

JAC Meeting – 3/3/15

Convened: noon. – Roma's Italian Restaurant, Dover, DE

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

Chair: P. Ryan

Guest: Nancy Payne (AIA Delaware)

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Barbato, seconded by Breckstone, the Minutes of the 9/29/14 meeting be approved as submitted. Approved unanimously.

Previous Issues:

- Building Code Update
 - P. Ryan advised the current Life Safety Code 101 does not recognize the existing building section of the code. The Fire Marshal will now adopt this particular section, although they have a separate code that overlaps. Ryan also advised there will not be a statewide building code. Most municipalities are using IBC 2012.
- Fire Marshal Submissions (Ryan)
 - P. Ryan advised that although Sussex County is following the state law in its requirements of either an architect or engineer, the Fire Marshal is not consistently requiring a seal. It was suggested we contact both the Fire Marshal and the Board of Health (two of the state agencies that review plans) and get their assistance in statewide compliance. A letter will be drafted to send to both agencies.
- Code Officials Handbook
 - The handbook is designed to be a reference tool outlining minimum standards.
 - The JAC is still reviewing the draft.

- Overlapping Practice Issues
 - DAPE to discuss the overlap in its law with the plumber's statute that permits both to do MEP. It was discussed that developers and builders typically don't utilize the services of mechanical engineers – simple projects (couple of units) probably don't require an engineer; more complex projects (hospital with many units) would require an engineer. Committee discussed the need of establishing the boundaries of contracting, engineering, and architecture.

- Legislation
 - P3 (Private/Public Partnership) – legislation to remove qualifications-based selection (QBS) was pulled last year. This legislation will be a concern when firms offering services are unlicensed. Both professions need to get ahead of the curve on this issue.
 - Design/Build – offering of services without licensure is the issue. Contractors frequently offer design/build services not having either an engineer or architect on board on public or private projects. (P. Ryan provided a copy of AIA's "Design-Building Reform Toolkit" for review.)
 - P. Ryan discussed the DOT bond bill from last year that indicated 10 design/building projects were awarded. Will attempt to determine the engineer involved.

Other Business

- Electronic submittal of plans – A. Wright is interested in having plans submitted electronically/digitally. This is a more convenient method of receiving, sending, cataloguing and archiving documents. Sussex County is working towards electronic submittals. Will follow-up with other counties to determine whether they are also working on this.

- Changing, Altering, Amending Previously Signed Plans (Successor Engineer) – Sussex County -- DAPE has been working with Sussex County to develop a position statement on a successor engineer altering another's plans. It was determined that "bubbling in changes" and accepting liability only for those changes is unacceptable. It has been determined that the new engineer must provide due diligence and certify any alterations do not have any impact on the existing plans. Any alterations could be handled in an addendum (referencing the original drawings), with the new work standing on its own merits.
 - T. Breck indicated this scenario is addressed in AIA's Code of Ethics.

- Board Updates -- BOA - CPC now addressed on calendar year and a licensee may carryover 4 pdh's for 4 months. DAPE will consider using the calendar year and permits 15 pdh's to be carried over.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 5/19/2015 at noon.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.