

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

Thursday, April 23, 2009

BSA, 52 Broad Street 12 noon

## **ATTENDEES:**

Art Guadano, AIA	President, AIANE (AIANH)
Erica Gees AIA	AIA National Board Director, NE Region (WMA AIA)
Dean Bingham AIA	Past President, AIANE (AIAME)
Michael Hoffman AIA	Secretary/Treasurer AIANE (AIAVT)
Carolyn Isaak	Exec Director, AIANH, AIANE
Diane H. Jones	Executive Director, AIACT
Greg Spiess AIA	President-Elect, AIARI
Kelley Caminero, Assoc. AIA	RAD, AIANE
Carol DeTine AIA	President, AIAME
Jen Zolkos	Executive Director, AIARI
Greg Ames AIA	AIANE Regional Director-Elect, AIACT
Lorin Starr	Executive Director, WMA AIA
E. Russell Learned AIA	President-Elect, AIACT
Nancy Jenner	Deputy Director BSA
Ernie Edwards AIA	President, CM AIA
Chris Walsh AIA	VP/Pres-Elect, CM AIA
Bruce Bockstael FAIA	College of Fellows liaison (AIACT)
Jonathan Taylor, Assoc. AIA	Now AIA! 2009 NAC Chair

## **President's Report**

Art opened the meeting at 12:10 pm. Introductions were made. Minutes from the January 29, 2009 meeting were approved. Art reminded us to keep in mind the health of our chapters as we move forward this year. He recently sat at a roundtable with Senator Shaheen of NH about small businesses and economic concerns. We should be proactive in changes in codes for energy improvements.

## **Regional Directors Report**

Governance: Erica reported on progress in governance proposals. A model will be presented to components at the 2010 convention. There is much discussion around this on the Board. Erica is chair of a new task group appointed to boil down the issues regarding the roles and responsibilities of the National Board and their responsibility to members. Currently it is hard to have a strategic discussion with such a large board. It is important to keep showing the history: institutional memory. Goals are to have a board strategically working on the profession and bearing fiduciary responsibility.

Strategic Plan: Board is re-evaluating. Looking at how we will see the Institute in 5-10 years. They are not starting from scratch; it is an update and assessment.

Legacy Fund: Board moving ahead with moving funds into a 501(c)3. Now called "Legacy," it is a Foundation, and the name may be changed. There are some scholarship funds coming over from the AAF.

## **Convention, National Board Elections, Resolutions:**

AIANE Board discussed candidates and respective merits. Convention attendance is down 15%. Resolutions include establishing a Region for International members, and also allowing international members as full AIA members. Another resolution is to allow

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associate members to be Board members. We will hold a NE caucus right after the candidates q&a on Thursday at the convention.

### **By-Laws:**

Everything looks okay with the exception of the associate as a National Director. Board voted to accept changes and approve the bylaws as now written, with the caveat that if the Associate resolution passes at the Convention, the By-Laws will take effect immediately and if it does not pass, we will rewrite this section and vote again....Moved by CT, seconded by CW. Approved unanimously.

### **AIANE Board:**

There was a discussion about voting members and constituency groups (Fellows, YAF) on the AIANE Board. We need to confirm election and appointment process of liaisons. As it stands now the person currently holding a position finds his/her replacement and the Board and Components put out feelers. Bruce and Chris volunteered to create a more formal process.

### **Regional Associate Director Report**

Kelley has asked each state to create an Associate Director. ME is working on this. VT and WMA situations unknown. All others have one.

Shadow is needed for RAD for coming year. We will select at the August meeting. Position starts in November. Components should think of possible candidates. Kelley will work on Job Description and application process. CI will distribute to components.

Kelley requested programming ideas to help interns. CT is offering a training program on Vector Works.

### **Fellowship**

Scott Simpson is the second NE Fellows representative. Reason for College of Fellows committee is to have Fellows concentrate on similar projects and programs. They also assist components in identifying possible candidates and give them support. Second goal is to support YA's and Associates. Bruce is planning trips to AIAVT and AIARI, Scott to NH, ME, MA to talk about experiences and create a discussion. Reminder: BSA runs a Fellowship workshop every June.

### **Chapter Reports**

#### **VT**

- 2009 theme for speakers and programs is Modernism
- St Johnsbury will be the subject of a UDAT charrette
- Chapter will hold a State House Day where they will talk to legislatures about "shovel-worthy vs. shovel-ready" projects and the impact of the recession on design professionals

#### **NH**

- the State wants to combine licensing boards
- continuing ed programs planned will provide 12 HSW & Sustainable Design credits
- Jane Nylander was named Honorary AIA

#### **RI**

- has formed an alliance with USGBC/RI and NESEA/RI to host events together, share

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- website info and announcements
- is working with ACE Mentoring program to provide scholarships, exhibit student works and get high school students to exhibits of architectural students' work
- Greg Speiss reported on the Resolutions Committee, with particular emphasis on international issues
- the Emerging professionals group is building a lending library and asking firms for contributions

## **CT**

- asked if Chapter's NE dues would be updated based upon membership change from prior year; would there be an updated invoice?
- asked if National would be raising dues for 2010; Erica Gees said to expect it to match the cost of living
- asked about income vs. expense for Knowledge Communities; how many actively participate?
- stimulus does not appear to be helping architects in CT
- the CT Design & Construction Coalition has written the Governor to volunteer help on this issue
- Chapter participated for the first time in the annual CT Business & Industry Association's Business Day at the Capitol; this was good exposure for architects as business people
- the COTE, looking at green codes in CT, is disappointed in the interest groups before the Codes & Standards Committee. The committee wants to adopt the ICC family of codes with the MA "stretch" code.

## **BSA**

- favors the "stretch" code, which requires 30% better performance than the base code. Votes in May. Local jurisdictions adopt individually.
  - discussing with state representatives and agencies: design and the creative economy; better procurement procedures for State work; and, design excellence.
  - established a good relationship with the Director of Infrastructure Spending, who spoke to the Board about the stimulus money
  - unemployment is significant, perhaps 25-30%; some firms have laid off 50—60%; optimism is impressive
  - Chapter is offering lots of free training and free lunches; committee membership is up
- member renewals are doing OK; BSA has a local payment plan and has adopted National's also
- attendance at RD&C was way down; BuildBoston was not as bad
  - Executive Director search had 150 applicants; spoke to or met in person 40-50

## **Central MA**

- Grassroots follow-up in state went very well
- a Green Committee is starting up
- holding a SmartGrowth design competition
- expressed concern about the use of the term "architect"
- in May, an economist will speak, with a roundtable on surviving the recession
- June will see a building tour, legislative program and an SDAT in Orange County
- expressed concern about the national NCIDQ requiring LUs but not offering any programs, not accepting AIA LUs and charging for self-reporting of AIA programs

**ME**

- Ideas Competition 09 is open to New England architects, interns and architecture students. The project is to design Waterside Facilities at Portland's East End. Winning designs will be published in Maine Home + Design
- the State Board is not supportive of Continuing Education, feels it is an "administrative nightmare" for many states and doesn't see the need since they haven't had any complaints
- COTE committee is holding a spring Speaker Series with monthly programs focusing on State Energy Policy, presented by policy makers.

**Executive Director's Report:**

Carolyn had to leave just before the Chapter Reports.  
Minutes were completed by Carol DeTine AIA.  
Financial reports to be sent.

**Next meeting: Wednesday, August 26, 12-3 pm BSA.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Carolyn Isaak