

# BUILDING INSPECTORS ASSN.

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## NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN

ORGANIZED 1971



### Minutes: November 3, 2016

#### **President:**

Paul Birschbach  
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*Call to Order-* President Paul Birschbach called the meeting to order at 9:30AM with 33 members in attendance.

*Member Introductions-* Members introduced themselves. Allison Humski was in attendance. She is a new UDC Consultant for DSPS and works out of the Green Bay office. She covers the SE portion of WI. Allison's contact information is (920) 492-6500 and [Alison.Humski@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Alison.Humski@Wisconsin.gov).

#### **Vice President:**

Bill Hebert  
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#### ***Speakers:***

Joe Nagan with Home Building Technology Services LLC and in partnership with Focus on Energy gave a presentation on the new energy codes, heat loss calculations and air sealing.

#### **Secretary:**

Nicole Krahn  
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Oshkosh, WI 54903-1130  
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Some of the key items discussed were:

#### **Treasurer:**

Rob Cormier  
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#### **Website Coordinator:**

Brian Walter  
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- Background on the REScheck software and Wisconsin's version of the software. The Federal Government (DOE) pulled Wisconsin's version of the program because it wasn't up to the current energy code. The DOE only supports the three latest versions.
- Use the Version 4.6.2.0 until further notice. This version allows you to run the UDC required "compliance report" using the 2009 IECC and then run the "loads report" using the WI 2009. This information is also on the DSPS website.
- The minimum air infiltration rate is ".5" unless the heating contractor wants to do a blower door test to show compliance for inspectors.
- The equipment oversizing factor is not required. There are no code requirements in the code regulating minimum or maximum percentages.
- The codes are moving towards requiring a blower door test for every house built.
- A vapor retarder is not required under SPS 322.38. This applies to unheated spaces, such as an attached unheated garage. Joe stated it's better not to have a vapor retarder as it causes problems and traps moisture in the garage.
- The bulk majority of moisture problems are due to holes in the drywall/sheathing. The drywall should always be taped/sealed.
- Vapor barriers should be placed under garage floors. It's not a requirement but a good idea to prevent moisture issues.
- Joe stated that a lot of moisture problems are due to the fact that contractors are installing vapor barriers (plastic) instead of vapor retarders. Plastic is good to use under concrete slabs but not in walls. Installing 2 coats of paint over the drywall is a great vapor retarder.
- Cooling ducts running through unconditioned spaces like attics require a min. of R-8 and the exterior of the insulation shall be covered with a vapor retarder.

- Ducts outside of conditioned spaces need to be sealed. SPS 322.43. The duct tightness shall be verified by either a post construction test or a rough in test. There is no option to the testing if the ductwork is located out of the conditioned space (attics and crawlspaces). Slab on grade homes with ductwork located in the attics will fail. Look at the commentary for exemptions to this regarding ductwork.
- It's most important to seal the attic/lid. Seal all electrical boxes, bath fans, can lights and top plates. Joe stated that it's really important to seal the edges of the top plates on interior walls due to the drywall being held 1/2" off the plate. He does this from the attic side prior to the insulation being installed.

Secretary Dave Ross & Assistant Deputy Secretary Jeff Weigand were our afternoon speakers. Dave wanted to thank our association for all of our support and they want to be actively involved in the building process. They asked for a question and answer session where we could voice any concerns we had.

The following information was discussed:

- Frustrations with Act 211. Jeff stated they are currently working on developing the software to provide the electronic permit submittal. The system is scheduled to go live in December/January and we'll have a year to develop our own software or use theirs. If a municipality has a similar system Jeff stated we'd be able to keep using it. If we have ideas we should let Jack Wotruba or Allison Humski know. There is a penalty in this act that would require the municipality to refund the permit fees if they fail to send the required information into DSPS. DSPS will be approving the alternate systems.
- Delegated Municipalities. There seems to be a holdup on the municipalities that have applied for this status. Jeff stated the reason it's taking so long is that they're looking into making sure municipalities have the proper staff, code adoptions, etc. to make sure they can handle the status.
- ISO ratings were discussed. It was noted that a few municipalities have already been informed that they received a 25% reduction because the state codes are not up to date. Jeff stated that the proposed date for code updates are late spring/early summer 2017 for the COMM BLD/NEC. Once they're updated ISO told DSPS they would increase the ratings.
- Deck code problems/concerns. It was noted that there are several issues that need to be addressed in the code. Caution was given to Jeff regarding telling contractors that they could still construct decks like they used to.

**Approval of Minutes-** A motion was made to approve the 10/7/16 minutes. The motion received a second and carried.

**Approval of Treasurers Report-** Rob Cormier was not present to provide the report.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Information & Schooling-** The annual meeting will take place on Thursday December 1<sup>st</sup> in Green Bay. A signup sheet will be sent out by the secretary. This event will consist of a tour of Lambeau, motivational speaker and meeting.

A discussion occurred regarding the SE working with us at the winter code updates to provide code books at a discounted rate. There will be a line item on the flyer if you want books.

Please contact John Zarate or Pete Schuerman if you have ideas for 2017 training events or speakers.

**Bylaws-** No changes were presented and/or recommended.

**Nominating-** Pat and Jack are looking for members to volunteer for the Vice President position and numerous committee positions. Please contact them if you're interested.

**Sunshine-** It was noted that Rob Cormier was in an accident when he was out hunting in South Dakota. Please keep Rob in your thoughts and prayers. A card will be sent to him by the committee.

#### **Old Business:**

**A discussion took place regarding the purchase of a laptop for the secretary. A motion was made to allow the secretary to purchase a laptop, software and case up to \$1,000 in value. The motion received a second and carried.**

*New Business:*

*A motion was made to set the cost of the annual meeting at \$10 for members and spouses. If you attend the event you will get your money back. The motion received a second and carried.*

*Roundtable:*

- Paul was asked to change up the menu for our monthly meetings.
- Humidifier recalls were discussed.
- Discussion on credentials.

*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](http://www.bianew.org)