

## **Code Conflict Council - Minutes 1/30/14**

### **Attending:**

**John Chartier – State Fire Marshal – Co-Chair**

**Sean Egan – Chief Elevator Inspector – DLT**

**Virginia Hesse – RI Historical Preservation**

**Len Bradley – Deprite Eng. – Environmental Engineer**

**Frank Silvia - Capt. Fire Prevention Prov. – League of City & Town**

**Derrick Pelletier – Dept. Regulatory Reform**

**Nancy Scarduzio – Dept. Management & Budget Sm. Buss.  
Ombudsmen**

**Bob Thurber – Capt. Fire Prevention - RI Firefighters Assoc.**

**Cyndi Gerlach – RGB – AIA RI**

**Steve Olsen - Olsen Eng. – Structural Eng. Assoc.**

**Eric Wishart – Structural Eng. – RI Builders Assoc.**

**Scott Baytson – Van Anthony – DLT**

**Open meeting @ 1:05**

**Co-Chair Chartier motion to approve minute – Motion made with a correction to Cyndi Gerlach's last name.**

**- Opened with what was charted with going into area of expertise and coming back with specific proposals for recommendations.**

**Information was provided from AIA website and what various states**

have for codes and a listing of basic things that have to be looked at in building and fire codes was provided and it was a wide scope of items. Have the building code and fire code go over and see if a simple fix. A lot of discrepancies disappeared especially with sprinklers with the 12,000 sq ft change.

- Builders association to provide discrepancies. The bigger issues are the post permit discrepancies between cities and towns.
- Discrepancy in fire alarms is number of devices between cities and towns and ADA with fire alarm systems.
- Travel distance in elevator code was dropped to 12 feet from 25 feet, was agreed to change back to 25 feet. Rule 2.4 D of RI Rules and Regs. to be written up to change.
- To resolve the conflict in code where there are two different codes to have them say the same thing and to go through it all to find them will take a lot of time.
- Issue brief from AIA recommendation said one family of codes. Codes are all national standards and the most restrictive is the one you move towards.
- Basically two codes used in the US and International. China just adopted the RI Fire Law Code. If two families of code sold by two

companies, each has own membership, ICC and NFPA codes are getting closer and closer. If codes are getting closer every year it is the recommendation to make sure everyone adopts the newest codes and to support the adoption of the newest codes. The next cycle is 2015. Last adoption of the building code there were so few changes they decided not to adopt 2015 to wait 6 years before change instead of 3. There is a cost associated with the updating of the codes. Recommendation they mandate they adopt at the same time and the building code and the fire board to come together and address differences in the code and put timeframe in that.

- Address the codes causing problems for people, there are little things causing problems but address the really big ones causing problems for builders and developers.
- Recommend that training take place once or twice a year on rehab code as people in offices/businesses have change or moved since last training.
- DEM and Coastal what is realistic expectation as to when your review starts and finishes when you drop off your request for a permit? Get a list of applications that occur and see what are reasonable timeframes and get a list of how long it takes now. Have someone from DEM come to meeting to talk about having timeframes where it will be a proposal to the Legislature.

- **Co-chair Marshal to write up proposal on use of rehab code, proposal on mandatory training and invite DEM to next meeting.**
  
- **Fees for plan review nothing in the code said it is to be put into an account and used for work for which client has paid, it goes directly into the general fund. If the department is not going to be able to use that money, don't even collect it, it is nothing more than a tax. Was agreed that the fees be held for support of the project and if at end of fiscal year it rolls back into general fund. Go into materials for getting project done, training, funding for additional time to put against project. Are there any other state agencies that collect fees and what are they used for? Contractor's registration board is allowed to keep fees they collect to go out and do investigations.**
  
- **Agreed to meet at 1:00 on 2/13/14 @ State Fire Marshal's Office**
  
- **Adjourn at 2:05**