



Meeting Logistics & Information

Date	Wednesday, February 15, 2023	Attendees
Time	9:00 AM – 11:00 PM	Betsy Ames, Mike Browne, Chris Mazzola, Mike Turns, Ben Cohen, Nick Jones, Cindy Zeis, Jonathan Harrison, Keegan Ebbets, Joe Rando
Meeting Type	NEHERS Alliance – Board Meeting	Non-Attendees
Facilitator	Mike Browne	Special Guests
Web Link	https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/122221509	

Meeting Motions			
<i>Motion #</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Movement</i>	<i>Favor/Oppose/Abstain</i>
1	To approve January minutes	Motion – Joe Second – Jonathan	9/0/0
2	To approve A/P of \$5080.61	Motion – Jonathan Second – Keegan	9/0/0
3	To adjourn	Motion – Chris Second – Joe	9/0/0

Roll call:

- Executive Director: Betsy Ames
- 2023 Board: Nick Jones, Joe Rando, Cindy Zeis, Jonathan Harrison, Chris Mazzola, Mike Turns, Keegan Ebbets, Nicole Burger, Kaitlyn Mitchell
- Present (quorum = 5): Nick Jones, Joe Rando, Cindy Zeis, Jonathan Harrison, Chris Mazzola, Mike Turns, Keegan Ebbets, Nicole Burger, Kaitlyn Mitchell
- Late:
- Absent: Jonathan Harrison (in and out of meeting)

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- Vote on minutes from January (Kaitlyn)
- ❖ **Joe motions to approve minutes and Jonathan seconds, motion carries, unanimously approved.**

- Vote on AP for January
- ❖ **Jonathan motions to approve AP in the amount of \$5080.61 and Keegan seconds, unanimously approved.**
- Biennial Report is complete, the board list and officers have been updated.
 - **Our fee for being incorporated has been paid for the next two years, Betsy.**
- Website photos- if you have any good photos, especially of HERS raters in action, please send them to Betsy for the website.
- Vote whether to join the Zero Carbon Renovation Fund Coalition
https://www.massclimateaction.org/the_zero_carbon_renovation_fund
 - **See if NEHERS joining this coalition, may orgs have signed on, Mass Climate action**
 - **Open for discussion?**
 - **Chris says it seems like no negatives to be added to list.**
 - **If an individual is not a rep from NEHERS, we do not Lobby as an organization.**
 - **Chris wonders if Mass CEC is aware and if there is a reason there are not signed on for the coalition**
 - **Keegan agrees we want to wait to sign on to ensure lobbying is not included in this coalition**
 - **Betsy will outreach to Mass CEC**

MANUAL (Nick)

- No meeting this month.
 - **No news on manual, needs to determine who is on the manual committee**
- Some discussion at training committee about translating the manual into Spanish.

TRAINING COMMITTEE (Joe)

- Winter 2023 Training:
 - Pass Rates for 18 Students:
 - 9 Passed everything on first attempt/ 5 certificates issued
 - 1 to re-take the CAZ
 - 2 to re-take the Practical Simulation
 - 5 to re-take the Rater Exam
 - 1 dropped out/transfer.
 - Preliminary Profit Report= \$15,628.56
- Curriculum development discussions.
- PSD offering to add 4th training this year.
- Stretch Code HERS Course
- Webinar for High School Students – Cindy and Chris – Scheduled for March 8th.
- Two possible Mass CEC Grants.

Updates from Joe: One individual who failed the rater exam said that he did a lot of studying but that the class and the quizzes did not prepare him for the rater exam. Some else who worked at GDS, also felt that quizzes were not as hard as the rater exam. The first individual was under the impression that most people failed but 13/18 passed, which is higher than national average.



Communications for possible additional training, if it helps attendees to have smaller class sizes but the most logical place for students is summertime. We will be discussing it at the next training committee meeting and will check with PSD if they prefer smaller classes.

Stretch code HERS Course (Chris)

- Two guys at Auburndale Builders are working to develop a 6-module course (half person/half on demand); provide class to builders, architects and designers to translate what is different for the carpenter building a home to a HERS 42
- Meeting Thursdays at 4pm to develop the course.
- (Mike) Mass Save is also doing stretch code training.
- (Keegan) PSD is the vendor for the Mass Save codes and standards training program. ICF does the workforce development which is a lot of overlaps. But they are separately implemented paths.
- Nick's project was featured in a Mass Save case study webinar, PH retrofit SF in Newton.
- Mass Save is involved with Aaron Gunderson of PH for a Stretch HERS 42 Course. Synergies.
- Who are the next logical additions to our team to develop this course?
- This is supposed to be a builder-friendly version. Want to focus on hands on piece, what do builders/carpenters need to know about what's different for them to do these projects.

Webinar for HS Students on March 8th (Chris/Cindy) - Getting into the building science industry, gives them background on how building science connects to HERs ratings and energy efficiency, added trade schools to our distribution lists for training, Betsy will send along webinar info to that list. Please also pass along publicity to your networks.

Busy time, looking to add more training for the training committee.

STANDARDS (Cindy)

- Out for Public Comment:
 - [PDS-01 BSR/RESNET/ICC 301-2022 Addendum C-202x \(ANSI\)](#): Jan 13 – Feb 27 – Covers multiple definitions and software consistency issues. – 6 comments as of 2/6
 - [MINHERS Addendum 72](#) – Feb 6 – Mar 22 - File and Field QA – **this is one we should spend some time discussing.** There are 3 comments so far as of 2/6.
 - [MINHERS Addendum 62f](#) – Provider Disciplinary Actions – No PC dates
- Ongoing Work:
 - Addendum D – Insulation Grading working group
 - **Work in progress, grade 1, 2, 3 for insulation grading. Not a lot to talk about**
 - [Update on Remote QA Standard Amendment proposal: SDC900 task force has met twice and are continuing their work. Hoping to see something come out soon particularly since the Presidential COVID Emergency Proclamation is due to be lifted on May 11, 2023.](#)
 - [ENERGY STAR has already announced the EPA's temporary allowance will officially end on June 11, 2023.](#)

- RESNET is still discussing. Survey went out, they may make some kind of interim call.
- Cold climate heat pumps – need to pick up discussion from earlier in the year, particularly regarding how raters are modeling COP.
 - Need to get back on that, from last year.
- RESNET 301 & 380 subcommittee – CFIS systems proposal. Need more work to specify how to account for these in the model and also for the additional load created due to dumping hot/cold air into the system.
 - Seeing what is left to be done
- Due to end of year reporting, RESNET extended the public comment period for MINHERS Addendum 72 (Field/File QA) from March 22nd to April 7th.
 - Chris asked if we should send in letter of support for the protocol survey.
 - Cindy encourages participation in the survey.
 - Two different questions:
 - 1- Remote inspection process came with defaults for testing, none passed code so no one did it
 - 2 Remote QA, widely adopted, could have a great impact
 - Promote the survey, help people understand what the two questions mean, and let the industry speak.

QAD (Jonathan) **left halfway through meeting Betsy reported.**

- No meeting in January.
- QAD committee will join the Standards Committee on March 8th at 11 AM to discuss the proposed changes to the QA standard. They will meeting again for their regular meeting on March 23rd. Deadline for comments is April 7th.
- **Deadline was extended to April 7th so QAD will have time to meet before to add comments.**

WEBINARS (Keegan)

- 2023
 - ~~January 25th: Programs webinar – 10 states~~
 - 70 registered/ 43 attended
 - Overall Survey Satisfaction 4/5
 - **February 22: 45L Updates, Energy Star, & ZERH Overview**
with Austin Bewley and Elizabeth Sanfelippo of BRAYN Consulting
 - **March 8: Intro to Becoming a HERS Rater for High School Students**
with Chris Mazzola and Cindy Zies
 - **April:**
 - **May:**
 - **June:**
 - **July:**
 - **August: (Skip)**
 - **September:**
 - **October:**
 - **November:**
 - **December:**



Had been looking at February, but needs to push it back: Minotair (tentative paid webinar) with Alex De Gagné and Joe Rando moderating

Steps to Becoming a Phius Rater – Bev of MassCEC

Some later spring webinars are in the works. Keegan and Betsy will meet to build out the rest of webinars. Good shape for next of the webinars. Still do not know what is going on with RESNET conference but if we figure it out, we can make a post conference discussion/ round table which in the past has been well attended.

MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS (Chris)

- Year-end membership renewals in process.
 - Mostly through, bulk is done (Betsy)

ENERGY CODES (Mike T)

- Nothing new.
- Code presentation for Norwalk CT- Cindy
- Mike had internet issues and dropped off, but Chris assumed nothing new.
- Code presentation in CT (Cindy). Group of building officials in Norwalk CT asked us to speak about the HERS rating process to code officials, Cindy volunteers to attend and present. Chris says that works and opens if anyone else wants to support.
- Mike is back. Will follow up with Cindy about CT.
- Mass has some mid-year dates coming up and almost like we have moved from a 3-year to a 6-month cycle for the next year and a half.

EMBODIED CARBON (Nicole)

- Andy will finish building out workflow for our next meeting in March.
- Background on HERS Process, Index and Reference home: 2/14/23 at 9:30 AM
- Workflow meeting for Andy and Jacob: 2/15/23 at 4 PM
- RESNET Advisory Council will meet for the first time on 2/21/23
- We are looking at doing a sampling of homes in multiple states and volunteer raters/rating companies to do 5-10 ratings each.
- Speaking Opportunities:
 - Sustainability Advisory Group of the Greater Portland Board of Realtors in Maine – scheduled 2/21 at 9:30 AM Betsy and Andy
 - NESEA- Dave Beottcher - Room for raters- will have a room for lunch Tuesday.
 - NESSBE- when is the next conference? Workflow demo?
 - Architects Group in Boston (Chris Mazzola's suggestion)
 - Building Performance Association Session
- Nicole: Yesterday Mike presented background on HERs process with the group, hearing about different stakeholders, the reference home, and the HERS Process
- Andy will review workflow today 2/15
- Sampling of homes: Nate will reach out to ICF people in different areas to get people in multiple areas.
- NESBBE Conference – Nicole will share dates when announced info.



- Boston Society of Architects (BSA)- has a monthly meeting. Chris says you can canvas 7 different architecture firms that way. Good idea to attend, great way to get word out on embodied carbon to people on the design end.
- Boston Architectural College (BAC) - Nicole will reach out.
- Betsy- RESNET advisory council is meeting on 2/21, this is the committee that will advise RESNET on whether to create the embodied carbon standard.
 - We reviewed the slide deck.
 - Meeting yesterday surfaced disagreement about whether to include a reference home in the standard. Chris Magwood is advising to do a phased approach because he doesn't expect pushback on defining the measurements but is concerned that the reference home could be contentious if materials are specified. This is different from what we had originally envisioned. Chris Magwood has found that whole LCA approach gets less pushback.
 - Betsy and Andy will be presenting to realtors in Maine to the Sustainability Advisory Group of the Greater Portland Board of Realtors in Maine on Embodied Carbon.
 - Chris wants an update from Mike on Maines code.
 - Joe does diagnostic testing, adopted 2015 codes, talk of 2021 is stretch
 - City of Portland adopted 2021 as a stretch code option, enforcement is sporadic (mostly larger coastal communities). There are municipal building inspectors.
 - Chris- Betsy and Andy should check out what building code they are dealing with. Is Maine adopting a new stretch code and how that relates to embodied carbon. They will ask you some building code questions. New for Maine to have a robust building code. Loop in Joe. Maine doesn't have enforcement for towns 4000 or less.
 - At NESEA Conference, we were not selected to present on embodied carbon but will have a room on embodied carbon during lunch. Chris recommends getting some lunch items so they will attend the discussion.
 - Betsy will check with Gale on catering and get an update from NESEA on catering.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS/NEW ITEMS:

- If February Dates announced for next RESNET event: plan Zoom Board Dinner.
- Betsy asks if there will be a RESNET Conference this year? Cindy says it may be later in the year. Waiting to hear an update on the conference. Once we find out we will see what we will do in coordination.
- Chris- Gift idea?
- Betsy will investigate the options for a gift.
- Chris suggested sending the new RESENT executive committee as a gift.
- Betsy says it will have a significant turnaround time to order, so we can't do it right away. Maybe it's better to include them at the Zoom Board Dinner use the potential dinner as a gift.
- Betsy is looking to see the cost for new mugs.

❖ Chris motions to adjourn, Joe seconds, motion passes, unanimously approved.