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BOARD OF BUILDING REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS

Geotechnical Advisory Committee (GAC) Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2021

The Division of Professional Licensure Office
1000 Washington Street - Boston, MA 02118

This was a virtual Microsoft Teams meeting.

Roll Call, by GAC Chair:

Chris Erikson, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> present <input type="checkbox"/> absent	Martin Rodick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> present <input type="checkbox"/> absent
Scott DiFiore	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> present <input type="checkbox"/> absent	Jake McManus	<input type="checkbox"/> present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> absent
John Roma (Joined @ 10:28 a.m.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> present <input type="checkbox"/> absent	James Christensen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> present <input type="checkbox"/> absent
Michael Oakland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> present <input type="checkbox"/> absent	William Solberg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> present <input type="checkbox"/> absent
Damian Siebert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> present <input type="checkbox"/> absent	Rob Anderson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> present <input type="checkbox"/> absent

General notes on format of these minutes

- *These minutes represent general points discussed during the meeting. The minutes are not intended to be a verbatim account of discussions.*
- *Topics as numbered may\ may not 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.*

1. **Review minutes for the GAC January 13, 2021 meeting (EXHIBIT B).**

On a **MOTION** by Chris Erikson, seconded by Damian Siebert, it was unanimously agreed, by **Roll Call Vote**, to approve the minutes with the following revision:

Correct the spelling of the Chairman's name from Erickson to Erikson in three places under item 2.

2. **Discuss proposed amendments and new content of 2021 IBC, Chapter 18, for inclusion in the Tenth Edition of the Massachusetts Building Code (780 CMR).**

Rob Anderson clarified the schedule for completion of the new code. Initially, Rob had informed committee members that its work needed to be completed and presented to members of the Board of Building Regulations & Standards (BBRS) in September. However, due to the number of advisory committees as well as Office of Public Safety & Inspections (OPSI) staff who need to report on recommended changes, BBRS members actually desire code review to be completed by May of this year to allow committees and staff time to report its recommendations during the months of June, July, and August, completing all reporting by the September 14, 2021 BBRS meeting. Following the schedule clarification, committee members discussed each code section as presented in a proposed, revised IBC Chapter 18 (**EXHIBIT C**).



Section 1801 - General.

Damian Siebert noted that the section needs to remain as presented if committee members are not able to sufficiently address expanded ground improvement requirements. Committee members agreed that the section may need further revision, at a later time, depending on whether or not more detailed ground improvement provisions are adopted.

Following discussion, on a **MOTION** by Chris Erikson, seconded by James Christensen, by **Roll Call Vote**, it was unanimously voted to approve Section 1801.1 as presented in the January draft.

Section 1802 – Design Basis.

Following a brief discussion, on a **MOTION** by Chris Erikson, seconded by Martin Rodick, by **Roll Call Vote**, it was unanimously voted to approve Section 1802 as presented in the January draft.

Section 1803 – Geotechnical Investigations.

Following a brief discussion, on a **MOTION** by Chris Erikson, seconded by James Christensen, by **Roll Call Vote**, it was unanimously voted to approve Section 1803 as presented in the January draft.

Section 1804 – Excavation, Grading and Fill.

James Christensen identified that Section 1804.2 refers the reader to Chapter 33, titled *Safeguards During Construction*, where there have been some changes made to underpinning requirements. James indicated that the language looks reasonable, but wanted members to be aware of the changes.

Also, James identified that the exception to Section 1804.6 in the published code version that he purchased differed from the draft version being reviewed in that it references D1863/D1863M-2005(2018). Ultimately, committee members agreed that the draft version text was correct.

Exception: Compacted fill material 12 inches (305 mm) in depth or less need not comply with an *approved* report, provided that the in-place dry density is not less than 90 percent of the maximum dry density at optimum moisture content determined in accordance with D1863/D1863M—2005(2018) The compaction shall be verified by *special inspection* in accordance with Section 1705.6.

Following discussion, on a **MOTION** by Chris Erikson, seconded by James Christensen, by **Roll Call Vote**, it was unanimously voted to approve Section 1804 as presented in the January draft.

Section 1805 – Dampproofing and Waterproofing.

Damian Siebert identified that the code specifies waterproofing below the water table which is not typically achieved with slurry and similar wall types. Damian was concerned that generally accepted practices may run contrary to actual code requirements.

Michael Oakland agreed that the code implies waterproofing is required for slurry walls and, although engineering practices may be able to suggest otherwise in certain cases, a code official could cite a violation due to the way the section is written.

During a lengthy discussion, committee members agreed that an exception should be crafted to make it clear that waterproofing requirements may not apply in certain instances. Chairman Erikson asked Mike Oakland and Damian Siebert to develop language for review during the next meeting. James Christensen suggested that they take a look at the New York City code for assistance with drafting an exception.

Following discussion, on a **MOTION** by Damian Siebert, seconded by Chris Erikson, by **Roll Call Vote**, it was unanimously voted to table Section 1805 as presented in the January draft to allow time to develop the noted exception.

Section 1806 – Presumptive Load-bearing Values of Soils.

James Christensen noted that Table 1806.2 is deleted in the January draft document and is replaced by Table 1806.2a. James suggested that both tables may be needed. However, Damian Siebert thought it may create overlapping requirements. Mike Oakland noted that Table 1806.2 requirements are low and Table 1806.2a establishes more realistic values, but agreed that, as currently presented, it is a bit unclear.

James also noted that the draft indicates that former GAC member, Frank Leathers, should be consulted regarding Section 1806.4.1 *Standard Penetration Test* requirements. James indicated that Frank was consulted when members reviewed 2018 IBC requirements, but should be consulted once again regarding 2021. James volunteered to speak with Frank. Additionally, James volunteered to work on language to address concerns previously raised by John Roma regarding rock socketed drilled shafts and clear language regarding reference to Table 1806.2a for review during the next meeting.

Following discussion, on a **MOTION** by Chris Erikson, seconded by James Christensen, by **Roll Call Vote**, it was unanimously voted to table Section 1806 as presented in the January draft to allow time to develop the referenced language.

Chairman Erikson asked Committee members to review and be prepared to discuss Sections 1807 through 1810.1 at the next meeting on March 10th.

3. **Discuss:** **Matters not reasonably anticipated 2 business days in advance of meeting.**
None.
4. **Approve:** **Adjourning the meeting.**
On a **MOTION** by Chris Erikson seconded by Damian Siebert, by **Roll Call Vote**, it was unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting @ approximately 11:30 am.

Exhibits.

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- A. Meeting Agenda
 - B. January 13, 2021 GAC Draft Meeting Minutes.
 - C. International Building Code (IBC), Chapter 18 January Draft.