

STATE FIRE PREVENTION AND BUILDING CODE TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

BUILDING CODE TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the September 21, 2012 teleconference meeting of the technical subcommittee reviewing the **2012 International Building Code** for adoption by New York State.

PRESENT: Mark Blanke (Chair)
James Brzezinski
Laura Cooney
Mark Dedrick
Timothy DeRuyscher
Edward Haher
Gerard Hathaway
Jody Nolan
Blaise Parascandola
Brian Tollisen

MEETING MINUTES:

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM with all members present. Members introduced themselves and gave a brief background of their professional career.
2. The member list was reviewed and determined that all the information was accurate. The chair reminded the committee of the existence of six other subcommittees and that Jim Brzezinski also serves on the Existing Building Code Committee and Gerard Hathaway also serves on the Property Maintenance Code Committee. It was also noted that there is a task group reviewing Chapter 30 (Elevators and Conveying Systems) who will report their recommendations to the committee.
3. The chair noted that he will establish an agenda for each meeting with input from committee members. Members should inform the chair of topics they would like placed on the agenda prior to each meeting. Additional items may be added to each agenda at the beginning of the meetings.
4. The chair stated that the public can attend all meetings. Any person wishing to attend a meeting or address the committee must contact the chairman at least 2 business days prior to a meeting and submit any written material no later than 5 days prior to a meeting. The chair may designate a location for interested parties to attend. The public may address the committee with a time limit established at the chairman's discretion with guidance from the members.

5. The chair stated that draft minutes will be taken after each meeting and emailed and/or faxed to all members for review.
6. The chair noted that the Department of State website will likely include information such as meeting schedules, agendas, minutes, and the code comparison chart.
7. Voting rules were reviewed. The chair will establish a quorum at each meeting. Currently the committee is composed of 10 members. With the current 10 committee members, a quorum will be reached with 6 members attending. The chair does not vote except to break a tie vote.
8. The chair outlined the committee's responsibilities which include reviewing the IBC 2012 for adoption, recommend code changes, review public code change proposals, and review past New York State Code enhancements for recommended continuation, modification, or deletion. It was noted that statutory and regulatory requirements must be maintained.
9. The chair explained the link to the website that was provided to the committee members that included the current 2010 Building Code of New York State, 2009 IBC, and the 2012 IBC. This was established for the committee's use to compare the code changes. The committee will also be provided with the current list of enhancements for New York State.
10. The chair explained the timetable for completing the committee's review to be by the end of October. The proposed meeting schedule was reviewed and revised. The committee proposed to meet on 10/2, 10/9, 10/12, 10/22, and 10/26. Each meeting will begin at 9:00 AM and end by 12:00 PM with the exception of the 10/2 meeting which will begin at 10:00 AM and end by 1:00 PM. If needed, the committee will meet again after the morning sessions beginning at 2:00 PM and end at 4:00 PM. It was determined that the proposed meeting schedule would likely have nine of the ten members present and easily allow a quorum at each meeting. It was acknowledged that the absence of additional members would only occur under rare circumstances.
11. The chair reviewed the chapter assignments of four task groups (Fire Safety, Structural, General, and Exiting-Accessibility). The committee will not be responsible to review chapters 1, 9, 13, 28, 29, 34, or Appendix S. The chair advised the members to focus their efforts on the assigned chapter acknowledging that any member is still welcome to review and make code change proposals for any provision of the code including those not assigned to them.
12. The chair explained the comparison chart. The chart was drafted by the chair and includes all items, either more or less restrictive, that in the opinion of the chair would be viewed by most people as significant changes or likely to be a concern to regulated parties. Members were encouraged to forward to the chair any issues that they believe should be included on the comparison chart.

13. The committee discussed the proposed changes to Chapter 3 and were concerned with Sections 308.3.1, 308.4.1, and 310.5.1 regarding occupancy groups I-1, I-2, and R-3 and facilities where five or fewer people are receiving custodial care. The IBC would allow these uses to comply with the IRC provided that they are equipped with an automatic sprinkler system. The committee was concerned with coordinating this requirement with the sprinkler protection requirement in the final draft of the Residential Code of New York State. Tim DeRuyscher offered to review recent changes in the Department of Health regulations concerning these custodial care. It was agreed that these issues will be further addressed at a future meeting.
14. The committee discussed the possibility of adding a definition of the term “Student Housing”. Laura Cooney, Jody Nolan, and Tim DeRuyscher agreed to work on a proposed definition to be further discussed at a future meeting.
15. The committee discussed the proposed changes to Chapter 12. They were concerned with Section 1203.1 and the new requirement for mechanical ventilation in certain dwelling units based on the results of a blower door. The concern was the coordination of a blower door test requirement with the Energy Code. Gerard Hathaway agreed to review the Energy Code requirement and address this again at a future meeting. The committee was also concerned with a modification to Section 1203.2 (exception #3) that would allow a code enforcement official to exempt minimum attic ventilation requirements based on arbitrary atmospheric or climatic conditions and the potential for nonuniform enforcement. It was agreed to discuss this further at a future meeting.
16. The committee discussed the proposed changes to Chapter 17. It was agreed to incorporate Table 1704.1 of the current Building Code (Minimum Qualifications for Special Inspections) for the next Building Code. Brian Tollisen agreed to make a code change proposal to make this change.
12. The subcommittee adjourned at about 11:10 AM.