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**BOARD OF BUILDING REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS**

**Geotechnical Advisory Committee (GAC) Meeting Minutes**

March 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> present <input 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 type="checkbox"/> present <input checked="" 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.*

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1. **Review minutes for the GAC February 10, 2021 meeting (EXHIBIT B).**

On a **MOTION** by Chris Erikson, seconded by Martin Rodick, it was unanimously agreed, by **Roll Call Vote**, to approve the minutes with the following **revisions** to page 2.

**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 1801.4 as presented in the January draft.

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).**

- **Report on Assignment Number 1 from 2/10/2021 Meeting** where Chairman Erikson asked Mike Oakland and Damian Siebert to develop language for inclusion in Section 1805 relating to



dampproofing\waterproofing of slurry and similar walls. James Christensen suggested that they take a look at the New York City code for assistance with drafting an exception.

Both Mike and Damian indicated that they reviewed New York City requirements as suggested and liked the language.

Following discussion as to correct wording and placement within the code, on a **MOTION** by Damian Seibert, seconded by Martin Rodick, by **Roll Call Vote**, it was unanimously voted to approve the following new section.

**1805.6 In Situ Walls.** In situ walls (such as slurry walls, tangent pile walls, and secant pile walls) with joints sealed by grouting or other *approved* methods shall not require waterproofing or dampproofing.

- **Report on Assignment Number 2 from 2/10/2021 Meeting** where James Christensen 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 concerning presumptive load-bearing values of soils as well as Section 1806.4.1 requirements for standard penetration tests.

James Christensen noted that Table 1806.2 is deleted in the January draft document and is replaced by Table 1806.2a in which case allowable pressures would have to be added to Table 1806.2a, probably not the best solution.

Following lengthy discussion, on a **MOTION** by Damian Siebert, seconded by James Christensen, by **Roll Call Vote**, it was unanimously voted to keep Table 1806.2 and **modify** Sections 1806.1 and 1806.2 as follows.

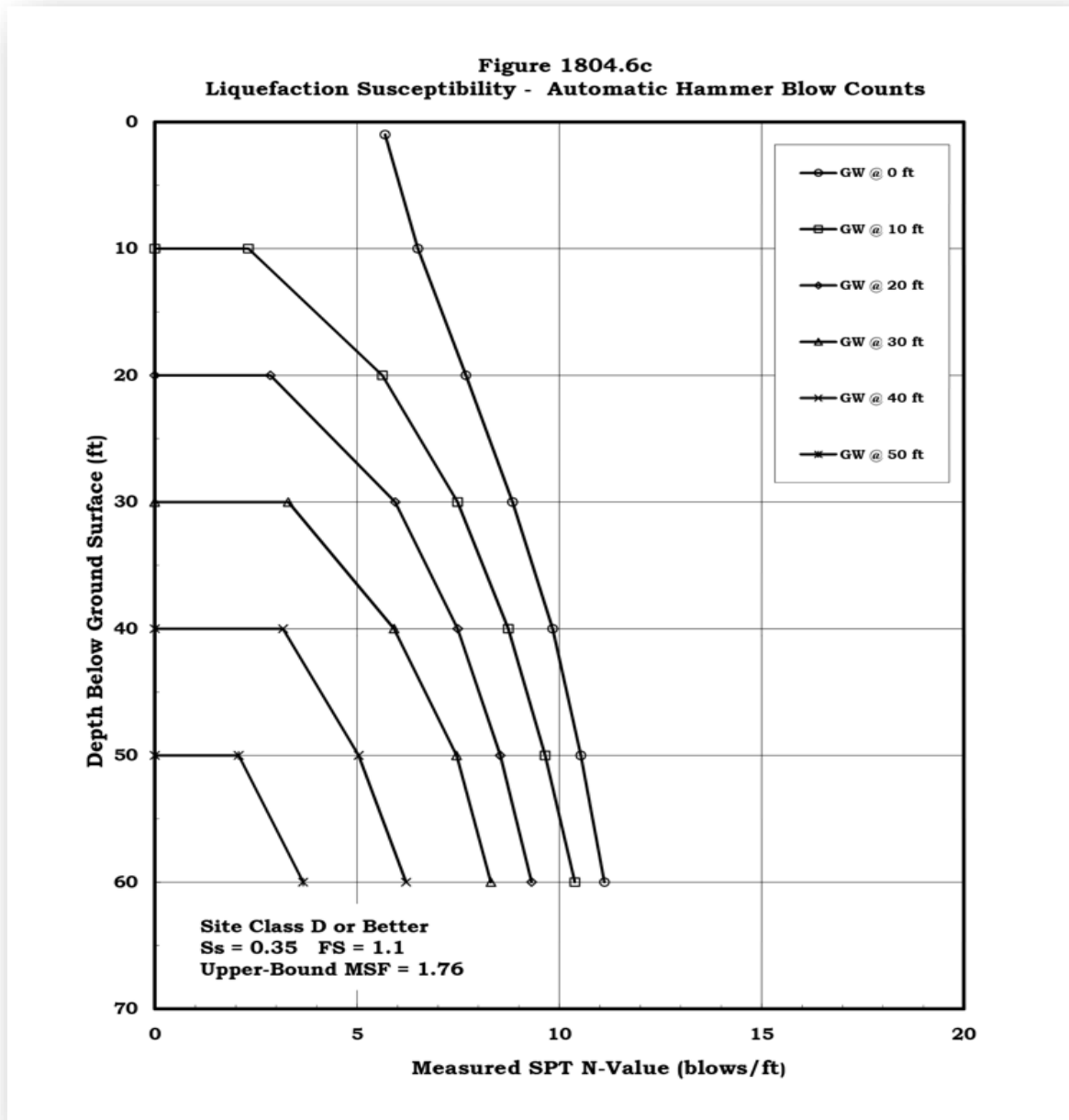
**1806.1 Load combinations.** The presumptive load-bearing values provided in Table 1806.2 or **Table 1806.2a** shall be used with the *allowable stress design* load combinations specified in ASCE 7, Section 2.4 or the alternative allowable stress design load combinations of Section 1605.2. The values of vertical foundation pressure and lateral bearing pressure given in Table 1806.2 **or Table 1806.2a** shall be permitted to be increased by one-third where used with the alternative allowable stress design load combinations of Section 1605.2 that include wind or earthquake *loads*.

**1806.2 Presumptive load-bearing values.** The load-bearing values used in design for supporting soils near the surface shall not exceed the values specified in Table 1806.2 **or Table 1806.2a** unless data to substantiate the use of higher values are submitted and *approved*. Where the *building official* has reason to doubt the classification, strength or compressibility of the soil, the requirements of Section 1803.5.2 shall be satisfied.

**Report on Assignment Number 2 from 2/10/2021 Meeting** where James Christensen volunteered to work on issues relating to liquefaction susceptibility figures (*existing sample below*). James suggested that blow count figures should remain but indicated they do not reflect current standards. If updated, blow count values would shift to the right and would likely cause some increases in project costs. Mike Oakland and other members agreed that updating blow count figures to more current standards and practices in the code would be a major change, but may be necessary.

Following lengthy discussion, James suggested that the further study of the matter is warranted and suggested convening an interim meeting prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup>

dedicated to the topic. Members debated whether it should be a full committee meeting or a sub-group with expertise to study the issue in-depth. Ultimately, it was determined that James would organize a sub-group meeting for March 25<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup>, inviting subject matter experts from GEI and other local organizations. Rob reminded that the subgroup cannot comprise a quorum of the overall 10 member committee. Work done by the subgroup will be reported at a future, duly advertised GAC meeting to satisfy public meeting laws regarding the topic.



Members had a general discussion regarding the schedule to a draft Chapter 18 for review by the BBRS for inclusion in the tenth edition code. Members were concerned with the May deadline imposed for completion. Rob Anderson explained that BBRS members have asked for work to be completed by May, however, this is not the drop-dead date and members should concentrate on drafting solid code provisions even if work needs to continue beyond May. Logistically, many advisory committees and staff need to report recommendations to the BBRS, a process that will likely span months. Rob assured

committee members that sufficient time will be granted for GAC members to complete its review and present an acceptable draft to members of the BBRS.

Chairman Erikson asked Committee members to review and be prepared to discuss Sections 1807 through 1810.1 at the next meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup>.

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 12:00 pm.

#### **Exhibits.**

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- A. Meeting Agenda
- B. February 10, 2021 GAC Draft Meeting Minutes.
- C. International Building Code (IBC), Chapter 18 January Draft.