

SUFFIELD BUILDING CODE BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING MINUTES
MEETING FOR THURSDAY MARCH 18, 2021 - 7:00 PM
VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE Dial-in Number:1-646-876-9923 Meeting ID:833 8125 8180

PBC Members Present

Glenn Neilson, Chairman
Joe Sangiovanni, Member
Kevin Goff, Member
Cathie Ellithorpe, Member
Marty Page, Alternate

Also Present - Ted Flanders, Suffield Building Inspector

Members Absent - Billy Gozzo, Member

Call to Order - Chairman Neilson called the Meeting of the Building Code Board of Appeals to order, via zoom teleconference, for Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 7:02 pm. He stated the first order of business was the election of a Chairperson. He called for nominations.

Election of Chairperson

Mr. Goff nominated Mr. Neilson to serve as Board Chairman. Mr. Sangiovanni seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Mr. Glenn Neilson was elected Chairman.

Update on Codes / Standards in the 2021 Family of Codes

Before beginning the update, Mr. Neilson advised the Commission members that Mr. Joseph Cassidy, State Building Inspector, will be retiring as of July 1, 2021. Mr. Cassidy has always been helpful and a great source of information. He will be missed.

Chairman Neilson stated the State Building Inspector, State Fire Marshall and the Codes and Standards Committee are looking to adopt the 2022 State Building and Fire Safety Codes based on the 2021 editions of the International Code Council documents. A technical review of each of the codes is scheduled as follows.

March 24, 2021 - Open workshops to discuss overall code changes.

April 14, 2021 - Electrical, Mechanical and Plumbing

April 28, 2021 - Accessibility and IBC Chapter 11

May 12, 2021 - IBC General

May 26, 2021 - IRC General

June 9, 2021 - Energy, Resiliency Issues

June 23, 2021 - Code Change Presentations

August 11, 2021 - IBC Structural and IRC Structural

August 25, 2021 - Electrical

September 8, 2021 - Fire Safety Code

October 13, 2021 - Draft Amendment Document Review

October 27, 2021 - Approval to move to full committee

November 10, 2021 - Action by full committee

Interested parties can join the workshops via zoom.

Bills that are in the legislature that might affect this Committee

Chairman Neilson provided the following information regarding current bills in the legislature and other items being considered.

Amusement Areas - Escape Rooms/Puzzle Rooms These are being considered special amusement areas which require a special means of egress for safety.

Education Enhanced Classrooms - Acoustics - IC Standard stipulates enhanced classrooms have specific ambient sound levels.

Air Model Shipping Containers - Used for housing materials. Consideration given to use to provide housing for the homeless.

Sprinkler Systems - Looking at a change in the code for assembly areas with over a 2,500 person capacity.

Snow Maps to be updated. Standard snow loads will change.

Fire resistance systems in residential properties will now require a special inspection.

Reviewing the fire wall requirements in schools.

Bill #6639 - Establishes a pilot program for Building Officials to enforce standardization related to the administration of the State Building Codes.

Bill #5706 - Building permits will not be issued if there are tax liens in place.

Bill #5603 - The State will reimburse Towns for the additional paperwork that needed to be prepared by the Town Building Official as a result of the pandemic.

Bill #6572 - Would provide the option for some municipalities to adopt a “stretch” building code that would require certain buildings to be 10% more energy efficient than stated in the building code.

Bill #356 - Establish an energy efficiency retrofit grant program for affordable housing.

Bill #846 - This relates to the certification of independent inspectors and inspection firms.

There was general discussion on the process followed to establish the 2022 State Building Codes.

Public Comment - No public comment.

With no further business to discuss, Chairman Neilson thanked everyone for attending. He motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted - Karen O’Hurley

These minutes are not official until accepted at a subsequent meeting.