

Fire Protection Regulation Advisory Committee

Draft Minutes

5:30 PM, Thursday March 21, 2013

Bolton Town Hall, 222 Bolton center Road

Members present: Jim Cropley, First Selectman Bob Morra, Milton Hathaway, Chief Jim Preuss, Fire Marshal Ray Walker, Jim Aldrich, Neal Kerr, Bill Anderson 6:24, Tom Manning 6:32,
Ex Officio members: John Pagini AICP and James Rupert
Others Present: Eric Luntta, Chris Moquin

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM

The meeting began with the election of officers, Mr. Hathaway was nominated by Mr. Aldrich for Chairman, seconded by Mr. Walker, the motion passed (7-0). Mr. Cropley was nominated for Vice Chairman by Mr. Aldrich, seconded by Mr. Morra, the motion passed (7-0).

During the public comment portion of the agenda Mr. Moquin asked how the Committee would receive public comment, questioning if comments could be taken at any time during the meeting. A discussion occurred within the Committee with comments by Mr. Aldrich welcoming public input into the process and Mr. Hathaway wanting to be certain that if there were numerous members of the public who wished to speak they were given the opportunity but that controls may be needed so as not to consume the meeting time with public comment. Ultimately the Committee decided it would accept public comment at the beginning of the meeting and again near the end with the Chairman putting time limits on speaking as appropriate.

The Committee discussed the scope of work and during the discussion Mr. Aldrich suggested that the Committee receive input from professionals such as members of the insurance industry, sprinkler fitters, fire protection engineers and architects. The Committee discussed this issue and decided that was covered in number six within the scope of work. Mr. Aldrich also suggested that the Committee consult the International Building Code, The Connecticut Fire Safety Code Guidebook, NFPA 1142 and NFPA 1141. Mr. Walker offered to take on the task of providing the NFPA 1141 and 1142 information to the Committee members. Mr. Rupert stated that he would bring the IBC and CT. Fire Code to meetings as reference materials.

Mr. Hathaway spoke regarding the fact that there was a lot of material to be considered and that a good way to undertake that task would be for individuals or groups of individuals comprised of members of the Committee could conduct research and report their findings to the entire Committee. Mr. Hathaway also reminded the Committee that the scope of work allowed for the formation of subcommittees for just this purpose.

Mr. Pagini presented a power point giving the Committee a general overview of the current regulations. This was followed by a presentation by Mr. Rupert who provided information regarding the current water supplies and a residential sprinkler system that have been installed as a result of the current regulations. Mr. Walker then presented an executive summary and copies of the information gathered and presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission during the process of the adoption of the current regulations. Mr. Walker also answered questions regarding alternate methods of compliance which are allowed in NFPA 13 which is a referenced standard of the regulation. Mr. Anderson questioned if a tanker truck might be a possible solution because of its ability to move about town and provide water where it is needed. Mr. Walker and Mr. Preuss briefly explained the limitations of a tanker truck and how water supplies are used during a fire incident.

The Committee scheduled the next meeting for April 4, 2013 at 6:30 pm at the Bolton Town Hall. Mr. Morra moved to have two meetings per month. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kerr and passed (9-0). Mr. Kerr moved to set a goal of completing the scope of work by the end of June 2013, Mr. Morra seconded the motion which passed (9-0). Town staff was charged with coming up with a meeting schedule to be adopted by the Committee at the next meeting.

The Committee discussed the first public meeting and decided it was too early in the process to set that meeting.

Mr. Preuss commented that water is the most common substance that fire departments use to put out fires. He briefly explained how water supplies are used by the Bolton Fire Department and expressed that he felt it would be beneficial for the Committee members to familiarize themselves with the available water supplies within Bolton. Mr. Preuss offered to provide the Committee with a spreadsheet of the water supplies within the Town to aid in the process.

Mr. Morra moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Mr. Cropley, the motion passed (9-0) and the meeting was adjourned at 6:47pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
James Rupert