

Minutes: AIA New England Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Build Boston, Boston, MA

ATTENDEES:

AIA New England:	Kerry Dietz, AIA John Merkle, AIA Domenic Carbone, Jr. AIA Carolyn Isaak	(President) (Treasurer) (President Elect) (Executive Director)
National Directors:	Scott Simpson, FAIA M. Hunter Ulf, AIA	
BSA:	Richard Fitzgerald Robert Shackelton, AIA Peter Nobile, AIA Franziska Amacher, AIA	(Executive Director)
AIA Central Mass:	Nancy Jenner	(Executive Director)
AIA Massachusetts:	Marty Smith, AIA Gregory Neffinger, AIA Peter Nobile, AIA	(President) (AIAMA Board Director) (2003 AIAMA President)
AIA Connecticut:	Diane Harp Jones Jim Childress, AIA	(Executive Director) (President)
AIA Maine:	James Sterling, AIA	(President)
AIA New Hampshire:	John Merkle, AIA Carolyn Isaak	(Past President) (Executive Director)
AIA Rhode Island:	Martha Werenfels, AIA Sandy Taylor, AIA Mohammad Farzan, AIA Domenic Carbone, Jr. AIA	(President) (President-Elect)
AIA Vermont:	Stu Sutcliffe, AIA Ken Bean, AIA	(President) (President-Elect)
AIA Western Mass:	Marty Smith, AIA Alexandra Lee Erica Gees, AIA Gregory Neffinger, AIA	(President) Executive Director (President-Elect)
Nat'l Assoc. Comm:	Jessica Zlotogura, Assoc. AIA Helen Risom Belluschi, Assoc AIA	National Director Past National Director
Young Architects	Adam Wagner, Assoc. AIA	YAF National Advisory Comm.

1. CALL TO ORDER: Called to order at 12:00 PM. The Minutes of the Sept. 11, 2002 Meeting were reviewed and accepted.

2. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: 2003 Meetings are:

Thursday, Feb 27, at BSA, 52 Broad St., Boston, MA, 2-5 PM.
Wednesday, April 30, at BSA, 52 Broad St., Boston, MA, 2-5 PM.
Wednesday, September 3, at BSA, 52 Broad St., Boston, MA, 2-5 PM.
Wednesday, November 19, noon-3 at Build Boston

Next year's Board members were voted in at the Annual Meeting. They are:

President	Domenic Carbone, AIA
President-Elect	John Merkle, AIA
Treasurer	Mohamed Farzan, AIA

3. ANNUAL MEETING: The Annual Meeting was discussed. Attendance at the 2002 meeting was poor. Discussion centered on who attends and why; what is the cost vs. the perceived value; two days vs. one day; time of year (late spring vs. fall). Marty described plans for next year: it will be September 18-20 in Pittsfield/Hancock Shaker village with a focus on Historic Preservation. There is a two-night minimum at the hotel; \$100 per night. It was suggested that a speaker be sought for Friday night. Other suggestions: invite AIANY; have organized dinner for Friday night; make it known that credits are available; don't move it around--keep it in a high density place that becomes a tradition; attraction might be a big name speaker, some great architect (Alexandra requested that people submit names)....

It was noted that there is a public front to all of this. Who is AIA? The Annual Meeting is a good way to promote AIA and what we are doing in different areas of New England. The Board indicated it open to change and that details are the host chapter's prerogative. Richard reminded the board that it is important that we never lose the awards program. Maybe a one-day program plus an evening banquet, place to stay....

Kerry requested that each person present goes back to their Chapter to discuss the Annual Meeting and what it means and do you want to continue it. Come prepared to discuss in February.

4. BY-LAWS Jim Childress, AIA, submitted proposed changes to the bylaws regarding the Associate term and voting privileges. Jessica said that any Calendar date for the term is fine as the new director accompanies old as shadow prior to the term. October to October was approved. Acceptance of the amendments to section 3.1.1 and 5.5.5 and all other changes proposed at the May 1, 2002 meeting was moved, seconded and accepted. Please see attached by-laws for latest version with changes.

5. NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Scott reported that the budget continues to be in good shape. AIA is running in the black in most categories. Lagging a little in some areas of marketing and documents. Hunter indicated that the campaign jury is still out at National. He indicated that realignment and reorganization at National has been beneficial. The National Board Meeting in September in Maine was very successful.

There was a deadline of 8 November for membership pilot program grants. They are looking forward to see the applications.

The National web site was redesigned and started a few weeks ago. Scott and Hunter asked for comments.

AIA is embarking on a joint imprint with Taunton Press for a series of books on residential design geared toward the public. First book is by Jeremiah Eck, AIA.

Scott asked about concerns of Board to take to National Board:

Documents; Kerry asked, given what is happening in economy, is the Institute seeing any shifts in membership? Scott said that the market is soft in lot of places, Utah for example, and that Ohio is spotty. The economy in general is not really healthy, but not really bad, either.

Franceska asked if AIA could publicize the roles architects play in other areas in society, the way their skills are used in other disciplines. Architects have much to offer in all kinds of fields. Kerry added that architects have leadership skills and mentioned a program that AIA had, which Scott said is being resurrected in conjunction with Georgetown Univ. Kerry recommended that people put it on their radar screen.

Scott reiterated that AIA's rearrangement of the deck chairs is been a positive step. He mentioned that more is to come as Norman is coming up for review by Ex Com this fall and it won't be too much longer when anew person is needed as he is coming up for retirement. This will be another opportunity for growth. Kerry wanted the directors to make sure that the process is as transparent as possible to the membership: put out job description, talk about the credentials needed, etc; and make sure that information goes out to all components.

Voting: Now you need to be at convention and accredited to vote. Scott thinks we need one person/one vote with the ability to mail it in. Directors will discuss this at the next meeting of National Board. Richard suggested making the caucus available on video and having the voting after the convention.

6. CHAPTER REPORTS & DISCUSSION:

Central Mass: Central MA is doing a lot of work with Preservation Worcester. They have also established a program with arts-related groups that links elementary school kids with architecture. For example, design becomes the theme of a dance or musical performance.

BSA: BSA has created a credit union for all AIA members in Massachusetts, plus other BSA members, affiliates, etc. with an existing union: Tremont Credit Union. One can join as an individual, or family members can join even if you don't.

They have resuscitated a service of the early 90s: a monthly free lunch for anyone looking for job, unemployed or not. It creates an instant network. They bring in placement services, and counselors. Crits are given from other people looking for work. It is not limited to members. Richard noted the neglect among many firms to respond at all to letters of inquiry, or to followup on interviews.

New Hampshire: NH hosted a joint AIANH-AIAVT meeting in October focusing on an exhibit and presentation by the NH Furniture Masters. They are planning a Design Day in November for anyone interested in a hands-on workshop in architecture, interior design, and landscape design. Participants will attend sessions in all three disciplines. NH is also holding their first Intern/Young Architect Design Competition, with juring on November 14. The regular Awards program is underway with entries in and judged; banquet will be January 17 with a week-long exhibit preceding it. The Intern/Young Architect competition will be part of the exhibit and banquet.

The November Chapter Meeting is at the Mariposa Museum in Peterborough, an historical renovation project, with a panel discussion including architects and town planners. They will have music, appetizers and dessert and coffee.

The AIANH Board held their Annual Retreat November 7-8 in Franconia.

The Environmental Guild of AIANH is working hard on a two-day conference on environmental responsible design and development slated for March 21-22. Information on the Integrated Design Integrated Development Conference is on the AIANH web site: www.aianh.org/Pages/idid.html. This is a joint presentation with the Granite State Landscape Architects, The Jordan Institute, and the Office of Sustainability Programs at UNH.

Rhode Island: They have had a couple of meetings different from the past. One was at a newly designed Gwathmey Siegal building, during which members walked through the building and then went through the millwork shop. It was the best-attended meeting in recent history. RI did a Young Architects meeting to attract, YAs, interns, and recent grads, with topics such as the registration exam, advancing your career, q & a, and a display for different firms' work. It was well attended by people who don't normally attend. Next month they will show short films on different architects. Martha said AIANE meetings have been fun and interesting and offered thanks.

Connecticut: Saturday they are hosting a dinner party celebrating their 100th anniversary at the Bushnell. 212 members are attending. Because of celebrating anniversary, they have separated out awards program from annual meeting and it will be honored at the Children's Museum, Norwalk on December 9 with 26 awards. CT has presented their young professionals with 2 ARE Review opportunities, a winter program and a fall program. The program is 11 weeks, with the middle week featuring a panel discussion by those who have just passed exams and administrators from the licensing board. Diane asked if it is appropriate to invite people from western MA and RI? Answer: yes. They have had a level attendance. Cost is \$15 a night including dinner and it is underwritten. They will try to keep at that cost.

CT is running CANstruction again for second time in their lives; another group in the building industry is running a similar program.

University of Hartford is accepting applications for fall 2003 Master's program in architecture. Received approval from NAB. AIACT has undertaken responsibility of making sure they have 5,000 volumes for their library. They are accepting monetary donations.

CT is hosting a task force of reps from all disciplines in building industry and economic development regarding the building code. CT law requires that legislation for next state building code be introduced in fall of 2003. Vote on IBC 2000 was taken in August, but fire marshals have withdrawn their support. They are looking for the best way to encourage adoption.

W. Mass: They are planning for AIANE with Erica doing the bulk of the work. They have been experimenting with alternative formats with meetings. One was a tour of the Smith College museum. The last meeting was at the new Eric Carle Museum at Hampshire College. They are partnering with U mass on a lecture series and will revive their technical series in the spring.

Maine: Maine is dealing with a number of issues. Membership has gone up 7%. Around 43-44% of registered architects in the state are members. They continue to present programs. Jim reported that they are a fairly stable chapter, very much in black. Programs this year dealt with legal issues, marketing, and architectural photography. They were successful and well-attended, with 30-50 people. They meet 4-5 times a year and make a little money.

Jim mentioned several issues with the state. A tax on professional services is in the works and they are trying to preempt that. Other states have tried and they've been repealed. There is movement for a universal school design coming from governor's office. They are working on a program to bring new concepts in school design and their value to the public. They are supporting efforts by U Maine to upgrade its associates degree program to a bachelors degree with major in architecture. They are trying to bring in BAC to run some programs and offer credit.

Maine has had some membership issues around copyrighting—drawings, etc. The Internet changes the way these are accessed. Jim has been in touch with AIA Louisiana which has created their own program that protects drawings.

AIA Maine to promote adopting LUs as part of licensure renewal in the state of Maine. They believe it gives a distinction among other architects, gives AIA credibility. They are also trying to develop a fellowship program, which also adds to importance of AIA as a distinctive organization.

AIA Maine gives each member a small space on the AIA Maine web site for a photo. It especially helps those without resources to have a web site.

Vermont: Vermont is working on their web site. Hope it will be up very, very soon. Their Annual meeting and Awards banquet is in December. NYC is juring Vermont: “a different view on our work.” A program at Middlebury College opened up the entire campus to them. They discussed the background of the master plan (more conceptual plan), and circulation patterns. Middlebury is what a college campus should look like—they have a tremendous building program going and don’t want to mess that up. The Professor of Art and Architecture lectured on past development, coming development, and the group toured new buildings. They spent all day there, with approximately 100 people. Middlebury financed it.

Vermont is conducting a telephone survey . . . What would members like to be involved in? They need to identify initiatives... what are members’ passions...

They have worked closely with Efficiency Vermont: case studies promoting energy efficiency. This was started last year. A new initiative has begun with Senator Jeffords office, looking at facilities for the elderly.

They are trying to get engineers and LA’s involved in some of their projects to build some networks with other organizations in state.

AIA MA: AIA Massachusetts primarily a corporate avenue for public policy initiatives. Through AIAMA lobbyists are paid, architects go to Beacon Hill, a series of breakfasts for legislators are held, and a Legislator of the Year award is given. It is not a programming chapter.

7. NATIONAL ASSOCIATES COMMITTEE: Associates Committee has been quiet since the October National meeting. Since it is a new leadership group, they are looking at the board alignment and how things will shake out. They would like to work with each chapter, with an Associate rep from each, to find out what is happening in each state. Please let her know who your Associate board member is, or secure a representative for Associates to connect with her.

8. YOUNG ARCHITECTS: The National Board has voted to add several funded positions to the Young Architects Board. Some open to licensed architects, some for unlicensed. If anyone is interested, get in touch with Adam.

6. REPORT ON NATIONAL DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Nancy reported on the National Diversity committee meeting in July. Among the initiatives discussed were 1): Getting together collateral organizations for a data summit which will work to find a way to collect data about architects; 2) Trying to reshape Grassroots to encourage Chapters to bring younger people to this leadership conference; and 3) Working with the Convention committee to get more diverse speakers at the Convention.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & FINANCIAL REPORT:

Budget: Carolyn presented the Year to Date Financial Report for AIANE. Kerry reminded the Board that there is a line item for the AIANE president to visit the chapters. If you want this, you need to invite them.

8. OTHER BUSINESS: Richard acknowledged Kerry's work on behalf of the Board. Kerry noted that the opportunity to meet other people in New England and work with component leaders and our reps to National Board has been very rewarding. She said that it is up to us who go back to our chapters and tell the incoming representatives from our chapters about the AIANE history and how we work. She reminded everyone to be in communication with Scott and Hunter to get information to National. Kerry encourages discussion on the Annual Meeting issue. We need to get clear about our intention. She also encourages this group to think about the needs of Associates at the Annual meeting. We as a group have a responsibility to talk about leadership roles in our profession and in our communities.

Kerry presented Helen Risom Belluschi, Assoc AIA, with a framed certificate in appreciation of her time on the Board and for her efforts on behalf of Associates. (At the Annual Meeting, Kerry was presented with a framed certificate in appreciation of her leadership.)

8. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Isaak (Executive Director)