

MINUTES
BUILDING CODE ADVISORY BOARD
November 20, 2013

The Chairman, Michael Fichera, called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. in the Vista Center 1st Floor Conference Room 1W-47, Palm Beach County Planning, Zoning & Building Department, 2300 North Jog Road, West Palm Beach, Florida.

1.A. Roll Call

Members Present:

Michael Fichera, Chair
Jacek Tomasik, Building Official
Steven Tobias, Building Official
Doug Wise, Building Official
Roger Held, Building Official
Andrew Mack, Building Official

Joe Byrne, Vice Chair
Mike Grimm, Building Official
William Ray Higgins, Electrical Contractor
Scott Worley, General Contractor
Howarth Lewis, Architect

Members Absent:

Greg Miller, Aluminum Contractor
Gary Kozan, Plumbing Contractor

Tom Hogarth, Engineer

Others Present:

Vickie Day, Recording Secretary
Richard Gathright, Deputy Building Official
Mike Fox, CPT Supervisor

Bob Boyer, CPT Coordinator
Shannon Fox, Asst. County Attorney
Bruce Escher, Director of Contractor Certification

1.B. Pledge of Allegiance

1.C. Approval of Minutes - *The motion was made to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2013 meeting. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.*

2. ADDITIONS & DELETIONS – NONE

3. NEW BUSINESS

3.A. Presentation on Structural Composite Panel System by: Charles Russillo, United Structural Associates

Mr. Russillo introduces himself and his new product; Super Structural Composite Panel System. He initially developed a system of a simple, light-weight way to build structures to ship to people who are in great need (where homes got destroyed). At this time I didn't know the codes, now I do. I brought it to Architectural Testing Engineers and found that South Florida has special needs, what is required is a 50 feet /second impact. The system has passed E84, tested by Georgia Pacific, termite proof, floats in water, fire-proof, mold-proof, environmentally safe. We tested a 6x8 at 80 feet/second and it worked – a 100 feet/second & it bounced off, when the missile hit the frame, the missile exploded into pieces. The idea was to build homes quicker. Numerous tests at various Testing Centers were cited. Discussion ensued. I was told that every component has been approved with Miami-Dade.

Mr. Russillo- I was invited here to introduce the Board to the material and to let you know that I will be coming to you as a Building Official to seek your approval.

Mr. Wise advised that Mr. Russillo presented this product to the local chapter of BOAF. One of the questions raised, was how to get the product out there. As a result, they wanted to show the Board the product.

3.B. Presentation on SucraSeal Polyurethane Spray Foam by: Jim McDougall, Sales Representative and General Contractor for SES, manufactured in Texas . Primary purpose here today to introduced the product as ½ lb foam that is being sprayed and has passed the Appendix X. The Appendix X is part of ACC366, the fire test for plastics –allows the foam in placed with a prescriptive thermal barrier or ignition barrier. Certain items can be used as an ignition barriers; foam has to match with the ignition barriers- the thickness will determine if it is a thermal or ignition barrier. Currently there are only two ½ lb foams that have passed the Appendix X testing, Gago Western (petroleum based) and SucraSeal (sugar based).

SucraSeal can be applied as an ignition barrier; the reason for this barrier is that attics are used for mechanical utilities and when there is access for repairs of utilities only. Ignition barrier is designed to stop a ‘rolling fire’ – this is why we can be used because it does not burn.

I wanted to present our product to the Board so you are aware of the product.

Mr. Byrne asks if it does not burn and does not ignite, how long would it take for the ignition to take place? Will your foam allow water to pass through it, or just vapor. If the roof started to leak, would it pass through the foam?

Mr. McDougall – it depends on the veracity of the fire. Water will pass through it eventually, when it is sprayed it does not have to cover the trusses as those petroleum based products.

Discussion ensued

Mr. Worley asks Staff we did hearings on Icyene and you had very definite views of their fire proofing. What are the staffs’ thoughts?

Mr. Fox – a lot of testing has been done; however what ultimately has to show is regarding compliance with the Code. The Code specifically says testing has to be done in the actual in-use configuration and tested in the matter intended for use. Has there been any testing on a slope?

Mr. McDougall – we have tested on a slope, but not officially as there are no official tests. Code says the tests cover all geometrical scenarios.

Mr. Fox –You have tested it Vertical and Horizontal (worse case scenario for most). This particular one, spray foam maintain a flame as long as it is applied to it; without testing it, if you put it on a slope, who’s to say the flame won’t propagate itself and roll off.

Mr. Worley – did the Board issue a Technical Advisory?

Mr. Wise – a Board report was done about 3 months ago on unvented attics, but touch only briefly on the foam issue.

The product and how the attic is being used. Not just mechanical equipment is stored in the attic.

Discussion ensued

Mr. McDougall – we are bringing this product out to the public as a cost-savings to the consumers.

Recommendation for the Board to review this issue; revisit this

The motion was made to table the discussion and revisit at the next meeting. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

3.C. Doug Wise advises a League of Cities Meeting on December 5th – on the agenda is the Contractors Enrollment; if anyone is interested in attending in support of the program.

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

4.A. Code Interpretation – NONE

4.B. Code Amendments – NONE

4.C. Product Evaluation – NONE

4.D. Six Pillars Committee – City of Boca Raton is hosting a meeting on December 6th.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- 5.A.** Doug Wise advises FEMA representatives and municipality technical staff are upstairs reviewing the maps. C51 basin study is almost completed – preliminary report is out; FEMA is accepting most of our requests at this time. Congressional letter went to FEMA asking for more time. The V zones from Jupiter Island to Singer Island to Rivera those move to the back of the first dune. A lot of the properties on the beach will be in a mandatory flood zone for the first time.

6. FUTURE BOARD MATTERS

Next meeting - Election of New Chair and Vice Chair

7. BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS

- 7.A.** Next meeting is January 15, 2014

8. STAFF MEMBERS COMMENTS

NONE

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 4:35pm, the Chair adjourned the meeting



Michael Fichera, Chair

Respectfully submitted,
Vickie Day, Recording Secretary