Invited members included *(absentees noted in italics)*:

- Fire Marshal Paul J. Parisi
- *Floyd W. Hayes III, Petroleum Industry*
- Steven C. Freitas, Chemical Engineer
- Norman W. Skantze, Forest Fire Warden
- Allan R. Clark, Volunteer Chief of Fire Dept.
- *Martin U. Michaelis, Architect (notification of stepping down from the Board rec’d 12.11.18)*
- Daniel L. Andrus, Chief of Municipal Fire Dept.
- John D. Ela, Manufacturing Industry (attended via conference phone)
- Paul Thibault, Insurance
- Richard M. Heath, Electrical Engineer
- Robert M. Lundergan, Natural Gas Distribution
- Brandt Lambert, Propane Gas Distribution

**Other Attendees:** Members from the Department of Safety - Catherine Goff and Maxim Schultz from the Division of Fire Safety.

**Order of Business:** Chair Daniel Andrus opened the meeting at 9:38am.

**Introductions:** all in attendance introduced themselves and identified the industry that they represented.

**Packets Included:** Agenda for the December 12, 2018 meeting, draft minutes from the September 19, 2018 meeting, a code amendment proposal petition, information on Chapter 15-A, Financial Disclosure.

**On a Motion:** Norman Skantze motioned to accept the minutes from the September 19, 2018 meeting. John Ela 2nd the motion. All in Favor. Motion carried.

**Report of the State Fire Marshal:**

Marshall Parisi talked about the 2 fatal fires that occurred this month, an explosion, and the many other incidents that the Division of Fire Safety responded to since our last Board of Fire Control Meeting.

The Division has been approved for a new K-9 grant from State Farm Insurance. The K-9 is
expected in April of 2019.

Marshal Parisi spoke in detail about Sober Houses to the group identifying current issues and safety concerns with these houses.

Recently the State Fire Marshal’s office hosted a sober housing meeting with fire chiefs around the state. Discussion included: A facility at 273 Debuke Street, Manchester, NH where 21 people are being treated in a 3 story building. An exemption from sprinklers was applied for -for this building and was denied by our former Director. At this meeting, fire officials talked about life safety codes concerning rooming and lodging, definitions of family (family & 3 outsiders), the dictionary’s definition of family (a group of individuals living under 1 roof), the Fair Housing Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) – and people in recovery being entitled to (and deserving of) accommodations.

One direction that we can go on this issue is to require specific conditions to the building owner’s that exempts them from having sprinkler systems. Marshal Parisi spoke about a case in Louisiana where the State Fire Marshal was brought to court and lost a case that would mandate specific safety requirements in sober houses– this case is sited in a NH case currently in the courts.

The Marshal talked about open positions with the Division, specifically, a newly filled position, the new Mechanical Inspector is Marc Prindiville. The Mechanical Board has approved this selection. A Modular House position is currently open; and two part time positions – Fire Inspector and Building Inspector.

An update was provided on HB1254, and the final report of the committee to study procedures for adoption of national codes by the state of NH. The final report identifies the study committee members, charge of the study, process and procedures, and findings. There have been good discussions on this issue.

The building code should be the same for all contractors whether they are building a house in Bradford or building a house in Bow. Rules need to be uniform. Issues: local code officials may tell builders they want things done a specific way when there are no such rules that site such requirements/code. They are using their authority to mandate specifics that are not code. All code officials should/must be certified.

As a group, we discussed town positions on setting rules that are above and beyond what actual codes are, interpretation on this issue is needed.

The 2015 code may be less restrictive than the 2009 code. It would be to our benefit if the State of NH be uniform with the rest of the country.

The Marshal talked about how the State of Vermont conducts certain business. Vermont has approximately 80 employees that enforce code. The State of Vermont through their Fire Marshal’s Office does every inspection and pulls all permits.
Marshal Parisi talked about upcoming legislation and LSR’s. At this time, NFPA 1 does not currently have an LSR. We have been trying to adopt a newer code for 5 years.

**Old Business:**
We talked about why we were not currently trying to adopt the 2018 code and timelines that are involved in the adoption processes that include vetting codes, etc. At this time, no New England states have adopted the 2018 code.

**New Business:**
Norm Skantze suggested a subcommittee be put in place to provide recommendations pertaining to the review of sober housing. This subcommittee should include individuals who represent DHHS (recovery), ministry, building officials and Sean Toomey (FMO Fire Protection Engineer).

**On a Motion:** Allan Clark motioned to set up a subcommittee to investigate NFPA 101 to accommodate sober Housing. Norman Skantze 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Volunteers from the Board to sit on the subcommittee included:

Allan Clark  
Steven Freitas  
Norman Skantze and  
Paul Parisi or Sean Toomey

Allan Clark spoke about the importance of departments in the North Country getting education on performing inspection on electricity, heating, gas, assembly permits, fireworks, etc. Historically classes had been held for these trainings every other Thursday.

John Ela brought up specific efforts taking place on the Andover gas explosion in Massachusetts. As a group we talked about the replacement of a pipe section w/ PVC, and the pressure sensors that were in the cast iron piping but were not included in the work plan on the switchover. We talked about over pressurizing indicator in the system, or lack thereof. There were many mistakes made and 17 homes were destroyed.

Pursuant to this incident, the state mobilization plan was activated that night and 52 communities sent some type of apparatus.

Buddy Thibeault from the FMO is updating the statewide mobilization plan – In NH the Division of Forest and Lands have their own plan that is separate from the statewide mobilization plan.

**Good of the Order**
A Code Amendment Proposal Petition was handed out and background on the proposed amendment was provided by Marshal Parisi. This proposal affects NFPA 1, 2015 – Section 20.11.4 and provides proposed language as well as alternative methods of fire protection.
The details of the Amendment were discussed and, if accepted, the time frame for this to sunset.

The Building Code Review Board also has to adopt this. Marshal Parisi will be going to a meeting with this Board today (12/12/18) and will bring it up.

A public hearing on the petition will be scheduled.

**On a Motion:** Allan Clark motioned that the public hearing be scheduled on January 17th, 2019 at 9:30am to hear input on the Code Amendment Proposal distributed today. Norman Skantze 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

**On a Motion:** Steven Freitas motioned to adjourn today’s meeting. Richard Heath 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 11:45am

cg