

MASSACHUSETTS PLANNING

A publication of the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Planning Association



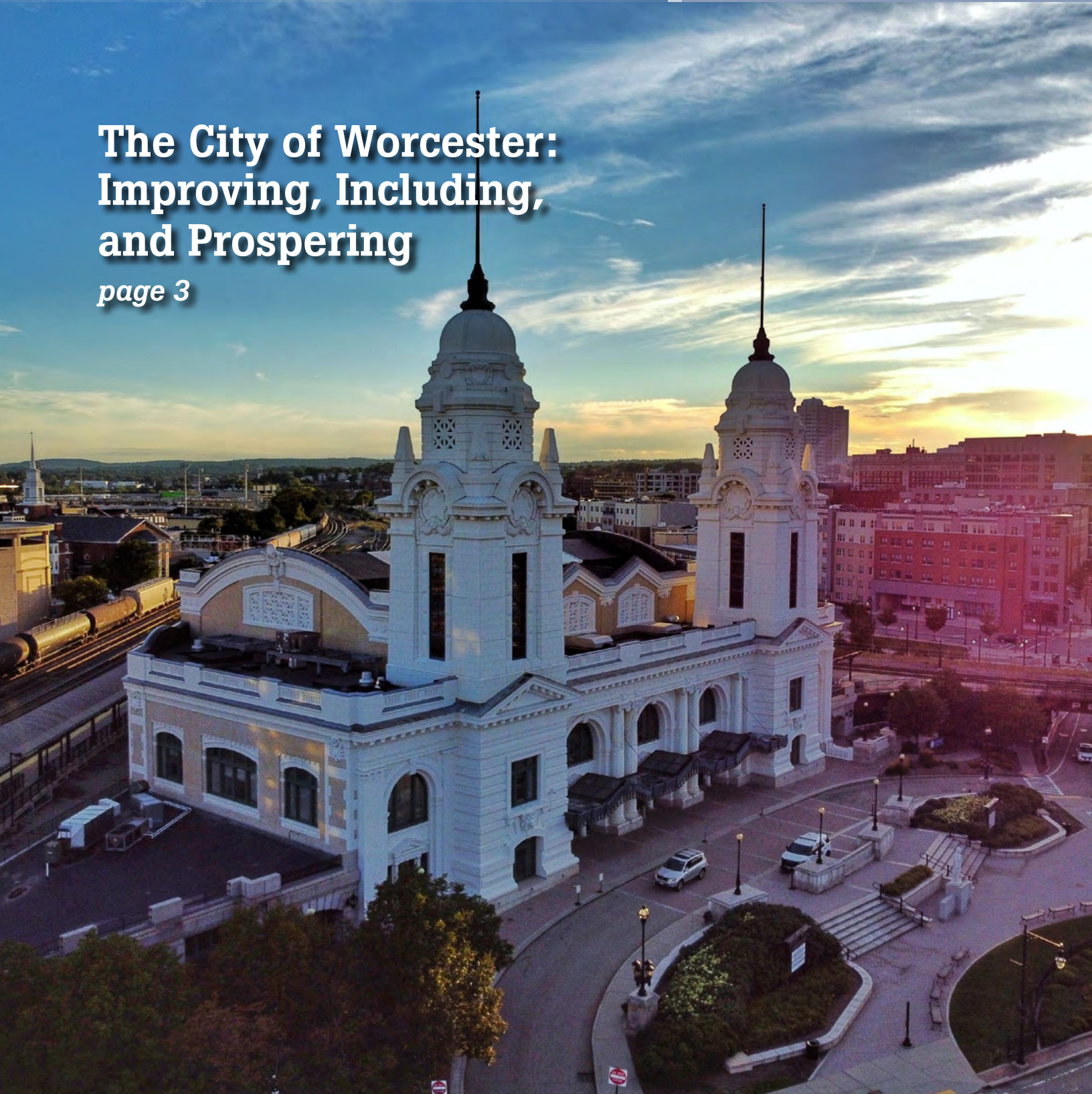
American Planning Association
Massachusetts Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

Spring 2021

The City of Worcester: Improving, Including, and Prospering

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On the cover: Union Station, Worcester (photo: Caio Gutierrez)

From the President



Happy Spring, planner friends! I hope this finds you well and adjusting to the beginning of a new normal. As we dive into 2021, we are still faced with some interesting challenges, but it seems like we are settling into some new routines. We are such a resilient profession and I am so proud to work with so many passionate, energetic, and caring planners. Please know that your commitment to getting us through this pandemic safely is recognized and appreciated more than you know. Keep up the great work!

I want to call your attention to four points of interest this Spring:

- [APA National Planning Conference 2021](#) – May 5-7, 2021. Have you registered yet? If not, [register today!](#) Let's show the conference our Massachusetts pride...oh and you can get some CM!
- APA-MA Board Elections are this year! We have twelve elected Board positions open and encourage you to consider running. [Check out the call for nominations.](#)
- We are still operating under a Bridge Strategic Plan. What's that? Instead of a three-year Strategic Plan, because of the pandemic and unknowns surrounding it, and that we could not meet in person to go through a true strategic planning exercise, we adopted a 1-year plan that will connect (or bridge...get it?!) our last three-year Strategic Plan to the next three-year plan. Check out the [Bridge Strategic Plan](#) – there are 14 realistic actions which we have begun implementing already. We look forward to continuing to use this as our direction into the budgeting process in May and June.
- Did you know we have five APA-MA Committees?! They are all doing some amazing work right now, including holding monthly meetings, organizing virtual events, and even creating Facebook pages. Want to dive deeper into your economic development roots? Help the planning profession embrace equity, diversity and inclusion? Educate your peers on fair housing? [Join a Committee today!](#)

Stay informed! We are regularly updating our website (www.apa-ma.org), and posting on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#). We also send out bi-weekly newsletters with regular updates on Chapter activities. Please make sure your contact information is up-to-date on APA's website at [My APA](#). I hope to "see" you soon!

Be well,

Angie

Angela J. Cleveland, AICP
aclevelandaicp@gmail.com

The City of Worcester: Improving, Including, and Prospering

by Kerrie Salwa and Emily Glaubitz, Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC)

One who is re-visiting the city of Worcester for the first time in a couple decades may be mesmerized at the changes that have taken place. An urban landscape previously marked by a dilapidated and roofless train station, a failed shopping mall that divided the city, scattered vacant lots, and a lackluster downtown, has experienced a rejuvenation fueled by public and private investment, and guided by conscious planning efforts. Now the city boasts a Triple-A baseball team in a new ballpark, vibrant bar and restaurant scene, thriving small businesses and pop-ups, endless arts and entertainment opportunities, world-class health care, an emerging bio-manufacturing industry, and an eager anticipation for the direction this post-industrial city is heading. No longer just a place one drives by on I-290, Worcester has become a standout New England destination. So, what happened to get Worcester to where it is today?

The Journey

Worcester was no exception to an age that gave way to expansive suburban sprawl,



Kerrie Salwa



Emily Glaubitz

a culture of dependency on the automobile, booming highway construction that fragmented neighborhoods, big-box retailers and malls that destroyed small businesses, and the economic and social decline of the downtown. Taking lessons from a failed urban renewal plan and unsustainable development patterns, contemporary urban planning in Worcester now focuses on a greater balance of land use strategies such as the availability of diverse jobs and housing options, appropriate provision of social services and infrastructure, ensuring neighborhoods are walkable and connected, re-use of historic buildings, and promotion of environmentally-conscious practices.

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Polar Park is the new home of the Worcester Red Sox, who will play their first game here on May 11, 2021.



Cairo Gutierrez (Instagram @caio Gutierrez)

CitySquare with Union Station in the foreground.

Worcester *cont'd*

With a journey that was slow to gain traction, facing many obstacles and naysayers along the way, Worcester has fully embraced a renewed energy in its revitalization efforts in the last decade. The prominent catalyst that set off a snowball effect of public and private investment in downtown was notably the CitySquare project, which targeted the 20 acres previously occupied by the former Galleria shopping mall, aiming to replace the defunct mall with mixed-used development. Following dormancy due in part to the 2008 Recession, the project made headway in 2010 when a LEED Silver office building was constructed to house the Worcester branch of disability insurer Unum Group, followed by development of a new 66,000 sq. ft. Cancer and Wellness Center by St. Vincent Hospital. CitySquare has continued to grow with a 168-room luxury AC Hotel by Marriott and adjacent 110 Grill restaurant; a five-story, 370-unit apartment complex; and a 550-space public underground parking facility. Approximately \$90 million public investment from the State, Growth District Initiative, MassWorks, and DIF has generated \$298 million in private development to make the CitySquare project possible.

Travel from Union Station along Shrewsbury Street (and stop for meal at one of the dozens of restaurants or

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a beer at Wormtown Brewery along the way!) and you will reach Worcester's growing hub of health care, pharmaceuticals, and biotechnology. Anchors of this district include UMass Medical School, AbbVie Bioresearch Center, UMass Medicine Science Park, and yet another one of the city's exciting projects, The Reactory. This 46-acre campus dedicated to biomanufacturing has been made into reality with the unwavering support of the Baker-Polito administration and efficient coordination among the City of Worcester, Worcester Development Business Corp. (WBDC), Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce, and Massachusetts Biomedical Initiatives (MBI). Formerly Worcester State Hospital, the site of The Reactory has been transformed into a one-of-a-kind site with shovel-ready parcels specifically designed to accommodate top-quality biomanufacturing facilities. One of these parcels will soon be home to WuXi Biologics and their upcoming \$60 million facility that has been dubbed the "Facility of the Future."

A notable attraction of not only the city, but the region, is the Hanover Theatre for Performing Arts, a 2,300-seat historic theater that brings Broadway, music, and community events to downtown Worcester. An ambitious 2012 Theatre District Master Plan established a vision for the Hanover Theatre and surrounding neighborhood to become an 18-hour mixed-use neighborhood that supports a vibrant entertainment and cultural environment. This plan has helped establish the [Downtown Worcester Business Improvement District](#), a non-profit organization representing the owners of downtown's 140 properties that aims to build upon the existing investments within the area by allowing owners to coordinate improvements and supplemental services in the downtown to improve the business community and enhance the experience of those coming to Worcester's downtown.

With a journey that was slow to gain traction, facing many obstacles and naysayers along the way, Worcester has fully embraced a renewed energy in its revitalization efforts in the last decade.

May 11, 2021 marks an exciting day for the City of Worcester: the home game debut of the Worcester Red Sox at the brand-new Polar Park. The \$101 million ballpark has been developed in conjunction with a major redevelopment of the Canal District, the Wyman-Gordon property, a total redesign of the infamous Kelley Square and connecting streets to create a gateway to the Canal District and improve traffic safety and pedestrian and bicycle accommodations throughout the district.

The Ripple Effect

While investment in Worcester's transformation has been localized to specific districts, the broader implications for the rest of the city and region are becoming clear. The Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) embraces a holistic approach to planning, with the understanding that when one community prospers, this tends to benefit the surrounding communities as well. Taking a note from the city's recent success, communities in Worcester's periphery have been increasingly planning for their downtowns and historic village centers, investing in infrastructure improvements, building more diverse housing options, and tackling initiatives that years ago would have seemed far-fetched.

What's Next?

Years of careful planning, public and private investment, and implementation of a variety of projects have strategically positioned Worcester as an attractive city to live, work, and play in. The next step for this city? Development of a city-wide long-range plan, fittingly called **Worcester Now | Worcester Next**. A comprehensive plan will help weave together the visions that the numerous organizations, businesses, residents, and community leaders have for Worcester's future, ensuring that no one is left behind in the sweeping momentum of the city's growth.

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Caio Gutierrez (Instagram @caiogutierrez)



The sun sets behind the UMass Medical School and UMass Memorial Medical Center in this late-day view of the Kenneth F. Burns Memorial Bridge over Lake Quinsigamond.

Worcester's Chief Development Officer, Peter Dunn, noted that the focus of the plan will be both on understanding the community today, and building from that understanding toward a sustainable, healthy, inclusive and prosperous future.

Worcester leaders have tackled economic recessions, a global pandemic, and any curveball thrown their way. Now taking on every opportunity possible to improve, include, and prosper, it is clear to all that the City of Worcester is wide awake.

— *Kerrie Salwa is a Principal Planner at CMRPC specializing in economic development. Passionate about this field, she enjoys working closely with the communities in the region on economic development initiatives. She currently staffs the Southern Worcester County Economic Development Organization Board of Directors and multiple subcommittees...* *Emily Glaubitz is an Associate Planner at CMRPC who specializes in housing and economic development planning. She is a graduate of Clark University with a M.A. in Community Development and Planning and, as a proud Worcester resident, looks forward to what the future has in store for this resilient city.*



This article was submitted by Jim Robbins, Central Region Representative of the APA-MA Board of Directors. Jim has been a professional planner for 38 years and is presently the Planning Director for the Town of Westborough. He can be reached at jrobbins@town.westborough.ma.us.

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Introducing APA-MA's Newest AICP Fellows

Fellows of AICP are nominated and selected by their peers to recognize and honor their outstanding contributions as a professional planner. Induction to the AICP College of Fellows is the highest honor the American Institute of Certified Planners bestows upon a member. Congratulations to the newest AICP Fellows from Massachusetts!

Peter A. Flinker, FAICP CEP CUD

In more than 30 years of professional practice, Peter Flinker has produced nationally recognized publications, designed and built innovative new communities, and helped cities, towns, and regions create and implement plans for sustainable growth. A leader in the Smart Growth movement, he has won many awards for planning and design innovations that redirect suburban and rural growth into revitalized main streets and village centers, and into vibrant new centers set within a permanent network of greenways and green spaces. He actively works to build bridges between the professions as an interdisciplinary team leader, teacher, and enthusiastic participant in numerous organizations and conferences.



ing Economic Development Incentive Program. As the first director of Roslindale Village Main Street, she built a nationally acclaimed model program for urban neighborhood revitalization. McCabe developed three award winning plans in Foxborough, Medfield, and New Bedford, Massachusetts, and Boston Architectural College's studio course addressing natural disaster recovery during Katrina.

Steve J. Sadwick, FAICP

Steve Sadwick is at the forefront of the Massachusetts planning community. In addition to exceptional service as planner and assistant town manager for Tewksbury, he served over 15 years as mentor and cultivator of emerging leaders in Massachusetts planning organizations. Through leadership, communication, and organizational skills he enhanced APA Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Association of Planning Directors. He advised legislators and land-use advocates about the critical need to update Massachusetts's outdated zoning statutes. His long-term leadership increased visibility and strengthened planning resources for Massachusetts professional and citizen planners. Sadwick continues to make a difference in Massachusetts.



Justin B. Hollander, FAICP

Justin Hollander is a professor of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning at Tufts University. For almost a decade he worked as a planner before commencing a career as a researcher and teacher in 2006; since then he has made notable contributions to planning knowledge and practice in the areas of shrinking cities, Big Data, brownfields, and the intersection between cognitive science and the design of cities. He is the author of seven books on urban planning and design, most recently *An Ordinary City: Planning for Growth and Decline in New Bedford, Massachusetts* (2018).



Jeff Speck, FAICP

Jeff Speck is a city planner and writer who advocates internationally for more walkable cities. As Director of Design at the National Endowment for the Arts from 2003 through 2007, he created the Governors' Institute on Community Design. Prior to his federal appointment, Mr. Speck spent ten years as Director of Town Planning at DPZ & Co., a key firm behind the New Urbanism movement. He is co-author or sole author of a number of landmark planning titles including *Suburban Nation*, *The Smart-Growth Manual*, and the award-winning *Walkable City*. His TED talks have been viewed more than four million times.



Kathleen A. McCabe, FAICP

Kathleen McCabe's career has focused on creating stronger communities and equitable local economies through planning and community engagement. McCabe is a planner-doer who has successfully planned, founded, and started community-based programs and effected public policy. She expanded Massachusetts economic development toolbox with business improvement district and DIF legislation and launched Massachusetts's lead-



Onward to a Cleaner, Greener, More Just Massachusetts

by Elijah Romulus, Old Colony Planning Council

"We Are The Ones We Have Been Waiting For." – Alice Walker

Environmental Justice is a term the average citizen may have a vague understanding of, a buzz word for those in the policy and planning arenas. For me it was a call to action.

Brockton, like many other working class gateway cities across the state of Massachusetts, is home to hard working people, a vibrant culture, and a hub of growth. Growing up in the City of Champions, I remember playing two-hand touch football and tag at recess with my classmates. I also remember the asthma issues a lot of my friends had, the inhalers they always had to have on them when playing with us. To me it was just a regular part of growing up. It wasn't until I got older that I discovered the connections between the built environment and the effects it had on the people working, playing, learning, and living in it.

I started volunteering in Brockton when I completed my undergrad degree and came back home. I got connected with Stop the Power, a movement to prevent a power plant from siting another solid waste incinerator in Brockton. It led me on a path to learn about the connection between dirty technologies like the one previously mentioned and childhood asthma rates/hospitalizations. Somewhat of a social awakening occurred and spurred

me to work with local politicians, professors, and activists in this work. I applied to grad school at Tufts University for urban planning and environmental policy (UEP) and while there I focused some of my studies on environmental justice and planning. I worked with my local politicians doing this work, like Rep. Michelle DuBois on codifying the EJ law that Deval Patrick had made as an executive order. This led me to testify before the state Senate's ways and means commission back in 2015 to put EJ measures into law; finally, in 2021, we see the climate bill taking these measures and cementing them.

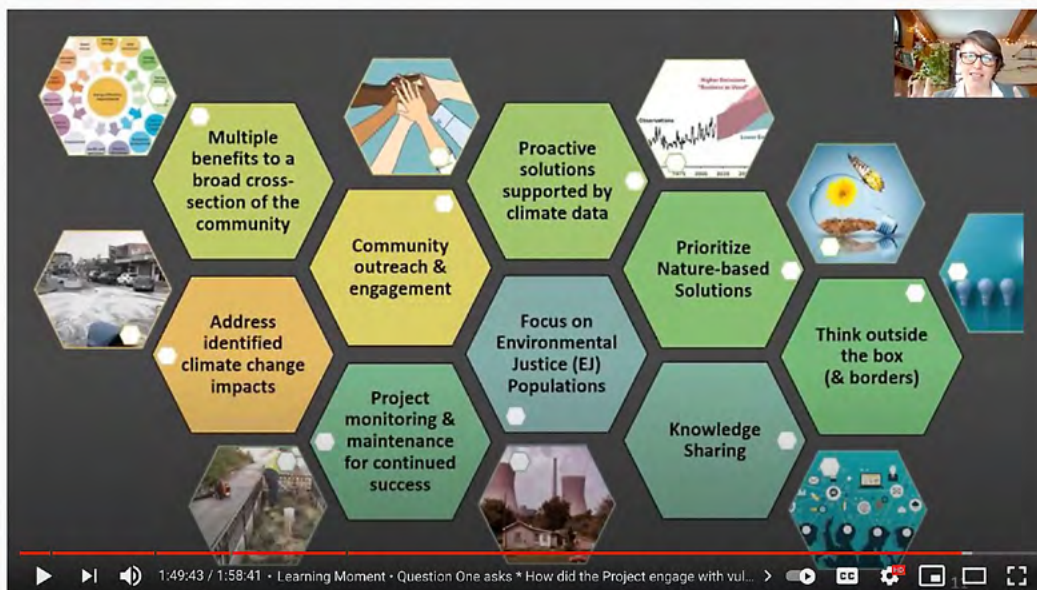
Professionally, I made the conscious decision to work in the public sector and become an urban planner. I wanted to stay close to these issues, whether in land use planning or energy planning. Currently, as a Senior Comprehensive Planner with Old Colony Planning Council, I work with communities in the South Shore on climate change preparedness, hazard mitigation, and energy planning, whether through the Green Communi-



ties, Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness, or Hazard Mitigation Planning. These programs help communities retrofit their lights for better energy savings, get electric vehicles to reduce carbon emissions, target problem areas as a result of climate change, and create plans of action to address them.

I still volunteer where I can and that includes sitting on the advisory board for Clean Water Action MA. Their work is important in the region, whether that means working in Malden to ensure lead pipes are replaced for clean water, advocating and testifying against solid waste incinerators being placed in EJ communities and proposing progressive action on

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Screen capture from a webinar on Community Engagement and Environmental Justice conducted by the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program in January 2021. The MVP program was created in 2017 by Governor Baker to provide support for cities and towns in Massachusetts to identify climate hazards, assess vulnerabilities, and develop action plans to improve resilience to climate change. Communities that complete the MVP Planning Grant process become designated as an MVP Community and are eligible for MVP Action Grant funding to implement priority actions identified through the planning process. Learn more at resilientma.org/mvp/index.html.

Onward *cont'd*

the state's 2030 Solid Waste Plan, and working alongside other organizations campaigning for environmental and economic justice campaigns.

From my own experience, there are many opportunities to get engaged and do meaningful work for the environment, preventing the harmful effects of climate change and fostering environmental justice.

Progress doesn't happen solely in conference rooms, on social media, or protests in the streets. It's a combination of all these things from good-faith actors that can help save the next generation from dealing with the mistakes and inaction of our own.

— *Elijah Romulus can be reached on Twitter @mansa_eli.*

From my own experience, there are many opportunities to get engaged and do meaningful work for the environment, preventing the harmful effects of climate change and fostering environmental justice.



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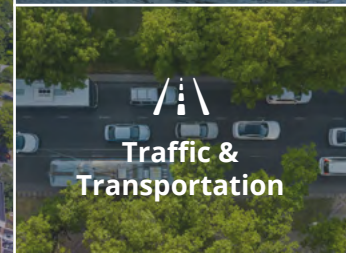
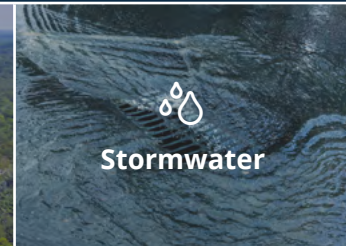
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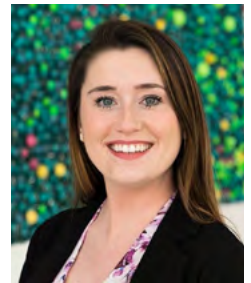
Massachusetts Has Two New Sustainability Champions: Fiona Coughlan and Elizabeth Faxon

The Sustainable Communities Division (SCD) launched a Sustainability Champion's program in September 2014 to accelerate the integration of sustainability in state APA chapter level activities throughout the United States. Today, this group has been tasked with extending SCD's outreach and message on climate action by engaging their respective states and fostering regional dialogue and collaboration. The Climate Champions are also tasked with engaging directly with their state chapters to foster increased collaboration between the national APA and the state chapters. The Climate Champions will be an integral part of a national sustainability network focused on facilitating cross-regional collaboration for climate action and sustainability; building capacity in their respective states and local chapters in association with SCD leadership and other Champions; being a local and regional resource for planners and allied professionals; and focusing on empowering planners to advance climate action to create sustainable, resilient, and equitable communities.

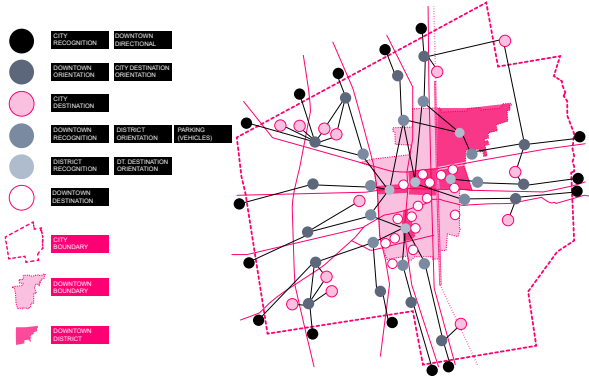
Massachusetts now has two new Climate Champions: Fiona Coughlan and Elizabeth Faxon! In conjunction with APA-MA, the APA-MA Sustainability Committee, and the APA Sustainable Communities Division, the Champions will promote climate action efforts and forward sustainable practices across the Commonwealth and the larger APA region. Please see below for two short bios of our Champions.

Fiona Coughlan, AICP

Hello! My name is Fiona Coughlan. I am a Community Planner for Barrett Planning Group, a woman-owned firm based out of Plymouth, MA. I received my Master's Degree in City Planning from Boston University and my Bachelor's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Framingham State University. I am heavily involved in outreach, event organization, and



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Downtown Wayfinding, Brockton, MA

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networking, constantly looking for new opportunities to connect and promote sustainability! I currently serve on the APA Sustainable Communities Division (SCD) Executive Committee and am involved with the APA-MA Sustainability Subcommittee. My interests lie in sustainable development practices, conservation, comprehensive planning, and development impact analysis. Please feel free to reach out anytime via email with questions, concerns, and ideas at fiona@barrettplanningllc.com. Please also connect with me on LinkedIn at [linkedin.com/in/fcoughlan](https://www.linkedin.com/in/fcoughlan).

I look forward to the next two years as a Climate Champion, growing the program's reach, underscoring the great work the state has done to date, and creating new opportunities for the program and the chapter to promote sustainability and climate action. We have reached the turning point, and must collectively work together to save our planet for future generations – I hope to do as much as I can as your Climate Champion!

Beth Faxon

I am the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals Administrator and the Massachusetts Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program manager for the Town of Townsend. I also am a representative of the Townsend Planning Board on the Montachusett Joint Transportation Committee Subcommittee of the [Montachusett Regional Planning Commission](#); and project manager for the [2020 Town of Townsend Hazard Mitigation Plan and Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness plan](#) recently adopted by FEMA, MEMA, and the Board of Selectmen. I am also on the Town of Pepperell Climate Change Council. Reach me at bfaxon@townsendma.gov.

If you are interested in applying to be a Climate Champion, please visit the following website: www.apascd.com/climate-champions. If you are interested in collaborating with the Climate Champions on events, please feel free to email them at their provided email addresses.



Carol Thomas Memorial Scholarship Fund Awards

by Bob Mitchell FAICP, CTMSF Committee

The APA-MA Chapter established a scholarship fund to honor Carol Thomas FAICP, a pioneer in the planning profession in Massachusetts and nationally who passed away in 2019 at the age of 95.

Since its establishment, the Board has initiated fundraising efforts and established goals for the scholarship and recently adopted policies for the fund.

The Chapter Board of Directors is pleased to announce the awarding of the first three scholarships.

Carol was a great mentor to students, having taught at the Harvard Graduate School of Design and the University of Rhode Island. Thus, the Board has decided that the initial grant of scholarships will be given for the purpose of covering the registration cost for three planning students for the APA-NPC2021 which will be held (virtually) May 5-7, 2021.

The awards go to:

Becky Eidelman, Candidate for a Masters of Arts in the Department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning at Tufts University

Victoria Desclos, Candidate for a Masters in Regional Planning in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning, University of Massachusetts-Amherst

Mary Coughlin, Candidate for a Masters in Urban Planning from the Department of Urban Planning and Design, Harvard University

Congratulations to our 2021 Carol Thomas Memorial Scholarship Award recipients!

Calling for Nominees for FAICP

It's time to think about nominating yourself to become a Fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners. If you are an AICP-certified planner and have been certified for 15 years, you are eligible to be considered a Fellow of AICP. Both mid-career and long-time planners should consider submitting an application. There are many Massachusetts planners who demonstrate excellence in planning and are making significant contributions to the planning field, whether it is through professional practice, teaching, mentoring, research, or community service and leadership. Don't be bashful, consider submitting a nomination application.

Applications are due on August 25. You can access the application materials at www.planning.org/faicp. The Planning & Women's Division did a webinar on how to apply to be a Fellow, which you can access through the Planners Webcast at www.youtube.com/watch?v=r7EwilU4c54. The application does take some time, so start soon. Nominate yourself. Become a Fellow!

Meet our newest fellows on page 7!

NEWS FROM MassACP | Consulting Planners' Perspective

Pandemic Recovery and Re-Opening

by Kathleen "Kathy" McCabe, FAICP

As the number of people in Massachusetts who are vaccinated increases and businesses are re-opening, it's time to think about how planners and communities will "re-open" and resume activities. As consultants and planners, we have learned a lot during the pandemic. It challenged our resilience, ability to adapt, and agility to learn new technologies. We found that planners and our communities can pivot, be flexible, and integrate new technologies and ways of doing business. The pandemic also exposed many of the inequalities and challenges in our communities, as to housing, jobs, access to services and healthy amenities, such as parks.

Although the pandemic is not over, here are a few areas where as a planning community we need to continue and build upon some of the innovations of the pandemic era. (We do still need to adhere to best practices including masking, social distancing, and encourage persons to become vaccinated.) Community meetings and hearings today now often include people who previously did not attend, especially parents with young children and folks with limited transportation access to meetings. Virtual meetings along with in-person meeting options need to continue. Hybrid models using both virtual and in-person engagement need to be explored and tested. Community consultation is a bedrock of good planning. We need to facilitate the policy and regulatory frameworks on the state and local level, including the Open Meeting law, to enable continued use of virtual meeting formats and hybrid models.

Permitting and Procurement. Some communities adapted and allowed digital submissions of permit applications and submission of responses to RFPs,



Peter Lowitt

whether it was via a third-party vendor or direct email or drop-box submissions. This saves time and expenses for both municipalities and applicants. Automating the permitting and procurement processes and digitizing responses needs to be a standard practice universally adopted by municipalities.

Public Space Adaptations. During the pandemic, communities added spaces for curb-side pick-up at stores and restaurants, which offered a life-line to struggling small businesses. Dining al fresco took place on the street, in parking lots—both public and private—and in outdoor spaces large and small. Some downtowns and town centers closed streets to enable walking and outdoor dining in summer 2020 to help local restaurants. Other communities experimented with Slow Streets in the wake of lower traffic levels to create more areas for walking and bicycling. The public responded well and embraced many of these new adaptations. Instead of reverting to pre-pandemic standards, as planners we need to embrace these outdoor life-lines and experiments. Creating spaces for outdoor gathering, including restaurant dining, in commercial centers is now expected. As a planning community we need to start now to institutionalize many of these adaptations within our regulatory frameworks. Whether it is parking regulations, zoning, or Board of Health standards, accommodations for small business and restaurant use of sidewalks, streets, parking areas, both on-street and off-street, need to be allowed and continued. The pandemic helped some communities activate their town centers and downtowns. The recovery needs to incorporate lessons learned.

Advancing Equity. In addition to these more short-term and immediate lessons from pandemic adaptations, as consultants and planners we should be addressing the

continued next page

Leonardi Aray



Ping pong anyone? The experience economy moves onto the streets in Belmont Center during the pandemic.

MassACP *cont'd*

inequalities exposed during the pandemic and considering how we as individuals and in our communities can advance equity and curb racism. To start, equity needs to be an element in master plans. Is your community equitable? What is needed? How will your community take steps to be more equitable? These are just a few of the questions that we all need to be asking.

Leonardi Aray



Tenting, umbrellas, potted palms, white picket fences, along with tables and chairs became part of Main Street, inviting al fresco dining in Gloucester.

The Mass Association of Consulting Planners is developing a series of programs and training on how to more effectively address equity and racism while working as a planning consultant and in the communities we serve. Mass-ACP continues to be committed to advancing equity and increasing the effectiveness of planners to serve all and live up to the Planners Code of Ethics. Stay tuned for upcoming program announcements.

Directory of Consulting Planners. The Mass Association of Consulting Planners maintains a directory of planning consultants and their specialties. If your community is in need of a planning consultant to provide expertise or offer additional capacity to your community's planning initiatives, check out the Directory of Consulting Planners at: www.macponline.org

RFP Announcements. Get the word out to the consulting planning community. We offer free posting of your RFP, quotes, and job announcements on the website for the Mass Association of Consulting Planners. Please send you announcements to Leonard Aray, President of Mass-ACP, at leonardi@larayarchitects.com.

— Kathleen "Kathy" McCabe, FAICP, is Vice-President of the Massachusetts Association of Consulting Planners.

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The PDO Corner

by Amanda Chisholm, APA-MA Professional Development Officer

Happy Spring! Hope that everyone has had a chance to get outside and enjoy the warm weather. I'm happy to share a few APA-MA professional development updates.

We have just wrapped up the virtual AICP Exam Prep Course and wish the best of luck to participants who are taking the exam this May and to everyone out there who is enrolled for the May exam. A reminder that registration for the May 2021 exam is currently open and runs through April 30th.

AICP Diversity Scholarships are available for those who are planning to take the November 2021 AICP exam with applications due on May 28, 2021. These scholarships help make the planning profession more diverse and accessible to those with financial need. Diversity is an inclusive concept which encompasses, but not is not limited to race, ethnicity, class, gender, age, sexuality, ability, educational attainment, spiritual beliefs, creed, culture, tribal affiliation, nationality, immigration status, political beliefs, and veteran status. The application will be posted on our website in the coming weeks.

I wanted to call out that there are currently two opportunities for AICP certified members to earn law and ethics credits through On Demand sessions that are part of the [Planning Webcast Series](#):

- CM | 1.5 LAW – [Public Art Life Cycle: Concept to Commission](#)
- CM | 1.5 ETHICS – [Ethics for Planners](#)

Stay well and feel free to reach out to me at pdo@apa-ma.org with any questions.

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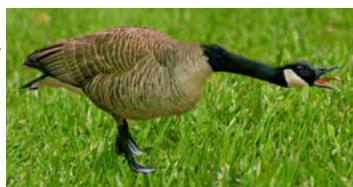
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Peter Lowitt



Hans Berni/Pixabay

Those of us growing up in the 1960s and 1970s are familiar with the TV series “Rat Patrol,” a WWII fiction roughly based on the Long

Range Patrol Groups’ behind-the-lines desert marauding in North Africa. But few if any have heard of the more mundane efforts of the “Goose Patrol,” the untold story of those of us tasked with keeping those wayward avian immigrants from Canada under control on active and former military bases throughout North America – until now, that is.

In the 1920s the Commonwealth of Massachusetts State Fish and Wildlife Department launched a successful program to attract and retain Canadian geese in the state. It was an incredibly successful government program. The nature of goose migration has changed over time. Ask any hunter you happen to know and they will tell you that the majority of geese no longer migrate north and south, but rather west to east in an effort to avoid the snowfall in the winter, and return inland once the snows melt. Geese are smarter than most of us give them credit for. For instance, geese watch the traffic light and use the crosswalk when crossing the street in front of the Home Depot in Waltham. Canada geese have become a nuisance because of their droppings, aggressive behavior, and noise. They pose a threat to the environment and carry

disease (Smith, A.E.; S.R. Craven and P.D. Curtis, 1999 *Managing Canadian Geese in Urban Environments*). With 500 acres of recreational fields and parkland to manage at the former Fort Devens, Canada geese are a real problem we have had to deal with. When you are paying good money to rent a facility to hold a sporting event, you don’t want to be playing on goose poop.

So how do those of us on goose patrol grapple with these wily creatures? We know they need access to open bodies of water. We know they are apprehensive about high grasses where their natural predators such as coyotes and fox might be lurking. This knowledge was carefully put to the test and has evolved over time. The article by Smith, et al. cited above contains a number of strategies for dealing with our pesky neighbors from the north. Some have been more successful than others. I would like to share with you what has worked here at Devens and what has not.

The former Fort Devens hires the state police to patrol the Devens Regional Enterprise Zone where I work managing the Devens Enterprise Commission, the quasi-governmental agency charged with redevelopment, permitting, and sustainability within the former base. The state police are rumored to have created an accident report form with a box to check off for “Goose Induced Accidents.” Imagine driving along at the legally posted speed limit when the car in front of you jams on the brakes to avoid hitting Mother Goose and her goslings

continued next page

who are traipsing across the road. Bang! Another goose-induced fender bender.

As noted earlier, geese like open mowed fields near ponds and other water sources. They don't like high brush and other heavily vegetated areas which could conceal predators. Base redevelopment involved creating a number of detention ponds to manage stormwater runoff. These became an attractive nuisance for the geese. Early days saw efforts to run string about one foot above ground elevation to prevent the geese from accessing the water source while grasses and other vegetation grew in. It didn't work. Often times the geese would mosey over to the un-mowed section of grasses surrounding the pond and fly the rest of the way to the pond. Strike one.

One of the more inventive efforts to discourage geese from using these ponds involved deploying statues of dead geese in an effort to dissuade the creatures. It isn't hard to imagine a gaggle of geese approaching the stone cold body of an apparent wayward member of the flock. "Stoney, are you okay?" they might honk. No reply. Closer they came and after a thorough investigation, the report went back, "Nothing to fear here." Deploying dead decoy geese along the sides of the detention basins to scare their brethren did not work. Strike two. Where were the predators?

The snow swirled and continued to fall and further blanket the former parade ground. The 40-acre field

THE MILITARY understand and use their knowledge of a goose and its need for daily access to water to their advantage. A goose lives to eat and poop and that knowledge was put to use at Fort Meade when the night prior to a large muster, troops spread bread crumbs across the parade ground. In the morning there was much evidence that what goes in one end, certainly comes out the other. The formation and parade was thoroughly disrupted.

looked peaceful in the snow. The stillness of the moment was broken as a car pulled to a stop along the empty roadway, and a muffled figure emerged with a camera around his neck. The man began to stealthily walk across the snowy field, lifting one booted foot high out of the snow and placing it in front of the other, camera at the ready and pointed toward a still, canine figure watching over the field. The gray form watching over the field did not move as the photographer moved steadily toward it. A coyote, still and silent over watching the field was framed against the snowy backdrop. What a picture. Except the coyote didn't *ever* move, even as our muffled photographer approached, who then realized he had just spent the last ten minutes stalking a plaster-cast coyote, and turned about and trundled back to his car.

I've watched this scene repeat itself over the years as people discover our semi-successful Canada goose control strategy. I prefer to think of it as bio-mimicry. It fooled the humans but the coyote statues' lack of movement didn't fool the geese.

During the construction of Devens Common the construction manager brought along his dog and it proved successful in warding off the creatures. Once construction wrapped up, a coyote statue was deployed. I saw it work—*once*—and only when a high school kid picked up the statue and ran with it toward the geese. Unfortunately we didn't have the dog and kid power to use these strategies on a long-term basis. Evaluating the situation we saw that movement was the key to tapping into the goose's fear of predators. Our friends at Devens Common addressed this by tying used CD cases around the neck of the Coyote statue so that it gave the appearance of movement when the cases blew in the wind. Today folks use shiny tape hung from string that flutters in the wind to achieve reasonably successful results. Folks using our 500 acres of fields have to navigate through the occasional load of goose poop, but the amount and numbers of geese are far reduced from the early days of Devens' redevelopment.

The work of the goose patrol continues, augmented by a growing number of coyotes—most of them actual mammals.

— Peter Lowitt, FAICP is Director/Land Use Administrator for the Devens Enterprise Commission. The DEC is the quasi-governmental agency charged with redevelopment permitting and sustainably redeveloping the former Fort Devens in North Central Massachusetts. Peter is also editor of this magazine.



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