



### **I. FCCIP To Host 2012 Energy Seminar**

Mark Newey from the Center of Ecological Technology will be presenting a two hour seminar highlighting important changes to the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code on October 29, 2014, from 4 to 6 pm. at the JW Olver Transit Center, 12 Olive St., Greenfield. We have heard Mark speak. He is thorough, easy to listen to, and very informative. Learn tested methods to install effective air barriers, prevent mold and moisture infiltration, and build a house that will pass the required blower door test. The seminar is free but there is limited seating. Register [here](#).

### **II. Two Important Code Changes Implemented July 1, 2014**

**First**, as of July 1, 2014, the 2012 International Energy Code with Massachusetts amendments is exclusively in effect. This code requires increased R-values and a blower door test for new homes and detached, conditioned spaces. If you need a blower door test, it is recommended to have one done at rough-in, so leaks can be remedied. You can find highlights in the 12/3 [newsletter](#). [Stretch energy towns](#) will remain regulated by the Massachusetts's [amendments](#) to the 2009 IECC code until further notice.

**Second**, permits issued after July 1, 2014 must also comply with a new regulation that requires **fire protection for floor assemblies** not using dimension lumber or structural composite lumber. The underside of the floor must be covered with ½" drywall or 5/8" wood structural panel. There are exceptions for approved floor assemblies with equivalent fire performance, for floors directly over empty crawl spaces, sprinklered spaces, and rooms or alcoves 80 square foot or less when supported between structural walls.

There are products that may be approved Exception 1. Contact the building department before assuming that they are exempt.

### **III. Braced Wall Requirements**

The 2009 IRC bracing requirements for wall massive document, hard to understand, and of it not applicable to our region where continuous sheathing is used almost exclusively. However, there are some basics that need review:

CS-WSP, Continuous Sheathing Wall Structural Panel is the more forgiving than most methods of wall bracing but some of these details are

- [Table 602.10.4.1](#) requires 6" o.c. nail edges, which would require blocking at joints in a horizontal application of continuous sheathing.
- Exterior corners must be framed so corner studs are nailed together 12" the sheathing of each wall is nailed corresponding stud. See: [602.10.4.4](#)
- With the exception of one story garage minimum size braced wall corner panel 30" in our wind zone per Table R602.10.4.4
- One story garages up to 10' in height must have a minimum 24" braced wall panel located within 12.5' of corner.
- [Portal frames](#) for garages may be used to reduce length requirement of braced wall panel if constructed according to standards

#### **FCCIP STAFF**

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- **James Hawkins**, Building Commissioner, E
- **James Cerone**, Local Building Inspector, E
- **Tom McDonald**, Electrical Inspector, Ext. 1
- **Andy French**, Plumbing/Gas Inspector, Ex
- **Chris Brothers**, On-line Permitting Admin.
- **Paul Lemelin**, Zoning/Software Assistant, E

### **III. On-Line Permitting Survey**

Thanks to all who participated in our permitting survey. In general, the feedback was favorable. Almost 200 contractors completed the survey and 58% of you said it was easy or very easy to use. Thanks to Paul Lemelin and Chris Brothers who are continually working on bugs and methods for improvement. Our three take-aways from the survey are: 1) Create better instructions, 2) Make payment options clearer, and 3) Provide more frequent notices when fee has been set, when inspections have been completed, and when CO's or COA's have been issued.

### **III. FCCIP Looking for Alternate Inspectors**

The FCCIP Building Department is looking for local inspectors to fill in when needed periodically throughout the year. As both Jim Hawkins and Jim Cerone near retirement, the program is looking to groom potential candidates. An individual that seeks to become a Local Inspector must have at least 5 years experience in construction, or equivalent, and either be certified as a Local Inspector or be able to pass the three required exams within six months of first being employed as a Local Inspector. The hours of work will be very limited to start and flexible enough so that the interested individual, most likely, can keep current employment while testing the waters for a potential new career. If interested, please call Jim Hawkins or Jim Cerone.

**Note: There are several links imbedded in this newsletter. If you are receiving it in paper format, you may want to visit our website: [fccip.org](http://fccip.org) to use links.**

### **IV.9<sup>th</sup> Edition Code Promise**

It is no secret that finding and understanding building code in Massachusetts has become a monumental task for builders, registered design professionals, and building officials alike. It began with the 7<sup>th</sup> edition, when Massachusetts decided to retype the IBC and IRC and incorporate amendments. There were typos, missing table sections. In the 8<sup>th</sup> edition, the amendments were huge and in separate books. The reader had to check both the International Code and the Massachusetts' Amendments to make sure they were reading the code correctly. The BBRSP hopes to make things a little easier in the future. Here is what we may look forward to:

- The 9<sup>th</sup> Edition should become effective in late summer of 2015.
- It will be based on the 2015 International Codes
- The BBRSP hopes to limit the amendments to those that are required by Massachusetts General Law
- These amendments will be imbedded in the code and not separate.
- The BBRSP hopes to make the codes more accessible.
- Massachusetts will skip the 2018 International Code cycle. The 10<sup>th</sup> edition will not be promulgated until 2021.

Stay tuned. If you need read-only access to building codes, here is the [link](#).



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