



CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF LAND SURVEYORS, INC.

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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 FENROW TREASURER
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MINUTES FROM THE BOARD MEETING MARCH 26, 2009

GENERAL BUSINESS

The meeting was held at the Wethersfield Community Center. **President** John Wagenblatt called the meeting to order at 7:29 p.m. Those present included: **Immediate Past President** Andy Tupper; **First Vice President** Kevin DaRos; **Second Vice President** David Palmberg; **Secretary** Jason G. Racette; **Treasurer** Alan Fenrow; **Hartford County** Jon Kula & Reese Roberts; **Litchfield County** Gary Giordano; **Middlesex County** Angus McDonald, Jr.; **New Haven County** Wayne Zirolli; **Tolland County** David Riordan; **MAPPS** Ken Pudeler; **South Central Proprietors Council** Bob Jackson; **Public Sector Council** Scott Neff; **NSPS Area 1 Director** Bob Dahn; **NSPS Board of Governors** Rick Howard; **Former President** Michael Wilmes and **Member** Jim Bernardo.

There were two corrections to the February Minutes:

- 1) Under New Business, the GIS meeting is scheduled for April 30th.
- 2) Ken Pudeler noted that he also reported that a "red stamp" seal was missing from two maps that were accepted for filing by the town clerk of Wilton, that do not meet the criteria of maps to be recorded for town records.

MOTION - made by Gary Giordano, seconded by Dave Palmberg, to approve the February 2009 minutes as corrected.

PASSED

MOTION - made by Gary Giordano, seconded by Dave Palmberg, to approve the February 2009 Financial Report.

PASSED

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

MOTION - made by Andy Tupper, seconded by Wayne Zirolli, to approve the following application for membership:

- 1) Donald Gerwick, Waterford, CT Surveyor Member Endorsed by John Paul Mereen

PASSED

ADVISORY OPINION FROM THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS CONCERNING THE SIGNING & SEALING OF DIGITAL DOCUMENTS

CALS Member Jim Bernardo, L.S. from New London County, reported that, as part of the subdivision regulations, the town of Groton, requires digital maps for filing and will not release milar maps until the digital files have been approved. The town of Ledyard has similar requirements. This requirement is in direct contrast to guidelines that were presented, on State letterhead, by the Board of Examiners.

Scott Neff, Chief of Surveys for the town of Manchester, reported that this is an ongoing issue and that some towns charge \$50 per page to convert files. He believes it would be in the best interest of surveyors to take a proactive stance and establish appropriate regulation requirements when submitting digital files.

The GIS committee will discuss this issue at a meeting April 30th at the Wethersfield Community Center. Anyone who would like to attend should contact Bob Baron at (860) 594-2510.

2009 SURVEY & MAP STANDARDS REVISION

President Wagenblatt gave an update on the progress of the committee. To date, only a few responses were received and the committee has extended the deadline for input to April 30, 2009. Should you have input and suggestions for additions, revisions, or alterations that you feel will make a substantive change to the code, please send your responses to Jason G. Racette, CALS Secretary at jgracette@aol.com or via USPS to CALS at 78 Beaver Road, Wethersfield, CT 06109.

President Wagenblatt will give a brief presentation on the progress of the revision of the code at the General Membership Meeting on May 7, 2009.

2009 LEGISLATION

Bob Dahn, CALS Legislative Liaison reported, that a Public Hearing for SB 1002 was held on March 3, 2009. Immediately following the hearing he conferred with the representatives of the Landscape Architects and discussed ways to move the Bill forward. They were agreeable to the suggestions made at the hearing and an amended version of SB 1002 was submitted to the committee, which substantially met our requests. This version received a Joint Favorable report from the General Law Committee and was filed with the Legislative Commissioners Office. On March 3, 2009 it was reported out of the Legislative Commissioners Office, with a Favorable Report, Tabled for the Calendar, Senate assigned Senate Calendar Number 187, and assigned File Number 173. Mr. Dahn has requested a clarification from UKS about the meaning of "Tabled for the Calendar" and will forward that information upon receipt.

UKS continues to monitor a list of other Bills, of which we have no further updates at this time. UKS is also paying close attention to all of the Budget deliberations, particularly any proposals that would include, raising licensing fees and/or placing a sales tax on our services. Information will be forwarded to CALS as it becomes available.

NEW JERSEY SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS 2009 CONFERENCE

Former President Michael Wilmes attended the NJSPLS "SurvCon 2009" Conference February 4-6, 2009, in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Mr. Wilmes has represented CALS at this meeting for many years and noticed that visitors to the city were extremely sparse, because of the economy. However, the conference was well attended. New Jersey has mandatory continuing education requirements, which brought many attendees to workshops that were geared toward bringing new work to the area.

ASCM SPRING CONVENTION SALT LAKE CITY

The NSPS/ACSM spring convention was held in Salt Lake City from March 19th-22nd, 2009, sponsored by the state societies of Utah and Montana, and the Western Federation of Land Surveyors. I attended a number of committee meetings, as well as The Board of Governors on Saturday and The Board of Directors on Sunday.

Of general note, I would offer the following highlights of new items and progress of old business:

- With the passage of the National Surveyor's Week Resolution in the House and the Senate, we sent a letter to President Obama asking for a proclamation honoring surveyors during National Surveyor's Week.
- ACSM/ALTA committee is now considering modifications for the next revision of the Standards (2010-2011), based on input from the survey community.
- NSPS is looking into the development of a Crisis Management Manual to assist its members with theft, natural disasters, fire, health hazards, etc.
- We have a standing committee to develop a position statement on motion control and guidance for a surveyors role in site development control.

I would like to take the remainder of this space to observe NSPS's efforts in reaching out to our youth to help them identify with the surveyor's role in society and to strongly encourage those who have shown a keen interest.

At the high school and local level, we have spoken of Geo-Caching, Scouting Merit Badges, and most notably Trig-Star, which is doing exceptionally well. NSPS's youth outreach chair Wayne Hebert is planning a major exhibit at this year's Boy Scout Jamboree (100th Anniversary-National Event). However, it was the student attendance and participation in Salt Lake City that gave me pause, and finally consideration for sharing it with you.

Approximately 200 students attended the convention and 11 teams of 6 students participated in the student team competition. The theme for the competition, including a poster, was The History of Calculating Methods and Machines. The field exercise was a series of questions on vernier readings, slide rule and log table calculations, and the reading of a sub-tense bar. The slide rule proved to be the decisive factor, apparently the students and committee members were more than happy to be done with them.

In addition to reduced conference rates and conference staff positions to subsidize their attendance, NSPS also supports their educational goals thru scholarships awarded through the NSPS Foundation. Thirteen scholarships were awarded this spring from almost 40 highly qualified individuals. NSPS also grants a monetary award to Student Project of the Year – Congratulations Joseph B. Gabor, Penn State Wilkes-Barre Campus.

On Sunday night, Curt Sumner brought the students together for pizza and asked several NSPS officers and leading industry professionals to hold a panel discussion for their benefit. The students asked questions about their careers, the surveying field, general career advice and anything else the students chose to speak about. The conversion was lively and many of the panel members proved to be great storytellers.

Finally, I would simply offer there are many aspiring young professionals amongst us. I encourage you to give them some of your time, I'm confident you'll be amply rewarded.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Howard
NSPS Board of Governors

CLASSIFIED ADS IN THE CALS NEWSLETTER

CALS Board of Directors has established a policy that anyone placing a classified ad must renew it by the last Thursday of the month or it will not be published in the Connecticut Surveyor or on CALS website.

CORRESPONDENCE

- 1) Request from the National Museum of Surveying – On November 20, 2008, the Museum unveiled to the media its newly installed "Science on A Sphere" exhibit. With the use of high-speed computers, projectors and advanced imaging techniques, this exhibit houses more than 200 data sets that display a wide range of pictures – all taken from satellites. This important addition uniquely ties surveying to the tools and techniques used in the field through this awe-inspiring presentation. The entire "museum family" has worked very hard to provide an experience for people of all ages to travel through time and learn about the impact the surveying profession has had on our country, shaping its growth and the instrumental role it has had and continues to play in the development of our nation. As the final phase is in motion creating, designing, and building the remaining exhibits, the board of directors has asked for tax-deductible donations.

MOTION - made by Rick Howard, seconded by Angus McDonald, Jr., to donate \$400 to the National Museum of Surveying.

PASSED
15-IN FAVOR OF, 4 OPPOSED

- 2) Letter from FEMA regarding Elevation Certificates.



FEMA

W-09008

February 26, 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR: Write Your Own (WYO) Company Principal Coordinators and
NFIP Servicing Agent

FROM: Edward L. Connor
Acting Federal Insurance Administrator
National Flood Insurance Program

SUBJECT: Transition Period for Revised Elevation Certificate

The current NFIP Elevation Certificate form and instructions (FEMA Form 81-31) is scheduled to expire on February 28, 2009. This memo is intended to clarify the continued use of the form.

It is anticipated that the revised Elevation Certificate will receive an approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) before the expiration date. In the event that the approval is delayed, the use of the form is automatically extended for a month, through March 31, 2009.

FEMA will permit a "phase-in" of the revised Elevation Certificate on a voluntary basis. Once the revised form is approved by OMB, we will accept either the new form or the old form with the expiration date of February 28, 2009, during a 12-month transition period. This voluntary transition period will allow sufficient time for coordination and training of all affected NFIP stakeholders. Elevations certified on or after the last day of the transition period must be submitted on the new Elevation Certificate form.

Following are highlights of the planned changes to the Elevation Certificate:

- In Section A, items A10 and A11 are added, asking:
Engineered flood openings? Yes No
- In Section C, item C2.h is added, which reads:
Lowest adjacent grade at lowest elevation of deck or stairs, including structural support _____, feet meters (Puerto Rico only)
(This information is provided if the certificate is being used to support a request for a LOMA or LOMR-F.)

- The Instructions for Section A for items A.8.b-c (dealing with “the crawlspace or enclosure(s)”) and A.9.b-c (dealing with “the attached garage”) are revised, in part, to allow the height of flood openings to be determined from the interior grade or floor. The revision reads:
Enter ... the number of permanent flood openings ... that are no higher than 1.0 foot above the higher of the exterior or interior grade or floor immediately below the opening. ... If the interior grade elevation is used, note this in the Comments area of Section D.
- Instructions for other sections have been clarified and expanded, as needed.
- Two new Building Diagrams have been added:
 1. The new Diagram 1B is for raised-slab-on-grade or slab-on-stem-wall-with-fill single- and multiple-floor buildings. (Diagram 1 from the old Elevation Certificate is Diagram 1A on the new Elevation Certificate.)
 2. The new Diagram 9 is for all buildings (other than split-level) elevated on a sub-grade crawlspace.

More detailed information will be included in the supplemental pages for the *Flood Insurance Manual* that will be issued following approval of the new form.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mary Ann Chang at 202-212-4712.

cc: Vendors, IBHS, FIPNC, Government Technical Representative

Required Routing: Data Processing, Claims, Underwriting

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) CALS Secretary Jason G. Racette has put together a proposal to update the computer and software for the CALS office.

MOTION - made by David Palmberg, seconded by Andy Tupper, to approve up to \$3,500 to upgrade the computer, software, hardware, and data conversion.

PASSED

Bob Jackson and Wayne Zirolli have offered to help with the installation when everything is ready.

- 2) MAPPS Director Ken Pudeler explained he was recently in the Coventry Town Hall and learned that the fixed line mylars are turning brown and many are no longer legible. The town clerk has asked for replacement maps from surveyors who did the original work. Bob Dahn interjected that the Public Records Administrator is aware that this problem is happening in other towns throughout the state and will investigate the issue.

MOTION - made by Gary Giordano, seconded by Andy Tupper, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

PASSED

Respectfully submitted, Kathleen Kurland

Next Meeting – April 30, 2009