

The Rhode Island Green Buildings Advisory Committee

**Tuesday, August 17, 2021, 9:00 am
McKenna Conference Room, 560 Jefferson Blvd., Warwick**

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present:

Dr. Becca Trietch, Chair	Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources
Jim Cambio	Building Code Commission
Kevin Rose	National Grid

Others Present:

Dr. Carrie Gill	Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources
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1. Call to Order

Chairperson Trietch called the meeting to order at 9:13 am.

2. Announcements and Introductions

Chairperson Trietch announced she will be leaving state service and therefore stepping down as Chair and Committee Member. Dr. Carrie Gill (Administrator, Grid Modernization and Systems Integration for the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources) will be filling the role of Chair and providing coverage for Dr. Trietch in her transition.

Committee Members present introduced themselves and Chairperson Trietch reviewed Committee Members not present.

3. Public Hearing

No members of the public were in attendance.

4. Meeting Minutes

Voting was postponed due to lack of quorum.

5. Correspondence

Chairperson Trietch received an email from Committee Member Winslow stating he is still working to obtain school plans to evaluate the extent to which the school's landscape design meets SITES. Committee Member Winslow is hoping to share the school's plans in order to conduct that evaluation with the Committee in September.

Chairperson Trietch reminded Committee Members to respond to her request for preferred dates for a meeting with the Department of Environmental Management and the Consultants for

Goddard Park’s renovation to learn more about those specific plans and SITES generally. Committee Members engaged in a discussion of preferred dates. Chairperson Trietch requested Committee Members individually think of questions in advance of the meeting.

6. Committee Reports

Education –

Committee Member Chris Armstrong and Committee Member Steve Hughes connected with Commissioner Jim Cambio to coordinate a training for code officials in September, which will receive continuing education credits.

IGCC –

The Committee needs to compare the latest version of LEED (v4.1) to the current Stretch Code. Mr. Armstrong has suggested that the group leverage existing comparisons created by other organizations such as ICC which compare I-codes like the IECC to the IGCC. Reviewing these comparisons may be helpful because Rhode Island’s commercial stretch code is based off of the IGCC.

7. Old Business

Stretch Code Update Process – Chairperson Trietch noted that the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources is engaging in internal discussions to develop a strategy and timeline for updating the Stretch Code, including an assessment of short-term staffing and funding availability.

Update on Base Code Advancement – Commissioner Cambio stated that the next step is for the Building Codes Standards Committee (BCSC) to approve the base code advancement and to send the base code to the General Assembly; the BCSC will meet and vote once they are able to achieve a quorum. If the legislature accepts the base code recommendation from the BCSC Rhode Island will move to codes based off the 2018 model I-codes.

Chairperson Trietch asked whether the Building Code Commission is planning to be actively involved in model code development. Commissioner Cambio stated he would be interested in discussing a strategy to participate.

Update on current SITES/LEED ND Pilot projects – Chairperson Trietch did not have any new updates on this topic.

Review of National Grid Code Training Schedule – Committee Member Rose summarized the following list of upcoming National Grid Energy Code Trainings:

Date	Topic	Industry Stakeholders
1-Sep	Zero Energy Homes: Advanced Envelope & Building Science	AIA-RI Lunch & Learn
14-Sep	Weatherization: Insulation & Building Science	RI Association of Realtors

16-Sep	Healthy Homes: Indoor Air Quality & Your Health	RI Association of Realtors
23-Sep	Advanced Framing	Rhode Island Builders Association
27-Sep	Home Comfort: Heating, Cooling & Ventilation	RI Association of Realtors
29-Sep	Green Building Fundamentals	RI Association of Realtors
6-Oct	Brown Virtual Tour	AIA-RI Lunch & Learn

Online permitting system update – Chairperson Trietch encouraged the Committee to continue working with State IT to develop a data sharing template and process to support the Committee in fulfilling its statutory duties of monitoring compliance with Committee rules and regulations.

8. New Business

Topics for September’s Agenda – No new topics were identified.

2021 Legislation Update – Commissioner Cambio described new legislation (passed in 2021) that requires the Building Code Commission to implement a statewide permitting database to advance reporting. Chairperson Trietch encouraged the Building Code Commission to leverage the HELIX database, managed by Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships, to pull in residential green certification data.

9. Adjourn

Chairperson Trietch adjourned the meeting at 9:52 am.