

Green Buildings Advisory Committee

Draft Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 19, 2023, | 9:00 AM

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

Members in Attendance: Christopher Armstrong, Rachel Calabro, Jim Cambio, Ken Filarski, Michael O'Brien Crayne, Mark Winslow, Tim Carroll

Others in Attendance: Eli Bossin, Scot McFarlane (virtual), Amanda Barker (virtual), Karen Verrengia (virtual), William Owen (virtual), Steven Chybowski, Jim Braz, Brittany Becker

1. Call to Order

Chairman Filarski called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. and took a call of the role.

2. Office of Energy Resources Administrative Announcements

Mr. Chybowski provided announcements from the Office of Energy Resources (OER), highlighting upcoming events that may be of interest to Committee members. These events included the University of Rhode Island lecture series on energy efficiency, OER's launch of the Clean Heat RI program with a webinar on the program scheduled for September 21st, and a Climate Justice Hour hosted by OER and the Department of Environmental Management.

3. Vote on August 15, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Committee Member O'Brien Crayne motioned to approve the August 15, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Committee Member Winslow seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

4. Update on the Study of the Green Buildings Act

Mr. Bossin of the Energy Efficiency Group provided an update on their research plan and solicited feedback from the Committee for areas for further research. He described how the study results would help to inform the Committee's annual report and asked the Committee to consider what information would be helpful to gather from stakeholders and what metrics they would like to use as a baseline. Chairman Filarski noted that the structure of the Committee is intended to include a broad scope of building industry representatives to help facilitate awareness and compliance back to their agencies and organizations.

5. Review and Potential Vote on Template Green Buildings Act Request for Proposal Language

Mr. Chybowski from OER shared updated template request for proposals (RFP) language, with the intent to revise and update the template language to comply with the 2022 statute so that public projects have language to use in their RFPs in procurement processes. Two versions of the updated language were reviewed. Chairman Filarski explained that the legislative findings and the specificity of the language was intended to overcome the potential lack of awareness on

the part of affected parties. Mr. Chybowski noted that selection and refinement of one language template could then be updated on the Committee's website for use by project managers.

The Committee used their time to discuss whether the language should be clearly directive instead of merely recommending compliance, how to address the scope of individuals and members of the teams responsible for completing and following through on compliance, how project development informed the compliance obligation, and the pathway projects should be required to take through certification. This prompted discussion of the certification procedures and whether this requirement mandated enforcement of state law to a third party or who else within the project pathway would be responsible for enforcement of the Green Buildings Act requirements. The Committee agreed to revise the needed language ahead of the October meeting and will consider a vote of approval at that time.

6. Discussion of Outreach Regarding the Green Buildings Act

Committee Members had an initial discussion regarding outreach and education to relevant public agencies about Green Buildings Act requirements with Chairman Filarski providing reference materials on LEED and SITES. Chairman Filarski then opened the subject of outreach and education for discussion. The Committee discussed the need for the members to be aligned on the understanding of the statute. The Committee also deliberated on the capacity of the Committee to bring information and context back to their respective agencies and to make the Committee aware of new projects being developed so that there are opportunities to follow up on how compliance is being achieved. Then, the Committee discussed how members could help to solicit members of their agencies to receive compliance reference materials and convene wider education opportunities, as well as the materials the Committee would like to have including letterhead to enable outreach that clearly presented the compliance materials.

7. Review of the Green Buildings Act Rules and Regulations

Mr. Chybowski of OER and Mr. Bossin and Mr. McFarlane of the Energy Efficiency Group presented on proposed updates to the Rules and Regulations. As a reference, Mr. McFarlane described that California's law previously required third-party certification, but moving forward would be conducting certification within the State. He also noted that other states are not focusing on enforcement, but on education, information, and the potential of having dedicated staff to focus on education. The Committee discussed potential opportunities for funding and how the OER Lead by Example team was planning training for municipal entities and the potential to add Green Buildings Act education to those events. Committee members discussed other existing educational platforms like the State Lunch and Learn series to present the updates from the Committee.

8. Updates from Committee Members

None.

9. Public Comment

None.

10. Adjourn

Chairman Filarski adjourned the meeting at 9:56 a.m.