



**NEW HAMPSHIRE PLANNERS ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CENTER, LIBRARY
AGENDA FOR THURSDAY MARCH 26, 10:00 AM**

Present: Jen Czysz, Christa Koehler, Kerrie Diers, Sarah Marchant, Pierce Rigrod, Mikaela Engert

Absent: Ben Frost, Jim Campbell, Tim Thompson, Rick Sawyer

1. Minutes

Motion to approve the February 26, 2009 meeting minutes was made by K. Diers, second by S. Marchant. Motion unanimously passed.

2. NNECAPA Update

No update. M. Engert noted that she was still receiving emails from NNECAPA members since her name is still listed on the NNECAPA website as the NH State Director. J. Czysz said that she would follow up and request that it be changed to the interim State Director. S. Marchant mentioned that NNECAPA's fall conference will be in Belfast, ME.

3. NHPA Annual Conference

a. COG progress update

The agenda is almost complete. Waiting on the information for one of the mobile workshops. The COG is still aiming for April 10th to have the agenda made available, but that may change.

4. NHPA Annual Awards Update

There are three projects submitted for Project of the Year, three submitted for Plan of the Year, one for Professional Planner of the Year, and four for Citizen Planner of the Year. J. Czysz indicated that the planner of the year awards would be discussed at this meeting and project and plan would be discussed at the April meeting.

A motion was made by S. Marchant to nominate Michael Behrendt for Professional Planner of the Year. The motion was seconded by C. Koehler. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion then focused on the four submissions for Citizen Planner of the Year. The group placed each individual ranking of first through last place and this list was compared. After reviewing the list, it was agreed that the two highest scoring nominations were for Mark Adams from Lempster and James Duffy from Keene. Mark Adams received five first place scores and James Duffy received six first place scores.

Since M. Engert is from Keene, the group determined that her vote should not be considered in order to avoid any conflict of interest. As a result, both nominees were tied with five first place scores each.

The group compared each candidate. Some discussion arose in regards to the presence of professional staff, the political environment of each community, and the ability of each nominee to have another chance at the award. M. Engert objected to reviewing the proposals against political environment, presence of professional staff or not, as well as possible retirement age. She noted that this is not part of the criteria for consideration of the award.

Other discussion:

M. Adams: harsh political environment to work in, no professional staff, 30 years on the Planning Board, public involvement, avoided crises

J. Duffy: 13 years serving the community as a member of various committees, City Councilor, and Chairman of the City's CCP committee. Introduced new concepts, had to gain broad support throughout the community and the region. Has professional staff support.

Very little discussion took place that compared each nominee against the criteria. The group discussed that there was no clear way to rank the nominees and that they had two nominees that have a very different set of community characteristics within which they work. To decide, the group returned to the ranking list and added up each nominee's placement score. Mark Adams scored 9 and James Duffy scored an 11 (not all Executive Committee member's scores were included since they were not submitted or were not considered due to potential conflict of interest).

A motion was made by K. Diers to nominate Mark Adams for Citizen Planner of the Year. P. Rigrod seconded it. The motion was approved. M. Engert abstained.

J. Czysz indicated that for plan and project of the year, they would use a similar ranking, with the lowest number indicating the selected nominee. She also mentioned that it would be important for each member of the committee to submit their ranking for first through last if they would not be attendance at the April meeting. It was also mentioned that anyone that worked on a project or a plan submitted for an award would have to abstain from voting. M. Engert mentioned that this process and the criteria should be reviewed for future awards so that, should the group receive more than one nomination, they could be evaluated clearly and with merit.

5. Officer Updates

a. Public Information Officer

S. Marchant reported that she sent out the email in regards to the workforce housing bill to the membership. She passed around the responses she got to date. The group reviewed them and discussed how to present this information to the membership. J. Czysz suggested that S. Marchant share this information with B. Frost as he could probably utilize it. A summer newsletter article could be prepared by B. Frost that discusses in detail the bill and provide information to member communities. J. Czysz suggested that the list be put into simple bullet points and that this could then be included as a brief article in the Spring newsletter. S. Marchant agreed to do this and submit it to P. Rigrod.

S. Marchant also indicated that many new job postings and RFP's are coming in and posted on the website. It was mentioned that it would be a good general reminder to include in the Spring newsletter that people can go to the website to review these.

S. Marchant also announced that her and her husband are expecting their second child. The entire Executive Committee congratulated her. S. Marchant indicated that for the months of August,

September, and October, that she may have difficulty in fulfilling her role as PIO. M. Engert and J. Czysz agreed that they would be able to assist and field inquiries for her during this time.

b. Treasurer

B. Frost submitted a report via email. K. Diers made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. M. Engert seconded. Motion passed.

c. Legislative Committee

J. Czysz reported that HB 156, which NHPA opposed, has been revised to remove the qualifications requirement for consultants that provide professional services to the Planning Board has been removed. This was the language that NHPA has issue with. J. Czysz asked the committee if they would like to change their position on the bill. The group agreed to change their status and not oppose the bill. It was also agreed upon to watch it and if it needs support to allow the legislative committee to do whatever would be necessary to move the bill forward.

d. Professional Development Officer

K. Diers raised the question of providing CM credits to the LEC conference on June 20th. The group agreed to sponsor it. The question was raised as to NHPA's CM provider status – did NHPA pay for unlimited CM sponsorships? K. Diers said she would look into it. It may provide a cost advantage depending on the cost of providing CM credits for the NHPA conference. K. Diers also mentioned that ethics credits are difficult to get. Ideas for people to provide a professional development opportunity for ethics credit would be helpful. It was indicated that NHPA may need to provide a session at the fall annual meeting for people that need the credit for AICP maintenance.

e. Newsletter Editor

P. Rigrod reported that March 30th is the deadline. We will have lots of content. Awards, legislative summary, the conference info, events, of plans and planners, town meeting stuff. M. Engert mentioned that a blurb about the State Climate Change Plan should be put in. She offered to send the email announcement to P. Rigrod that she has received.

f. Sustainability Coordinator

C. Koehler indicated that she has been working on updating the directory for the RPC's and that no changes have been made to the sustainability pages on the website at this point. She said that next month she would be able to report on the LGC carbon footprint for the committee's meetings and any web updates.

6. Old and New Business

a. Membership Directory

B. Frost emailed updates to the group in regards to the directory.

b. Professional Organization Relationships

No update.

7. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Upcoming meetings: April 23rd and May 28, 2009. All meetings are from 10 am to noon at LGC.

Respectfully submitted,

Mikaela L. Engert
Secretary