

VIRGINIA FIRE SERVICES BOARD

Codes and Standards Subcommittee

Thursday, June 16th 2020

An electronic meeting of the Codes and Standards Subcommittee was held utilizing Google Hangouts at 10:00 am. The Code Subcommittee Chair, Andrew Milliken facilitated this meeting.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Andrew C. Milliken, Chair
Garret Dyer
Perry Weller
Linda Hale
Anthony Barrero
Joshua Davis
Ernie Little
James Moss
Steven Sites

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Maurice Wilson
Henry Rosenbaum
Kris Bridges
Neil Holland
Mike Perdue

GUESTS PRESENT

AGENCY MEMBERS PRESENT

Travis Rickman

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

N/A

NEW BUSINESS

1. Topic: FP101 and BU101- Tall Wood Building Appendix

Motion: Linda Hale Moved and Steven Sites Seconded to report the use of Tall Wood Building Appendix in the construction code and moving the use in the fire prevention code to the main body of the document.

Topic Discussion: The committee discussed the pros and cons to having the appendix in the construction code and the statewide fire prevention code.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Action: To move the proposal forward to bring forward in the DHCD workgroup sessions and send to the full committee for full approval.

2. Topic: FP107.2- Permit for Commercial Cooking Hoods

Motion: Linda Hale motioned to move forward with the recommendation as written, Perry Weller Seconded the motion

Topic Discussion: Perry asked where this would be enforced and Linda responded by the smaller fast food establishments.

Vote: Unanimous

3. Topic: FP107.2.1 - SRCFs

Motion: Perry Weller motioned to support this measure as written and it was properly seconded by Ernie Little

Topic Discussion: The State Fire Marshall discussed that his office is currently trying to calculate the current impacts that this proposal would have on the state fire marshal's office.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Action: To move the proposal forward to bring forward in the DHCD workgroup sessions and send to the full committee for full approval.

4. Topic: FP112.5- Application for appeal

Motion: Linda Hale Motioned to move forward with section as proposed, this was seconded by Ernie Little.

Topic Discussion: N/A

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Action: To move the proposal forward to bring forward in the DHCD workgroup sessions and send to the full committee for full approval.

5. Topic: FP202(4)- Definition of cooking tent

Motion: Linda Hale motioned and Anthony Barrero seconded to move the definition proposal forward as written.

Topic Discussion: Linda brought up the reasoning for the change and it was discussed about the language on canopies and how we are regulating those. It was brought up to amend the section with a separate motion to improve the intent by striking the language in 3107.12.5 to strike “with side walls or drops” It was discussed how to move the proposal forward Andrew volunteered to bring the code change as a separate code change.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Action: To move the proposal forward to bring forward in the DHCD workgroup sessions and send to the full committee for full approval.

6. Topic: New Code Change proposal in 3107.12.5

Motion: Ernie Little made the motion to submit the new code change, it was seconded by Perry Weller.

Topic Discussion: During the previous discussion on the definition of cooking tents it was suggested there be a separate code proposal made to remove the language in 3107.12.5 “with side walls or drops” from the definition in Chapter 31. Andrew said he would submit the change.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Action: To submit a new proposal to DHCD to strike “ with side walls or drops” from the definition in Chapter 31 dealing with cooking tents and send the proposal forward to the full committee for approval.

7. Topic: FP319.1.1 - Mobile Food Prep Vehicles

Motion: Linda Hale Motioned and Perry Weller Seconded to move the proposal forward as written

Topic Discussion: Linda Hale discussed the proposal and how individuals are not practicing safe distances when it comes to this kind of food prep vehicles. Steven Sites asked why the distance was set at 10 feet away from a structure instead of 20 feet like food prep tents. The Perry Weller that he will have trouble enforcing this because he already has instances that the distance requirement is not being followed.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Action: To move the proposal forward to bring forward in the DHCD workgroup sessions and send to the full committee for full approval.

8. Topic: FP319.2.1 - Mobile Food Prep Vehicles

Motion: Ernie Little motioned to support with the amendments adding “Virginia” in front of local government and for out of state to be the state Fire Marshal’s office or local jurisdiction, which was seconded by Andrew Milliken

Topic Discussion: This is the other food preparation vehicles proposal from Linda Hale. Steven Sites discussed an amendment and Linda Hale discussed adding “Virginia” in front of local government and reference the State Fire Marshal’s Office for any out-of-state vendors.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Action: To move the proposal forward to bring forward in the DHCD workgroup sessions and send to the full committee for full approval.

9. Topic: FP405.2- Evacuation Drills in R-2

Motion: Ernie Little moved to amend the proposal to include the language “R-2’s that are designed or developed and marketed to seniors citizens 55 years of age or older” and Perry Weller Seconded

Topic Discussion: It was discussed why the section was changed in the previous versions. It was asked by Perry Weller who would be regulating the drill schedule and Andrew brought up that it would be the property owners burden to do so four times a year. Andrew brought up the suggestion to change the requirement to a one time a year requirement instead of the proposed four. The committee then discussed the age limit and how we are determining the 55 or older majority. Andrew agreed that there needed to be clarity and the committee came up with further language included in the motion above.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Action: To move the proposal forward to bring forward in the DHCD workgroup sessions and send to the full committee for full approval.

10. Topic: FP407.2- SDS Documentation

Motion: Perry Weller Motioned to move the proposal forward as written Steven Sites Seconded.

Topic Discussion: It was clarified that this item was language clean up.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Action: To move the proposal forward to bring forward in the DHCD workgroup sessions and send to the full committee for full approval.

11. Topic: FP604.8- Emergency lights and Exit signs

Motion: Garrett Dyer Motion to **not** support this proposal, Steven Sites Seconded the motion

Topic Discussion: It was clarified that the proposal changed the language from equipment to building to get back to the original intent. But the committee discussed that the language allows for when equipment is updated for it to be tested.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Action: To move the proposal forward to bring forward in the DHCD workgroup sessions and send to the full committee for full approval.

12. Topic: FP609.2- Cooking with grease vapors

Motion: Andrew Milliken motioned to amend the proposal to include, “Where provided or required in accordance with the applicable building code, cooking operations shall be conducted with approved ventilation.”

Topic Discussion: Andrew discussed how it was written only to apply to mobile food preparation vehicles and wants to address all grease vapors and ventilation issues. It was asked what parts of this proposal would not be supported in the building code community.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Action: To move the proposal forward to bring forward in the DHCD workgroup sessions and send to the full committee for full approval.

13. Topic: FP807.5.4- Decorative materials in Group I-3

Motion: Garrett Dyer motioned to approve the proposal as written and Ernie Little Seconded

Topic Discussion: It was discussed who was going to make sure this requirement is being followed. It was stated that this is probably already being practiced and that this should move forward.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Action: To move the proposal forward to bring forward in the DHCD workgroup sessions and send to the full committee for full approval.

14. Topic: FP2403.2.1.3- Spray Area Classification

Motion: Perry Weller made the motion to move the proposal forward as written, it was seconded by Ernie Little.

Topic Discussion: It was discussed how we are currently trying to regulate and it was discussed that we don't think this causes any issues.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Action: To move the proposal forward to bring forward in the DHCD workgroup sessions and send to the full committee for full approval.

15. Topic: FP5003.1.1- Adds exception for unlimited A1 and A2L refrigerants

Motion: Motion by Andrew Milliken and second by Linda to move forward with no opinion.

Topic Discussion: Andrew stated that this proposal is somewhat irrelevant the committee stated that they really had no opinion on this matter and wanted to move forward with that recommendation to be prepared to discuss during the work groups session. It was discussed that this proposal with allow for the removal of refrigerants into other containers.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Action: To move the proposal forward to bring forward in the DHCD workgroup sessions and send to the full committee for full approval.

16. Topic: FP5707.1- Mobile Fueling

Motion: Linda Hale motioned to move the proposal forward as written and this was seconded by Andrew Milliken

Topic Discussion: Linda Hale discussed the change and how we will have plenty of further discussions on the topic in the future.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Action: To move the proposal forward to bring forward in the DHCD workgroup sessions and send to the full committee for full approval.

17. Topic: B202(4)- Definition of Building

Motion: Ernie Little motioned to move the proposal forward as written, the motion was seconded by Linda Hale.

Topic Discussion: Ernie Little discussed the intent and change of the proposal and how the main intent is to ensure that all of the codes are reading and interpreting the same across the board. We just want to ensure that in the work groups that this is made apparent that it should be the same across the board.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Action: To move the proposal forward to bring forward in the DHCD workgroup sessions and send to the full committee for full approval.

18. Topic: B307.1(1)- Deletion of permissible fireworks vs consumer fireworks in table 307.1

Motion: Perry Weller Motioned to keep the permissible language and strike the consumer by supporting the intent of the proposal and propose a friendly amendment. The committee will support with friendly amendment.

Topic Discussion: It was discussed if consumer fireworks are currently defined Linda stated the NFPA defines it. Steven Sites stated that it is important to maintain the same definition that is currently held. Steven said that he would support it if there was language added in the code of Virginia relating to permissible fireworks. It was concluded that the committee should not support the proposal but propose a friendly amendment to keep permissible fireworks and strike consumer fireworks in the table since consumer fireworks are not properly defined in the Code of Virginia.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Action: To move the proposal forward to bring forward in the DHCD workgroup sessions and send to the full committee for full approval.

19. Topic: B310.1- Residential Use Subworkgroup

Motion:

Topic Discussion:

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Action: To move the proposal forward to bring forward in the DHCD workgroup sessions and send to the full committee for full approval.

20. Topic: B404.5- Exception to smoke control in atriums

Motion: Perry Weller Motioned to **oppose** this measure and it was properly seconded by Ernie Little.

Topic Discussion: It was discussed as how do you know that an atrium is less of a fire risk.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Action: To move the proposal forward to bring forward in the DHCD workgroup sessions and send to the full committee for full approval.

21. Topic: B713.8- Penetrations of Fire Barriers

Motion: Perry Weller motioned and Linda Hale seconded to **not** support the proposal as written.

Topic Discussion: This item was discussed as it relates to penetrations in a shaft. The Chairman stated that this was a bad proposal and that the committee should not support.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Action: To move the proposal forward to bring forward in the DHCD workgroup sessions and send to the full committee for full approval.

22. Topic: B713.11- Deletion of fire dampers

Motion: James Moss motioned to not support the proposal as written and it was seconded by Linda Hale

Topic Discussion: The committee discussed how this proposal deals with an enclosure at the bottom of a shaft. This proposal came from VBCOA, and the committee did not see where this section was previously confusing and don't really understand the change that is currently proposed.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Action: To move the proposal forward to bring forward in the DHCD workgroup sessions and send to the full committee for full approval.

23. Topic: B903.2.6- Sprinklers in Group I

Motion: Ernie Little motioned to not support the proposal as written, it was seconded by Steven Sites

Topic Discussion: The committee discussed how the proposal eliminates the size restriction for open sided or chain link sided buildings and overhangs. The discussion was about multiple different scenarios and items within the area that could catch fire. The committee concluded that you can go over the limit on the size but there are fiscal impacts that are associated with going over the current allowable square feet.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Action: To move the proposal forward to bring forward in the DHCD workgroup sessions and send to the full committee for full approval.

24. Topic: B916.1- In Building Emergency Communication

Motion: Linda Hale motioned to move the proposal forward with the committee support, seconded by Ernie Little.

Topic Discussion: The committee did agree that this proposal is needed, but it is a large ask that needs to at least be discussed. We should also make sure to come prepared with other proposals ask a back up to improve on radio coverage for emergency responders.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Action: To move the proposal forward to bring forward in the DHCD workgroup sessions and send to the full committee for full approval.

25. Topic: B905.5.3- Removing Code Official Determination Authority from the VCC

Motion: Ernie Little motioned to **not** support the proposal as written, this was seconded by Perry Weller.

Topic Discussion: The committee believed that this change goes too far and makes to many significant changes.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Action: To move the proposal forward to bring forward in the DHCD workgroup sessions and send to the full committee for full approval.

26. Topic: B1004.3- Occupant load signs for large mercantile

Motion: Steven Sites motioned to support this proposal a written, Ernie Little Seconded the motion

Topic Discussion: The Chairman explained the intent of the proposal and no further discussion or questions were asked.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Action: To move the proposal forward to bring forward in the DHCD workgroup sessions and send to the full committee for full approval.

27. Topic: B1010.1.9.6- Egress Locking in I-1 and I-2

Motion: Linda Hale motioned to **not** support the proposal as written, which was seconded by Steve Sites.

Topic Discussion: Linda Hale highlighted the fact that this proposal would allow for places to hold dementia patients into rooms without proper means of egress. Steven Sites discussed that if this proposal is not put into NFPA Standards that hospitals would not be Medicaid or Medicare eligible.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Action: To move the proposal forward to bring forward in the DHCD workgroup sessions and send to the full committee for full approval.

28. Topic: EB704.1- Standpipes in Existing Buildings

Motion: Andrew motioned to **Not** support this proposal, seconded by Ernie Little

Topic Discussion: The committee discussed that this proposal

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Action: To move the proposal forward to bring forward in the DHCD workgroup sessions and send to the full committee for full approval.

29. Topic: EB504.1.6- Repair or replacement of smoke alarms in existing buildings

Motion: Andrew Milliken motioned to move the proposal forward as written, it was seconded by Perry Weller.

Topic Discussion: The committee discussed that this is a standard that is becoming normalized in other states such as Maryland. The question was asked by Perry Weller what about localities that give out free smoke alarms. But the committee agreed that this was a good proposal to move forward. The committee also discussed the possibility of an effective date that may be discussed later on during workgroups.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Action: To move the proposal forward to bring forward in the DHCD workgroup sessions and send to the full committee for full approval.

30. Topic: EB1101.18- Fire Sprinklers in Existing High rise buildings

Motion: Steven Sites Motioned to support the measure as written, which was seconded by Perry Weller.

Topic Discussion: The committee agreed that this is a large ask but believed that this is extremely important. Moving this issue forward was important to the committee because it will help to keep people safe into the future and bring older buildings safer living spaces. Steven Sites asked about where the written notice would come from and the chairman responded that it would come from the building official.

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Action: To move the proposal forward to bring forward in the DHCD workgroup sessions and send to the full committee for full approval.

31. Topic: EB1101.18.1- Compliance Schedule

Motion: Perry Weller Motioned to not support the proposal as written, which was seconded by Erie Little

Topic Discussion: The committee found that this proposal looks to remove the requirements from the fire code and have it only in the Building code

Vote: Unanimous

Motion Action: To move the proposal forward to bring forward in the DHCD workgroup sessions and send to the full committee for full approval.

Adjournment:

Ernie Little motioned to adjourn the committee which was seconded by Perry Weller and the committee adjourned.

REVIEWED BY:

Meeting minutes approved by
Andrew Milliken, Committee Chair

June 30, 2020
Date

Enclosure 1: Spreadsheet