

State Codes and Standards Committee
Codes Amendment Subcommittee
Minutes

January 14, 2009

The Chairman called to order the regular meeting of the Codes Amendment Subcommittee of the State Codes and Standards Committee. The meeting was held in the third floor conference room (room 348) at 1111 Country Club Road, Middletown, Connecticut.

In Attendance: Louis Free, Chair
John Butkus
Thomas A. DiBlasi
Donald Harwood
Roger Langlois
Henry Miga
Michael Musco
Andrew Rizzo, Jr. (CBOA)
Debbie Sampson
Marjorie Shansky
Michael Sinsigalli (CFMA)

Also present: Lisa Humble, OSBI
Janet K. Ainsworth, Esq., DPS Legal Affairs
Francis Jarmin, Town of Canton
Martin Mador, Sierra Club
Scott Mangiagli, Kaestle Boos Associates, Inc.
Eliezer Strassfeld, Shipman & Goodwin LLP
Bruce Spiewak, AIA Connecticut
Frederick Wajcs, CL&P, C&LM

The subcommittee voted to accept the minutes of the December 2, 2008 meeting. Henry Miga and Marjorie Shansky abstained.

The chair noted that the key objective in coming months for the Codes Amendment Subcommittee will be to identify those pieces of the current sustainable design statute (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 29-256a) that are unworkable and to create definitions to clarify the building code requirements and make them

enforceable. The subcommittee will look to other states using sustainable design language in their building codes for guidance.

The subcommittee discussed problem areas that have been identified so far: use of a dollar value for determining what projects must comply, determination of equivalent standards, conflicts between standards, and the process whereby exemptions are granted – particularly the role of the Institute for Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University. It was noted that if the institute does not conduct the analyses required by statute, the Department of Public Safety will be prevented from granting any exemptions.

Henry Miga will develop a list of sustainable design requirements applicable to the building code, ranking them in importance, and those sustainable design requirements that are outside the scope of the building code. Following that, the subcommittee will look at terms that need to be defined. A list of 16 terms requiring definition that was developed for the request for opinion to the Office of the Attorney General will be distributed before the next meeting. Anyone developing or identifying a definition is asked to produce the source material, if any.

A brief discussion was held concerning the legislative process. A copy of proposed legislation sponsored by the Coalition for a Unified Code will be provided to all members for informational purposes only. It was noted that it is too late for Department of Public Safety-sponsored proposals. Members of the subcommittee are free to comment on proposed legislation in their individual capacities, but not as members of the Codes and Standards Committee or Codes Amendment Subcommittee.

Proponents of two code proposals submitted will be invited to make presentations and answer questions at the February 25, 2009 meeting.

The next meeting will be held on February 11, 2009 in Room 348 between 2 and 4 p.m.

Louis Free, Chair
Codes Amendment Subcommittee