

**Legislative Affairs Committee 9 December 2008**

Date: 10 December 2008

In attendance were: George Bachrach Esq., Michael Davis, (Co-Chair) Russel Feldman, Diane Georgopoulos, Robert Hoye, David Johnson, Ronald McNulty, John Nunnari (Co-Chair), Paul Pezzella, Marcus Springer, J. Christopher Walsh, Donald Wohn, Margaret Minor Wood.

1. **End of Formal (2008) Session:** Paul Pezzella and George Bachrach presenting.

a. **HB 4803 – Architect Emeritus Bill:** Passed by House 12/8 and moved to the Senate. Senate has passed the bill and it has been moved to the Governors desk. No opposition is expected.

b. **State Budget:**

- Revenue is falling behind expense.
- Current discussion includes a possible 10% reduction in distribution to cities and towns.
- Cuts in Turnpike budget. The next Legislature must deal with the Turnpike structure and budget.
- An increase in State gasoline tax. There has been no increase since the second Dukakis administration. Also the drop in gasoline cost makes the increase less burdensome.

c. Not much else is going on in the State House.

2. **HB 4707 – Construction Reform technical Corrections Package:**

- Russel Feldman presenting.
- This bill was held up earlier in the session by former Senator Dianne Wilkerson.
- Meetings held with Jim Eisenberg of House Ways and Means and Jay Kuhlow of Senator Brewer's office (new Senate Chair of State Administration), there is a concerted effort for passage. Because this is a very extensive bill, a summary has been prepared by DCAMM staff attorney Mary Kaitlin McSally to make it manageable and understood by legislators. House and Senate leadership appear to be aware of the desire to move the bill. Just waiting for House Ways and Means to report bill out favorably.
- The BSA has prepared a text to clarify the technical data of the bill. Submitted to House and Senate Leadership, H/S Chairs of State Administration, H/S Chairs of Ways and Means, and Minority Leaders in the House and Senate

3. **Lien Law filing:**

- Paul Pezzella and Russel Feldman presenting.
- This bill has been in process for sometime. It is ready for filing, and is in need of a sponsor in the Senate. Rep. Vallee has agreed to sponsor on the House side and Russ F, Mike Hick and John Nunnari will meet with Rep. next week. Mr. Pezzella suggests a Senate sponsor should have

legal training. There is time before the deadline date of 14 January 2009 to select a sponsor. Thinking Timility or possible Spilka given connections to the BSA.

4. **MA Zero Net Energy Task Force Recommendations:**

- Michael Davis, Marcus Springer presenting.
- The Task Force has taken a broad approach, with about 20 separate avenues to insure a comprehensive, all-inclusive scope i.e.:
  - Interim regulations.
  - Commercial, residential, rehab.
  - A document for practitioners.
- Identification of a zero energy building
  - Net zero carbon.
  - Net zero energy cost.
- Focus on new energy sources.
- Consider more and smaller, more energy efficient generating plants with shorter distribution distances.
- It was suggested that the Energy Star Standards and local management programs can be useful.
- Make sure that efficient use of water resources is included.
- Design and management Training Programs.
- Does the text include business?
  - Realtors who can use the proposed legislation as a sales tool.
  - Banks who can favor loans for properties that guarantee lower energy costs.

5. **School Building Assistance:**

- George Bachrach and John Nunnari presenting.
- A meeting with Mr. Cahill, the State Treasurer, was described as a good meeting. Mr. Cahill is committed to a pilot program, which is described as a model school program with the sole objective of saving construction cost, beginning with assumed savings in designers' fees and in construction managers' cost.
- This is a continuing dialogue, with an argument that good educational programs need not be wasteful of tax dollars.

6. **Correspondence:**

- To Dominguez McCoy and Gail Laster.
- Date: March 22, 2007.
- Re: Initiatives for a National Energy Program for Affordable and Public Housing.
- This is five page document inserted here by reference. It is a broad ranging document that can be a valuable resource as a checklist for the current Energy Task Force.

7. **MA AIA Board Meeting:**

- John Nunnari and Christopher Walsh presenting.
- The intent of the meeting was to bring all three Massachusetts AIA Chapters contributing in a meaningful way to the State Legislative process.
- Possible resolution:
  - more district meetings
  - State House Day – establish in district meeting for Central and Western chapter participants
- Encouraging Architects to run for elected office, especially at the local level.
- There is a State House newsletter available for public knowledge concerning status of bills in process that could be useful.

8. **“Shovel Ready Process”:**

- Consistent with President Elect work program for short term – 90 day ready to go projects, we must be alert to make use of this program to benefit Massachusetts.
- A 100 billion dollar – 2-year program is anticipated, and could be passed immediately following the change of administration.
- Funding for educational and residential programs to follow.

9. **Freshman Legislators Breakfast:**

- 13 January 2009 at the Omni Parker House.
- Invitations are being prepared.
- There will be no other LAC meeting scheduled for January '09.

10. **End of Meeting Minutes**