

Green Buildings Advisory Committee

Draft Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 18, 2023 | 9:00 AM

Department of Administration Conference Room 2B, 1 Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908

Members of the public were allowed to join remotely via Zoom

Members in Attendance: Joseph da Silva, Michael O'Brien Crayne, John Willumsen, Patrick Crowley, Kenneth Filarski, Tim Carroll, Justine Brown

Others in Attendance: Eli Bossin, Steven Chybowski, William Owen, Scot McFarlane (virtual), Dragana Thibault (virtual), Michael Rossi (virtual), Lucas Nahrgang (virtual), Karen Bradbury (virtual), Brittany Becker (virtual)

1. Call to order

Mr. Chybowski called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

2. Administrative Announcements

Mr. Chybowski of the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER) introduced himself and described the structure of meetings moving forward with facilitation provided by OER staff until a Committee Chair is selected.

3. Introductions

Committee Members in attendance provided introductions and described their background in relation to green buildings.

4. Overview of the Green Buildings Act and the Green Buildings Advisory Committee

Mr. Chybowski presented an overview of the Green Buildings Act and the Green Buildings Advisory Committee. He also described the current structure of the Committee and the outstanding appointments, as well as the requirements for the role of the Committee Chair. Committee Members inquired as to how development of the monitoring, documenting, and reporting task would be funded. Mr. Chybowski noted that there is no specific funding, but funding needs can be identified and sought by the Committee. Mr. Filarski noted the development of the EC4's updates to the climate plan is forthcoming and may address this topic. Dr. da Silva requested an overview of the existing standards for the Council to be aware of at a future meeting.

5. Presentation and Discussion on the Study of the Green Buildings Act

The Energy Efficiency Group (TEEG) introduced themselves, noting their longstanding work with OER and the Lead by Example team. Mr. Bossin of TEEG described their research role for the Council and introduced Mr. McFarlane who presented on their analysis of the Green Buildings Act to date. The analysis has consisted of best practices identified from other jurisdictions including five states, New York City, the District of Columbia, and the Federal Government.

Mr. Bossin noted the development of a report on the Green Buildings Act was underway, and Mr. Crowley noted interest in reviewing the draft, citing the value of links to laws and standards to inform and enhance that review. Mr. Filarski noted that the legislative

findings more fully encapsulate the intent of the law. Mr. Bossin and Mr. Chybowski noted that review of Rhode Island's status had been awaiting the reconvening of the Committee to ensure members are able to provide input and guidance into the assessment. Mr. Willumsen inquired whether the workforce components could be included to provide a baseline of labor contributions and development needs.

6. Discussion of next steps for the Green Buildings Advisory Committee

Mr. Chybowski led a discussion on next steps and logistics for the Green Buildings Advisory Committee. Mr. Crawley noted that the time worked well, and given the scope of work, recommended monthly meetings through the end of 2023. Mr. Chybowski noted that the Committee will revisit the nomination of a Chair at the August meeting. Mr. Chybowski also noted that redlines for the Green Buildings Act rules and regulations are being worked on. Mr. Crawley asked what public meetings requirements the Committee is subject to, and Mr. Willumsen asked whether the Committee had assigned legal counsel.

7. Updates from Committee Members

None.

8. Public Comment

Lucas Nahrgang

Mr. Nahrgang asked if the GBAC's work be coordinated with the adoption of the 2024 IECC building codes.

9. Adjournment

Dr. da Silva motioned to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Crowley seconded. All in favor, none opposed, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:59 a.m.