



Northeast Region Construction Specifications Institute BOARD REPORT

DATE: May 28, 2019
TO: Northeast Region Board of Directors
FROM: Susan Borne, Region Director

SUBJECT: Report of Boston Chapter

A. Report Summary

1. Boston remains an active chapter with successful programming resulting in good attendance at most meetings. In addition to the monthly chapter meetings, the Membership and Programming committees also confer on a monthly basis.

B. The Report

1. Summary of Chapter Activities for FY19:

- a. July 2018 – N/A

- b. August 2018 – Strategic Planning Meeting (8/2/18; 12:30 – 4:30 pm); UMass Club, Boston (20 attendees)

- c. September 2018 – Chapter Meeting (9/11/18; 5:15 – 7:45 PM): “The Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS) in Massachusetts: Overview, Projects and High Performance Products Database” - Elisabeth Krautscheid, Managing Director of CHPS; Arnel Catalan, Associate Principal, Mount Vernon Group Architects (45 attendees).

Overview: High performance schools are more than just green buildings. Every component is carefully chosen to create a healthy, productive space for students and faculty. Elisabeth and Arnel will discuss how CHPS works with school districts in Massachusetts to create healthy, resource-efficient school buildings, and provide an overview of CHPS in Massachusetts, and an introduction to the services and resources CHPS offers, including the High Performance Products Database.

- d. October 2018 – Chapter Meeting (10/10/18; 5:15 – 7:45 PM): “**NFPA 285 - Fire Test for Exterior Walls**” - **Panel Discussion** - Donald Havener, Principal Fire Protection Engineer at Cosentini Associates; Brian Kuhn, Consultant at Code Red Consultants; Eric Montplaisir, Principal Fire Protection Engineer at TERP Consulting; Keith Nelson, Senior Architect at ECS MID-ATLANTIC, LLC. (50 attendees)

Overview: A panel of fire protection engineers and building envelope design professionals discussed NFPA 285, presented historical evidence detailing why NFPA 285 is important and required by the building code, explained what aspects of an exterior wall triggers a code requirement for NFPA 285, provided information on how to

design exterior walls that comply with the requirements of NFPA 285, and discussed current nuances in local state building code amendments regarding NFPA 285.

- e. November 2018 – Chapter Meeting (11/27/18; 5:15 – 7:45 PM): **“NFCA (National Fireproofing Contractors Association) & Fire-Resistance”** - Bill McHugh, Executive Director of the National Fireproofing Contractors Association (40 attendees)

Overview: The National Fireproofing Contractors Association advocates for safe buildings through fire-resistance. An overview of the industry from the International Building Code’s Chapter 7, ASTM E119 and UL 263 fire test standards and some of the listed designs., Bill looked at special inspection of Spray Fire-Resistant Materials and Intumescent Fire-Resistant Materials and how the fire-resistance-rated assemblies are maintained – as required by the International Fire Code and NFPA 101.

- f. December 2018 – Winter Social (12/12/18; 5:00 – 8:00 PM); Lion’s Tail, 354 Harrison Avenue Boston (50 attendees)

- g. January 2019 – Chapter Meeting (1/8/19; 5:15 – 7:45 PM); Joint Meeting with ICRI at Granite Links, Braintree, MA: **“Traps for the Unwary: Practical Tips for Staying Out of Trouble and Avoiding Construction Litigation”** - Jonathan Handler, Partner in the Boston office of Day Pitney LLP and Jennifer Grubb, Senior Project Manager at Simpson Gumpertz & Heger, Inc. (75 attendees)

Overview: This presentation discussed engineering and legal perspectives, on how to avoid traps that can result in litigation. Defending a legal claim is expensive, and a major distraction from running your business which is to be avoided whenever possible. There are some simple measures that can be taken to reduce that risk. Jonathan and Jennifer discussed common sense steps that can be taken to lessen the risk of litigation.

- h. February 2019 – Chapter Meeting (2/13/19; 5:15 – 7:45 PM): **“Building Envelope Commissioning”** – Brian Neely, Gale Associates (70 attendees)

Overview: When it comes to remaining dry, many new and renovated buildings fail to perform as intended. Building enclosure commissioning helps avoid common construction issues including water intrusion, air infiltration and associated energy loss. Addressing enclosure issues in early stages of construction saves money and time. The presentation covered: Building constructability, analysis of enclosures, hygrothermal analysis of wall and glazing systems, mock-up testing, water management strategies, and compliance verification.

- i. March 2019 – Chapter Meeting (3/13/19; 5:15 – 7:45 PM): **“A Comparison of Health-Focused Rating Systems: WELL and Fitwel”** - Blake Jackson, AIA, LEED/WELL Faculty, Fitwel Ambassador and Sustainability Design Leader with Stantec – Boston and Steven Burke, LEED/WELL Faculty, Fitwel Ambassador, Sustainability Manager at Consigli Construction Company (50 attendees)

Overview: Interest is increasing in how buildings impact our health and well-being. The design community is becoming more concerned with incorporating evidence-based

approaches to better impact occupant health and well-being. The WELL and Fitwel ratings systems have recently emerged, with the same goal, to promote better health outcomes through better, measurable design. While these systems are similar, they are unique in their approach and certification process. Blake and Steven gave an introduction to the systems, pointing out where they complement other ratings systems like LEEDv4, where they synergize, and where they diverge, to help us understand where each can be used, in tandem or stand-alone, to promote better health outcomes, and to meet the health and wellness goals of their clients and projects.

- j. April 2019 – Chapter Meeting (4/10/19; 5:15 – 7:45 PM): **“ADA Requirements for Buildings”** - Kathy Gips, Director of Training, New England ADA Center (35 attendees)

Overview: ADA requires accessibility in employee- only areas and the Massachusetts accessibility regulations do not; Massachusetts covers private residential and the ADA does not. Kathy presented critical areas where the regulations of the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board and the ADA Standards differ. She discussed where the requirements conflict and present a few resolutions. Finally, since the ADA is a civil rights law, requirements for accessibility in older buildings not planning alterations were addressed.

- k. May 2019 – Chapter Meeting (5/8/19; 5:15 – 7:45 PM): **“On Solid Ground? The Next Frontier in Floor Finishes”** - Emily R. Hopps, P.E., Associate Principal in the Building Technology division of Simpson Gumpertz & Heger Inc. (SGH) (40 attendees)

Overview: Concerns for health, safety and the environment triggered a major overhaul of construction materials, including those used in the flooring industry. Many floor systems, historically considered reliable, were redesigned, sometimes resulting in a loss of durability. New floor systems introduced to combat these negative effects, left the industry without track records and testing to verify performance. Emily delved into the recent history of flooring failures and extract lessons-learned for future floor system designs. She explored the variety of floor finishes available today and discussed how these new systems can be integrated into current projects.

2. Planned Programs for Summer:

- a. June 2019 – Summer Social (6/12/19; 5:00 – 8:00 PM); Commonwealth Cambridge, Kendall Square
- b. July 2019 – Strategic Planning Meeting (July 18, 2019; 12:00 – 5:00 PM); UMass Club, Boston. All chapter members are invited to attend.
- c. August 2019 – N/A

3. Planned Programs for FY20:

- a. September 2019 - TBD
- b. October 2019 - TBD
- c. November 2019 - TBD
- d. December 2019 - TBD

4. Problem areas: The Boston Chapter is continuing to work on creating a new website in order to provide Chapter members with up-to-date pertinent information without taxing the time and energy of the members who have volunteered to do so. The Chapter has become involved with Star Chapter who will take on the task of managing the site. The Chapter continues looking into ways to communicate and potentially attract new members by effectively using other forms of social media: Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and Instagram.

5. Success stories: The Boston Chapter has a strong core of active members and volunteers and has been successful in attracting some new faces to the group. The Chapter recently lost several directors and were able to fill the positions immediately with interested members.

C. Chapter Leadership Roster

1. Chapter Officers for FY20

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| a. President: | Bob McEachern |
| b. Vice President: | Kelsey McMenemy |
| c. Secretary | Craig Boucher |
| d. Treasurer | Herb Ule |
| e. Directors | Len Anastasi
Tara Ikenouye
Alain Stanislaus
Kristin Norwood
Gary Brock
Arnel Catalan
Andrew Jeffrey |

2. Chapter Committee Chairs for FY20

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|------------------|------------------------------|
| a. Membership | Kristin Norwood/Jared Gorman |
| b. Programs | Craig Boucher |
| c. Education | Tom Scarlata |
| d. Awards | Tara Ikenouye |
| e. Certification | N/A |

Respectfully submitted;

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END OF REPORT

CC: Region Secretary