

Minutes LICEB January 19, 2016

Minutes Taker-Stacy Andersen

Start Time: 10:15 am

End Time: 1:18 pm

LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION CONTRACTORS EXAMINING BOARD

Meeting Location: DEP Building
401 E State Street
Trenton, NJ 08625
4th Floor Large Conference 4E002 Room

Attendees:

Board Members

George M. McCarthy

Ken Scherer

Gaetano Virone

Affiliation

Spring Irrigation Co. Inc.

Hillsborough Irrigation

Environmental Designers Irrigation

Legal Council

Elspeth Hans

Michael Shuit

DAG

DAG

DEP Staff

Stacy Andersen

Trish Conti

Joanne Taroco

Bureau of Licensing and Pesticide Operations (BL & PO)-NJDEP

BL & PO -NJDEP

BL & PO -NJDEP

Absent:

William Frederick Rapp

Joan Scatton

Robert Dobson

Atlantic Irrigation

DAG

Middletown Sprinkler

Official Start Time: 12:06 PM

Stacy Andersen read aloud the Open Public Meetings Act statement for the Landscape Irrigation Contractors Examining Board and announced that adequate notice of this meeting had been provided to the Secretary of State, and designated newspapers as well as posted in the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

Minutes from previous meeting were not reviewed due to the shortened length of time between the January 5, 2016 board meeting and January 19, 2016 board meeting.

Treasurer's report was not reviewed at this meeting because the most recent treasurer report was supplied at the previous meeting held on January 5, 2016.

There were no new communications between the January 5, 2016 meeting and January 19, 2016 board meeting.

New Business – Todd Hodgins a resident of Maryland who is also a member of the Irrigation Association telephoned in regarding obtaining licensure in New Jersey. The primary concern raised was how does a non-resident of New Jersey provide proof of experience working for a licensed landscape contractor if they reside in a state which does not require licensure, and would the membership to the IA be sufficient proof of experience to permit an individual to sit for the Landscape Irrigation Contractors exam in New Jersey. The board determined that providing proof of membership to the IA along with any contracts obtained, or agreements to install irrigation systems would be sufficient for an out state

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individual to prove experience. Joanne Taroco will follow up with Todd to inform him of the board's stance on providing proof of experience.

Conversation progresses to Continuing Education Credits (CECs) and the contractors concern for not being able to locate where courses are available to take. It was suggested to possibly post the course providers up on the Landscape Irrigation Contractors Examining Board's webpage the board opted not to do this because they had a master list of already approved contractors and due to the upcoming transfer from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) that this task was less of a priority and could be addressed after the move from DEP to DCA.

During the conversation about CECs it was also mentioned that there were issues with the Landscape Irrigation Contractors who expressed concern that they were short on credits although they submitted proof attending enough courses to the meet the CEC requirements. It was determined that those who were complaining had all taken courses with Central Irrigation, and anyone who took classes with Central Irrigation were not assigned those credits because Central Irrigation did not provide the course rosters, and did not obtain credit approval from the Board. The Board sent Central Irrigation a letter on February 13, 2015 requesting information about the courses and copies of attendee rosters. To this date Central Irrigation has not provided the attendee rosters and as a result no credit values have been assigned. The Board recommends that individuals who took classes with Central Irrigation to do one of two things: contact Central Irrigation and have Central Irrigation send over course rosters, or individuals can make up the missing CECs by attending courses through a different provider.

Gaetano Virone mentioned that after the last meeting he received complaints from Irrigation Association of New Jersey (IANJ) about their members expressing concerns that complaints pertaining to advertising or working without being licensed were not being addressed. It was noted that yes, the complaints are addressed and that the problem lies within the Boards inability to publish or discuss open violations with the public. Another complaint that the IANJ brought up was that letter sent providing directions for creating an account on the Irrigation Association (IA) webpage and accessing the CEC verification webpage was confusing. Roy from IANJ would like to be included as a reviewer of Board issued correspondence prior to sending out letters to ensure that they are not confusing to the contractors receiving the letter. It was determined by the Board that it was inappropriate to have a board member from an interest group such as the IANJ to provide input on letters issued by the Board

Ken Scherer motioned to go into closed session, Gaetono Virone seconded motion. Unanimous approval to proceed to closed session.

Ken Scherer Motioned to return to open session, Gaetano Virone seconded motion. Unanimous approval to return to open session

During closed session, the Board decided to proceed with issuing 1 SOL 1 AO, 2 NOV and 1 NFA letter. The Board also decided to have 2 complaints sent to the investigator.

Ken Scherer motioned to accept the decisions made during closed session and Gaetono Virone seconded the motion. Unanimous approval to accept decisions made during closed session.

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Gaetano Virone motioned to adjourn meeting, Ken Scherer seconded motion. Unanimous approval. The meeting adjourned at 3:46 PM.