



CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF LAND SURVEYORS

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JOHN WAGENBLATT PRESIDENT	KEVIN L. DAROS 1 st VICE-PRESIDENT	DAVID PALMBERG 2 nd VICE PRESIDENT	JASON G. RACETTE SECRETARY	ALAN S. FENROW TREASURER
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MINUTES FROM THE BOARD MEETING FEBRUARY 25, 2010

The meeting began at 7:00 with a half hour presentation by Mark Judge, Website Designer, who presented some suggestions to update CALS website.

GENERAL BUSINESS

The business meeting was held at the Wethersfield Community Center. **President** John Wagenblatt called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. Those present included: **First Vice President** Kevin DaRos; **Secretary** Jason G. Racette; **Treasurer** Alan S. Fenrow; **Directors – Fairfield County** Jason Spath & Jeff McDougal, **Hartford County** Jon Kula & Reese Roberts; **Litchfield County** Gary Giordano; **Middlesex County** Angus McDonald & Steve Mazeau; **New London County** Susan Camp; **Tolland County** Larry Geissler & David Riordan; **South Central Proprietors Council** Robert Jackson; **Immediate Past President** Andy Tupper; **Past President** Michael Wilmes; **NSPS Vice President & CALS Legislative Liaison** Bob Dahn; **MAPPS** Ken Herbert; and **NSPS Board of Governors** Rick Howard.

MOTION - made by Rick Howard, seconded by Alan S. Fenrow, to approve the January 2010 Minutes.

PASSED

MOTION - made by Angus McDonald, Jr., seconded by Andy Tupper, to approve the January 2010 Financial Statement.

PASSED

Treasurer Alan S. Fenrow reported that there is a total of \$21,210 in outstanding dues for 2010. Second dues notices were sent out on February 15th. Please pay your dues promptly.

The Least Squares Seminar was a success. Much appreciation goes to Professor Raymond Hintz who donated his speaker's fee to the CALS Scholarship Fund.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

MOTION - made by Kevin DaRos, seconded by Angus McDonald, Jr., to approve the following applications for membership:

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|---------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Stephen Peck, Groton, CT | Associate Member | Endorsed by Michael Scanlon |
| 2. Edwin Rhodes, West Haven, CT | Associate Member | Endorsed by Tony D'Andrea |
| 3. Kevin Ognan, Thomaston, CT | Associate Member | Endorsed by Jay Doody |

PASSED

MOTION - made by Andy Tupper, seconded by Jason Spath, to approve a change in membership for Anthony DeRosa from Surveyor Member to Life Member.

PASSED

CALS WEBSITE

Jason G. Racette and Alan S. Fenrow outlined the work that has been done thus far regarding the CALS website. Everyone is in agreement that any enhancement will be reflective of the professionalism of the organization. There was some discussion as to the selling of "banners" to subsidize the cost. Mr. Judge will provide three quotes for various upgrades and the board will discuss the options at the March meeting.

CODE REVISION UPDATE

President Wagenblatt reported that he will be sending out two letters regarding the revised Code of Practice.

1. John Miller, Jim Sheehy & Paul Hallisey

The 2009 Standards Revision Committee and the CALS Board of Directors each discussed the issues of concern among themselves and together on several occasions. The consensus was: a) that some revisions would be made to the Boundary Determination Categories to clarify the original intent and purpose for the Resurveys; and b) that the modifications proposed in the March 4, 2009, letter stemmed from a misunderstanding of the resurvey categories, which would be clarified by the proposed revisions.

2. Steven Schwane, Esq., Dept. of Consumer Protection

Submitted changes that were approved by CALS and requesting approval by the DCP.

2010 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Per the January decision of the CALS Board of Directors, we waited for proposals from both, Updike Kelley and Spellacy (UKS) and the Reynolds Strategy Group, LLC (RSG) to make our choice of representation for the 2010 session. The proposals received were essentially the same in regard to services provided and the cost was the same. Based primarily on there being a number of issues that carried over from last year's sessions and Kevin Reynolds having an existing understanding of these issues and having already done a substantial amount of preliminary work with the parties involved in these issues during the last session, we chose to go with RSG. This was not an easy decision, CALS and UKS have enjoyed longstanding and successful relationship, on behalf of CALS, and I would like to thank UKS for all that was accomplished over that time.

The 2010 Legislative Session is underway and there has already been a flurry of bills of interest to CALS. One of the first bills raised was, RB 132, An Act Concerning Landscape Architects, was introduced by the General Law Committee. This Bill, originally raised last year, proposes to include Landscape Architects in the existing Statute for corporate joint practice among design professionals. During the 2009 sessions CALS worked with the Landscape Architects to refine the proposed language. Last year's bill, with the amended language was not brought to the floor for a vote. RB 132 contains the language as amended. A General Law Committee Public Hearing was held on 2-16-10 and CALS provided testimony in support of the bill and the language as raised.

During the first weeks of the session several other Bills have been introduced that RSG has begun to monitor on our behalf;

- 1) PB 5167, An Act Concerning the Recent Increase in State Fees, referred to the Commerce Committee.

The purpose of this Bill is to reassess the manner in which state fees have been increased. As presented the bill simply states that intention without specifying which fees they will be reviewing. CALS is watching this to see what, if any effect it may have on licensing fees.

- 2) RB 124, An Act Concerning Long Island Sound and Coastal Permitting, referred to the Committee on Environment. The purpose of this Bill is to streamline the permitting process and repeal certain obsolete coastal management programs and administrative statutes. CALS initial interest in this Bill was as a FYI alert to the membership. Contained within the Bill is a laundry list of seemingly unrelated Boards, Agencies and/or Commissions to be eliminated or merged with similar bodies. During the 2009 sessions similar eliminations were proposed by the Governor's Office. Last year's proposal included the PELS Board, this one does not, but we have requested that RSG be vigilant to lists of this nature appearing in other Bills. Thanks to the timely review of the substantive content of this Bill by Jay Doody and a subsequent request from Jay, CALS will monitor this Bill as a possible place to attempt to include the refined definition of mean high water.

3) RB 5197, An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Program Review and Investigations Committee Concerning the Postponement of Program Termination Dates in the Sunset Law, introduced by the Committee on Program Review and Investigations. As mentioned in item 2 we asked RSG to be vigilant regarding Bills proposing to eliminate the PELS Board. The Sunset Law can eliminate the PELS Board among other state boards and entities to 2015.

4) PB 42, An Act Concerning a Tax Credit for Small Businesses That Provide Health Insurance for Employees, referred to the Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding. The Bill is what its title implies. CALS will continue to monitor its progress.

5) PB 5180, An Act Eliminating Exemptions from the Sales and Use Tax, referred to the Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding. The Bill proposes the elimination of all exemptions from the sales and use taxes in chapter 219 of the general statutes. Section 12-412 (11), includes professional services, it is the opinion of RSG that this includes surveying services. CALS will continue to monitor this Bill. CALS has requested that RSG try to determine if this Bill will receive serious attention and what we may be able to do in opposition.

6) PB 5093, An Act Concerning Pooling Groups, referred to the Committee on Insurance and Real Estate. The purpose of this Bill is to allow municipal and regional groups to form pooling groups for procuring health insurance. CALS monitors bills of this nature to suggest that professional societies be included in the groups that would be allowed to pool.

7) GB 25, An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of the State of Connecticut for Capital Improvements, Transportation and Other Projects, referred to the Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding. The Bill proposes adjustments to approved bonds for State Projects. In almost every case, on an extremely list, the existing funds are being cut substantially. This Bill and the next are highlighted for those members who may have business interests in the funding for State Projects.

8) GB 27, An Act Limiting State Bond Authorizations, referred to the Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding. The Bill is as its title implies. Anyone wishing to review the content of any of these bills can do so by going to the CALS Legislative Page or by going to the State Legislature's Page and entering the Bill number.

The Revised Regulations Concerning Filing Requirements of Maps was reviewed by the Regulation Review Committee at the legislature and returned to the Public Records Administrator (PRA) with list of items that needed to be revised for the regulation to pass legal muster. The PRA reconvened the Maps Committee, and during the fall the committee made the necessary revisions. The Revised Regulation was resubmitted and passed regulatory review. The Revised Regulation was published in the Connecticut Law Journal prior to becoming effective on 1-28-2010. CALS should thank Angus McDonald for his participation on the Committee and his willingness to serve as the CALS Liaison to the PRA and the Town Clerks.

RSG has arranged a meeting with members of the Freedom of Information Commission on 3-2-2010 at the Capitol for CALS to present our position regarding the release of digital survey files as it pertains to FOI requirements. President Wagenblatt and I are scheduled to attend on CALS behalf.

I have contacted the Landscape Architects Legislative coordinator to discuss the 2010 session. I hope to discuss the number of bills that have been raised regarding licensing fees, sales tax, elimination of licensing boards, etc, which I believe would be much more effectively handle with united front from the design professions. I intend to make the overture to both the Engineering Society and the Architects.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Dahn, Legislative Liaison

DECLARATORY RULINGS

Two Declaratory Rulings have been published and are available on the CALS website.

1. Declaratory Ruling concerning Geographic Information Systems. Effective March 1, 2010.
2. Declaratory Ruling concerning the release of digital files of surveying maps and engineering plans. Effective March 1, 2010.

MAINE SOCIETY OF LAND SURVEYORS ANNUAL MEETING

The Maine Society of Land Surveyors (MSLS) held its annual meeting on February 4-5, 2010, in Lewiston, Maine. Bob Dahn represented both CALS and NSPS. As always, the hospitality of MSLS was first class and it was a great opportunity to discuss all of the common issues we are confronting as a professional community.

MSLS held a two-day meeting with a full schedule of professional development seminars and a business meeting with complete committee reports that was well attended by an active and vocal general membership. The seminars on Thursday were separated into professional and technician tracts. The professional tract included seminars on Mechanics Liens, Small Claims and Survey Scanning Technology. The technician's tract included sessions on NCEE Fundamentals of Surveying Examination, Survey mathematics Review, Horizontal Highway Curves, and Office Work for Highway Vertical Curves. The evening festivities began with a social in the exhibit hall, followed by dinner awards and a scholarship auction. Other invited guests included representatives from Vermont, New Hampshire, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Bob had the honor of installing the MSLS officers and directors for the coming year. Despite the affects of the economy the auction was a success. Bob successfully bid on the "Alabama football jersey" similar to our CALS banner. He has suggested that we consider putting it up in our auction rather than bringing it back to Maine next year. The CALS donation of a CALS bag with assorted CALS items was greatly appreciated.

Friday began with a president's breakfast, which was a nice opportunity for the assembled past presidents to meet together and share time with invited guests. The Friday seminars were a combined professional/technician tract about the emerging wind energy business in Maine.

Bob remains committed to the interaction of surveying professionals across political jurisdictions and was honored to represent CALS at this meeting.

NEW JERSEY SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS ANNUAL MEETING

The New Jersey Society of Professional Land Surveyors held its Annual Meeting recently. Past President Michael Wilmes attended and represented CALS. Due to a snow storm the three day conference was forced to close early and cancel the Annual Banquet.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Motion made by Andy Tupper, seconded by Jason Spath, to donate \$200 to the University of Maine Scholarship program in memory of Roger Ferguson

PASSED

2. Continuing Education Chairman Jay Doody is continuing with plans for a seminar titled "Surveying with the Starz." He is looking for contestants who have an interesting project that can be shared with the membership. A visual presentation with pictures of deeds, the area, and points found, etc. is required to make the presentation both lively and informative.

Anyone interested in participating is asked to contact Jay at 203-933-3850 or email jjdoody@snet.net.

NEW BUSINESS

1. As you are aware, I was very impressed to see on a recent registration form for a CALS sponsored seminar that several seats at the seminar were being made available to unemployed members at a substantially reduced rate. This prompted me to think we all might be doing more to support our colleagues whose circumstances are less fortunate than ours in this challenging economy.

To foster this support, I would like to participate with you in a matching funds program. I am proposing to make available a donation of up to \$1000 (one thousand dollars) to match funds raised by CALS for the purpose of defraying tuition / seminar attendance costs for unemployed CALS members. All that is required from the association is documentation detailing the funds you raise to support this effort and the actual end use of the funds. If available funds exceed the demand generated by fully unemployed members, underemployed members may then also be considered for the program. It is important that these funds be used only to support and assist unemployed or underemployed members and that the funds not become part of the association's general operating fund.

Please contact me if you are interested in participating in this effort or if you would like to discuss specifics in more detail.

*Very Sincerely Yours,
Wayne Kelloway, President
LLS / Certified Photogrammetrist
EASTERN TOPOGRAPHICS*

Details of the program will be discussed at the March meeting of the Board of Directors. Anyone who would like to participate in this generous program is asked to call the CALS office.

2. The National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS) has requested endorsement of S.2989 Small Business Contracting Revitalization Act of 2010 introduced by Senator Mary Landrieu. Comments can be submitted to the Senator at <http://landrieu.senate.gov/about/contact.cfm>.

3. Peter Suorsa, a land surveyor in Rhode Island, died recently when he fell through the ice while ice skating at Flat River Reservoir in Coventry, Rhode Island. Mr. Suorsa was a member of the Rhode Island Society of Professional Land Surveyors. He is survived by his wife Janice of twenty-four years, a son Samuel, a daughter Kristina, and a brother Paul. Peter's son and brother both worked with him at the Coventry Survey Company, where he was president for twenty-five years. Samuel recently completed a two-year program on surveying in Rhode Island where he maintained an A average in his grades. He is currently attending the University of Maine Surveying School where a scholarship fund has been established in his name. Donations can be sent in memory of Peter D. Suorsa, care of Coventry Credit Union, 1584 Nooseneck Hill Road, Coventry, RI 02816.

4. Middlesex County Director Steve Mazeau reported that he volunteered to assist at the Surveying Merit Badge weekend February 14 & 15, 2010, at Winter Camp at Stang Scout Reservation in Goshen, CT. The event was organized by CALS member Richard Contois and about 40-50 scouts attended.

Other volunteers from CALS included Vincent Hanchuruck, Bob Liddel, Wayne Zirolli and Mike Jiantonio and Jeremy Smith from Superior Instrument, a Sustaining Member of CALS.

Motion made by Andy Tupper, seconded by Larry Geissler, to adjourn the meeting at 8:47.

PASSED

Respectfully Submitted by Kathleen Kurland

NEXT MEETING – MARCH 25, 2010