

# **Minutes: AIA New England Quarterly Meeting**

Wednesday, September 1, 2004 BSA, Boston, MA

## **ATTENDEES:**

### **AIA New England:**

John Merkle, AIA President  
Mohammad Farzan, AIA (President Elect)  
Greg Ames, AIA (Treasurer)  
Carolyn Isaak (Executive Director)

### **National Directors:**

M. Hunter Ulf, AIA  
John Hoffmann, FAIA (Executive Director)

### **BSA:**

Richard Fitzgerald (vice-president)  
George Metzger, AIA BSA Treasurer

### **AIA Central Mass:**

Paul Woyda, AIA (President)  
Nancy Jenner Executive Director

### **AIA Massachusetts:**

**AIA Connecticut:** Diane Harp Jones (Executive Director)

Richard Turlington, AIA President

### **AIA Maine:**

Dean Blingham, AIA (President)

### **AIA New Hampshire:**

Eric Palson, AIA (President)  
Amy Bailey, AIA (President-Elect)  
Carolyn Isaak (Executive Director)

### **AIA Rhode Island:**

Tom Cousineau, AIA (President-Elect)

### **AIA Vermont:**

(President)

### **AIA Western Mass:**

Erica Gees, AIA (President)

### **Nat'l Assoc. Comm:**

Jessica Zlotogora, AIA

### **Guests:**

Leslie Thomas, AIA Director Elect

**1. CALL TO ORDER:** Called to order at 2:10 PM. The Minutes of the May 26, 2004 Meeting were reviewed and accepted with some name/position corrections in the attendee list.

## **2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

John M opened the meeting and briefly discussed the convention. John also attended another AIACT meeting and looks forward to visiting a couple of other components before the end of the year.

Dates for 2005 meetings are: February 16, 12 noon-3 pm; May 11, 12 noon-3 pm; August 31, 12 noon-3 pm; November 16, 12-3.

Annual meeting 2005 will be at the end of September.

Richard noted that at Build Boston this year, we should not sign up for the AIANE meeting. If you plan to attend Build Boston you need to register for it; but do not check off the AIANE meeting. Richard has already registered all of us for that. If you register you will be charged for it.

Nominating committee is made up of the two national directors and the Board president. They are nominating: Mohamad Farzan, President; President Elect, Greg Ames; and Secretary Treasurer, Erica Gees. Paul moved to accept the nominations, Dean seconded; voted in favor.

John noted that Hunter will finish his term on the National Board at the end of the year. Leslie Thomas, AIA will be filling his position.

### **3. Annual Meeting**

Donna Leban brought some programs to show. 220 projects have been submitted for awards. They have worked closely with Middlebury College. The dates are November 12-14. NOT winter yet. They have a great program set up, and it is equally as interesting for non-architects as for architects. There is a tour of the quarry as well. Planning has been going very smoothly. The college has a strong environmental program and this will be high lighted. Flyers will be sent out next week. Donna hopes to see all of us there.

### **4. NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

National is looking at revamping all of the public policies. There was a full policy review a year or so ago. There are about 160 public policies, some very obscure. They felt they should tie in to the AIA's objectives more. They will discuss policy framework at the upcoming meeting, and focused on these areas: what makes an architect, ie. education, etc; the practice of architecture; and the world—to whom is the architect responsible. It will help them deal with things more proactively; and when AIA needs to be reactive will have a good basis to refer to.

This has some broad reaching impact; will help deal more effectively with media. Some will be eliminated, or made into position papers; others will be policies.

The Strategic Plan is presented at the fall meeting every year. The Board comments and comes back in December with final plan for approval. Board feels that there has not been enough background to serve as a basis for the plan. But they have hired a consultant to help with the metrics for the plan.

A big, controversial item coming up is practice specialty certification. Hunter has heard all sides of the issue. It started out with the health care architects wanting to create a certification for health care architects. RFP's are now starting to require some certification, for instance LEED. Who provides the certification? AIA is not a certifying body, so who does it. If anyone has thoughts about it, please email Hunter (and copy Jessica who is on the task force). It's not so much a question of whether it is a good idea, but how do we manage it or take a lead in it. They are looking for public comment.

Richard said the fear in Boston is that they couldn't assign staff members on certain projects; what does it do to the profession generally? It looks like hospital designers are trying to narrow the competition.... Eric questions whether the medical specialty model is valid for architecture?

A Management task force on CURT/GSA, A/E Productivity, and the Building Information Model are addressing recent poor quality construction document. GSA is going to do a test run on three projects using the Building Information Model. He is not sure what the ramifications are or where this is going.

Revenue Sharing: Financial health is excellent. Electronic documents are really successful. At the last board meeting came forth with plans for anticipated surplus: replacing some lost staff members, and returning some of the money back to the components.

Kathy Bartels asked if there is any grant money available for small unstaffed chapters to transition to a staffed chapter?

Richard asked if there was any talk of making the AIA president a paid position. The answer was no.

John H. commented on the Diversity Discussion Group. They would like something said about diversity in every "item on the grid." On policies: some are only slightly different from another one, so

editing and cutting can streamline these as well.

#### **4. NATIONAL ASSOCIATES COMMITTEE:**

A couple of year's ago AIA passed a policy that interns should not be unpaid. The problem is that some interns are not allowed by their academic institution to receive payment. Committee is asking board to look at this. All AIA awards applications have an affidavit saying that the firm has never had an unpaid intern. There was a lot of discussion regarding the pros and cons of paid/unpaid internships.

#### **5. CHAPTER REPORTS & DISCUSSION:**

**Western MA** September meeting at Gordon Hall on Student Chapter of AIA in WMass. Decided to do a small charge for the evening and credit it toward their membership. Should be good networking for the students.

They will have a legal round table series in the fall. Tour planned. They are also working on something to honor retired members in western MA. Have a column by Steven Jablonski and Julie Wagoner in local papers. New web site will be launched at the end of September, [www.wmaia.org](http://www.wmaia.org)

BSA: Civic Initiative for a Livable New England.... In past year has developed a state wide version that has hired a full time executive director. Oct. 23 is the annual career day in architecture and design at BSA for about 4 hours on Saturday. They send out notices in the spring and get a list of all students who have checked architecture or design item on the SATs, and send to guidance counselors, etc.

Major construction reform bill passed this year. Last one was in place 25 years. This one faced almost no opposition. Both parts of legislature were in favor.

Another piece of legislation: governor just signed a bill for a new school funding authority. There will soon be new funds to fund school renovations.

#### **Vermont:**

The state came out with policy statement to make requirements to follow LEED criteria for state buildings. Planning some informal meetings to clarify.

As a result of Grassroots visit to Rep. Sanders, Donna was invited to participate in a press announcement with him about wind energy development in the state. It was a good way for AIAVT to connect with the press and the public.

**Maine:** They are relaxing their design awards schedule a bit. They will announce them in the summer; jury in March, and awards meeting in June. It will no longer coincide with their annual meeting. This will put it off from the norm by six months. November elections: have a tax cap on the ballot which if passes will cut out a lot of services. A lot of the people paying the highest taxes are shorefront property owners and they are not complaining about the taxes. The tax cap benefits them, not the residents. In October Gene Hopkins and Robin Lee will visit and talk about Fellowship. If anyone has any good ideas for a speaker please let him know.

Maine is improving their web site for grids for types of services. One of the questions will be willingness to do projects less than \$25,000. Maine has proclaimed that all state buildings will follow LEED guidelines.

There was discussion about the ArchiPac request for a component fundraiser captain. Hunter said it was the first of some efforts by Archi Pac to try to raise more money because as far as Pac's go, ArchiPac has very little money and very little influence.

**Central MA:** Put in their annual Continuing Ed series starting with LEED guidelines and certification details, etc. Looking at instituting their awards program. Planning for 2005 AIANE Conference is

beginning.

**Connecticut:** In July they had a failure, but will do again every year! They did a regatta, had two boats, on a most beautiful day at a most gorgeous site; 15 or so people participated and are working on the next one because they all had so much fun. Fall programming is under way. They are doing a lunch and learn series at AIACT for those little offices that can't do it internally. It is very popular. Product reps, but they may not sell their product...program is about the type of product they sell. Free for members. They charge the reps between \$500-750. 1- 1.5 hours. Maximum number is 25 for attendance.

Visions, their annual conference, is September 28. In the middle of day they will have an historic train ride up the Nagutuc Valley with some information about the industrial revolution. They'll walk to Thomaston Opera House, and take a walking tour of downtown Waterbury. Diane will email us about it.

Have had a couple of legislative events. Has anyone ever gleaned an appropriate away to keep the legislature out of code? Two amendments have snuck through legislature that have played havoc. Can get a modification for the amendment, but can't get amendment out. How do you convince a legislator to introduce legislation saying all building and fire code issues should not be introduced into legislation? Please give her your thoughts via email.

#### **New Hampshire:**

NH Learning by Design will begin this fall; we have 20 classes lined up covering 450 students and led by 30 of our members. The Annual Awards and YA competition is underway with the deadline in October. We have a chapter meeting at the historic Cheshire Mills in Harrisville, NH, Sept. 23 and one at the famous Wentworth By the Sea Hotel in New Castle, NH, recently restored; John M was the architect. He will speak along with the lead engineer in the project, Brad Mezquita, PE, and Etoile Holzaephael, a landscape architect who led the community Friends of the Wentworth campaign to save the historic hotel.

**RI:** Also had a sailing event, a cruise of Newport harbor, with about 40 people, sponsored by Drivlt. No learning units, but was free and fun. RI is advocating for a return to QBS following the very sudden fee component element coming out of the state. Had a meeting with director of Dept of Capital Projects. They had an open forum with architects. Followed up with list of recommendations from the chapter and followed up with the government.

Still pushing for unified building and fire code. Annual golf tournament is September 14. Have had trouble getting sponsorship this year.

On Sept 30, "Professional Licensure and Career Alternatives," will be held as part of Emerging Professionals Program.

Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner is December.

#### **7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & FINANCIAL REPORT:**

**Budget:** Carolyn presented the Year to Date Financial Report for AIANE.

**8. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Isaak (Executive Director)