

**North Carolina Locksmith Licensing Board
Meeting Minutes
Sheraton Imperial, Durham, NC
12:00pm, October 30, 2024**

Members Present: Larry Mares, Jim Storie, Diane Riddle, Debbie Atkinson, Jack Walder, Erich Crouch, Mike McCarty, Garrett Davis

Members Absent: Deanna Brena

Staff: Barden Culbreth, Catherine Lee, Leroy Everhart

Public: Kenneth Wayne, Michelle Feder

Call to Order and Introductions: Chairman Larry Mares called the meeting to order and asked that all in attendance introduce themselves.

NC Ethics Awareness Act: Larry read the NC Ethics Awareness Act and asked Board members to identify conflicts of interest or appearances of conflicts of interest. Hearing none, the meeting continued.

Approval of Agenda: Jim Storie motioned to approve the agenda. Jack Walder seconded, and the agenda was approved.

Public Comment: Larry asked if any members of the public would like to make a comment.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Jack motioned to approve the previous meeting minutes. Jim seconded and the minutes were approved.

Approval of the Financial Report: Treasurer Mike McCarty asked staff to discuss the costs of conducting investigations with the Board.

Chair Mares recognized Michelle Feder, a member of the public who asked if investigations and injunctions were public. Barden noted that injunctions were public records and there was a new page on the Board's website that listed injunctions and disciplinary actions.

Mike motioned to approve the Financial Report. Erich Crouch seconded, and the Financial Report was approved.

Garrett Davis arrived.

Ethics and Exam Committee: Jim Storie was recognized for his report. He noted that the last two exams had been cancelled due to Hurricanes. There will hopefully be a new exam in December, and a rescheduled exam session in Asheville. Diane has been helping with the administration of the exam in the western part of the state.

Jim is working on a revision to the exam and hopes to have it completed before he rotates off the Board.

Barden noted that he administered an exam on October 29 for people who were previously scheduled for Asheville.

Jim noted that that the proctors are now requiring photo ID and matching the address of the ID.

Board Chair's Report: Larry noted that he proctored the exam and someone who failed asked him to change his score. He advised proctors to be resolved in their scoring of the exam.

Larry thanked Jim for his work on the exam, Barden for the office work, and Leroy for the investigations.

Board Office Report: Barden discussed the annual 93B report which will be filed after the meeting. He asked the Board to consider a training requirement for apprentices as part of any future legislative change request. Michelle Feder asked who would provide that training. Barden stated he thought continuing education would be sufficient.

Mike noted that the Board previously considered asking the legislature to establish a firm or company license.

Michelle asked how the Board could help enforce Google advertising requirements. Discussion followed. Catherine Lee noted that it would depend on how the statute would be written.

Discussion followed about how a firm license could be administered.

Catherine advised all present that they were discussing hypothetical changes to the statute.

Legal Update: Catherine Lee was recognized and provided an update on injunctions filed at Wake County Superior Court.

Larry Mares recognized Michelle Feder who asked how the Board can better enforce under-the-table payments and pop-up businesses.

Kenneth Wayne asked to speak and reported that he had a different experience when he came to the Board six years ago and had felt attacked at that time. He discussed how people in his area were licensed to work at an institution and were moonlighting with locksmith work in the evenings. He noted that he filed more paperwork to NASTF and Google than was required by the Board.

Kenneth noted that there were too many exceptions from licensure and people were providing locksmith services without a license.

Barden noted that a license for the firm would help address some of these issues.

Barden discussed two recent complaints against Kfir Cohen and Dudi Lankry and these were resolved and would be posted on the Board's disciplinary website.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: Larry thanked the locksmiths that came to the meeting and for providing insight from the profession. He noted that he too had heard complaints about the number of exemptions from the license.

Adjourn: Jack motioned to adjourn. Mike seconded and the meeting ended.

Next Meeting: 12:00pm, December 4