connecticut General Statutes, Chapter 393 requiring written contracts meeting certain specifications for work on private residential property by work. At the July 29, 2021 meeting, Board members

expressed their concern about how these changes would affect the way they currently conduct business.

Leslie O'Brien informed the Board that the Department is currently drafting language to address certain language, such as the requirement for a written contract for all jobs, that was part of Public Act 21-37, and that Occupational Licensing Boards have expressed their concern about.

2. Proposal for new occupational license - Water meter installer

This item was discussed at the Plumbing and Piping Work Examining Board meetings on August 3, 2021 and August 12, 2021. At today's meeting, Leslie O'Brien provided the following update: There has been no progress with the Town of East Lyme therefore they are not in compliance with DCP laws. The City of Norwalk has confirmed that they will be using only licensed plumbers to do this work therefore they are in compliance with DCP laws. There has been no progress in a potential regulatory change. This Legislative Session will most likely include an amendment to the statute. The Board expressed their concern about how the Department will properly monitor compliance for this work.

3. Well drilling regulations

The Board received an email from Cynthia Fernandez informing them that the well drilling regulations are officially posted for public comment. Aaron Nachbar would like a line to be added to the regulations that gives Sanitarians and Local Public Health Departments the authority to approve well drilling exemptions such as the request being discussed today. Aaron will be submitting this suggestion under public comment. Cynthia reminded the Board that this public comment period lasts for 30 days, and Board members can find the link in her email of October 23.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Application Review Working Group

A. Update to be provided by designated Board Member

Chris Bowman attended the last Application Review Working Group meeting and reported that this meeting was successful and several applicants were approved to test.

2. Resignation of Board Member Joyce Topshe

The Board thanked Joyce for her many years of service on this Board. Joyce's input and knowledge of the trade will be missed.

3. Appointment of Board Member Kimberly Fortin
(See "Correspondence")

Kimberly Fortin was sworn in as an Unlimited Journeyperson Member by Cynthia Fernandez, DCP Legal Division.

4. Request for well water variance

Julie Burdacki, Chesprocott Health District submitted an email requesting that a well water variance be granted by the Board for a property in Wolcott and was in attendance today. Discussion took place regarding the property and request for exemption. The Board voted unanimously to table this item to allow Aaron Nachbar, Julie Burdacki, and Chris Bowman will go to the property to further assess the situation. A Special Plumbing and Piping Work Examining Board will be scheduled in November to move forward with this item.

5. 2022 Plumbing and Piping Work Examining Board Meeting Schedule

The 2022 schedule is as follows: January 27, April 21, July 28, and October 20.

Board so noted.

6. Resignation of Board Member Jim Piccoli

Jim Piccoli informed the Board that he is resigning from the Board. The Board thanked Jim for his many years of service on this Board. His knowledge expertise in the trade will be missed.

7. Plumbing Continued Education for the 2022-2023 cycle

A draft continuation education curriculum outline was sent to the Board via email for review. Further discussion will take place at the Special Plumbing and Piping Work Examining Board meeting that will be scheduled in November.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Letter dated October 7, 2021 regarding the appointment of Kimberly Fortin as a new member of the Board.

Board so noted.

2. Email dated August 12, 2021 regarding the resignation of Joyce Topshe as a member of the Board.

Board so noted.

3. Email dated September 27, 2021 from Julie Burdacki, Chesprocott Health District regarding a request for a well water variance at a property in Wolcott.

Board so noted.

COMMENTS OR CONCERNS OF ANY PERSON PRESENT TODAY:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Layman,
License & Applications Analyst

2022 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE:

- January 27
- April 21
- July 28
- October 20