

Official – MINUTES

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE BUILDING CODE REVIEW BOARD

In-person regular meeting December 10, 2021

Members Present:

Philip Sherman, P.E., Chair
Roger Maynard, P•FGF•HVAC of NH
Arthur Rose, Associated General Contractors of NH, Inc.
Michael Hagan, CFM, NH Building Officials Association
Art Guadano, Board of Architects
Jeffrey Trexler, Board of Engineers (Structural Engineer)
Tedd Evans, Mechanical Licensing Board
Lee F. Carroll, PE, NH Board of Engineers (Electrical Engineer)
Beverly Kowalik, P.E. Mechanical Engineer
Med Koczynski, NH Municipal Association
William Fraser, NH Electrical Contractors Business Association

Absent:

John Tuttle, Vice-Chair, NH Home Builders Association
Mariellen MacKay, Governor's Commission on Disability
Kenneth Walsh, NH Public Utilities Commission
Peter Lennon, Fire Marshal - Manchester, NH Association of Fire Chiefs
Mark Tetreault, Fire Chief, NH Association of Fire Chiefs
James Grant, Electricians Board
Dean Sotirakopoulos (James Grant alternate), representing the Electricians board

Also Present:

Erica Webb, Administrative Secretary NH State Fire Marshal's Office
Michael Stanhope, Modular Building Administrator, NH State Fire Marshal's Office
Michael Grandy, Assistant Attorney General

Guests:

Jerry Tepe
William McKinney
Michael Soucy
Chris Skoglund
Sean Toomey

The meeting, held in-person, was called to order at 10:02am by Chair Sherman. Chair Philip Sherman proceeded with roll call. A quorum was declared.

The chairman introduced the new administrative secretary for the Building Code Review Board, Erica Webb.

Motion to accept the meeting minutes from September 10, 2021: Arthur Rose

Seconded: Lee Carroll

William Fraser and Med Kopczynski abstained.

No one opposed, Motion Carried

Chair Sherman introduced Fire Marshal Sean Toomey, who addressed the BCRB to give some project updates including staff and website changes/updates. Also the FMO is working on ICC book access as they are not being given out free of charge any longer.

OLD BUSINESS

Legislative Update: There is a summary document of the 2015 codes prepared by Jerry Tepe which should be available online in the next few days.

The chairman discussed the new platform for the website that the FMO, and therefore the BCRB, is going to be moving over to in the next month or two and advised members not to worry too much about what is presently incorrect on the current webpages, but work on creating what should be on the pages when the move takes place and the board will review it after the switch.

William McKinney and the NH Building Officials Association provided a list of all the building officials in the State of NH and the BCRB will be encouraging the officials to uphold their statutory requirement of advising the state what amendments the local building officials have made. To date, only 2 of the 234 cities etc in NH have provided updates for their amendments although there are other who have indicated their legislative option to enforce the code or not which further reduces the number of responses being sought.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Sherman discussed how to synchronize the cycle of the code books with legislation, who seem to prefer the 3 year cycle. Chair Sherman voiced his approval for the 3 years cycle system. The board discussed how to move forward so that they could expect to be on schedule by 2023.

As of November the BCRB has completed the 2018 model code review which moves to the legislative process.

Chair Sherman introduced an amendment form that he would like to use to be followed up with later in the meeting.

Chair Sherman outlined respective schedules for the committees that would be decided during this meeting. Expecting the committee reviews of the new material possible by the end of February/ early March with public hearings able to be presented as early as May/June. Chair Sherman expressed his hope that by the end of the session in June the BCRB would be ready to move to the legislature. The board discussed alternative scheduling options to the Chair's initial presentation in order to get back on track after this past years meetings were upset by the Covid virus.

The Chairman called on William McKinney who advised the BCRB that if states falls more than 2 cycles behind in the code reviews that they are risking forfeiture of FEMA reimbursement and grants should there be any sort of disaster. Which this board could be at in 2022. Additionally, in the event of delayed learning and training of the updated codes FEMA will still require that new construction be done to the newest code reviews, whether this board has had the chance to review or ratify them. There wouldn't be anyone trained to inspect the codes at that time due to the BCRB being behind legislative schedule. Insurance can also be effected due to the ISO building code rating schedule, which grades the efficiency of the building departments. This may affect insurance for new construction.

Jerry Tepe reminded the board that there is also a need to collaborate with the Fire Control Board as far as their dates and code revisions. The sentiment was echoed by Chair Sherman who also included in that collaboration the need to look at what other bordering states are doing as many trades' people may work across state lines.

Committees: Chair Sherman opened the committees to the newest members to choose first then accepted volunteer appointments for the 8 committees; International Building Code, International Existing Building Code, International Energy Conservation Code, International Mechanical Code, International Plumbing Code, International Residential Code, International Swimming Pool and Spa Code, and Joint Fire Code Coordination. Those members who were not able to attend the meeting were assigned to committees.

Chair Sherman proposed that the committees meet at the FMO conference rooms. Members will provide their available schedules to Erica Webb, who will coordinate and reserve appropriate accommodations for each committee, possibly on Fridays.

BCR 100 & 200: Jerry Tepe and Chairman Sherman provided members with the current drafts and asked them to let him know what they thought needed to be addressed. Chair Sherman expected to be able to move forward with the legal process of correcting the BCRs in the spring.

Amendment Form: BCRB discussed proposed Amendment Form changes put forth by Chair Sherman.

Motion to Allow the Chairman to Modify the Amendment Form: Med Kopczynski

Seconded: Ted Evans

Mike Hagan & Jeff Trexler against, everyone else in attendance for. Motion Carried.

Chair Sherman asked for a volunteer from each committee to respond to the corresponding section of an email forwarded from Rep. McGuire from Steve Beaudoin, former state representative, who would like justification and clarification on the 2018 codes reviews referenced in his email. Responses are to be returned to the Chairman by the end of the year.

Chairman Sherman adjourned the meeting at 12:27pm. Next meeting to be held on January 14th, 2022.

MEETING ADJOURNED