

MAP Board of Directors Meeting
December 5, 2008 (via telephone conference between Bar Harbor, Augusta and
Yarmouth)
Minutes

Meeting Convened at 10:40 AM

Present: Maureen O'Meara (President), Steve Condon, Rebecca Schaffner, Helen Edmonds, Linda Johns, Beth Della Valle, Stacy Benjamin, Hugh Coxe, Judy Colby-George, Anne Krieg; Fred Marshall

Agenda Items:

1. Approval of Annual Meeting Minutes. The Board voted to approve the Meeting Minutes of 11/7/08 9:0:0 (S. Benjamin and F. Marshall not present for this vote)

2. Legislative Policy Committee Report. Beth Della Valle.

- Beth is working on the legislative panel for the January 12 tutorial. She has requested Sen. Peter Mills (R - Somerset Cty.) be the second legislator; Rep. Jane Eberle (D - So. Portland) has already agreed. Patrick Norton of OPLA is also on the panel. We will obtain panelists' bios for purposes of the CM credit qualification.
- Stacy will check for the bill list at SPO.
- Beth will notice this event before and after Christmas.
- Beth expects an intense legislative session this year.

3. Website Upgrade. Judy Colby-George.

- Judy distributed the preliminary front page design, and asked Board members to email her with any specific comments.
- The Board discussed at some length how the front page should be divided up between "news," to keep it fresh, but still have a focus on Maine planning and show links to jobs, which is the most popular feature.

Motion: Approve first page as proposed. Second.

- After additional discussion, the motion was amended to reverse "news" and "upcoming events" on the first page.

Amendment Passed: 9:1:1

Primary Motion Passed: 10:0:1

4. Special Projects Line Items on Budget.

- The Board discussed how unanticipated requests for funding for events and projects should be handled throughout the year.
- Our reserve account is now approximately equal to 1 year's budget, which was the goal. We also have "surplus" funds available, and need to decide how to spend this money. Should there be a line item in the budget, and if so, what should be the guidelines to tap into these funds?
- Maureen feels that the funds should be spent for the benefit of the membership, we shouldn't just sit on this money. But we need to decide what benefits the membership.
- Hugh noted that last year we worked hard to tie our expenditures to the goals of the strategic plan. We need to balance this objective with the fact that events come up during the year that may merit funding.
- Steve suggested a 10% line item in the budget for discretionary allocation by the Executive Committee.
- Helen suggested that the Board should have some guidelines for this allocation, such as the event must be of direct benefit to planners in Maine. The point was also made that having guidelines helps to speed the decision making process.

Motion: Add a line item to the annual budget, to be allocated on a discretionary basis by the Executive Committee to one or more projects during the year, provided such projects are of direct benefit to planners in Maine. Second.

- Beth emphasized the need for guidelines, e.g. that the project should be consistent with our Strategic Plan; that the funds can be used for "emergency" situations. The Board agreed it could vote on additional criteria in the future, perhaps when we get closer to budget time.
- Sponsorship requests are usually funded from our education budget.

Passed: 11:0:0.

5. Awards Committee. The next newsletter is in February, and will include a call for nominations. Anne Krieg agreed to serve as Awards Committee Chair. She will call on other Bar Harbor area Board members (Steve, Linda, Noel) to assist.

6. **2009 NNECAPA Conference.** Rebecca Schaffner.

- Rebecca reported that the organizing committee met last month and laid out tasks. The committee has requested session ideas on the NNECAPA listserv.
- The committee is looking at venues in Belfast other than the originally planned Hutchinson Center. Possibilities include the boat house, theater, council chambers, churches and the library, for various sessions, with the idea that the venues be within walking distance of each other. The committee is also working with local B&B's on rooms and rates; use of hotel rooms will probably also be necessary. Trolley service is to be explored.

7. **Center for New Urbanism.** Beth Della Valle.

- Beth worked on CM credits for this event, at which only 20 slots were available. The event took place on December 18.

8. **Other.**

- Hugh Coxe agreed to work on MAP's comments on the SPO's Informed Growth Act exemption report, which sets forth three options for legislative attention. He will circulate his draft comments, which are intended to be "neutral," to the LPC for comment. He will also circulate the draft report to the Board.

9. **January 9, 2009 Meeting.** Maureen mentioned that if the agenda for this meeting is light, the Board will begin budget discussions.

Motion: Move to adjourn. Second.

Passed 11:0:0