



MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY April 21st AT 10:00 am

The April 21st meeting of VBCOA Region VII was called to order by Richard Gordon at 10:01 AM. In attendance (via Zoom meeting) were the following members:

Harold Stills – Hanover County
Paul Koll – Gloucester County
William Riter – Gloucester County
Richard Gordon – Hanover County
Joseph Ransone – Hanover County
Nicholas Atkinson – Hanover County
Randy Cash – King & Queen County
Brian Mikelaite – New Kent County
Ernest Sadler – Lancaster County
Travis Luter – DHCD (non-voting)
Donald Brewster – Gloucester County

The April agenda was approved as amended, with the following additions:

Added “Virginia Mainstreet guidance document” to General Discussion as requested by Mr. Koll.

Added “Nominations Committee – ADTAC” to Committee Reports as requested by Mr. Gordon

The February meeting minutes were approved without modification.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Luter stood on the written DHCD report as submitted. Mr. Gordon provided a brief overview of recent IBC Committee activities and will present a comparison of Committee positions versus ICC CAH results at the May meeting. Mr. Gordon also shared that the Nominations Committee will be conducting interviews for the ADTAC position vacated by Brian Gentilini, and also shared that he is currently recruiting for his deputy chief building official position, also vacated by Mr. Gentilini.

NEW BUSINESS:

The members discussed the implication of potential expansion of residential sprinkler requirements. Mr. Luter noted that residential sprinklers were not approved this cycle, but DHCD will be convening a workgroup to examine incorporation of residential sprinklers. Members are encouraged to participate in this discussion.

The members discussed expansion of insulation requirements in the upcoming VECC and impact on structural design.

Mr. Gordon inquired about Building Safety Month activities. Gloucester County will be sharing information electronically each week throughout the month. Group emphasized the benefit of in-person events for future BSM events.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

VBCOA announced that there will be an in-person annual conference in the Fall. Ms. Heather Ahrens will be able to attend using the previously approved scholarship.

The group discussed the contents of the Virginia Mainstreet guidance document forwarded by Mr. Koll. This document can be a useful tool to share with owners and developers to assist with requirements for redevelopment in applicable areas. Link to document:

<https://dhcdvms.files.wordpress.com/2021/04/upper-story-residential-tech-sheet.pdf>

Mr. Gordon discussed future opportunities for contractor training after DHCD code update training had been developed. Mr. Koll suggested that the training be conducted at multiple locations throughout the region.

The group discussed future training opportunities, including CaptiveAire, Barricade walls systems. CaptiveAire to provide remote training at next meeting.

Mr. Mikelaite discussed the use of storage containers on farms as office space. Group discussed challenges of defining a farm and specific uses on farms exempt from permit. Clarified that any residential use on a farm would not be exempt from permit per the definition of farm structure.

Mr. Koll discussed some recent instances of commercial re-roofing contractors not obtaining permits for work. Group discussed some of the challenges in verifying roof systems have been installed correctly, as well as replacement of rooftop mechanical equipment.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00AM.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, May 19th at 10:00AM

DHCD Report (4/2/21)

Annual Report: The [DHCD 2020 Annual Report](#) is now available on our website.

Amusement Device Decals: The 2021 amusement device inspection stickers are now available. Please contact Sarah Foote at sarah.foote@dhcd.virginia.gov to request stickers.

Virginia Residential Energy Code Implementation Resources: DHCD collaborated with Viridiant and the Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance (SEEA) to develop several resources to aid in implementation of 2015 energy provisions for residential structures. These very helpful Virginia Energy Code Resources are now available and you can find the link to them by visiting the DHCD booth in the exhibit hall:

<https://www.viridiant.org/virginia-residential-energy-code-resources/>

EPA Outreach Letter – DHCD has prepared an outreach memo in response to recent outreach from EPA officials related to contractor certification requirements. That memo is available on our website [here](#).

Building Safety Month: DHCD will again be developing a virtual event for Building Safety Month. A proclamation has been sent to the Governor's Office. Stay tuned for more details as they are developed.

Code Development

- The 2018 final regulations were approved by the Board of Housing at their Dec. 14th meeting and were published in the Virginia Register of Regulations on March 1st, with an effective date of July 1st.
- Development of the 2018 Virginia code books, published by ICC, is underway and we anticipate the Virginia codes to be ready for distribution in June or July, ahead of the effective date of the 2018 codes.
- All proposals, including workgroup recommendations, public comments, Board decisions, and other related information can be viewed in [cdpVA](#).
- Related to the 2018 code update cycle, I would also like to highlight three documents that we have recently made available on our website. They can also be found by visiting the DHCD booth in the exhibit hall:
 - A list of [“Significant Changes to the 2018 Virginia Codes”](#) is now available on our website.
 - [“Virginia Energy Codes Report”](#): A comprehensive analysis of Virginia's energy code, including each state amendment to the IECC and IRC energy provisions is now available on our website.
 - [“Resiliency Impact Analysis of 2018 USBC”](#): A comprehensive analysis of the overall resilience impact of the 2018 USBC amendments, as well as individual analysis of each code change proposal approved for the 2018 USBC is now available on our website.

2021 Virginia Code Update Cycle

Processes and timing for the next code update cycle are already being discussed. Code Committees, it is likely that the meetings will begin this fall and the official NOIRA approved by the Board of Housing before the end of the year. At this time, we anticipate new special workgroups on In-Building Emergency Communications, Residential Sprinklers and continued work on Energy and Resiliency.

Code Change Training

- The VBCA has brought on two part-time positions specifically to support the development and publishing of code change training. This enables staff to move more quickly through the development process of CCT as well as updating all existing courses to the 2018 code.
- CCT is expected to begin early to mid-May with the virtual live classes and the self-paced modules will be available following the start of the virtual classes. The VBCA will announce the CCT schedule through notice to the code officials and to the organizations for distribution to their members.

Core Development

- The Core class is currently under redevelopment and design. An assessment was conducted to determine the needs of the new code enforcement personnel. From there we have assembled a group of subject matter experts that not only bring the level of knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary in course development but who are also representative of today's diverse and growing code enforcement community.
- The release of the redesigned Core is scheduled for the start of the fall 2021 semester. Look for updates over the coming months

VBCA Virtual Courses

- The 2021 VBCA schedule is posted and open for registration. Virtual Classes will continue until further notice and we will keep you up to date on any changes to the delivery format as they become available. Registration limits for most classes have been increased as well as increased offerings in the higher demand classes.
- The VBCA is offering a robust continuing education schedule for 2021. Visit the [Online Registration System](#) for more information about the 2021 schedule and continuing education.
- IMPORTANT – when attending VBCA virtual training students must be in a stationary location with minimal distractions. Students may NOT be on any mode of transportation when attending class. This includes but not limited to driving or flying. Students who are found to not be located in a stationary location will be removed from the remainder of the class and their supervisor notified that they will need to reschedule.
- Please check the message board on the homepage of the Code Academy's [Online Registration System](#) regularly for updates and announcements.
- Before registering for any course, please take a moment to make sure your contact info and supervisor's contact info is correct in the [Online Registration System](#). This ensures that registration and certification approval requests go to the right person, and helps avoid registration and certification delays. When logging in you will see a new pop up screen giving account holders the opportunity to confirm or update contact information as needed.

Significant Online Registration System Enhancements

- A personal information update pop-up for registrations and certificate applications. When registering for a class or a certification, a pop-up window appears showing a snapshot of their profile, with options to update their profile information if needed. The user confirms their existing information prior to registering, which will significantly reduce this issues associated with incorrect user email and supervisor contact information.
- Additional fields added to the CE application upload screen allows user to upload multiple documents rather than having to scan all documents into one pdf prior to uploading.

Other Continuing Education (CE) Details and Reminders

- Certificate holders whose last names begin with N-Z are due to submit 16 hours of continuing education due May 1, 2021.
- We encourage you to visit the DHCD website and ICC website for continuing education opportunities.
- For help with Continuing Education questions, instructions, and forms, refer to the Resources section of the DHCD Continuing Education webpage at dhcd.virginia.gov > codes > *Earn, Maintain, or Verify a Certification (in the orange Code Academy section)* > *Continuing Education* or <https://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/continuing-education>

DHCD NOTIFICATION REMINDER:

- We have noticed that many localities are not adhering to the USBC/SFPC requirements to notify DHCD when code officials are appointed or released and when technical assistants are employed or terminated. The codes require notification:
 - By the appointing authority **within 30 days** of the appointment or release of a permanent or acting Building Code Official, Maintenance Official or Fire Code Official
 - By the code official **within 60 days** of the employment of, contracting with or termination of all Building Code Technical Assistants, Maintenance Code Technical Assistant or Fire Code Technical Assistants

As always, do not hesitate to contact our office with any questions or concerns.

State Building Codes Office
sbco@dhcd.virginia.gov
(804) 371-7150

Virginia Building Code Academy
vbca@dhcd.virginia.gov
(804) 371-7180