

verification from the USGBC regarding LEED certification. This could be problematic in terms of project delays and financing implications/bonding. The Board proposed an informal meeting with the bill's sponsor to take place prior to the hearing. Various courses of action were proposed, including asking the bill sponsor to postpone the hearing or hold it for further study. Mr. Paquette felt the board could not take an official position on the bill that it was just reviewing for the first time. Mr. Turner added that it was important to advocate for the right bill. If improvements can be made, then the RIGBC should support it.

Cynthia Giles from the Conservation Law Foundation reported that Section 4.10 of the recently passed federal stimulus bill designates \$3.1 billion of additional funds to states for [decoupling] and energy efficiency conditioned on upgrade of state energy and building codes. If Rhode Island adopts the federal standards, it would be eligible for the money. She suggested that the RIGBC may want to pursue other interested parties to advocate for adoption of the federal standards. She emphasized that this opportunity could be a "game changer" as it will be more attractive for the legislature to consider than LEED standards for public buildings.

Mr. Leyden indicated that Rhode Island's commercial code exceeds the federal requirements, but the residential code does not. Mr. Turner added that there was an effort last year to improve the energy code but residential was excluded. Mr. Leyden suggested that the bill sponsor be contacted regarding an amendment to the bill after meeting with potential objectors to craft new language. He suggested the hearing be continued. Mr. Paquette stated that he would be contacting the RI Builders Assn. that day, but that he felt a special board meeting should be called. Mrs. McGreavy indicated that the bill was in the hands of the legislature now, and that there might not be time for a special meeting.

## **9. Other Issues - Grants**

- A. Fletcher Grant reported that he is investigating a \$7,500 rolling grant from the RI Foundation.
- B. Mr. Kitchin suggested the RIGBC partner with NEIT on an application to the Governor's Work Force Development Board regarding green technology. The major areas of consideration are: building career ladders for people to transition from secondary to post secondary education and then to employment; addressing dislocated workers and people who need to transition from one career to another; addressing how to deal with under-utilized populations; and addressing the skills gaps for green technologies and renew energy technology. The grant is for up to \$150,000 (with two extensions). The grant application is due April 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Paquette asked whether the mission of the RIGBC included job training. Mrs. McGreavy pointed out several education components in the grant application which Mrs. Langlois offered to do more research on as part of the Education/Outreach Committee. Mrs. McGreavy will distribute the full RFP or an Internet link to it.

## **10. Announcements**

On March 5<sup>th</sup> at Save the Bay, various officials including Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse and Cynthia Giles of the Conservation Law Foundation, among others, will be discussing the provisions of the federal stimulus package.

## **11. Adjournment**

Mr. Hughes made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Mrs. Grosvenor seconded. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:45 AM.

Connie McGreavy, Chair

donation. Mr. Filarski asked what the procedure would be regarding fundraising events. Mrs. McCreavy suggested that fundraising ideas be directed to the Financing and Sponsorship Committees.

- B. Mr. Winslow requested a vote to allow purchases of budgeted items up to \$250 without board approval. Items would include the \$24/month expense for Base Camp. There were no objections and the action was approved.
- C. Mrs. McCreavy discussed the need to reserve the USGBC banner for the Land and Water Conference in March for the booth. The chapter need only pay for shipping. Mrs. Grosvenor will find out what the charge would be and reserve it.
- D. Action regarding quotes and a recommendation for general liability policy was tabled until more information is gathered.

## 8. Committee Reports

Mrs. McCreavy referred to the revised 2009 calendar and indicated her hope that each committee would suggest an educational or outreach activity to plug into the calendar. She also suggested establishing a speaker's bureau. Board members will be selected for outreach activities to respond to various requests regarding green building.

### A. Standing Committees

Mr. DiPetrillo reported that the Finance and Sponsorship Committee is meeting regularly and has invited a representative from the Membership Committee to sit in. Mr. Connor of the Green Market Place Committee has also attended. Mr. DiPetrillo indicated that there may be two additional events in 2009 for the calendar where sponsors could have display tables in exchange for a donation. One would be a residential presentation in the spring regarding "greening" an existing home that Mr. Cook can prepare. The other could be a commercial program for the fall that National Grid can assist with. Board members were asked to solicit \$1,000 sponsorships from their contacts in the green building community for the purpose of building up the treasury and for the general growth of the RIGBC.

Mrs. McCreavy stated that action to approve amendments to the Strategic Plan would be deferred until the next meeting.

### B. Ad hoc Committees

- **Affordable Green Building**

Josh Brandt reported that he is waiting to hear back from the Providence Chamber of Commerce regarding a \$20,000 grant application for an affordable housing demonstration project on Stanwood Street in Providence. The property is a 3-family residence in foreclosure. The RIGBC is partnered with Community Works RI, which is a new entity formed by the merger of two CDCs with many years of experience. The grant committee next meets on Feb 26<sup>th</sup>.

- **Sustainable Cities**

Mr. Filarski reported he hopes to schedule a meeting next week.

- **Workforce Development** – See discussion under Grants below

- **Advocacy**

Mr. Hughes reported that there are at least three bills under consideration that are related to green building. The Advocacy Committee crafted language which became House Bill H5734. It is scheduled to be heard next Wednesday before the Committee on Natural Resources and the Environment. The board discussed changes in the bill's language that would not likely be supported by the RI Builders Association or the Building Codes Standards Committee, though the latter supports energy efficiency and green building in general. Issues include additional responsibilities for building officials as well as members of the state's Building Codes Standards Committee. For example, the state committee would not be able to enforce LEED Silver certification without training or funding for local officials who would be unable to grant Certificates of Occupancy without

increase the odds that a regular quorum could be achieved. This was an action previously planned for the end of year one. Acknowledging everyone's enthusiasm, nonetheless, a smaller board would be easier to manage.

Mr. Paquette and Mr. Kitchen asked for clarification on how to define "pressing business". Mr. Kitchen suggested that pressing business might simply be emergency action items. Mrs. McGreavy stated that financial items need to be addressed in a more timely fashion. Mr. Paquette indicated that the bylaws would have to be revised to define financial decision-making thresholds and that the committee should be as small as possible while representing a diversity of views. Nearly all members present expressed an interest in being a member of the Executive Committee.

Mr. Turner was appointed head of the ad hoc committee responsible for writing the bylaws for the Executive Committee. Members interested in being apart of the bylaws committee include: Steve Kitchen, Norm Cook and Ken Filarski. Mr. Lehouiller suggested looking into various methods of electronically approving business items. Mr. Paquette agreed that voting could take place via teleconference. Mrs. McGreavy suggested information technology such as "Go to Meeting"; she will research how other USGBC chapters structure their Executive Committee and report back.

**B. Recognize new committee chairs**

Mrs. McGreavy introduced a slate of current and new volunteers to assist board members in executing the work of the committees.

Jason Rainone: Finance

Alexis Miles: Membership

Dennis McCarthy: Program

Josh Brandt: Affordable Green Building

Eric Busch: Sustainable Cities

Chris Kearns: Advocacy

Fletcher Kent: Sponsorship

Kially Ruiz: Ad hoc Committee on Energy Efficiency

Sharon Ryan: Graphics and Communications

Victoria Silvestri: Renewable Energy Technologies

Mrs. McGreavy indicated that Dan Connor, who could not be present, was heading up the Green Market Place Committee and Mark Kravatz was heading up Workforce Development. Mrs. McGreavy indicated that John Jacobson offered to lead the Emerging Green Builders Committee. However, the USGBC suggested that the chapter wait until a critical mass of young people, typically less than 25 years old, was evident in the membership before starting a program. The USGBC is piloting Student Groups separate from EGB. Mrs. McGreavy reported that a volunteer for the Education Committee is being sought.

**C. Approve Chris Armstrong as new USGBC Regional Council rep**

The board unanimously approved Mr. Armstrong to serve as the chapter's Upper Northeast Region Regional Council representative. He will be replacing Kathy Kanterman. Mrs. McGreavy asked for a head count for people who wished to attend a regional leadership summit in Hartford on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Filarski, Mr. Cook, and Mrs. McGreavy indicated they would attend. Minutes from the December meeting indicated that Mr. Dematteo and others were considering it. Mrs. McGreavy will ask Mr. Armstrong to send out the pertinent details to all board members and the committee leaders and ask for a final RSVP ASAP.

**D. 501 (c) (3) IRS application – amend articles of incorporation re: dissolution**

Mrs. McGreavy reported that the IRS was in communication with her regarding the chapter's pending application and that more information would likely be necessary. She explained that she anticipated having to amend the articles of incorporation, among other recommendations depending on the findings of the IRS.

**7. Treasurer's Report**

- A.** Mrs. Young reported that 2009 revenues and expenses indicated a balance to date of \$10,701.65. Mrs. McGreavy recognized Mark Hanchar of Gilbane, Inc. who personally donated \$500, Steven Nappa of Nappa Building Corporation whose company donated \$1,000 and Jan Greenwood of Woodard & Curran for a \$1000



## RI CHAPTER

[www.usgbcri.org](http://www.usgbcri.org)

### Minutes of Meeting

Feb. 19, 2009

New England Institute of Technology  
Warwick, Rhode Island

#### Members Present:

Connie McGreavy, Chair  
Mark Winslow, Treasurer  
Ken Filarski, Secretary  
Justin Bownds  
Norman Cook  
Mark DiPetrillo  
Holly Grosvenor

Stephen Hughes  
Steve Kitchin  
Gaytha Langlois  
James Lehouiller  
Jack Leyden  
Dan Paquette

#### Members Absent:

Joseph da Silva  
Tony Dematteo  
Paul DePace  
Laurie Drucker  
Caroline Karp

\*Steve Turner, Vice Chair, attended the conference by telephone.

#### 1. Welcome and Call to Order – The USGBC was called to order at 7:35 AM.

Mrs. McGreavy welcomed Mr. Phil Parsons of the New England Institute of Technology, VP and General Counsel. Mr. Parsons indicated that NEIT was happy to continue supporting the RIGBC's board meetings, subcommittee meetings, and educational workshops. He discussed NEIT's commitment to green technology. Projects include a solar photovoltaic array and wind turbine planned for installation in the next few months as part of the Electrical Technology Program. Hybrid cars are being introduced to the Automotive Technology Program so students can learn how to work on them. The Chair of the Architectural Dept. is now a LEED Accredited Professional and the Chair of the Carpentry Department is a Certified Green Professional. NEIT would like to develop a Green Resource Center on campus that would be available to the RIGBC. Mr. Parsons quantified the value provided by NEIT to the RIGBC at approximately \$7,700 per month. Mrs. McGreavy thanked Mr. Parsons for the generous and invaluable support of the chapter which includes a fully equipped office on campus.

#### 2. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes and Press Statement

Mrs. McGreavy moved to accept the minutes of January 19, 2009, seconded by Mr. Paquette. With a show of hands, the motion carried. Mrs. McGreavy next asked the board to ratify a memo sent to the Providence Journal re: TF Green Intermodal Station. Fourteen members of the board had approved the memo by e-mail prior to it being issued; however, protocol required a formal vote. A show of hands indicated support to ratify.

#### 3. Disclosure of Conflicts – None noted

#### 4. Chair's Report

##### A. Creation of Executive Committee

Mrs. McGreavy reported that there is a need to form an Executive Committee. These committees typically are small and consist of officers and standing committee chairs that have limited power to approve pressing matters before the board in the event there is not a quorum. Mrs. McGreavy suggested looking at the attendance records of board members to ensure the likelihood that the executive committee would be able to convene regularly. Mrs. McGreavy also noted that collapsing the board from 19 to 15 members is an option to