

AIA VT COTE Committee

MINUTES from Monthly Conference Call

Date / time of call: March 27, 2018, 3 pm.

Present on call:

Jim Williams, Megan Nedzinski, Eric Morrow, Gregor Masefield, Keith Dewey

Minutes by Jim Williams

1. It was agreed to hold a regularly scheduled conference call for the COTE committee at 3 pm on the fourth Tuesday of every month. It will be posted on website and any members who want to join the call are welcome. It was agreed to use the WebEx portal. Eric will set up the invitation for calling in.
2. There was discussion about the fact that AIA NH has declined to host the Northern New England COTE leadership summit this year and whether it was appropriate to consider filling this void in some way. It was agreed that we do not have the capacity to take on anything in this vein, and that we would be better served to focus on initiatives that would better serve our Vermont members.
3. There was discussion about the idea of including environmental metrics as a part of AIA VT award submission applications. It was acknowledged that firms who win an award do get a lot of benefit from the recognition, but that it is also costly to the firm to submit a project for consideration. Megan will reach out to Ward to set up a conference call for further discussion to see if there is interest in this idea on the awards committee, and if so, how environmental metrics might be included in the awards program.
4. There was discussion regarding potential opportunities to engage with and / or collaborate with other related organizations on various fronts but most likely related to programming. The following organizations have been identified for initiating outreach: Vermont Green Building Network (VGBN), Vermont Businesses for Social responsibility (VBSR), PassiveHouseVT, other professional societies including ASLA, ASHRAE, Vermont Society of Professional Engineers (VTPE). It was agreed that we would make an initial contact with representatives of different organizations and invite them to join our monthly conference call to discuss the idea.

There was also additional discussion regarding opportunities for cross pollination from organization to organization. For example, many VBSR legislation priorities relate to energy and the environment. For example, perhaps our AIA VT newsletter could cross promote activities of other organizations.

Eric agreed to be the point person to make initial contacts and bring his findings back for further discussion.

5. There was discussion about the Burlington Form-based code concerns that have been raised by Israel Smith. It was agreed to invite Israel to join the monthly conference call so that we may listen to his concerns and look into how AIA VT could support the effort.

6. *There was discussion about the 2017 Catalysts of Climate Economy conference, and whether there might be an opportunity for AIAVT to become involved in the 2018 program. It was learned by Megan that the 2017 conference was a big summit supported by a rural development grant, and that for 2018 the focus will be more on local implementation. As such, there does not appear to be any opportunity for direct AIAVT involvement.*
7. *There was discussion about AIAVT becoming a stakeholder member of the Burlington 2030 district. There would be no cost to AIAVT to becoming a community stakeholder member. The committee agreed to present the recommendation to join the Burlington 2023 district as a community stakeholder member to the full board.*
8. *The next AIAVT COTE Committee conference call will be April 24 at 3 pm.*