



Minnesota Building Permit Technicians Association

Volume 12, Issue 3

May/June 2009

“The goal of the Minnesota Building Permits Technicians Association is to provide, promote, and support education, networking, professionalism, certification, and recognition of its membership.”

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Patti Wasmund – Inspectron, Inc.
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Treasurer II

Position Vacant



International Code Council Building Safety Week May 3-9, 2009



Go to: www.iccsafe.org
for more information.

BUILDING SAFETY WHERE YOU LIVE, WORK AND PLAY

10,000 Lakes Chapter

Summer Educational Conference

AMBO Semi-Annual Business Meeting

July 15, 16, & 17 2009



**Ruttger's
Sugar lake Lodge
Grand Rapids
Minnesota**

For more information or to register go to:
www.10klakes.org

Message from your President.....

Dear Members:



Annual MBPTA membership dues vary by size and type of your City or organization. Memberships start as low as \$50 per year. The 2009 Membership Application can be found at:

WWW.MBPTA.ORG

Benefits of Membership Include:

- Quality Education and Training Opportunities
- Discounts on Seminar Rates
- Wide Variety of Net Working Opportunities
- Scholarships for Higher Learning Programs for Members and Children of Members

Mail your completed membership form and check to:

Patti Wasmund – Inspectron, Inc.
15120 Chippendale Ave S.
Rosemount, MN 55068
651-322-6626 * fax 651-322-7580
pwasmund@inspectroninc.com

Make checks payable to: MBPTA



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

MBPTA currently has openings on several committees.

Hello everyone. National Building Safety Week is May 3 – 9, 2009. It is a good opportunity to educate the public on construction and safety codes. ICC has promotional materials for Building Safety week for sale on their web site.

Our last MBPTA meeting was on March 31st at the City of Shoreview. The meeting was a success and there were 20 attendees. Dave Vosburgh, from Goodhue County Environmental Health Department was our presenter. Dave did a power point presentation on radon issues. Thank you so much Dave for taking the time to speak to our association. Thank you also to Cecy Lukoskie and the City of Shoreview staff for hosting our meeting.

Listed below are other updates to review:

NEXT MBPTA MEETING: The next MBPTA meeting is on May 19th, at the City of the New Hope. Roger Axel, Building Official for City of New Hope will be our speaker. Roger will do a presentation on field inspection examples. I hope to see many of you at this meeting. I encourage you if have never attended a meeting to please do so. Let your supervisors and co-workers know how important it is for you to attend our meetings to support our membership and receive education as well. Even with the hard economic times, MBPTA has 61 paid members this year. Don't forget to check out our web site at www.mbpta.org for MBPTA newsletters, meeting locations, certification information and more.

MBPTA 2009 CHARITY EVENT: MBPTA is excited to host a charitable event this year. The event will be "**Cook for Kids**" at the Ronald McDonald house. MBPTA will purchase and prepare a meal for the families of ill children at the Ronald McDonald House. We will be looking for volunteers for this event which include serving or preparing the food. Our Treasurer, Patti Wasmund is coordinating this event. Please e-mail Patti at pwasmund@inspectron.com if you are interested in assisting. Remember what counts in life is what we give to others and the reward for volunteering greatly exceeds the effort.

PERMIT AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING:

I attended this meeting via conference call on 4-6-09. John Darnell was in charge of the meeting. John is a Certified Building Official & Assistant Director of Development Services in Turnwater, WA. John discussed that even though our ICC "free day" is not available, there are 3 webinar choices to choose from and they can be divided into 6 hour or 2 hour increments. The courses are also available on DVD with live instructors to answer questions. **Certification:** The 2006 Permit Technician Study Guide will not change until after the new code changes are updated. Due to budget cuts, ICC will not send chapters new complimentary books for the exam if references change. **Government Relations:** Laura Scott, Vice President of Chapter Relations reported that the "Permit Technician" occupation title was submitted to the U.S. Department of Labor. This will give the permit technicians their own job classification other than under "clerks". She also stated that ICC Permit Technicians career brochures are available for sale on the ICC web site. Draft minutes on this meeting will be available at the May 19, 2009 meeting.

President's Message Continued.....

REGIONS III MEETING:

I attended this meeting via conference call on 3-31-2009. Chris Rose, Permit Technician for the City of Fargo stated that a permit technician seminar will be offered on June 4th, 2009 in Fargo, ND. All permit technicians from Minnesota are welcome to attend. Roger Axel and Joe Ryan updated us on the attendance at the Regions III Institute in February. Despite the economy the number of attendees was just slightly down from last year. The education/planning meetings for the institute will start soon. I plan on serving on this board again for 2009; however I would like for someone to attend or alternate these meetings with me. Please contact me at bpease@ci.andover.mn.us if you are interested in attending these meetings. Draft minutes on this meeting will be available at the May 19, 2009 meeting.

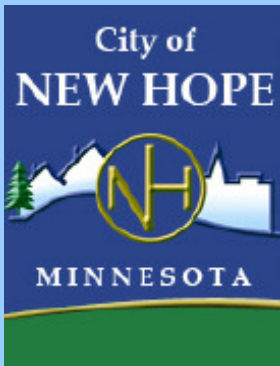
I look forward to seeing everyone on May 19th! Happy spring!

Sincerely,

Britt Pease

President, MBPTA

Directions to New Hope City Hall:



From East:

Take 94 West to Highway 394
West Highway 394 to State Highway 169
North Highway 169 to Rockford Road (County 9)
East county Road 9 to third stop light
North (left) on Xylon Avenue

From North or West:

Take 94/694 East to State Highway 169
South Highway 169 to Rockford Road (County 9)
East County Road 9 to third stop light
North (left) on Xylon Avenue

From South:

Take 35w to 494
West 494 to State Highway 169
North Highway 169 to Rockford Road (County 9)
East County Road 9 to third stop light
North (left) on Xylon Avenue



NEW!
Career as a Permit Technician Brochure
\$6 for packet of 25
Order online now
from ICC
1-888-ICC-SAFE
Or ICCSAFE.ORG
Catalog #7328S

Attention MBPTA
Members:
If you would like
serve on an
MBPTA
Committee, please
contact any
MBPTA Officer.
Volunteers are
needed.
Thank you!

We're on the web....visit us at
www.MBPTA.org

Please contact
Barb Benesch at:
763-717-4028 or
[barb.benesch@ci.mounds-
view.mn.us](mailto:barb.benesch@ci.mounds-view.mn.us)
by Friday, May 15 if you
are planning to
attend the meeting

Reminder!

*MBPTA meetings are
the LAST Tuesday of
every other month at
9:30 a.m., unless
notified otherwise.*

***Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 19, 2009
City of New Hope, 9:30 a.m.***

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions
3. Approval of minutes for March 31, 2009 meeting
4. Approval of Treasurer's Report
5. Committee Reports -
 - A. **Education** – U of M Annual School report – Michele Engberg – Regions III – Update Roger Axel/Britt Pease
 - B. **Communications Committee** – Barb Williams/Barb Benesch
 - C. **State Advisory Board** – Linda Singer/Michele Engberg
 - D. **10K Lakes Representative** – Steve Nelson
6. General Business
 - A. Greg Johnson Update
 - B. Charity Event Update - Patti Wasmund
 - B. Permit Tech – Question and Answer Review
 - C. Open Floor for Comments/Questions/Discussions
7. Adjournment

Immediately following the meeting Roger Axel, Building Official for the City of New Hope, will provide a presentation on field inspections.

Caring for our Community:

Cash or check donations for food to "Hunger Solutions of MN" www.hungersolutions.org. Please make your checks payable to "Hunger Solutions of MN" and thanks for giving.

~ MBPTA EDUCATION ~

How to Become a Certified Permit Technician

Books needed for the test

- 2006 IBC (chapters 1-3, 6, 12 and 34)
- 2006 International Zoning Code
- 2002 Legal Aspects
- Basic Code Enforcement 8th printing
- You Can Build It has been removed from the exam

Additional Study Material

- ICC Study CD and ICC Permit Technician Study Companion
- Flashcards
- Attend OPTA Quarterly Study Sessions

Exam Details and Fees

- \$180.00 computerized
- 60 multiple-choice questions—
- Open Book—2hour limit
- General Administration 39%
- Legal Aspects 22%
- Plans and Documents 25%
- Zoning and Site Development 14%

For more information go to www.mbpta.org

MBPTA March Meeting



Thank you to David Vosburgh from the Goodhue County Environmental Health Department who gave a very interesting and informative presentation on radon issues.

Thanks, Dave!

MBPTA May Meeting

Tuesday, May 19th - Immediately following the meeting Roger Axel, Building Official for the City of New Hope, will provide a presentation on field inspections.

Permit Technician Program



If you would like information regarding the Building Permit

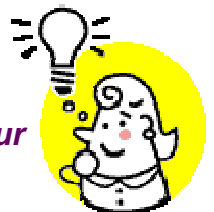
Technician program, you can obtain information by visiting the Inver Hills Community College website at www.inverhills.edu or the North Hennepin Community College website at www.nhcc.edu/schedule/. The courses are under "Building Permit Technology. Or you can check out our website at www.MBPTA.org

2009 MBPTA Meeting Dates and Locations: Tuesdays.....

May 19	Regular Meeting	City of New Hope
July 28	Regular Meeting	City of New Brighton
September (TBD)	Annual Education Day	To Be Determined
November 24	ABM (No Education)	City of Andover

Important DATE!

Do you have an idea for a meeting topic???? Do you know of someone who would like to speak at one of our meetings? Please contact an MBPTA officer with your suggestions. We will appreciate your ideas!





Permit Tech Test Questions 05-19-2009 Meeting

1. An application for a permit that has been deemed abandoned may be extended for maximum periods of _____ days when authorized by the building official?
 - a). 60
 - b). 90
 - c). 180
 - d.) 365

2. Who may revoke the Certificate of Occupancy?
 - a). the fire chief
 - b). the city manager
 - c). the building official
 - d). the board of appeals

3. What is the occupancy classification of a horse barn?
 - a). Group H-4
 - b). Group R-3
 - c). Group S-2
 - d). Group U

4. Where required natural ventilation is provided by exterior openings, the minimum openable area to the outdoors shall be _____ percent of the space being ventilated?
 - a). 2
 - b). 4
 - c). 8
 - d). 10

5. Unless an extension is granted, a permit expires after _____ if no work is undertaken.
 - a). 30 days
 - b). 120 days
 - c). 180 days
 - d). one year

DRAFT MINUTES -Tuesday, March 31,2009 - Shoreview City Hall

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. The following officers were present: President, Britt Pease; Vice-President, Barb Williams; Secretary I, Barb Benesch; Secretary II, May Vang; Treasurer I, Patti Wasmund. The following members and guests were present: Tammy Siemsen, JoAnne Beckes, Krista Buth, Jackie Onischuk, Mary Fitz, Michele Engberg, David Vosburgh, Debi Close, Gail Keykal, Katy Okerstrom, Katie Schlundt, Cecy Lukoskie, Steve Nelson, Jan Rosemeyer, and Patty Boysen.

Introductions took place.

There was one minor grammar change on the February 24 minutes from IPM to IBM under Region III reports. Member Katy Okerstrom made a motion, seconded by JoAnne Beckes, to approve the minutes of February 24, 2009. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer I, Patti Wasmund, gave the Treasurer's Report for March 2009. March 2009 report has a beginning balance of \$8,956.55, had total expenses of \$258.86, had deposits of \$101.39, and an ending balance of \$8799.08. Vice-President Williams made a motion, seconded by Gail Keykal, to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Education

Member Michelle Engberg reported that the U of M Annual School committee did not have anything new to report and that the committee has not met since the last MBPTA meeting.

President Britt Pease stated that Member Roger Axel is not present today.

President Pease asked the members for their opinion that if she did not attend that ICC Conference in Maryland this year, should MBPTA use that money for our fall education day. With the economy, and with the cut of the "free education day" we no longer receive from ICC, President Pease felt this would help MBPTA financially. Member Steve Nelson stated that he felt the conference would be beneficial to our group because we would have representation at ICC's conference. Member Nelson felt we have worked hard to get our group represented and that this would be a great opportunity to build and develop relationships. Member Nelson suggested that we check with the State and ICC because they have some wonderful speakers that MBPTA may be able to get for a reasonable price. President Pease stated that if anyone is interested, we will be discussing education topics and ideas after the regular MBPTA meeting. She added that all are welcome to come with ideas and suggestions.

Regions III

Member Roger Axel was not present, and therefore, there was no report or update regarding Regions III. President Pease indicated that she will talk to Member Axel and get an update regarding Regions III from him. President Pease also stated that the meetings are usually held in Maple Grove.

Continued on next page....

Communications Committee

Vice-President, Barb Williams, and Secretary I, Barb Benesch, reported that the web page has been updated with clarification on who can be an MBPTA member and five new study questions for anyone interested in taking the Permit Tech certification test. Treasurer I, Patti Wasmund, stated that she received questions from people who were not members and those people thought that they had to be a "Certified Permit Tech" in order to be a member. Treasurer Wasmund informed members that she e-mailed the people inquiring with questions a membership form and one of those people has joined MBPTA as a member.

State Advisory Board

President Pease stated that Member Linda Singer attended the last meeting, but due to her absence, President will email and get updates from Linda for the next MBPTA meeting.

10K Lakes

Member Steve Nelson informed members about the events that 10K is hosting. There will be a highway cleanup event for any interested members; this event will take place in Hastings, MN, the first weekend in May. There will be a golf tournament on May 29th; the cost is \$75/person. Member Steve Nelson also stated that the Building Board, consisting of 2 building officials, 1 fire marshall and some members of the builders industries is not currently being pursued by the Legislature. The 2006 Gas Fuel/Mechanical Code and Energy Code will be online as of June 2009. Member Michelle Engberg questioned how the Energy Code has changed and Member Nelson gave a brief explanation.

President Pease stated that Greg Johnson has asked MBPTA to provide a letter of endorsement supporting his nomination for a ICC Secretary/Treasurer. Members Engberg and Okerstrom suggested that we should have this item on the May MBPTA agenda and invite Greg Johnson to come and talk to the group prior to the letter of endorsement. President Pease and a majority of the members agreed, so MBPTA will invite Greg Johnson to our May MBPTA meeting to give members an opportunity to address any questions/concerns members may have for him.

General Business

Charity Event Update - Treasurer I Patti Wasmund talked to members about the Ronald McDonald House charity event. Treasurer Wasmund will send an email to members for anyone interested in helping with this event. President Pease clarified what the charitable event involved. Members can volunteer to purchase the food, prepare the food, and serve the food. President Pease stated that MBPTA would donate \$250-\$300 for the cost of food towards this event. Member JoAnne Beckes suggested that members could just donate food item so that MBPTA does not have to take money from our account towards this charitable event. By doing this, MBPTA will have the money to go towards our education. Treasurer I Wasmund informed members that she will coordinate this event in more details and keep members updated.

Permit Tech Questions

President Pease went over the questions in the MBPTA newsletter.

Open Comments/Questions/Discussions

Member Engberg stated that in the past she received comments from members ranging from educations that were technical (plan reviews) and data practice/administrative support (customer services). Treasurer I Wasmund asked if members could give more thoughts and suggestions to help the planning/education committee. One suggestion would be to send another email survey to all members. Member Tammy Siemsen suggested that MBPTA could offer education with a combination of customer service and technical procedures.

Treasurer I Wasmund stated that she likes the idea of the Permit Tech questionnaire; it helps the members who are interested in taking the Permit Tech prepares for the test. President Pease has the practice test for the exam she will be happy to email the practice test to interested members.

Adjournment

Secretary I Benesch made a motion, seconded by Member Okerstrom, to adjourn the meeting at 10:27 a.m.

ANSWERS TO PERMIT TECH QUESTIONS

1. (b) 90 days – Ref. IBC 105.3.2
2. (c) the building official – Ref. IBC 110.4
3. (d) – Group U – Ref. IBC 312.1
4. (b) 4 – Ref. IBC 1203.4.1
5. (c) 180 days – Ref. IBC 112.2

NEWSLETTER EDITOR INFORMATION

As always, please make sure you send all RSVP's and mailing list information to Barb Benesch. You only need to RSVP if you are coming to the meeting. You need not respond if you will not be able to make it (unless you are an officer).



If you are currently receiving a hard copy through the mail, and you have access to e-mail, please let me know and I will put you on the e-mail list.

We would love to receive articles for this newsletter! If you have any information, ideas or tidbits you would like to share, let us know.

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