

Minutes for October 20th, 2015 NEHERS Board

- ❖ Roll call: Bruce Bennett, Emelie Cuppernell, , Doug McCleery, Frank Swol, Peter Hubbe, Mark Newey, Tony Lisanti, Mark Hutchins, Jenn Parsons, Laurie Didonato
 - Present: Emelie Cuppernell, , Doug McCleery, Frank Swol, Tony Lisanti, Jenn Parsons, Laurie Didonato, Peter Hubbe, Bruce Bennett, Mark Newey
 - Absent: Mark Hutchins

Meeting called to order at 1:04pm

❖ **Announcement/Reminder**

- NEHERS Retreat – reschedule?
 - Emilie solicited thoughts on rescheduling. Mentioned January but snow might be an issue. We will issue a doodle poll to find a time to meet. Or we could go to the ACI conference in Saratoga is an option in February.
 - Tony, Emilie were planning on attending the ACI conference in New York February 9th and 10th, but folks in New Jersey aren't planning on attending.
 - Potential location was Better Buildings Conference on February 3rd and 4th in Burlington
 - A doodle poll will be created by Laurie with options at the end of January
- Membership and Communications Committee:
 - Need a Chair: Responsibility includes website maintenance, outreach, and membership campaign (could be more proactive in reaching out)
 - There wasn't a lot of regular meetings scheduled and it didn't take a lot of effort
 - No one on the call expressed interest in the position. Emilie mentioned that she could take this role. Jenn mentioned that she could potentially help with this role. At the next meeting we could make it official if Emilie will have time to devote to the position.
 - Emilie made a motion to nominate herself as the Chair of the Membership Committee. Frank seconded. All in favor. None opposed. Motion passes.
- Other Announcements?
 - No other announcements from the group.

❖ **Secretary's Report (Jenn Parsons)**

- Approval of Minutes
 - Jenn will send out meeting minutes to the group in advance of the meeting (one week before or more ideally)
 - May: Emilie made motion to approve May meeting minutes, Doug seconded. All in favor. None opposed. Motion passes.
 - July: Emilie made a motion to approve board minutes for July. Doug seconded. All in favor. None opposed. Motion passes.
 - September: Frank made a motion to approve board minutes from September. Doug seconded. All in favor. None opposed. Motion passes.

❖ **Treasurer's Report (Mark Newey)**

- Waiting for new credit card to close old account – Hasn't happened yet. Mark has to find the time to make this happen. Still operating off the old one.
- Financial update
 - Accounts Payable – 5 invoices to approve this month. Mark made a motion to approve the September accounts payable in the amount of \$2,572.75. Frank seconded. All in favor. None opposed. Motion passes.
 - Compilation Report
 - We are down on membership due collection.
 - We have fewer training income but fewer expenses as well due to less trainings. Overall gross profit hasn't really changed.
 - Electronic access granted for Laurie at last month's meeting. The bank sets up accounts at Peoples United. Signer vs Non-signer. Only signers have action over the account. We will have to make Laurie a Signer in order to grant an official login credential to the online account.

❖ **Standards Committee (*Doug McCleery, Frank Swol*)**

- New Task Force
- Wes Riley Basement CFA – Doug hasn't had a chance to reach out to Wes yet, but will.
- 3rd round of comments on section 380. You have to comment only on something that was changed in the last round of edits, they won't look at any other changes. That means that Tony's previous comment wouldn't be considered since it was submitted too late in the cycles. The committee isn't happy with this result, but RESNET won't accept the change.
- Deadline for Industry Vetting of Preliminary Quality Assurance Amendments to RESNET Standards this Friday October 23rd - The standards committee hasn't met yet, but plans to tomorrow afternoon, to send out their comments by Friday. Some folks have started reading the changes. Doug will try and get the summary done tomorrow by end of day to share with the group to help guide the review process. There are 23 proposed changes which are all important to review and make sure we as a group are OK with. Doug thought some of the terminology was confusing. Low volume raters might have issue with some of the proposed changes. If anyone has comments and can't attend the meeting, please send the comments in by email and they will be discussed on the call tomorrow.
- Question arose about members knowing about REM Rate's issue not meeting ENERGY STAR's deadline for compliance with Version 3 updates. This will be discussed more at the next meeting. REM Rate has been really responsive historically. There was discussion about having to move to an hourly modeling simulator which REM Rates doesn't currently use, which could change the process and viability of REM Rate as a software potentially in the future.

❖ **Training Management (*Bruce Bennett*)**

- Meeting tomorrow 10/21
- Rater Training
 - September 28th – October 9th Online complete
 - October 27th Classroom
 - Registration: 9, confirmed 10/20/15

- We have to put in our application for RESNET training provider language by the end of the month. This will be discussed at the meeting tomorrow.
- The committee is training to set up a regular time and date for the meeting.
- RESNET accredited training provider renewal application due
 - Training has changed slightly

❖ **Manual (Mark Hutchins)**

- Update:
 - We received 25 binders that were the wrong color. The people that we ordered from will fix this and cover the cost. It is a hassle since we have to wait for this reorder. Emelie asked if we should use these binders. Frank didn't mind the color and mentioned that Tony has raised issue with the coloration.

❖ **Professional Development (Frank)**

- October 14th Training– Laurel Elam “Changing RESNET Standards: What to expect in 2016 and beyond”
 - Overall the call went well
 - Lots of questions were raised by participants which led Frank to think that this may have been the first time many were hearing of the changes.
- November – November 11th is the scheduled date. Could push to the 18th. Perhaps Energy Gauge can take this slot.
- December - Ekotrope? Or Modeling basements, attics, and crawlspaces with Peter Harding?
- Other ideas
 - Ekotrope – might be pushing their own product, do we need them to sign up as a member. This is a competitor of REM Rate. Laurie said they can't perform a webinar in November, but perhaps December.
- Frank asked if we should invite someone from Energy Gauge to present to our members? Doug though we could see a demo internally at the board first before showing to the members. REM Rate isn't the only software in the HERS Rating game, so it might behoove the board to have other software's discuss their product and not require they become a member. In case something happens with a particular software program in the future, it might be a good idea to familiarize ourselves with another platform.
 - It was discussed that a change in software would disrupt the New England area utility programs. Energy gauge doesn't use a User Defined Reference Home which may be problematic for some state programs.
- The group is open to any meeting ideas. Emelie suggested more building science related technical trainings for new raters who need field testing tips. If anyone has ideas, please share them with the group.
- Frank will reach out to Energy Gauge and Peter Harding.

❖ **Membership/Communications (Vacant)**

- Website update –
 - Review & Approve Proposal from R.L.Martin:
 - They have a timeframe in place within their quote which is really quick as long as we give them the go-ahead. The holidays are coming up so that may delay things.

- Doug made a motion to approve and have Laurie sign the proposal from R.L. Martin to update the NEHERS website. Emelie seconded. All in favor. None opposed. Motion Passes. The Board approved Laurie to sign the agreement.

❖ **Nominations – NEEDS A CHAIR**

- The chair can't be Frank or Doug. Emelie suggested that Mark Hutchins would make a good chair since his role on the manual committee has slowed down in workload.
- Up for re-election:
 - Frank Swol
 - Doug McCleery

❖ **Energy Code Committee (*Peter Hubbe*)**

- Peter gave an update on the meeting that occurred in September.
- Kevin brought up information that Steve Baden from RESNET mentioned about the Energy Rating on the Index Path on the 2015 IECC. This is a great opportunity for more business for Rater's and utilities can use this rule to train the industry including building officials and builders.
- The committee tracks where state codes are changes and when they are adopting the IECC's .
- They also posed future topics that will be addressed in December at what the codes may look like in 2018 IECC and what multifamily codes may look like then.
- Peter is going to upload the meeting minutes onto the Google Docs site to share soon. It will be a good summary for others to reference.
- Emelie thought this could be a good topic to have as a webinar session, to update members on code changes around the region.

❖ **Other Business**

- **Training/hiring back up for Laurie**
 - Emelie mentioned that this is something we should consider in the future. Perhaps a backup or a 2nd part-time employee.

❖ **Emelie made motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:49pm. Tony seconded. All in favor. None opposed. Motion passes.**