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BOARD OF BUILDING REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS

Inspector Continuing Education Subcommittee

Public Minutes

June 7, 2023 @ 12 p.m. until approximately 1:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 PM

Roll Call

Board Members:

Richard Baldacci

Ian Finlayson

John Couture

Sy Nguyen

Staff:

Greer Spatz – Acting Executive Director

Charles Kilb – Board Counsel

Paige Brenner – Program Coordinator

Dan Walsh

1. Introduction

Acting Executive Director Greer Spatz opened the meeting with a brief introduction of the subcommittee's goal per the direction of the BBRS. The intended result of this subcommittee's meetings is to provide BBRS with a plan for implementing training that is needed and necessary for Building Inspectors by the September 13, 2023 BBRS meeting.

2. Legal Background – M.G.L. c. 143, s. 99 and 780 CMR 110.R7.3

The requirement for Building Inspectors to receive training is implemented in the law by M.G.L. c. 143, s. 99, and the continuing education requirement was implemented by 780 CMR 110.R7.3. The continuing education has primarily been done by third parties and the programs that are developed by those third parties are approved by the BOCC, as delegated by the BBRS.

3. Discuss Historical Education Offerings

John Couture explained that his previous understanding of the trainings that were done for Building Inspectors were administered and developed by state employees, but that different departments had



various methods for implementing trainings, including third party trainings and joint commission trainings. He also noted that the major issue he is noticing is that there often is not uniformity in how building inspectors implement and interpret the building code and wanted to seek avenues to rectify this concern. Ian Finlayson indicated that there was at one time a working group to discuss the exam requirements for Building Inspectors, relying on the chief building inspector and code interpreters to develop the trainings. The BBRS itself had very little involvement in the training of building inspectors.

4. **Discuss** DOER Energy Code Training

Ian Finlayson explained that the DOER trainings initially had received funding from separate sources to be developed and implemented by the agency itself, however when that funding was depleted the MassSave program began providing trainings on the DOER Energy Code. DOER eventually developed a Helpdesk to assist with inquiries that come in from code officials/permit applicants, that once individuals were trained, they could ask the helpdesk questions for assistance with code interpretation.

5. **Discuss** Options for preparing and administering future educational programs

John Couture suggested that an overview of the changes made from the 9th edition to the 10th edition would be an effective training that should be developed and available to Building Officials. Ian Finlayson suggested looking into grant programs to fund a training group, and for DOER to work with the BBRS to create a joint training. Some other options were discussed as to who can head the training, and it was determined that there will need to be further discussion on if a third party or an individual employed by the Commonwealth would create and employ the training related to the 10th edition. It was determined that John Couture and other board members will bring back a list of trainings that were helpful and specific concerns of those from the industry, and that Richard Baldacci and Greer Spatz will reach out to the Department of Fire Services and Department of Energy Resources to create a joint training between the agencies. Ian Finlayson will also find out if anyone within DOER may be able to assist with funding in creating training.

6. **Discuss** other matters not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of meeting

No matters were brought to the subcommittee that were not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:22 PM.