

## **Rhode Island APA Board Meeting Minutes**

March 15, 2023

In attendance: Ashley Sweet, Jeff Davis, Roberta Groch, Glenn Modica, Annette Bourne, Maria Mack, Mike DeLuca, MJ Bull, Jane Weidman, Jillian Finkle, Jim Riordan, Herb Durfee, Ryy Dickerson

The meeting was called to order at 4:05PM

The February board meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

### Treasurer's Update:

- We have \$45,000 in our checking account and \$3,800 in our savings account.
- Still need one receipt from Alison Lafore before SNEAPA proceeds can be distributed. SNEAPA netted \$24,500.
- Survey Monkey expires on 3/17/23: need to renew it.

### Program/Events:

- EDI Committee is hosting a lunch and learn about APA's new guidance on equity and housing on April 28 at noon.
- Add to Facebook and website calendar.

### Website:

- Please send photos of events or scenes in RI to Roberta for use on the new website.
- Email issue: need an email address, external to website.
- Create a gmail account and have the secretary assigned to it.

### SNEAPA:

- Need a new registration platform: the frontrunner also has website capacity, too.

### Awards:

- The Awards Committee needs a new chairperson.

### Events:

- Move the post-holiday party permanently to April? Yes. Better attendance and better chance of having it outside.
- Mike will price the rental of the clubhouse at Narragansett Beach for a summer party. They now require a bartender if we serve alcohol.
- It does not necessarily have to be a lobster bake: we can offer other food that is less expensive. It's the experience of being at the beach that people like.
- Hold it somewhere else? URI Bay Campus?

### Equity, Diversity and Inclusion:

- Working on language for a new webpage.

Membership:

- The new chapter-only price is \$35/year. It will show up on the APA National website in July.
- Several planning board memberships are coming due soon.

Legislative:

- Several housing bills are being heard tomorrow night.
- Jane is exhausted! We need to find a full-time person/lobbyist for legislative issues.
- Jane met with the ADU bill sponsors in the House and Senate: it was not positive.
- APA-Ri needs to offer specific constructive amendments. We are reacting and not being proactive.
- Several of the bills were discussed. We need to focus on a few key bills.
- How can we help municipalities with best practices?
- Land Use Commission:
  - Ashley had a positive discussion with Thom, Joelle, and Lynne about the legislation and the Land Use Commission.
  - Joelle is open to our suggestions but the Speaker has the ultimate say
  - What is the intended outcome of the legislation? Still no clear answer. It will cause confusion for muni. planners.
  - Discussed how changes prescribed by legislation cannot be made by municipalities in six months: financial and technical assistance is needed. These are unfunded mandates.
  - We need to give them specific examples of what will happen with DPR changes.
  - There has been no discussion of the bills yet by the Land Use Commission.
  - Municipal planners are not showing up to testify about these bills: they do not seem to understand the severity of what is being proposed.
  - We need to assess what we have in our toolbox and have a list of the things we *can* do.

The next meeting is on Friday, April 21 at 3:30PM. Future meetings will go back to being held on the third Friday of the month.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:22PM.

Submitted by:  
Roberta Groch