**Technical Codes and Standards Board Meeting Minutes**

**Department of Public Safety**

**Office of State Fire Marshal**

**February 18, 2021 9:00 a.m.**

**Via Microsoft Teams Meeting**

**Board members present**: Eric Dube, Marc Veilleux, David Matero, Randy Poulton, Mike Pullen, Barry Chase, Michael Stoddard, Jeremy Martin

**Excused**: Steve Wintle, Steve Martel, Ben Breadmore

**Staff present**: Rich McCarthy, Paul Demers, Greg Day, Shannon Quintal

Meeting started at 9:03 am with a review of the Governor’s State of Civil Emergency authorizing State agencies to conduct meetings through telephonic/electronic means, set expectations of how the meeting will be conducted, and a rollcall of board members was conducted. Quorum confirmed.

1. **Review of January 29, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Motion to pass over the minutes for a new draft restructured in numerical order and provide more time for a review.

Motion by Randy Poulton, second by Mike Pullen

7 in favor, 0 opposed

**Report from Board Chair – Richard McCarthy**

1. **Financial Update:** $717,465
2. **Website and Training Update**

Training updates for 2015 IECC– The Fire Marshal’s Office and Efficiency Maine are working on plans to team up to implement a series of training for code officials and members of the professional trade. There is a need for training on the energy components of the code and Efficiency Maine has $100,000 in funds available to assist with training. Paul Demers will work on a lot of the planning and recruitment of speakers as part of the training. Considering the limitations of the pandemic, there is still significant book work training that can be done virtually, and as restrictions reduce, plans for in-person training options. Details still need to be worked out regarding scheduling and making it so that fees for training do not prevent participation.

As far as the website, Paul also plans to have improve training materials available on the website’s Training Library. The website has recently been updated to put the calendar into its own tab to be easily locatable, along with some progress on cleaning up other parts of the website. The website calendar contains meeting information, upcoming trainings, and the “Monday Morning Coffee” quizzes with varied topics that have received positive feedback and assist code officials with opportunities to get CEUs. The Shoreland Zoning exam has been the first to be added to the testing website that also hosts the Monday quizzes as the start to moving all exams over and eliminating the reoccurring expense from the current testing website.

Board members expressed some concerns regarding getting notification on IECC updates to architects and designers and having training available to Board members and also how new code enforcement officers know what to do to meet requirements. Rich and Paul are working on a guide to provide to new code enforcement officers to help them work through the process.

1. **Legislative update**

As of yesterday, there is nothing pending in Legislature concerning MUBEC.

1. **Previously Unfinished Business**

**Amendment to Sprinkler Exception**

The goal of the exception is to only allow residential buildings to be non-sprinklered if for just sleeping cabins with no combustible heating source. Came up with seven exceptions to limit this to rule to strictly summer camp style sleeping cabins:



Request to be more specific on cooking (#5) to include electric range.

Motion to amend IBC Chapter 9 903.2.8, adding the exception section as proposed excluding R-2s and including “no cooking.”

Motion by Jeremy Martin, Second by David Matero

6 in favor, 1 opposed

Amend NFPA 1 and NFPA 101 to match the exception that was passed.

Motion by Randy Poulton, second by Jeremy Martin

6 in favor, 1 opposed

**Update on IMC**

Paul had a meeting with Pete Holmes to go through IMC and created an extensive list to be shared with the TAG members. Hopefully by next MUBEC meeting will have more information on where this stands.

1. **Previously New Business**

2021 Code Discussion - Code is out of compliance once two versions behind, and with the 2021 codes released, it needs to be discussed on the board would like to proceed. A few members have expressed going to the 2021, it was also suggested to attempt to change statute to extend from “two” to “three” code versions. It was also noted that the more frequent the code changes, the greater the hardship. Changing statute cannot occur in the current session, however if it is the direction the board would like to go, it wouldn’t be until the next session (January 2022.)

An important step in updating the code edition adopted is to look at what the change comparison between the codes.

1. **Public Comment**

Moses Riley expressed NEEP’s support of energy code initiatives and offered to be a contact for assistance and resources to aid in the comparison of code editions.

Addressed a question in the chat regarding the status of the IECC stretch code – currently it is at the Attorney General’s office waiting on finalization.

Matt Tonello commented that having the meeting information available on the website is preferable to receiving multiple emails, and having minutes published online would be helpful too. Also asked on an update from the vote from last month on the Mass Timber, and if documents were written – currently they are in progress at the Attorney General’s, however they will need to be taken back to be amended and resubmitted for final review.

**Unfinished Business**

Report on 2015 IMC TAG

**New Business**

**Next Scheduled Meeting:**

Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 9:00am

**Meeting adjourned at 10:34 am**

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Quintal, Administrative Assistant