

Technical Codes and Standards Board Meeting Minutes
Department of Public Safety, Office of State Fire Marshal (via Zoom)
May 19, 2022, 9:00 a.m.

Board members present: Mike Pullen, Jeremy Martin, David Matero, Eric Dube, Barry Chase, Ben Breadmore, Randy Poulton, Kim Cheslak, Steve Martel

Excused: Marc Veilleux, Michael Stoddard

Staff present: Richard McCarthy, Paul Demers, Shannon Quintal

1. Call to Order – Determination of Quorum

Meeting started at 9:03 AM. Quorum confirmed.
Introduction of board members.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda.
Motion by Jeremy Martin, Second by Mike Pullen
9 in favor, 0 opposed

3. Review of April 21, 2022 Minutes

Motion to accept minutes with the removal “biased review” note regarding the ability to hire someone to go through the 2015 to 2021 code changes.
Motion by Mike Pullen, second by Randy Poulton
7 in favor, 0 opposed, Jeremy Martin and Ben Breadmore abstained.

4. Report from Board Chair

Board reappointments – Rich has reached out again to the Commissions office, still no movement at this time, but they have all the information.

Financial Report: \$808,092

5. Legislative Update

Summary of last session bills provided to the board.
Mike Pullen brought up LD2003 (Increase Housing Opportunities) questioning the reference to Title 9722 for accessory dwelling units to meet minimum size requirements set by the Maine Uniform Building Code.

6. Staff Report - Training Update

BRIC GRANT update (Speaker RFQ’s) -There have been a few meetings with procurement staff and waiting to receive the form they utilize for smaller requests, instead of doing the process for a large purchase, which spares some of the extra steps. A “Willing and Qualified” list will be created based on set qualification requirements that people can be added to for consideration up to three years from now.

LPI training events (new LPI and updates) – Mike Day and Brent Lawson are finishing up State Road tour with their last training in Brewer. Presentations done at the community colleges in central and northern Maine for the seniors in plumbing program, with 32-34 candidates that have now taken the exams and will be graduating with certificates and have formal plumbing training and some background experience. Working with community colleges on some other similar training.

Radon training – Getting a lot of feedback from communities on the need for Radon training and have reached out to Jonathan Dyer, and arranged for a class on Thursday in York that will be recorded to add to the training library. It will be about a 2-hour presentation on following the radon codes – a help to both newer and long term code officials.

Land Use training – based on results from exams, there is a clear lack of understanding on the Subdivision Law, which is certainly one of the more complex issues. Contracted a training with Durward Parkinson scheduled for June 16, 1-3pm. Conditional approvals provided to some code officials, requiring them to sit through the class and then retake the case study.

IECC 2015 Road Tour – sat in as a guest for two events at Hammond Lumber, two presentations to simplify the 2015 Energy compliance and help people understand the value of ResCheck.

Maine Building Officials and Inspectors Association is celebrating their 50th anniversary as an organization as part of the code conference next week. There are about 12 classes scheduled and Paul has helped quite a bit on the coordination of speakers. 150 or more people are signed up, which is a good turn out for them, as this is the first one since covid.

7. Unfinished Business

TAG committee requirements/applications – about 25 applications so far.

Clarification on the role of a TAG – “Technical Advisory Group” purpose is to convene at the request of board with a specific goal, providing for information/input from more people. The TAG would discuss the options to come up with a solution to suggest to the board to consider and make a final decision. Chapter 5 may have aspects that the Board may want to bring a TAG in on. The TAG list will continue to be maintained and will work with TAG Chairs on getting meetings going. Recommendation made to quickly make first cut through to identify major items to get started on TAG discussions.

Stretch Code process discussed, noting that there is no prewritten base document to work from. Kim Cheslak suggested review during the July meeting and may reach out to the Stretch Code interested communities for their input on what they would adopt and will bring some straw proposals to the July meeting.

Eric Dube provided a summary of the process of the last Stretch Code TAG - had a few meetings to come up with different code options as an outline, took a poll on what was most wanted, and then got into the specific details. Ben Breadmore

suggested the “green code” as an option and that a lot of time was previously spent on the stretch code and not enough on the rest of the state.

Discuss Chapter 1, 2 & 4 of Rules

Chapter 1 – with some opposing views on if a change in the definition of seasonal dwellings was necessary, the Board was asked for a show of hands in pursuing review. With many in agreement or indifferent, it was determined to move forward in discussion. Kim Cheslak provided another draft taking into considerations last meetings discussion for the Board to review and discuss. After discussion of various aspects, Kim will review notes and work with Randy to put something together for next meeting.

Chapter 2 (Third Party Inspector)– chapter will be sent out to the Board to individually review instead of going through each section now and suggested changes can be sent to Paul and Rich. Paul noted the chapter directs municipalities to solve the problem of issuing a Certificate of Occupancy, clarifying the responsibility of the municipality to accept the TPI report, and liability still falls on the TPI. Randy Poulton suggested Section 3 be “Definitions” to be consistent with every other rule.

Chapter 4 – chapter will be sent out for board to review individually.

Chapter 5 review- Rich McCarthy went through and did cursory review of the chapter and made some needed changes for housekeeping.

Rich put together a document of the items considered important for the Board to review for the code changes from 2015 to 2018 and 2018 to 2021 – Rich reviewed the changes with the Board and noted there was nothing really of concern that would need to be removed from 2015 to 2018.

Review of the changes from 2018 to 2021 brought about a few discussions: Section about intermodal shipping container structures, prompting a discussion about creating a letter from the MUBEC Board to the Manufactured Housing Board for their consideration of taking these factory-made structures under their jurisdiction. Paul Demers mentioned that once ICC comes up with a supplemental document, the Board may want to consider using it as an appendix or reference, and Paul can try to get some of the highlights to send to the Board.

302.5.1 IRC has a requirement regarding self-closing garage doors that is currently not in NFPA. If the Board would like to have NFPA and IRC match, Rich can add it to Chapter 24 rule for NFPA. Randy Poulton mentioned the financial impact of the decision should be considered along with why NFPA doesn’t already have it and not necessarily jump to the solution of adding without considering removing it too. Barry Chase mentioned it is a common complaint to have self-closers removed when installed. Kim Cheslak suggested that if this discussion goes to a TAG, it might relate to other TAGs, like the IMC, as well.

Rich will revisit 507.10 to see if there was a typo of missing “joist and beams” text.

8. New Business/Code Update

Schedule for Chapter 3, 6 & 7

Next month will look at Chapter 3, 6 and brush up on Chapter 7 as this has already been gone through once and hit the high points.

IBC/IMC duct penetration conflict – When the IMC was adopted imc, duct penetration code said “fire and smoke”, but the word “smoke” got omitted from rule. Further discussion should be had regarding putting it back in. Rich and Paul will put together a packet and will try to determine reason it was removed.

Letter to Manufactured Housing Board – With the discussion of factory built tiny homes, intermodal shipping containers, and mini barns, companies are making these livable structures and shipping them. By direction of the board, Rich can start the process on putting together something for the Board to address the concern with the Manufactured Housing Board on why they are not looking at these.

Motion made to start the process.

Motion by Ben Breadmore, second by Jeremy Martin.

9 in favor, 0 opposed

9. Public Comment

No comment made.

Next Scheduled Meeting:

June 16, 2022 at 9:00 AM

Meeting adjourned at 11:56AM

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon Quintal, Administrative Assistant