

**DRAFT**  
**HARTFORD PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**July 20, 2020**  
**6:00 PM**  
**Remote Workshop Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 and Bruce read the Statement of Act 92 Compliance.

**Overview of Vermont's Residential Building Energy Standards and Stretch Code**

Geoff presented on Vermont's Residential Building Energy Standards (RBES) and Stretch Code. He explained what the RBES are, and that an updated RBES comes into effect in September. Next, he described Stretch Code, how all municipalities in Vermont have the option to adopt it, and that S. Burlington has. He then explained how stronger energy codes like Stretch Code reduce emissions, save money, and align with state and local goals.

**Questions and comments**

Dave, Toby, and Dennis were concerned about the incremental cost of building to Stretch Code. Robin-Adair was also interested in how much cost Stretch Code would add to a project. They wanted to make sure that it wouldn't make building in Hartford even more expensive. Geoff explained that there was about a \$10,000 cost premium to meet the stretch code, and pointed to Department of Public Service's (DPS) proposed rule filing on the RBES for more information on cost. Dennis thought that \$10,000 in the scope of a whole project is not very significant.

Bruce wondered if contractors would be able to meet the code because of challenges he has had in getting certain types of work done in his home. There was also discussion about the importance of ventilation, which stretch code requires.

Commissioners asked what the next steps would be and how Stretch Code could be adopted. Geoff said that he and Jo-Ann would have to do a little research. They had heard from two sources that amending the town's Zoning Regulations would probably be the best approach, but that information needs to be confirmed. Geoff and Jo-Ann will get back to the Planning Commission with next steps.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00.