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ANTHONY P. CAPUTO
CHAIRMAN

BOARD OF FIRE PREVENTION REGULATIONS
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
October 5, 2023 1:00 p.m.
Microsoft Teams Meeting

The following Board members were present:

Alfonso Ibarreta
Anthony Caputo
Edward Williams
John Cox
Kenneth Smith
Larry S. Fisher
Patty Sheehan
Paul Kennedy
Paul Scheiner
Richard Arruda
Jon Davine
Patrick Ellis

Registered Professional Mechanical Engineer
BFPR Chair, Fire Protection Engineer
Deputy Chief Brockton Fire Department
Registered Professional Chemical Engineer
Blasting Association Member
Electrical Contractor
Inspector of Buildings
Wiring Inspector
Chemist
Chief – under 25,000 population
State Fire Marshal
Boston Fire Marshal

DFS Staffing were present:

Brian Ingram
Mary Ann Smith
Rachel Perlman
Glenn Rooney
Kristen McDonough
John Wood III

Director, Fire Safety Division
Code Administrator, Fire Safety Division
Deputy General Counsel
General Counsel
Fire Protection Engineer, Fire Safety Division
Code Compliance Officer, Fire Safety Division

Guests were present:

Peter Diamond
Michael Hofkin
James Hasselbeck
Nick d'Arbeloff

MEAC Member (IOW Norfolk)
UL (Underwriters Laboratories)
Revision Energy
Sunbug/SEBANE

Mark Rochon
Jennifer Hoyt

Salem Wire Inspector
Code Red Consultants

Chairman Anthony Caputo called Statutory Public Hearing to order in accordance with M.G.L. c. 148, Section 10 to order at 1:01 pm.

Chairman Caputo asked if there were any items for discussion. Mary Ann Smith, DFS Staff stated that the office did not receive any statements. Hearing no statements from the public motion was made to conclude the Public Hearing.

Motion to conclude the Statutory Public Hearing made by Paul Scheiner, seconded by Larry Fisher. Roll is called and introductions are made. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 1:07.

Monthly Board Meeting

Introductions, Mary Ann Smith called upon DFS Staff and Guest to introduce themselves for the record.

1. *Minutes from the September 7, 2023 meeting of BFPR submitted for approval.*

Motion to approve the September 7, 2023 meeting minutes made by Paul Kennedy seconded by Edward Williams. All in favor. Motion carries.

New Business

Peter Diamond presented his comments regarding the Emergency Amendment Language on 527 CMR 12.00, Article 230.85.

A letter was presented from Milbank Energy Work declaring the wording shall read “suitable for use as service equipment” previously the wording read “suitable only for use as service equipment”

A letter was also presented from Underwriters Labs. They are currently working with manufactures to address field modifications. The letter also states that if a product is modified after it leaves the factory only a UL field Evaluation can determine if the modification complies with UL’s requirements.

Mr. Diamond also presented other cost effective options that would allow work to be performed without label modification.

1. Paul Scheiner presented work being done by the Administrative Committee on Permits and Certificates.
 - a. Staff will separate permits and certificates by committee.
 - b. Committees will meet to discuss permits and certificates at a technical level.

- c. Committees will determine what permits and certificates are required, not required and what new permits and certificates need to be added.
 - d. Once Committees have completed their review, a work group with representation from each committee will come together to review the work done.
2. Larry Fisher discussed proposed to hold the Emergency Amendment Language on 527 CMR 12.00, Article 230.85.

Motion made to hold the Emergency Amendment made by Larry Fisher and seconded by Paul Kennedy, all in favor. Motion Carries.

Old Business

1. Committee/ Reports

- a. *Administrative Code Committee*
- b. *General Requirements Code Committee*
- c. *Occupancy Code Committee*
- d. *Processing Code Committee*
- e. *Equipment Code Committee*

- (1) *Response to 527 CMR 1.99, 52.9 as received from Steve Connolly, on May 19, 2023.*

Question #1: If an ESS is installed on the exterior of a 1&2 fam dwelling, is the fire alarm system of that 1&2 family dwelling required to be upgraded to current requirements?

Response: Yes, interconnected smoke alarms are required in accordance with the requirements in NFPA 855, Section 15.9, 2020 edition

Motion to accept response to question 1 made by Alfonso Ibarreta, seconded by John Cox. All in favor. Motion Carries.

Question #2: If an ESS is installed on the remote of a 1&2 fam dwelling, is the fire alarm system of that 1&2 family dwelling required to be upgraded to current requirement

Response: ~~No.~~ **No Response, not able to answer. Need clarification/definition on what is 'remote'.**

Motion to answer question 2 with new language from the BFPR as 'No Response, not able to answer. Need clarification/definition on what is 'remote'. Made by Alfonso Ibarreta, seconded by John Cox. All in favor. Motion Carries.

- f. *Hazardous Code Committee*
- g. *Electrical Code Committee*

- (1) Request for Interpretation on 527 CMR 12.00, received from Jeffrey Vanacore.

Question # 1: Under the Massachusetts electrical code, is a homeowner in full compliance with the electrical code by using a GFCI with an electric induction stove?

Response: Yes

Motion to accept response made by Larry Fisher, seconded by Paul Kennedy, all in favor, Motion carries.

- (2) Request for Interpretation on 527 CMR 12.00: 210.25(B) as received from Anthony Priego.

Question #1: Does performing a service upgrade on an existing 2 family home that does not currently have any common meter or panel trigger the necessity to add a common meter and panel for that home?

Response: Yes

Motion to accept response made by Larry Fisher, seconded by Paul Kennedy, 11 in favor, 1 disagree (Paul Scheiner) Motion carries.

h. Massachusetts Electrical Advisory Committee

Items not reasonably anticipated by the Chair

None

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Paul Scheiner, seconded by Larry Fisher. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting ended at 2:37 p.m.

Approved:  Date: 11/2/23