

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

Wednesday, September 3, 2003 Boston Society of Architects

## **ATTENDEES:**

<b>AIA New England:</b>	Domenic Carbone, Jr. AIA	(President)
	John Merkle, AIA	President Elect))
	Mohamad Farzan, AIA	(Treasurer)
	Carolyn Isaak	(Executive Director)
<b>National Directors:</b>	M. Hunter Ulf, AIA	
<b>BSA:</b>	Richard Fitzgerald	(Executive Director)
<b>AIA Central Mass:</b>	Kathryn Crockett, AIA	(President)
<b>AIA Massachusetts:</b>	Peter Nobile, AIA	(President)
<b>AIA Connecticut:</b>	Diane Harp Jones	(Executive Director)
	Jonathan Wagner, AIA	(President)
<b>AIA Maine:</b>	Jim Sterling, AIA	(President)
<b>AIA New Hampshire:</b>	Douglas Bencks, AIA	(President)
	Carolyn Isaak	(Executive Director)
<b>AIA Rhode Island:</b>	Sandy Taylor, AIA	(President-Elect)
<b>AIA Vermont:</b>	Ken Bean, AIA	(President)
<b>AIA Western Mass:</b>	John Salvon, AIA	(President)
<b>Nat'l Assoc. Comm:</b>	Jessica Zlotogura, AIA	(Director)
<b>Guests:</b>	John Hoffmann, FAIA, Incoming Regional Director	
	Debbie Bentley, RIBA, Assoc. AIA and Stephen Stenson , RIBA,	
	Assoc. AIA	

**1. CALL TO ORDER:** Called to order at 2:00 PM. The Minutes of the April 30, 2003 Meeting were reviewed and accepted.

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

Domenic reported on the San Diego convention, which was the largest ever: 20,000 people.

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

Hunter: there are lots of small things happening right now, not one big issue.

- a. AIA National Board meeting coincides with AIANE Annual Meeting, so will be absent from the latter. At the National Board meeting there will be a presentation of the annual budget. So far this year AIA is ahead on almost all of budget categories. Will be voting on budget and investment policies, to help set budgeting direction for future. Helps to insure financial health of Institute.
- b. Working on revision of honors and awards rules. Last year there was no Gold Medal given; board perhaps regrets that happening. The process is a bit confusing. Hunter serves as chair of Gold Medal advisory committee. Will review nomination and selection process. He hopes that they will remove the sponsorship by a board member qualification. Sponsorship should come from a more grassroots level. Looking to change voting procedure as well. May simplify the process, and change the 75% voting requirement. Trying to link awards and criteria to the goals of the Institute.
- c. Have been pushing the idea of posting the minutes of the National Board meetings on the Web site. They are now distributing agendas further in advance.
- d. NAAB Accreditation Conference is coming up. Good time to put forth AIA policies on education.

- Will be voting on some policies at the Sept meeting.
- e. Will be electing a new public director: running are Jeremy Harris, Mayor of Honolulu; John Safer, sculptor and banker; and Richard Seusenberenn; Columbus, OH city council.
  - f. Photo Releases: AIA and American Society of Photographers have reached an agreement regarding photo releases. (Available through AIA)
  - g. AIA taking position there should be one building code. 37 states have adopted IBC, 2 NFPA. It is still mixed.
  - h. Richard asked about Interior Design issue. HU said there is time set aside at Sept meeting to discuss this issue. Rep from IIDA and Thom Penny met to try to get dialogue going; he has not heard any response from that meeting. DHJ said state govern network meeting in Alb. discussed 3 scenarios that were sent to components. CT couldn't respond because they appeared disjointed and unrealistic and it was difficult to see a right or wrong scenario. Asked Hunter to deliver that message to Board. Concerned that a major decision will be made without appropriate consideration. HU thinks it any decision is being pushed put off because of this. To effect current AIA policy on interior design.
  - i. Board is looking at ways to enhance communications between directors and components. AIANE is brought up as a region that knows how to do this. Discussions on creating a Director's job description. New England is setting an example as good communication system.
  - j. Specialization study: money set aside, but no further info.

#### **4. NATIONAL ASSOCIATES DIRECTOR REPORT**

Jessica: The National Associates Committee launched Associate News, ArchVoices, in May (Email). She sends along and information she gets to them. Asked for components to send her information.

Associates Comm. is launching a National Design Competition, partnered with Habitat for Humanity. Jessica in charge of committee.

They have a luunched an IDP Handbook, organized by subject areas of the test.

Jessica's two year term will be up next year and we need to select a replacement. We put money in the budget for her replacement to go to Grassroots, so need to discuss candidates and choose in November. Job Description: this person will need to attend Associates National meeting in October, keep finger on pulse of what's going on with Associates in New England., help foster that discussion and keep the ball rolling. They are the link between what's going on nationally and regionally for Associates. Funded to attend the October meeting, and by AIANE for Grassroots, Convention, and AIANE Annual Meeting. Jessica thanked AIANE for this. She asked that components send her nominations for the position by November so we can vote at the meeting.

RF mentioned that BSA manages ArchVoices' books, and supports it. Two people who started it are moving to NE. Have encouraged them to talk with National Associates Committee and maybe we can have them become part of AIANE.

Domenic: some associates see this as a way staion, so it is hard to get them exciting about participating in this stage. Jessica: Assoc. Association is still new and learning how to affect changes, also trying to focus on those not on a career path to becoming licensed, trying to target programming for them HU: there is a lot of discussion going on among AIAN, NAAB, NCARB, etc. about IDP program. There is also an associate member on AIA Board.

#### **5. ANNUAL MEETING**

Alexandra Lee: conference coming up. 107 people so far. 50 people on Friday, 60 for reception, couple of dozen on Saturday, 70 for awards banquet. Vermont will do this in 2004; they are looking

at Middlebury College, where there is a lot of building going on.

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

**Western Mass:** Jonathan Salvon: new item on AIANE Meeting agenda, adding tour to new Frank Gehry building at Bard College, on Sunday morning. Fall program starts in October with lecture series cosponsored with Umass. Three this fall, three in spring. Also have dinner meetings; and have technical seminar series in winter, spring.

**BSA:** Sept 11-14 having national conference on density, cosponsored by AIA Housing committee, Still a la carte registration avail.

Build Boston: 2 conferences within, Nov. 18 day-long women in design conference. Wed and Thursday a national Conference on Diversity: 20/20 Vision. On Thursday, Arch Voices is sponsoring an all-day conference for young design professionals.

6-8 mos ago, a couple of architects approached BSA asking to start a committee for international architects--people practicing in Boston from elsewhere. A terrific intellectual activity, giving a perspective on American practice and behavior. Discuss obstacles for them on getting licensed, getting hired. Have put together a proposal for NAAB conference.

Credit Union. Valuable for its members.

Created a new membership category: professional affiliate. (Have regular affiliates and corporate affiliates.) Individual professionals in industry, and they are treated just like rest of members.

BSA Career Day: draws 33-500 high school kids. October 25, with workshops, financing education, mini trade show of architectural schools. Wentworth Institute, 9-11

**New Hampshire:** We are having a meeting Sept 13 featuring Ron Bogle, president CEO of the American Architectural Foundation. We're meeting in Jackson, NH, and his appearance is in collaboration with the NH Foundation on the Arts, Arts in Education conference.

Oct. 15, Chapter Meeting at Rist Frost Shumway in Laconia

Design Awards

Design School Day, November 8

Board Retreat Nov. 13

We are also working on becoming more of a voice in the community regarding architecture and urban development. We have tried to make connections this year with public radio and tv. How have other chapters's handled that? RF: for any chapter, they put a public director on their board, and went after someone with media connections. Sandy: their QBS issue, people have said get in the press! RF: lots of people who have been in state legislature who are looking for something to do and still have connections. Kathy Bartels: RI sends position papers and letters to newspapers. K. Crockett: working with other associations works well, too, in collaboration on an issue. More than one group has a bigger impact.

**Rhode Island.** Sandy: Newsletter is starting to be a success, started about a year ago. Advertising is almost paying for it; about 3 issues a year.

Had joint meeting with ASLA at Newport.

5<sup>th</sup> Annual golf tournament was combined with a tennis tournament this year.

Gave 5 scholarships from last year's money. \$5,000.

Coalition for Unified and Effective Building Code: they are pushing toward one. Were not any

architect's on state advisory panels. Trying to bring in contractors and developers as well who would be interested. Working with other groups in other states and get up to speed on these issues. Planning to come up with a position paper to send to Fire Marshall's office and building code commissioner about what we'd like to see: to reduce redundancy, clear lines of jurisdiction for enforcement, clear instructions, hire more inspectors and train them better. Trying to avoid endorsing one code or another at this point. Have a lot of hurdles.

Last weekend had a sand castle competition.

Also, Henry Woods owns a summer home on Naragansett Bay, and he has a work session with food and refreshments. 5 people volunteered, 3 architects.

AIARI Fellowship Program: have one candidate.

Office space offered by Roger Williams University.

Comm College of RI has a training facility and asked them to take part in 8-part seminar series on the building industry from ground up. They have taken the last session in conjunction with CSI.

Tentative visit to John Stevens shop in Newport, stonecutting and sign businesses.

RISD: panel on modern design in historic context.

Prov. Preservation Society meeting coming up in Oct as kick-off to architectural guide by them and AIARI.

Working on mentoring program.

Young Constructors Forum (young people in construction, formed by AGC).

Design Awards in December.

**Connecticut:** Fought the code battle this year. Would have liked to have been anywhere than beside RI! Formed a coalition 5 years ago. Looked at codes, etc. Coalition had a key member leave last October. Things fell apart. Everyone has been invited to the table. In May had leg. Introduced by 3 rogue fire marshalls, but AICT architects rose to occasion and became a player in the issue. State has recommended ICC ...will continue to have a battle.

Anticipate that CT will look at professional tax again next year.

Will have 5 meetings this year. Will have a panel to talk about architecture with architects. Very popular...an informal opportunity to talk about the thing they love the most.

2 years ago did a program at one of their rehabilitation hospitals. Ran it again this year with state building officials. AIA members serve as sponsor and every building official who attends is given a handicap. Got enormous press.

Group within construction industry has contacted people to get together and look at ways on how to publicize the entire industry.

Have begun ARE fall program; 11 sessions planned.

Have a new membership category: Professional affiliates mostly for staff members in firms... \

Oct: second reception for Russian architects coming via Kiwanis club. Give mutual presentations.

Have lots of fun.

Career Day in November: invite HS students attend and visit architect offices. Are finding students in cities are not participating. About 30 firms involved. Give tour, talk about activities going on in the office.

Will have Paul Goldberger speak at Annual Meeting in November, UCT campus. President at Uconn will speak on work to come up in 2005.

Design Awards program will culminate September 18, hosting our newly licensed reception at the same event.

Handed out CT's position on the 3 scenarios. Urges National Board to consider with care any change of policy regarding interior design.

**C. Mass:** Focusing on fall programming...to provide programs that will draw people, provide service to members, attract new ones. Have meeting in Sept with an architect/lawyer on construction law. Have planned design awards, scholarships meeting in fall. Requested thoughts on design awards banquet.

Paul Woyda set up their web site.

They are excited about 2005 Annual meeting!

Paul Woyda: having some discussions on what directions MA is going with building codes.

**Maine:** Had a heated meeting in June because felt they'd been going year to year with a lot of thought and planning. Have a lot of loners, small shops in Maine. Have had a steady membership, but do lose some. Feel that Continuing Ed will make them lose members. Not getting much interest from people in going on board or involved. Design Awards coming up this year. One person has been running it all. Produce a catalog, etc. Get about 50 submittals. Calling for volunteers.

Lots of lose usage of word "architect" in Maine. Lots of engineers who submit for architectural work. Have some major licensing issues coming up; law is going to be reviewed.

Have redesigned their Web site.

Thinking about what will happen when current Exec Director resigns. Haven't resolved anything. Univ of ME Augusta now has a BA with a major in architecture. Connected with BAC.

Had Jerimiah Eck in June to present his book.

Seaside, waterside houses—book author presenting in Sept.

**Vermont:** Ken Bean: had a retreat, 2<sup>nd</sup> board retreat, in July. Retreat honed in on idea of board meetings every other month, with exec committee on off month. Have 4-5 good member meetings a year.

They are working closely with other groups. Have programs with Efficiency Vermont, in October, involving a local corporation. Have an awards program for about 15years. AIANH will be jury members this year. Someone from board will bring entries and suggestion sheet. They have non AIA architects participate. They are organizing show Art by Architects. Web site up since January. Trying to post our newsletter on Web site. Continue to be challenged with communication and how to finance it.

Meeting at St. Michael's College with building tour and presentation on VT furniture and certified wood. Annual meeting in December, with design awards, at the ECHO Museum on Lake Champlain.

ASLA set up a breakfast to see who else was interested in joint meetings. Have also approached AIAVT to look into licensing with the state...against AIAVT advice, they are going ahead with it.

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

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

## **8. OTHER:**

**Discussion of RIBA:** A discussion of RIBA was initiated by Mohammad Farzan Stephen Stenson and Debbie Bentley. Started RIBA in NE in May, have 55 members. 40 in Boston area. Substantial are both AIA and RIBA members. Those who arrived after 1990, are associate AIA. They network, deal with reciprocity issues with BSA, actively try to work with British businesses here and American businesses in Britain. There is a lot of business happening that architects could be involved with. Third issue is education. There is an arrangement available for interns to work in Britain, and vice versa for six months. It is underutilized. There is little conversation between the two organizations, and they should be working together as they face the same issues and problems.

They are organizing a series of activities: tours of buildings, etc. Trying to have meetings in different parts of 6 states. Trying to promote more exchange, also with attending CE programs in Britain.

In NY, AIA has announced they will have an international committee. Brought NY RIBA into that committee.

Looking for any ways and means of increasing communication, dialogue, looking at problems that face both NE and GB architects. Their site is [www.riba-usa.org](http://www.riba-usa.org).

Events coming up: Sept 8 meeting with BSA International Committee, for exploratory discussions about how practice is conducted. Planning larger workshop in December on working in Britain. At AIANE Conference will have a display. At BB 12 people will run workshop with past president of RIBA, Frank Duffy.

**9. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carolyn Isaak (Executive Director)