**Technical Building Code Board Meeting Minutes**

**1/23/2014**

**Florian Hall Conference Room – 9:00 a.m.**

**Dept of Public Safety – Augusta**

**Board members present**: Mike Pullen, Dick Tarr, Stephen Wintle, Marc Veilleux, Dick Lambert, Shiloh Lafreniere, Russ Martin, Barry Chase, Jeff Ohler and new member Eric Dube.

**Excused**: Roger Rossignol

Eric Dube welcomed as a new board member. Eric represents the Structural Engineers Association of Maine (SEAM) and is replacing Paul Becker on the board.

**Staff present**: Rich McCarthy and Secretary Kathy Chamberlain-Robitaille

**REVIEW OF THE 10/17/2013 MINUTES**

**Motion**: Mike Pullen motioned to accept minutes as presented

**Seconded**: Dick Lambert

**Unanimous vote** with 2 abstentions

**FINANCIAL UPDATE**

As of this date, there is $259,109.65 in the building codes surcharge account. Reminder that the surcharge comes from a .04¢ per sq. ft. charge for all commercial plans that the Fire Marshal’s Office reviews. Rich advised that we are in the process of paying DECD for the MUBEC training previously held. He also reported that commercial construction is picking up again – a welcome note.

**CHAIR REPORT and LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – RICH MCCARTHY**

**LD 1565** – carryover bill from last session on CEO training possibly leaving DECD and going to DEP. Training had been taken out of the budget. DECD stepped up to take care of CEO training. Rep. Mike Carey of Lewiston proposed that the training responsibility go to the Dept. of Environmental Protection. It came back this year to this session. At the public hearing, Rep. Cary was pleased at where it is currently held but lacks money for training. No other agencies are contributing money towards the training yet CEO’s are trained in areas pertinent to these agencies. Only Dept. of Public Safety is contributing and DECD takes the brunt of it financially.

The LCRED letter is almost done to submit. \*Rich will send it out to the Board when done. Not much getting done by the LCRED Committee for us. This letter will include the question of the board adopting code beyond the 2009 version? It also includes the definition of seasonal dwellings that the board dealt with and has not yet been acted upon by LCRED. It will also be suggested in the letter that the definition of seasonal dwellings be in Rules instead of Statute. It’s easier to change in needed later on, if it is in Rules.

Dick Lambert suggested adding the Code edition language in the Rules also instead of Statute.

\*Rich will check with the AG’s office on conflicting language where the Code edition is concerned. Dick Lambert has some language to go with that he will send Rich.

Russ Martin advised that the Maine Chapter of ASHRAE want to give classes on ASHRAE, but it’s kind of difficult to find classes on the 2007 standard. It’s now mostly focused on 2010 and looking soon to be 2012.

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The Board chair recognized Paul Demers, President of MBOIA in attendance, who asked where the training lays for Third Party Inspectors? What are they certifying to when working for a small town?

\*\*Suggestion we have a TPI fact sheet on our website. Our FAQ and a link from it for TPIs as well. We still want to have a Code 101 class for TPIs and CEOs that would be beneficial to new folks in these areas. We also need a fact sheet for CEOs to put on the website.

DECD will be at the public hearing this afternoon on LD 1565. They have not been invited, but will attend and provide any information needed. The Fire Marshal’s Office was not invited either but some information has been sent over to the Committee.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Fire Damper Conflict continued discussion….submitted by and present for discussion –

Guy Labrecque, Jr. Vice-President of CWS Architects from Portland

**IBC 2009 Chap 716 Ducts and Air Transfer Openings and Section 716.5 where required**

**VS NFPA 90A Chapter 5 – Installation Integration of a Ventilation and Air Conditioning System(s) with Building Construction Section 5.3.1.1 – Penetrations/Protection of openings**

**Explanation of Conflict**:

**NFPA 90A – Section 5.3.1.1** states that fire dampers are only required in fire rated walls having a fire rating of 2 hours or greater.

**IBC Section 716.5** Establishes and differentiates between various types of fire rated wall assemblies and essentially requires fire dampers for wall assemblies having ratings less than 2 hours unless an applicable exception is met.

Dick Lambert advised that with the 2012 IBC, a lot of changes have been made. This section is now Section 717, not 716. The 2015 code is not available yet.

Currently IBC states that in both sprinklered and non-sprinklered buildings that it has to be hand ducted all the way to the grid. The question to the board is – are flexible ducts allowed?

Russ Martin advised that if it was hard ducted all the way and put in flexible then, it does away with the exception listed in IBC. NFPA doesn’t require fire dampers until two hour rated assembly.

If the Board changes NFPA 90-A the wording would have to go the Maine Fuel Board. They can choose to do it or not.

The Board went down through the “Decision Tree” to help with their decision.

**Motion**: by Dick Lambert to have \*\*Rich propose to the Maine Fuel Board to change the requirements under NFPA 90-A, Section 5.3.1.1 to comply with IBC 716.5

**Seconded:** by Mark Veilleux

**Unanimous vote**

Russ Martin will also share this information with his ASHRAE colleagues.

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**Unfinished Business continued**:

Egress windows – a draft letter from State Fire Marshal Chief Joe Thomas was done. The changes were made that the Board suggested and sent out. There was some pushback, but not a lot.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Boise Cascade Product Discussion – sent in by Paul Demers, President of MBOIA**.

Question posed if Boise Cascade’s AJS and BCI Series I-Joists are ok to use under the adopted 2009 IRC as an alternative method of compliance? This would be in reference to 2012 IRC 501.3. The alternative method of compliance would be to install ½” gypsum wallboard to the sides of the I-Joise flange, with minimum flange size of 1.125 “ x 1.75 inch.

**Motion**: by Dick Lambert - “it this will give assembly the equivalency they are looking for, he was in favor it.”

**Seconded**: by Dick Tarr

**Vote:** 9-1 in favor

\*Send this material out to the Board.

**Techno Posts – Rich**

An auger is screwed into the ground and is part of the post and stays in the ground. Great system, works well. There is a coupling on it so you can go deeper for things like sandy soil, etc.

Jeff Ohler asked if perhaps some kind of soils test would be done before allowed usage of this product? Dick Tarr also advised that he had seen this product installed – an 8’ column costs $160.00 so very affordable. \*\*Decision to carry this over to the next board meeting. \*\*Report on this from Rich will be sent out to the Board.

\*\*New code discs for the board have been ordered – a “designer” series of the ICC will be made for the Board.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Drew Morris, DECD, reported that 275 folks went through IECC training in 2013. He received good reports on most everything. Shooting for a spring IRC Class and an IBC class in the fall. For IRC training – would have a trainer here for five days.

Shiloh LaFreniere advised that she is taking a position with the Town of Jay as the Town manager. Today is her last day with the Board. Congratulations to Shiloh!! The Board thanked her for all of her wonderful work on the board and wished her the best. She will be greatly missed!

Presentation by Dan Pugsly, Hampden CEO

IRC 310.1 – says basement needs an emergency escape and recognizes bulkheads as a 2nd possible means of escape. NFPA 101 – 2009 version doesn’t recognize bulkheads as 2nd means of escape. However the 2012 version does recognize them as such. This would require a 2nd set of stairs to accommodate this 2nd means of egress where previously there would only be one.

Mike Pullen advised that the Board should have this as a filled out Conflict Form. “We are looking eventually to go to the 2012 code when there wouldn’t be a conflict.”

\*Rich will work with Dan Pugsley to fill out the Conflict form and present at the next meeting.

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The Training Committee (Dick L, Russ M, Jeff O and Dick T) needs to meet to finish up with items from the last Training Committee meeting from Drew Morris and DECD.

**Next meeting date**: Next Board meeting – March 20th and Training Committee to follow.

Adjourned at 11:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Robitaille

Secretary