

Draft – MINUTES

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IECC Committee Meeting

In-person regular/public hearing meeting May 5, 2023

Members Present:

Med Kopczynski, Keene Economic Development Director, NH Municipal Association
Michael Hagan, CFM, NH Building Officials Association
Art Guadano, Architects of NH
Michael Soucy, NH Department of Energy
Lee F. Carroll, PE, NH Board of Engineers (Electrical)
Arthur Rose, Associated General Contractors of NH

Also Present:

Philip Sherman, P.E., Chair of Building Code Review Board
John Tuttle, NH Home Builders
Beverly Kowalik, Board of Professional Engineers
Roxie Beall, Administrative Assistant, NH State Fire Marshal's Office

Guests:

Michael Rossi, NEEP
Matt Mayberry, NH Home Builders
Chris Skoglund, Clean Energy NH
Karen LaMontagne, LaMontagne Builders
Robert Clegg, THC LLC, NH Home Builders
Phil LaMoreaux, DES
Tracy Kozak, AIA – NH
Dario Carrara, NH Building Officials Association

The committee meeting, held in-person, was called to order at 9:05 am by the Chair Med Kopczynski.

Chair Med Kopczynski started introductions of committee members tasked with reviewing the IECC 2021. Committee would like to be able to make recommendations to the Board. Intention of the committee was to make recommendations to the Board for amendments to the code that would be most cost impactful. Guided by document by NH Association of Homebuilders.

Mike Soucy reviewed PDF documents on amendments recommended and why. Six amendments that amend 4 tables in the IECC and 2 tables in the IRC so that the IRC lines up with the IECC. Basically resets the values back to the 2018 code to offset the highest cost increase to building. Also two other amendments for the ductwork testing.

Tables C402.1.3 – Thermal envelope insulation minimum requirements for Climate Zone 5 and 6. Lines up with R-Values for 2018 codes.

Tables C402.1.4 – Thermal envelope insulation maximum requirements for Climate Zone 5 and 6. Commercial part. New values to line up with IECC.

Tables R402.1.3 – Insulation minimum R-Values and Fenestration requirements for Climate Zone 5 and 6. Residential section of the energy code. Biggest change here is wood frame R-Value in Climate Zone 5.

(Phil LaMoreaux , Dept of Environmental Services, asked clarifying question regarding change on wood framed walls, 20 cavity to meet the requirement for continuous insulation. Confirmed.)

(Michael Rossi, Energy Efficient Partnerships, Climate zone 5 R Value depth was that changed to 24'. No, the 4 is struck out.)

Tables R402.1.2– Maximum assembly U-Factors and Fenestration requirements for Climate Zone 5 and 6. 4 places changed to match 2018. Ceiling, Glazed Fenestration, Ceiling U-Factor and Wood Framed Wall.

Tables N1102.1.2– Maximum assembly U-Factors and Fenestration requirements for Climate Zone 5 and 6. From IRC. U-Factors which line up with Energy Code table.

Tables N1102.1.3 – Insulation minimum R-Values and Fenestration requirements for Climate Zone 5 and 6. From IRC. Same strike throughs to line up with 2018.

IECC R403.3.5 and N1103.3.5 – Added #2. “A duct air leakage test shall not be required where ducts and air handlers are located entirely within the building thermal envelope.” Report submitted last time committee met, concern over added cost for duct work testing when it was within a thermal envelope. The exception has been written back in, as in the 2018 code.

Med Kopczynski – Energy code is duplicated in the both Commercial and IRC section. IRC scope is 1-2 family and townhouses. Energy code is based on residential which definition rests on occupancies 3 stories or less. Much discussion is related to affordable housing which is in multi-family. Trying to address concerns over first cost.

Art Guadano summarizes changes as bringing insulation and duct values back to what it was in the 2018 codes. Mike Soucy responded that seemed like a good compromise cost concerns while leaving most of the energy efficiencies intact within the code.

Med Kopczynski opens discussion to input from the public.

Matt Mayberry, Executive Vice President of the NH Homebuilders Association presented with a packet to provide numbers and statistics to support their request to maintain the 2018 building and energy codes (as amended and approved) to be left in place for the next two years.

Some discussion regarding the existing 2-year delay that is already in place.

Med Kopczynski asked if the proposed amendments are not essentially keeping the 2018 energy code in place.

Karen LaMontagne, President of LaMontagne Builders – still many things within the energy codes that have not been addressed. Various contrary discussion regarding some of the other items.

Bob Clegg, NH Homebuilders – changes from 2018 to 2021 are making houses too airtight, creating more unhealthy situations as most builders will choose most cost effective methods which contain more toxic materials.

Motion to adjourn made by Mike Hagan. Seconded by Art Guadano. Meeting adjourned at 11:14 am.

Respectfully submitted by Roxie Beall, 05/11/23

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