



**EASTERN NEW YORK SOCIETY OF LAND SURVEYORS
INCORPORATED**

Charter Affiliate of the New York State Association of Professional Land Surveyors

P.O. Box 4399, Clifton Park, N.Y. 12065-4399

Visit us on the web at www.enysls.org

MINUTES

**EASTERN NEW YORK SOCIETY OF LAND SURVEYORS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
August 13, 2020**

Virtual Meeting by phone and PC
Due to COVID-19 Pandemic gathering restrictions

President Winters called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm

Present: Kaleb Winters, Jason Peterson, Jim Vianna, Dwayne Cooper, Rick Palmer, Randy Paquin, Chuck Lent, Lucas Boyer and Brie Strom

Absent: Larry O'Connor, Nick Lehman, Pat VanHaverbeke and Kristin Darrah

Secretary's Report: Dwayne Cooper

- The May 2020 BOD meeting minutes were presented to and reviewed by the BOD. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Chuck and seconded by Brie. A vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Vianna

- Jim reported to the BOD on the LPL account balance and the Bank account balance.
- Jim reported that he had set up the Post Office Box on an auto-renewal.
- Discussion was held on the possibility of creating a separate class of membership specifically for retired members with reduced annual dues. Kaleb noted that NYSAPLS is looking into a separate class for retirees.

Minimum Technical Standards

- Jim reported that the MTS committee held teleconferences on August 13th and in June. NYSAPLS is having a webinar starting September 11th that will go through the Minimum Technical Standards and email questions received. Starting September 21st NYSAPLS will open up an electronic polling site for members to vote on whether or not to adopt the new standards. The polling site will be open until October 5th. Members will use their NYSAPLS login credentials to access the polling site and cast their vote.

President's Report: Kaleb Winters

- Kaleb reported that Richard W. Bennett, PLS passed away on June 29, 2020. Kaleb noted that Rich was a mentor to him and many other land surveyors. Rich had a huge influence on the profession including, but not limited to the Surveyors Historical Society (2016 Rendezvous), teaching BOCES students, the Colvin Crew, the Eastern New York Society of Land Surveyors (Secretary 2001-2002, Vice President 2002-2006, 2011-2012, President 2012-2014, Past President 2014-2018), the New York State Association of Professional Land Surveyors, and the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping. Shortly after retiring in 2013 Rich found out that

he had multiple myeloma and battled it bravely for the past 6 years while continuing to be very involved with the profession. Brie suggested donating to the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundations in memory of Rich. A discussion was held, and it was determined that \$100 has been the amount of ENYSLS donations for similar situations in the past. Randy made a motion to submit a donation, Jim seconded the motion. A vote was held, and the motion was passed. Kaleb also noted that a woman associated with the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundations made mention that a scholarship in Rich's name might be started.

- Kaleb also reported that he found out earlier in the day that Bill Schraa had passed away on August 11th. Bill was a founding member of Eastern New York Society of Land Surveyors. Kaleb read Bill's obituary which noted that in addition to his many years working in and contributing to the Land Surveying Profession, Bill was a lifelong member of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church of Delmar. He served the church in a variety of positions over the years. Brie made a motion to donate \$100 to the St. Stephen's Church Memorial Fund in memory of Bill. Kaleb seconded the motion. A vote was held, and the motion was passed.
- The NYSAPLS Public Relations Committee is working on creating a database of key municipality offices such as Planning Boards, Zoning Boards of Appeals, Building Inspectors, County Planning Agencies, and Municipal Leaders such as County Executives, Mayors, Public DPW leaders, etc. The database would include email addresses, mailing addresses, and phone numbers. Kaleb said he would send an email request to the membership asking for any Public Contact lists that they would be willing to share with NYSAPLS.
- The ENYSLS member involved in the Ethics Committee's investigation has obtained their Certificate of Authorization from NYS to practice land surveying, which concludes our inquiries with them.
- In Sky Aerial, LLC complaint (OPF File #3905226) was assigned to Jason Sober, Director of the Illegal Practice Civil Unit, on June 5th. On July 8th I received this reply from Jason: "The investigator Joanne Scalzo told me that you had told her that the In Sky Aerial website has been taken down, but they are still advertising on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and in print. Do you have a printout of screen shot of any of these advertisements? The two screen shots that were provided to me in the file are insufficient for me to move forward with this case and issue a cease and desist which is what we normally do if we have an illegal practice case with sufficient evidence." Kaleb took some screen shots of their social media sites and noted that the language on them has been toned down considerably. Kaleb had inquired as to the status on Monday but has not received an update. Jim thanked Kaleb for his efforts.
- Message from Bob Wilklow of Gilbert VanGuilder Land Surveyor, PLLC: "I hope all is well with everyone and that everyone has been safe and healthy. I'm sure I'm not the only member that has said this, but in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic I think now more than ever is a time when Eastern, NYSAPLS and NSPS should push all counties to have full access to all public records online. I think we should use Saratoga County as an example to other counties how to make all public records available online. I think instead of pursuing minimum technical standards and pushing for legislation of "what is the role of a surveyor" we need to start advocating for ourselves as professionals and get counties up to the 21 century. It is a shame that it is next to impossible to do research in some of the counties especially at the state capital."
- NYSED is allowing licensees whose registrations are due to renew March 1, 2020 – May 1, 2021 to complete up to 100% of their continuing education as self-study.
- If anyone is interested in serving on the NYSAPLS Executive Board or know of another member who would be a good candidate, contact NYSAPLS Nominations & Awards Committee Co-Chair, Glenn Watson.
- NSPS Definitions of Surveying and Associated Terms book to be updated (ACSM 1978, updated 2005) (<https://www.multibriefs.com/briefs/nsps/definitions072220.pdf?MvBriefArticleId=18813>).
- The NYSAPLS Education Portal offers over 60 hours of pre-recorded survey based educational programs.
- NYSAPLS created a lesson plan which is geared towards 4th & 5th graders. If you have questions, please feel free to contact our Young Professionals Committee at info@nysapls.org. (<https://www.multibriefs.com/briefs/nsps/definitions072220.pdf?MvBriefArticleId=18813>).

- NYSAPLS 7/17 All Virtual Meeting highlights:
 - 63% of members renewed as of 7/17
 - Happy 7th Anniversary with NYSAPLS to Heather Schultz
 - \$50 reinstatement fee waived for members renewing between now and the end of the year.

Executive Vice President's Report: Randy Paquin

- Randy reported that the next NYSAPLS BOD meeting will be both virtual and in person and will be held in Saratoga on September 18th. Jim expressed an interest in going with Randy to the meeting. Randy noted that the format of the upcoming conference is going to be a large segment of the meeting.

Vice President's Report: Brie Strom

- A discussion was held on whether the September 10th general membership meeting should be held in person or not. Concerns for holding an in person meeting are the general comfort of members gathering together as well as finding a venue large enough that would allow for social distancing requirements to be met. After discussions among the BOD, it was decided that the September meeting would virtual. Kaleb said he would inquire with NYSAPLS about the possibility of showing a pre-recorded webinar.

Standing Committee Reports

Calibration Base Line (ad hoc): Randy Paquin, Rick Palmer and Richard Bennett

- Randy and Rick have not been out to the site in a while. Randy is going to contact Steve Rhoden to discuss the next steps.

Website Redesign (ad hoc): Brie Strom, Chuck Lent and Dwayne Cooper

- Dwayne reported that he had contacted Eric at PixelHeap to get an update earlier in the week. Eric apologized that the website was taking longer than expected. His workload due to COVID has increased dramatically. Eric reported that the website is nearly complete, he is working out a couple of glitches, mainly with the photo gallery due to its size, but expects to have it completed soon.
- Kaleb suggested asking members of ENYSLS for photos to be added to the website. Dwayne said he would send out a request. It was also suggested to move the incorporation photo from the homepage and move it to the minutes section and add a newer photo to the homepage. Finally, it was suggested to update the Committee section or possibly remove it all together.

Constitution and By-Laws: Larry O'Connor and Bill Schraa

- Nothing to report.

Continuing Education: Jody Lounsbury, Chuck Lent, and Eric Crampton

- Nothing to report.

Ethics Practice: Larry O'Connor, Jeff Ostertag, and Kevin Rounds

- Nothing to report.

Finance: Carl Rigdon, Bill Darling, and Chris Czerw

- Nothing to report.

Legislative: Larry O'Connor

- Nothing to report.

Program: Randy Paquin and Gary Mitchell

- Nothing to report.

Public Relations: Jody Lounsbury, Eric Crampton, and Brie Strom

- Nothing to report.

Scholastic Development: Randy Paquin and Kristin Darrah

- Nothing to report.

Business Practice and Technical Information: Chris Czerw

- Nothing to report.

Membership: Robert Wilklow and Steve Dickson

- Nothing to report.

Website: Ralph Hill

- Nothing to report.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- Should we pressure county clerks to digitize records and expand access to them, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic?
 - Brie suggested sending a letter to the various Clerk's making the request. A discussion was held, and the consensus was that it comes down to the counties not having the funds to digitize the records. It was decided that a letter should be sent just to get our position on record. Kaleb said he would draft a letter to the Clerk's. Jim suggested contacting the Title Association to see what they have done and maybe join forces.
- Upcoming Events:
 - ENYSLS BOD and General Membership Meeting will be held Thursday September 10th from 5:30-7:30 pm.
 - NYSAPLS BOD Meeting to be held on Friday September 18th at the Embassy Suites located in Saratoga Springs and virtually from 5:30-10:00 pm.
 - ENYSLS Annual Meeting and Elections will be held Thursday November 12. Seeking nominations for three regular members and one associate member.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Randy Paquin and seconded by Jim Vianna. A vote was held, and the motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dwayne A. Cooper
ENYSLS Secretary

EASTERN NEW YORK SOCIETY OF LAND SURVEYORS, INC.

President: Kaleb Winters	Lawrence O'Connor	2020	Chuck Lent	2021	Randal Paquin	2022
Exec. Vice-President: Randal Paquin	Pat VanHaverbeke	2020	Lucas Boyer	2021	Jason Peterson	2022
Vice-President: Brie Strom	Kaleb Winters	2020	Brie Strom	2021	James Vianna	2022
Secretary: Dwayne A. Cooper	Richard Palmer	2020	Nicholas Lehman	2021	Dwayne Cooper	2022
Treasurer: James Vianna	Past President - Kristin Darrah					

Director N.Y. State Assoc. of Professional Land Surveyors - Kaleb Winters
Director N.Y. State Assoc. of Professional Land Surveyors - Randal Paquin