

JAC Meeting – 4/29/14

Convened: Noon in Roma's Restaurant, Dover, DE

Present: P. Ryan (BOA), D. Barbato (DAPE), S. Gharebaghi (DAPE), A. Wright (Sussex County), and P. Abshagen (DAPE)

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Gharebaghi, seconded by Ryan, the Minutes of the 12/16/13 meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.

Board of Architects' Representation

P. Ryan discussed several concerns the BOA have with their representation on the JAC. Specifically, publishing of minutes and date and location of meetings. (Minutes are published and distributed to attendees for sharing with the respective boards. Meeting dates and locations are published on the state's website.)

As a reminder, the JAC has been meeting since 1996 upon the recommendation of the legislature that the respective boards work together to address issues of overlapping practice. The President of the BOA will be advised of the history of this group and requested to identify its representatives.

Previous Issues:

- Sussex County issue
 - Ordinance 2335 was adopted and becomes effective 5/1/14 to address the issue of requiring either an architect's or engineer's seal on buildings less than 5,000 s.f. There are some exemptions: 1-2 family residential dwellings; farm buildings; and renovations not effecting safety.
- Fire Marshal
 - JAC believes the approval of inadequate designs will no longer be an issue with the successful passage of Ordinance 2335.
 - It was also mentioned that sometimes the Fire Marshal is misled as to the use of a building.
- Building Code Update
 - Sussex County has adopted the 2012 Building Code and the 2012 Int'l Residential Code.

- Kent County has adopted the 2012 codes.
- New Castle County may have passed this by now (no first-hand knowledge)
- The advantages of a state-wide code were briefly discussed. Such a code could be administered locally and county amendments could be referenced.
 - At the next building officials' meeting, the waters will be tested for further discussion of a statewide code, subject to adoption of local requirements.
- Delaware Green Council
 - Appears as if competing groups are doing the same thing.
- Overlapping Practice Areas
 - No particular issues.
- Legislation
 - BOA has some housekeeping changes regarding continued education
 - DAPE now requires CPC and has initiated a "retired" status. Has some housekeeping changes with regard to educational clarification. Standard of care issue under discussion. (BOA doesn't have issue with standard of care)

Other Concerns

- Architect James Robert Clark has expressed his opinions in several news articles regarding his perception of the loss of work for architects. These articles only represent his opinion and were shared by Wayne Ericksen for discussion.
- Building Officials' Handbook
 - George Haggerty of New Castle County drafted a handbook when he served on the JAC, however, it was very specific to NCC
 - Many other states have such handbooks which were previously reviewed by members of the JAC.
 - Goal is to educate building officials, especially those in small municipalities that do not know what to expect.
 - P. Ryan has volunteered to draft a joint handbook and will distribute for comment.
 - Handbook would be a great opportunity for connecting with building officials, perhaps in the Fall.

New Business

- A. Wright mentioned that the statute of the plumbers permits them to design HVAC and plumbing systems

Next meeting June 18, 2014 at noon in Dover.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.