

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE BUILDING CODE REVIEW BOARD

APPROVED – Minutes of Regular Meeting – February 13, 2015

Attendance:

Shawn Bergeron Sr., Chairman
Thomas Clark, NH Municipal Association
Stephen Eckberg, NH Public Utilities Commission
Tedd Evans, Mechanical Licensing Board
Wayne Fillion, PE, NH Board of Engineers (Mechanical Engineer)
Edward J. Gibson, PE, NH Board of Engineers (Electrical Engineer)
David Lage, Associated General Contractors of NH, Inc.
Roger Maynard, P•FGF•HVAC of NH
Linda McNair-Perry, Vice-Chair, NH Board of Engineers (Structural Engineer)
Jonathan Mitchell, NH Bureau of Electrical Safety & Licensing
Wayne Richardson, CBO, NH Building Officials Association
John Starr (Vice Chair) - CGB, NH Home Builders Association
Sean Toomey, NH Association of Fire Chiefs
Mary Maloney, Assistant Attorney General

Absent:

Bill Benard, NH Electrical Contractors Business Association
Barbara Chalmers, AIA, Board of Architects, Licensed Architect
Bradley Ober, NH Association of Fire Chiefs

Guests:

Steven Paquin, Lakes Region Building Officials
Bill Nash, ICC
Jeff Sargent, NFPA
Matt Labonte – NH State Fire Marshal's Office
Dean Sotirakopoulos, NH Joint Board, Electrician's Board
Steven Rancourt, ECBA

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Chairman Shawn Bergeron, Sr. A quorum was declared. Members were introduced.

Minutes of December 14, 2014 meeting will be reviewed by members prior to next month's meeting and voted on at that time

NEW BUSINESS

Yearly meeting selection of Building Code Review Board Vice-Chair

Members voted for reappointment of John Starr versus Wayne Richardson (5-4). John will continue to serve as Vice-Chair until his term expires in July 2015. A new Vice-Chair will be voted on at that time.

Discuss letters to Representatives inviting them to attend a future BCRB meeting

After Chairman Bergeron attended several Public Hearings, it was very clear that Legislators are unaware of the role of the Building Code Review Board, or that the Board even exists. There is a lot of legislation out there that should have been reviewed by the board prior to submittal. Chairman

Bergeron will compose letters to all Legislators inviting them to attend a future board meeting, to educate them about the board and what the board does.

Review & discuss suggested subcommittee report summary sheet – provided at this meeting

Chairman Bergeron prepared a summary sheet for distribution to the board members. Would like feedback from the board members with any thoughts or suggestions to see if this is a worthwhile document.

Assistant Attorney General, Mary Maloney, is present at today's board meeting and will be available to answer any questions or concerns that board members may have.

Bill Nash, ICC Manager of New England, is also present at today's meeting. Bill is available to answer any questions that the board members may have. Bill is responsible for helping facilitate all the ICC programs that are offered in New England. Bill will be providing the board with documents when they become available to assist in the code reviews. Fire Sprinkler Coalitions are being very active – popping up in mostly every state in New England. New Hampshire is soon to have a residential sprinkler coalition. Believe this is being done through the NH Fire Prevention Society.

During Shawn's attendance at a legislative hearing (HB 288), one of the Legislators questioned Shawn in re to the International Energy Conservation Code, that if this goes to subcommittee this summer, will the board make sure that the subcommittee of the Legislature has code books. Shawn believes this bill has already gone to subcommittee and requested code books from Bill Nash. Shawn also asked Bill about pending documents comparing the 2009-2015 international codes. Bill will provide us with the 2009-2012, and the 2012-2015 documents. Last request of Mr. Nash is if any white paper documents exist about the benefits of the International Energy Conservation Code, the board would appreciate receiving copies.

OLD BUSINESS

Legislative Updates

HB 286, relative to permits issued by building inspectors

Public Hearing was held on January 29. Wayne Richardson updated the board on the status. There will be a proposed amendment.

HB 288, relative to the code for energy conservation in new building construction

Chairman Bergeron attended the hearing on January 29. This bill is going to study committee over the course of the summer. The Board has their work cut out for them in regards to the Energy Conservation Code.

HB 533, relative to arc-fault circuit-breaker protection in residential construction

This bill provides that arc-fault circuit-interrupter protection shall NOT be required in new residential construction. Arc-faults are not required for commercial construction. A Public Hearing is scheduled for February 17. When the board was considering the 2014 NEC, the board had lengthy discussions on arc-circuit protection. The 2014 NEC has been adopted (effective January 1, 2015) with only one amendment. Shawn and Dean Sotirakopoulos will be in attendance at the hearing. HB 533 is relative to NEW residential construction only. Arc-faults are not required for commercial.

In Bill Benard's absence, Steve Rancourt was present at today's meeting, representing the NH ECBA (Electrical Contractors Business Association). Steve updated the board on the ECBA's position on this bill. Jeff Sargent, NFPA,

presented his position on this bill to the board.

HB 580, relative to travel expenses for members of the building code review board

Public Hearing was held on February 2, recessed, and continued on February 4. This bill was sponsored by Representative Umberger. The purpose of this bill is to provide the building code review board members with mileage reimbursement for monthly meeting attendance. Many members of the board drive considerable distances to attend the monthly meetings.

SB 18, an act prohibiting the use of PVC piping as a flue material for venting combustion gases

Hearing was scheduled on January 22. This bill was referred to Committee. Matt LaBonte gave the board an update. The Fire Marshal's Office has been charged with developing a group of interested parties in the next few weeks to come to the board with a recommendation and a possible code amendment.

Continued Review of Subcommittee Reports

Copies of subcommittee reports were distributed to all board members. Chairman Bergeron suggested that the board members review the reports prior to next month's meeting and they will be discussed at that time. Tedd Evans report of the IPC was not included in this package. Copies will be sent to the board members electronically.

Linda McNair-Perry: SENH (Structural Engineers of New Hampshire) has asked a subcommittee of SENH to review this code and communicate their recommendations with the board at the April or May monthly meeting.

Continued discussion on website updates

This is ongoing. The Height and Area Tables are still an issue. Will continue working on the Bcr 300 rules.

Deal with other business within the Board's authority that is brought before the Board

This item will remain on all future agenda's.

Linda McNair-Perry has been requested to attend meetings concerning putting solar panels on roofs, where you can self-access your roof and install your solar panels without having to consult an engineer, which reduces the cost of installing solar panels. The PE Board has been approached about this issue. Linda feels this needs to come through the BCRB.

Barbara was contacted by Susan Thorne at the Office of Energy and Planning. They are in the process of finalizing a rooftop solar worksheet and would like to present this to the board

Bill Nash received an email yesterday from the ICC saying that in 2015 they are adding another code issue on solar panels. This is not a supplement. This is a document that was put together to address many of the solar issues that are out there today.

Wayne Richardson made the **MOTION** to Adjourn
Seconded by John Starr
Motion Carried