



**PLUMBING AND PIPING WORK EXAMINING BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
July 28, 2022**

The regular board meeting was called to order by Chairman Charles Appleby, Sr at 9:02 a.m., via Zoom Webinar.

MEMBERS PRESENT	Charles Appleby, Sr., Unlimited Contractor, Chairperson John More, Unlimited Journeyman Peter Alfieri, Unlimited Journeyman Kimberly Fortin, Unlimited Journeyman Melissa Sheffy, Public Member
MEMBERS ABSENT	Christopher Bowman, Unlimited/General Contractor Aaron Nachbar, Well Drilling Contractor Vinnie Valente, Unlimited Journeyman
BOARD VACANCIES	One Unlimited Contractor Three Public members
DCP STAFF PRESENT	Pamela Brown, Director, Investigations Janita Hamel, Supervising Special Investigator Karen Layman, License & Applications Analyst Ben Paholke, Cynthia Fernandez, Attorney, Legal Division Erin Walsh, Executive Assistant, Commissioner's Office Verinda M. Birdsong, MPA, License & Applications Analyst
PUBLIC PRESENT	None.
DCP FIRE BOARD	David J. Waskowicz - Unlimited Journeyman, Chairperson Wayne Roderick, Unlimited Journeyman

Note: For information on our Boards, Commissions and Councils, visit the Agency website: www.ct.gov/dcp.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Chairman Appleby asked for a motion to approve the April 12, 2022, minutes. Motion by Board Member Melissa Sheffy, seconded by Board Member John More. Motion passes. No abstentions. No recusals.

DCP INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

The Board reviewed the complaint status report submitted by the Investigations Division.

Board member Sheffy noted that there were many unsubstantiated complaints. DCP Supervising Investigator Janita Hamel updated the board that many complaints, some anonymous may yield unsubstantiated complaints due to a lack of evidence.

Ms. Hamel also apprised the board that her role has expanded in an Acting capacity to assist with the work application group in the interim of DCP's search to fill the position permanently left by Richard Hulbert (Retiree). She will continue the role as a subject matter expert and witness for the Legal Division.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Public Act No. 22-104 - An Act Concerning Cannabis Advertising and the Department of Consumer Protection's Recommendations Regarding Various Revisions to the Consumer Protection Statutes.** This public act includes changes to the occupational licensing statutes. Please refer to the link below:

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/2022/act/Pa/pdf/2022PA-00104-R00HB-05330-PA.PDF>

Action Item: The Chairman advised the board to review the link provided by Ms. Layman. Ms. Layman reviewed the document and noted page 59 (Sec. 37. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2022) Any contractor who is licensed under chapter 393) and page 66 (Sec. 42. Section 20-334d – section on continuing education, part 2) as relevant sections pertinent to this Board. Mr. Chairman requested that Miss Birdsong add again to the October 20, 2022, agenda.

2. **Backflow Prevention Device - Continued discussion regarding licensure for backflow prevention devices.**

Mr. Chairman Appleby read the italicized statement before introductions of board members from the Fire Protection Sprinkler Systems Work Examining Board.

The Fire Protection Sprinkler Systems Work Examining Board (Fire Board) would like to move forward with proposing changes to the regulations and/or statutes pertaining to Backflow Prevention Devices therefore, all members of the Fire Board were invited to the April 21, 2022, Plumbing and Piping Work Examining Board meeting for discussion.

Fire Board Chairperson David Waskowicz attended the April 21, 2022, meeting and provided information regarding current licensure for Backflow Prevention Devices, as well as background regarding the concerns that have been expressed at previous Fire Board meetings. A motion was made by Christopher Bowman, seconded by Peter Alfieri, to table this item until the July 28, 2022, Plumbing and Piping Work Examining Board meeting to allow Board Members to conduct the proper research on this topic. The motion passed unanimously.

Fire Protection Sprinkler Systems Work Examining Board members have received an invitation to this meeting for further discussion.

Mr. Chairman introduced Wayne Rodrick and Dave Waskowicz to the board. Fire Board Chairman Dave Waskowicz provided a brief discussion on his conversation with the Chairman prior to today's meeting on the Plumbing Board members approving apprentices with F-1 licenses to install the backflow apparatus to the fire line. He confirmed that persons with F-1 licenses are already installing many of these devices. The Chairman opened the floor for independent discussions with Plumbing board members, Wayne Rodrick to express concerns and opinions. In conclusion, the Chairman offered that the Fire Board should seek legislative approval, to seek assistance from the Department of Health and the Department of Administration to make legislative changes to the fire codes and standards.

Dave wants to get the plumbing board's approval before he moved in on it. The apprentices in the fire board. Dave wants the plumbing board to approve the F-License holder to install the backflow.

Mr. chairman states 273 active F-1 combination license holders in the state of CT. Based on those numbers that this is not a hardship for the Fire Board. Whether they are working for the company or not, expressed that dave should take it up the fire codes and standards and work for dept of health for changes in legislative regulations and requirement.

Mr. Chairman asked the plumbing board for comments or opinions. – Board chair public member; the 273 is nothing compared. It's a jurisdictional issue and agrees with Dave. Peter stated that the fire line is to protect pottable water and its' the plumber's responsibility to take care of the pottable water. If the wrong device is installed, then it would be a grave concern.

I concur with Pete is Kim fortin and Jay More. (pottable water system).

Wayne Roderick made a comment regarding the state's goal to be "business friendly" and the need for the fire board and plumbers we just want to do backflow fire protection.

Question on licensing to pam brown and Janita hamel. Pam Brown offered that a person would need to meet the licensure requiremenets including educational requirements. Janita "what is the requirement of the license for the specific work". A p1 and/or p2 license is required to do that work (as indicated by the board). The fire board has been asked to do a legislative change. DCP enforcement looks at what is in the regulations and statute today in terms of qualification for the fire board to do this. Mr. Chairman is also reviewing the new plumbing (definitions in changes of backflow inspections, testing, etc.) page 85 of those administrative.

Mr. Chairman confirmed that the Fire Board does not need a sign-off of approval for the Fire Board to proceed with active pursuit of change of legislation. DcP told me to go this route.

3. Continued review of out of state occupational trade licenses for determination of Connecticut occupational trade licenses.

At the April 21, 2022, meeting, discussion took place regarding out of state licenses and the equivalency of such licenses as compared to Connecticut licenses. The Board expressed their concern regarding the approval of applications on the basis of holding an out of state license without conducting the proper research. The Board requested that documentation outlining the requirements that need to be met for

the Westchester and Putnam County Plumbing Licenses listed above be forwarded for review. These documents were emailed to the Board on April 25 and April 29, 2022.

- A. At the October 21, 2021 Application Review Working Group Meeting, it was determined that the following license types are equivalent:

Out of state license type	Connecticut License Type
Westchester County Journeyman	CT P-2
Putnam County Journeyman	CT P-2

- B. At the December 1, 2021, Application Review Working Group Meeting, it was determined that the following license types are equivalent:

Out of state license type	Connecticut License Type
Rhode Island Journeyman	CT P-2

Board members reviewed applications for line A. and line B. Discussion ensued by board members regarding Massachusetts equivalency to the State of Connecticut regarding continuing education and apprenticeship and was offered in concerted agreement of that fact by Board members Jay More and Melissa Sheffy.

- C. At the April 6, 2022, Application Review Working Group Meeting, it was determined that the following license types are equivalent:

Out of state license type	Connecticut License Type
Rhode Island Master Plumber	CT P-1

NEW BUSINESS

Application Review Working Group. Updated provided by Mr. Chairman Appleby as the designated board member. The application process yielded one (1) application for review. He also noted some boards have up to 30 applications for review. Ms. Hamel is now a part of the review process (as noted in her update above).

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was presented Board member John More and seconded by Peter Alfieri. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 10:13 a.m. The next meeting of this Board at this current date is scheduled for October 20, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. via ZOOM webinar.

Respectfully submitted,

Verinda M. Birdsong

Verinda M. Birdsong, MPA
License and Applications Analyst
Board Coordinator, DCP

2022 CURRENT BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

August 9
October 9