October 2009 NEW ENGLAND PLANNING



A Publication of the Massachusetts and Rhode Island Chapters of the American Planning Association

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October is National Community Planning Month

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COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY

In an effort to celebrate the achievements of planning during National Community Planning Month, the APA-MA Chapter is pleased to sponsor and raise the visibility of significant planning-related events occurring in October throughout the state. As stated by APA National, this year's theme is Community Sustainability. It is clear that APA-MA members play a vital role in planning sustainable communities across the state; this month we hope you take a moment to educate your colleagues and staff of the benefits that planners can play in creating vibrant, sustainable and diverse communities, neighborhoods and business districts, even in these difficult economic times.

The events highlighted below hit on several important challenges our state faces including redevelopment

design strategies, economic benefits of sustainability, brownfields redevelopment, energy and economic development, citizen participation in city planning, housing and community development, and transit-oriented development. We hope you are able to take some time from your busy schedule and enjoy one or more of these special events. cont'd on page 4

The "Stretch" Code – Upping the Ante for Cutting Energy Costs in Buildings

by Marc Breslow, Ph.D.

The Green Communities Act of 2008 moved the Commonwealth many steps forward in promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy. One of these steps was mandating that the state adopt the latest version of the International Energy Efficiency Code (IECC) within one year of its publication. We expect this change to yield substantial improvements in the efficiency of new residential and commercial buildings in the state. It will also cut greenhouse gas emissions, in line with another 2008 law, the Global Warming Solutions Act, which mandates that the state reduce its emissions by 10% to 25% from 1990 levels in 2020, and by 80% in 2050.

Now the state's Board of Building Regulation and Standards (BBRS) has taken another step to help home and commercial property buyers, along with renters, reduce their energy costs – giving cities and towns the option to adopt an Appendix to the state's energy code that requires higher efficiency levels in new

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MA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Steve Sadwick, AICP



Welcome to National Community Planning Month! National APA has designated the month of October as National Community Planning Month and the Chapter has put together a program highlighting planning in the Commonwealth.

The month will kick off with Randall Arendt's presentation of

Corridor Planning on October 1st at the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) at Union Station in Worcester. On October 14th CMRPC will be hosting a Webinar on Monetizing Sustainability at their office. On October 16th JUSTIN HOLLANDER, AICP; PH.D. will be speaking at the MAPD in New Bedford on his book, Polluted and Dangerous. On October 21st ANTHONY FLINT will be speaking at the MIT Stada Center on his new book on Jan Jacobs and Robert Moses. Finally, on October 26th, HUD Secretary SEAN DONOVAN will be speaking at the Harvard GSD to roll out a new Sustainable Communities Initiative in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Transportation. Chapter members are encouraged to attend these events as well as publicize your own local events during the month of October.

Our Young Planners Group initiative has been launched and more information is in this newsletter. We hope to provide venues for new young planners to socialize and network among themselves as they begin their careers as planners. For more information please contact KRISTIN E. HOFFMAN-KASSNER, AICP.

The Model Subdivision Guideline Project, which is a joint venture with the Massachusetts Homebuilders Association was reviewed by the Steering Committee on September 22, 2009 and is on track for delivery in Early 2010. The model guidelines should include the latest in subdivision best practices including low impact development techniques.

At the September 11, 2009 Board of Director's Meeting, we discussed the Guidelines for Fellows to the College of AICP for 2010. As this is a rigorous application process, any member that believes that they qualify and would like the Chapter's endorsement need to notify me as soon as possible. The deadline is November 17, 2009 for the nominating package to be delivered to National.

I have just received the latest statistics for Certification Maintenance from National. Currently, those with AICP certification in Massachusetts that have achieved the 32 credits hours stands at 8.09% while those that have not logged any credit hours is at 42.8%. As the reporting period ends on December 31, 2009, I strongly encourage members to log in the credits that you have earned. While the Chapter has taken on the responsibility to try and put out as much training as we can, it is ultimately an individual responsibility. Please do not wait until the end of the reporting cycle to enter your credits.

Chapter elections will occur at the end of October, so please look for your electronic ballot as the results will be reported at the Chapter's Annual Meeting in November at the Southern New England Planning Conference.

RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Diane Feather, AICP

Legislative Forum

A forum will be held on Thursday, October 22nd from 5:30 to 7:30 PM at the Roger Williams Park Casino (pictured below) in Providence to provide the opportunity for planners and builders/developers to discuss land use planning and community development. Mr. ROGER WARREN, Executive Director of the Rhode Island Builders Association (RIBA), and Thomas McNulty, Chair of the RIBA Land Use Committee, are expected to attend. As many members are aware, for the past few General Assembly sessions there have been a number of proposed bills relating to



land use and community development that may not have been necessary or that were not drafted precisely with respect to existing enabling. One purpose of the event is to discuss issues and determine where consensus may be reached. Ideally, RIAPA and RIBA would work together to jointly submit a legislative agenda if that is deemed to be warranted. RIAPA has issued a Request for Proposals for a Legislative Advocate for the 2009-2010 General Assembly session

to assist in these efforts. The RFP can be found on the Chapter's website (<u>www.</u> <u>rhodeislandapa.org</u>). This will be a catered event and more details can be found on the chapter website. This program is partially funded by a grant from the American Planning Association. The Rhode Island Builder's Association is a sponsor.

Upcoming Elections

There will be an upcoming election for the RIAPA 2010-2011 Executive Board. JAMES MORAN, Principal Planner for the City of East Providence has agreed to serve as the Elections Officer for the upcoming election. Please contact Jim if you are interested in running for a position or have any other questions about the process: 401-435-7532 or jmoran@cityofeastprov.com. I hope people will consider giving of their time and talent to RIAPA by serving as an officer.

Certification Maintenance

Please refer to the column in this newsletter by PDO Pamela Sherrill on the comparison of Rhode Island members who have registered CM credits versus nationwide and other local chapter levels of reporting. I know that some people have attended events for which they could acquire CM credit, either for the event as listed on the approved CM activities, or as a self-study course. The reporting period is quickly drawing to a close at the end of this year. Please remember that the regional SNEAPA conference to be held Nov. 5-6, 2009 at the Mohegan Sun Conference Center, will offer an opportunity to obtain many CM credits before the end of 2009. You may register at www.sneapa.org. I wish you all a happy fall.

Help Us Help You!

In our continuing efforts to improve the quality of New England Planning, we are always seeking newsletter content (articles, announcements/events, etc.) written by our members that will be of interest to our readership. Every month there are great stories to tell about planning related issues going on in Massachusetts and Rhode Island—and great stories to tell.

What about a successful project

that has passed a significant milestone and offers useful tips for other planners?

What about a new ordinance or regulation

that has been written that deals with a challenge that your colleagues may be facing?

What about an exciting partnership

that has been forged to increase the achieve the development goals in your municipality?

What about an announcement

concerning a significant staff change that your colleagues would like to know about?

In addition, we have identified themes for six of the ten issues this year, including:

- Diversity in Planning NOV
- Planning Roundtable Q&A DEC

We hope this year's themes spark your interest in collaborating with your colleagues. See the back page for information on submitting content. The inclusion of photos or graphics is highly recommended. Please limit word count to 1,000–1,500 words.

October 1, 12:00pm-4:00pm

Reclaiming the Strip: Redevelopment Design Strategies for Transforming Commercial Corridors into Mixed Use Districts: A Workshop Conducted by Randall Arendt

Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) Union Station 2 Washington Square Worcester, MA

Sponsored by the Transportation Committee of the APA-MA Chapter, this workshop session led by RANDALL ARENDT will focus on how towns and cities can update their zoning to transform strips that are currently auto-dependent, unsightly, unwelcoming, and unsafe for pedestrians into transit-friendly, mixed-use corridors that will increase community livability



and benefit local economies. This workshop event has been approved for $CM \mid 3.0$ credit. For more information, see <u>www.</u> massapa.org

October 14, 4:00pm- 5:30pm

Monetizing Sustainability: Audio/Web Conference hosted by CMRPC

Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) Union Station 2 Washington Square Worcester, MA

Sponsored by the APA-MA Chapter, this audio/web conference will explore how incentives are created for sustainability.

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October 16, 12:00pm-2:00pm

MAPD Monthly Luncheon featuring Justin Hollander, Ph.D., AICP

Waterfront Grille Homer's Wharf New Bedford, MA

Affiliated with the APA-MA Chapter, the Massachusetts Association of Planning Directors (MAPD) proudly welcomes JUSTIN HOLLANDER, PH.D., AICP as a guest speaker to its October luncheon in New Bedford. Dr. Justin Hollander is Assistant Professor of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning at Tufts University. During his graduate studies at University of



Massachusetts, Dr Justin Hollander was the UMass LARP student liason on the APA-MA board.

Professor Hollander is interested in the role of planning and public policy in managing land use and environmental changes associated with economic decline and shrinking cities. He also studies the intersection between technology and planning using virtual, Internet-based communities as laboratories. He has worked in the areas of brownfields redevelopment, sustainability indicators, eco-industrial development, military base reuse, and smart decline. Professor Hollander has written extensively on these topics including peer-reviewed scholarly articles and his debut book "Polluted, and Dangerous: America's Worst Abandoned Properties and What Can Be Done About Them" published in January 2009. To obtain a registration form or for questions, please contact Megan DiPrete at Mdiprete@cmrpc. org. It is anticipated that this event will obtain at least CM |1.0 credit. cont'd on next page

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL COMMUNITY PLANNING MONTH cont'd from previous page

October 16, 9:30am-1:30pm

MEDC Fall Program: Energy and Economic Development: Progress and Innovation for Massachusetts

Log Cabin 500 Easthampton Road Holyoke, MA

Join MEDC for dynamic panel discussions about energy and economic development, Q&A with key industry leaders and a luncheon in a picturesque fall setting.

Luncheon Keynote Address: SECRETARY GREGORY BIALECKI, Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development

Panel Discussion: Creating the Framework for Alternative Energy

TIMOTHY BRENNAN, Executive Director, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission; MICHAEL GUIGLI, Stretch Energy Code, Mass Dept of Public Safety ; JIM LAVELLE, Manager, Holyoke Gas & Electric Company; MEG LUSARDI, Deputy Director Green Communities Division, Mass Dept of Energy Resources

Panel Discussion: Economic Development Initiatives and Resources: Using Alternative Energy

MICHAEL CURTIS, Senior Vice President, Fuss & O'Neillon biomass ; Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (invited)

For more information and to register, go to: <u>http://www.</u> massedc.org/calendar.htm

October 21, 12:00pm-2:00pm

APA-MA West Region presents a Planners Luncheon Meeting

Tighe & Bond 53 Southampton Road Westfield, MA



This luncheon meeting is jointly sponsored by the APA-MA Chapter and Tighe & Bond. If you are planning to attend the meeting, please email RICK WERBISKIS AICP, APA-MA West Regional Representative, at <u>rwerbiskis@west-spring-field.ma.us</u> by Friday, October 16th.

October 21, 6:30pm-8:30pm

Planning the 21st Century City: The Legacies of Jane Jacobs and Robert Moses, a talk by Anthony Flint

The Stata Center, Building 32 MIT 32 Vassar Street Cambridge, MA

The Sustainable Development Committee of the APA-MA Chapter and the MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning present ANTHONY FLINT, author of *Wrestling with Moses: How Jane Jacobs Took on New York's Master Builder and Transformed the American City.*

The planning profession has embraced Jane Jacobs and her principles for well-functioning urban neighborhoods and metropolitan regions, and the importance of citizen participation in the planning process. Yet the legacy of Robert Moses includes the central role of infrastructure and a vision for urban redevelopment projects that are equally relevant today, in the shaping of the 21st century



city. In this talk, Anthony Flint, director of public affairs at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, will address the strengths of these contrasting aspirations for city-building. A question and answer session will follow. This event is free and open to the public.

cont'd on next page



October 26, 6:00pm-7:00pm

10th Annual John T. Dunlop Lecture: Shaun Donovan, Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Piper Auditorium in Gund Hall Graduate School of Design Harvard University 48 Quincy Street Cambridge, MA

On January 26, 2009, SHAUN DONOVAN Was sworn in as the 15th United States Secretary for Housing and Urban Development. He has devoted his career to ensuring access to safe, decent, and affordable housing and he will continue that effort in the Obama Administration. Secretary Donovan



believes that America's homes are the foundation for family, safe neighborhoods, good schools, and solid businesses. He has a strong commitment to make quality housing possible for every American.

The John T. Dunlop Lecture series was founded in 1999 through a partnership between the Joint Center for Housing Studies, the National Housing Endowment, and the Graduate School of Design to serve as a lasting tribute to Professor John T. Dunlop and his many contributions to the national housing community. For additional information, visit <u>www.</u> <u>gsd.harvard.edu/events</u>

October 29 –November 1

Rail~Volution National Conference

Westin Boston Waterfront 425 Summer Street Boston, MA

Rail-Volution 2009 provides a unique opportunity for innovative minds to develop solutions for issues that affect livability in cities, towns and regions of all sizes and shapes. Attendees

at Rail-Volution cross a broad spectrum of disciplines — including elected officials, developers, advocates, urban planners, transporta-



tion experts, financiers, citizen groups, architects and many others. You should attend the conference if you:

- Want to help your community become a "change agent" in the livability movement.
- Are an elected official and are keenly interested in creating change in your community.
- Work in the private sector and want to meet first hand with potential new clients.
- Work in the public sector and want to take the next step forward in shaping changes.
- Want to earn AICP CM credits in a unique, effective learning environment.

APA National has approved multiple CM credits for this conference: **CM** |**Multipart**. For more information and to register, go to <u>www.railvolution.com</u>.

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· Plan for November, Register Online Now.

visit www.sneapa.org for registration, hotel information, and conference program

PA APA APA CT RI MA

Southern New England Regional Planning Conference

UPDATE: The SNEAPA Conference Committee recently decided to maintain Early Registration Rates through October 20th. After the 20th, registration is only offered on-site.

The Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island Chapters of the American Planning Association are pleased to announce its upcoming Annual Regional Planning Conference. This year's conference promises to be one of the best learning experiences for APA/ AICP members in the region. This November join your tri-state colleagues at the World Class, Mohegan Sun Resort Conference Facilities in Uncasville, CT for two days of high quality workshops and presentations in Planning Education for our uncertain times. Our theme of "**Planning - Partnerships - Prosperity**" will offer hands-on and interactive sessions, mobile workshops, planning law and planning ethics presentations, member networking, vendor contacts, plus a few surprises. This year's conference is generously supported by the following Sponsors and/or Exhibitors:

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The Massplanners Email Listserve

by Chris Skelly, APA-MA Chapter, Board Administrator

Have a question about site plan review, permit tracking, advertising a public hearing or curious what TE soils really are? While the rest of the world may be updating their status on Facebook, networking on LinkedIn or tweeting on Twitter, Massachusetts planners are online – on Massplanners. Massplanners is an email listserve devoted just to planning here in Massachusetts.

Post a question on the listserve and your post goes out to all the other subscribers around the state. Your question could be answered by a knowledgeable peer, by someone with recent experience in that area or your question might generate discussion with many differing opinions thrown into the mix. As a result, your inbox may expand by the hour. Whatever the outcome, the discussion on Massplanners is a valuable resource for all of us. Communication and good planning go together.

From its beginnings in 2002, Massplanners has now grown to over 590 members. A scan of the subscriber email list shows that users are largely professional planners including municipal planners, state agencies, regional

APA-MA BOARD ELECTION UPDATE

The ballot is complete. Voting will begin in mid-October and will be conducted via an online survey tool to be emailed to you. Keep an eye out for your ballot soon. planning agencies, non-profit agencies, consultant planners and student planners. However, many of the recent subscribers are planning board members looking for a method of increasing their knowledge as citizen planners.

This being Massachusetts, the discussion on Massplanners certainly focuses on municipal planning. While the basics of planning in Massachusetts such as the Zoning Act and the Subdivision Control Law are still best learned through personally reading state laws, reviewing relevant publications and attending workshops such as those through the Citizen Planner Training Collaborative, Massplanners offers a digital avenue for more in-depth professional discussion and clarification.

Hosted by the Computer Science Department at the University of Massachusetts-Boston, Massplanners is administered by Christopher Skelly. Subscribing to the listserve is **free**. If you would like to join, following the instructions at: <u>http://mailman.cs.umb.</u> <u>edu/mailman/listinfo/massplanners</u>

Recent Massplanners Topics:

- Shared driveways
- Wind Turbine Towers
- Site Plan Review site circulation regulations
- Another adult use zoning question
- Wireless Communications facilities
- Engineering Firms for Bikepaths / Pathways
- Home Owners Association
- Design Review Fees....Funding a Role
- Question about outdoor lighting regulations
- Multi-family developments
- Utilities and tree cutting
- AICP CM Credit for Speaking
- Affordable Housing Ready Renter List
- Texas Hold'em Tournaments?
- High Performance Buildings Grant
 Program

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APA is coming! APA is coming!

by Bob Mitchell, FAICP

Once again the APA national conference is coming to Boston. Last held here in 1998, the event will return on April 9-12, 2011, a mere 18 months from October 2009. This is your opportunity to not only go to the national conference but to help organize the conference. The conference will be held at the Hynes Convention Center in downtown Boston, and the host hotel will be the Sheraton Boston Hotel next door. The APA-MA chapter will be the host chapter for this event and will soon be organizing for the conference. Most of the organizing activities will take place during 2010.

The APA-MA chapter will be establishing a number of committees for the conference. All of the committees will be organized under the leadership of three conference co-chairs. Other committees may be formed as we move forward with this effort. Note that some volunteers will be needed early in the planning process, others will be needed in the spring and summer and/or fall of 2010 while others will be needed at the conference itself.

The APA-MA chapter is beginning to compile a list of people who would be interested in helping in this conference planning effort. If this includes you, please send an email with your name, phone number and email address and whether there is a particular committee or committees that most interest you to: CHRIS SKELLY, Chapter Administrator. Skelly-MHC@comcast.net. For any questions, please contact BOB MITCHELL, FAICP at 617-788-3658.

Listed below are some of the committees likely to be established:

Orientation tour – create a three-hour tour of Boston and its environs that would be of interest to planners. Develop a tour program and maps describing the route and highlights along the route.

Mobile workshops – help to organize and develop a significant number of mobile workshops on a variety of topics throughout the New England region. Solicit mobile workshop ideas and coordinators.

Local programs – develop interesting local programs to be offered at the conference.

Planners Guide – develop a guide to the immediate Boston area that includes walking tours, planning highlights, restaurant and entertainment recommendations.

Special events/hospitality – organize a number of social events in the evenings for planners. Staff a hospitality table at the conference.

Merchandising – the APA-MA chapter has the opportunity to sell conference merchandise (mugs, sweatshirts, conference pin, hats etc.). This committee works to design and purchase that merchandise and staff the merchandise booth.

Local exhibits & sponsorship – solicit local sponsors for the events at the conference and solicit local exhibitors (public organizations) to display information at the conference.

Students – develop events and programs for the benefit of students.

AICP Community Planning Workshop – Every year AICP sponsors an all-day pro-bono workshop/charette in a neighborhood in the host city. Planners work with the local community on a specific plan or project for that neighborhood.



residential and commercial construction and major residential renovations. This "Stretch Code" should provide longlasting economic benefits to the state, its residents and businesses, as well as helping to reach our climate protection goals.

The Stretch Code builds on existing rating systems and standards for buildings that are already used by the federal government and electric and gas utilities. It is also finely tuned, with modeling based on the Massachusetts climate, and specific requirements for different types and sizes of buildings and for new construction versus major renovations.

The Stretch Code has received widespread support, including endorsement by the Massachusetts Municipal Association, which said in part:

"We believe that the standards called for in Appendix 120.AA are attainable using current construction technology, and will be cost-effective. We support stricter codes as a way to realign the cost/benefit of energy efficient construction. To this point a builder with no stake in future cost savings has had absolutely no incentive to design and construct in a way which minimizes future operational expenses."

Residential

For residential buildings, the Appendix mandates that homes larger than 3,000 square feet achieve a Home Energy Rating System (HERS) rating of 65 or less. HERS is designed so that houses built to the standard building code achieve a rating of about 100 (the base code in Massachusetts yields a bit below 100), so a 65 means that the home is about 35% more efficient than a similarly sized home built to base code levels. Homes smaller than 3,000 square feet must achieve a score of 70.

For additions and major renovations, the requirement is HERS 80 for buildings (or individual units in multi-unit buildings) bigger than 2,000 square feet, and 85 for those less than 2,000. But for such buildings there is also an option to skip the HERS rating and instead follow a set of "prescriptive" measures, such as air sealing methods, insulation levels, Energy Star windows, and high-efficiency heating systems. The requirements would only be applied to those aspects of the building that are being changed – there is no mandate that windows be replaced, for instance, but if they are replaced Energy Star windows must be used.

HERS is already the rating method used by the Massachusetts Energy Star Homes program, through which the electric utilities provide significant financial incentives to homebuilders. Even without the Stretch Code, a substantial percentage of the Energy Star homes being built in the state today are attaining a score of 65 or better.

Before the Stretch Code was adopted by the BBRS, detailed modeling was conducted to ensure that the Appendix would yield cost savings to homeowners. For a typical 2,672 square foot, threebedroom home, meeting a HERS rating of 60 (a bit better than the Stretch Code requires) consultants estimated that a homebuyer would see an immediate savings of about \$830 a year. This is based on energy cost savings of \$1,360, more than offsetting the extra \$530 a year in payments on a 30-year mortgage at 5% interest that would result from \$8,100 in higher construction costs. The measures needed to reach HERS 65 are all common building techniques - high levels of insulation in the roof and walls, insulated basement walls and floor, quality air sealing, highefficiency heating and cooling systems, and 75% fluorescent lighting. The cost estimation and modeling of an urban building renovation meeting a HERS rating of 80 or 85 shows similar net cost savings.

cont'd on next page



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THE "STRETCH" CODE - UPPING THE ANTE FOR CUTTING ENERGY COSTS IN BUILDINGS cont'd from previous page

Commercial

For commercial buildings, the Stretch Code sets a target of 20% less energy use than the ASHRAE 90.1 2007 code standard. Buildings larger than 100,000 square feet must be designed to meet this standard by means of energy modeling specific to that building. This would also apply to residential buildings that are more than three stories and more than 100,000 square feet. Such modeling is the industry standard and is also used by the LEED green building program. Achieving 20% below ASHRAE 90.1.2007 qualifies for 5 out of 19 LEED energy points, so a building developer may adopt additional energy efficiency measures beyond what the Stretch code requires in order to earn green building certification.

Buildings between 5,000 and 100,000 square feet would have the option of either achieving the 20% reduction through modeling, or following a set of prescriptive requirements based on the Core Performance Guide of the New Buildings Institute. "Core Performance" is the standard now used by electric utilities in Massachusetts as the basis for providing energy saving incentives to commercial builders.

Commercial buildings smaller than 5,000 square feet; specialty buildings such as supermarkets, laboratories, and warehouses less than 40,000 square feet; and commercial alterations are all exempt from the Stretch Code requirements. This is largely due to the complexity and broad variety of existing commercial buildings.

Extensive energy modeling including both regional and Boston-specific climate runs has shown that the measures required by Core Performance save building owners or tenants more in energy bills than the additional construction costs. For example, one case study highlighted by National Grid is the 60,000 square foot Home Loan Bank building in Warwick, Rhode Island. NGRID projects that annual energy savings will be about \$29,500, compared to an increased construction cost of \$91,000, for a simple payback of three years. But NGRID will pay the owners \$63,000 in incentives, cutting the net cost to \$28,000, yielding a one-year payback. The specific improvements to the building include higher-efficiency lighting, advanced lighting controls, high efficiency heating, cooling and ventilation systems, and high performance windows.

Adoption Process, Assistance, and Training

To adopt the Stretch Code Appendix a municipality must first hold a public hearing. Then, depending on its governance structure, in a city it must be adopted by either the city manager and city council, or the mayor and city council. In a town, the board of selectmen must vote to adopt.

Assistance in understanding and explaining the Stretch Code, and in planning an adoption process, can be obtained from the state's Green Communities program at the Department of Energy Resources. The program has four coordinators covering different regions of the state, making assistance readily available. Adoption of the Stretch Code is the recommended way to meet one of the requirements to qualify as a "green community," which makes a city or town eligible for funding under the program. Instruction on the Appendix will be available as part of training on the latest edition of the Massachusetts base energy code (free to municipal building officials, at a cost to others).

Click <u>here</u> for the text of the Appendix. Because it is written as an appendix to the IECC 2009 energy code, it is helpful to also have that document, which is available from the ICC <u>here</u>.

Marc Breslow, Ph.D. is Director of Transportation and Buildings Policy within the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs.



Introducing the APA-MA Young Planners Group

by Kristin E. Hoffman-Kassner, AICP, Chair, Young Planners Group

The APA-MA Chapter is pleased to announce the newly established Young Planners Group (YPG). Here in Massachusetts we have many professional planners in their early stages of full-time work in the planning field as well as many recent graduates looking to enter into the field. Our hope is to bring these young people together to discuss the important issues we are facing as well as provide professional development assistance, such as AICP training, and networking opportunities with the many planning professionals here in the Commonwealth.

APA has recognized that great shifts are occurring in the profession. There is a need to reach out to the next generation of planners as a service to these members, to sustain the organization, to provide services to a changing professional demographic, and to cultivate the next generation of leaders. In 2008, APA issued the Young Planners Group Task Force Report: "Keeping APA Relevant in a Changing Environment". This report identifies needs, strategies, and other things vital to the future of APA and the next generation of leaders. Most importantly the report outlines the need for APA, along with the chapters to both identify ways to get young planners more involved in the profession as well as help to foster their career development.

We are just getting the group off the ground and we want to hear from you! Some of our possible goals for the upcoming year include:

- Increase social networking
- Plan speaker events
- Create a mentoring program
- Collaborate with other affiliated young professional groups



- Form local and regional groups of young planners, and
- Explore ways to be more active in national APA programming, such as the APA National conference coming to Boston in 2011, and policy decisions.

If you are interested in helping to shape the future of the YPG in Massachusetts, let us know. Feel free to contact me, KRISTIN HOFFMAN-KASSNER, <u>khoffman@burlmass.org</u> or our Chapter President, and let us know if you are or know of others who may be interested in becoming more involved. We can't wait to hear from you.

WTS- RHODE ISLAND

WTS-Rhode Island is currently accepting applications for the membership stipend program from professionals in the field of transportation whose employers do not reimburse them to attend WTS events. Three applicants will be selected to receive reduced event rates and serve on WTS-Rhode Island committees for this two-year program. The deadline for applications is **Friday, December 11, 2009.** For more information including selection criteria, click on <u>WTS-Rhode Island.</u> <u>Stipend Program.</u>

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Viewpoint



An Act to Sustain Community Preservation in Massachusetts

by Jennifer M. Goldson, AICP

Faced with shrinking budgets and struggling to make ends meet, how can cities and towns strive do anything beyond providing basic services? Cities and towns should also play a key role to further regional and state smart growth goals and preserve their community's singular character. These important goals include:

- nurturing understanding and pride of the community, its people, and its history
- protecting natural resources and wildlife habitat
- providing affordable housing opportunities for people in need
- ensuring quality opportunities for outdoor recreation

Our state recognizes that municipalities just can't afford to meet these lofty –but worthy– goals out of their regular budgets.

In fact, Massachusetts is a national pioneer on this front; its innovative legislation to foster local community preservation efforts, the Community Preservation Act (CPA)¹, turned nine years old on September 14th. The state originally conceived CPA as a partnership between the Commonwealth and municipalities – with both parties putting money on the table to support community preservation.

And the program is very popular – forty percent of Massachusetts communities have adopted CPA so far, including the two most recent CPA communities – Seekonk and Rehoboth.

CPA communities have funded projects to create or rehabilitate more than 3,100 units of affordable housing and hundreds of housing programs, protect over 11,300 acres of open space, fund over 1,600 historic preservation projects, and create parks, playgrounds, athletic fields, community gardens, and bike trails." ²

The CPA, a nationally-recognized model for community preservation, allows municipalities to adopt a surcharge of up to three percent on real property taxes and receive a variable match from the state Community Preservation Trust Fund. Municipalities are required to dedicate the revenue to community preservation projects.

All is Not Rosy for CPA

Despite these impressive achievements, the CPA could be in jeopardy if the Legislature does not take action soon.

The main problems with CPA are the decreasing revenue in the state CPA trust fund, the level of participation across a diversity of community types, and the limitations for recreation uses.

State CPA Trust Fund

After six straight years of dollar-for-dollar matches on local surcharge revenue, the state trust fund distributions will dwindle to a base match estimated at only thirty cents to the dollar in October 2009³. The program has become so popular that the trust funds, under the current collection formula, are not enough to meet current demand, let alone sustain growth.

STUART SAGINOR, Executive Director of the Community Preservation Coalition, an alliance of open space, affordable housing, and historic preservation organizations that works with municipalities to help them implement the CPA explains, "The Act has had a tremendous economic impact, with well over a billion dollars pumped into our Commonwealth's economy directly from CPA activity. Unless the Legislature acts quickly, this economic boost will be dramatically reduced in the coming year, right when we need it most."

Level of Participation

Although the CPA has achieved an impressive level of acceptance in communities statewide, cities and less affluent communities have adopted the CPA at a slower rate than more affluent suburban communities. Even with the allowance of exemptions for low-income households, certain commercial properties, and \$100,000 of residential property value, the local surcharge still becomes an issue for communities considering adoption.

Limitation on Recreation Uses

The CPA statute prohibits use of funds to rehabilitate or restore existing parks and playgrounds. This has hampered the ability of many communities to address critical needs for existing recreation resources.

However, there is a great unmet need in many communities to improve older parks and playgrounds with, for example, modern and accessible play structures, handicap-accessible paths, or new benches and lighting.

The Solution

The Massachusetts State Legislature is considering passage of "An Act to Sustain Community Preservation" (SB 90).

"This bill would stabilize the state matching funds," said MARC DRAISEN, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC). "It will also make it easier for urban and lower-income communities to participate."

SB 90 proposes substantial amendments to the CPA in three major ways:

 guaranteeing a minimum seventy-five percent annual state match from the Community Preservation Trust Fund for

cont'd on next page





VIEWPOINT: AN ACT TO SUSTAIN COMMUNITY PRESERVATION IN MASSACHUSETTS cont'd from previous page

all CPA communities by adjusting the CPA fees collected at the state's registries of deeds

- broadening participation by allowing municipalities to combine a one percent CPA property tax surcharge with up to two percent of other municipal revenue to fund the local CPA account
- allowing the rehabilitation and restoration of existing recreation resources (which is currently prohibited under the CPA statute)⁴

Based on my experience as a professional planner specializing in CPA implementation since 2002, I believe SB 90 is a thoughtful and comprehensive bill that will address critical issues with the current statute and will result in stronger community preservation programs throughout the state. And I'm not alone.

SB 90 was over two years in the making and is the product of a thorough and inclusive process. **SENATOR CYNTHIA STONE CREEM** and **REPRESENTATIVE STEPHEN KULIK** are sponsoring the legislation, with over 80 state legislators as co-sponsors.

"I believe it is urgent that we enact revisions to CPA law this year, to ensure its long-term success," said Senator Creem. "This bill gives added flexibility and clarification to communities and will provide the certainty in funding that existing and future CPA communities require in order to plan projects of importance for their residents."

The legislation also has broad support among CPA communities, the Community Preservation Coalition, the Massachusetts Municipal Association, and the MAPC in addition to many other organizations:

- Citizens Housing and Planning Association
- Environmental League of Massachusetts
- Metropolitan Mayors Coalition

• Mass. Association of Community Development Corporations

- Mass Audubon
- Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition
- Massachusetts League of Environmental Voters
- Massachusetts Recreation and Park Association
- National Trust for Historic Preservation

- Preservation Massachusetts
- · Massachusetts Affordable Housing Alliance
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Trust for Public Land
- The Trustees of Reservations

Draisen explains that "MAPC supports SB 90 because CPA is generally used to support smart growth activities – to preserve land, do work in affordable housing, as well as historic preservation – these are all consistent with MetroFuture goals."

Take Action Now

Encourage your communities to show support for passage of SB 90. In the weeks immediately following the Legislative Hearing on September 29, it will be critical to contact both your legislators to express support and the Joint Committee on Community Development and Small Business to ask that it "report favorably." ⁵

The chairs of the Committee are SENATOR MICHAEL MOORE and REPRESENTATIVE LINDA DORCENA FORRY.

Following Progress of SB 90

On my community preservation and planning blog (www. jmgoldson.wordpress.com), I will continue to post updates on the progress of SB 90 in addition to other CPA-relevant posts. I welcome you to post your comments, ideas, and questions.

Jennifer M. Goldson, AICP, is a freelance planner who focuses on helping communities implement the Community Preservation Act. Jennifer can be reached at jennifer@jmgoldson.com or 617-990-4971.

End notes:

- 1. Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44B
- Source: The Community Preservation Coalition. Includes data through the end of FY09
- 3. Note: Until October 2008, when the average match was 74%, all CPA communities received 100% match.
- 4. Click <u>SB 90</u> for the full text of the legislation and more information.

5. Click <u>here</u> to find the name of your Senator and Representative by town. Photo credit: (left) Concord CPA Sign, courtesy of Community Preservation Coalition; (top-right) Wilbraham Open Space Conservation Project, courtesy of Community Preservation Coalition; (bottom-right) Ayer Affordable Housing Project, courtesy of Alene Reich, Ayer Community Preservation Committee WMAIA, in conjunction with the **Pioneer Valley Planning Commission** and the **Valley Development Council**, is launching a Smart Growth Ideas Competition.

Three Competition Sites – Three Strategies for Sustainable Development

"Historic Mill" in Palmer "Village Center" in Southampton "Big Box" Edge Parcel in Hadley

Each site offers unique options for sustainable development; together they represent the most common conditions found in towns across the region.

Architects, Planners, Landscape Architects, Designers and Students are encouraged to submit designs that focus on the unlimited possibilities for future development in the region where growth can be Sustainable - Equitable and SMART!

Enter one or enter all. All entries will be reviewed by a jury and the Public. Cash prizes and a People's Choice will be awarded and entries will be displayed in various exhibits, public events and celebrations.

Dates to Remember:

- October 7, 2009 Site visits (optional)
- October 15, 2009 Early registration deadline
- January 15, 2010 Submission deadline

Information-Technical Resources-Base Plans-Registration Forms: Competition Website - www.wmaia.org & www.valleyideas.org



Announcements



см opportunity

October 2009



November 2009



December 2009



Meetings, Workshops & Conferences

October 1

Transforming the Strip:Towards a Smarter, More Sustainable Future for Gateway Approaches, Re-development Design Strategies to Create Mixed-Use Centers CM 3.0

SEE PAGE 4 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

October 2

Technical Advisory Committee Monthly Meeting

9:00AM, CONFERENCE ROOM C, 2ND FLOOR, DEPT. OF AD-MINISTRATION, ONE CAPITOL HILL, PROVIDENCE, RI

For information, contact Jared Rhodes at jrhodes@doa.state. ri.us.

October 2-5

A Better World by Design 2009

9:00AM-10:00PM, BROWN UNIVERSITY & RISD

A Better World by Design brings a global community of innovators to Providence to reach across disciplines and unite under a common goal. Presenters share engaging stories, workshops teach creative skills, and discussions reframe perspectives. A Better World by Design is an immersive experience that deepens our understanding of the power of design, technology, and enterprise to reshape our communities and sustain our environment. Contact: Matt Severson at matthew_severson@brown.edu.

October 5

Environment Council of RI (ECRI) meeting

5:30PM-7:30PM, DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION BLDG., CONFERENCE ROOM B, ONE CAPITOL HILL, PROVIDENCE, RI

October 6

Meeting the Workforce Housing Need: Two Case Studies (ULI)

4:30PM, BROWN RUDNICK, ONE FINANCIAL CENTER, BOSTON MA

Two award-winning project teams will share their innovative strategies and techniques that led to the successful production of workforce housing in high-cost communities. These case studies, covering both rental and for-sale housing, will highlight project conception, public-private partnerships, unique challenges, and financial structuring. Morgan Woods, Edgartown, MA developed by The Community Builders Inc, and The Boulevard in Anaheim, Anaheim, CA, developed by John Laing Homes and financed by CityView, are both winners of the ULI Terwilliger Model of Excellence Awards. For more information and to register, click <u>here</u>.

October 6

Blowing in the Wind: Managing Renewable Energy Siting Conflicts (1-Day Workshop)

9:30AM-4:30PM DOYLE CONSERVATION CENTER, 464 ABBOTT AVENUE, LEOMINSTER, MA

As landowners, agencies, and private companies look ever closer at the possibility of generating renewable energy close to home, many new questions arise-where should the infrastructure go and where should it not go? Who decides and how? What are the ecological impacts in the short- and long-term? Who stands to benefit financially? Who loses? This seminar is designed for staff and volunteers from planning boards, conservation commissions, open space committees and land trusts, elected officials and others who care about conservation and sustainability in their communities. Focusing on Massachusetts laws, geography, and politics, this seminar will provide participants with strategies for addressing the conflicts that arise as communities wrestle with the dual objectives of land conservation and new investments in renewable energy. Space is limited. Pre-registration required. Click here for more info.

October 8

State Planning Council Monthly Meeting

9:00AM, CONFERENCE ROOM A OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AD-MINISTRATION BUILDING, I CAPITOL HILL, PROVIDENCE, RI

October 14

Monetizing Sustainability: Audio/Web Conference CM 1.5

SEE PAGE 4 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

October 14

Community Builders Institute presents Small Town and Urban America – How to Connect and Compete

7:30AM-1:00PM, WINDSOR MARRIOTT, 28 DAY HILL ROAD, WINDSOR, CT

Innovative development strategies can win in this competitive world of regional economic development. Our national keynote speaker will focus on the challenges facing smaller and rural communities here and across America as they look to define or create new identities in our global and highly interconnected economy. Next, we'll focus on build-out analyses and how they can be used to help your community balance growth and conservation. Our top experts will discuss the nuts and bolts of these analyses and how they are used to inform their planning processes. Click <u>Event Flyer</u> for more information. CM **TBD**

October 14

Massachusetts Environmental Collaborative Fall Meeting

2:00PM-4:00 PM, NEW ENGLAND FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS, 145 TREMONT ST., 8TH FLOOR, BOSTON, MA

We will have an important discussion on the new lobbying law that may affect almost all Collaborative members, and discuss current environmental bills and issues. For more information, to <u>www.environmentalleague.org</u>

October 15

URI Landscape Architecture Lecture Series

7:00PM, WEAVER AUDITORIUM ON THE KINGSTON CAMPUS OF URI

Speaker: Cynthia Smith, ASLA, Vice President of Halvorson Design Partnership, Boston. General questions about the series may be directed to (401)874-2983 or <u>wagre@uri.edu</u>.

October 16

MAPD Monthly Luncheon featuring Justin Hollander, Ph.D., AICP CM | TBD

SEE PAGE 4 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

October 16

MEDC Fall Program: Energy and Economic Development: Progress and Innovation for Massachusetts

SEE PAGE 5 FOR MORE INFORMATION.



October 19

Energy Facility Siting Board Meeting

9:30AM, 89 JEFFERSON BLVD. WARWICK, RI.

For information, contact: Douglas Hartley, (401)941-4500 x157 or <u>dhartley@puc.state.ri.us</u>

October 21

APA-MA West Region presents Planners Luncheon Meeting

12:00PM-2:00PM, TIGHE & BOND, 53 SOUTHAMPTON ROAD, WESTFIELD, MA

TOPIC: Planner's Roundtable Discussion - You pick the topics to be discussed. This luncheon meeting is jointly sponsored by the APA-MA Chapter and Tighe & Bond. Food will be provided by Tighe and Bond. If you are planning to attend the meeting, please email Rick Werbiskis AICP, APA-MA West Regional Representative, at <u>rwerbiskis@west-spring-field.ma.us</u> by Friday, October 16th.

October 21

Planning the 21st Century City: The Legacies of Jane Jacobs and Robert Moses, a talk by Anthony Flint

SEE PAGE 5 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

October 22

Transportation Advisory Board Monthly Meeting

6:30PM, LOCATION TBD.

Contact Ronnie Sirota at <u>rsirota@doa.state.ri.us</u> for more information.

October 26

10th Annual John T. Dunlop Lecture: Shaun Donovan, Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

see page 6 for more information.



2009-2010 Audio/Web Conferences

As part of its continued initiative to promote planning education, and after an analysis of the August survey to assess the interest in these sessions, CMRPC and APA-MA have again partnered to host all of the scheduled 2009-2010 Audio/Web Conferences through the APA at the CMRPC offices (2 Washington Square – Union Station, Worcester, MA). This is an easy, relatively local and inexpensive way to earn up to 11.5 AICP Certification Maintenance (CM) credits, including 1.5 LAW credits during the 2009-2010 year.

At its September 2009 meeting, the APA-MA Board of Directors approved the appropriation of funds to cover all of the costs associated with all 11 audio/web conferences. Thus all sessions below hosted at CMRPC are being offered **free of charge**.

- Monetizing Sustainability Wednesday, October 14, 2009;
 4:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m.; CM | 1.5
- Planning with Large Institutions Wednesday, November 18, 2009; 4:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.; CM I.O
- Introduction to the Planning Commission: Part One -Wednesday, December 9, 2009; 3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. or 7:00 p.m.-8:30p.m.
- Performance Measurement in Transportation Planning -Wednesday, January 20, 2010; 4:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m.; CM |1.5
- Introduction to the Planning Commission: Part Two -Wednesday, February 17, 2010; 3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. or 7:00 p.m.-8:30p.m.
- Redevelopment and Revitalization for a New Era Wednesday, March 17, 2010; 4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.; CM | I.5
- Development Finance and Pro Formas Wednesday, April 21, 2010; 4:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m.; CM 1.5 credits
- Design Graphics for Planning Wednesday, May 12, 2010; 4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.; CM: 1.5 credits

Two additional sessions are scheduled for 2010. For descriptions of all session go to <u>www.massapa.org</u>

Directions to CMRPC are provided via this link: <u>http://www.</u> <u>cmrpc.org/Directions.aspx</u>. For more information or questions, please contact JONATHON CHURCH at <u>ichurch@cmrpc.org</u>.

ANNOUNCEMENTS cont'd from previous page

October 27

Due Process, Design Review and Decisions: A Seminar for Historic District Commissions and Review Boards

3:00PM-5:30PM, HARWICH COMMUNITY CENTER, 100 OAK STREET, HARWICH, MA

Cape Cod has over 50 historic districts and has 14 historic district commissions. It also has numerous historical commissions and historic review boards that consider proposed changes to historic structures. This seminar will teach these boards to be as effective as possible, and will provide opportunities to ask questions and share information with other historic review boards in the region. Click <u>Event Flyer</u> for more information.

October 29–November 1

Rail~Volution National Conference CM MULTIPART

see page 6 for more information.

November 5 පි 6

2009 Southern New England APA Conference CM 32.0

SEE PAGE 7 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

November 10

State Resources for Community and Economic Development Workshop,

10:00AM-1:00PM, WAR MEMORIAL BUILDING, 310 APPLETON STREET, HOLYOKE, MA

The Department of Housing and Community Development is planning a half-day workshop for municipal officials, staff and volunteers that will focus on State Resources for Community and Economic Development. The workshop will address the full range of community and economic development concerns and the use of multiple state resources to undertake local/regional projects most effectively.

The workshop will include a panel discussion of two or three case studies demonstrating: (1) the application of state development resources to specific projects/local development issues and (2) how these different resources can be used in combination to facilitate project completion. For more information, contact David M. Haynes, DHCD, at (617) 573-1336 or <u>david.aynes@state.ma.us</u>.

November 10

Clean Energy Connections Second Annual Conference and Opportunity Fair, Pathways to Economic Growth and Good Careers through Clean Energy

8:30AM-5:00PM, MASSMUTUAL CENTER, SPRINGFIELD, MA

Clean Energy Connections is a career and business development information and networking event. It is a forum for the individuals and organizations that will accelerate the growth of our clean energy economy.

- Access resources to build your business or start your clean energy career.
- Meet entrepreneurs and community groups mobilizing around clean energy.
- Learn about clean energy trends. What's hot and what's hype?

For more information, go to: <u>http://www.umass.edu/green/</u> <u>conference/index.html</u>

November 18-20

Build Boston

SEAPORT WORLD TRADE CENTER, BOSTON, MA

Build Boston is the largest regional convention and tradeshow for the design and construction industry. In this 25th anniversary year, over 250 exhibits fill the tradeshow floor and more than 200 workshops, tours and other professional development and networking events are offered. More than 10,000 building industry professionals from 43 states and 19 countries attended last year's event. For more information, go to <u>www.buildboston.com</u> ANNOUNCEMENTS cont'd from previous page

AICP CM Opportunities

The chapter boards continue to discover new opportunities for you to achieve your AICP CM credits. Several conferences, events and workshops in this newsletter offer CM credits. In addition, training opportunities listed here offer CM credit. For assistance on how you can become a CM Provider or register your event for CM credit, please contact the chapter Professional Development Officers: PAM SHERRILL, AICP at psherrill@ parecorp.com (APA-RI) or TOM BROAD-RICK, AICP at broadrick@town.duxbury. ma.us (APA-MA)

Are you ready to meet the December 31 deadline for Certification Maintenance?

by: Pamela Sherrill, AICP, Pare Corporation, RIAPA Professional Development Officer

APA has released its quarterly statistical report (September 31, 2009) detailing the progress of AICP members in logging Certification Maintenance credits. These logs refer only to active AICP members for the 2008-2009 reporting

100% 90% 80% 32 or more 70% 24-31.75 60% 16.0-23.75 50% 8.0-15.75 40% 1.0-7.75 30% 20% 0 10% 0% RI MA National

Have you logged your CM credits yet?

period. As indicated in the accompanying chart, RI chapter statistics closely parallel the national trends while MA members appear to be lagging in either participating in or logging CM credits. Nationally 80 percent of AICP members have logged at least one CM credit while in MA, only 73.5 percent have done so. At the top end, nationally a third of planners have completed the requisite 32 credits while 25 percent of MA members and 28 percent of RI have completed the requirements.



As PDO of the RI chapter I am aware that many of those with zero credits logged have attended many CM events or have the potential to Self Reporting up to 8 CM credits for presenting a CM-event or attending a related event that meets the CM criteria. Many free courses are available and the chapter lending libraries provide CD-ROMs of many qualifying programs. See the chapter websites at www.rhodeislandapa. org or www.massapa.org for professional development information. As always, remember to log in your credits or request an exemption for retired status at www.planning.org/cm/.

AICP members have had 32 months to accumulate credits during the first reporting cycle (8 more than for the next two-year cycle). Members may carry over a maximum of 16 excess CM credits from one reporting period to the next (law and ethics credits may not be carried over). Don't depend on any grace period in 2010 since you may need the full two-year period to earn the next 32 credits.

MetroWest Growth Management Committee seeking new leader

A new Executive Director is needed to lead the MetroWest Growth Management Committee. The agency, temporarily based in Ashland with a permanent office in Framingham, promotes coordinated and collaborative planning and regional services and provides advocacy for nine member communities in the region: Ashland, Framingham, Holliston, Marlborough, Natick, Southborough, Wayland, Wellesley, and Weston.

MWGMC is a subregion of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council. The MWGMC works on transportation, housing, environmental and other projects and priorities determined by its membership, and holds forums and seminars to promote innovation and exchange of ideas and information.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for the right person to help lead the region's economic recovery," said CHARLIE GAFFNEY, co-chair of the Committee and Chair of the Southborough Planning Board.

Since the departure of former Executive Director Donna Jacobs earlier this year, JENNIFER M. RAITT of MAPC has been serving as Interim Director.

"MetroWest has become the economic engine for the Commonwealth," said Natick Planning Board member and MWGMC co-chair KEN SOLDERHOLM. "This regional organization is vital to the area's future and we are enthusiastic about moving forward with new leadership."

Current organizational highlights include: a newly energized Transportation Task Force to advise MWGMC on all matters concerning transportation in the MW region; a Route 9 corridor study concerning both projected and preferred development; and a public outreach project to raise awareness about the Nyanza environmental cleanup affecting the Sudbury River. MWGMC also employs one fulltime Assistant Planner, ANDREW P. FLANAGAN.

Gaffney added that interested candidates should have experience with planning and zoning, strong executive skills and familiarity with the region. For more information about the MW-GMC, see <u>http://metrowestgrowth.org</u> or call 508 881-2924.

USDA's "Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food" Initiative Launched Last Week

The Department of Agriculture recently announced a new initiative, "Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food," led by Deputy Secretary of Agriculture KATHLEEN MERRIGAN. According to the Department, this initiative "is the focus of a task force with representatives from agencies across USDA who will help better align the Department's efforts to build stronger local and regional food systems." This week alone, about \$65 million in funding for KYF2 was announced. "Americans are more interested in food and agriculture than at any other time since most families left the farm," said Merrigan. "'Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food' seeks to focus that conversation on supporting local and regional food systems to strengthen American agriculture by promoting sustainable agricultural practices and spurring economic opportunity in rural communities."

Community Food Projects Request for Applications for FY2010

The Community Food Projects (CFP) Competitive Grants Program is the major funding source for communitybased food and agriculture projects in the U.S. The Fiscal Year 2010 Request for Applications was released September 23, 2009 with a deadline of November 19, 2009.

The purpose of the CFP is to support the development of projects with a onetime infusion of federal dollars to make such projects self-sustaining. Examples of CFP projects may include, but are not limited to, community gardens with market stands, farmers' markets, farmto-institutions projects, marketing & consumer cooperatives and many other project models.

There are also funds for planning projects such as community food assessments, coordination of collaboration development, GIS analysis, food sovereignty study, farm-to-institution exploration, and other projects.

The CFP Request for Applications describes what is funded and how to apply: <u>http://www.csrees.usda.gov/</u>funding/rfas/community_food.html

East Providence Attorney Earns Designation from the USGBC

Christine J. Engustian, Esq. is first and only RI attorney to hold LEED Accredited Professional designation

CHRISTINE J. ENGUSTIAN, an experienced land use attorney and long-standing member of the Rhode Island Builders Association, has earned the designation of a Leadership in

Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional (LEED AP) from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). According to the USGBC online directory, Ms. Engustian is the first and only Rhode Island attorney to hold this accreditation.

The LEED Green Building Rating System is the nationally recognized standard for the design, construction and operation of highperformance green buildings.

As a LEED AP, Christine Engustian has demonstrated knowledge of what is required to design a building to LEED standards and how to coordinate and streamline the documentation process for LEED certification. Her

LEED accreditation alone will afford her clients one point towards LEED certification for each of their projects.

With experience in the areas of zoning and land use and development law for 25 years, Attorney Engustian recognizes the significance of green building trends in the building industry. As an attorney who also holds the LEED AP designation, Engustian provides a major advantage to property developers and owners. In addition to assisting clients in obtaining necessary municipal and state approvals for their development or redevelopment projects, Engustian is able to apply her expertise in the LEED certification process. This unique combination has tangible benefits as more clients voluntarily seek LEED certification as a means to enhance



marketability and reduce long-term energy and operating costs of their projects. She is also poised to counsel clients as they develop environmental sustainability initiatives and implement smart building practices, whether or not they choose to obtain LEED certification. While representing land owners and developers in their quests for project permitting approval, Attorney Engustian, as a LEED AP, will effectively address the growing demands of municipalities for low impact development, sustainability and energy-

efficient designs.

Christine J. Engustian, Esq. is a sole law practitioner with an office located at One Grove Avenue in East Providence, RI 02914. The practice covers general civil law, with extensive experience in land use, zoning and real estate development matters. Ms. Engustian represents clients before Planning Boards, Zoning Boards of Review/Boards of Appeal and other municipal boards and committees, as well as in appeals to state courts. She is licensed to practice law in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and New York and in

the U.S. District Court (District of R.I.), Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Court and Mohegan Gaming Disputes Court. Phone: 401.434.1250; Fax: 401.434.2934.



Curated by Lisa di Donato & Anna Mogilevsky through the New Art Center's Curatorial Opportunity Program, **decidedly ambivalent** features eight artists who examine landscape through the lens of architecture. They explore issues such as the inevitable tensions of expansion, the commodification of the natural world, and how architecture and design are informed by nature and vice versa. The differences between the artists' materials and approaches serve as a reminder that society, on a whole, remains ambivalent towards the environment. Neither clear judgements nor utopian solutions are offered, but rather an engagement is presented that remains unresolved.



How do you picture your community's future?





Mass Audubon's *Shaping the Future of Your Community* Outreach and Assistance Program can give you the tools you need for active involvement in guiding your community's development, helping you to make a difference in your town's future.

Program Overview

In June 2009, Mass Audubon released *Losing Ground: Beyond the Footprint,* documenting changes in Massachusetts' land-use and exposing the harsh reality of habitat loss and sprawl. Over the past 40 years, the landscape of Massachusetts has been dramatically transformed. *Shaping the Future of Your Community* is Mass Audubon's response to the issues revealed in *Losing Ground*. Working together, we can maintain the Commonwealth's natural heritage for the benefit of this and future generations.

Fall Workshop Series

The Outreach and Assistance Program will be holding series of free workshops in fall 2009, targeting communities in the state's two sprawl frontiers—the **Blackstone River watershed** in Central Massachusetts and the **Taunton, Ten Mile, and Narragansett Bay watersheds** in Southeastern Massachusetts. Workshops will review land-use and development patterns in these communities, and provide guidance for crafting and implementing effective strategies to:

- Update and implement community plans
- Identify and protect the highest priority lands and water supplies
- Provide incentives for well-planned growth
- Establish and apply standards to minimize the impacts of development

TOWNS ADDRESSED	LOCATION	TIME	PART 1: PROBLEMS AND POSSIBILITIES	PART 2: TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES
Dighton, Rehoboth,				
Berkley	Dighton Town Hall	7:00-9:00 PM	Tuesday, 9/22/09	Tuesday, 10/20/09
Carver, Plymouth,				
Plympton	Carver Town Hall	7:00-9:00 PM	Wednesday, 10/14/09	Thursday, 11/5/09
Attleboro, North	Mass Audubon's Oak			
Attleboro, Norton	Knoll Wildlife Sanctuary	7:00-9:00 PM	Tuesday, 9/29/09	Tuesday, 10/27/09
Grafton, Upton,	Brigham Hill Community			
Millbury	Barn	7:00-9:00 PM	Thursday, 9/24/09	Thursday, 10/22/09
Shrewsbury	Shrewsbury Town Library	6:30-8:30 PM	Tuesday, 10/6/09	Tuesday, 11/10/09
Northbridge,	Great Hall, Northbridge			
Uxbridge, Sutton	Town Hall	7:00-9:00 PM	Wednesday, 10/7/09	Wednesday, 11/4/09



INQUIRIES: Stephanie Elson & 781.259.2146 & email <u>selson@massaudubon.org</u> & www.massaudubon.org/shapingthefuture

The following CPTC courses are being evaluated by the APA-MA Board for AICP CM Credit

For more information or questions about CPTC, go to: <u>www.umass.edu/masscptc</u> or contact Elaine Wijnja, DHCD, at (617) 573-1360 or Michael DiPasquale, CPTC at (413) 545-2188

Citizen Planner Training Collaborative

Fall 2009 Course Schedule

	Workshop Name	Date/Time	Trainer	Location/Sponsor
1	Writing Reasonable and Defensible Decisions	Monday, October 5, 7:00 p.m.	Alan Seewald, Attorney, Seewald, Jankowski & Spencer	Franklin Regional Council of Governments, Conference Room, 278 Main St., Greenfield
2	How To Hold A Perfect Public Hearing	Wednesday, October 14, 7:00 p.m.	Glenn Garber AICP, Consultant	Burlington Public Library, 22 Sears Street, Burlington, MA 01803 Sponsor: Metropolitan Area Planning Council
3	Roles & Responsibilities of Planning Boards and Zoning Board of Appeals	Wednesday, October 14, 7:00 p.m.	Elizabeth Lane, Attorney, Kopelman & Paige	Old Colony Planning Council, 70 School St., Brockton
4	Chapter 40B (Comprehensive Permit)	Thursday, October 15, 7:00 p.m.	Miryam Bobadilla, Technical Assistance Program Coordinator, DHCD,	Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, 1 Fenn St., Suite 201, Pittsfield
5	Site Plan Review	Thursday, October 15, 7:00 p.m.	Wayne Feiden, FAICP, Director of Planning, City of Northampton	Kittredge Center For Business, (Room KC303) Holyoke Community College, 303 Homestead Ave., Holyoke Sponsor: Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
6	Chapter 40B (Comprehensive Permit)	Tuesday, October 20, 7:00 p.m.	Miryam Bobadilla, Technical Assistance Program Coordinator, DHCD	Howes House, 1042 State Road, West Tisbury. Sponsor: Martha's Vineyard Commission
7	Introduction to Economic Development	Thursday, October 22, 7:00 p.m.	Rob Hubbard, MA Economic Development Council	Montachusett Regional Planning Commission, R1427 Water St. (MART Bldg), Fitchburg
8	Writing Reasonable and Defensible Decisions	Thursday, October 22, 7:00 p.m.	Robert Orsi, Attorney, Orsi, Arone, Rothenberg, Iannuzzi and Turner, LLP	Southeast Regional Planning & Economic Development District Office, 88 Broadway, Taunton
9	Chapter 40B (Comprehensive Permit)	Wednesday, October 28, 7:00 p.m.	Bill Reyelt, Smart Growth Program Coordinator, DHCD	Northern Middlesex Council of Governments, 40 Church Street, Suite 200, Lowell
10	Special Permits & Variances	Thursday, October 29, 7:00 p.m.	George Proakis, Planning and Permitting Director, City of Lowell	Northern Essex Community College, Technology Center Conference Room 103, First floor, 100 Elliott St., Haverhill Sponsor: Merrimack Valley Planning Commission
11	Introduction to the Zoning Act	Thursday, October 29, 7:00 p.m.	Mary Jean Shultz, Principal, South Shore Zoning Consultants	Mashpee Town Hall, 16 Great Neck Rd. North, Mashpee Sponsor: Cape Cod Commission
12	Zoning Exemptions	Thursday, October 29, 7:00 p.m.	Robert Ritchie, General Counsel, Department of Agricultural Resources	Central MA Regional Planning Commission, Union Station Second Floor, Worcester
13	Introduction to Economic Development	Thursday, November 5, 12:00 p.m. (noon)	Kathleen McCabe AICP, MA Economic Development Council	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 60 Congress Street, Springfield
14	Planning with Community Support	Wednesday, November 4, 7:00 p.m.	Ezra Glenn, Lecturer/Special Assistant, MIT	Central MA Regional Planning Commission, Union Station Second Floor, Worcester
15	Site Plan Review	Wednesday, November 4, 7:00 p.m.	Joe Peznola PE, Hancock Associates	Old Colony Planning Council, 70 School Street, Brockton
16	Vested Rights Nonconforming Uses & Structures	Wednesday, November 4, 7:00 p.m.	Bruce P Gilmore, Esq.	Eastham Town Hall, 2500 State Hwy, Eastham Sponsor: Cape Cod Commission
17	Introduction to Economic Development	Tuesday, November 10, 7:00 p.m.	Kathleen McCabe AICP and Rhonda Serre, MA Economic Development Council	Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, 1 Fenn St., Suite 201, Pittsfield
18	Basics of Reading A Subdivision Plan	Thursday, November 12, 7:00 p.m.	Todd Blake, Fort Hill Infrastructure Services, LLC	Northern Essex Community College, Technology Center Conference Room, First floor, 100 Elliott St., Haverhill. Sponsor: Merrimack Valley PC
19	Roles & Responsibilities of Planning Boards and Zoning Board of Appeals	Thursday, November 12, 7:00 p.m.	Robert Mitchell, FAICP, Special Assistant for Planning, Executive Office of Housing & Economic Development	West Tisbury Public Safety Building, 1042 State Road (enter at rear) Sponsor: Martha's Vineyard Commission
20	Planning with Community Support	Tuesday, November 17, 7:00 p.m.	Ezra Glenn, Lecturer/Special Assistant, MIT	Northern Middlesex Council of Governments, 40 Church Street, Suite 200, Lowell
21	Special Permit & Variances	Tuesday, November 17, 7:00 p.m.	Angus Jennings AICP, Concord Square Planning & Development	Southeast Regional Planning & Economic Development District Office, 88 Broadway, Taunton
22	Vested Rights & Nonconforming Structures and Uses	Wednesday, November 18, 7:00 p.m.	Alan Seewald, Attorney, Seewald, Jankowski & Spencer	Franklin Regional Council of Governments, Conference Room, 278 Main St., Greenfield
23	Creating a Master Plan	Thursday, November 19, 7:00 p.m.	Judi Barrett, Community Opportunities Group	Montachusett Regional Planning Commission, R1427 Water St. (MART Bldg), Fitchburg

www.umass.edu/masscptc

Career Opportunities

In an effort to assist planning professionals in the region, the following recently posted listings of jobs have been compiled from online and email listserv sources. Several listings can be found APA chapter websites at <u>www.massapa.org</u> and <u>www.rhodeislandapa.org</u>. Posting a job in the newsletter is currently complimentary. See the back page for further instructions. *click* on the position for more details.

Conservation, Preservation and Land Use Planner	CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, MA	
Director, Energy Office	CITY OF NEW BEDFORD, MA	
Manager of Coordination Planning & Operations	COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE FOR SEACOAST TRANSPORTATION (COAST)	
Research Analyst	metropolitan area planning council (mapc)	
Energy & Sustainability Manager	CITY OF SALEM, MA	
Legislative Advocate	RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER OF APA	
Community Development Director	CITY OF PEABODY, MA	
Director of Planning	CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MA	
Director of Planning & Economic Development	TOWN OF LEDYARD, CT	
<u>Planner II</u>	AECOM TRANSPORTATION	
Data Center Research Analysi	CAPE COD COMMISSION	
Principle Planner/GIS Manager	TOWN OF MIDDLETOWN, RI	
Energy Program Managers, Planners and More	COMMONWEALTH OF MA/DCAM	
Transit Service Planner/Analyst	BOSTON REGION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION	
Town Planner	TOWN OF KITTERY, ME	
HOME Coordinator- Housing Program Specialist III	MA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	
Environmental Officer / Conservation Administrator / Brownfield Program Administrator	CITY OF LOWELL, MA	



Special thanks to our newsletter committee members!

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QUESTIONS

For any questions about the newsletter, please contact Sabine Prather, Roberta Groch or Felipe Schwarz

CHAPTER MAILING ADDRESS

for the MAAPA chapter: MassAPA/Chris Skelly PO Box 912 Greenfield, MA 01302

for the RIAPA chapter: RIAPA P.O. Box 14752 East Providence, RI 02914

NEWSLETTER CONTENT

If you would like to submit newsletter content (feature articles, newsitems, etc.), please submit articles and other content to Roberta Groch and Sabine Prather. Photos/graphics are highly recommended. Please limit the word count to 1,000–1,500 words. Announcements about events, workshops, conferences, etc, should be sent to Felipe Schwarz. Please note that submitted content may be edited by the committee.

NEWSLETTER DUE DATE

For inclusion in the monthly newsletter, <u>PLEASE SUBMIT CONTENT BY THE 20TH</u> <u>OF EACH MONTH</u>. The chapters produce 10 newsletters a year. CONSULTANT ADS

We welcome advertisers to market services or products in the newsletter.

The newsletter offers two ad sizes: Business card: \$35/month or \$350/year ¼-page: \$50/month; \$500/year

All ads must be formatted as either vector (preferable) or high resolution raster images. Acceptable file formats are as vector(.pdf, .ai, or .eps) OR raster (minimum of 200dpi .jpeg, .png, or .tif). The ads can be color.

Business card: 3.5in (w) × 2in (h) ¼-page vertical: 3.5in (w) × 4.875in (h) ¼-page horizontal: 4.75in (w) × 3.5in (h)

When complete, email your ad to Felipe Schwarz. Send your payment with cover letter to the Massachusetts or Rhode Island chapter mailing address.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES ADS

Posting ads is currently complimentary. Ads may be posted on chapter websites or emailed to Roberta Groch or Sabine Prather.

Go to <u>www.massapa.org</u> and <u>www.rhodeislandapa.org</u> for instructions.