

Fire Safety Code Board of Appeal and review

Minutes: January 5, 2016

The Rhode Island Fire Safety Code Board of Appeal and Review met at its headquarters located at 2 Regan Court, Mathias Building #56, in Cranston, RI on Tuesday, January 5, 2016, at 1:00 P.M.

Call to Order:

Chairman Newbrook called the meeting to order at 1:05 P.M.

Roll Call:

Present were Chairman Newbrook, Vice-chairman Blackburn, Commissioners Pearson, Booth, and Sylvester.

Also present were Executive Director W. Keith Burlingame Esq., Administrative Officer Kathy Hague and Administrative Assistant Desiree Campanini.

Absent from today's hearing were Commissioners Filippi, Jackson, Richard, Thornton and Walker.

Minutes: Commissioner Sylvester made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Pearson, to accept the December 15, 2015, minutes as written. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

APPEAL #150126: Derek Lemire, Michael Domiani and Robert Buchotto, appeared for the property 115 Tripps Lane, East Providence. Assistant Deputy State Fire Marshals (ADSFM) Kenneth Botelho and James Bellamy appeared for the East Providence Fire Marshal's Office. The Applicant requested to utilize the RI Life Safety

Code (RILSC) 2015 Edition for compliance regarding security access turnstiles devices. Commissioner Sylvester made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Booth, to grant a variance from using the requirements of chapter 7 of the RILSC 2012 Edition, but the Applicant must comply with the RILSC 2015 Edition.

APPEAL#150084A: Vince Watchorn, Ramzi J. Loqa, Patrick Collins, and David Presbrey, appeared for the property 660 Waterman Avenue (Lund Hall), East Providence. ADSFM Kenneth Botelho and James Bellamy appeared for the East Providence Fire Marshal's Office. After a discussion, it was determined that the Applicant must return to the Board on January 26, 2016, with a plan of action.

APPEAL #150085A: Vince Watchorn, Ramzi J. Loqa, Patrick Collins, and David Presbrey, appeared for the property 660 Waterman Avenue (Evan R. West Fieldhouse and Moran Annex), East Providence. ADSFMs Kenneth Botelho and James Bellamy appeared for the East Providence Fire Marshal's Office. The Applicant requested a time variance until September 1, 2018, to incorporate the sprinkler and fire alarm systems into the overall renovations being done. Commissioner Blackburn made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sylvester (with reservations), to grant a time variance for completion of the installation of the sprinkler and fire alarm systems to September 1, 2018. Motion passed unanimously.

APPEAL #150113: Raymond Gomes appeared for the property located at 23 Mann Avenue, Newport. ADSFM Christopher Mahoney appeared for the Newport Fire Marshal's Office. The Applicant requested a time variance to address the deficiencies listed in the

inspection report, with additional time for the installation of a fire alarm system. Commissioner Sylvester made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Pearson, to grant the Applicant a time variance of 180 days to correct deficiencies listed in items 2 through 10, with an additional 90 days for the completion of the installation of the fire alarm system. The motion passed unanimously.

APPEAL #150128: Daniel Paquette, Raymond Gomes and Stu Upson appeared for the property at 194 Bellevue Avenue, Newport. ADSFM Christopher Mahoney appeared for the Newport Fire Marshal's Office. The Applicant requested a variance from installation of a sprinkler system. Commissioner Sylvester made a motion, seconded by Commissioners Pearson and Booth, to grant the relief they are seeking with the provision that a Life Safety Plan for the property is submitted to the Newport Fire Marshal's Office, installation of a 2-hour rated roof, and removal of all equipment and combustibles from the building during events. The motion passed unanimously.

(Due to a conflict of interest, Vice-chairman Blackburn had to recuse from the following two hearings and did not participate or vote.)

As a required quorum of members was not present, Chairman Newbrook delegated a subcommittee of the members present to take testimony on the following hearings scheduled. All recommendations of the subcommittee will be presented to the full committee at the next scheduled hearing for ratification.

APPEAL #150121: Kevin Toomey and Thomas Mann appeared for the property at 21 Peace Street, Providence. Chief of Inspections, Octavio Vieira and Deputy State Fire Marshal Robert Letourneau appeared for the State Fire Marshal's Office. The Applicant is seeking a 6-month time variance. Commissioner Sylvester made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Pearson, to grant a 6-month time extension. If the property is not sold within that period of time, the Applicant must return to the Board with a definitive plan of action for compliance. The State Fire Marshal's Office had no objection. The motion passed unanimously.

APPEAL #150130: Joseph Watson, John Cooke and Laurent Hedquist appeared for the property 345 Brook Street, Providence. ADSFM Timothy Lutz, Sr. appeared for the Providence Fire Marshal's Office. The Applicant requested variances on proposed alternative, performance-based approaches to vertical openings. Commissioner Pearson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Booth, to grant a variance from the RI Life Safety Code 2012 Edition, with the provision to use the 2015 Edition regarding the convenience stairway, and to accept the model given for Item 2 for smoke containment in the entry corridor. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

LEGISLATION: Executive director, Keith Burlingame stated that the General Assembly session began today. The legislation submitted is in the Governor's office waiting for approval. There may be another

Subcommittee meeting to address some issues that have come up.

Open Forum / Public Comment: None

Adjournment: Commissioner Sylvester made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Booth to adjourn the meeting at 2:35 P.M. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kathleen Hague