

State Codes and Standards Committee
Codes Amendment Subcommittee
Minutes

March 25, 2009

The Chairman called to order the special 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
Henry Miga
Andrew Rizzo
Debbie Sampson
Michael Sinsigalli

Also present: Lisa Humble, OSBI
Janet K. Ainsworth, Esq., DPS Legal Affairs
Joseph Kingston, Office of State Fire Marshal
Joanne Rees, AIA Connecticut
Donald Vigneau, Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships, Inc.
Frederick Wajcs, CL&P, C&LM

The subcommittee voted to accept the minutes of the February 25, 2009 meeting.

Chairman Louis Free discussed whether the requirements of section 29-256a of the Connecticut General Statutes and the federal stimulus package may work together to allow the code adoption process to be streamlined. Staff Attorney Janet K. Ainsworth advised that since much of the adoption process is statutory, legislative action would be necessary to accomplish this. The Department of Public Safety's legislative liaison, attorney Steven Spellman, will be invited to attend a future meeting to discuss to what extent the code adoption process can be expedited. The subcommittee may also change its normal policy of soliciting code change proposals in order to expedite the adoption of the 2009 ICC codes.

Andrew Rizzo distributed a copy of H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Section 410 provides for additional state energy

grants, provided that the state adopts a building energy code that meets or exceeds the most recently published International Energy Conservation Code (2009 edition, in this case); adopts a building energy code for commercial buildings that meets or exceeds the ANSI/ASHRAE/IESNA Standard 90.1-2007; and plans compliance with the aforementioned codes within eight years in at least 90 percent of new and renovated residential and commercial building space.

State Building Inspector Lisa R. Humble discussed the difficulty in measuring improvements between the 2003, 2006 and 2009 editions of the International Energy Conservation Code. Donald Vigneau noted that the Energy Efficient Code Coalition has metrics. Its website is 30percentsolution.org.

At the next meeting, position papers will be submitted on how to meet statutory requirements for sustainable design and what should the adoption timeline be. Stimulus package mandates will also be discussed. Michael Musco will discuss changes in the 2009 IECC and how it affects the International Building Code, International Mechanical Code and International Plumbing Code.

Michael Sinsigalli raised the issue of availability of code books. The state building inspector and Director Robert Ross will work on getting books for the entire subcommittee, despite the state spending freeze.

The next meeting will be held on April 8, 2009 in Room 348 between 2 and 4 p.m.

Louis Free, Chair
Codes Amendment Subcommittee