

State Codes and Standards Committee  
Codes Amendment Subcommittee  
Minutes

March 23, 2011

- 1. Call to Order:** 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.
- 2. In Attendance:** Louis Free, Chair  
Robert Hanbury  
Donald Harwood  
Henry Miga  
Michael Musco  
Andrew Rizzo, Jr.  
Frederick F. Wajcs  
William Zoeller

**Also present:** Lisa Humble, State Building Inspector  
Joseph Kingston, Office of State Fire Marshal  
Atty. Janet K. Ainsworth, Legal Affairs  
Bruce Spiewak, AIA Connecticut and self  
Diane Harp Jones, AIA Connecticut  
Joanne Rees, AIA Connecticut

**3. Minutes:**

Minutes of the March 9, 2011 meeting were approved.

**4. Communications:**

The one communications item was acknowledged, cross-referenced and referred for future review and action as required.

## 5. Old Business

4 IRC Rejected. Operation of residential type door self closers is problematic with air-tight construction.

5 IRC Rejected. The issue is being addressed at the national level. There is not enough justification for a Connecticut amendment. Concern with the definition of light-weight construction was also expressed.

(added to agenda) 12 IRC Tabled. Previously accepted in concept. The State Building Inspector will provide draft language. Office of State Fire Marshal staff will review statutory requirements.

29 IRC Rejected. Concerns are similar to those expressed at the national level, including accuracy and how to deal with multiple occupancies.

31 IRC Tabled for review of research conducted by Thomas DiBlasi.

## 6. New Business

Deputy State Fire Marshal Barry Rickert reported on subjects of interest in the Office of State Fire Marshal, including the results of a limited survey of fire marshals that reveals a desire to return to a fire code incorporating only NFPA 101, Life Safety Code, and not the current blend of ICC and NFPA codes.

Chairman Louis Free reported that he will be sending a letter to Director Robert Ross asking that staff be assigned code review responsibilities to support code development work of the subcommittee and the State Building Inspector and State Fire Marshal.

The public will be invited to submit code change proposals regarding the complete ICC "family of codes" between April 1 and June 1, 2011. Staff is invited to submit code change proposals (not in amendment form) by July 14, 2011. NOTE: Subsequent to the meeting, Chairman Free advised that the review of the ICC family of codes will include the International Fire Code.

State Building Inspector Lisa R. Humble discussed staffing assignments and review format. A table format will be used, identifying ICC code changes, known statutory conflicts, past Connecticut amendments and code proposal changes. It is expected that review of the IRC will be completed by May 25, 2011; the 2008 NEC, June 22; the International Plumbing Code, July 5; the IBC, August 10; and the International

Mechanical Code, August 24. Staff will not review the IEBC. If reviews are completed early, information will be submitted to the subcommittee early. If delayed, the subcommittee will be informed as soon as possible.

An extended discussion was held regarding the relative merits of the IEBC versus Chapter 34 of the IBC. The state building inspector will poll local building officials on how frequently they use the IEBC, and the subcommittee will conduct a further review of the issue. Another topic of discussion and future review is whether the 2008 NEC or the 2011 NEC should be adopted.

Chairman Free asked if the IBC and NEC reviews could occur sooner. The state building inspector will discuss with staff and report back.

The State Building Inspector will query local officials on frequency of IEBC use and their views on the return of the fire code to the previous format.

Attorney Janet Ainsworth reported that the IECC amendment was filed with the Legislative Regulation Review Committee. A copy of the transmittal letter will be shared with the subcommittee. The regulation will be on the regulation review committee's May 24, 2011 meeting agenda.

The subcommittee will continue reviewing IRC Chapter 3 proposals at the next meeting. At this time, the subcommittee will not act on proposals relating to residential sprinklers or pool safety. Sprinklers are the subject of the working group chaired by Director Ross and safety devices in pools is the subject of pending litigation.

## 7. Adjournment

The next meeting will be held on April 13, 2011 in Room 348 at 1:30 p.m. or at the conclusion of the regularly scheduled meeting of the Codes and Standards Committee.

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Louis Free, Chair  
Codes Amendment Subcommittee

KEY: IBC International Building Code  
ICC International Code Council  
IEBC International Existing Building Code  
IRC International Residential Code  
NEC National Electrical Code  
NFPA National Fire Protection Association