

NHCRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
April 1, 2009

Present: Ellen Dinerstein, Joan Gross, Carol Stewart, Melinda Gehris, Elizabeth Christensen, Margaret Brick, Bobbi Sym,

Absent: Gail Morrison, Sam Farrington, Valerie Raudonis, Alice Schierberl, Vicki Silver

I The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

II Approval of March 4, 2009 Board Minutes

The minutes were reviewed. Revisions were discussed. Melinda moved to accept the minutes as revised. Peggy seconded the motion. All concurred.

III Treasurers' report

Elizabeth distributed and reviewed the Treasurer's report from March 1, 2009 through April 1, 2009.

Peggy motioned to accept the Treasurer's report with changes and additions. Carol seconded the motion. All concurred.

IV Committees

Legislative & Courts Committee

Melinda reported that Howard Zible will begin forwarding NHCRA all bills pending in the Legislature concerning dispute resolution. The Legislative and Courts Committee will summarize these bills for members and post them to our web site.

There was discussion regarding the time frame and expense for posting the notices. It was decided that the web site will be updated for pending legislation every two weeks. An e-mail blast will be sent to members through Constant Contact on any bills or urgency.

Ellen noted that she attended the hearing on SB12 to change the Marital Mediation Board to include "Family" in the name. The name change is scheduled for January 1, 2010.

The same bill, if passed, will provide for 2 more NHCRA members to be added to the Marital Mediation Board on July 1st. Board members should come to our next meeting with thoughts and suggestions for future nominees.

Nominating Committee

There was discussion regarding the nominees for the Board who have sent in the materials required.

Further discussion was held on Board members with expired terms staying on the Board. Elizabeth and Bobbie elected not to remain on the Board. Carol and Joan will be remaining on the Board for another term.

The positions of Treasurer, Secretary, and Membership Coordinator are still open.

Communication Committee

Bobbie reported that more memberships have been coming in.

There was discussion regarding staying in touch with membership and the differences in membership renewals. Carol provided graphs showing the changes in the membership from 2004 through 2009.

The graphs show a decrease in Community Mediation Groups membership, which is likely due to decreased funding for these organizations. There was additional discussion on the possibility of contacting members of the groups that are no longer able to fund their individual memberships to NHCRA.

Further discussion was held on annual renewal of membership vs. rolling membership and a possible login feature on the website which will provide information available to members only.

Education Committee

Peggy reported on the upcoming workshop on Training Interns scheduled for June 19th from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm with Susan Terry facilitating. There was a question as to the cancellation policy. Peggy will inquire as to Susan Terry's policy.

There was discussion regarding the re-institution of regularly scheduled workshops twice a year.

Carol reported continuing to work on the calendar. It is almost complete and ready for the website.

V New Business

The Annual Meeting will be held on June 3, 2009 at the Common Man Restaurant in Concord. The Board discussed the format and speakers for the meeting. Elizabeth agreed to look into prices for the dinner and to e-mail the Board with last year's costs.

Elizabeth agreed to order the food for the dinner and Ellen will be sending out invitations to members.

VI Old Business

Members of the Vermont Mediation Association will be meeting with Board members prior to the May 6th Board meeting. Melinda requested a commitment from Board members to attend the May 6th meeting at 4:00 to meet with the members of the Vermont Mediation Association.

VI Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.