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BBRS Energy Advisory Committee (EAC)

Dan Walsh in the capacity of staff opened the February 6, 2020 meeting at approximately 10:06 a.m.

Dan Walsh in the capacity of staff took roll call as follows:

Diane Symonds, or designee*	√ present	<input type="checkbox"/> absent	Curtis Meskus-Chair	√ present	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Patrick Woodcock, or designee**	√ present	<input type="checkbox"/> absent	John Anderson	√ present	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Zbigniew Wozny	√ present	<input type="checkbox"/> absent	Jonathan Bruce	<input type="checkbox"/> present	√ absent
Tom Moberg	√ present	<input type="checkbox"/> absent	Gabriel P. Stallions	√ present	<input type="checkbox"/> absent
Emily Paparella-Vice Chair	√ present	<input type="checkbox"/> absent			

* *State District Building Inspector Adelle Reynolds participated as the designee for DPL Commissioner, Diane Symonds.*

** *Ian Finlayson participated as the designee for DOER Commissioner Patrick Woodcock. Ian Finlayson offered that Patrick Woodcock is now the Commissioner of DOER (Judith Judson no longer serving in this capacity).*

General notes on format of these minutes

- *These minutes represent general points of discussion by members and audience participants during the regular meeting session. The minutes are not intended to be a verbatim account of discussions.*
- *Votes are noted as **MOTION** by, seconded by, and whether it was a unanimous or split vote.*
- *Agenda topics as numbered may be in the same order as they appear on the meeting agenda.*
- *The meeting agenda is listed as **EXHIBIT A**; others are listed sequentially as addresses during the meeting.*

Regular Meeting Portion

1. Dan Walsh and Attorney Charles Kilb gave an overview of the open meeting law and the conflict of interest law. Each EAC member received information for today's meeting that included a summary of each. Each EAC member in attendance provided OPSI staff with their signed acknowledgment of receipt.
2. **Discuss/Vote** Chairman and vice Chair. Curtis Meskus offered to take the Chairman functions. Tom Moberg 2nd. Unanimous vote. On a **MOTION** by Tom Moberg, seconded by Ian Finlayson, it was a unanimous vote to approve Emily Paparella as Vice-Chair.



3. **Discuss** Existing business: Defining Net-zero as a code option for BBRs consideration. The group discussed the BBRs tasks for its advisory committees do not include providing policy recommendations. The EAC's purpose is to advise the BBRs about technical issues and cost implications tied to the specific task explicitly assigned by the BBRs. Ian Finlayson spoke about previous EAC meetings, and that group discussed net-zero. He provided the group with the September 23, 2019 meeting agenda, which has net-zero subcategories.

Attorney Charles Kilb read the BBRs statutory general objective responsibilities in Section 95 of MGL 143:

“(a) Uniform standards and requirements for construction and construction materials, compatible with accepted standards of engineering and fire prevention practices, energy conservation and public safety.”

“In the formulation of such standards and requirements, performance for the use intended shall be the test of acceptability, in accordance with accredited testing standards.”

“(b) Adoption of modern technical methods, devices and improvements which may reduce the cost of construction and maintenance over the life of the building without affecting the health, safety and security of the occupants or users of buildings.”

“(c) Elimination of restrictive, obsolete, conflicting and unnecessary building regulations and requirements which may increase the cost of construction and maintenance over the life of the building or retard unnecessarily the use of new materials, or which may provide unwarranted preferential treatment of types of classes of materials, products or methods of construction without affecting the health, safety, and security of the occupants or users of buildings.”

“(o) To adopt and fully integrate the latest International Energy Conservation Code as part of the state building code, together with any more stringent energy-efficiency provisions that the board, in consultation with the department of energy resources, concludes are warranted. The energy provisions of the state building code shall be updated within 1 year of any revision to the International Energy Conservation Code.”

Ian Finlayson spoke about DOER procuring consultant services to analyze large commercial buildings and will need to determine how the results of this effort would be presented to the BBRs. He believes the economic benefits will be proven.

Chairman Meskus decided to have the group discuss code change proposal 11-06-2019 (a net-zero approach for Appendix 115 AA) together with the old net-zero business. He recognized John Nunnari to describe the proposal. John Nunnari explained the proposal impacts commercial buildings, and the same proposal is pending approval by the ICC code adoption process for the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code. As submitted to the BBRs, it would amend the Stretch Code. His group thinks the proposal could be adopted by the BBRs two ways: either have the proposal apply to all Stretch Code communities or have the proposal be an opt-in for Stretch Code communities.

Tom Moberg spoke about the building code is a minimum requirement and how builders and developers have the option now to build to net-zero but choose not to do so. He also pointed out that should net-zero be the minimum energy requirement, what could the next minimum energy standard be. Tom

Moberg also spoke about some solar panels having 20 years life span and if solar used to achieve net-zero, what happens if the panels are not replaced and the structure no longer meeting net-zero.

John Anderson spoke about builders choosing not to building to net-zero because they cannot get a return on the investment.

Stallion spoke about the building square foot might be one method to achieving a net-zero standard. Ian Finlayson thinks different uses in a mixed-use building should have individual requirements for achieving net-zero.

Chairman Meskus asked if anyone knows whether the industry defines net-zero. Ian Finlayson thinks a future ICC commercial energy code will include a net-zero definition.

Zbigniew Wozny asked whether any entities have a study that covers converting existing buildings to a net-zero standard.

4. **Adjourn.** On a **MOTION** by Tom Moberg, seconded by Adelle Reynolds it was unanimously voted to adjourn the regular meeting at about 11:50 am.

EXHIBITS:

- A. Meeting Agenda.
- B. EAC September 23, 2019 meeting agenda.