

BOARD OF ARCHITECTS

Secretary of State, Office of Professional Regulation
National Life Building, North, Floor 2, Montpelier, VT 05620-3402

UNAPPROVED MINUTES Meeting of October 15, 2008

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:18 AM.

Members present: Ed Wolfstein, Chairman, Arnold Ahlstrom, Rebecca Arnold, Frank Guillot, Janet Stackpole, and Heidi Passalacqua. Absent: Robert Meyer.

OPR Personnel: Carla Preston, Unit Administrator; and Kristy Kemp, Staff Secretary.

2. The Chair called for approval of the Minutes of the August 20th meeting. On page two, the last sentence in the paragraph regarding Theodore Kaiser was amended to read: He could then apply based on his NCARB Certificate rather than on the basis of examination. On page three item 9(a) was amended to change the word proposition to resolution.

Mr. Ahlstrom made a motion, seconded by Ms. Passalacqua, to approve the Minutes of the August 20, 2008 meeting as corrected. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Reports

Chairman Wolfstein updated the Board on the status of the New England Conference of Registration Boards of Architects (NECARB), which Vermont is hosting at the end of the month in Burlington. He said the topic of the meeting/conference is "Going Green in the Green Mountain State." He provided copies of the Agenda and Registration form. He noted that one member's attendance is covered by the member dues paid to NECARB. Other members of the Board expressed an interest in attending but were hoping for reimbursement of the \$375 registration fee. Ms. Preston agreed to check with the Director to see if reimbursement was possible.

Chairman Wolfstein noted that one of the topics recently discussed at national and regional meetings was the number of meetings held and the economic difficulty for people to travel and attend these meetings. He said the discussion included the possible elimination of the number of meetings and/or holding them electronically through video conferencing. He also reported on his "electronic" attendance at a "green" conference.

4. Hearings/Stipulations/Reports of Concluded Investigations

5. Legislation/Rulemaking

The Board discussed proposing legislation to require an accredited architectural degree, thus phasing out and eliminating the nine year rule. Chairman Wolfstein said there were no architectural schools in the State of Vermont when the nine year rule (experience) provision was added. There is an accredited architectural program now offered at schools in Vermont. He said there are very few states that do not require an accredited degree, which might impact mobility and prevent the architect from qualifying for certification through the National Council of Architecture Registration Boards (NCARB Certificate or Blue Book).

Some members agreed it was time to eliminate the nine year rule method of application but were concerned about requiring an accredited architectural degree as it could prevent graduates from Vermont Technical College with an Accredited Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) accredited four-year architectural/engineering degree from applying for licensure as an architect. Students graduating from that program may also apply for licensure as a professional engineer (additional engineering experience is required for licensure as a professional engineer for graduates with a technical degree).

5. **Legislation/Rulemaking** - continued

Currently, students from VTC desiring an architectural degree may be admitted into Norwich University's National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) accredited architectural program. Mr. Aho suggested leaving two methods; 1) NAAB accredited architectural degree, and 2) non-accredited four-year architectural degree programs plus additional experience. Candidates could also apply on the four plus two accredited program, a four-year pre-architectural post-secondary degree plus a two-year architectural graduate program.

The Board acknowledged that VTC has a good program, however it would open the door for other four-year technical programs about which the Board has no knowledge. The Board's duty is to protect the public, which includes setting minimum requirements or standards regarding education, examination and experience. The Board was also mindful of individuals' ability to obtain licensure as well as the political issues surrounding changes in licensure requirements. The Board of Public Accountancy was used as an example of significantly amending its educational requirements successfully.

Based on the discussion that ensued, Chairman Wolfstein made a motion, seconded by Ms. Passalacqua, to pursue legislative changes to require a NAAB accredited professional architectural degree to be phased in over four years. The matter was discussed further, particularly regarding the number of years to phase in the degree requirement. The Board discussed beginning the phase-in by requiring a minimum of two years of formal education sooner and then completely phasing out the experience or nine-year rule method. Mr. Guillot agreed to work with Larry Novins, Board Counsel, for the details on the phase out plan. The draft legislation will be shared with the members. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

6. **Applications for Licensure**

The Board reviewed and approved the following applicants for licensure on the basis of their NCARB Certification, or having met Vermont's requirements.

T. Gregory Ames (Blue Book)
Gary C. Coccoluto (Blue Book)
Andre J. Perrin (Blue Book)

Jeremy Keith Bonin (Blue Book)
Thomas W. Gillis (Examination)

The Board reviewed **Walter Yarosh's** (Blue Book) application for licensure. Mr. Yarosh reported having been licensed in several states and currently licensed in Massachusetts. It was noted that the expiration date of his Massachusetts licensure and Blue Book arrival in Vermont were within a few days of each other. At the time his application and Blue Book arrived in Vermont (August 29, 2008), his Massachusetts license was valid through August 31, 2008. It was unclear if he renewed his Massachusetts license. Based on the discussion that ensued, Chairman Wolfstein made a motion, seconded by Ms. Stackpole, to approve Mr. Yarosh for licensure pending verification of the status of his license in the State of Massachusetts and the status of his NCARB Certificate. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

7. **Applications for Review and Discussion**

The Board reviewed and discussed the following applications and took action as indicated. The applicants will be advised of the Board's conclusions regarding their inquiry or of documents needed to complete their applications.

7. **Applications for Review and Discussion** - continued

Noel J. Clarke (Reinstatement, 003-0002285, lapsed 1/05)–The Board found Mr. Clarke’s application to be incomplete. He must provide three current references from licensed or registered architects. The Board has not ruled out the need for Mr. Clarke to retake the ARE but is willing to review his updated application and supporting documents before making that determination.

Andrew L. Frontz (Examination)–The Board reviewed Mr. Frontz’s application to sit for the Architect Registration Examination (ARE). Based on his completed application, Mr. Aho made a motion, seconded by Chairman Wolfstein, to approve Mr. Frontz to sit for the ARE. Motion passed unanimously.

Donald Lawrence Swartz (Reinstatement, 003-0002276, Lapsed 1/99)–The Board reviewed Mr. Swartz’s application for reinstatement, which included his Blue Book. Based on the information provided, Ms. Arnold made a motion, seconded by Chairman Wolfstein, to approve Mr. Swartz’s application for reinstatement. Motion passed unanimously.

8. **Newsletter Topics!**

The Board discussed topics to be included in its Newsletter (January 2009). Topics included, the latest resolution regarding IDP, IDP guidelines, version 4.0 of the ARE, responsible control proposed statutory rule changes, and soon.

Chairman Wolfstein said he would write up something on the topic of ways to hold “greener” meetings (paperless office). The Board will include its proposal to amend the statutes and change the educational requirements. Ms. Preston said she would ask Director Winter to write up an article about the new licensing system (eLicense) to be included in the newsletter.

9. **National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) Correspondence**

a. A few items from NCARB were reviewed and noted.

10. **Miscellaneous Correspondence:**

11. **Public Comment**

12. **Other Business Introduced:**

Ms. Arnold mentioned a concern about NCARB’s approval process for the IDP. She said that a colleague’s supervisor was not licensed in Vermont, but was licensed in another state. The supervised work was performed in Vermont and reported to NCARB as part of her IDP program. NCARB accepted the supervised experience and approved her IDP. Ms. Arnold said her colleague recently applied for NCARB certification (Blue Book) and was told that her supervisor, and supervised work in Vermont, was not acceptable because her supervisor was not licensed in the State of Vermont at the time. She must now find another supervisor to verify her experience and validate her IDP.

The Board concluded that the issue is with NCARB, not with the Board. The Board accepted NCARB’s edhert to sit for the ARE and become licensed. The Board agreed to advise NCARB to clearly state its requirement that supervising architects must be licensed in the state where the supervision occurs. It is unfair to individuals who believe they have met the criteria for NCARB Certification when the supervision or other criteria are not clearly stated.

13. **Election of Officers**

The Board noted that appointments for four members would expire as of December 31, 2008. It was believed that members Arnold and Meyer were not eligible for reappointments since they had served the maximum of two full terms.

Ms. Preston will contact the Governor's Office to verify members' eligibility for reappointment and whether anyone else has applied or expressed an interest in being appointed to the Board of Architects.

Mr. Aho nominated Ed Wolfstein as Chairman. Then nomination was seconded by Ms. Stackpole. Passed.
Mr. Aho nominated Frank Guillot as Vice-Chairman. Then nomination was seconded by Ms. Stackpole. Passed.
Mr. Wolfstein nominated Arne Aho as Secretary. Then nomination was seconded by Ms. Stackpole. Passed.

The officers of the Vermont Board of Architects are:

Edward Wolfstein, Chairman
Frank Guillot, Vice-Chairman
Arne Aho, Secretary

14. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for **December 17, 2008** at 10:00 AM.

15. The meeting was adjourned at 12:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Preston
Unit Administrator
Office of Professional Regulation