

## NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE BUILDING CODE REVIEW BOARD

In-person regular/public hearing meeting April 14, 2023

### **Members Present:**

Philip Sherman, P.E., Chair  
Tedd Evans, Mechanical Licensing Board  
Dean Sotirakopoulos NH Electrical Contractors Business Association  
James Grant, Electricians Board  
Art Guadano, Board of Architects  
Michael Hagan, CFM, NH Building Officials Association  
Med Kopczyński, NH Municipal Association (virtually present on conference line)  
Michael Soucy, NH Department of Energy  
Matthew Conley, NH Assoc of Fire Chiefs  
John Tuttle, Vice-Chair, NH Home Builders Association  
Lee F. Carroll, PE, NH Board of Engineers (Electrical Engineer)  
Beverly Kowalik, P.E. Mechanical Engineer  
Roger Maynard, P•FGF•HVAC of NH  
Arthur Rose, Associated General Contractors of NH, Inc.  
Jeffrey Trexler, Board of Engineers (Structural Engineer)  
Robert Roy, (Tedd Evans Alternate), Mechanical Licensing Board  
Rob Chebook, Alternate PFGFHVAC of NH

### **Absent:**

Peter Lennon, Fire Marshal - Manchester, NH Association of Fire Chiefs  
Robert Wentworth (Michael Hagan Alternate), NH Building Officials Association (arrived later)  
David Mendzela, Alternate NH Electrical Contractors Business Assoc.  
Gary Raymond, Alternate Department of Energy  
Christopher Bond, Chief Department of Justice

### **Also Present:**

Roxie Beall, Administrative Assistant, NH State Fire Marshal's Office

### **Guests:**

Michael Rossi, NEEP  
Matt Mayberry, NH Home Builders  
Chris Skaglund, Clean Energy NH  
Michael Loughlin, Eversource  
Karen LaMontagne, LaMontagne Builders  
Bob Clegg, THC LLC, NH Home Builders Association  
Rebecca McWilliams, NH State Representative  
Robert Gargano  
Jerry Tepe  
Katharine Richardson

The meeting, held in-person, was called to order at 10:00 am by the Chair. The Chair proceeded with roll call. A quorum was declared. Med Kopczynski joined virtually via conference line due to medical reasons. He abstained from all votes.

Board Membership Status – Chair Sherman introduced the Governor’s Commission for Disability primary, Kate Richardson, expected to be nominated by the GCD at their May meeting, then appointed by the Commissioner of Safety, and alternate, Jerry Tepe expected to be appointed by the GCD at their May meeting.

Acceptance of Minutes - Motion to accept March 10, 2023 meeting minutes made by Lee Carroll, seconded by Mike Hagan. No discussion. All present in favor, none opposed, Med Kopczynski abstained. Motion carried, minutes accepted.

### **PUBLIC HEARING IMC/IPC/ISPSC MODEL CODES AND AMENDMENTS**

Chair opened public hearing at 10:06 am.

IMC model code - No public comments. No board comments.

IMC proposed amendments - No public comments. No board comments.

ME-21-05-23– motion to amend by Tedd Evans, Mike Hagan seconded. All present in favor. Med Kopczynski abstained.

IPC model code - No public comments. No board comments.

IPC proposed amendments - No public comments. No board comments.

May need to revisit if HB173 does not pass.

ISPSC model code - No public comments. No board comments.

ISPSC proposed amendments - No public comments. No board comments.

**LEGISLATIVE STATUS** – Chair Sherman reviewed changes in status since the agenda:

**HB2** – relative to state fees, funds, revenues and expenditures- passed the house with numerous amendments – now in Senate.

**HB51** – relative to requiring towns and school districts to use warrant articles for lobbying agents - inexpedient to legislate.

**HB63** – relative to religious use of land and structures – inexpedient to legislate.

**HB104** – relative to multi-stall bathrooms and locker rooms in schools – laid on the table.

**HB111** – establishing a committee to study electrical vehicle charging for residential renters - passed the house, on senate consent calendar. Chair suggested electrical folks keep track of the committee activities as BCRB will want input to the committee which is to be formed.

**HB173** – relative to toilet facilities provided by restaurants - retained in committee.

**HB205** – relative to testing of private wells – laid on the table.

**HB477** – to prohibit municipal inspections of owner-occupied units of multi-unit housing – passed the house – passed senate ED&A. Inexpedient to legislate

**HB558** – relative to electric microgrids and electric grid resiliency – retained in committee.

**HB564** – relative to ratification of amendments to the state building code and state fire code – passed the house – passed senate ED&A.

**HB 655** – relative to the office of professional licensure and certification – passed the house with amendments – senate committee work session 4/13/23.

**SB53** – permitting the use of certain refrigerants that are in compliance with the Clean Air Act – in committee.

**SB137** – relative to nano brewery licenses and beverage manufacturers' licenses - passed house and senate with amendment.

Chris Skaglund provided an update on HB2 that licensing portion was removed. He also introduced SB52 relative to a commission to study public electric vehicle charging stations. Mainly concerned with how to fund. Connected to travel / tourism industry. Chair agrees that electrical folks should follow to ensure codes are not being written into the bill.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Website status – Chair reported that committee reports need to be added into 2021 part of the website.

Administrative Rule Review, BCR100, BCR200 – Chair reported that Christopher Bond has reported no update for BCR100 or BCR200 due to staffing shortages which are planned to be resolved soon.

Municipal amendment review – Chair reported no new municipal amendments have been received.

## Subcommittee Deadlines

Fire/Building Code review committee – due in May

IBC Appendix G committee – due in June.

A117.1 Review committee – changed to June.

IFGC - Fuel Gas committee – Tedd Evans reported they have had 3 meetings so far. Review has uncovered similar obstacles as before. Fire side likes the current edition and don't want to get involved in this code. There is one more meeting set up to make conclusions to present to the Board.

NEC committee – no deadlines this cycle

Park Model Trailers – Chair has opened discussions with the State Fire Marshal

Discussion on 2021 Energy Code

Chair suggested combining IRC/IECC discussions and asked for input from public and board on how best to do that?

There was much discussion including a recommendation to push the IRC until September meeting and/or working through summer with stakeholders. Both of these were opposed by the majority. Legislation stance was speculated by a few. Discussion also included risk of repeating history and having it killed at legislative level if no consensus between stakeholders can be reached.

Mike Hagan suggested setting aside a 3-hour block at next meeting to give stakeholders a good opportunity to work through some of the discussion to determine where we can move with this. He proposed that the IECC committee report progress to the Board at the next meeting in May to see what Board proposes at that time.

John Tuttle proposed hold on vote until energy code is more worked out.

**NEW BUSINESS**

IRC model code, report and amendments – Board decided to defer IRC discussion for today.

Jeff Trexler spoke regarding ground snow loads. Currently there are two ways to calculate snow load values. 2018 IRC amendment (Table R301.2(1) Footnote p) allows the authority having jurisdiction to establish a ground snow load using the contour map in Section R301.2 OR the CRREL document. He recommends an amendment to mandate use of the CRREL document exclusively. It is more accurate, more precise, is already being used in most towns and would provide consistency.

Chair Sherman asked if anyone would disagree. Some discussion with questions regarding the table and CRREL document. Ultimately, there was consensus.

BD-21-09-23 – RSA – Tent – change to 200 sf to match up with fire code. Already approved old language. Tedd Evans moved to accept the changes and send to public hearing next month. Lee Carroll seconded. All in favor. Med Kopczynski abstained. Motion carried.

BD-18-14-23 – Refrigerants. These amendments are in response to a bill at the legislature. The refrigerant industry is looking for consistency among the states regarding EPA mandated refrigerants, which are hazardous. ICC has already completed their work on the 2024 IMC and these provisions will form the backbone of the NH amendments. NH amendments to the 2018 code also address major Chapter 11 changes that occurred from 2018 to 2021 model code. There was little justification given for these changes in the significant change document, therefore the BCRB IMC committee did not review in detail.

Lee Carroll moved to move the 5 amendments (BD-18-14-23, BD-18-15-23, BD-18-16-23, ME-18-13-23, ME-18-14-23) to public hearing. Mike Hagan seconded. Discussion Jeff Trexler. All in favor. Med Kopczynski abstained. Motion carried.

Public Hearing – closed at 11:17 am

Mike Hagan made motion to move IMC model code and amendments forward for adoption. Tedd Evans seconded. No discussion. Med Kopczynski abstained. Motion carried.

Mike Hagan made motion to move IPC model code and amendments forward for adoption. Tedd Evans seconded. No discussion. Med Kopczynski abstained. Motion carried.

Mike Hagan made motion to move ISPSC model code and amendments forward for adoption. Tedd Evans seconded. No discussion. Med Kopczynski abstained. Motion carried.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

The next meeting is scheduled for **May 12, 2023 at 10:00 am** and is expected to be held at 33 Hazen Drive, Concord NH 03305 in the second floor conference room.

ANSI 117A Committee meeting is scheduled for Wed. April 26<sup>th</sup> @ 1:30pm. Location to be determined.

IECC Committee meeting is scheduled for Fri. May 5<sup>th</sup> @ 9 – Noon. Location to be determined.

#### **MEETING ADJOURNED**

Meeting adjourned at 11:21 am.

Respectfully submitted by Roxie Beall, 4/24/23