**Technical Building Codes and Standards Board Meeting Minutes**

**January 7, 2016**

**9:00 a.m. Champlain Conference Room, Dept. of Public Safety**

Meeting opened at 9:05 a.m.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**: Bob Ellis, Dick Lambert, Barry Chase, Mike Pullen, Eric Dube, Russ Martin, Steve Wintle and Dick Tarr.

**EXCUSED**: Jeff Ohler and Roger Rossignol

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT**: Chair Rich McCarthy and Secretary Kathy Robitaille

**REVIEW OF THE NOVEMBER 19, 2015 MINUTES**

Amendments needed on Pg 2 and Pg 4 by Russ Martin and Steve Wintle.

Motion: Mike Pullen motioned to accept the minutes as amended.

Seconded: Steve Wintle

Vote: unanimous vote

**FINANCIAL UPDATE** $318,678.00 in the Building Codes account as of today.

**REPORT FROM BOARD CHAIR** – Rich McCarthy

Rich advised from the Fire Marshal’s Office view, there is construction going on everywhere! Legislature is back in session. A first hearing on Monday on carbon monoxide detectors, to allow a particular product now required on 1/1/16 in all hotels, motels etc. FMO worked with the Maine Innkeepers to reach an agreement on the usage of this particular product, just a change in technology allowing a different detector.

**CONTINUED DISCUSSION ON THE ENERGY CODE ADOPTION (2009-2015)**

Rich wants to continue this discussion from the last board meeting as there is much interest and attendance today for that discussion. Rich received an email from Paul Demers, President of the Maine Building Officials and Inspectors Association (MBOIA); in which they offer the following for the Board to consider in this adoption of the 2015 Energy Code. In IRC 2015, delete chapter 11 (energy chapter) and replace with Chapter 11 of the 2009 edition. Both are energy chapters and they are essentially the same as the IECC versions. There would be some amendment to the R value table to fix the basement walls (which is still based on the 2006 IRC).

Then adopt the IECC 2015, but delete references to residential energy and refer to the 2015 adopted IRC. This keeps books consistent with the cycles you need and perhaps mirrors what the Board discussed at the last meeting. The Board should consider other amendments like blower door testing and some ventilation issues, but that should be easier to “sell.” This also means anyone buying the IRC book would not have to purchase a separate IECC to get the Energy Code.

Paul Baines, CEO from Durham, presented a report he had put together, “Cost Benefit Analysis – 2009 IECC vs 2015 IECC” and provided the Board members with a copy. Thank you Paul, for taking the time to put together this report for the board, it is much appreciated and helpful.

Discussion – Are houses now compliant? Can we tighten it up a lot? Things to consider in the possible adoption of the 2015 IECC: (1) user friendliness of it – the ease of using the code, (2) Energy conservation – what is the best avenue for Maine to get there? (3) Cost Benefit Analysis – figured out in more than one way – an educational component should be included as well and (4) possibly put this into place incrementally? Mike Pullen suggested that infiltration is truly an issue, then if so, retain the blower door tests in the new code and

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there is also a need to educate contractors as to if a home fails the blower door test, why did it and how can it be fixed? Steve Wintle offered that maybe a phased approach would be the way to do it? There’s been a lot of work done on this by other states. Perhaps a spreadsheet could be generated that includes ventilation. Steve Wintle advised that Rick Karg, Energy Tag member, had suggested that we adopt ASHRAE 62.2 – 2013 version, instead of the 2016 that is coming out soon. (Because the 2016 version will include a significant scope change (all dwellings in buildings of any height, rather than dwellings in buildings of three stories or fewer), so less of a learning curve with the 2013 versions of the 62.2 and 62.1 as well.

Barbara Berry, Maine Association of Realtors addressed the Board to advise they are concerned about the costs for residential homes in terms of adopting the 2015 IECC. She thinks Legislature would look to undo all of the codes if we jump too fast.

Rick Meinking, Efficiency Maine, addressed the Board and advised that they assist homeowners and business owners to be energy efficient and they exceed the code requirements whenever possible. He suggested the licensing of contractors (which a bill has been submitted to do the past several Legislative sessions and never passed).

Mike Hangge, Fire Safety Inspector for the City of Ellsworth agrees about the licensing of contractors, as he listens to contractors all day long, argue with the code officer at the office.

Dick Dolby believes that education is needed for the Contractors as well. Blower door tests will slow down construction; he thinks the Board should stay with the 2009 IECC and have more training by MBOIA or Lumber Yards perhaps.

Marc Veilleux, Board member, offered that we should probably maintain whatever we have now and improve the education level. Put together a grant to provide energy code books to contractors and free training. Education – how can we do it better?

Rich reported that there was four days of training in December sponsored by MBOIA and FMO, based on the IRC and the IBC. Two classes held in Portland and two in Brewer. The first time it was offered last year, there were 25 attendees in Brewer, this year was 75 attendees. Energy Training was done two years ago.

Brianne Hasty, DECD and in charge of CEO training advised that 150 CEOS attended in December who were allowed to attend for free.

Rich advised if the Board wants us to provide training for contractors, we can look at it.

Dick Dolby – we could put videos of training on Brianne’s website for education and free for contractors and also take training on-site as in the blower door tests.

The Training Committee should meet to discuss all of this. As a side note, Paul Baines, Durham CEO advised that blower door tests are running between $150 - $200. Contractors do have options ie Performance vs Prescriptive.

Kevin Rose, North East Energy Partnerships, spoke about the 2012 IECC vs 2015 IECC, the only big difference is the HERS raters, that takes it off the ceos’ and contractor’s plates. NEEP has free pdf guidelines on their website for information. RI/VT requires blower door tests, but not a minimum number. Kevin has the RI report with their data and can share that with the IECC TAG. NEEP is happy to help with the IECC TAG. PA has a dozen videos of instruction on their website. Kevin also thought a small group onsite training with blower door tests would be helpful. Rich offered the Board could look at web based videos and what the cost would be for the Board.

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Nick Adams, Poland CEO spoke to the Board and advised that Code Officers need guidance from the Board as to where they are headed for codes, so they know what they need for training. He also mentioned the IRC Span tables that don’t work for Maine ground snowloads, because they don’t go above 70 and many towns are above that here. Is there funding for a professional to produce a span table for over 70 gsl? Because the IRC table doesn’t work, we have to go to the IBC and have an engineer look at a project.

\*Rich will look at the span tables but the question is can a State government office set those liability wise?

Suggested that the American Wood Council, MBOIA and structural engineers perhaps meet to discuss this?

\*Rich will look into training, costs, etc. and talk with Brianne.

Dick D asked if the engineer requirement in the IRC could be deleted for the span table? American Wood Council, maybe they have a span table.

Next Meeting: February 25, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Kathy Robitaille