

BUILDING INSPECTORS ASSN.

NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN

ORGANIZED 1971



Minutes: May 2, 2019

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Call to Order- President Dennis Jensen called the meeting to order at 9:30AM with 25 members in attendance and one guest, Jack Wotruba with DSPS.

Member Introductions- Members introduced themselves.

Reminders/Updates:

-) June will be the onsite training event. The meeting will start at 8:30am.
-) Members should have received CEU's from the Winter Updates. It was noted that we still haven't received CEU's from our September 2018 ICC training event.
-) We will not have a July meeting.
-) May is Building Safety Month. ICC has handouts and proclamations online that you can download and use for your municipality.
-) The WBIA Institute was a success and our association had great attendance at this event.

Speakers:

Secretary Dawn Crim- DSPS Updates

-) Secretary Crim acknowledged that DSPS is behind in plan reviews and inspections. One of the biggest struggles they face is the fact that DSPS has a 30% reduction in staffing compared to 10 years ago. Secretary Crim noted that they've asked for more positions.
-) UDC consultant Jack Wotruba was recognized for his 30 years of service with DSPS.
-) Secretary Crim asked for suggestions on ideas that would help DSPS improve. Ideas and suggestions from association members were:
 - o Improve the UDC electronic form. Members felt it was not user friendly. It was also noted that the permit now prints on multiple pages and there have been a lot of complaints from contractors.
 - o Improve the electronic credentialing system. There appears to be some problems with looking up credential numbers and the system no longer states where CEU's are coming from.
 - o Encourage legislators to approve additional DSPS staffing. Our association could send a letter to individual legislators to let them know that we support DSPS in needing more staff for inspections, plan reviews and training.

- Training programs are needed from DSPS as there is no specific way to get inspectors and plan reviewers trained. This is a profession where there's an extensive amount of on the job training. Inspectors who have several years of service are essential as they have a huge knowledge base that is needed.
- Utilize state seal money for training as that was its original purpose.
- Utilize technology to provide training opportunities to more inspectors. It was noted that MATC in West Allis puts on training for UDC and Commercial credentials under the real estate program. It would be great if DSPS could partner with them and live stream the classes.
- DSPS could allow delegated municipalities the ability to review larger plans.
- DSPS could stop charging delegated municipalities for conducting plan reviews. More municipalities might decide to pursue delegation if they could keep more fees.
- There needs to be a focus and priority placed on education. It was noted that this is the biggest change that has occurred over the past 10 years. In past years inspectors and contractors used to only be able to get their required CEU's from DSPS. This also helped with uniformity.

Wayne Allen with WI Basement Inspection Services LLC- Causes of Foundation Failures

-)] Wayne noted that some municipalities are making contractors backfill with stone. He noted that the problem is within 15 years the stone will fill with clay and put soil pressure onto the foundation walls just like clay would have. Wayne feels that it all comes down to proper grading.
-)] New homes are being constructed too low and there isn't enough pitch to get the water away from the foundation walls.
-)] Landscaping beds and decorative edging are keeping the water next to the foundation walls.
-)] Make sure downspouts are 6' -8' from the house foundation and cover window wells.
-)] Wayne stated that there would be a 90% reduction in foundation failures if the lots were properly graded.
-)] Rebar is very important to have in the footings and foundation walls.
-)] Wayne will send out a handout that we can give to homeowners.

Recess for lunch

Business meeting – Called to order @ 12:30pm

Approval of Minutes – Nicole presented minutes for the 4/4/19 meeting. No changes were requested. Nicole will get an updated membership list to Brian Walter for the website.

Treasurers Report- Rob Cormier presented the Treasurers report. The current balance is \$19,605.19.

Committee Reports:

Executive - Nothing to report

By-laws - Nothing to report

Training Option Sub-Committee- Andrew Pricket stated that they talked to DSPS representatives at the League training to see if we could get the training back on track. There will be a planning meeting in May in Plover where they'll talk about the various options. Our association is looking for improved training. Dennis Jensen stated that there may be options for utilizing more modern technology such as live streaming but there are concerns about the personal interaction that is important between the consultants and inspectors. We're currently set up to do our own training at this point but we'd like to continue our partnership with DSPS. The location would still be in Green Bay and they're going to try to work with the Comfort Suites to reduce costs. It was noted that we could always use the free ICC class for the commercial training day and invite architects and contractors.

Jack Wotruba stated that we should keep in mind that all training needs to be approved for CEU's through DSPS. It was noted that members would like the UDC and HVAC on the same day as it currently is. It was noted that Char Martin with DSPS has resigned and they're not sure who the DSPS representative will be for future training meetings.

Code Coordinating- Nothing to report

DSPS Updates – Jack Wotruba stated that everyone should now have received their CEU's for the Winter Updates. He noted that there has been a lot of discussion on the ACI requirements and the dwelling code council is working on addressing these requirements.

A discussion occurred regarding the dwelling contractors and dwelling contractor qualifier licenses. Credentialing is behind 3-6 weeks on issuing credentials. This is making it very difficult for contractors who need to obtain permits. It was noted that if they drive down to Madison they can get their credentials renewed right away. Members noted that there seems to be problems with credential numbers and the numbers pulling up on the website. They also noted that permits are processing with expired credentials. Jack recommended that the inspectors and contractors who are having problems email him directly so he can send their concerns/complaints to the correct people at DSPS.

Information & Schooling – John Zarate stated that they're looking at getting a representative from Diamond Piers and/or a speaker regarding liability, citations and raze options for future meetings. It was noted that we also have an opportunity to have a meeting at the JF Ahern facility in Fond du Lac for sprinkler training. John noted that the June meeting will be the onsite tour of homes, July we won't have a meeting, August and September need speakers, October is ICC, November we'll have a round table meeting and December is our annual meeting.

Publicity & Historian - Nothing to report

Registration Coordinator- Nothing to report

Website Coordinator- Nothing to report.

Sunshine - Nothing to report.

Old Business:

A motion was made to appropriate up to \$1,200 for an interpreter for the Winter Code Updates. A discussion occurred regarding other options other than an providing an interpreter. It was noted that the contractor stated that when the speaker was in the front of the room he could hear but he could not hear when other people asked questions. It was noted that as a private organization there is no requirement to provide this service. It seems like there are a lot of avenues for online education. The financial burden is huge and it was noted that we should look into this more before committing to spending this amount of money. Members asked that we find out legally what is required. We could always offer the training for free if he brings in someone to interpret for him. The motion was rescinded.

A motion was made to appropriate up to \$1,000 for scholarships. A discussion occurred and it was noted that we've had a past motion to spend up to \$2,000 for scholarships. Rob noted that our association used to give out (4) \$500 scholarships but we could give out (2) \$1,000 scholarships. A discussion occurred that we need to communicate where the scholarships are going each year. Peter Fetters stated that Fox Valley Tech does all the paperwork for the scholarships and we only really need to provide the money. It was noted that North Central Technical School will be contacted. There was a discussion if we should keep the scholarship money at \$2,000 or increase the money we allocate to \$3,000.

A motion was amended to increase the scholarship money and appropriate up to \$3,000 to be equally split between one or more schools each year. The amendment was accepted. The motion received a second and carried.

New Business:

Discussion of our environmental meeting and annual meeting. John Zarate is working on this. He thought that we might be able to get into the Oshkosh Corporate Headquarters for a building tour and then lunch. August 2nd is the first Friday. He doesn't have anything on the Annual Meeting yet.

A discussion took place regarding ACI standards. Nicole developed a handout that helps to address the ACI requirements and what is required to be submitted at plan review. A discussion took place whether the association would like to send this out with our letterhead on it to provide a uniform front. Legality questions were raised by association members. It was decided that each individual community would do their own flyer but it would be nice if this came from DSPS.

Members noted that if you've just received your credential you're supposed to get 24 hours of CEU's for the new license from DSPS.

John is also working on 50th anniversary celebration for our organization in 2021.

Roundtable:

Nothing to present.

Adjournment- A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion received a second and carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole Krahn

Nicole Krahn
BIANEW Secretary

Website: www.bianew.org