



Executive Board Meeting
September 5, 2024 - 10:00 a.m.
Mathiau Residence, Vassalboro, ME

MINUTES

Members Present: President Darryl McKenney; Vice President Joe St. Peter; Secretary Barbara Brewer; Treasurer Clinton Swett; Past President Karen Scammon; Executive Board Members Natalie Andrews, Lauren Asselin, Kerry Leichtman, and Brent Martin. Kyle Avila, Bonnie Baker, and Judy Mathiau were also in attendance.

Members Absent: Terry Duff and Amber Poulin

The meeting was called to order at 10:25 a.m.

Secretary's Report: Joe moved to accept the minutes of the July 18, 2024, meeting as written. Lauren seconded the motion. All were in favor, except Natalie who abstained, and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Clint reported a current balance of \$14,551.33. Natalie moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Kerry seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Standing Committee Reports

- **Education:** Natalie discussed the IAAO one day forums that she had forwarded in an e-mail to determine if any of them sounded good to the Board as an all-day agenda item for the November 14th annual Chapter meeting. Joe inquired about the cost of presenting an IAAO one day forum. There are two Maine IAAO instructors, Valerie Moon and Steve Sullivan. Bonnie mentioned that MRS would loan Steve Sullivan for the day so the cost would be for the IAAO materials. Natalie will ask Steve Sullivan if he would be willing to teach any of the one-day forums. Natalie also suggested holding the annual meeting at the Augusta Civic Center again since it's an easy venue to coordinate. Bonnie suggested that Jeff's Catering in Brewer might be a viable option since the cost is much lower than the Civic Center and can accommodate a large group. Natalie will investigate the possibility of holding the annual meeting at that venue as an alternative.
- **Legislative:** Kerry attended an LPC meeting last week. When asked for a suggested agenda, Kerry requested property tax relief. As it turns out, property tax relief is on everyone's recommended agenda. Kerry is in the process of forming a working group to research different property tax programs. He asked for others' input on property tax relief on the IAAO listserv and he received some good responses. Kerry advocated for a subcommittee that will look at all forms of property tax relief (even stabilization). Let Kerry know if you have any ideas. Joe asked Kerry if he had looked at the Lincoln Institute information. Kerry intends to, especially one article called "The Good Tax".
- **Membership:** Barbara reported that there have been 3 new memberships since the last meeting. Bonnie mentioned that there are 6 new CMAs. Bonnie will forward the list to Joe and Barbara once she gets permission to share contact information from the new CMAs.
- **Audit:** Nothing to report

- **Nominating:** Barbara reported that there are three expiring Board positions for 2024, namely, Amber, Brent, and Lauren. Lauren and Brent both agreed to serve another term. Amber had some concerns about recommitting to another term as she is not geographically close to meeting locations and the commute to attend in person is problematic. Joe relayed, too, that Terry also shared this concern. As Joe expressed, the Board agrees that having assessors from different geographic areas in Maine is an important factor in creating diversity. Since attending a meeting remotely is an option, the Board, in general, would prefer to keep the current members (whether or not they can attend in person) as we seem to work well together. It is assumed that Amber will agree to another term based on the Board's discussion.

Furthermore, Natalie has concerns that she is not a working assessor, but a town manager, and asked if should relinquish her position as a director. Karen responded that she thinks it's nice to have a non-assessor on the Board to have a different perspective.

In response to the in-person attendance issue, Barbara suggested that the Board schedule some remote meetings as well as in-person meetings next year as a compromise. Joe mentioned that the Board could also try to centralize the meeting locations so that those not so close would not need to travel so far.

As a final reminder, Joe reiterated that all Board members must also be IAAO members as well per the by-laws. If you are unsure whether you are a current member, please check with IAAO. There is also a list of current members on the IAAO website.

- **Communications:** Joe is hoping to issue a fall newsletter in October. Joe likes the idea of members writing articles. Bill Brunelle typically includes an article on legislation and Joe plans to write something on Greece's architecture since he recently visited Greece on vacation.

Joe has asked the ME Chapters members to submit their information for the directory he hopes to attach to our website, and a few members have complied. Joe also mentioned to Kyle that he has some updates for the website.

Joe updated the ME Chapter of the IAAO brochure for Property Tax School, but he doesn't know how many we should print since there is a 2024 membership application in the brochure.

- **IAAO:** Karen mentioned that an IAAO Symposium will be held in Amsterdam on December 4 and 5 and that IAAO elections will take place November 1st -15th. Bill Healey is running for President-Elect, please remember to vote. All current candidates are listed on the IAAO website with their bios.

Ad Hoc Committee Report

- **History:** Darryl got a copy of Richard Mains book "Growing Up Yankee" which he gave to Judy.

Old Business

- **ME Chapter IAAO: Tax Exempt Status Certification**

Clint is currently working on filing for the tax-exempt status certification for the Chapter. Clint is going to reach out to MAAO since he is getting no response from his contacts at the State.

- **Contribution to IAAO Reception, Portland, August 2nd (did cost exceed \$5,000?)**

According to Darryl, he was not approached for a contribution, so the assumption is that the cost did not exceed \$5,000.

New Business

- The Board presented Judy with a pair of “thank you” t-shirts for her and Rick. The Board is thankful to Judy and Rick for once again hosting a wonderful lunch at their beautiful farm.

Next Board meeting-October 17th, Darryl will be away that day, but Joe will preside over the meeting. Brent will host.

Karen moved to adjourn the meeting, and Joe seconded. All were in favor. The motion passed and the Board adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Brewer, Secretary