

**NORTHEAST PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MINUTES  
March 12, 2021  
ZOOM Meeting**

Present

Mr. James Bakas; Mr. Reginald Beliveau; Mr. Jon Blair; Mr. Bill Bottiggi; Mr. Jeff Cady; Mr. Mike Cloutier; Mr. Justin Connell, chair; Mr. Jonathan Elwell; Mr. Jonathan Fitch; Mr. Scott Hallowell; Mr. Rick Hendershot; Mr. Bill Humphrey; Mr. Mike Kirkwood; Mr. Jim Lavelle; Mr. Nick Lawler; Ms. Patty Richards; Mr. David Schofield; Mr. Todd Shea; Mr. Panos Tokadjian; and Mr. John Tzimirangas.

Absent

Mr. Paul Heanue; Mr. Jim Lavelle

Staff

Ms. Bonnie Biocchi; Ms. Elizabeth Dailey; Ms. Jackie Campbell

Call to Order

Mr. Connell called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. The Board reviewed the Consent Agenda (which included the Board meeting Agenda, minutes from 11/19/2020, the year-end financial report, the Executive Director's report, and the committee appointments for ratification). The consent agenda was amended to replace the ratification document which removed the AC Subcommittee appointments. In addition to the committee member ratifications, Nick Lawler was appointed to the Executive Committee, Todd Shea (Kennebunk) was appointed to chair of the Member Value Committee, Patty Richards (WEC) was appointed to Chair of the Education and Development Committee, Barry Tupper (Holden) was appointed to Chair of the E&O Committee, and Daniel Vettraino (ABB Inc) was appointed to the Member Value Committee. The Consent Agenda, as amended, passed unanimously.

Treasurer Resignation & Nomination

Mr. Connell announced the resignation of Mr. Mike Kirkwood and thanked him for his years of service to NEPPA. He made a motion to accept the resignation. Mr. Tzimirangas opposed resignation. It was voted to accept the resignation. Mr. Tzimirangas made a motion to appoint Mr. Jon Blair, Ipswich Electric Light Department, to fill the vacancy created by Mr. Kirkwood's resignation. There were no other nominations. The Board voted to appoint Mr. Blair to assume the role of Treasurer with Mr. Blair being the single member abstaining from the vote. It was noted that Mr. Blair will have to be nominated and elected by those present at the next annual business meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Governance Task Force update: Mr. Connell reviewed the status of the Governance Task Force. The task force has been reviewing NEPPA Bylaws and Articles. The Board members engaged in

a dialogue with each other. The goal is to have any amendments finalized and ready to present to members at the Annual Conference.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Committee Reports

**Mutual Aid:** Mr. Lawler informed the Board the new Mutual Aid software, Veoci, has been launched and is in use. The software was put to the test during a small Mutual aid event in Merrimac and worked well. Currently the committee is putting together a Mutual Aid Playbook, hoping to be released by May.

**Member Value:** Ms. Richards informed the Board that the committee has been doing beta testing with NEPPA's new website and that the full Board should be receiving a link to the site soon. The committee will be working on creating an Ambassador program as well as finding ways to further promote the Benevolent Fund. Ms. Biocchi then discussed staff changes within NEPPA, noting that Jackie Campbell had been promoted to the position of Member Services Coordinator and will begin supporting the committee in addition to Wendy. Mr. Shea will now be the new chair of the committee.

**Finance:** Mr. Blair informed the Board the committee has not met yet, but will be reviewing the audit, assessing the opportunity to invest a portion of the Benevolent fund and determining opportunities to grow revenue. When the FinCom meets, they will review rate schedules and dues/fees.

**COPC:** Mr. Cloutier informed the committee that NEPPA is planning to move forward with the Annual Conference as an in-person event and that there will be some virtual component as well. He also advised the Board that the E&O Conference and Rodeo are being planned as a joint event. There will additionally be a 9 hole golf tournament at this combined event to support the Benevolent Fund.

**Education Development:** Mr. Connell and Mr. Schofield engaged in a discussion with the Board regarding different program developers to expand NEPPA's programs. The committee will be identifying outdated training material and work on updating it. Ms. Richards will be the new Chair of the committee.

**A & R:** Mr. Tzimirangas discussed the virtual APPA Legislative Rally and their scheduled meetings with congressional delegations. The MA delegation orchestrated a panel discussion of the issues with several legislative staff members, which all felt was an appropriate method to communicate our positions. Ms. Biocchi added to the report that the deadline for submitting resolutions was March 15<sup>th</sup>.

### Board Orientation & Handbook

Ms. Biocchi presented and reviewed items that will be in the new Board Orientation and handbook. The Board engaged in discussion on forms within handbook, and ideas to assist new Board members. This report was for informational purposes and no Board action was required.

#### Operations Plan

Ms. Biocchi briefly reviewed the three-year operations/implementation plan to support achieving the goals in the strategic plan, outlining areas of focus and expected completion dates. This report was informational, and no Board action was required.

#### New NEPPA Mutual Aid Award

Mr. Lawler presented the idea of a new award, the NEPPA Mutual Aid Service Award. This award would honor individuals who have provided sustained commitment to Mutual Aid, such as the Mutual Aid regional coordinators. A motion was made to approve the NEPPA Mutual Aid Service Award as amended to remove the parenthesis (Officers of NEPPA's Board of Directors). The Board voted to formally approve the award as amended.

#### MEUA discussions

Ms. Biocchi informed the Board that MEUA was in arrears for their Corporate Sponsorship and reviewed the professional services agreement that exists between the two organizations.

#### Executive Session

At 10:30 the Board unanimously voted to enter Executive session to discuss sensitive matters. The board came out of Executive session at 10:57 a.m.

#### Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Cloutier

Secretary

Approved as amended 5/14/2021