

## MFBO Meeting Minutes

**Board Meeting Date:** October 25, 2011

**Location:** Sturbridge

**Attendance:** Mike Foley; Dave Betts; Gary Stubbins; Dave Jensen; Tony Zahariadis; Matt Hakala; Paul Tacy; Dan Walsh; Paul Spiro; Curtis Meskus

Guest in attendance at the meeting today was Thomas G. Gatzunis, Commissioner of DPS.

Meeting called to order at 9:32 a.m.

Dan Walsh introduced Commissioner Gatzunis and welcomed him to the meeting. Commissioner Gatzunis addressed the board and went over some updates taking place at BBRs.

He stated that:

Legislatively; bills are moving through committees

Regulations; the code is in good shape where it is now with the board already looking to 2015 with minimal Massachusetts amendments; with NFPA 1, staff on committee is moving forward working to avoid any conflicts with the code; there are more jurisdictional items than anything else

Code Change Process; the administration is more aggressive in looking at proposals, especially on cost impacts; generally, if there is a board proposal, there will be the usual public hearing; if not a board proposal there could be two public hearings

Sheet Metal Regulations; these will be going before the Building Code Coordinating Council (BCCC) in the near future

New Board Member; the new member of the board, as recommended by MFBO, was moving through the approval process; in fact both candidates are being considered.

Motion to approve minutes of previous meeting by Paul Tacy. Dave Betts second.  
Motion Passed.

### Old Business:

Mike Foley spoke on the BFPR committee meeting. He stated that Joe Mikielian attended. Nothing seemed to get resolved at this meeting. Chapters 1, 4 and 5 were open for discussion. From July to now, they still haven't gotten beyond Chapter 1. Mike stated that his comments to that committee will continue to be to use it as a maintenance code, not a building code. To his knowledge, there hasn't been another meeting scheduled as yet.

Dan Walsh asked members to help Mike with this endeavor; there is a lot of information and work to do. He thanked Mike for his attendance along with Joe Mikielian. Dan requested that Mike send any information to Mike Mendoza for the next MFBO meeting.

### New Business:

Dan Walsh reported that at an MBCIA board meeting, it was proposed to reduce the Federation board from 7 members to 3 members from each association. Dan restated where the MFBO board has been in the last two years and how much it has grown; along with the work the board has done to represent all of the associations.

Curtis Meskus asked about a change in the Federation Bylaw regarding the amount of board members from each Association. Paul Tacy stated that any change like that would have to come from a full membership vote. Paul Spiro spoke on behalf of SEMBOA president, Mike Mendoza, and Mike's email against such a consideration. Dan Walsh questioned if it made any sense to go from our current number to a much smaller representation from the associations and asked MFBO members to get some feedback from the associations in this regard. Curtis Meskus stated that it would not serve the associations or MFBO to do this. Matt Hakala stated that it would be virtually impossible to continue the work that MFBO has done in the past year or two; most committees are struggling to keep up with MFBO work that they currently have with 21 board members.

### Committees:

Fund Raising: Paul Spiro gave a report on the Fund Raising committee. The final letters were being sent out for the "partnership appeal" to companies and that Gary and he will be speaking during the next few weeks with new ideas that will be reported at the next MFBO meeting.

Legislative: Dan Walsh stated that all bills on the agenda were moved along; He spoke on SB1251 and SB1244 with amendment and asked the board if they wanted to provide written testimony on these bills. Mike Foley stated that we should continue with our position on SB1251. Dan Walsh stated that FCAM was in favor of this; however, all others' input was against the proposal. Curtis Meskus questioned as to what was the best technology; ionization or photoelectric. Commissioner Gatzunis suggested that the board meet with legislative committee chairs or committee members at the state house.

Paul Tacy motioned for MFBO to submit written testimony in opposition to SB1251. Mike Foley second. Motion passed.

Mike Foley motioned for MFBO to support SB1244 as amended. Curtis Meskus second. Paul Tacy was concerned with not knowing about the entire bill. It is uncertain that there really is an amendment filed with this bill. He felt that we should have the entire bill with a confirmation that the amendment is part of the bill. Mike Foley stated that we can support the bill and file our own amendment.

Mike Foley then amended his motion that MFBO support the written version of SB1244 with the amendment that we have before us. Curtis Meskus seconded the amendment. Curtis spoke further that he supported the idea of a Fire Prevention Regulations Appeals Board and supports any amendment that would have a building official as a member on that board.

However, he would support the bill even without a building official as a member. Motion passed with Paul Tacy voting against.

Code Development: Dan Walsh asked Mike Foley to work with code committee to go over the proposals that were part of our agenda package. Mike stated that he would email committee members in this regard.

Public Relations: Tony Zahariadis spoke on the brochure he put together. Curtis Meskus spoke on the changes he made that he thought would help. Tony stated that this was just a format and draft for member input. He will go over any changes and report back next month. Mike Foley thanked Tony and Curtis for taking this on. Dan Walsh spoke on the “Hiring Guide” put together by Paul Tacy and would place this on next month’s agenda for final comment by the board. Tony spoke on the handout “How a Bill Becomes Law”. Curtis stated that he would have that placed on the website. Language at the bottom of that handout (“This information was provided by...”) would be deleted.

Unfinished Business:

Curtis Meskus spoke about NFPA 1730. There was a meeting in Jackson Hole on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. There will be a meeting in Fort Lauderdale on January 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. He did not have any information on the October meeting.

Curtis Meskus spoke on the October 11 BBRS meeting. He gave an overview of the different items of that meeting. He stated that staff will give an official interpretation regarding congregate living and he would report back to the board. Regarding Chapter 9, the staff has inserted comments concerning added costs and possibly undermining MGL c. 148 §28A., comments that FCAM does not like. Commissioner Gatzunis commented that there was still some confusion over these changes.

Dan Walsh spoke on the smoke detector regulations and the types of detectors in certain structures. He advised the board to read the letter of Brian Gale for some clarity to this issue.

Dan Walsh spoke on the future meetings as listed in the agenda. He has made arrangements with the bank for next year.

Next meeting to be held in Sturbridge on Tuesday, November 22, 2011.

Paul Spiro motioned to adjourn meeting. Mike Foley second. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:49 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul D. Spiro  
Acting Secretary

