
Maryland Board for Professional Land Surveyors **Business Meeting Minutes**

DATE: December 6, 2023

TIME: 11:00 AM

LOCATION: 1100 N. Eutaw St.
5th Floor Conference Room
Baltimore, MD 21201
(Teleconference via Google Meet)

MEMBERS PRESENT: John V. Mettee III, *Chair*
Tammy Rollins, *Vice-Chair*
Thomas Orisich, *Land Surveyor*
T.J. Frazier, *Land Surveyor*
Jeanne Nebre, *Land Surveyor*
Derrick McLaughlin, *Consumer Member*

STAFF PRESENT: Zevi Thomas, *Executive Director*
Matthew Venuti, *Board Counsel*
Faith Green, *Board Administrator*

OTHERS PRESENT: Bryan Haynie, *Maryland Society of Surveyors*
Thomas Blasi, *Public Attendee*
Ryan Patrick, *Public Attendee*

Meeting Called to Order

Chair John V. Mettee III called the business meeting of the Maryland Board for Professional Land Surveyors at 11:00 a.m.

Approval of November 1, 2023 Minutes

Members of the Board reviewed the meeting minutes for November 1, 2023. Motion (I) was made by Mr. Orisich, seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, and unanimously carried by the Board to approve minutes with corrections.

Correspondence

None

New Business

Property Line License Status

Mr. Mettee inquired about the current number of actively licensed Property Line Surveyors. Ms. Green responded that there are 140 currently licensed Property Line Surveyors. She continued to add that the majority of retirement applications that are submitted are for Property Line Surveyors. Mr. Mettee inquired to Mr. Orisich about the date when the Board stopped issuing these licenses. Mr. Orisich responded that Property Line Surveyor licenses stopped being issued around 1989.

Mr. Mettee proposed to the Board the possibility of removing the distinction between Property Line Surveyor and Professional Land Surveyor. Mr. Orisich responded that such a removal would require a change in the law to encompass the scope of practice of the different designations. Regarding Property Line Surveyors, the Board only issues reinstatement licenses to those who still qualify. Mr. Mettee stated that he understands this would require legislative changes, but inquired if the Board should let Property Line Surveyor licensees be gradually phased due to retirements or remove the Property Line designation from the Board's purview. Mr. Orisich expressed his concern that if the differences are removed, the Board will have to rely on the licensee's judgment to not practice outside of their scope of practice. Ms. Nebre stated that she agreed with Mr. Orisich's concerns.

RPEs and Oversight of Staff from Other Offices

Mr. Orisich stated that oftentimes, surveyors are the only employees who do fieldwork in their respective offices, and it is the responsibility of the licensed surveyor to adequately supervise the individuals and to sign-off on their Report of Professional Experience. Ms. Nebre stated that certain offices do not have licensed surveyors, but instead have survey managers. The survey managers are typically not licensed but manage the day-to-day responsibilities. Mr. Orisich responded that currently these tasks are not required to be signed and/or sealed by a licensed surveyor. Ms. Nebre stated that the scenario in question could fall under surveying without a license. Mr. Orisich stated that it would require a legislative change to require licensed land surveyors to be in the same physical office as a Responsible Charge, and not work from multiple offices. Mr. Mettee added that the current permit is for the firm, not for individual branch offices, and that this topic should be revisited at a future meeting for further discussion.

NSPS Proposed Model Law regarding NCEES Revisions

Mr. Frazier stated that the National Society of Professional Surveyors may be proposing language for proposed model law with the National Council of Examiners of Engineering and Surveying. Mr. Orisich responded that currently, there are no proposed changes from the National Society of Professional Surveyors, and that any proposals would come in 2024. Mr. Mettee stated that further action would need to take place before the Board can respond.

Old Business

Ad-hoc Committee

Ms. Nebre stated that the Committee met in November, and will meet again in January 2024 with the aim of developing proposals to bring before the Board by spring 2024.

Executive Director's Report

Mr. Thomas stated that he received an email from the National Council of Examiners of Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) regarding the National Society of Professional Surveyors, and that more information will be forthcoming in January 2024.

Mr. Thomas inquired about Maryland's funded delegates for NCEES Northeast Zone Interim Meeting to be held in Washington, D.C.; May 2 -4, 2024. Mr. Mettee suggested that those who are serving on Committees receive funding from the Council, and the remaining board members could receive State funding if needed.

Mr. Thomas informed board members that Raquel Meyers, Assistant Executive Director, has moved to be interim Executive Director for the Maryland Real Estate Commission.

Board Counsel Report

Mr. Venuti reported that the fee proposals have been submitted, and will be sent back to the Board for review and final approval in February 2024.

Maryland Society of Surveyors

Mr. Haynie reported the following:

- The updated and revamped mentoring program held a class for 16 licensed surveyors to be trained as mentors.
- The Maryland Society of Surveyors will continue to pursue legislation on reasonable exceptions to certain criminal prohibitions against trespass on property and the civil tort, and the Board may be asked for assistance.

Review of Applications

Mr. Frazier stated the review of applications is ongoing.

Complaint Committee Report

Mr. Orsich reported the following:

- 06-LS-23: Consent Order is to be accepted.
- 12-LS-23: Technical review is in process.
- 01-LS-24: Consent Order is to be accepted.

Motion (II) was made by Ms. Rollins, seconded by Mr. Frazier, and unanimously accepted by the Board to approve the Complaint Committee Report.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Motion (III) was made by Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Ms. Nebre, and unanimously carried by the Board to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Chair's Signature: Signature on File

Date: 01/03/2024