

Greetings to all stake-holders in the construction industry providing services in the Town of Estes Park.

The third public meeting in the process to propose adoption of the 2009 International Codes occurred on April 9, 2009. People attending the meeting received excellent information demonstrating the highly technical processes involved in designing (engineering) structures to comply with specific structural design criteria. Staff appreciates the assistance and feedback from all who participated in the meeting. Special thanks are extended to the following Licensed Design Professionals (architects and engineers) who shared their time and expertise to assist in making decisions establishing minimum climatic and geographic design criteria for the Town of Estes Park: Joe Calvin with Thorpe and Associates, John Spooner with Van Horn Engineering and Wayne Thompson with Landmark Engineering.

At the meeting, no final decisions were made; but, a solid foundation was placed. At the next (5th) meeting, to be facilitated on June 04, 2009, we will continue the discussion to determine proposed minimum structural design criteria. The discussion of these technical and impacting issues has just begun; and, at the meeting on April 9th, participants identified several issues requiring additional dialogue.

At the June 04 meeting, staff will recommend adoption of the following design criteria.

1. Minimum design basic wind speed of 140 miles per hour.
2. Default wind exposure C.
3. Minimum Design ground snow load of 45 pounds per square foot.

The meeting will be in the Town Board room, from 3 p.m.-5 p.m. At that meeting, we will continue the process by building upon the excellent information the Licensed Design Professionals shared with us and attempt to reach consensus on the minimum structural design criteria for the Town of Estes Park. Once the necessary requirement of determining these criteria is achieved, we will begin the identification and discussion of alternate methods, including prescriptive requirements that may be accepted as pre-engineered design. This includes examining Larimer County's prescriptive requirements adopted by amendment.

All stakeholders and other interested parties are encouraged and welcome to attend and to participate in this and all future meetings.

Will Birchfield,  
Chief Building Official, Town of Estes Park