**Technical Codes and Standards Board Meeting Minutes**

**Department of Public Safety**

**Office of State Fire Marshal**

**January 29, 2021 9:00 a.m.**

**Via Microsoft Teams Meeting**

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

**Excused**: Steve Wintle

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

Meeting started at 9:07 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 December 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Motion to accept minutes as prepared.

Motion by Randy Poulton, second by Jeremy Martin

Request for future minutes to use numbering system that reflects agenda. Correction of member “excused” to member “abstained.” Also make sprinkler discussion listed under “new business.”

Motion with amendments agreed by Randy Poulton with second by Jeremy Martin.

9 in favor, 0 opposed

1. **Financial Update:** $718,198.69

Update on BRIC Grant from Rich – notification received that it is a multi-step process and the grant request has made it through the first phase and onto final review.

1. **Report from Board Chair – Richard McCarthy**

**Website and Training Update – Paul Demers**

Website update is making progress with updating forms and now includes the “Monday Morning Coffee” quizzes, new quizzes available every two weeks, to allow Code Officials an opportunity to get CEUs.

Training has two maybe four possible IECC classes for February/March. Working with various organizations and in the next two or three months hope to have calendar filling up with training opportunities.

1. **Legislative update**

Legislature has been in session for about two weeks, no updates at this point. Tiny homes is anticipated to come up for discussion.

1. **Previously Unfinished Business**

**Rule Making Status Update**

Discussed the 2015 IECC Public Hearing results. Multiple comments on concern of the date when it would become affective, as many contractors already have contracts for the summer. Many people requested an allowance to make the 2015 effective on June 1 and July 1. It was also brought up that there is not an allowance for a single wall cavity-filled, and request for an alternative path to add an additional alternative path of an R23, and R60 in ceiling.

Another concern brought up was phasing in of the air changes as the change from current 2009 code of 7ACH to 3ACH is fairly substantial and phasing would allow contractors to learn how to do this.

Randy Poulton brought up the need to correct some items in Chapter 6 rule.

Motion made to put Chapter 6 back into review.

Motion by Randy Poulton, second by Barry Chase.

8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained

Discussion of Chapter 6 corrections include changing the document name, correcting the verbiage of the Boards responsibility as stated in statute, and adding an effective date of July 1, 2021.

Motion made to accept updates to be made for review at next meeting.

Motion by David Matero, second by Ben Breadmore.

8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstained

**Amendment for Mass Timber (IBC 2015 to 2021 ed.) TAG Results and Recommendation**

Marc Veilleux recapped the Fire & Life Safety TAG meeting discussion on Mass Timber. He stated that generally there were no issues, and everyone was in agreement that it is in the best interest of the state for the economy, logging and paper industry to make the provisions happen.

He noted that Fire Chiefs have spoken up in past with concerns in regard to lightweight construction, however this is different than lightweight construction – the testing is there, and fire chiefs have given the go-ahead to provide their support for the Mass Timber provisions. It was noted that Matt Hunter advised a few items in 2018 version should be considered for definitions and clarification for the 2021 provisions.

Richard McCarthy noted that there is a conflict to NFPA 101 and would require a change to incorporate Mass Timber.

Motion made to incorporate amendments for Mass Timber out of the 2018 and 2021 IBC Codes.

Motion by Jeremy Martin, second by Eric Dube.

9 in favor, 0 opposed

Motion made to change the NFPA standards to match Chapter 6 of the IBC.

Motion by Marc Veilleux, second from Eric Dube.

9 in favor, 0 opposed

**Sprinkler Requirement for Rooming & Lodging Structures**

David Matero reviewed the current requirements for rooming and lodging with the request to add an exception to the code for rooming and lodging structures that meet five requirements: limited occupancy of twelve, sleeping areas on the ground floor, sleeping areas shall have a minimum of one exit directly at grade and one other compliant means of egress, no fuel combustion, and sleeping area is not part of a mixed occupancy. The concern is that the requirement for sprinkler creates a hardship for remote structures. Timothy Lock followed up this with information on incidents of fire from insurer and noted that the two instances of fires in recent history were caused by circumstances where the structures would not have met the proposed requirements of this exception. It was noted that the structures attempting exception would still require electricity.

Some board members expressed concerns of what other types of rooming and lodging could potentially fit into the exemption that it is not intended for. Proposal to be revised more specifically for- review at February 18 meeting.

**Stretch Code TAG Report**

Eric Dube provided update on Stretch Code TAG meeting. A survey was provided to the TAG members. People generally agreed the best option was to utilize something already written that people could obtain, and the options discussed most were provided in survey. Out of the results, the 2021 IECC was the preferred solution, knowing that it may need to be revisited with future code adoptions. Paul noted that training for stretch code will be less of a priority than the 2015 IECC and any other statewide codes. A common concern is the possibility of incentives and Michael Stoddard suggested that the decision on Stretch Code adoption not include the hope for incentives.

Motion made to adopt the 2021 IECC including all appendices as the Stretch Code for the State of Maine.

Motion by Eric Dube, second by Jeremy Martin

7 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstained

**2015 IMC TAG Report**

Russ Martin reported on the IMC TAG meeting, noting that most of the existing codes and standards that could be in conflict are NFPA and reside with the Maine Fuel Board and Fire Marshal’s Office, such as Fuel Board rules concerned with fuel storage and fuel burning systems and chimneys. NFPA 90A, which overlaps with IMC, is a major conflict and the Fuel Board may give up the code removing it from State Statute. Some concerns were expressed to compare code overlap, and give consideration to which version of ASHRAE, but overall there were no major objections to discussion topics.

Rich McCarthy stated that he hoped to get written elimination of NFPA 90A at the Fuel Board meeting on 02/11/2021.

**7. Public Comment**

Request for clarification from Moses Riley on the next steps in the process for rule making. Moses Riley also provided comment that phasing of air changes has been done successfully in other parts of the region.

Question from Barb Skelton on if any changes were made to the stretch code and request to get the decision in writing so that it could be presented to the municipality council agenda.

Christy Crocker inquired on the process of ASTM Radon Standard and potential upcoming changes.

**Unfinished Business**

Rulemaking Chapter 1,2, & 4

Request for Amendment to the IBC, IRC and NFPA 101 pertaining to sprinkler systems installed in rooming and lodging facilities.

**New Business**

Review of revised Chapter 6 language

**Next Scheduled Meeting:**

Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 9:00am

**Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm**

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Quintal, Administrative Assistant

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