

State Codes and Standards Committee
Codes Amendment Subcommittee
Minutes

April 13, 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
Christopher Cozzi (C&SC)
Robert Hanbury
Donald Harwood
Henry Miga
John Jackman
Michael Sinsigalli
Andrew Rizzo, Jr.
Frederick F. Wajcs

Also present: Lisa Humble, State Building Inspector
Barry Rickert, Deputy State Fire Marshal
Joseph Kingston, Office of State Fire Marshal
Atty. Janet K. Ainsworth, Legal Affairs

3. Minutes:

Minutes of the March 23, 2011 meeting were approved.

4. Communications:

Correspondence regarding a proposal to adopt the 2011 National Electrical Code was acknowledged, cross-referenced and referred for future review and action as required.

Correspondence from the former state building inspector regarding adoption of the IEBC was referred for discussion later in the meeting.

5. Old Business

12 IRC Remains tabled. A joint review of this proposal was conducted by the offices of state building inspector and state fire marshal and a presentation made. The item was previously accepted in concept and tabled. Code language will be prepared so that it may be taken up at the next meeting.

31 IRC Remains tabled. Chairman Louis Free requested that subcommittee members try to attend the meeting where Thomas DiBlasi will present the results of his review. This has not yet been scheduled.

6. New Business

Following an extensive discussion regarding whether the IEBC should continue to be adopted, the committee voted to include it in the 2009 ICC "family of codes."¹ According to a survey of local officials conducted by State Building Inspector Lisa R. Humble, it receives limited use in the State of Connecticut. This was confirmed by some members of the committee. During the discussion, it was noted that some designers use it some of the time, i.e. when it is more economical than use of the IBC's Chapter 34. A letter from former State Building Inspector Christopher R. Laux described how the agency had promised legislators in 2001 that it would adopt the IEBC. This was to head off a requirement to adopt the New Jersey Rehabilitation Subcode, which would create coordination problems for Connecticut. The legislators involved in these discussions were not satisfied with Chapter 34 being a replacement for the New Jersey Rehabilitation Subcode.

Deputy State Fire Marshal Barry Rickert presented the results of a recent survey of fire marshals regarding the future make up of the Connecticut State Fire Safety Code. He requested that a committee to study the issue be empanelled. The majority of a sampling of county fire marshal groups² wishes to return to a fire code consisting only of NFPA 101 for both new and existing occupancies. Chairman Free indicated that he is concerned that this proposal will slow down the timetable for adopting the next cycle of new codes. Review of the issue and the greater time needed to review the codes for conflicts between them would add considerable time to the code adoption process, which has been the subject of some criticism during this year's legislative session. He said that it may be that this needs to be put off to the code cycle immediately following this one. The previous study of this subject

¹ The state building inspector abstained.

² Litchfield, Windham and the Capitol Region responded. New Haven and Fairfield counties did not report. Building officials are to be queried.

conducted by former Deputy Commissioner George Luther took three years.

Discussion of this issue will continue at a later date.

7. **Adjournment**

The next meeting will be held on April 27, 2011 in Room 348 at 1:00 p.m.

Louis Free, Chair
Codes Amendment Subcommittee

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

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