

**STATE OF MARYLAND  
BOARD OF FORESTERS  
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 27, 2020**

**LOCATION:** 500 North Calvert Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202  
Third Floor Conference Room

**MEMBERS  
IN ATTENDANCE:** Michael Huneke, Chair  
John Markovich, Vice-Chair  
Wade Dorsey  
Daniel Rider  
Jill Rhyne-Grey

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** N/A

**DLLR OFFICIALS  
/STAFF:** Shanai Jordan, Executive Director  
Christopher Dorsey, Assistant Executive Director  
Sloane Kinstler, Assistant Attorney General  
Alicia Coar, Administrative Specialist

The January 27, 2020 meeting of the Maryland Board of Foresters was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Mr. Huneke.

Upon a motion (I) by Mr. Dorsey and seconded by Mr. Rider, the minutes from the October 27, 2019 business meeting were approved unanimously with corrections.

**Chairman's Report**

Mr. Huneke, Chair, provided an update on the current vacancies on the Board. Mr. Huneke stated that he will be working with Ms. Jordan to contact the Maryland Tree Farm and the Maryland Forests Association in order to help with filling the consumer member vacancy on the Board. He also informed the Board of the meeting that Mr. Dorsey was able to attend on his behalf with the Secretary and her staff. The Secretary would like to be informed about Board members that plan to testify at legislative hearings.

Upon a motion (II) by Mr. Dorsey, seconded by Mr. Markovich, the approval of the Chairman's report was unanimously accepted.

## **Executive Director's Report**

Ms. Jordan let the Board know that the Office of the Secretary would like to encourage outreach by the Boards. She gave the Board members documentation from the Office of The Secretary with procedures and processes for posting on the Labor website and social media outlets. She also informed the Board that the Board should have a new industry members as well as a consumer member in the near future.

Upon a motion (III) by Mr. Dorsey, seconded by Ms. Rhyne-Grey, approval of the Executive Director's report was unanimously accepted.

## **Closed Session**

The Board met in a closed session pursuant to § 3-305 (b)(2) and (7) of the Gen. Prov. Art., Md. Ann. Code, to protect the privacy and reputation of license applicants and to obtain the advice of Counsel.

Upon a motion (IV) by Mr. Rider, seconded by Mr. Dorsey, and unanimously carried, the State Board of Foresters entered into a closed session at 10:44 a.m. in the Third Floor Conference Room, 500 N. Calvert Street, Baltimore, MD 21202, pursuant to § 3-305 (b)(2) and (7) of the Gen. Prov. Art., Md. Ann. Code, in order to protect the privacy and reputation of license applicants and to obtain the advice provided by Counsel regarding license applications.

The Board was advised by Executive Director Jordan that a complaint had been received. The Board discussed procedural matters pertaining to the complaint after returning to the public Business Meeting.

The Board reviewed two (2) license applications.

OR-01, upon a motion (V) by Mr. Rider and seconded by Ms. Rhyne-Grey, the Board unanimously voted to approve the license application of an individual who demonstrated the required educational and pre-license work experience in compliance with Bus. Occ. & Prof. Art., Md. Ann. Code, §§ 7-101(c)(3)(ii) and 7-304(b) and provided the requisite professional references in accordance with COMAR 09.29.1.02.

OR-02, upon a motion (VI) by Mr. Rider and seconded by Mr. Dorsey, the Board unanimously voted to approve the license application of an individual who demonstrated the required educational and pre-license work experience in compliance with Bus. Occ. & Prof. Art., Md. Ann. Code, §§ 7-101(c)(3)(ii) and 7-304(b) and provided the requisite professional references in accordance with COMAR 09.29.1.02.

The Board reconvened its business meeting at 11:28 a.m. upon a motion (VII) made by Ms. Rhyne-Grey and seconded by Mr. Dorsey, and unanimously carried by the Board. Upon a motion (VIII) made by Ms. Rhyne-Grey, seconded by Mr. Dorsey, and unanimously carried, the Board accepted the decisions rendered in the closed session.

### **New Business**

Mr. Rider reported that a SDAT Supervisor of Assessments requested that he pose the following question to the Board to seek their opinion: Can a licensed Forester prepare the Forest Stewardship Plan for property the forester owns to receive the allowable tax abatement? Can the Forester subsequently certify that the Forester is in compliance with the Stewardship Plan to continue receiving the abatement?

The Board came to the conclusion that a Forester can ethically provide self-certification for the tax abatement, and this opinion is founded on the fact that the Forester is licensed and a condition of that licensure is abiding by the Code of Ethics.

Executive Director Jordan advised the Board that a complaint had been received alleging violations of the laws governing the provision of forestry services. Counsel advised that a Complaint Committee of the Board should meet to consider the matter with the advice of counsel after Director Jordan consults with Kris King, Principal Counsel, LABOR. Counsel explained to the Board that the Complaint Committee will meet with an Assistant Attorney General to consider the merits of the complaint and discuss how to proceed, whether to pursue charges, etc., and, subsequently, make a recommendation to the Board. Members, Ms. Rhyne-Grey and Mr. Rider, will serve on the Complaint Committee for this matter.

Counsel advised the Board to be mindful of the statutory requirement to provide notice and hold a hearing on a complaint within three (3) months after a complaint is made, in accordance with Bus. Occ. & Prof. Art., Md. Ann. Code, §7-311(b). The Board discussed the relevant time parameters of the complaint received in December 2019.

Upon a Motion (IX) by Mr. Dorsey and seconded by Ms. Rhyne Grey, the Board unanimously approved the procedure to open a complaint file in this matter, and schedule a Complaint Committee meeting.

### **Old Business**

No Old Business was discussed.

### **Counsel's Report**

None.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, upon a motion (X) by Mr. Dorsey and seconded by Ms. Rhyne-Grey, and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the meeting at 11:52 a.m.

### **NEXT MEETING**

April 13, 2020 - 500 North Calvert Street, Third Floor Conference Room, 10:00 AM

