

AIA MASSACHUSETTS

52 Broad Street • Boston MA 02109-4301 • 617-951-1433 • 800-662-1235 (in Massachusetts) • Fax: 617-951-0845

Legislative Affairs Committee (LAC) 12 May 2009

Date: 12 May 2009

In Attendance were: George Bachrach Esq., David Johnson AIA, John Nunnari Assoc. AIA (co-chair), Diane Georgopoulos FAIA, Paul Pezzella, Russel Feldman AIA, Eric White

1. Legislative Update:

Paul Pezzella and George Bachrach Esq. presenting:

The FY 10 budget was passed by the House achieving balance by increasing the sales tax from 5.0% to 6.25% and is now in the Senate Ways and Means Committee and is expected to be reported out by May 13 2009 for consideration by the Senate. Mr. Pezzella described the document as the “worst” possible with a \$900 million short-fall following cuts everywhere. Next year the budget crisis is expected to be more severe.

There is some discussion on Legislative policy issues, but the primary focus remains budgetary issues. Sales tax increase seems most viable with some portion of it being dedicated to transportation needs. Income tax and gas tax increases seem d.o.a. Senate will probably go higher in their proposed sales tax increase, but Legislature realizes that a sole sales tax increase will not be enough to solve the states current deficit problem.

LUPA is being heard around the state. The Lien bill has yet to be scheduled for a hearing. Green issues remain current concerning emissions levels as they affect revenue income. Please refer to the Stretch Codes below.

Mr. Pezzella advised that the LAC should not, at this time, advocate for more costly programs, for the benefit of schools, local aid, grants, housing, health care, etc.

There are several coalition groups with the intent to shape the breakdown favorably in one direction or another. The BSA may wish to become active at these levels.

Interior Design Certification

Sen. Creem’s staff has asked for a copy of the BSA bill filed in the last legislative session. They want to see the changes that MIDC has made.

The LAC will accept no revisions. The bill remains in the Judiciary Committee of the House.

2. Architects Day on Beacon Hill – 28 April 2009

Those attending reported good visits with their legislator(s) or legislative assistant(s) even though the State House focus remains on the FY 10 budget.

Planning discussions for the next Architects Day on Beacon Hill include programs to involve young architects to a greater degree. About 35 members attended this year’s event.

3. Stretch Code

This bill addresses the issue of control, lacking in the Green Communities Act passed by the Legislature in the last session, which allows lower emission levels by local communities than the State prescribed emission levels. The stretch code brings local initiatives to improve emissions within the jurisdiction of the BBRS and provides standards as a basis to determine emission levels for new and existing buildings, residential and commercial use.

AIA MASSACHUSETTS

52 Broad Street • Boston MA 02109-4301 • 617-951-1433 • 800-662-1235 (in Massachusetts) • Fax: 617-951-0845

4. Guest Speakers

Several names were suggested related to public safety, access, housing, the economy and sustainability:

Sen. Creem, Rep. Vallee, Sen. Donnelly, EOEEA Undersect. Berwick, Commissioner Gatzuntis, Deborah Goddard (General Counsel), Howard Cohen and Larry Curtis (both progressive developers on green issues) and Jim Margo (Preservation MA, Exec. Dir)

Next Meeting:

Tuesday 9 June 2009 beginning at 8:30 am in the BSA fifth floor conference room, 52 Broad street Boston MA.

End of Meeting Minutes