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ANTHONY P. CAPUTO  
CHAIRMAN

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

**The following Board members were present:**

Anthony Caputo  
Alfonso Ibarreta  
Ed Williams  
John Cox  
Kenneth Smith  
Larry S. Fisher  
Paul Scheiner  
Peter Ostroskey  
Richard Arruda

BFPR Chair, Fire Protection Engineer  
Registered Professional Mechanical Engineer  
Representative, Fire Prevention Assn of MA  
Registered Professional Chemical Engineer  
Blasting Association Member  
Electrical Contractor  
Chemist  
State Fire Marshal  
Dartmouth District 3 Fire Chief

**DFS Staffing were present:**

Brian Ingram  
Mary Ann Smith

Director, Fire Safety Division  
Code Administrator, Fire Safety Division

Mary Ann Smith called roll and asked members to introduce themselves for the record.

Chairman Caputo called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

**Monthly Board Meeting**

1. Minutes from the May 4, 2023 meeting of BFPR submitted for approval.

**Motion** to approve the May 4, 2023 meeting minutes made by Larry Fisher, seconded by Richard Arruda. All in favor. Motion carries.

**New Business**

1. SEBANE letter to Glenn Rooney, received on May 15, 2023 regarding concerns to 527 CMR 1.00.

Work Group to be created for the purpose discussion and creating guidance in regards to the new set back requirements in NFPR 1 (2021 edition). General Requirements Chair Richard Arruda proposed the work group include members from 2 members from SEBANE, 2 representatives from solar industry, a Building Inspector, an Electrical Engineer, a Firefighter, a Fire prevention Engineer, 3 members from the General Requirements Committee. Richard Arruda also requested that someone with extensive fire ventilation experience provide some guidance. Chairman Tony Caputo will be included in all communication.

Patty Sheehan/Jeff Putnam, Larry Fisher and Kristen McDonough to be part of the working group.

2. Request for interpretation submitted by Steve Connolly, Tesla on May 19, 2023 on 527 CMR 1.00, Chapter 52.

**Motion** to request Steve Connolly reword and format his request for interpretation into two questions and submit directly to the subcommittee made by Richard Arruda. Seconded by Paul Scheiner. 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*
- f. *Hazardous Code Committee*
- g. *Electrical Code Committee*

##### (1) Minutes, May 8, 2023

1. Request for Interpretation on 527 CMR 12.00, 230.82(2), 230.82(4), 230.82(6) and 230.85 as received from Steve Connolly, Tesla on April 19, 2023.

**Question # 1:** Is this secondary meter socket allowed to be installed outdoors per 230.82(2) ahead of the service disconnect?

**Response:** Yes

**Motion to accept response made by Larry Fisher, Seconded by Paul Scheiner. All in favor. Motion Carries.**

**Question #2:** Does adding this secondary meter socket to house the Backup switch require the service to comply with 230.85 emergency disconnect requirements if the rest of the service remains unchanged?

**Response:** No

**Motion to accept response made by Larry Fisher, Seconded by Paul Scheiner. All in favor. Motion Carries.**

**Question #3:** Is the Back-up switch allowed to be installed on the line side of the service disconnect as allowed in 230.82(4) as a load management device is?

**Response:** Yes

**Motion to accept response made by Larry Fisher, Seconded by Paul Scheiner. All in favor. Motion Carries.**

**Question #4:** Does a supply side connection to equipment allowed on the line side of a service disconnect per 230.82(6) require a home to comply with 230.85 emergency disconnecting requirements?

**Response:** No

**Motion to accept response made by Larry Fisher, Seconded by Paul Scheiner. All in favor. Motion Carries.**

2. Request for Interpretation on 527 CMR 12.00, 705.11(D), 230.85 as received from Bill Clinton, Bellingham on April 24, 2023.

**Question # 1:** For Single and Two family existing homes when installing Power Source Production Source Systems (Solar) by way of a Supply Side Connection, is the intent to disallow said Supply Side Connection inside the interior service panel and install: the Supply Side Connection outside ONLY, such as in a tap box or meter main to treat this as an emergency disconnect?

**Response:** No

**Motion to accept response made by Larry Fisher, Seconded by Paul Scheiner. All in favor. Motion Carries.**

**Question #2:** Does the Mass Amendments 2023 230.85 allow the Supply Side Connection (Solar) to be performed INSIDE the interior service panel, and extend the tap conductors unfused back outside to the 1st overcurrent protection device?

**Response:** Question was withdrawn by requestor.

**Question #3:** Is the intent of 2023 705.11(D) to adhere to Article 230 VI through VII to keep all taps and connections OUTSIDE of the structure, and treat the Power Source production Equipment as an Emergency Disconnect on Single and Two Family existing dwellings?

**Response:** Question was withdrawn by requestor.

3. Request for Interpretation on 527 CMR 12.00, Rule 10 as received from Leo Landry Sr. on April 25, 2023.

**Question # 1:** If the inspector fails to meet the required 24 hour window for inspection, After proper notification in writing, May the excavation be closed without further inspection?

**Response:** Yes

**Motion to accept response made by Larry Fisher, Seconded by Paul Scheiner. All in favor. Motion Carries.**

**Question #2:** If the inspector fails to meet the required 72 hour window for inspection After proper notification in writing, may the exterior or interior installation be closed with out further inspection?

**Response:** Yes

**Motion to accept response made by Larry Fisher, Seconded by Paul Scheiner. All in favor. Motion Carries.**

4. Request for Interpretation on 527 CMR 12.00, 250.34 as received from Bryce Fedder on April 25, 2023.

**Question #1:** Do I or my customer need an electrical permit for a portable or trailer mounted generator that meets 250.34?

**Response:** Yes

**Motion to accept response made by Larry Fisher, Seconded by Paul Scheiner. All in favor. Motion Carries.**

- (2) Minutes, May 30, 2023

1. Request for Interpretation on 527 CMR 12.00, 110.72 as received from Donald Fess, Harvard University on May 8, 2023.

**Question # 1:** When conductors of different voltage are installed in a manhole, does physical separation by racking constitute permanently and effectively separated?

**Question #2:** If the medium voltage conductors are shielded, does that allow conductors of different voltages to be installed in the manhole so long as they are permanently and effectively separated?

**Question #3:** Since there is no equipment installed in the manhole, do any other working space requirements of Article 110 apply other than 110.72?

**Response:** No response. Submitter withdrew the questions and with the intent of resubmitting with clearer language.

2. Request for Interpretation on 527 CMR 12.00, 110.26 as received from Justin Fisher, on May 9, 2023.

**Question # 1:** Can I add the new circuit to this panel without having to relocate the existing panel to meet clearance minimums?

**Response:** No

**Motion to accept response made by Larry Fisher, Seconded by Paul Scheiner. All in favor. Motion Carries.**

**Question #2:** Does the Massachusetts electrical code RULE 3 allow me to add the new circuit without having to relocate the entire panel?

**Response:** No

**Motion to accept response made by Larry Fisher, Seconded by Paul Scheiner. All in favor. Motion Carries.**

**Question #3:** When I replace the electric panel, do I now need to move it to an area that would meet minimum clearance requirements? Does electrical code allow for this panel to be replaced in same location it exists now due to it existing there originally?

**Response:** No

**Motion to accept response made by Larry Fisher, Seconded by Paul Scheiner. All in favor. Motion Carries.**

3. Request for Interpretation on MGL CH. 143 Sec 3L, as received from Chris Polny, Rodenhiser on May 25, 2023.

**Question # 1:** Does email and or using the municipality's online permitting and inspections portal count as notification in writing when work has been completed?

**Response:** Yes

**Motion to accept response made by Larry Fisher, Seconded by Paul Scheiner. All in favor. Motion Carries.**

**Question #2:** What happens to the status of the permit if we are not notified of disapproval within the five days of being notified of completion of work?

**Response:** No response. Submitter withdrew the question as it was not able to be answered in a yes/no format.

**Question #3:** Is email or posting to the municipality's online permitting and inspections portal considered "in writing" as to notifications of failure of inspections?

**Response:** Yes

**Motion to accept response made by Larry Fisher, Seconded by Paul Scheiner. All in favor. Motion Carries.**

**Question #4:** Are there any regulations regarding posting of permit and inspection fees?

**Response:** No response. Requestor is referred to the Massachusetts Permit Regulatory Office.


*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 1:57 p.m.

Approved:  Date: 8/3/23