



# AIA New England Regional Council

## AIANE Regional Council Meeting

November 4, 2020

12:00 – 2:52 pm

Conference Call

### Present:

Helen Fantini AIA	AIANE President (AIA WMA)
Elizabeth Cox AIA	President Elect, AIA New England (BSA)
Mike Lassel AIA	AIANE Secretary Treasurer/Small Firm Exchange (ME)
Paul Bourbeau AIA	Past President, AIANE (NH)
Caitlin Osepchuk AIA	NE Young Architects Regional Director (BSA) 2020-2021
Sarah O'Donnell	Executive Director, AIA VT
Gail Kubik Assoc. AIA	NE Regional Associate Director (BSA) 2019-2020
Jeannette Schram	Executive Director, AIAME
Carolyn Isaak Hon. AIANH	AIANE Executive Director
Lorin Starr	Executive Director, AIA WMA
Roni Phipps	Executive Director, AIA RI
Tom Hartman AIA	AIA Strategic Councilor (AIA WMA)
Danielle McDonough AIA	AIA Strategic Councilor (BSA)
Eric White	Executive Director, BSA
Tracy Kozak AIA	President-Elect, AIANH
Gina Calabro	Executive Director, AIACT
George McGoldrick AIA	President, AIACT
Peter Kuttner FAIA	Chancellor, AIA College of Fellows
Jonathan Taylor AIA	President, AIA RI
Nancy Ludwig FAIA	College of Fellows Representative (BSA)
Angela Cahill AIA	President-Elect, AIACT
Taryn Barrett AIA	Vice-President, AIAVT
Paul Bourbeau AIA	Past President, AIANE (AIANH)
Jesse Thompson AIA	President, AIAME
Mariana O'Brien AIA	President, AIA Central MA

### Absent:

Monica Cunningham	Executive Director, AIA Central MA
John Nunnari Assoc. AIA	Executive Director, AIA MA
Jim LaPosta FAIA	College of Fellows Representative (CT)
J. Kristian Whitsett AIA	President, AIA WMA
Bonnie Kastel AIA	Executive Director, AIANH

### 1. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Helen called the Meeting called to order at 12:06 pm. Introductions were made. As we have done during the year, everyone present offered a rose and a thorn...

CT:

Gina: Rose –AIACT is doing well, commended her staff.

George McGoldrick: Mixed feelings about zoom meetings. Staff has been great. Their foundation had a successful gala event.

Maine:

Jeannette: Roses: looking forward to creating a new annual meeting model and some online learning. Got a new puppy.

Jesse: Rose – more people coming to events. 28 people at COTE meeting (online). Wouldn't have had that many in person.

New Hampshire:

Bonnie: Rose/thorn: working through the launch of the new AIA membership database. Thorn, it's difficult because she hasn't done all the training, but it's really promising.

Tracy: Rose: autumn in New Hampshire. Been using zoom to do house tours for AIA NH. Lots of people are interested, plus those who might not drive can participate. More homeowners willing to have video.

Rhode Island:

Ronni: Thorn....apprehension about what's going on today. Rose: Chapter is fine, presenting new webinars.

Jonathan: Roses: 1. Back in their office on a hybrid schedule. New secluded desk and a dose of normalcy feel good. We've gained with this, but also lost things. 2. Sumer project came back on Friday, so will work on this over the winter. 3. NCARB hosted a summer retreat last week for licensure advisers. Saw people everyday...ended with hope for the future. Miami conference is on calendar for August next year.

New England Officers:

Elizabeth Cox: Thorn, whole family sick for a whole week. Now well. Kids back in care (rose). Lots of people have come together. Work is going well.

Mike Lassel: Became a grandfather about three weeks ago! Have overcome issues for SFX (small firm exchange).

Carolyn: Rose: autumn, hiking, Maine vacation. Thorn: uncertainty around us in so many areas.

RAD:

Gail: Rose is that she got confirmation that she will be the 2021 Associate rep to the Strategic Council, and 2022 Assoc. director to National Board.

COF:

Nancy: Rose –it's a beautiful day; nice run on waterfront. Thorn: last meeting with us. Tom Chung will pick up her position.

Jim LaPosta:, Apologized that he's been so absent. They are very busy all healthy. Staff has been great, figured out how to adapt and keep spirits up.

YARD:

Caitlin Osepchuck: Shared a rose last time that she was pregnant. Thorn, she's now outgrown all of her clothes and is wearing her husband's shirts.

Chancellor of COF: Peter K:

Rose and thorn: just sold their house in Cambridge, today's the purchase sale. House is cleaner than ever before. Moving up to Rockport. Advantage of zoom, is that he is seeing way more people than before, so putting faces to people he only knew names of before.

Stephanie Herring (guest): was the RAD NAC as chair this year. Involved with Region Task Force. Rose: later this week have NAC transition meeting with everyone, excited to see everyone. Little sad, as she's going off NAC this year.

Western MA:

Lorin: Rose: for the chapter the rose and thorn are these remote meetings. Some plusses, connectivity, more people – yet miss seeing people.

Strategic Council:

Tom: is on second of three -year term as SC, also on the finance committee of the Board. AIA Staff has been doing an amazing job. He's participated in some of the decisions being made. Personal note: alone in office for 7 months, been a little hard (has to do office work). Thorn: public presentation to a planning board the other day, he didn't know a reporter was in the meeting. Zoom can be complicated!

Vermont:

Sarah....Rose: had a bit of rose/thorn. Several board members are stepping off and they may move to a smaller sized board; it is an opportunity to rethink operations and refine structure. Taryn: Rose we've survived this year, and did so successfully. Lot of extra effort for the AIANE Conference, and now can focus on own state awards and annual meeting. Year has gone by both quickly and slowly.

### **1. Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes for April and August were approved.

### **2. President's report**

Helen:

It has been my pleasure serving as 2020 AIANE President, and what a year it has been.

As with our chapters and employers and other aspects of our lives, AIANE has done a great job of transitioning to an all-remote meeting model, one that we may wish to continue post-pandemic to some degree.

Pandemically speaking, AIAVT was forced to scrap the typical conference format and create something original and thoughtful – several of my colleagues here in Western Massachusetts remarked upon how great it was to go inside the “mind of the jury” to see how they winnowed down 160+ entries to the winning 18.

And as evidenced by the winning projects, it was heartening to see a focus on recognizing projects with a social justice or community engagement piece as well as awarding projects for doing “more with less.”

Moving forward, as Stephanie Herring continues to provide us with the Regions Implementation group update, this Council will have some deliberating to do in terms of how our REGION (our definition, meaning New England) chooses to move forward in light of the new state-based regional model.

I think that this group does more than just choose Strategic Councilors, RADs and YARDs – we cooperate and share best practices and resources – made a bit easier now with the prevalence

of remote meetings. I know that there is so much more we can do together, particularly around the issues of Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in our practices and see ways to collaborate on issues of resiliency that will continue to affect New England.

[One other thought moving forward. Asking the presidents of each chapter to serve as the reps to AIANE can sometimes be too much as they are busy! It may be worth considering naming a rep from each chapter who is also not the current president]

I look forward to continuing to work with you all in the role as Past-President and assist in any way possible and know that Elizabeth Cox (BSA) will be great as our 2021 President, as will Mike Lassel (AIA ME) as President-Elect, and George Fellner (AIA CT), Secretary-Treasurer.

Thanks to all of you who have served over this year and a special thank you to Carolyn Isaak who helps keep it all together!

I wish you and your families a safe, healthy and happy new year.

### **3. Region Study report:**

Stephanie Herring shared a summary in Dropbox on where the Task Force is and a status report. In April 2020 the Board received the recommendations from the Regional Task Force in implementing resolution 18-7. The Board moved forward with the adaptive reuse /state scenario.

Benefits: better communication between SC and members through the state components. Allows all states an opportunity to participate in the SC. Strong state components already exist, so removes a layer of complexity.

Decisions: Each state elects 1 SC on a 3-year rotation. States with over 7.5% membership, get an additional SC. They are making recommendation that DC and PR are recognized as full components. All SC's today will complete their terms. This will take place over 3 years. It will all be put to vote at next years AIA Annual meeting.

Additionally, they are looking at ex officio and at large seats: the number, does it make sense, ensuring path for territories, international regions, etc. So still working on guidelines. And they are also working on nomination process for states to use.

Gina: if this passes in 2021, does that mean in 2022 the states start looking for SC person? (Task force is coming up with a diagram of each state and how the years stagger.) Will their be a description of the role or similar to what we have? (They will be working on that and standardizing it.)

Jeannette: each state will always have one rep on the SC (3-year terms)

Lorin: concerned for small chapter' ability to find someone for the position....if we want to stay together as a Region in some form, we should work on that next year. Would like to continue as an informal region.

YARDs and RADs are being discussed in a separate tax force. Would structure change? COF and Small Firm X Change are also looking at their structures. Mike Lassel: also other groups, regional COTE meeting, etc. How do those pieces get dealt with in the future?

Informal regions already exist, especially for common events. National wants to encourage informal regions, or groups with similar concerns (big sibs).

Tom: Some questions – who is able to put in the time? How do people's skills relate to each other. How do we work together as a region to make representation happen?

Jeannette Are there other requirements to acceptance on the SC. (They want it kept to the state to figure out.)

Jonathan, the traditional view is that the NE Council will continue in some form. Even if decisions are at the state level, we'll have the conversations here.

George: Will it change the relationship with the Board. Tom says, it's very different. SC is big to begin with, it is thinking ahead, big picture, etc. The Board is involved with financial oversight, etc. Joint meetings do happen, but he doesn't think it will change how the two relate to each other. For us in NE, it's kind of a windfall. SC puts forth planning, the Board reviews and approves. And they do not "rubber stamp."

Gail sees an advantage for RAD, NAC members for a greater depth of knowledge, but bridging resources might be challenging. Stephanie says they are also looking at other models, not the same as SC. They are concerned about the scale, size of YAC, NAC, etc.

An inability to find the time and freedom to be a SC in absence of firm support, could turn away people. Will there be resources to support YARD, RAD, or SC members who are selected?

New Logo: Has been released. Gina will send info to Carolyn. Still some questions about use, etc.

## **2. Financials:**

Meeting notes of the April and August meetings will be approved at the next meeting.

## **3. Vermont AIANE Hosting**

Sarah: Thanks everyone for tuning in to the Awards program. She showed the follow-up emails with the board members. Panel discussion portion was live. They've had good feedback on how the program was presented. Overall they tried to capture the spirit of 2020 and honor the award winners, as well as they could, it was successful.

170 projects registered; 163 submitted. Did end up doing a late registration. First deadline 112 submissions, second another 88, just under a two-week extension.

Event itself: attendees – pre-registration 307 people. Hard to know how many really tuned in. She saw about 160 on the you tube video. Video is now available on you tube. Has over 1000 views.

Revenue: pre-COVID budget estimate-revised:

Entries: 24,000; sponsorship: \$31,000 total in income.

Expenses 7800: Net around \$23,000. More than they had estimated.

Differences compared to prior years. She'll add numbers to the running history.

Taryn: they were all holding their breath. Appreciated the collaboration with the production company. It was so successful they might even consider having a production person at in person events.

Production invoice \$4200, which included all the editing, managed live stream, etc.

Spurred a new idea for the future: The awards committee co-chair said that as a professional and sole proprietor he missed that discussion of design. So should they host some quarterly studio gathering, to discuss work?

They had a very thoughtful process putting together a not-so-traditional jury, and thus more meaningful outcome.

Thank you to Helen, Eliz and Caitlin being part of the program.

## **4. Slate of Officers**

2 resumes for Secretary-Treasurer.

George Fellner and Emily Niaras. Both good candidates. Voted in favor of George.

Emily would be a great candidate, and hope she will submit for a position in the future.

## **5. Meeting Dates**

2021 Meetings. Feb. 10, June 2, August 25, TBD in the fall (at AIANE Awards/Conference?)

**6. SC, Tom Hartman**

Tomorrow there will be a virtual meeting on housing, mental health, and architecture, rural issues, technology and practice. They are trying to think about what the AIA should be doing in these areas. He thinks the Strategic Council should consider a professional moderator, as it's a great group, but could use that sort of facilitation.

They had a meeting the first week of December: a class goes out, one comes in. Not much to report.

Strategic Plan. He thinks there is more the SC should and can be doing. He just got a survey to relay the good, bad and the ugly, so he'll make that comment about pulling in a professional facilitator.

**7. RAD**

Gail. In 2020 they've been discussing the professional development survey. NAC Knowledge work groups are taking a look at the future of the profession and hosting a dialogue series within the NAC. They've received interesting feedback, insight into NAC members' career paths.

*RAD position:*

All three candidates would be fine on the NAC.

Domique Moore from CT, was selected as the 2021-2022 RAD. Helen will contact her, and Gail will connect with her to facilitate the transition.

**8. Caitlin: YARD**

Caitlin is contributing to Connection and finding different ways to help emerging professionals and young architects. Lots of adjusting going on due to COVID.

A21 is still up in the air.

Gail and she have continued DP spotlights.

EP Friendly firm results: Survey response was not as high as they would like. They will make some changes in announcements for the program survey next year.

**9. Small Firm**

Mike: It's been a unique year, but they have been focused. They had an annual meeting the first week in March before everything shut down. The focus has been on three different fronts. What do small firms need to succeed: Practice, number of webinars from contracts to office transitions, running an office. They've posted on several medium sites: Instagram and Flip board.

SFx held a workshop on the Framework. The Framework team is figuring out how to provide blogs/ webinars on how to use the Framework. They made a 10-minute primer on what the Framework is. Trying to make it easy and part of daily activity. Starting to integrate that work.

**10. Diversity / Inclusion**

BSA and AIACT have incredible resources. There are manuals from firms about EDI...very generous and helpful to others.

2:11 Helen adjourned the meeting...

## **11. Adjourn**

Helen adjourned the meeting at 2:29...

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

Grassroots 2021: Feb. 16-19

AIA Conference: June 16-19

AIANE:

Feb 10

June 2

August 25

4<sup>th</sup> meeting TBD