

## Meeting Logistics & Information

<b>Date</b>	Friday, October 18, 2019	<b>Attendees</b>
<b>Time</b>	9:00 – 4:00 PM	In person: Mike Browne, Chris Mazzola, Mike Turns, Doug McCleery, Frank Swol, Betsy Ames Phone: Rob Salcido, Joe Rando
		<b>Non-Attendees</b>
<b>Meeting Type</b>	NEHERS Alliance – Board Retreat	Nick Jones, Kevin Hanlon
<b>Facilitator</b>	Frank Swol	<b>Special Guests</b>
		None
<b>Web Link</b>	<a href="https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/122221509">https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/122221509</a>	

### Meeting Motions

<i>Motion #</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Motion Movement</i>	<i>Favor/Oppose/Abstain</i>
1	Motion to approve slated of nominees	Moved by Frank Swol Seconded by Doug McCleery	7/0/0
2	Motion to approve items in Section 9 of Betsy's review notes	Moved by Frank Swol Seconded by Doug McCleery	7/0/0
3	Motion to approve accounts payable of \$34,290.66	Moved by Frank Swol Seconded by Mike Turns	7/0/0
4	Motion to adjourn	Moved by Frank Swol Seconded by Doug McCleery	7/0/0

## Admin items

Training provider renewal due Oct 31 – waiting on PSD – Emelie said will do by end of week

## Board nominations

Program Category- 1 seat- Nick Jones

Rater Category- 1 seat- Chris Mazzola

Provider Category- 2 seats- Rich Martin and Dillon Swol

- ❖ **Motion 1 - Frank Swol motion to approve slate of nominees, Doug second, unanimously approved**

## Member Poll

- Top items: Code enforcement uniformity; Helping raters keep track of standards; Maintaining manual
- Least important: Green building case study; Advocacy to RESNET on simpler rater training
- Mike Browne –MF training – not enough market for this. Maybe a topic for a webinar.
- Doug – Maybe a couple webinars coming out of this (MF and apprenticeship)
- Mike B. – want to know more about uniformity of enforcement in terms of specific needs.
  - Doug – we have discussed white paper, could also do training on how to work with code officials, permit application/plan review checklist, need to explain why things are important. Mike B. not excited about hearts & minds effort. Chris has had a lot of success working with building commissioners. Frank – sometimes it's hard for rater to be the one delivering the message. Doug – builders are still liable. Mike T – disseminate through ICC Chapters. Frank – can we work in any rater advocacy? Mike T- provide links to rater directories at bottom of forms.
- Conclusions
  - Develop state-specific energy code checklists/forms and a dissemination plan
    - Get a list of people who are active from providers- there will be some you do not want to call.
    - NEHERS Newsletter
  - Multifamily and apprenticeship webinars
  - Examine how we inform members on standards changes
  - Continue maintaining manual

## RESNET Conference Presentation

Mike Browne, Frank, Chris, Emelie (need to confirm), ask Tony, Peter Harding, Ben Adams (Founder)

- Create an outline
  - History
  - Mission
  - Training/webinars
  - Apprenticeship idea
  - Manual
  - Standards Committee
  - Energy Codes Committee
  - Training Committee
  - Membership & Communications Committee

- Meet to coordinate presentation
- Slides- who we are, pictures, etc... Maybe offer a free manual to someone there.
- Market the manual – info on how to order the manual on the foam board on fountain
  - Produce 10 copies, ship to hotel
  - board members sell manuals there, not have to ship them back
  - get people to purchase PDF on laptop

### **The BER online platform**

- Joe hasn't spoken to the BER about it. Talking to students recently he's glad they haven't talked yet. Online training has had some fairly negative reviews, trainer assessment of trainer preparedness, students saying it doesn't adequately prepare for written test (not relevant), lower pass rates, no cell phones during test (RESNET), Ethan was letting people use cell phones. More and more issues arising from (1) online training approach, (2) having two different groups involved/students not prepared for classroom training. Online training came about because it works for people who can't make 9-12 webinars for two weeks. Just because a few people have been vocal doesn't mean it's not valuable to some. Is it the students' fault or the online platform?
- Betsy reviewed email suggestions from Emelie – (1) NEHERS set up all the tests (2) Require various thresholds: live support sessions, projected rating, pass 90% of the quizzes, complete one CAZ and one practical sim. Need to publicize the level of effort. Consider making it 4 weeks instead of 2.
- Mike B. – Wes Riley was amazing with one-week in-person test
- Frank – need to protect people from themselves. Add checkpoints for students.
- Betsy – people that fail don't work for companies, people that pass do. Also, people that do online course fail more than PSD live/online training
- Doug – Are we still planning to do recorded modules? Suggests if you are responsible for online training portion you also teach the live training. Joe agrees. Doug – give them one more chance and let the BER know that we might terminate if it's not successful. Offer advice/warning to future students that you must be self-motivated to do self-paced online training, you might learn best if you do the live, online version instead.
- Contract issues – extend contract with the BER, have a PSD training in between
- Frank – Do we need prerequisites for people to be eligible to take training? Mike T – Maybe have “recommended experience”
- Betsy – offer live and canned at the same time?
- Chris – Have potential trainees fill out a questionnaire or placement exam?
- Conclusions
  - Frank and Joe follow up with the BER
  - Update website to include additional information about what it takes to pass the training.
  - Make a list of recommended experience/knowledge for prospective trainees
  - Look into a pre-qualification quiz.

### **Financial future of NEHERS**

- Frank – Probably shouldn't just keep \$100K in a checking account, should we be investing? Manual account has ~\$15K, operating account has \$117K. Mike T - should we reinvest into members? What are the trends in our balances? Frank/Mike B. - What are annual expenses? Have at least a year in operating expenses on reserve.

- Doug – Training scholarships, support active raters with scholarships (e.g. RESNET conference), outreach/advocacy (e.g. tradeshow tables like Building Energy Boston). Betsy – likes idea of outreach, scholarships for trainings, Spanish translations
- Conclusions
  - Betsy will check with Jasmine about the following questions:
    - How long did it take to build our savings to \$114,000?
    - What is 1 year of operating expenses?
    - What are the trends in the annual expenses?
    - What are the trends in our balance?
    - Overall question: How much should we hold in reserve?

### **RESNET Board Dinner**

Chris – What worked last year was the couches and area where people mingle and talk. Top Golf and go-karts might not be the best. Mike T. agrees. Doug – having food other than a sit-down dinner is best. People agree that worked last year.

Frank – Get pricing for the two other options. Both would need transportation, but we will not be providing it. Uber worked last time. Base it on last year’s attendance- 35 last year. Looking for something with an area to mingle, outdoors is good. Be sure to add webinar people to list for this year. Do we want a sponsor? Hard to find.

### **Sustainability of Board Dinners**

- Keep to what we are doing now. Figure out the per head fee for each year.
- Pay back for people volunteering.

### **Board Handbook**

Guidance doc outside of the bylaws for future board members

Trainings don’t have to make a profit, Betsy annual reviews/what’s involved

Would need to come from each committee/officer

Action item: Each committee chair and officer will prepare something – Review during December phone call

### **Betsy annual review**

- ❖ **Motion 2 – Frank moved to approve the items in Section 9 of Betsy’s review notes, Second from Doug, unanimously approved**

### **Increasing Accessibility for Spanish Speakers**

Some students don’t pass the exams because English is not their first language. Could we run a training in Spanish? Could we petition RESNET to offer their exams in other languages? We could translate the manual into Spanish. Could RESNET translate the standards? May not be cost effective.

Conclusion:

Betsy will poll previous students to see what languages are most important. We can then advocate with RESNET to have the rater exam translated into other languages.

### **Energy Codes Survey**

3 ACH50, mechanical ventilation, duct leakage exemptions, uniformity of enforcement,

Actions:

- Main direction for energy codes committee – develop/disseminate energy code checklists/forms.
- Continue providing code development/adoption updates from various states.

### **Standards**

Rob: Letter to RESNET about proprietary MINHERS, signed by board, send in 2 weeks with or without EPX

### **Create White Paper for How to Deal with Codes**

Actions:

Webinar package using MA example, say we will tweak for each state, volunteers to tweak for other states

Newsletter/email blast

Post MA docs to NEHERS website, ask people to post on their own websites

### **NEHERS to Host a Regional Conference/ Participate in Other Conferences**

Not interested in hosting own conference, better to participate in conferences that are already happening.

Rater Round Table- Open membership meeting

Annual Planning- see which ones we want to be part of. Look at geographic areas of interest. Can ask NESEA for a discount or table.

Continue offering CEUs through conferences

### **How to Grow More Membership/ Building Relationships with Local, State and National Representatives in Relation to Supporting Our Industry**

Focus on OH and NY and programs

Implement monthly newsletter including training, webinars, standards updates, code updates

Sponsors

### **Technical Support Forum for Raters**

NEHERS discussion group or technical support email, QAD group is 194 people

Link for questions on site- goes to seven people who agree to answer questions. Or standards committee if not time sensitive.

Create form- ticketing system- goes to multiple people.

Action: Betsy talk to Jonathon about how to set it up

### **What Role Can NEHERS Play in Reducing the Carbon Footprint/ Embodied Energy of New Construction**

Anything we can do?

Part of developing coming standards. Net Zero. Help people understand the choices they're making. MASS Save Renovations and Additions program tells you how many trees you save. That's energy use. Is Ekotrope looking at embodied energy? LEED LCA analysis. Inform people.

Webinar on embodied carbon. Possible presenters: USGBC/Meredith someone? LCA software providers? NESEA keynote speaker)

Betsy contact – NESEA keynote speaker, Chris Magwood of Endeavour Centre, Jacob Racusin... New Frameworks

### **Accounts payable**

- ❖ **Motion 3 – Frank motion to approve, Mike T second, unanimously approved**

### **Other**

- ❖ **Motion to adjourn – Mike T, second by Doug**