

**A subcommittee of the Rhode Island Rehabilitation Building and Fire Code Board met in Conference Room “A” in the William Powers Administration Building at One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI on Wednesday September 22, 2004. Chairman George Farrell called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.**

**Present were Commissioners Rene Coutu, Robert Wahlberg, and Gordon Preiss. Also present were RI State Fire Marshal Irving J. Owens, Chief Deputy Michael Dimascolo, Chief of Inspections William Howe, RI State Building Commissioner Daniel DeDentro, James Carlson, Cranston Fire Marshal Timothy Hawthorne, Connecticut Fire Marshal John Blaschik, Connecticut Building Commissioner Christopher Laux and Thomas Coffey, Esq., Executive Secretary of the Rehabilitation Board.**

**After calling the meeting to order, Chairman Farrell turned the floor over to Commissioner DeDentro who introduced Connecticut Fire Marshal John Blaschik and Connecticut Building Commissioner Christopher Laux.**

**Building Commissioner Laux gave an overview of Connecticut’s Fire and Building Codes. He outlined the procedure his state followed in adopting a single family of codes. This idea of a single family of codes was originally introduced to the members of Connecticut’s building and fire industry profession in 1971 without success due to the opposition of the construction contractors.**

**At the urging of the state's design professionals, in 1998 a committee led by the Deputy Chief began the compilation of a single family of codes. Over time, this code has been reviewed by both a state code council as well as by the NFPA, culminating in the final draft complete with proposed regulations which was recently submitted to the Governor of Connecticut. The final vote will be taken in October or November of this year with adoption anticipated in early 2005.**

**In Connecticut, each fire district has its own fire marshal who works closely with the building inspector. Connecticut Fire Marshal John Blaschik reviewed the duties and responsibilities of his office, including but not limited to plan review, mandatory training and education. His office also hears requests for variances of which approximately 600 to 700 were granted last year.**

**The Building Commissioner's office hears approximately 2000 requests for variances, which they call modifications, per year. If the Applicant is not satisfied with the decision, he/she may make an appeal request to the Codes and Standards Board who hears about 50 cases per year. The final step in the appeals process is to the Supreme Court.**

**The floor was then opened to questions from members of the committee and the public.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Desiree Campanini**