

Technical Codes and Standards Board Meeting Minutes
Department of Public Safety, Office of State Fire Marshal
April 17, 2025, 9:00 a.m. via Microsoft Teams

Board Members Present:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Michael Sauschuck, Commissioner of Public Safety, Board Chair/ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair delegate Greg Day | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marc Veilleux, representing the State Fire Marshal's Office | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Stambach, CEO representing a Municipality that is not a Service Center Community | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Lister, CEO representing a Municipality that is a Service Center Community |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carl Chretien, representing Residential Builders | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Randy Poulton, representing Commercial Builders | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Matero, representing Maine Chapter of the American Institute of Architects |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric Dube, representing Structural Engineers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mike Pullen, representing the Maine Historic Preservation Commission | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Pulaski, Energy Efficiency Representative |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Martel, Mechanical Engineer | <input type="checkbox"/> Jay Horr, Lumber Material Dealer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Stoddard, Representing Efficiency Maine |

Staff Present: Greg Gilbert, Shannon Quintal

1. Call to Order – Determination of Quorum
Meeting started at 9:02 AM. Quorum confirmed.
Introduction of board members.

Steve Martel introduced Jeffrey LaPierre as candidate for Mechanical Engineer Board seat.

2. Approval of Agenda –
Motion to approve agenda as modified.
Motion by Mark Stambach, second by Marc Veilleux.
10 in favor, 0 opposed.

Mark Stambach requested addition to the end of the meeting to bring the Board up to speed on the exemption of buildings housing animals from the MUBEC.

Request for updated contact information sheet for Board Members be sent.

3. Review and approval of the minutes:
 - A. January 31, 2025 Meeting minutes
Motion to accept the January 31 minutes.
Motion by Randy Poulton, second by David Matero.
6 in favor, 0 opposed, Marc Veilleux and Mike Pullen abstained.

Tom Lister and Carl Chretien introduced after vote.

- B. February 18, 2025 Meeting minutes
Motion to accept minutes of the February 18 meeting as prepared and amended.
Motion by Mike Pullen, second by Mark Stambach
9 in favor, 0 opposed, Randy Poulton abstained.

Amended minutes: Add Kent Avery to staff present, correct typo in “agenda”, change sentence to: The board reviewed and modified as needed *as advised by Kent Avery*.

- C. March 20, 2025 Meeting minutes

Motion to adopt as written and amended.

Motion by Mark Stambach, second by Randy Poulton.

8 in favor, 0 opposed, Marc Veilleux and Steve Martel abstained.

Amended minutes: Add Kent Avery to staff present, add “motion died” to item 3-B, add radon training reference to item 7.

On future minutes, add tag on the LD numbers.

4. Report from Board Chair:

A. Financial Update – \$936,000

B. BRIC grant – update on BRIC status, code books have been ordered and are still expected to be paid for through the grant. The Board requested to receive copies of the code books ordered.

5. Legislative update:

Update provided on the status of the following bills

A. LD427- An Act to Prohibit Mandatory Parking Space Minimums in State and Municipal Building Codes. FMO wrote testimony neither for nor against, work session this afternoon.

B. LD546- Require the Preparation of Preapproved Building Types. Resolve, committee voted ought to pass.

C. LD603 - An Act to Ensure That the Exemption of Certain Agricultural Buildings from the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code Includes Maple Sugarhouses. Committee passed, went to House, passed, in senate for vote. FMO testified neither for nor against. It should be clear that it is not a mercantile/business and needs to define what exactly a sugar house is.

D. LD659 – An Act to Reduce Housing Costs by Not Requiring Fire Sprinkler Systems for Single-family Homes and Duplexes. Work session this afternoon, public hearing was a couple of weeks ago.

E. LD741- An Act to Increase Preparedness for Solar Power Adoption in Maine. Work session has been done, tabled on 3/27. There was an amendment that didn't really change the bill much.

F. LD1179-An Act to Establish Minimum Safety Standards for the Construction and Use of Temporary Emergency Shelters. FMO testified stating there are already adopted codes that provide guidance on temporary shelters, this bill would require FMO to create their own set of rules.

G. LD1184-An Act to Require Municipal Reporting on Residential Building Permits, Dwelling Units Permitted and Demolished and Certificates of Occupancy Issued. FMO has not testified, bill was tabled on 4/15.

H. LD1226-An Act to Protect Consumers by Licensing Residential Building Contractors. Hearing today.

I. LD1232-An Act to Require Radon Testing for Certain Commercial and Residential Construction- Public hearing.

6. Staff Report:

A. Training Update – Greg Gilbert provided the Board with an update on recent trainings provided by the Fire Marshal's Office, along with other related trainings hosted by other organizations/agencies. Working on scheduling trainings for Land Use, Shoreland Zoning, ADA/Accessibility, and ASHRAE/Ventilation and received a request for training on the use of ICC Codes. MBOIA annual conference is May 19 and 20 in Sugarloaf on topics such as existing building safety, legal and land use issues, and construction safety.

B. Codes Rollout – Press release went out prior to the effective date of April 7. Website has been updated with a “Codes Toolbox” that has some informational handouts and updates of training videos to the Online Training Library.

C. MOCA Update – Samantha Horn started hiring a few admin and project staff to help manage the different divisions that are moving, and work groups were created for items to focus on. The transition date is still dependent on the biennial budget.

D. Ross Anthony was recognized to provide an update on federal funding and provided an update on the status/process of four different funding resources.

Question from the Board on if amendments to Rule Chapter 6 would impact the funding opportunities. Ross Anthony said that any intended changes should be checked that they still meet the requirements so that they don't hinder eligibility.

- i. SCEP Grant (formular funding)- Scope: Increase staff, provide training, provide technical assistance. Maine received conditional award of \$7.6 million. Current administration is reviewing. May be Dead.
- ii. Competitive Grant - Maine app failed. Dead
- iii. National Rural Codes Collaborative - \$170,000 looks good
- iv. BRIC 2024(?) - \$2.0 million. Same scope as SCEP grant. All BRIC Grants have been cancelled. Dead

7. Training and Certification Committee:

A. Report from Committee Chair – Eric Dube provided that there isn't much of an update, there was no meeting last month, and will work on getting the next meeting scheduled.

8. Unfinished Business:

- A. Custom Codes – There are no new updates to provide, FMO needs to meet with MOCA to discuss options.
- B. Contractor Licensing – item of concern the Board had requested to discuss. LD1226, hearing at 1:15PM. The Board discussed some benefits and challenges to contractor licensing.
- C. Code Amendment Process – Greg Day shared the language regarding the criteria for amendments to be based.
- D. MUBEC Chapter 3, IBC Chapter 30 – there may be a conflict with the adoption as elevator and hoistway requirements are set by PFR. Item to be included on the next agenda. Documentation will need to be put together to determine if there is actually a conflict.

9. New Business:

A. Energy TAG Report – Michael Pulaski provided an update regarding the Energy TAG meeting, and given the unexpectedly large attendance, there was a lot of discussion, and it was determined there are five items to address. Michele from the City of Portland was going to provide some language for review to include in the Stretch Code. Also need to review if the residential provisions of IECC was supposed to mirror Chapter 11 of the IRC as changes had been made to the residential provisions that did not show up in the adoption of Chapter 5 for Chapter 11 in the IRC and if that was the Board's intent or was that an oversight. David Matero requested more engineers to weigh in on the topic in addition to the Stephen Carr presentation.

Motion that the IRC Energy Code needs to change to match IECC Energy Code.

Motion by David Matero, second by Eric Dube.

10 in favor, 0 opposed.

The next TAG Meeting will be held on May 1, for one hour with focus topics.

The Board discussed the TAG application process. In the past, new TAG members were provided with a binder with information regarding TAG and providing a packet to new members would be beneficial moving forward.

B. Chapter 10 MRS 9722, Subsection 6 – Mark Stambach requested adding this item to the agenda to update the Board on an item he is pursuing outside of Board member capacity regarding the exemption of MUBEC for buildings to store animals and crops, looking to try to get some modification of the exemption. Eric Dube thinks there needs to be some good discussion on this.

Randy Poulton added that there is another item that has increasing momentum in changing the code to allow a single stairway for apartment buildings up to six stories in height.

10. Public Comments:

Jeff LaPierre – In reference to contractor licensing, having a license puts pressure on to be more responsible. Also asked about the process of being appointed to the Board. Greg Day said the FMO would reach out to Jeffrey on what is needed for the process for appointment.

Bill Nash – Has seen how other states handle contractor licensing, and that Rhode Island had contractor registration for 25 years before they got to contractor licensing, so registration could be an alternative starting point and consider looking at states that already have a process in place.

Travis Blake- In reference to the Energy TAG discussion, stated there is a significant need for education on the energy code. On contractor licensing, said there will never be a perfect policy, but there needs to be a starting point, and it is a step in the right direction for contractors to have some accountability, and that there needs to be education to support building to code even when there is not someone doing an inspection on it.

Next Scheduled Meeting: May 15, 2025

Motion to adjourn.

Motion by Mark Stambach, second by David Matero.

9 in favor, 0 opposed. Eric Dube was not present for vote.

Meeting adjourned at 12:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon Quintal, Administrative Assistant