

Green Buildings Advisory Committee

Draft Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 15, 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: James Cambio, Chris Armstrong, Joseph da Silva, Kenneth Filarski, Patrick Crowley, Mark Winslow, Michael O'Brien Crayne, Rachel Calabro, John Willumsen

Others in Attendance: Steven Chybowski, Eli Bossin, Jon Erickson, Allison Anderson (virtual), Scot McFarlane (virtual), Emily Koo (virtual), Amanda Barker (virtual)

1. Call to Order

Mr. Chybowski called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

2. Administrative Announcements

Mr. Chybowski of the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER) provided an overview of the meeting agenda and noted that he would run the Committee meetings until a Committee Chair is selected. He also stated that he is looking into solutions to make parking and security check-ins easier for future meetings. He hosted a round of introductions as new Committee Members were in attendance for the day's meeting.

3. Vote on July 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Crowley motioned to approve the July 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Mr. Willumsen seconded. Committee Members da Silva, Filarski, Crowley, Winslow, O'Brien Crayne, and Willumsen voted in favor. Committee Members Cambio, Calabro, and Armstrong abstained, none opposed, and the meeting minutes were approved.

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

Ms. Anderson with the Energy Efficiency Group (TEEG) presented on the research plan to evaluate existing compliance and awareness of the Green Buildings Act in Rhode Island. The research plan will include interviews and surveys with stakeholders. Mr. da Silva noted that many public staff may be in compliance with the Green Buildings Act without realizing it. Ms. Anderson wants to help understand what the barriers are to being aware and complying with the Green Buildings Act and how the Committee can alleviate those barriers. The study is starting with reviewing existing awareness and compliance to get a sense of the resources needed to ensure compliance across the state. Mr. Filarski commented that the Act's legislative findings helps suggest some metrics that would be valuable for tracking.

5. Review of the Green Buildings Act Rules and Regulations

Mr. Chybowski shared the current rules and regulations in place for the Green Buildings Act explaining that the Green Buildings Advisory Committee can help inform updates to a revised version of the rules and regulations. Commissioner Cambio noted that in his four years in his role, no variance requests to the Green Buildings Act requirements have been submitted. Mr. Willumsen commented that the 2022 legislative update to the Act expanded the universe of entities covered by the law which may require additional

education. Commissioner Cambio suggested that there could be a staff role dedicated to providing oversight and compliance with the Green Buildings Act. Mr. Crowley noted that the Green Buildings Act is specifically identified as a tool to achieve the goals of the Act on Climate and suggests that the Committee be as aggressive as possible to ensure compliance throughout the state.

6. Discussion and Potential Vote to select a Committee Chair

Mr. Chybowski explained some of the roles of a committee chair which would include facilitating the meetings and helping set the meeting agendas, with room to expand the role and responsibilities moving forward. Mr. Crowley nominated Mr. Filarski to become Chair of the Green Buildings Advisory Committee. There were no objections or additional nominations. Mr. Crowley motioned to appoint Mr. Filarski as Chair. Committee Members da Silva and Willumsen seconded. Committee Members Cambio, da Silva, Filarski, Crowley, Winslow, O'Brien Crayne, Calabro, and Willumsen voted in favor, none opposed, and Mr. Armstrong Abstained. The motion passed.

7. Updates from Committee Members

None.

8. Public Comment

None.

9. Adjourn

Mr. Crowley motioned to adjourn the meeting and Mr. da Silva seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 a.m.