

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE BUILDING CODE REVIEW BOARD

In-person regular meeting October 14, 2022

Members Present:

Philip Sherman, P.E., Chair

Med Kopczynski, NH Municipal Association

Jeffrey Trexler, Board of Engineers (Structural Engineer) (term currently expired, nonvoting at this time)

Art Guadano, Board of Architects

Michael Hagan, CFM, NH Building Officials Association

Lee F. Carroll, PE, NH Board of Engineers (Electrical Engineer)

Dean Sotirakopoulos NH Electrical Contractors Business Association

John Tuttle, Vice-Chair, NH Home Builders Association

Michael Soucy, NH Department of Energy

Peter Lennon, Fire Marshal - Manchester, NH Association of Fire Chiefs

Absent:

Robert Wentworth (Michael Hagan Alternate), NH Building Officials Association

Michael Hasbrouck, (Roger Maynard Alternate) P•FGF•HVAC of NH

Beverly Kowalik, P.E. Mechanical Engineer

Roger Maynard, P•FGF•HVAC of NH

James Grant, Electricians Board

Arthur Rose, Associated General Contractors of NH, Inc.

Tedd Evans, Mechanical Licensing Board

David Mendzela, NH Electrical Contractors Business Ass. Alternate

Also Present:

Erica Webb, Administrative Supervisor, NH State Fire Marshal's Office

Michael Grandy, Assistant Attorney General

Guests:

Jerry Tepe

William McKinney

Jennifer Gilbert

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

Michael Hagan was invited by the Chairman to give a brief presentation of his latest humanitarian venture to the Ukraine from which he recently returned, just prior to the meeting.

The Chair updated the board on membership. Jeffery Trexler is awaiting reappointment from his appointing authority. Dean Sotirakopolous has been appointed to fill the position formerly held by William Fraser, leaving the alternate position for the Electrician's Board open for new appointment. There are several positions vacant on the Building Code Review Board that the Chair is working with their appointing authorities to fill.

The Chair opened the floor to a motion to accept the September meeting minutes.

Motion; Lee Carroll

2nd; Michael Hagan

All in favor. Abstained; Trexler, Hagan, Soucy, Sotirakopolous, Lennon. Motion Carried.

LEGISLATIVE STATUS

HB1312 – The report the Chair worked to create with others in regards to “the grease trap issue” was submitted to the Legislative Committee, who were very appreciative. Legislatively, the issue has run its course, DES will be amending some of their rules and plumbing code amendments have been submitted, in response to the work done. Overall, the Chair felt the outcome was successful, however; it required a significant amount of man hours to work out the report between stakeholders

OLD BUSINESS

Website Status: No new updates on the website.

2018 Amendments: The Chair advised the board that from his understanding the last date for the legislation to receive the amendment report is November 22. While it may be possible to add onto the report later, the board will be hearing about amendments today and holding a public hearing at the scheduled November BCRB meeting, the chair would prefer not to have to hold additional meetings/hearing unless something major comes up in the next few weeks which needs to be addressed by the board.

2021 Code Adoption: Regarding the 2021 code adoption, the Chair requested volunteers to go through the IBC and verify that in the sections where the IBC directs readers to the IFC, which the State of NH does not adopt, the NH State Fire Code addresses the topics being referenced. Peter Lennon agreed that he would be willing to handle the review of both the IBC and the IEBC to ensure alignment with the NH State Fire Code. Lennon is expected to complete both reviews and present his findings at the December BRCB meeting.

2021 IRC Committee Report: John Tuttle presented to the board that the IRC Committee met earlier that morning in order to discuss the appendices and will be amending the present IRC Report in order to reflect the addition of adoption recommendations.

2021 IEBC Committee Report; Jeff Trexler advised that the IEBC Report has been finalized. The committee has presently held back on determining which amendments should be brought forward anticipating that some of the “omnibus amendment,” which would refer readers to the correct NH State Code if there was a reference in the ICC materials to another code which is not adopted by the State of NH. Trexler suspects that with that omnibus document would make many of the current, carry forward amendments unnecessary. The document for the omnibus amendment is not currently published and is only available in draft form.

Administrative Rule Review, BCR100, BCR200; The Chair thanked Michael Grandy and Mike Hagan for going through the BCR documents and making notes. The Chair presented several questions to the board regarding the Administrative Rules and opened the floor for discussion including how the BCRB defines cost, how many times the board meets, and definitions. The Chair suggested revisiting this next month especially as it relates to the amendment submission form because depending on whether or not the form is officially adopted as “required” as this would mean that any changes or edits must be submitted through JLCAR. If not, then the BCRB may receive documentation in any format.

NEW BUSINESS

SB398: The standing legislative committee to deal with building and fire codes. The members include; Senator John Reagan, Representative Carol McGuire who was elected chair, and Representatives Keith Erf, and Michael O’Brian. The initial committee meeting was held, both the BCRB Chair and Fire Marshal Toomey were able to attend.

Municipal Amendment Review: The Chair led an exercise for the BCRB using Nashua’s building code as an example as to how to direct discussions and examinations of municipal amendments that might come before the board.

Information of Use vs. Occupancy: The board discussed the difference between the change of occupancy vs. use and how they relate to the Energy Code and the IEBC.

2018 Amendments: The board voted to accept proposed amendments submitted to the BCRB for Public Hearing at the November BCRB meeting.

Amendment EN-18-07-22

Motion; Hagan

2nd; Soucy

All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Amendment EN-18-08-22

Motion; Hagan

2nd; Soucy

All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Amendment PL-18-16-22

Motion; Lee Carroll

2nd; Hagan

All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Amendment PL-18-17-22

Motion; Soucy

2nd; Lee

All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Amendment PL-18-18-22

Motion; Sotirakopolous

2nd; Hagan

All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Amendment RE-18-24-22

Motion; Sotirakopolous

2nd; Lee Carroll

All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Amendment RE-18-25-22

Motion; Sotirakopolous

2nd; Lee Carroll

All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Amendment Un-numbered

Mike Hagan is submitting this amendment which addresses wetland appendix process. Jen Gilbert, the State Flood Plane Coordinator, presented to the BCBR the reasons for the amendment including the way that FEMA requires municipalities to have some kind of plan on the books in order to grant funding after a disaster and explained the need for this amendment.

Motion; Guadano

2nd; Tuttle

All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Amendment RE-18-26-22

Motion; Kopczynski

2nd; Lee

All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Use and Occupancy: The Chair brought to the attention of the board a discrepancy in the codes as they relate to Day Care Occupancy. The codes are disconnected from how many individuals in care require the jump from an “in home” facility to one which has additional requirements such as sprinklers.

The next meeting is scheduled for **November 4th**, which is a change because the second Friday of the month is Veteran’s Day and a recognized Holiday for the Department of Safety so the staff and facility will not be open. The November 4th meeting is expected to be held at 33 Hazen Drive, Concord NH 03305 in the second floor conference room.

Chair Sherman adjourned the meeting at 12:02 pm.

MEETING ADJOURNED