

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE BUILDING CODE REVIEW BOARD

In-person regular meeting May 13, 2022

**Members Present:**

Philip Sherman, P.E., Chair  
Roger Maynard, P•FGF•HVAC of NH  
Tedd Evans, Mechanical Licensing Board  
Med Kopczynski, NH Municipal Association  
Arthur Rose, Associated General Contractors of NH, Inc.  
Jeffrey Trexler, Board of Engineers (Structural Engineer)  
Michael Soucy, NH Public Utilities Commission  
Art Guadano, Board of Architects  
Michael Hagan, CFM, NH Building Officials Association  
Dean Sotirakopoulos (James Grant alternate), Electricians Board

**Absent:**

Mark Tetreault, Fire Chief, NH Association of Fire Chiefs  
Robert Wentworth (Michael Hagan Alternate), NH Building Officials Association  
James Grant, Electricians Board  
Peter Lennon, Fire Marshal - Manchester, NH Association of Fire Chiefs  
William Fraser, NH Electrical Contractors Business Association  
Lee F. Carroll, PE, NH Board of Engineers (Electrical Engineer)  
Beverly Kowalik, P.E. Mechanical Engineer  
John Tuttle, Vice-Chair, NH Home Builders Association

**Also Present:**

Erica Webb, Administrative Supervisor NH State Fire Marshal's Office  
Michael Grandy, Assistant Attorney General

**Guests:**

Jerry Tepe  
Bill Mckinney  
Chris Skoglund

The meeting, held in-person, was called to order at 10:04am by Chair Sherman. Chair Philip Sherman proceeded with roll call. A quorum was declared.

Michael Hagan, who has been out of the country for the last month, was invited by Chair Sherman to give a brief overview of his activities while working on the Polish border of Ukraine assisting in humanitarian and refugee assistance.

**Motion** to accept the meeting minutes from April 8, 2022: Jeff Trexler

**Seconded:** Art Guadano

**Abstained:** Michael Hagan

No one opposed, Motion Carried

Chair Sherman announced that Mariellen MacKay had officially stepped down from her position.

### **LEGISLATIVE STATUS**

Chair Sherman gave an update on the pending legislation;

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. The Chair advised that this was going to be a much larger issue as it will impact the manner in which all other state agencies interact with the building code.

HB 1681 – Related to the State Building Code. As understood by the Chair, this legislation has passed both the Senate and the House. After some discussion, the chair will investigate steps required for the bill to go into effect.

SB 398 – Related to the Joint Code Enforcement Committee. This bill has also passed both the Senate and the House.

SB 443 – Related to the municipal amendment bill. This bill has also passed both the Senate and the House.

SB 400 – Related to extended credits for elderly housing to workforce housing. This bill has been tabled, but some of the verbiage may have been transcribed into another bill. This will need additional research.

Med Kopczynski gave an overview on a recent FEMA document he obtained and how other federal agencies are moving toward getting involved with building code development and code enforcement and what that could mean for the NH Building Code Review Board.

### **Mandatory Training:**

Erica Webb gave a brief reminder that all members to please complete the online training as required by the Governor's Executive Order and if they have any trouble doing so to please contact her so that she can reach out to DoIT. The training has a deadline for June 1, 2021.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**2021 Adoption Schedule:** The Chair indicated that he had a conversation with Rep. McGuire who has indicated that she would not oppose two years on the 2018 codes, followed by two years on the 2021 codes, then moving to a three year update cycle, as she thought the 2018 codes should be in effect for a while prior to publicly addressing the 2021 codes, next year is a

budget year for the legislature, BCRB potential workload on municipal amendments, and that the SB398 legislative standing committee would likely not be appointed until early in 2023. After a short discussion the Chair asked for an official vote knowing now about the additional issues that could get in the way of a shorter adoption schedule to establish the Building Code Review Boards official position to support a 2-year plan.

Motion: Tedd Evans

Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>: Art Guadano

No one opposed. Motion Carries.

#### 2018 Amendments:

The Chair reminded the board that even in the years that the BCRB is not reviewing a new code for adoption the board is still expected to consider amendments that may be brought up for additional ratification. The board discussed what an acceptable dead line or time table for reviewing amendments could look like and how holding the related public meetings could be done in a manner that is both reasonable and efficient.

#### BRC Rules Update:

The administrative rules that govern the Building Code Review Board are, in part, out of date. The Chair reminded the board that the rules have not been updated since the ratification method changed, and that the NH Building Code is not BCR 300 anymore. Municipalities are also supposed to be sending the State their code amendments, which only three have done. . This discussion expanded into how the BCRB can expect to look the amendments with the adoption of SB 443. The Chair would like to see the BRC Rules looked at and see that they are updated in places that they obviously need to be updated and in order to ensure that there is not a reason to review the administrative rules twice the BCRB should consider what the rules will need to be updated to in order to accommodate the municipality amendment processes that are going to need to be addressed in the fall.

#### Committee Reports:

Jeff Trexler presented the 2021 IBC Significant Changes Report to the Building Code Review Board.

#### Additional:

Med Kopczinski discussed the Connecticut code amendment that exempts certain one and two family dwellings being converted to Group R-2, with no more than four dwelling units, from sprinkler requirements.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 10<sup>th</sup> to be held at 33 Hazen Drive, Concord NH 03305 in the second floor conference room.

Chair Sherman adjourned the meeting at 11:53am.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**