

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

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Build Boston

## **ATTENDEES:**

Mohamad Farzan, AIA	President, AIANE
Greg Ames, Jr. AIA	President Elect, AIANE
Erica Gees, AIA	Treasurer, AIANE
John Hoffmann, FAIA	Regional Director AIANE
Leslie Thomas, AIA	Regional Director AIANE
Jane Weinzapfel, FAIA	President Elect, BSA
Art Guadano, AIA	President Elect, AIANH
Amy Bailey, AIA	President, AIANH
John Merkle, AIA	Past President, AIANE, AIANH
David Epstein, AIA	President AIAVT
Nancy Jenner	Deputy Director, BSA; Exec. Director, AIA Central MA
Richard Fitzgerald	Executive Director, BSA
Tom Cosineau	President, AIARI
Stephen Fleshman, AIA	President Elect, AIA Central MA
George Metzger, AIA	President, BSA
Dean Bingham, AIA	AIA Maine
Peter Kuttner, FAIA	Future Regional Director AIANE; BSA
Julie Waggoner, Assoc. AIA	Regional Assoc. Director AIANE
Paul Woyda, AIA	President, AIA Central MA
Ernie Edwards, AIA	AIA Central MA
Diane Harp Jones	Exec Director, AIACT
Pat Myler, AIA	Pres, AIACT
Carolyn Isaak	Exec Director, AIANH, AIANE

## **1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Mohamad opened the meeting at 12:30.  
Those in attendance introduced themselves.

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

Mohamad thanked Nancy for the great job putting together the AIANE Conference this fall

Elected officers were announced for next year. Voting was at the Conference: Greg Ames AIA, President; Erica Gees AIA, President Elect; Dean Bingham AIA, Treasurer; Peter Kuttner FAIA, NE Regional Director (term beginning 2007).

**Meeting dates for 2006 were approved: Tuesday, January 31; and Wednesdays, May 31, August 30, November 15. All at 12:00 pm.**

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

John Hoffman thanked Leslie for writing their Directors' report (on the website).

There are 35 National Directors from the various regions. The number of directors from each region is based on population in the region. There are also

an associate director, a student rep, a CACE rep, and the board officers. There are also two public directors (two 7-year terms). Jane noted that in NE we have the benefit of many women architects. She asked how we put forth the idea of more presence among the National board officers with women. Leslie noted that the current class coming on has 14 men and one woman. In theory it should be about 15-20% of the board.

George Metzger reiterated that if AIA is a leadership organization, then we ought to be planning for the future. We need to continually bring younger people and people of diverse backgrounds into the profession.

Leslie mentioned that there are a lot of women as chairs of the Knowledge Communities, which is an available resource. Erica Gees said we should lean on national to represent women in their national advertising; now the focus is on men.

Art Guadano reminded the board that it is up to each of the local components to get people involved in our own chapters. People need to be invited to participate. Richard commented that a deeper problem is getting people of diverse backgrounds into the firms to start with.

Update on New CEO for AIA: selection should now be narrowed to one candidate. The final decision will be made by Ex Com during first week of December and will present to board on Dec. 8 or 9. John said there was an excellent pool and the selection process has been difficult because of so many good candidates. If any CACE members have questions about the process they should contact Paul Welch in CA.

A discussion ensued regarding the National Board and its makeup and its inner workings. There are people looking to move up, so politics is a factor. Greg Ames asked if there was a problem with the structure, and John said no. It is just not as transparent as it might be. Nancy Jenner said we're talking about two things...how people get nominated for offices, and how people get appointed for committees and advisory groups. The latter are made from recommendations from various places, including CACE and the committees themselves. Those recommendations go to Ex Com and Staff, but the president of AIA makes the appointments.

John noted that the more important committees (search committee, etc.) seem to be a little less transparent. And committee appointments and chair positions are appointed without any input from the person him/herself.

Leslie asked if the Director's report was too long. Answer was it is good. If you want any additional information from this summarized report, you can email John or Leslie. An important item is AIA150. Leslie suggested we invite these people (Champions) to AIANE meeting to coordinate timing, etc. Also, maybe we should invite state government people to the meeting in January.

The position statements at the September meeting all were passed. All final statements are on the national website. Leslie handed out copies. We are trying

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to get data on ARE exam registrations for the past 10 years from the Board of Registration.

It was voted to invite the AIA150 Champions to the next AIANE meeting. Have all the states represented at the January meeting to cover what's happening in each state before Grassroots and have an agenda item for that.

#### **4. AIANE MEETING DEBRIEFING:**

September 30-October 1 in Concord, MA. Had Bill Reed AIA as a Keynote speaker and a panel discussion, tours and awards celebration. Received 232 design awards submissions with 20 award winners (winners are on the website). Had about 139 total participants in Concord. The Design Awards Program did very well. Registration fees did quite well, also. However expenses are very high for the design awards celebration and the conference. And it is an extraordinary effort for 139 people. Nancy believes we should take that money and reach many more people and the public. We should have some out-of-the-box thinking on how to use the revenue from the design awards program to do a more visible activity. At some components it is more important than others. The MA components compete with Build Boston, etc. Diane asked if there is anything other than tradition that guides what components do when hosting the conference. The only legal requirement is to have an annual meeting.

Nancy strongly advised that all of the hours and energy and money used to plan the conference could be put toward something that reaches a broader and larger audience. How do we celebrate this body of work (awards) in New England....the awards, rather than a grand finale, should be a beginning. George mentioned that it is a nice networking event especially if you're not from Boston. But making it look outward to the community is important.

Julie Waggoner likes the idea of getting the public involved, but suggests a People's Choice Award. John Merkle thinks the whole process is too exclusive. Maybe we need to broaden the awards program a bit.

Suggested that as a minimum, each component could run the AIANE Awards program, and beyond that the component could model a program that fits their needs. Some will be more traditional, some will follow a different course. Intent from Nancy is to stir things up a bit.

Next year's conference is September 21-23 in Newport, RI. You'll hear about that in more detail at the next meeting. Hotel is the Hotel Whiting, the venues vary from colonial places to University buildings. They are struggling to share Univ. space with students. Stephen White will be organizing much of it.

#### **5. NATIONAL ASSOCIATES DIRECTOR:**

Julie Waggoner: Phone conferences have been very interesting. George Miller talked regarding AIA150. There was a recent vote to modify the rules of the committee so that the National Chair has to have had experience as a Regional Associates Director before taking office. She is signed up for National

Associates Conference December 5. She is looking for a shadow and to introduce herself to state Associates.

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

### **Boston Society of Architects**

George Metzger: Among new things this year, BSA invited over 100 high school students to Build Boston. They paid to bus them here. Hosted the Big Sibs meeting in October (12 largest AIA chapters). They represent about 40% of practicing architects across the country. Talked about the role of architects in the public. BSA has ongoing legislative affairs. MA Leg is concluding this week. Almost got green building tax credit through, so probably have a good shot at it next year. Still struggling with interior design. Are trying to reassess their position on this in spite of their effort to reach common ground. They are struggling with issues of code. Do have a significant investment in their leg. consultant/lobbyist. They are finding there is more and more to do and need to build their strategy around leg affairs lobbying. Have started a new small firms design awards program. The BSA and BAC have est. a community design resource center directed by Brandy Brooks. BSA will have its second Build Boston Residential Design program in the spring. At Build Boston reception tomorrow, they will honor a legislator, Therese Murray.

The Community Design Resource Center will vet worthy projects, some of which might be appropriate for a BAC architecture studio to undertake, some to send to other architects for pro bono work. Groups who might need start up thinking could get it underway through this: geared toward non-profits. Funding from BSA and BAC. Part of the mission is to push the notion of the value of design and bring the community in to the act. And also provides a connection to other architecture schools and architect members. The center will not be doing projects, but acts as a clearing house.

The coffee shop in BSA building will open soon!

### **AIA Central Mass**

Steve Fleshman thanked Nancy, all the staff at BSA, and everyone in AIANE who participated in planning the Conference. Dec. 8 is the Design Awards celebration and scholarship awards. Several days later is the annual meeting at which they will discuss a donation to a design-related program. Will start 2006 program planning. One of their big challenges is how to increase participation.

### **AIA Connecticut**

SDA does not exist in CT. They did have a meeting of interested people and will make their offices available.

John Hoffman shared what's happening on the National Level at their annual conference. IAIACT hosts a volunteer session each year where they invite all volunteers to be thanked. Diane invited everyone to join them for Design Awards, Westport, CT at the new Westport Playhouse, Dec. 12. On Dec. 19 they will have a program on "Mississippi Renewal" with a "southern" dinner.

The Univ of Hartford hosted the accreditation team from NAAB.

### **AIA Maine**

Dean Bingham: 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary is December 1. Judith Harvie is celebrating her 30<sup>th</sup> year as Executive Director. Board presented her with an all expense paid trip to England and Scotland. They had 125 applicants for a \$15-20/hour half-time job as an assistant to the

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Director (Judith is also half-time). They juried the NE Penn. Design awards (12 entries). He also distributed some of his chocolate ([www.deanssweets.com](http://www.deanssweets.com)).

### **AIA New Hampshire**

AIA New Hampshire is completing its first "Box City" program in Nashua, NH in its new Learning By Design Initiative. And two additional Neighborhood Walking Tour programs occurred this year in Nashua, NH and Wakefield, NH. These programs are for fourth-grade students, who along with their teachers have thus far responded with enormous enthusiasm.

Our third Integrated Design/Integrated Development conference on sustainable design and development October 6-7 was hugely successful. Awards were given to two outstanding projects in the IDID Excellence in Sustainable Design awards program. NRG Systems, Hinesburg, VT by Maclay Architects and Planners in Vermont and the National Outdoor Leadership School Headquarters, Lander, WY by Centerbrook Architects and Planners in Connecticut, were the winners.

Our regular awards program is underway. An exhibit of all submissions will be at the NH Institute of Art in Manchester, Dec. 16-January 20, where voting for a "People's Award" will take place. The jury's winning projects will be announced at the Awards Banquet, January 20.

The AIANH Board of Directors is making a donation from personal funds to Architecture for Humanity to assist with the world-wide disasters this past year.

The Education Committee is working with the architecture department at Keene State College to set up a graduate program on teaching Learning by Design. The course will be for the summer 2006 term and will be team taught by Jan Ham, Learning by Design in Massachusetts Program Director & Master Teacher and Donna Paley, Assistant Professor, Architectural Design at KSC.

The Public Relations committee has set up a Speaker's Bureau of architects willing to talk to groups on architecture and design. They are producing a brochure of speakers and topics to be distributed to the public.

We're adding some technical seminars to our Continuing Ed programs. They will be during the day, perhaps quarterly.

We are trying to get interns more involved in AIA and connected to each other. They are doing tours of construction sites, offices, etc.

We are tracking our Interior Design licensure program. We have been supportive of the effort but have not taken a position and they are making a point of not making it an exclusionary title.

We are watching the new code initiatives, especially the Life Safety 101 code that might require sprinkler systems for residential.

### **AIA Rhode Island**

Have been busy in contract negotiations for an Exec Director to begin in January. Had over 51 responses with many varied types of people. Have narrowed to one person and are excited to get going. Also hired a lobbyist. He will help with Interior Design legislation and other state issues.

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They are thinking of a way to raise more money. Looking at a "Friends or Architecture" membership category. In CT have a "friends" category with a copy of their newsletter and programs and events. Mainly public service people.....\$35 a year.

Raised a lot of money for scholarship fund by their golf tournament: \$36,000. They have a separate entity that is a 501(c)3. Revenue is from players and sponsorship.

They are working on the 2006 AIA New England Conference: Newport, An Architectural Laboratory. Each day has a theme: colonial era, gilded age, and current day architecture. Reception will be at National Museum of American Illustration. They will keep us posted.

### **AIA Vermont**

Have had a very successful Associates program this year, one at Vt Brick Company, one at a steel manufacturer. They provide lunch and a tour. Every fall they have a Green Building program. Had two design competitions: Art Gate....a site slated for a parking garage and artist's housing. The city has been very involved in the process. Also represented a new collaboration with Burlington City Arts.

Had their first annual CANstruction program. Sponsors are excited and looking forward to next time.

Hunter Ulf will be their AIA150 Champion. John Connell on National Advisory Board for the Housing Knowledge community is starting a Housing Committee in Vermont.

Asked for enlightenment on SDA and AIA. SDA is starting up in Vermont.

### **AIA Western Mass**

Erica: won the two SDAT grants (Pittsfield and Northampton) and this has been a big part of their year. Have an annual banquet in December. Will discuss maintaining a level of quality in website, newsletter, etc. as they are handled by volunteers.

Report on SDAT:

Communities apply to national for a \$20,000 matching grant. National assigns a team leader and director of Communities by Design. Team experts are selected for the issues they want to address: development, gross, housing affordability, etc. Northampton had six interprofessional team experts,. They come for a three-day design charette. Local component has an important function as members provide support during the design charettes. Concurrently they organized some Learning By Design programs and used these two cities in the program.

Does require lots of participation from members, especially in the followup. UMass has participated a lot. Smith College participated and offered resources and technical support. Students helped to put reports together.

AIA Western MA now has a presence in the community due to this.

### **6. DISCUSSION OF INTERIOR DESIGN LEGISLATION:**

None of the NE states have licensed interior designers. There was discussion of various state activity in this. BSA said the interior design statement that was filed was different from what they had talked about and they had to kill it. They recognize that they are

colleagues and they are reassessing their position. It might be important to broaden the discussion around New England.

A multi-state discussion is important. A very clear position is important.

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

Newsletter: Is it working? Do you have ideas to streamline process? Do you use the website. Please email comments to Carolyn.

2006 Budget was passed unopposed. It was voted to move \$10,000 in to the savings account.

Diane read the AIANE mission plan. She suggests we discuss and review the mission occasionally to make sure that we are working within those guidelines. Mohamad concurred.

Diane: seem to be doing well financially and membership changes. Who represents the body at Grassroots? Should we send both President and President Elect? Pat M. made a motion to send both President and Pres. Elect to Grassroots each year. Motion passed unanimously.

**8. ADJOURN:**

Adjourned: 3:05 pm

Next meeting is January 31, 2006 at BSA, 12 noon.