

Green Buildings Advisory Committee

Tuesday, May 31, 2022 | 9:00 – 10:00 AM

McKenna Conference Room (1st Floor), 560 Jefferson Blvd., Warwick, RI 02886
Members of the public were allowed to join remotely via Zoom

Draft Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present

Dr. Carrie Gill, Chair
Commissioner Jim Cambio
Dr. Joseph da Silva
David Patten (left at 9:30)

Melissa Travis (arrived at 9:10)
Stephen Turner (virtual)
Mark Winslow (virtual)

Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources
Rhode Island Building Code Commission
Rhode Island Department of Education
Rhode Island Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance
Representing Building Materials and Industry
Representing Building Commissioning
Representing Building Construction

Other Attendees Present

Steven Chybowski
Jon Erickson
Andrea Krim
Josh Kessler
Bill Nash
Michael O'Brien Crayne
Karen Verrengia
Cornelia Wu

Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources
ClearResult
Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships
Rhode Island Energy
International Code Council
Rhode Island Energy
CleaResult
Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships

1. Call to order

Chairperson Gill noted that we have a quorum, with four of seven members in person, and called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

2. Announcements from the Chair

Chairperson Gill announced that the request for proposals for the Green Buildings Act study has been posted and that a pre-bid conference was held to answer any questions from potential bidders. She is planning to provide updates regarding the respondents at the next Green Buildings Advisory Committee meeting.

Chairperson Gill noted that the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4) held three sharing sessions in May on reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector, as well as a workshop on the climate-health nexus as a part of the State's update of the *2016 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan*. In June, three sharing sessions will be held to discuss reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the thermal sector. More information is available at climatechange.ri.gov.

Chairperson Gill stated that there are no further updates on new appointments to the Green Buildings Advisory Committee at this time.

3. Voting on previous meeting minutes

a. April 2022

Committee Member da Silva motioned to approve the April 2022 meeting minutes. Committee Member Patten seconded. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed; the minutes were approved.

ARMSTRONG – absent
CAMBIO – aye
DA SILVA – aye
GILL – aye

PATTEN – aye
TRAVIS – absent
TURNER – absent
WINSLOW – absent

Introductions were held as Committee Member Travis joined the meeting.

4. 2021 and Q1 2022 State Permit Data

a. Presentation and discussion

Committee Member Cambio led a discussion about the permitting data for State facilities for calendar-year 2021. He can use the ViewPoint permitting system to access data that the Green Buildings Advisory Committee may find useful for reporting. The current data presented in the draft addendum are for 56 State projects that closed in 2021. These applicants either noted that they are exempt from the Green Buildings Act requirements or stated that they were compliant and selected their compliance path.

Committee members discussed opportunities for verifying and confirming project compliance as well as the available compliance paths and equivalent standards. Chairperson Gill noted that the Committee should keep these questions in mind to discuss with the Committee's consultant during the Green Buildings Act study later this year.

Committee Member da Silva was supportive of the addendum and would like to see the project affidavits included with the addendum, which would include signatures verifying that these projects are compliant with the Green Buildings Act.

Committee Member Patten agreed that the addendum should be included in the 2021 Annual Report, as it is a step in the right direction with reporting and verification, and that it will lead to more of the right questions moving forward.

Committee Member Turner believed that this is a great addendum and a great opportunity to recognize the current shortcomings of the data and points to how the Committee can strengthen data for next year. He also provided suggestions for clarifying the addendum text.

Committee Member Winslow suggested adding language noting that we will have consultants review the data to improve the methods for the future.

b. Public comment

None.

c. Vote on adoption of 2021 figures as addendum to the 2021 Annual Report

Chairperson Gill proposed that the Committee table this vote until the next meeting to incorporate the Committee's changes. Committee Member Travis motioned to table the vote until the next Green Buildings Advisory Committee meeting. Committee Member da Silva seconded. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed; the addendum will be updated based on today's discussion and will be presented for discussion, public comment, and vote at the next Green Buildings Advisory Committee meeting.

ARMSTRONG – absent
CAMBIO – aye
DA SILVA – aye
GILL – aye

PATTEN – absent
TRAVIS – aye
TURNER – absent
WINSLOW – absent

5. Green Schools One-Pager

a. Presentation and discussion

Committee Member da Silva presented a green schools one-pager highlighting the Green Ribbon schools throughout Rhode Island. Improving the school buildings to Green Ribbon standards has been a work in progress since 2007 and in this time, a number of schools have been certified. Green Ribbon schools have addressed health issues, include a curriculum on the environment, and are held to a green building standard. The schools on the one-pager were approved as Green Ribbon schools in the years listed and with the standards as required in the years they were approved. All of these schools have reduced water use, energy use, and diverted construction waste from landfills. This is something the School Building Authority is very proud of and has worked hard on for years and these designations are verified by the U.S. Department of Education. Rhode Island is number one for Green Ribbon schools in New England and number two nationally.

Committee Member Turner commented that this one-pager is very informative, well-communicated, and is a good example of something we could do with the Green Buildings Advisory Committee in the future.

Committee Member da Silva added that this came together with the help from all different actors and credit should be shared all around.

b. Public comment

None.

c. Vote on adoption of green schools one-pager as addendum to the 2021 Annual Report

Committee Member Travis motioned to approve the schools one-pager as an addendum to the 2021 Annual Report. Committee Member da Silva seconded. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed; the Green Schools one-pager will be added to the 2021 Annual Report as an addendum.

ARMSTRONG – absent
CAMBIO – aye
DA SILVA – aye
GILL – aye

PATTEN – absent
TRAVIS – aye
TURNER – absent
WINSLOW – absent

6. Discussion on Act on Climate – Buildings Sharing Session

Chairperson Gill stated that buildings are a major topic when discussing the 2021 Act on Climate and that having the Green Buildings Advisory Committee host a public sharing session on the topic of buildings could be a great opportunity to share information and spur discussion. Buildings have many integrated factors worth discussing in a public session. The public sharing session would be used to inform the State's priority actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions for the *2022 Update to the 2016 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan*.

Committee Member Travis suggested that this presentation could be a good opportunity to help raise awareness about the Green Buildings Act with many different industries, sectors, and parties.

Committee Member da Silva commented that this is an opportunity to promote green buildings, and that many people still do not fully understand the environmental, economic, and health benefits that green buildings offer. He suggested that any buildings sharing session should be conducted after the end of the legislative session.

7. Other updates from Committee Members, if any

Committee Member da Silva noted that there is a new way that the state reimburses schools for their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through net-zero energy design, cost savings from which can then be reinvested into educational opportunities. He would be willing to lead a presentation on this reimbursement mechanism at a future Green Buildings Advisory Committee meeting.

8. Public comment

None.

9. Adjourn

Committee Member da Silva motioned to adjourn the meeting. Committee Member Travis seconded. All in favor, none opposed; the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.