

Draft – MINUTES

These minutes are DRAFT minutes and are posted to comply with RSA 91-A: 2 The Board has not voted to accept them. Changes may/may not be made prior to their adoption at the next Board meeting.

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE BUILDING CODE REVIEW BOARD

In-person regular meeting March 11, 2022

Members Present:

Philip Sherman, P.E., Chair
Roger Maynard, P•FGF•HVAC of NH
Michael Hagan, CFM, NH Building Officials Association
Tedd Evans, Mechanical Licensing Board
Lee F. Carroll, PE, NH Board of Engineers (Electrical Engineer)
Med Kopczynski, NH Municipal Association
John Tuttle, Vice-Chair, NH Home Builders Association
Arthur Rose, Associated General Contractors of NH, Inc.
Jeffrey Trexler, Board of Engineers (Structural Engineer)
Michael Soucy, NH Public Utilities Commission
James Grant, Electricians Board
Art Guadano, Board of Architects
Peter Lennon, Fire Marshal - Manchester, NH Association of Fire Chiefs
William Fraser, NH Electrical Contractors Business Association
Beverly Kowalik, P.E. Mechanical Engineer

Absent:

Mark Tetreault, Fire Chief, NH Association of Fire Chiefs
Robert Wentworth (Michael Hagan Alternate), NH Building Officials Association
Mariellen MacKay, Governor's Commission on Disability

Also Present:

Erica Webb, Administrative Supervisor NH State Fire Marshal's Office
Michael Grandy, Assistant Attorney General
Dean Sotirakopoulos (James Grant alternate), Electricians Board

Guests:

Joe LeSage OPLC

The meeting, held in-person, was called to order at 10:00am by Chair Sherman. Chair Philip Sherman proceeded with roll call. A quorum was declared.

Motion to accept the meeting minutes from February 11, 2022: Lee Carroll

Seconded: Michael Hagan

Abstained: James Grant, Art Guadano, William Frasier, and Peter Lennon.

No one opposed, Motion Carried

OLD BUSINESS

Adoption Schedule: The Chair opened the meeting with a discussion regarding the adoption schedule for the 2018/2021 codes due to the delay caused by COVID. Some options mentioned were adopting the upcoming 2018 code for 1 year then adopting the 2021 code directly the following year or adopting the 2018 code for 2 years followed by the 2021 code for two years. The goal is to make up for the delay that COVID caused and to work towards getting the BCRB onto a three year cycle which will match up with other codes such as the NEC and legislative scheduling. Discussion among the board included federal requirements for aid in the case of emergencies, Insurance ISO scores, cost of books needing to be purchased by trades groups, federal energy certification, and reciprocal licensing between states. Chair Sherman advised board members to reach out to their constituents and try to get an official letter voicing their support of one schedule or the other so that the BCRB could move toward a plan which could be defended in front of legislatures as to who and why the BCRB supported which ever adoption schedule was ultimately decided on.

Committee Reports: The Chair advised that the committee handling the IPC/ISPSC/IMC has reviewed the related IRC portions, and that the IRC committee should also take their findings into consideration so as to maintain consistency between the codes. Likewise, the IRC committee should consider the IECC committee findings on the residential portions of the IECC.

Cost Analysis: Chair Sherman brought up for discussion among the board how the BCRB is intended to communicate the “cost” determination as directed by the legislature. Several members of the board suggested that the BCRB request clarification from the legislatures as to what type of cost indicator they are looking for. The Assistant AG, Michael Grandy advised that it was his opinion that the legislation may have intentionally used vague language in order to enable the BCRB to interpret “cost” for themselves.

Legislation:

HB 1681 - Related to the adoption of the 2018 codes and the ratifying of the accompanying amendments. This bill is considered “ought to pass” and includes the 6 month grace period where contractors and architects are able to choose between the incoming code or outgoing code to use during a project being constructed during those 6 months.

SB 398 – Related to the elimination of the Joint Fire Code Committee and the creation of a legislative committee, and includes similarities to HB 1681 including the 6 month grace period.

SB 443 – Related to the involvement in the BCRB in reviewing municipalities amendments. This bill has passed through the NH Senate and is now in awaiting consideration by the NH House. This bill was passed by the NH Senate with the amendments the BCRB put forward following the BCRB’s February Meeting.

HB 1312 – Relative to the DES rules not being more restrictive than the International Plumbing Code rules, as adopted by the state building code. This bill has moved on to an Interim Study which the Chair thought might be considered sometime this summer.

HB 1014 – Relative to remote meetings. Inexpedient to Legislate, with minority report.

HB 1033 – Relative to Lobbying. Out of committee as Ought to Pass. The Chair advised BCRB members to work with their respective organizations and voice their concerns to their legislators.

HB 1068 – Relative to Tiny Homes. Has been found to be inexpedient to legislate, but is expected to return at a later time. Need to keep track of this, as pro tiny home organizations are focusing on zoning more than codes.

Reference Codes: Chair Sherman is working to put together reference page which will be used to make sure that anyone using the NH State Building Code is aware of any complimentary codes or appendices they need to also consult rather than the BCRB attempting to modify or input any necessary references into multiple places in the code.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:15am.

Next meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2022 and will be held at the NH State Fire Academy.

MEETING ADJOURNED