

Green Buildings Advisory Committee

Draft Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 16, 2024 | 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, Jim Cambio, Jon Willumsen, Joe da Silva, Mark Winslow, Patrick Crowley, Tim Carroll

Others in Attendance: Eli Bossin, Brittany Becker, Steven Chybowski, William Owen (virtual), Christopher McSween (virtual), Michael O'Brien Crayne (virtual), Greg Miller (virtual), Christopher McWhite (virtual)

Agenda

1. Call to Order

Chairman Filarski called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

2. Office of Energy Resources Administrative Announcements

Mr. Chybowski provided updates from the Office of Energy Resources including that the Governor would be providing a State of the State speech that evening and that the United States Department of Energy is seeking responses to a request for information on how they as an agency should define a zero-emissions building.

3. Vote on December 12, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Committee Member Crowley motioned to approved the December 12, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Committee Member Willumsen seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

4. Chair Announcements

Chairman Filarski described a public RFP that he came across in the past few weeks that referenced a state green building council. He reached out to the contact that put out the RFP to help provide any additional information or context for Green Buildings Act compliance.

5. Update on the Study of the Green Buildings Act

Mr. Bossin of the Energy Efficiency Group noted the completion of the survey as a part of the study of the Green Buildings Act. The results showed that 81% of respondents are motivated to comply with the Act, but there is a knowledge gap as to how to do it. The survey was sent to state personnel and those that work in the building sector. The three broad themes for further engagement are education, capacity, and funding.

6. Discussion on Communications and Outreach to Public Agencies

Chairman Filarski noted the public's awareness of climate change and climate change resilience, and how efforts to improve resilience are a good use of public funds. Future Committee meetings will have a greater focus on materials for outreach and communications to help inform project managers about the Green Buildings Act and pathways for compliance.

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

Chairman Filarski lead a review of the revised rules and regulations draft, noting the oversight question that is remaining for administration. The Committee discussed the reporting requirements, the differentiation between the Certification process and the permitting process, how Certification rules aligned with the workflow and processes in the building sector, the reporting requirements needed to deliver to the General Assembly, and the enforcement of Certification considering the sequencing of stages in the design and construction of a project.

Chairman Filarski shared with the group that the 40% standard in the original and revised statute stem from the LEED certification criteria and denotes gross square footage of the structure. The Committee asked to clarify the threshold criteria for renovations and recommended creating a flowchart to provide insight into when this threshold is triggered. Mr. Winslow also noted that with new categories of LEED certifications available, a particular office or space in a building could receive an interior design certification, without the whole building meeting the LEED certification.

Mr. da Silva noted the work currently being done supporting Local Education Agencies and the need for the Committee's efforts to focus on providing and identifying additional resources to support these improvements.

8. Discussion of Green Buildings Act Annual Report

Agenda item 8 was tabled for a future Committee meeting.

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

Chairman Filarski stated that the Committee will continue to meet on the third Tuesday of each month.

10. Updates and New Business from Committee Members

None.

11. Public Comment

None.

12. Adjourn

Committee Member da Silva motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:07 a.m. Committee Member Willumsen seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.