

Green Buildings Advisory Committee

Draft Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 14, 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: Ken Filarski, Rachel Calabro, Tim Carroll, Michael O'Brien Crayne, Jim Cambio (arrived at (9:30 a.m.)

Others in Attendance: Steven Chybowski, Greg Miller, Brittany Becker, Amanda Barker (virtual), Chris Kearns (virtual), Eli Bossin (virtual)

1. Call to Order

Chairman Filarski called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. and noted that the Committee does not have a quorum and that no votes will be held.

2. Office of Energy Resources Administrative Announcements

Mr. Chybowski noted Rhode Island Energy's (RIE) issuance of a request for proposals (RFP) for 1,200 MW of offshore wind in coordination with Massachusetts and Connecticut for the group's awareness. He also let the group know that the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) has published its 2020 statewide greenhouse gas emissions inventory. The next Climate Justice Hour co-hosted by the Office of Energy Resources (OER) and DEM will be on December 13th focusing on engagement with legislators, and the Executing Climate Change Coordinating Committee's (EC4) next meeting will be on December 19th.

3. Vote on October 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Filarski tabled this vote to the next meeting due to a lack of a quorum.

4. Chair Announcements

Chairman Filarski noted that open seats remain on the Committee, which are to be appointed by the Senate President and the Speaker of the House. Chairman Filarski welcomes nominee recommendations for the open seats from the Committee Members. Next, he noted that there is discussion of potential legislation around building benchmarking and performance standards, which could tie in reporting with the Green Buildings Act.

5. Review and Potential Vote on the Green Buildings Act Rules and Regulations

Mr. Chybowski presented an updated draft of the Rules and Regulations for the Green Buildings Advisory Committee, with Chairman Filarski noting there would be no vote due to the lack of a quorum. The Committee discussed the language updates, with Chairman Filarski noting the difficulty of deciding how much of the statute language to reiterate in the regulations to provide enough context for stakeholders. Mr. Chybowski noted the desire for Committee input on how the "40%" determinant should be applied and described within the language. The Committee discussed how the language in the draft might resolve the discrepancy to provide clarity around what conditions trigger the need for compliance with the GBA, whether the definition of construction should be amended, what the in-practice experience has been with current

requirements, and what expectations should be for businesses, developers, and contractors, with the emphasis being on supporting compliance with the statute.

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

Chairman Filarski and Mr. Chybowski shared updated template language that can be included in project procurement processes by public entities which aligns with state procurement language, and noting this cleaned up version is ready pending the potential revisions to the Rules and Regulations.

7. Update on the Study of the Green Buildings Act

Ms. Becker noted the Energy Efficiency Group's research plan interviews were largely complete. The surveys were sent out to over 400 individuals and the initial findings from the research should be available before the end of the year. The final report for the Committee is expected in Q1 2024. Chairman Filarski asked for a reminder of the goals of the study, and Ms. Becker noted that this is to assess awareness of the Green Building Act requirements from relevant stakeholders within the state.

8. Discussion and Potential Vote on the Scheduling of Future Committee Meetings

The Committee discussed upcoming meetings and a meeting schedule for 2024, with Chairman Filarski noting that the historic cadence has been the third Tuesday of the month. Mr. Chybowski raised for the Committee's consideration moving to a quarterly meeting cadence. Ms. Calabro suggested having a working group that could review Green Buildings Act applications and share the results at full Committee meetings. Chairman Filarski also noted the importance of scheduling and coordinating with the schedule of the EC4.

9. Discussion of Certification Requirements and Compliance Checklists

Mr. Chybowski presented the Committee with the green building checklists eligible for Green Buildings Act compliance. The Committee can make these checklists available online. Mr. O'Brien Crayne asked what the status of the stretch code was in Rhode Island and Mr. Chybowski commented that the code was available on OER's website and that it could be treated as a potential compliance standard.

10. Updates from Committee Members

Mr. O'Brien Crayne shared that Rhode Island Energy had upcoming trainings for alignment with the new IECC 2024 building codes and offered to have those presentations delivered to the Committee and the Building Codes Standards Committee.

11. Public Comment

None.

12. Adjourn

Chairman Filarski adjourned the meeting at 10 a.m.