RI Project Spotlight

RUMFORD CENTER MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT, RUMFORD, RI

By Diane M. Feather, AICP

The Rumford Center redevelopment project is an 8.3 acre site located in the village of Rumford, which is in northern section of the City of East Providence. The former Rumford Chemical Works manufacturing facility produced Rumford Baking Powder here from 1856 to 1968, although the product is now manufactured in Indiana and is still packaged in the well-known red, black and white can.

The site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and was also designated as a National Historic Chemical Landmark by the American Chemical Society in June 2006 “in recognition of the invention and mass manufacture and distribution of a reliable baking powder by Eban S. Horsford and his business partner George Wilson.” Earlier in his career, Horsford had served as the Rumford Professor at Harvard, named in honor of Sir Benjamin Thompson, Count Rumford, an Anglo-American physicist and inventor whose contributions to science were part of the 19th century revolution in thermodynamics.

Built in 1927, the 5-story brick main building of the development is located at a prominent corner on a major corridor in

’09–’10 MA Legislative Session Gets Underway

By Tony Fields, AICP

Following the November elections, the Democrats gained three seats in the House, leaving only 16 Republicans out of 160 Representatives. In the Senate, the split remains at 35 Democrats and 5 Republicans.

The 2009–2010 Session begins with resignation of Speaker DiMasi. There had been rumors through the fall that the speaker might be resigning. Robert DeLeo and John Rogers emerged as the leading candidates to succeed as speaker. Speaker DiMasi did resign in late January, and it was majority leader DeLeo obtaining the nod to be Speaker on January 28th. Speaker DeLeo outlined his priorities for the coming session in his acceptance speech: Ethics reform, lobbying reform, pension reform, budgets and providing local tools to balance budgets, economic development for emerging technology, strong neighborhoods, transportation reform, education reform, environmental protection, and health care reform. As is common when there is a change in Speaker, there are several changes in leadership positions and committee chairmanships.

6000+ bills were filed at the January filing date, more than 4000 in the House and 2000 in the Senate. It takes some time for the clerks to assign bill numbers and assign the bills to one of the various joint committees. It will also take me some time to sort through the bills and find out where they have been assigned.

Zoning reform did not make Speaker DeLeo’s priority list, but zoning reform remains the priority topic for the planning community. The initiative of the Zoning Reform Working

cont’d on page 8
Spring has arrived and we are all looking forward to a respite from the long snowy winter that we have survived. While March was a busy month for the Chapter, April will be just as busy culminating in the National APA Conference in Minneapolis at the end of the Month. From the numbers I have received this week; it appears that the Chapter's attendance at the conference will be down 25 percent from last year's attendance in Las Vegas. I assume this has more to do with the economic times versus the venue. I look forward to seeing those of you that plan on attending in Minneapolis.

This issue of New England Planning features a legislative update by Tony Fields, AICP, our Vice President of Legislation and Policy. Tony has informed the Board that he will be working on a sortable spreadsheet to monitor legislation during this session. The bills that I found of interest to the Chapter include the zoning reform bills, eminent domain bills, and the Chapter 40B bills. The Chapter will do its best to monitor these bills and provide the membership with timely information as the legislative session proceeds.

In regard to Zoning Reform, the Chapter held its first Informational Forum in Worcester on March 5, 2009. There were approximately 60 in attendance and it was a very informative session with Tim Brennan of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission discussing the Land Use Partnership Act and Bob Ritchie, ESQ. formerly of the Attorney General’s Office discussing the Community Planning Act. The audience asked some very thoughtful questions and there was a call for some kind of reform during this session. On March 11, 2009, the Smart Growth Alliance sponsored a Webinar on the Land Use Partnership which featured a question and answer period with Greg Bialecki, Secretary of Housing and Economic Development. While I have been involved with both bills for quite some time, I heard some new information regarding Executive Order 418 plans, how the Declaration of Development Intent Letter will work, and potentially 40B regulatory relief for opt-in communities. Secretary Bialecki and Jim O’Connell will be discussing Zoning Reform at the 8th Annual Citizen Planner Training Collaborative Conference on March 21. The Chapter will be sponsoring its 2nd Informational Forum in Middleborough on April 15th. If you can attend this event, you will have the opportunity to express your concerns and have questions answered by Tim Brennan and Bob Ritchie.

Opportunities to Volunteer

National APA has put out a call for representatives to the Student Representatives Council. If there are any students interested in participating in the Council, please check out the National website at www.planning.org. The Massachusetts Chapter Board of Directors has two vacancies we are looking to fill, the first being the Boston Area Regional Representative and the second vacancies is the Transportation Committee Representative. If you are interested in either of these positions, please contact me at ssadwick@town.tewksbury.ma.us.
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:

- Sustainable Cities MAY
- Private Sector Planning JUN
- 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.
GET HELP WITH SMART GROWTH INITIATIVES FROM EPA EXPERTS

APPLICATION DEADLINE: APRIL 23

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is looking for communities that are committed to smart growth but lack the tools to implement their smart growth projects for its annual Smart Growth Implementation Assistance Program (SGIA). The key focus areas for this year’s projects are:

- climate change
- green job development
- corridor redevelopment
- green building development
- suburban retrofits
- disaster resilience.

The objectives are to support communities and showcase regional examples of smart growth while identifying common barriers and opportunities. The selected communities will receive assistance from a team of national experts in policy analysis or public participatory processes. Visit www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/sgia.htm for more information.

DIPRETE ENGINEERING CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Quidnesett Country Club in North Kingstown, RI  May 11

This will be a great event to network with the engineering, architectural, planning, and construction community in a casual environment. Lunch and dinner will be served. Sponsorships are available. All proceeds will be donated to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (RI Chapter). For more information please visit www.diprete-eng.com.

RI PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Diane Feather, AICP

By the time this message is published RIAPA will have celebrated Women’s History Month by hosting a luncheon on Friday, March 27, 2009 at the Mount Hope Farm in Bristol, Rhode Island. The National Women’s History Project www.nwhp.org chose their 2009 theme as “Women Taking the Lead to Save Our Planet”. Rachel Carson, the late author of the classic Silent Spring, was the foremost individual associated with this year’s theme. The excellent panel for the RIAPA event included women who demonstrate the axiom “Think Globally, Act Locally”, and included DIANE WILLIAMSON AICP, Director of Planning & Community Development, Town of Bristol, Rl; LORRAINE JOUBERT, Director of Non-Point Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO), URI; and SHEILA DEMING BRUSH, Director of Programs at Grow Smart Rhode Island. Thanks to the panelists and all those who attended.

The Mount Hope Farm property in Bristol, RI is a National Register Historic Landmark, consisting of over 200 acres of fields, woods, streams, and ponds with expansive water views that is managed by “The Mount Hope Trust”, a 501(3)(c) non-profit. To learn more about this exceptional property and the programs offered, please visit the web site at www.mounthope-farm.com.

APRIL 17 LUNCHEON – QUONSET DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

RIAPA’s next luncheon will be at the Quonset Development Corporation, at 95 Cripe Street in North Kingstown (www.qdci.com) on Friday, April 17, 2009 from Noon to 1:30 PM. Please see RIAPA’s web site for details (www.rhodeislandapa.org). Steven King, Managing Director of QDC and Evan Matthews, Port Manager will speak during the catered luncheon. A car caravan tour of certain areas will follow the formal presentation. According the QDC’s web site, Quonset is home to 164 companies employing 8,842 individuals in a mix of office, R&D, manufacturing, warehouse and distribution, marine construction, importation, and more. There are many projects underway at the Quonset Business Park®, including The Gateway at Quonset Point, a 72-acre mixed-use development that will serve as the new “front door” to the Business Park.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONFERENCE – SAT., APRIL 25, 2009

Preservation is Local Summits

The 24th Annual Rhode Island Statewide Historic Preservation Conference will be presented by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission (RIHPHC) on Saturday, April 25th at the Kingston Campus of the
University of Rhode Island. There are many varied programs, some which will offer AICP Certification Maintenance (CM) credits. For more information visit the Commission’s website at www.preservationri.gov. RIAPA’s PDO Pam Sherrill, Vice President Susan Mara and RHIPC’s Sarah Zurier deserve credit for firming up a partnership between RIAPA and the Commission offering CM credits for the first time at this particular event. Please note that the Commission requires registration forms to be postmarked prior to April 17th.

The Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission received a grant in September 2008 from Preserve America, which they are utilizing to launch a new initiative to fund local historic preservation planning projects statewide. The Commission is currently hosting “Preservation is Local” summits. I attended the first of these summits held at the Slater Mill in Pawtucket on March 16th. It was an excellent opportunity to hear about current and future projects and provide input into the development of the grant program. Hopefully planners will have attended one of the three summits planned for different regions of the state, including a summit in Bristol on March 26th, and the final summit coinciding with the Commission’s April 25th conference at URI. The Commission has noted that the Preserve America grant would enable holding the summits in order to identify local needs, and then the funding of sub-grants in late 2009 to innovative community preservation planning projects. For more information, contact Sarah Zurier at szurier@preservation.ri.gov or at 401.222.4142.

NATIONAL APA CERTIFICATION MAINTENANCE (CM) WEB SITE STATUS

As some AICP members may have experienced, there have been some delays and difficulties in using certain aspects of the updated APA CM web site functions. National APA has explained that the delays are due primarily to insufficient server capacity and that this will be alleviated with the installation of an expanded network, which is expected to be soon. National APA has also noted that APA staff is working to fix other known system bugs as quickly as possible. AICP members should look for APA Interact for Certified Planners in their email in-box. I would encourage AICP members to maintain their records for the first period of the CM program, which concludes on December 31, 2009. As with any CM-related questions or concerns, please contact either PDO Pam Sherrill at PSherrill@parecorp.com or myself at dfeather@cityofeast-prov.com.

LEGISLATION

The Executive Board and Legislative Committee Chair Daniel Varin have been following planning-related bills as they are submitted. Daniel Beardsley, Executive Director of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns has been very helpful in getting information to me, which I then have passed along to local planners and others. The Statewide Planning Program has been active on this front as well. Dan Varin is in the process of preparing two draft position papers on certain issues of importance.

LINK TO KEITH BLOOMER AND CARINGBRIDGE

Unfortunately in last month’s PDF newsletter, the link to the CaringBridge site link did not work properly. Should members wish to send a message to Keith Bloomer, who continues to recover from a late-2008 double lung transplant operation, you may do this at: www.caringbridge.org/visit/keithbloomer.

MEMBER EMAILS AND COMMUNICATION

Our Chapter Secretary Melanie Jewett will be sending letters to those members of RIAPA who have not provided an email address, or whose emails continue to “bounce back” to Melanie. We have been communicating with members via email exclusively for over one-year now, and we believe this to be the most efficient and “green” option. For members who wish to keep their email private, perhaps they could establish a free e-mail account with providers such as Google’s “gmail”, Yahoo, or many other free email providers and use this as your APA email. For those of you who have provided emails, please log into the National APA site and make sure that your email address is correct, as this is the only way we receive your contact information. Thank you.

In closing, crocus bloomed in my yard around March 15th. Spring is here and the regular baseball season will begin soon. So, in keeping with my earlier columns, go Sox! Enjoy the spring and my best to all members.

Save the Dates!

Fri., April 17, 2009 – Quonset Development Corporation Luncheon
Sat., April 25 – Wednesday, April 29, 2009 – APA Conference in Minneapolis, MN
November 5 & 6, 2009 – SNEAPA Conference at Mohegan Sun Resort, CT
April 22, 2009 – Celebrate Earth Day.
Legal Review - RI
More than Findings of Fact:

CONSIDERATIONS FOR DEFENSIBLE DECISIONS

Nancy E. Letendre, Esq., AiCP

The outcome of the entire land use review process is the decision. A legally defensible decision by a planner, board, or commission expresses a position, opinion and judgment reached after consideration. Decisions must be complete, free of ambiguity, supported by the facts and, when decisions include conditions, such conditions need to be enforceable.

Guidance to boards, commissions and their staff begins with the Rhode Island General Laws that spell out the criteria by which all land use decisions must be made. More than a mere yes or no, a well-written land use decision is the result of a deliberative process, after review of all testimony and exhibits presented at a hearing. The decision requires substantive findings of fact as to the evidence presented, both for and against an application, and conclusions of law addressing each of the required criteria for approval.

Findings of fact are statements derived from the record of the hearing which lend support to each aspect of the decision; they are a comprehensive rendition of the information in the record of the hearing that either satisfies or fails to satisfy the required legal criteria. Findings must be supported by “legally competent evidence”, found in the record of the hearing, which record “discloses the nature and character of the observations upon which the fact finders acted.” R.I. Gen. Laws § 45-23-60. “Findings of fact are intended to resolve disputed issues of fact and to memorialize the Board’s decision as to the weight of evidence presented.” Irish Partnership, at 359; compare to MacGibbon v. Board of Appeals of Duxbury, 356 Mass. 635, 639, 255 N.E.2d 347 (1970). (“The board’s action must be responsive to the [ ] petition and its decision must contain [a] definite statement of rational causes and motives, founded upon adequate findings.”).

Findings that restate facts which the parties do not dispute and reiterate information that could easily have been discerned from reading the application do not exemplify the weighing of evidence. Certain facts may be identified as uncontested. But all issues related to controverted facts should be weighed for credibility and accuracy. Board members may rely on personal knowledge, so long as the facts supporting that personal knowledge are made part of the record so that it may be disputed and commented upon. Findings should point out clearly to what extent personal knowledge is the basis for the decision.

The Rhode Island Supreme Court has given specific direction to local boards and their attorneys on how to make defensible decisions. “[W]e point out that it would be difficult to sustain the board’s decision in any event in view of the inadequate record kept by it and also because of the inadequacy of the statement summarizing its decision. It might be appropriate to suggest again that, because of the complicated legal questions incident to all zoning hearings, zoning boards should avail themselves of the legal service of their municipal legal departments. This would, in our judgment, aid the boards in the administration of justice to all who come before them.” Souza v. Zoning Board of Review of Warren, 104 R.I. 697, 699-700, 248 A.2d 325, 327 (1968).

Boards are further advised by the courts to address the evidence in the record that either meets or fails to satisfy each of the legal preconditions for granting the relief requested. See Sciacca v. Caruso, 769 A.2d 578, 585-586 (R.I. 2001); Irish Partnership v. Rommel, 518 A.2d 356, 358 (R.I.1986); compare McNeely v. Board of Appeal of Boston, 358 Mass. 94, 103, 261 N.E.2d 336 (1970). A municipal board must cover all the reasons for the actions it takes in its written decision. A board’s findings must be factual rather than conclusional – meaning the application of the legal principles must be more than the recital of the standards for relief. Justice O. Rogeriee Thompson of the Rhode Island Superior Court in Dulude v. Town of Coventry Zoning Board of Review, overturned the Board finding that it failed to include any substantive findings of fact as to the evidence presented for and against the application and employed an outdated standard as to the requisite degree of demonstrable hardship to obtain dimensional relief. 2005 WL 704884, March 25, 2005. In other appeals, the Superior Court has found that the failure to incorporate adequate findings of fact or conclusions of law, a violation of statutory proceedings, requires a remand to the Board for a completion of that part of its review. The remand often occurs months or even years after the end of the public hearing and costs the municipality and the Board substantial time and expense.

Compliance with the appropriate legal criteria for granting relief must be established by the facts, or by the facts and conditions where added. Personal opinion and personal preferences of members are not relevant to the regulatory criteria
and may not be relied on to support board determinations. Each and every aspect of the legal criteria must be addressed in a decision. If all the criteria are met, a board must approve an application. To justify denial of an application, a board must demonstrate that legally sufficient evidence cannot be found in the record to support one or more of the standard criteria.

The quality of the outcome of the land use review process depends on the full participation of the board and its administrative staff. In addition to obtaining the legal services of their solicitor, a board should seek the input and advice from the municipality’s professional staff. Whether a planner, engineer, administrator or a zoning official is advising a board, they administer not only the application and its supporting documentation but also the review, the final decision and its implementation. Defensible decisions begin with the quality of the application and benefit from the efficiency of both the application and review processes. It is essential that staff reports and recommendations be complete and accurate: they provide a reviewing board with direction and technical information. A well-written defensible decision is the result of thorough and balanced considerations and requires a team effort.

For more information, the Grow Smart RI Land-Use Training Collaborative will introduce a new workshop on “Writing Defensible Decisions” for Rhode Island planners, boards and commissions in the fall of 2009.

Nancy E. Letendre is an attorney and professional planner with the law firm of Ursillo, Teitz & Ritch, Ltd. in Providence, Rhode Island. She is admitted to practice in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut and has more than ten years of municipal land use experience.

PLANNERS’ FORUM ON MA LAND USE REFORM LEGISLATION CM|1.5

WEDNESDAY APRIL 15, 2009

Walking Tour · Downtown Middleborough at 11:00 AM
 Forum · Historic Middleborough Town Hall Middleborough, Massachusetts from 12:00–4:00PM

ROBERT RICHIE, ESQ. and TIM BRENNAN, Executive Director, PVPC will present an overview of the Community Planning Act 2 (CPA2) and the Land Use Reform Act (LUPA) at an information session for planners to be held at held at Middleborough Town Hall, on Wednesday April 15, 2009.

The Massachusetts Chapter of the American Planning Association and the Massachusetts Association of Planning Directors (MAPD) are holding this forum in order to provide an opportunity for the planning community to hear about these two pieces of legislation of importance to all planners. The presentation will be followed by an interactive session in which the Chapter and MAPD listen and hear your thoughts on the proposed legislation. This session will inform both organizations boards as they develop positions on the upcoming legislative hearings.

A light lunch and refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP to CHRIS SKELLY at skelly-mhc@comcast.net.

This workshop has been submitted for CM credit.

The Middleborough Planning Department will lead a Walking Tour of Downtown Middleborough at 11:00 AM
Rumford. The renovation of the main building will house commercial, office and residential space and retail shops fronting on the canopied area (which was formerly the rail loading area for the baking powder). The project also includes: some demolition of outbuildings that do not contribute to the history of the site; the re-location of a structure on-site; and some new construction.

The Rumford Chemical Works site is designated as “Mixed Use” in the City’s Comprehensive Plan, recognizing its historic, cultural and economic revitalization opportunities. The East Providence City Council granted approval for a zone change from an industrial zone to Commercial – 2/Mixed Use Floating Zone in December 2005 to allow mixed use. The development is to take place in three-phases and will include: up to 132 residential units (a mix of condominium and apartments); 66,448 square feet of commercial lease space; 2,000 square feet of restaurant space, and a 2,500 square foot club house.

As with other sites previously utilized for manufacturing, this site also involved a Site Investigation Report (SR) which disclosed contamination typical for an industrial and former coal-burning complex along with some petroleum products from former fuel oil tanks found in the immediate vicinity of an abandoned underground storage tank (UST). There was no evidence of off-site migration, and groundwater was unaffected. The site was remediated following a Remedial Action Work Plan approved by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management. The actions included an engineered cap to isolate the metal and PAH contaminated soils from potential wind or water erosion; removal of all cesspools and UST’s, and excavation, removal and off-site disposal of petroleum contaminated soils.

The Rumford Center project involves a shared parking arrangement. The developers utilized a section of the City’s zoning ordinance that allows shared parking provided that the peak period of usage of such buildings, structures or uses will not be simultaneous with each other. In this case, the residential and commercial/retail uses would not share the same peak periods of usage, i.e. a percentage of residents would leave the site for the day, as employees for the commercial/retail uses would be arriving. The methodology for this shared parking arrangement was analyzed and included written documentation and a shared parking site plan. The report showed the expected parking demand throughout the day and the peaks for the various uses. The site plan depicts the portion of the total spaces which are dedicated for residential use, and the remainder of the spaces which would swing between the commercial and retail uses. The City required an outside peer review of the traffic and shared parking arrangement.

Allowing shared parking was especially important for this site due to the desire to preserve the existing configuration of the historic buildings and reduce the amount of paving (and impervious area). On-street parking is also available on the two street frontages of the site. The developers were able to provide less parking than would have been required if the various uses were individually calculated and totaled. A shared parking plan agreement was recorded in the City’s Land Evidence records, along with the site plans, and will be re-visited over time as the tenancies change. Medical offices and call centers are prohibited uses due to their intensive parking demand.

A portion of the budget for the $50 million dollar redevelopment was achieved through the use of State Historic Tax Credits. Due to the State budget shortfall in 2007, the program was changed for both retroactive and new projects: as a result, the Rumford Center budget was reduced by $2 million.
dollars. This resulted in the revision of the plan to eliminate some of the site improvements: however, the loss is not apparent. The redevelopment promotes high quality and appropriate design and restored a National Register property to a re-use that is in harmony with the significant historical and cultural features of the Rumford Chemical Works site.

A commemorative plaque given by the American Chemical Society recognizing the site reads: “In the mid-19th century, Eban Horsford, Rumford Professor at Harvard University devised a unique mixture for baking, which he named “yeast powder” and later called baking powder. The acid component, calcium acid phosphate, originally manufactured from bones, replaced cream of tartar, an expensive byproduct of the European wine industry. The mixture of acid with sodium bicarbonate was stabilized by the addition of starch and marketed in one package. In the presence of moisture carbon dioxide is released, leavening biscuits, cookies, or other quick baking products. As a result of Horsford’s work, baking became easier, quicker, and more reliable.”

Eight of the residential lofts are currently occupied and the commercial space is leasing up. The developers for the Rumford Center project are PK Rumford – a partnership of the Peregrine Group LLC and the Kirkbrae Development Corporation. The developer’s web site for this project is at www.rumfordcenter.com.

Diane Feather is President of the RI Chapter of APA and Chief Planner of the City of East Providence, RI.
Group, now called the Community Planning Act, has been re-filed, with lead sponsors Sen. Robert O’Leary and Rep. Stephen Kulik, stepping in to fill the void left by long time sponsors Pamela Resor and Doug Peterson who have retired. The Patrick Administration has filed a separate initiative, the Land Use Partnership Act, based upon feedback obtained through a Zoning Reform Task Force that the Administration formed last year. This bill is authored by Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Greg Bialecki and sponsored by Sen. Chandler and Rep. Kevin Honan. Educational forums are planned to help describe the intent of each of these two bills, but the APA-MA board of directors is not currently advocating one bill over the other. The immediate message we want to give to the Legislature is that zoning reform is important and necessary, and that the planning community would like to work with them to achieve changes to our statutory framework. I will focus on zoning reform in a subsequent article.

There again appears to be 50 bills pertaining to Chapter 40B. Dissatisfaction with DHCD regulatory changes may result in a more serious discussion of affordable housing this session. A “compromise” bill previously fashioned from a blue ribbon panel would be the leading candidate for 40B reform, but there are many other ideas submitted for consideration. The sponsors of the 40B ballot initiative to repeal 40B are still active and seeking to gain more voter signatures to put the question of repeal on a future ballot. Other housing topics on Beacon Hill include codifying open space residential development and the Starter Home Initiative. Real estate and building groups are pushing toward easing of regulations for “starter homes”, while environmental groups are concerned about the impact of such initiatives on land consumption. Foreclosure is also the subject of a number of bills this session.

Several bills have been re-filed to restrict the use of eminent domain, including the version that was passed by the House last year, but was not taken up by the Senate. These bills are a reaction to the Kelo decision out of Connecticut, which spawned similar bills across the country.

Transportation finance reform is serious topic of discussion. The Governor and the Senate have introduced different versions of reform. Gas tax, new tolls, and user fees are among the ideas being debated to raise additional revenue. Raising the gas tax gains the quickest media attention, and is the easiest to implement. User fees based upon miles traveled per annual safety inspection, or distance from work for single occupant vehicles should not yet be discounted.

Other matters that we will be reporting on in future articles include natural resources and environmental protection (water supply protection and night lighting most notable this session), alternative energy, municipal finance, open meeting and conflict of interest law, economic development, revisions to the Community Preservation Act, and various miscellaneous proposed revisions to the planning and zoning statutes. In addition to articles in the newsletter, please check the APA-MA website at www.massapa.org for updates on Legislative hearings and events.

Most intriguing legislative submission to date: An Act Designating the Elephant as the Official Mammal of the Commonwealth. Knowing nothing of the background, I should hesitate to question the intent. It sounds like the type of legislation commonly used as a school social studies lesson, but surely there might have been some other animal choice? Or perhaps I misjudged the extent of global warming on wildlife habitat.

Tony Fields is Vice President of Legislation and Policy for the MA Chapter of APA and Planning Director of the Town of Burlington, MA.
Working Together

Michael Cote

If you could design a climate change adaptation plan for your community, what would you include? Would you build stronger bridges and dams or faster stormwater systems? Would you remove structures from floodplains or replant your watersheds? How would you pay for these improvements? Poignantly, are you approaching these questions through the lens of local (or personal) politics or an ethical duty to protect "public health, safety, and welfare"? Last year I presented my answers to these questions at the 2008 Southern New England American Planning Association (SNEAPA) conference in Providence Rhode Island. My session was titled, "Adapting to Climate Change-Municipal Adaptation Planning," and the room was jam-packed with planners, friends and colleagues from all over New England. My good friend and city planner, Jamie Francomano, generously drove 8 hours from Presque Isle, Maine. Sarah Raposa, friend, mentor and planner on Cape Cod also drove some hours to see my talk. A conference organizer counted over 110 attendees. It was my first conference talk, ever. I was more than nervous - I was fearful of tar, feathers and pitchforks. Here I was, a graduate student, advising prickly New England planners to adapt to climate change by changing their ways and, God forbid, collaborate with their neighbors. In this letter I will introduce you to my work in adaptation planning. I also invite you to see me speak at the 2009 National Planning Conference in Minneapolis April 28 at 4pm, session number S611 (http://tinyurl.com/atd62x). My talk would not be possible without the generous support from the Mass APA chapter, for which I am humbly thankful.

At the 2008 SNEAPA I presented a climate change adaptation model that planners can easily adopt. The plan is scalable, which means anyone can shape it to their needs, from a large metropolitan region to a small rural town and anything in between. The plan is legitimate, as a variation is being implemented in New York City today. It’s called a Municipal Adaptation Plan (MAP) and many versions of it exist. My version involves 10-steps.
In a nutshell, the plan is a risk assessment and action plan – you identify your community’s vulnerabilities, then you act.

**Step One**

Project the regional climate trends in your area. Free software and training is available here [http://tinyurl.com/df4hfs](http://tinyurl.com/df4hfs). You can also contact any major New England university’s planning or earth sciences department for climate change case studies.

**Step Two**

Identify the most likely impacts on your community. In Southern New England the most likely impacts will be; increased storm events, infrastructure stress, watershed and coastal erosion, higher water tables and foundational corrosion. There are health impacts, too. For example, there are projections that there will be an increase in Lyme Disease incidents from increased spreading of deer ticks. There are unseen impacts, too – tourism and local economies could take hits, which can complicate tax base issues.

**Step Three**

Create a comprehensive vulnerability assessment. The depth of this important step depends on how high the climate risks are in your region. Remember, climate change impacts don’t recognize political borders, so you’ll have to be aware of what is happening in surrounding communities, too. In this step, you identify which sectors (e.g. infrastructure, economy, watersheds, etc.) are vulnerable now, and which ones will be vulnerable in the future. Prepare new data for GIS and maps. Ask, “Is my southern most dam strong enough to handle increases in storm events?” “If it breaks, will my neighbor be impacted?” “Will takings procedures be necessary along the coasts?” I’m sure you can see some interesting legal questions at this point.

**Step Four**

Review your current plans and priorities. Identify conflicts and overlaps. New development plans may be in conflict with your assessment.

**Step Five**

Overlay these vulnerabilities, development priorities etc., onto a map. These are your Hot Spots, which deserve high priority. Hot spot identification allows you to see important patterns and concentrations.

Now it’s time to design action plans. Typically you do this by prioritizing using analysis tools such as, cost benefit, multiple criteria, spatial, economic, etc.

**Step Six**

Develop adaptation strategies. This is the brainstorming stage. How will you present this information to the public? What are the potential costs? Is there Federal or State assistance?

**Step Seven**

Create a program with project scoping and design documents. Don’t forget the budgets! This document is your MAP. The eighth step is implementation.

**Step Nine**

Monitor, evaluate and adjust. Which ever implementation strategy you choose, it ought to be flexible enough to adjust over time. Climate science data is changing all the time, and your plans should on the one hand have enough teeth to stay durable in the face of political and economic cycles, and on the other hand nimble enough to adjust course when necessary.

**Step Ten**

Share! The most important thing you can do as a planner is share. Share your knowledge and experiences with other communities. Work with university planning departments to generate your reports. Talk and write about your processes and conclusions with anyone who will listen.
Before I stood up at the 2008 SNEAPA Conference, I thought I would be laughed off the stage, after all planning is political and I have little reputation. To combat this problem, I legitimized my talk by recruiting experts in the field. I invited Timothy Randhir, PhD, a UMass-Amherst watershed scientist and climate specialist, to talk about projected climate impacts on New England. Dr. Randhir set the stage for my audience to help them understand the need for monitoring climate trends in New England. After he spoke, I presented my MAP – six months work in 25 minutes. To close the session, I invited expert sustainability planner, Catherine Miller, from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, to speak about the adaptation plans she is implementing right here in Massachusetts.

We hit a home-run and got a huge round of applause. I saw many people smiling and nodding their heads, as if to say “good job, we can do this.” So successful were we that the Q&A spilled into the hallway and I found myself awkwardly surrounded by people thrusting their business cards at me. One kind man, a director at Massachusetts Port Authority, hinted I’d make great staff for his organization. I was flattered, overwhelmed and humbled. Now I have the energy to bring my message national, and hope my APA session will be just as well received.

Beyond student poster sessions, I was told I was the first graduate student to present at SNEAPA in the conference’s 30-year history. This was more than surprising to me. Doesn’t New England have the highest per capita concentration of APA accredited planning programs in the country? Not only is the concentration high, we have the best programs, hands-down, in Harvard, MIT, Tufts and UMass-Amherst. Which region in the U.S. can beat that!? I am proud to be a student at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. And I hope that student supporters like Peter Lowitt and the Mass APA Chapter will inspire you to work with students and create a better future for our wonderful New England community.

Michael Cote is a hard-working graduate student of Regional Planning at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and Environmental Law and Policy at Vermont Law School. He graduates Summer of 2010 and can be contacted at michaelcote@gmail.com
Meetings, Workshops & Conferences

April 1
A Discussion with James Howard Kunstler

RICH ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN’S METCALF AUDITORIUM
AT THE CHACE CENTER/RISD MUSEUM
6:30–7:30 PM

Join AIARI and RISD for a discussion with celebrated author and critic James Howard Kunstler on the root causes of the current economic crisis and how our chosen patterns of living affect the broad economic environment. Explore with us the destiny of cities, smaller towns and our connection with the rural landscape as economic, social and energy pressures begin to mount. RSVP by March 30: 401-272-6418 or execdir@aia-ri.org

April 2
“Brownfields: on the Edge of Historic Abuse and Future Public Use”, a lecture by Pamela and James Shadley of Shadley Associates in Lexington, MA.

THE WEAVER AUDITORIUM ON THE KINGSTON CAMPUS OF URI @ 7PM

All lectures are free and open to the public. The lecture halls are handicapped accessible. General questions about the series may be directed to 874-2983 or to wagre@uri.edu.

WTS-Rhode Island will host a technical luncheon

PATRICK’S PIER ONE AT PROVIDENCE PIERs ON ALLENS AVENUE IN PROVIDENCE, RI @ 11:45AM.

Joseph Baker, Acting Administrator of RIDOT Division of Highway and Bridge Maintenance, and David Fish, P.E., Managing Engineer of RIDOT Bridge Design, will speak about the statewide bridge inspection and maintenance program. Please RSVP to Angela Saunders at asaunders@beat-inc.com or 401-333-2382 by Friday, March 27.

“Land Use Change in Seventeenth Century Rhode Island”

THE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER
1401 HOPE STREET @ 7PM

Join archaeologist and national park ranger John McNiff for a fascinating look at Our Changing Environment, part of the Audubon Spring Lecture Series. Members, $10; non-members, $12. Registration required. Call (401) 949-5454 x3041, email programs@asri.org, or visit the Audubon Society of Rhode Island website.

The University of Massachusetts LARP Department Zube Lecture Series presents “MRP Alumni Panel”

UMASS-AMHERST, PROCOPIO ROOM, 105 HILLS NORTH

April 2 (cont’d)

Planner After Hours Reception

AMHERST BREWING COMPANY, 24 N PLEASANT ST
AMHERST, MA

Planning professionals & UMass LARP alumni are welcome upstairs at the Amherst Brewing Company.

April 2 & April 3

2030 Sustainable Urbanism Summit: Addressing Climate Change in New England ‘The CNU New England Regional Conference cm|14.0

PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Building on the Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) National’s Climate @ CNU Initiative, the 2030 Sustainable Urbanism Summit will address climate change in New England and seek to develop new strategies for reducing our region’s effect on this crisis. The Summit will provide speakers and attendees with the platform to craft innovative and proactive strategies to move New England into a new era of civic, economic, and environmental opportunity. More information see: http://www.cnunewengland.org/summit

April 3

Spring into Multifaceted Regional Economic Development!

THE A.D. MAKEPEACE COMPANY, 146 TIHONET ROAD, WAREHAM, MA @ 10:00AM–2:00PM

For more information about Massachusetts Economic Development Council’s Spring Forum, go to: www.massedc.org or contact Terri Hillman at thillman@gardner-ma.gov.

April 3–April 5

Ecological Urbanism: Alternative and Sustainable Cities of the Future Conference

HARVARD UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF DESIGN

With the aim of projecting alternative and sustainable forms of urbanism, the conference will ask: What are the key principles of an ecological urbanism? How might they be organized? And what role might design and planning play in the process? For more information, contact BROOKE KING at events@gsd.harvard.edu

April 15

Planners’ Forum on MA Land Use Reform Legislation cm|1.5

11:00AM–4:00PM AT MIDDLEBOROUGH TOWN HALL

ROBERT RICHIE, ESQ. and TIM BRENNAN, Executive Director, PVPC will present an overview of the Community Planning Act 2 (CPA2) and the Land Use Reform Act (LUPA) at an information session for planners to be held held at Middleborough Town Hall, on Wednesday April 15, 2009. A walking tour of downtown Middleborough will begin at 11am. For more information see page 4.

APA Audio/Web Training – Zoning for Transit-Oriented Development cm|1.5

MAPC, 60 TEMPLE PLACE, BOSTON 4:00–5:30PM
CMRPC OFFICE, 2 WASHINGTON SQUARE, UNION STATION, WORCESTER, MA 4:00–5:30PM

Transit-oriented development results from deliberate planning and code provisions drafted to produce a mix of uses in close proximity to transit that facilitates access to transit. Learn how to create active walkable streets, to regulate the intensity of development to support transit, and to properly integrate transit into the landscape and within surrounding projects. Speakers present illustrated case studies of successful TOD and review the principles that led to their success. Space is limited. For more information, go to www.mapc.org or www.cmrpc.org.

April 17

RIAPA Brown Bag Lunch—Quonset/Davisville

LOCATION TBD 12:00PM–1:30PM

For more information, go to: www.rhodeislandapa.org.

MAPD Luncheon Meeting - Freeform Friday: Planners Listserv Live (Land Use Reform-Free) cm|1.5

NAKED FISH, 455 TOTTEN POND ROAD, WALTHAM, MA 12:00PM–3:00PM,

TOM BOTT, AICP, Town Planner in Kingston, will moderate a lively and thought-provoking (and probably zany) roundtable discussion of all things planning...Bring your questions/comments/ideas and let’s talk planning! For more information, contact Vera Kolias, AICP at vkolias@southboroughma.com
April 20

LEED AP Exam Preparation Class

4:30PM–6:30PM AT NEW ENGLAND INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, 2480 POST ROAD, ROOM 313 IN WARWICK.

Sponsored by the US Green Building Council – RI Chapter. RIGBC Member Rate: $125 Nonmembers: $175, Students: $75. For more information call 401.759.5000.

April 23


Quonset “o” Club, North Kingstown, RI

The conference, sponsored by rinhs, ri OceansAMP, and us Fish & Wildlife Service, will engage scientists, organizations, and citizens in an investigation of ocean development impacts on marine ecosystems and resources. Keynote speakers include: Tony Fox, National Environment Research Institute, Denmark; Rodney Cluck, us Minerals Management Service, Herndon, va. Contact: Kira Stillwell at 401.874.5800 or kstillwell@rinhs.org.

April 24

Green Buildings Operation and Maintenance

For course descriptions and fees, go to: www.usgbcri.org, or to register, go to www.usgbc.org/workshops and click on "Register". Contact: 800-795-1747 or workshop@usgbc.org. Location: New England Institute of Technology, Student Lounge, 2480 Post Road, Warwick, RI

April 25

24th Annual RI Statewide Historic Preservation Conference, “Preservation Steps Out”

University of Rhode Island’s Kingston Campus

Step out to learn about protecting and preserving historic farms, farmland, forests, and waterfronts and gather tips from experts and compare experiences with colleagues from around the state and the region. Field trips will sample places like historic camps, archaeological sites, farms, plantations, gristmills, modern architecture, villages, seaside resorts, and many more.

For more information, go to: www.preservation.ri.gov/conference/index.php, or contact Sarah Zurier, RIHPHC, (401) 222-4142 or szurier@preservation.ri.gov

April 25–29

2009 National APA Planning Conference

MINNEAPOLIS, MN WWW.PLANNING.ORG

April 28

A Private Well Water Workshop is being offered by the URI Cooperative Extension

Held at the Western Coventry Elementary School, 4588 Flat River Rd. (route 117) Coventry.

Learn how you can protect your private well through: regular testing; private well maintenance; and good housekeeping practices. All programs are FREE and will run from 7–9:00PM. Pre-Registration is required as space is limited. Call 874.4918 to register for any of these workshops. There will be another workshop on May 28 at the Chariho Middle School auditorium, 455B Switch Road, Wood River Junction.

April 29

CNU New England Urban Design Workshop

HAVERHILL, MA – (TIME/LOCATION TBD)

Continuing on the workshops held in four other New England states in December, the New England chapter of the Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU-NE) will lead this workshop in Massachusetts. Instruction will focus on smart growth principles and the design of walkable, compact neighborhoods as a strategy for achieving sustainability. Instructors will lead participants through a hands-on exercise, using a project site that presents an urban design challenge common to towns throughout New England. See www.cnunewengland.org for more detailed information after April 6.

May 1 & 2

Sustainable Energy Summit

UMASS AMHERST

See page 20, for more information
May 5
LUPA Regional Forum - Tewksbury

TEWKSBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY, 300 CHANDLER STREET, TEWKSBURY MA 10:00AM–12:00PM

A series of regional sessions are being held across the state to hear from professional and citizen planners, local officials, and other interested individuals about the Land Use Partnership Act and its impact on the Massachusetts zoning and land use statutes. The meetings are open to the public. For more information, go to: www.mass.gov/mpro/zoning. This Forum will be hosted by Merrimack Valley Planning Commission & Northern Middlesex Council of Governments.

May 5 (cont’d)
LUPA Regional Forum - Needham

NEEDHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1139 HIGHLAND AVENUE, NEEDHAM MA 2:00PM–4:00PM

For description, see previous forum listing. This event will be hosted by the MAPC.

May 6
LUPA Regional Forum—Dartmouth

DARTMOUTH TOWN HALL AT 400 SLOCUM ROAD, DARTMOUTH MA 10:00AM–12:00PM

For description, see May 5th forum listing. This event will be hosted by the Southeast Regional Planning and Economic Development District.

May 7
LUPA Regional Forum—Brockton

LOCATION IN BROCKTON TBD 9:00AM–11:00AM

For description, see May 5th forum listing. This event will be hosted by the Old Colony Planning Council.

May 8
LUPA Regional Forum—Barnstable

CAPE COD COMMISSION AT 3225 MAIN STREET, BARNSTABLE MA 12:00PM–2:00PM

For description, see May 5th forum listing. This event will be hosted by the Cape Cod Commission, Martha's Vineyard Commission and Nantucket Planning and Economic Development Commission.

May 11
LUPA informational Session

HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE-FROST BUILDING ROOM #309, 303 HOMESTEAD AVENUE, HOLYOKE, MA 01040 2–4PM

An Opportunity to Learn More About and Discuss the Proposed Land Use Partnership Act

Featured Speaker: Greg Bialecki, Secretary, Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development

Zoning reform is moving forward in Massachusetts. The LUPA legislation has now been filed and received bill numbers in the House and Senate: HB3572 and SB765. Don’t miss this opportunity to keep abreast of the status of LUPA, ask questions and make comments on this important proposed legislation.

This event is being co-sponsored by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments.

May 13
LUPA Regional Forum—Worcester

UNION STATION, WORCESTER MA 2:00PM–4:00PM

For description, see May 5th forum listing. This event will be hosted by the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission and Montachusett Regional Planning Commission.

APA Audio/Web Training—Inclusionary Housing

CM 1.5

MAPC, 60 TEMPLE PLACE, BOSTON 4:00–5:30PM
CMRPC OFFICE, 2 WASHINGTON SQUARE, UNION STATION, WORCESTER, MA 4:00–5:30PM

Local governments and states have turned to inclusionary housing programs as a solution to the affordable housing challenge. Learn about the successes and pitfalls of this tool, as well as which approach works best: mandatory or voluntary. Experts discuss the legal mandates and program standards necessary to ensure implementation in your community. Learn how to build support for inclusionary housing from de-
March 2009

Developers, residents, and local officials. Space is limited. For more information, go to www.mapc.org or www.cmrfc.org.

June 4 & 5
Massachusetts Association of Planning Directors (MAPD) Annual Conference **CM|28**
Salem Waterfront Hotel & Suites, Salem, MA
For more information, see page 20.

October 30–November 1
Rail-Volution National Conference **CM|TBD**
Boston, MA

November 5 & 6
2009 Southern New England APA Conference **CM|212**
Mohegan Sun Conference Center, Uncasville, CT

Fall/Winter 2009
Massachusetts Smart Growth/Smart Energy Conference **CM|55**
Location TBD

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 credits. 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 (RI chapter) or **TOM BROADRICK, AICP** at tbroadrick@nantucket-ma.gov (MA chapter)

Free iTunes Podcasts of CM events
Currently, the APA National has over 50 free podcasts on iTunes available to download. Of these podcasts, several count towards CM certification. Select podcasts titled “Tuesdays at APA” **CM|1.5** and the combined sessions titled “2008 APA Symposium” **CM|2.5** are included on the CM Activities calendar on www.planning.org/cm/search. It is anticipated that APA National will continue to add to this list of free podcasts.

Free Online Course for CM Credit
Planning for Healthy Places with Health Impact Assessments
Planning for Healthy Places with Health Impact Assessment is a ‘how to’ guide for conducting health impact assessments (HIA), developed by the American Planning Association and the National Association of County & City Health Officials, sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This online course will explain the value of conducting an HIA and the steps involved in conducting an HIA. Throughout the course, examples of health impact assessments have been highlighted and discussed.

This online course is offered **free**, thanks to a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. To receive CM Credit, AICP members must first complete the course, and then register the activity in their CM log. It is not necessary to register prior to beginning the course. However, to receive CM

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**SPRING GARDENING SCHOOL**
April 6
Weaver Auditorium at URI’s Kingston Campus, 6–8PM.
Learn about different aspects of gardening every Monday from April 6 through May 11. Courses include vegetable gardening basics, pruning, green lawns, and herb gardening basics. Contact the Kathleen Mallon Outreach Center at URI, (401) 874-2900 for more information.

**GREEN DRINKS NEWPORT**
First Thursday of each month
5:30 – 8:30PM at Norey’s, 156 Broadway, Newport, RI.
Green Drinks is an international organization that allows people in the “green” and environmental community to come together on the first Thursday of each month in the Newport area. Through this network people have made friends, found jobs, exchanged information, developed new ideas and have helped others in the field with special projects. Updates at www.greendrinks.org
credit members must fully complete a
course evaluation. CM 6

This course takes approximately six
hours to complete. You can go through
the course modules all at the same time
or start and stop the course as your
time permits. For each module, you can
download an audio script and a copy of
the PowerPoint slides in the resources
section. The multimedia lectures will
automatically start and play within an
embedded RealPlayer. You must have
the Free RealPlayer downloaded and
installed in your computer to hear and
view the lectures.

For more information, instructions and
FAQ’s, see: http://professional.captus.
com/Planning/bia/default.aspx.

Audio/Web Conferences via
APA National

APA continues to offer a series of Audio/
Web Conferences with AICP Certifica-
tion Maintenance (CM) credit from its
website at www.planning.org/audiocon-
fERENCE/. Audio/web conferences bring
top-quality training right to your desk
or conference room.

As part of its continued initiative to
promote planning education and upon
evaluation of all the votes placed for
session topics earlier this summer,
the Central Massachusetts Region-
al Planning Commission (CMRPC) and
MASSAPA have partnered to host all of
the scheduled audio/web conferences
at the CMRPC office. All planners, town
administrators, selectmen, planning
board members and other interested
city and town officials are invited to at-
tend. In addition, the MArC in Boston
is hosting the series of audio/web con-
fferences as well. For more information
about registering, go to: www.mapc.org
or www.cmrpc.org (contact: Jonathon E.
Church, AICP).

The 2009 series continues with the
following sessions:

APRIL 15, 2009
Zoning for Transit-Oriented
Development
4:00–5:30pm CM 1.5

MAY 13, 2009
Inclusionary Housing
4:00–5:30pm CM 1.5

MAY 27, 2009
Great Plans, Great Communities
4:00–5:00pm CM 1.5

JUNE 24, 2009
2009 Planning Law Review
4:00–5:30pm CM 1.5

APA Monthly Webcasts

APA PA

Agricultural Preservation CM 1.5
April 3, 2009, 1 pm–2:30 pm EDT
Dr. Tom Daniels, Professor of City
and Regional Planning, University of
Pennsylvania

Bob Wagner, Senior Director for
Farmland Protection Programs,
American Farmland Trust

Agriculture is a vital industry across the
U.S., but suburban and rural develop-
ment is consuming agricultural lands at
a pace of two acres every minute. Over
the past 30 years the rate of develop-
ment has been increasing, with our
most fertile lands being lost the fastest.
As planners, it is important for us to
realize that a majority of our food prod-
ucts are produced in urban-influenced
areas – areas where planners have the
potential to make substantial positive
changes. Various approaches and
examples to agricultural preserva-
tion will be explored.

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Email: mail@rkgassociates.com
Web: www.rkgassociates.com
**MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF PLANNING DIRECTORS (MAPD)**

**2009 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

*June 4 & 5, 2009*

*Salem Waterfront Hotel & Suites 225 Derby Street Salem, MA*

Conference topics we are working on include:

- Renewable Energy Technologies and Clean Energy Choice
- How to Deal Effectively with the Media
- Preservation through Bylaws and Ordinances
- Floodplain Management and Hazard Mitigation
- Ethics
- Salem Mobile Workshop
- Subdivision Performance Securities
- Planning and Public Health
- Recent Court Decisions

Hotel Accommodations: Hotel reservations and payment for overnight accommodations shall be made directly with the Salem Waterfront Hotel & Suites, at 978-740-8788. In order to receive the preferred rate you must make your reservation no later than May 4, 2009 and also identify your affiliation with MAPD. The preferred rate is $129.00 for standard room plus state and local taxes. Check in time is no earlier than 3:00 pm and check-out time is no later than 11:00am.

**FIFTH ANNUAL SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SUMMIT**

*May 1 & 2, 2009*

*UMass-Amherst, Campus Center, Amherst, MA*

UMass Amherst is partnering with Co-op Power to host the fifth annual Sustainable Energy Summit this year at the Campus Center on May 1st and 2nd. The timely theme of the 2009 Sustainable Energy Summit is "This is the Year! Now is the Hour!"

Please sign up now to sponsor, exhibit, present, and support this great event! Click here for the sign up form: [www.nesea.org/events/sustainableenergysummit_50](http://www.nesea.org/events/sustainableenergysummit_50)

As part of a wide-ranging program on topics including home energy efficiency, alternative energy, and community-owned renewable power, the Sustainable Energy Summit will feature workshops on campus sustainability and clean energy research frontiers. The workshop, "Our Shrinking Carbon Footprint", will include tours of new construction projects at UMass Amherst, which utilize LEED or near-LEED design components that yield dramatic reductions in energy use. A Clean Energy Research Frontiers' session will showcase some of the latest clean energy science and technology under development on campus.

For more information on campus sustainability and clean energy research, go to [www.umass.edu/green](http://www.umass.edu/green)

Complete information about Co-op Power is available on their website: [www.cooppower.coop](http://www.cooppower.coop)

**EACH WEEKEND IN APRIL AND SCHOOL VACATIONS**

*Seal Watch and Lighthouse Cruises*

Join Save The Bay and The Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation for award-winning seal watch and lighthouse cruises around Rose Island aboard the M/V Alletta Morris. Binoculars and expert guides are provided for the Bay’s coolest winter family outing! Watches are held on weekends and school vacations through April 2009. Boat departs from Bowen’s Ferry Landing in Newport. $20 per person ($15 for members of STB, RILF, seniors and children ages 5-12). Contact epfirrmann@savebay.org or savebay.org for more information.
Career Opportunities

For information on posting a job ad here, see the Jobs link on www.massapa.org.

City of Portsmouth, NH

PRINCIPAL PLANNER

Under the general direction of the Planning Director this position is responsible for daily administration of the Planning Department’s zoning and land use regulatory review system. Position coordinates and conducts complex land use regulatory reviews and assesses proposals for land use and development to determine compliance with the Zoning Ordinance, other municipal land use regulations, and applicable state and federal laws. The work requires examining, analyzing and evaluating facts and circumstances surrounding each application for land use and development; determining zoning and regulatory compliance; and responding to inquiries from property owners, developers, attorneys and engineers. Please visit our website for complete information at www.cityofportsmouth.com.

Town of Moultonborough, NH

TOWN PLANNER

Town Planner Progressive community in the beautiful Winnipesaukee and White Mountain region, fresh off its recent Master Plan update, seeks first ever Town Planner. Supports Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment, Conservation Commission, Capital Improvements Program Committee and others as required. Successful candidate will be (a) knowledgeable in zoning, subdivision rules and regulations, environmental issues and other applicable statutes; together with sufficient knowledge of the construction, building and health regulatory environment to coordinate technical review sessions, (b) fluent in computer software programs and applications for GIS System development and the maintenance, use and application thereof; (c) skilled in written and oral communications; and (d) able to involve, and work effectively with, an actively engaged local community. Requires a Bachelor’s degree in planning, business/public administration, landscape architecture or a related field; five years experience in professional planning, preferably in local government; or any equivalent combination of education and experience which demonstrates possession of the required knowledge, skills and abilities. Master’s degree in planning and/or land use, AICP and other professional certifications, and some supervisory experience are preferred attributes.

Learn more at www.moultonborough-nh.gov (Paid, Volunteer and Contract Openings). Submit seven (7) copies of application letter, resume and standard town application form, to Mr. Carter Terenzini, Town Administrator, 6 Holland Street, PO Box 139, Moultonborough, NH 03254. Position is open until filled. Reviews begin Thursday, April 30, 2009. Competitive salary and benefits DOQ/DOE. EEO Employer.
Questions

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

Chapter Mailing Address

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

For the RIPA 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, please submit content by the 20th OF EACH MONTH. 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
1/4-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)
1/4-page vertical: 3.5in (w) × 4.875in (h)
1/4-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

Ad rate is $25, and includes posting on the newsletter and on the MassAPA website.

Go to www.massapa.org and www.rhodeislandapa.org for instructions. Send cover letter and payment to chapter mailing addresses.