December Meeting Notes

December 5th, 2019, 3:00PM
AIA Connecticut Conference Room
370 James St., New Haven, CT 06513

Attendees: Alan Lagocki, Paolo Campos, Bruce Spiewak, Fred Wajcs, Renata Bertotti, Jieun Bae, Ashley Ellman-Brown, Gina Calabro

Discussion

- The All-Committee Meeting will be held on January 16th from 5-7pm as a dinner. We expect the co-chairs to provide some information including mission, goals and plan at this meeting. We hope to gauge some interest. This means we are not required to have the January 9th meeting unless the co-chairs believe it would be important to hold this additional meeting in January.
  - It was decided at the end of the meeting that we will be holding a meeting on January 9th at the normal time to discuss the February full-day compliance program.
  - The Codes Season Pass has been developed and introduced to the committee. This season pass is $275 for one full-day program in February and 8 remaining codes programs throughout the remainder of the year. This pass is valued at $340 and offers 21 HSW credits.
  - Ashley has confirmed dates for all 9 Codes program and sent them to the co-chairs for review/finalize speakers and topics.
  - Renata Bertotti, Meriden City Planner, joined our committee meeting today and discussed her ideas for an “Adaptive Reuse Summit.” This program would bring architects, building officials, engineers and city planners into a collaboration on how to adapt old buildings, historic or not, with proper code compliance. There is minimal incentive to redevelop these old buildings and so they are just sitting there waiting to be broken into or left without re-use. Additionally, Renata would like to see a group come together to discuss lobbying the state for code incentive on adaptive reuse.
  - Renata has a couple great examples of people who went through the process of bringing old buildings up to code and who could be incorporated into a panel discussion for this particular event to discuss their experience with bringing old mills and historic buildings up to code.

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• Gina reinstated that the discussion is about helping these city planners in the process of coding these reuse buildings. This is could be an addition onto the Full-Day Code Compliance Program in February.

• The Code Compliance Program on February 12th (Renata has a possible location in Meriden) could be a couple of presentations in the morning, lunch, and then adaptive reuse discussion in the afternoon. Engineers, architects, city planners and building officials would be encouraged to attend, as well as those practicing would be sought as the actual speakers at this event. Paolo mentioned it would be helpful to have plan reviewer participate, such as Peter Robinson from Greenwich.

• Alan did stress however that this “adaptive reuse” conversation is to be had with the city planners involved because it will support the “big picture sustainability” of the future. And each city goes through different experiences. We need to consider these perspectives. If we incentivize reuse these old buildings and can fund these projects in the process of re-building them to code, even green code, then that will help the green areas of CT stay green!

• Paolo suggested that we go back to the basics for the program and consider doing an introductory course such as this is zoning, this is codes – building fire, safety, assembly, etc. because terms have been used interchangeably. We should do a case study, an old mill building, and use it as an example to walk through the codes process. A full introductory course, with adaptive reuse, and back to basics fundamentals.

• From a customer perspective this type of presentation would be interesting to planners, architects, engineers, etc.

• Renata could bring a developer into the discussion, and possibly Bruce Becker or JCI would be interested in speaking.

The next committee meeting will be held on January 9th, 2019 at 3:00pm.

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