

5. Votes cast: 8-5 in favor of LEED Silver; 9-4 in favor of “The Green Buildings Act”

Mrs. McGreavy asked for a motion to accept the changes that were approved, clean up the bill, insert definitions from existing Rhode Island law and circulate a revised draft electronically. Mr. Filarski moved that the “Green Building and Energy Efficiency Act” be revised and distributed to the board for comment due back within 48 hours of receipt. The Advocacy Committee shall comment and recommend a final draft. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Langlois and approved on a voice vote.

- B. Mrs. Giles of the Advocacy Committee briefed the board on the subject of energy efficiency, building retrofits and green jobs. Mrs. McGreavy reported that an ad hoc committee had been formed to study the issue with the goal of submitting language for the legislature to consider by the filing deadline. Mrs. Giles asked if the RIGBC would consider assuming the lead role in this area in light of federal stimulus funds anticipated that could result in green jobs. A motion to that effect was made by Mr. da Silva, seconded by Mrs. Langlois; the motion carried. Mr. Paquette complimented Mrs. Giles on her excellent background on energy efficiency which received wide distribution among the board members and several committees.

11. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

Mrs. Langlois moved to accept the minutes of December 4, 2008, seconded by Mr. Paquette. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

12. Chamber of Commerce Grant – Green Resource Center

Mrs. McGreavy requested a vote to determine whether the Board was in favor of matching a potential grant award of \$20,000. Questions and discussion centered on the various unknowns, as well as the opportunities. A show of hands indicated a vote of 9 to 1 against it at this time. The Chair will inform the Chamber.

10. Other Issues that Merit Discussion or Decision - Tabled due to time constraints.

11. Adjournment

Mr. Paquette made a motion to adjourn, with multiple board members seconding the motion. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:45PM.

6. Treasurer's Report

Mrs. Young reported that 2009 revenues and expenses have a balance to date of \$1,024.64. The \$5,000 donation from National Grid will be deposited promptly, bringing the balance to \$6,024.64. Items tabled to the next meeting: review quotes for general liability policy and purchase requests.

7. LEED Regionalization Task Force/LEED 2009 Update – C. Armstrong

Mr. Armstrong reported on the process which began in July, 2008 and is scheduled to commence as a formal component of the LEED rating system in the fall of 2009 with the start of the latest version of the LEED rating system. Rhode Island is part of the Northeast Region which is comprised of the New England States and upstate New York. The objective was to refine the LEED rating system by giving weight to certain credits deemed to have particular significance in each state in the region.

The Northeast Region has five distinct areas: Large Urban, Small Urban, Small Town and Rural, Coastal, and Forested. Boston is the only area classified as Large Urban. Rhode Island features Small Urban, Small Town and Rural, and Coastal areas. Small Urban is defined by Statewide Planning's 2025 Urban Services Boundary. Coastal is defined by the RI Coastal Resources Management Council coastal zone definitions and the respective Special Area Management Plans. All other locations in Rhode Island would be categorized as Small Town and Rural. Regional areas are identified by US Postal Service zip codes.

Mr. Armstrong also reported that the American Institute of Architects/RI - Committee on the Environment is planning to convene a conference with like-minded organizations.

8. Regional Leadership Summit

Mrs. Kanterman reported that a regional meeting will be held on May 8, 2009 in Hartford, CT to have chapter leadership teams meet to discuss best practices. Board members and key leaders would be eligible to attend. Several members indicated their interest. An email notice will be issued.

9. Quorum – A quorum was reached at approximately 5:00 PM. The Chair proceeded to bypass standing committee reports in order to discuss language proposed for the RI General Assembly regarding green building.

10. Advocacy and Government Relations Committee

A. Mr. Hughes presented a draft of the "Green Building and Energy Efficiency Act" that was modeled on a 2008 House bill titled, Green Building Act that never came to a vote. Mr. Hughes reported that the Advocacy and Standards/Regulations & Codes Committees studied legislation across the country and wished to avoid legal challenges that other states were facing. The committees wanted to include incentives and tax credits, but due to the downturn in the economy, a provision for a subcommittee of the State Building Codes Standards Committee to study such measures was included in the draft. Mr. Leyden of the SRC Committee, Mr. da Silva, Green Schools Advocate and Mr. Paquette, Green Residential advocate, all contributed. Various questions arose regarding certain definitions, particularly "any public building" as well as "public funds" and "public agency."

Changes to the language were proposed by board members. The ones that received traction include:

1. Replace the term, LEED "Certified" with LEED "Silver" since public projects built with taxpayer dollars should be the model and designed to a higher standard.
2. Strike language relating to any specific version of a green building standard, including the High Performance Schools standard. For schools, substitute "any standards" adopted by the Board of Regents.
3. Lower the square footage threshold requirement for new construction from 10,000sf to 5000sf, yet maintain the 10,000sf threshold for renovations.
4. Change the short title from "The Green Act" to "The Green Buildings Act" or "The Green Development Act".



RI CHAPTER

www.usgbc.org

Minutes of Meeting

Jan. 15, 2009

New England Institute of Technology
Warwick, Rhode Island

Members Present:

Connie McGreavy, Chair
Mark Winslow, Treasurer
Justin Bownds
Norman Cook
Joseph da Silva
Tony Dematteo
Laurie Drucker

Holly Grosvenor
Stephen Hughes
Caroline Karp
Steve Kitchen
Gaytha Langlois
Jack Leyden
Dan Paquette

Members Absent:

Paul DePace
Mark DiPetrillo
Kenneth Filarski, Secretary
James Lehouiller
Stephen Turner, V. Chair

1. Call to Order

A. Until a quorum could be reached, the Chair proceeded with discussion items.

2. Introductions/Volunteer Recognition

Mrs. McGreavy thanked H. Grosvenor for designing a handsome color poster in thanks to board members, chapter leaders and 2008 sponsors, giving special recognition to National Grid for their generous \$5,000 donation.

3. Disclosure of Conflicts – Deferred

4. Meeting Minutes – Deferred until a quorum could be reached.

5. Chair's Report

Mrs. McGreavy reported that the application for the 501(c)(3) nonprofit, tax exempt determination has been filed with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. The office of US Senator, Sheldon Whitehouse, was contacted to assist in expediting the application. Full chapter status will be granted by the USGBC once the IRS determination is made; sixty days is typical if no further information is requested.

The RIGBC submitted three grant applications to the Providence Chamber of Commerce. One was for a green resource center, one for an affordable green housing demonstration project and the last was a joint RIGBC-URI proposal for a workforce development conference. The grant review committee inquired whether the board would equally match the \$20,000 grant award. Several questions were raised about the Chamber process and the need to know more details about the grant, including how matching funds would be raised. Mrs. McGreavy reported that the Green Market Place, Finance and Sponsorship Committees were examining a license fee proposal presented by The Green Roundtable in Boston (MA affiliate of the USGBC) to replicate the Nexus model in Rhode Island. The fees were substantial for a new organization like the RIGBC to cover. Lastly, Mrs. McGreavy reported that ample technical support is available for board members and committees, namely web resources and Base Camp.