



BUILDING CODE TRAINING COUNCIL MEETING

April 9, 2013 Minutes

Chairman Loos called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Members present:

Fire Members Mary Ann Basile, Joseph Cassidy, Robert Kiely, Daniel Loos, Thomas Manning, Henry Miga,

Office of Education and Data Management Douglas Schanne & Beth Potts

Also attending was Robert Ross, State Fire Marshal

Introductions were provided. A quorum was present.

The meeting began with **Staff Reports**.

OFFICE OF EDUCATION AND DATA MANAGEMENT (OEDM)

Doug Schanne read a staff report prepared by Bonnie Becker to the council.

Bonnie reported that she and OEDM Director Craig Russell have been working to develop online training and are currently in the needs assessment phase. The main goal is to provide online Career Development classes, although some components of the Pre-Licensure and Pre-Certification will also be available online. She will be sending an email to council members to solicit ideas about online content and format for both Career Development and pre-credentialing programs.

OEDM has also implemented online evaluations using Survey Monkey in an effort to get feedback on course content, trainers, training schedule, logistics and OEDM staff. After each class, an email will be sent to class participants with a link to an online survey. Survey Monkey will provide anonymous feedback, compile standardized reports and allow us to generate custom reports.

In the fall, Bonnie & OEDM Trainer, Sheila Taridona, will be taking online certificate programs in online instruction and online instructional design. Bonnie and Craig are in the process of scheduling a meeting with CT Distance Learning Consortium. If it is financially possible, this state agency would provide implementation planning, consulting, software discount and hosting services, including authentication strategies.



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Next steps in the online training initiative will be the development of a business plan including project costs, schedules, pros and cons, policies and procedures, etc.

Doug reported the Spring Pre-Certification Code & Hazmat module started April 1st. The code module has been updated to better reflect new construction requirements of the CT Fire Safety Code. The Advance Fire Investigation School will be held April 23 – May 2.

The Fall 2013 Pre-Licensure Training Program (PLTP) is scheduled to begin September 4, 2013 and run through late February 2014 (a draft schedule was provided). Staff is involved with updating the 200 Residential Module and 500 Electrical Module to reflect State Building Code Amendments. The PLTP application package will be posted online in May with an application deadline in mid July. Pre-planning for the PLTP update to the 2012 ICC codes is underway. The Fall 2014 PLTP offering will most likely be affected by the 2012 ICC adoptions.

The Design and Trades Conference is scheduled for May 30, 2013 at Gateway Community College in New Haven. Final planning is underway with brochures and on-line registration notices pending. Doug provided a draft workshop schedule to the council.

OFFICE OF STATE BUILDING INSPECTOR

Joe Cassidy reported the 2013 amendment is moving through the regulatory review process with an anticipated adoption date of October 1, 2013. There will be a public hearing tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. The 2012 code adoption subcommittee is moving along well and on target for the end of 2014 or early 2015.

Joe reported that acting Commissioner Defronzo has appointed Mark Mastropasqua to the Building Code Training Council. Mr. Mastropasqua will fill the Connecticut Building and Construction Trades Council vacancy. Mark is the Training Coordinator for the Sheet Metal Workers Local Union #40. He should be joining us by next session. Letters have been sent to the bodies that have current vacancies on the Building Code Training Council. They are also working on Board of Control vacancies as well.

There was no **Old Business** to discuss.

The meeting then moved to **New Business**.



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A discussion was held regarding changing roles of Building Officials. Dan Loos explained that part of the issue is that Building Officials are not able to attend a lot of educational programs due to time and money constraints, and micromanagement of managers. Mary Ann Basile shared an example of an inspector who was not permitted to attend a training class because he already had the required amount of training hours. She added that Building Officials need more recognition by town leaders as to the higher level of technologies and changing environment in which they work. Tom Manning mentioned a letter written by Chris Laux that was sent to selectmen and town managers back in 2006 or 2007 describing the role of Building Officials. Joe Cassidy suggested updating the letter and sending it out again. Dan will forward the letter to Joe for revision.

Henry Miga added that Building Officials are frequently answering calls and repeating the same information over and over again. He suggested that OSBI update their website with a "Frequently Asked Questions" link designed for the general public. Relevant OEDM classes could be linked. He also suggested creating FAQ handouts as has been done in the past. Joe Cassidy added that they are in the process of cleaning up the website.

The discussion then moved to Building Official licensure and training changes. Dan Loos stated there has been talk about decreasing the number of required training hours for Building Officials. Mary Ann said that it is not wise to reduce the number of training hours with low staffing and so many one-person shops. In this case, you need as much training as you can get.

Confirmation of next meeting: Joint Training Council, Wednesday, May 1, 2013, 9:30 a.m.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Daniel Loos, Chair