

Minutes: AIA New England Quarterly Meeting

Thursday, January 27, 2011, 12:00, by Conference Call

Attending:

Carol DeTine AIA, President AIANE (ME)
Ellen Sturgis, Exec. Director, Central MA
Casey Nicholson Assoc. AIA, RAD
Greg Spiess AIA, Treasurer AIANE (RI)
Nicole Martineau AIA, YAF Liaison (NH)
Mohamad Farzan AIA, Regional Director
Ann Fienman, Co Exec Director, BSA
Carol Gillis AIA (ME)
Diane Harp Jones, EVP AIACT
Peter Kuttner FAIA, VP-AIA
Martha Montgomery AIA, Western MA
Christine West AIA, President AIARI
Eric White, Co Exec Director, BSA
Scott Simpson FAIA, College of Fellows, NE
Jen Zolkos, Exec. Director AIARI
Whit Iglehart AIA, President AIACT
Russ Learned AIA, Treasurer (CT)
Michael Hoffman AIA, past president AIANE (VT)
Greg Ames AIA, Regional Director
Carolyn Isaak, Exec. Director AIANH, AIANE

Minutes from last meeting

Acceptance of Nov. 19 meetings, Scott Simpson moved acceptance. Martha Montgomery, seconded. Accepted as written.

President's report:

Carol DeTine shared that she has benefited greatly from attending these meetings these past few years, as has AIA Maine, hearing about AIA National and what other chapters are doing around the table. Goal is to facilitate that effort and dialogue and allow enough time at the meetings for discussion to occur.

When she's followed up with someone after a meeting about something another chapter is doing, people have been very helpful. So she encourages people to contact other members of this group - lots of smart people around the table.

National Directors Report.

1. Greg Ames: request from National for regional rep position of small firms roundtable – one person, funded position, someone who has been involved in small firm round tables at state level. Position will help small firms benefit from each other. Inaugural meeting is March 25-26. Need rep by Jan. 31.

Small firm definition: total staff of 10 or less.

Carol DeTine: how many chapters have small firm roundtables? BSA has one. CT has a very active group; they define it as micro-firms (sole practitioners or 2-3 staff people at most). VT, RI, NH, ME define similarly, basically whole state is small firms, very few larger than 10 people.

Ann F will peak to chair of their small firm roundtable, Bill Whitlock. She will talk with him about what it entails and see if he is interested. Recommended by BSA, seconded by Greg Spiess. Ann, Bill,

and Greg will confer about position, what it entails, qualifications, etc. and send recommendation to the board.

DHJ gave comment from CT chair, Glen Barnhard, on small firms roundtable: There is available to all members an email list serves: SFF_list serve. RKC_list serve. You can sign up on your renewal form. They are an active and good exchange of information. Can get on list serves through NetForum. Worth an email blast to members. You can also access through Knowledge Communities.

2. Set of talking points from last board meeting. Among them:

- Final discussion and action on operating plan and budget, which are now in place – both very practical and achievable. The Dec report from Financial Committee was very positive. AIA ended the year in good place.
- Dues payment plan is still under discussion; lots of issues involved. Talk will continue at Grassroots. DHJ: at what price point will our members take advantage of it? Right now in \$20+ fee range. PK: one of the things affecting perception to it, is the time the payment plan covers. Must be paid up by June. Turns out that National needs to have a good sense of how many people will do it, if only a few, costs of setting up are prohibitive. It is a terrific service, but full of challenges. From larger firms, it is worth it to help manage cash flow.

Whit: due date of June is too soon to perceive it as a benefit.

Greg A: Don't really understand why AIA should be enthusiastic about doing it if cost is not acceptable to people. Nobody seems to gain from it. Frustrating.

Plan would be funded by those taking advantage of it, not covered by operating costs or raise dues.

DHJ: is this set up a one time expense or ongoing.? PK thinks it is ongoing.

We will provide feedback at Grassroots and Greg and Mohamad will relay our concerns.

- Architect Magazine. The magazine is much better vehicle for everyone. GA says you'll be pleasantly surprised.

- By law amendments. Will look at greater depth this year. GA suggests if people haven't looked at them, to do so, in preparation for Grassroots. Vote to adopt bylaw amendments at the convention is now 2/3 of those eligible to vote. If only 2/3 of members are at the convention, all would have to vote for amendment. That is an obstacle to institute any changes. Proposal is to make it a 2/3 majority of *those in attendance* at the vote. Second amendment allows proxy voting, enabling a state component to vote by proxy for more than one of its constituent chapters. Term of public director proposed to increase from two to three years. It takes a year to figure out what is going on, one to work, and then they are cut off when they feel they are in a place to really be of help.

Bylaw amendments: have a conference call around March to review resolution drafts. Then they are printed in the yellow book for Convention.

- Contract Documents: There were increased costs in online system, so have to redo budget to cover this. No specific thing changed to cover it, but several adjustments made. DHJ: would be helpful to be kept current on how adjustments will be made, as we would need to know if there are service changes, etc. from National. Ask to Directors: this may impact the chapters, please keep us up to date.

- Mohamad came back from first board meeting and came back very energized, very impressed with what he saw. He will be working with Peter on strategic plan group. Complemented PK on his work thus far. Mohamad will make some visits to chapters to communicate what AIA National is doing. He will also work with Diane on revenue sharing. PK: strategic directions committee has been changed a bit, and they have hired an ad campaign branding group. Mohamad is on and the public director, Vivien Leigh, from Boston. Reps from different committees. Focus is on components and on the public, and the committee has a heavy New England participation, so good chance for us to have a say.

Grassroots Discussion:

We had a very brief review of issue briefs for visits to legislators. For complete information and helpful advice on speaking about the issues, meeting your representatives, go to:

<http://www.aia.org/advocacy/getinvolved/aias078773>

NE attendees to Grassroots will attend the AIA party on Wednesday evening. AIANE will gather together at the Old Ebbits Grille around 8:15-8:30 pm. after the Open House at AIA Headquarters for a light dinner and drinks. Diane will make reservation in the back room there. Please email Diane if you intend to be there so she can get a rough count. OEG allows separate checks, so it's an easy place to get together. Diane's email is dhjones@aiaact.org.

PK: Component peer breakfasts of Friday at Grassroots. Directors will attend these. Think about how to steer those breakfasts ahead of time to make best use of time.

YAF Liaison:

Nicole Martineau going to Grassroots, trying to get better grasp on her position. Wants to connect NE Chapters more with a YAF webpage for all NE components. If YA's know what's going on in other states, it might help. Nicole wants to encourage more interaction among components. Maybe have competition for NE Logo for YAF; work with Habitat for Humanity; more hands on activities for Young Architects.

RAD:

Casey: just started her term, orientation is next week. If you have time at Grassroots they are doing associates director roundtable. Please join in if you can.

Annual AIANE Meeting:

Westermn MA is hosting AIANE Conference next year. Lorin Starf asks for feedback. Keeping awards entry fees the same as last year. They will have an exhibit of entries consistent with AIA Livable Communities points. It will be on Art Night in Northhampton and will include a People's Choice Award. More information on the awards program and annual meeting will be coming.

Executive Director:

CI sent out 2011 Board Handbook, which includes financial reports. She briefly reviewed current status and asked for any contact updates to be sent to her by email.

Meeting adjourned at 1:28 pm.

Next meeting is April 21, 2011 at BSA.