

MARCH 2006

PLANNING ^{FYI} New England

Massachusetts Chapter & Rhode Island Chapter

Northampton Awarded AIA Sustainable Design/ Development Assessment Grant

by Carolyn Misch, AICP, Northampton Senior Land Use Planner

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Don't miss the APA National Planning Conference, April 22 to April 26. Register online at www.planning.org

The Grant

This past summer, the City of Northampton began structuring a comprehensive plan process. The City's last comprehensive plan was adopted in 1972, although the City has adopted several elements of a comprehensive plan (e.g., transportation, open space), and has been operating under these elements and a vision statement document now five years old. The overarching theme for our new plan is sustainability in the way we grow physically and fiscally.

With assistance from Pioneer Valley Planning Commission's Catherine Miller, the City applied for and received a grant from the American Institute of Architects to fund their Sustainable Assessment Design Team (SDAT). The SDAT is a community assistance program that focuses on the principles of sustainability. Under this grant, a team of volunteer professionals (such as architects, urban designers, planners, economists, and attorneys) is sent to work with community decision-makers and stakeholders to help them develop a vision and framework for a sustainable future.

The Team provides outside assessment of where communities throughout the country stand relative to sustainability practices. The grant consists of seven components: a preliminary scoping visit; a three-day visit from a multidisciplinary team; a report highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of the community with regard to sustainability, along with the opportunities and obstacles to change; consultations after a three-day visit; wrap up conference-call six months after delivery of the assessment report to review the progress the community is making; and a final site visit from selected team members one year after the three-day visit to review and comment on progress.

Unlike most of the other grant requests, who use AIA SDAT as a stand-alone process, Northampton's grant application focused on utilizing the AIA SDAT process as a mechanism to publicly kickoff our comprehensive plan process.

The Process/Outcome

The intensive three day charrette, was conducted by six volunteer experts, one AIA staffer, and a representative of AIA Western Massachusetts. It was based on issues Northampton identified for our Sustainable Northampton Planning process. The assessment team members were selected by AIA and included an economic developer, a growth management expert, a transportation advocate, a landscape architect with a focus on environment and open space protection, an architect with expertise in design/development of housing affordability options, and an architect with expertise in energy efficient design/development.

The charrette generated excitement and conversation within the community both about the coming plan process and about how we could evolve toward sustainability. Two full days of intensive interactive sessions with assessment team members and two open public forums in the evenings comprised the bulk of the charrette. The daytime sessions provided an opportunity for local experts in the fields of housing, engineering, architecture, construction, trades, local business representatives and human services to discuss issues in small roundtable sessions with assessment team members. These invitees helped the design team frame the subjects and identify challenges and possible solutions. Though we did not hear from everyone in the community, we believe it was generally viewed as a great success, both

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Massachusetts Chapter

President's Message, by Peter Lowitt, AICP, Chapter President



It's been a busy start to 2006. I am writing this column in late February and your board has already held a retreat during which time we reviewed our goals for the upcoming year, reviewed the tasks and roles of board members, revised the chapter mission statement, adopted a budget, initiated a move towards providing two electronic

only versions of the newsletter each year which will remove length restrictions on articles, facilitate the use of color photos, and allow longer, special issues of the newsletter.

In conjunction with the Massachusetts Consulting Planners, the chapter sponsored a program at the Wentworth Institute of Technology to evaluate the Executive Order 418 program which funded a great deal of planning in the Commonwealth. Joe Cosgrove, Larry Koff and Sean Bender and the other associated with this successful program are to be commended. Larry and Angus Jennings tell me that a white paper will emerge from the event which will be shared with the new administration.

With Doug Foy stepping down at the Office of Commonwealth Development, "the new administration" comes into sharper focus for many of us. Kudos to Mr. Foy for a job well done. Breaking down the silos separating various state agencies involved with development is a goal worthy of the time and effort you and your colleagues invested in it. Thank you.

Community Planning Day on the Hill will be held on the morning of April 12, 2006, at 10AM. Jim O'Connell is organizing the event and planners should make every effort to turn out and support our efforts to revise the Commonwealth's out dated planning and zoning statutes. Please RSVP to Chris Skelly, APA Administrative Offices, 22 William Street, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370; Email: Skelly-VIHC@comcast.net. Chris is working part time for APA and we will attempt make our visits more efficient. He will jointly schedule visits to legislators between 11AM and 3PM on 4/12/06. He will communicate back to help you visit as a group, be sure and thank our existing legislative supporters. Look for additional details on the chapter web site.

On Valentines Day evening, Chris Eaton and I attended a reaccreditation meeting for MIT's Department of Urban

Studies and Planning. Under Larry Vale's direction MIT participated in the University Forum on Kelo last December and MIT will host the second such event next fall which will focus on Post Katrina Disaster Recovery Planning, a subject on which he has written a highly respected book. We are looking forward to having closer relations with our university communities as Massachusetts is blessed with four accredited Planning Schools. To that end I want to request that alumnae of Tufts, MIT, Harvard's GSD, and UMASS Amherst contact me as the chapter wishes to designate an alumnae liaison between the chapter and the University and its Planning Student Organization to facilitate better communications and provide better services for our mutual benefit. Please contact peterlowitt@devensec.com if you are interested in serving your chapter and your planning school in this manner.

Save the dates of May 11-12, 2006 because the International Green Roof Conference is coming to Boston. One of the hats I wear when not acting as chapter president is chairman of Green Roofs for Healthy Cities, representing the North American green roof industry. My particular interest is in green roof policy and Green Roofs for Healthy Cities has been working with APA national to develop a workshop on the topic which will be officially launched in San Antonio in April. The second workshop will be held in Boston on May 10, 2006 and the Chapter has agreed to provide a discounted rate to APA members who wish to register and attend the program. Contact me, peterlowitt@devensec.com if you are interested in finding out more about this program.

The chapter is supporting a fundraising initiative whereby we share in the proceeds from the sale of Ducks, yes ducks, in a Ducky-Wucky Race. If your plastic duck (\$5 for 1 duck, \$20 for a flock of 5) comes in first, the winner's owner receives dinner for two, anywhere in the world, roundtrip airfare and two nights' accommodations. The chapter will receive approximately \$2-\$3 dollars of each duck sold. The exact amount is determined by where the winner chooses to travel and dine. This fund raiser is sponsored by the Ayer Rotary Club, of which I am president this year. Again, contact peterlowitt@devensec.com to purchase ducks or if you wish to sell them on behalf of the chapter.

San Antonio is the site of the national conference this April. It coincides with Fiesta week. I am working with our colleagues from the CT/RI/NNE chapters to arrange a New England Planners get together on Tuesday evening of the conference. Emails will go out to all MA registered conference attendees as we get closer to the event.

During the San Antonio conference APA will be debating the adoption of our new housing policy. Ms. Connie Kruger and Ms. Jennifer Raitt both played a role in developing this policy. Its on the chapter web site, www.massapa.org, so please check it out. Ms. Raitt is

interested in creating a Housing and Community Development committee for the chapter. Please contact her if you are interested. Jennifer M. Raitt, Executive Director, 51 State Street, 2nd Floor, Newburyport, MA 01950 978-499-9500, jmraitt@comcast.net.

On behalf of the American Planning Association Massachusetts Chapter, I would like to congratulate Mr. Robert Mitchell on his election as a Fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners. He will be inducted on Saturday at the APA National Conference. I cannot think of a more deserving candidate.
Peter Lowitt

Rhode Island Chapter

Chapter President's Message **Diane M. Feather, AICP** **Chapter President**

Comments Sought for State Land Use 2025 Plan and Strategic Housing Plan

Planners should familiarize themselves with drafts of two major State plans - "Land Use 2025" Rhode Island State Land Use Policies and Plan", and the "Rhode Island Five Year Strategic Housing Plan: 2006-2010, Five Thousand in Five Years" - and provide comments to the Statewide Planning Program. Drafts of both of these plans are available on the Statewide Planning Program's web site at www.planning.ri.gov. The schedule for the Land Use 2025 public workshop and hearings is also on the SPP web site (these will likely have taken place by the time the newsletter is published). *Regarding the Strategic Housing Plan, I would strongly recommend that municipal planners pay particular attention to the "Recommended Strategies" and "Action Plan" sections of the Strategic Housing Plan, and again provide any comments you may have to the Statewide Planning Program. The State Technical Planning Committee will be presented with a revised draft of the Strategic Housing Plan at their meeting of March 3, 2006. The Technical Planning Committee will be asked to refer the*

Plan to the State Planning Council for scheduling of public workshops and hearings.

Continuing Professional Development Program

The Executive Board recently voted to purchase instructional CD-ROM's from National APA on the following topics: Development Finance and Pro Formas, and Economics of Density. We will be instituting a loan program for the CD's and will be in touch with the membership when the CD's are available.

AS220

I hope everyone who attended the February 1st Awards Reception at AS220 enjoyed the event. It was a great location with an interesting tour and dynamic presentation from AS 220's Umberto "Bert" Crenca and Lucie Searle. AS220 is a non-profit community arts center located at 115 Empire Street in downtown Providence which provides nineteen artist/live work studios, four galleries, a performance space, a community darkroom, and a new bar and a new café, the "Taqueria Pacifica". The food by Taqueria Pacifica was delicious. RIAPA was their first private party, and they did an excellent job! If you're interested in visiting the galleries and enjoying some great food, visit the AS220 web site at www.as220.org for news, gallery details, and hours of operation for Taqueria Pacifica. Thanks go out to Bill Haase for again serving as the awards chair, and to Dan Baudouin, Joelle Crane, and Blanche Higgins for organizing the event.

Thanks to "Transit Oriented Development" Session Panel

Thanks to the panel members for the RIAPA-sponsored Transit Oriented Development session at the Rhode Island League of Cities & Towns Annual Convention held January 26th. Richard Davis, Executive Director of the Pawtucket Foundation; Barbara Sokoloff, President of Barbara Sokoloff Associates; Stephen Devine, Chief, Intermodal Planning, RIDOT; Pamela Sherrill of Pare Engineering, and moderator George Johnson, Assistant Chief, Statewide Planning Program. It was an excellent session. Hopefully we can schedule a future luncheon on this topic.

Save the Date - Annual Lobsterbake

Thanks to Mike DeLuca, we have confirmed a date for the Annual RIAPA Lobsterbake - *Friday, June 23, 2006 in Narragansett*. Stay tuned for more details.

Please feel free to call or send an email if you would like to discuss any Chapter activities (401-435-7532; email: dfeather@cityofeastprov.com). Thank you.

Remember to visit the Chapter web site at www.riapa.org.

Study Demonstrates that High Density Development Protects Water Resources

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has produced a report called *Protecting Water Resources with Higher-Density Development*. Many communities are asking where and how they can accommodate population growth while maintaining and improving their water resources. Some communities have interpreted water-quality research to mean that low-density development will best protect water resources. However, some water-quality experts argue that this strategy can backfire and actually harm water resources. Higher-density development, they believe, may be a better way to protect water resources. This study intends to help guide communities through this debate to better understand the impacts of high- and low-density development on water resources.

To more fully explore this issue, EPA modeled three scenarios of different densities at three scales - one-acre level, lot level, and watershed level - and at three different time series build-out examples to examine the premise that lower-density development is always better for water quality. EPA examined storm water runoff from different development densities to determine the comparative difference between scenarios. For hard copies, send an e-mail to ncepimal@one.net or call 800/490-9198 and request EPA publication 231-R-06-001.

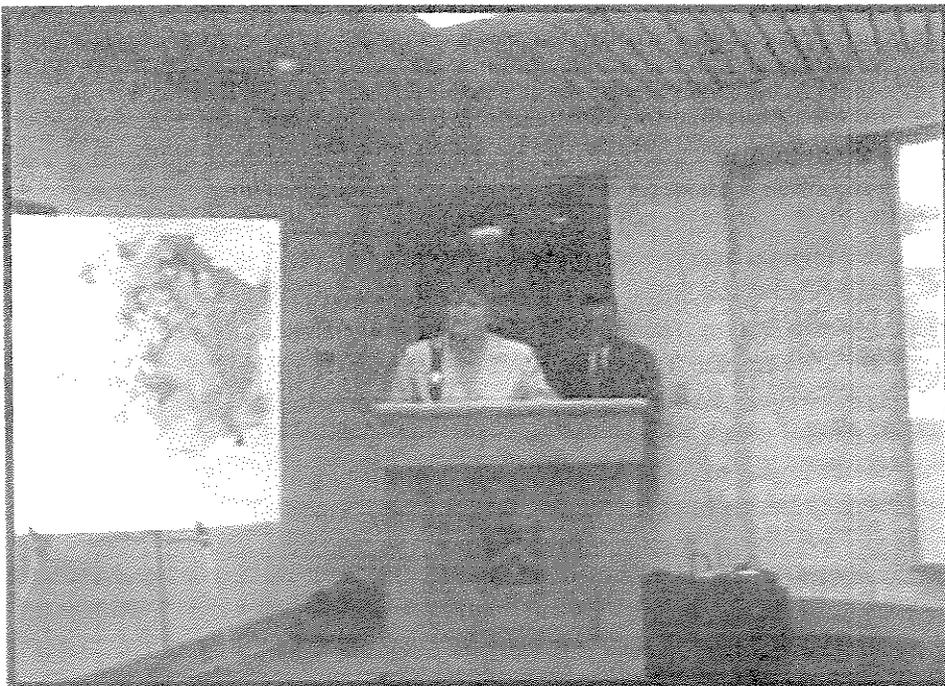
The Resilient City: How Modern Cities Recover From Disaster

Lawrence J. Vale and Thomas J. Campanella, Editors (Oxford University Press, Oxford)

Dr. Lawrence Vale's of MIT's new book, **The Resilient City: How Modern Cities Recover From Disaster** was listed as one of the top 10 new planning books for 2005 on Planetizen. Given the recent events in the Gulf Coast the topic and content are even more relevant. "Inspired by the events of September 11 but about much more, *The Resilient City: How Modern Cities Recover From Disaster* investigates urban disasters throughout history and around the world, in an effort to determine how and why cities almost inevitably recover and thrive in their wake." (from the Planetizen review).

New Report Highlights Smart Growth Policies as Stormwater Best Management Practices

EPA has published "Using Smart Growth Techniques as Stormwater Best Management Practices," part of a series of primers on smart growth. The goal of this document is to help communities that have adopted smart growth policies and plans recognize the water benefits of those smart growth techniques and suggest ways to integrate those policies into stormwater planning and compliance. Taking credit for the work a community is already doing can be a low-cost and practical approach to meeting water quality goals and regulatory commitments. For more information, follow the following URL: <https://www.lgean.org/html/whatsnew.cfm?id=1006>



Toni Hall from DHCD speaking at EO418 Workshop

An APA member in London, Ian Charie, writes the first of 2 articles on matters of interest to Planners in the UK and for US; Climate Change And All That – What's it got to do with Planning: a UK Perspective

As a seasoned planning consultant in the UK, I have seen the wide-ranging planning agenda move on in a number of different directions over time. Some of these – related, for example, to the efficient mix of land uses to seek to minimise journeys, seeking higher density development around public transport interchanges or seeking an improvement in the quality of buildings and spaces – Placemaking – are all ‘no brainers’ on this agenda.

Over time, we – as Planners – are also more fully grappling with the seriousness of the environmental agenda. The ‘S’ word (Sustainability) gets overplayed and over-used, but increasing traffic congestion, greater environmental impacts, questions about energy consumption, waste disposal, heat and power wastage and flood prevention, for example, have all become far greater ‘material planning considerations’ to affect our judgements regarding good, average or poor development proposals, or even markers of ‘exemplar’ projects. One area in particular – global climate change – must be grabbing all our attention: whether it is seasonal temperature/rainfall changes or catastrophic natural disasters such as the Asian Tsunami or Hurricane Katrina. We cannot ignore the relationship between how we plan our neighbourhoods, towns, cities and what is happening across the globe climatically.

In London, the Mayor is leading the charge to ensure that the above factors do not get left behind in London’s planning. The UK may not suffer from hurricanes, but we are seeing trends for warmer, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers. The point was brought home to me when explained that by 2040 (still seems some way away, but still in many of our lifetimes, and certainly that for our children) – winters could be +1.5 degrees C. higher with 25% more rainfall, and summers hotter by + 3 degrees C., with 30 – 40% less rainfall. All this, largely because of rising CO2 emissions.

So, this is affecting everybody – but what’s it got to do with Planning? Increasingly, a lot. Climate change is now recognised by Londoners as one of the top 4 concerns that affects them – along with cost of housing, crime and transport. The planning process – the conception and delivery of development, and the regulatory controls that apply – must play a significant part in this. The London Mayor is, therefore, bringing in a combination of planning policy measures (to assist cutting greenhouse gas emissions, for example) along with, at a more detailed level, pressing

for changes in building regulation controls (e.g. the way we build our buildings with regard to minimising energy loss) but also – and here’s the thing – expecting to be able to rely increasingly on a growing developer recognition that new developments that do meet increased sustainability and environmental standards and best practice (e.g. exemplar energy efficiency, combined heat and power, solar power, waste recycling etc.) are becoming highly marketable – because, those are the sorts of developments that people, with an increasing environmental awareness, want to live in. Throw in ‘life cycle costing’ – management and maintenance costs over a building’s life, rather than looking at minimising capital costs, and leaving others to worry about revenue costs – and we know we must be moving in the right direction. The dilemma becomes, obviously, if there is a cost to be borne by such initiatives, who bears it ?

Our London mayor, in wanting to encourage developers to incorporate such measures, and in wanting to get the balance right between part incentive and part regulatory control, will even consider reducing the affordable housing burden to fall on a developer if he is building an environmentally friendly scheme that is also doing its bit to help towards reducing impact on global warming.

Hopefully such approaches will catch on elsewhere; the statistic that really hit home: if everyone consumed as much in the way of resources as the average person in their home country, in the UK we would need 3 planets to survive, in the US 5 planets would be needed – but in Dubai, it would be 13.

Planners saving the Planet is an overstretched sense of responsibility – but we can all play our part.

ian.charie@ntlworld.com

Calling all email addresses!!

As New England Planning, the Newsletter of the Rhode Island and Massachusetts Chapters, begins to go electronic for two issues a year and our chapters move toward more electronic communications with our membership, we need you to make sure your information is correct. Please check yours on the APA website:

Go to APA home page at www.planning.org and scroll down to the My APA section.

Access your APA profile with your APA I.D. (6 digit number on Planning magazine label) and password.

Review and edit each section as necessary, click Submit Details and any changes entered correctly will appear right away.

in terms of initiating the big-picture conversation and in involving many sectors of the community.

The Team's draft report generated from these sessions was presented at a third public forum. The report identified the City's strengths while highlighting ways in which we could become more sustainable. The report challenges the City of Northampton to reevaluate how we integrate open space protection and economic development, create more equitable housing development, integrate transportation with commercial and residential development, and address many other social equity and energy resource conservation issues. This provides a strong foundation upon which the next steps of our process can be built as we move into phase two of our planning in the spring of 2006.

Post Mortem

This process achieved the desired outcome of generating discourse about issues that otherwise might have been politically off-limits and inspired constructive interaction among disparate interests. From a planner's (and APA member's) perspective, this elicits many questions about our role and our professional organization's role in such undertakings. Typically, planners would initiate such a broad participatory processes particularly as it relates to community-wide versus site-specific sustainability. The issues, challenges, and recommended strategies were certainly not new. However, the delivery of such challenges to our community from those who had no political motivations or vested interest allowed concepts and challenges to be heard more carefully and thoughtfully.

Inviting a group of professional volunteers versus paid consultants to assess a community reinforces the message and its weight. It is curious that APA does not have such a program for those communities like Northampton, which does not have the resources to pay outside consultants to evaluate and assess and to coordinate a comprehensive plan process. Perhaps instead of parallel efforts on the part of APA, there is room for a collaborative effort between AIA and APA to expand upon AIA's fledgling program.. As federal and state aid to assist local and regional governments address sprawling growth continues to decline, this type of support would be invaluable.

We are grateful that AIA showed flexibility in its grant review process in order to meet Northampton's comprehensive planning needs and highly encourage others to participate.

Please see www.northamptonma.gov to review the AIA's SDAT report on Northampton.



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The Maine Land Use Planning Summit

Imagine that you are the state planner in charge of designing and implementing your state's growth management policy. In twenty years 200 of your state's towns have created comprehensive plans consistent with state goals. But so much progress has sparked some backlash, and now the legislature is directing you to revamp the program. You must put everything on the table. You need broad public participation. And you have six months to deliver the goods. Where do you start?

Sue Inches, Deputy Director of the State Planning Office in Maine, faced such a challenge in the summer of 2005. Maine's Growth Management Act had achieved great things. But the state had changed substantially in twenty years. Growth pressures in some areas had intensified. Other parts of the state had stagnated. Many folks felt the state's guidance was helpful. Others complained it was just adding red tape. The Maine Legislature challenged the Office to solicit public feedback on the Act, develop recommendations, and bring them back for review by February 1st.

Sue could have gone into a room, locked the door, and written those recommendations in a week. But she knew that would never win the respect or support of the people of

Maine. Or necessarily produce the best thinking. She needed a means of engaging the public that:

- 1) Would involve as many interested folks as cared to participate
- 2) Would be open enough in its design to feel welcoming to people with staunch and opposing views
- 3) Would enable diverse groups of people to work together creatively, think outside the box, and generate fresh new thinking
- 4) Could be organized quickly and easily

Driven by these requirements, she chose a radically simple path for maximum public involvement - she convened a Maine Land Use Planning Summit using Open Space Technology.

The Summit posed a daunting challenge to the public - how to create the next generation of land use planning in Maine. Consistent with Open Space principles, everyone who cared about that challenge was invited to attend (and registration was free). A handsome invitation, designed in pdf format, was widely circulated around the state to policymakers, planners, town officials, consultants, developers, environmentalists, state agency staff, and citizens interested in planning issues. The Summit spanned two days in August at a conference center at the University of Maine. The center had space and dorms for 300 folks, and 125 signed up.

A forum in Open Space suits such a challenge because of its unusual design. It is a self-managed gathering, almost unlimited in size (25 to 1000), of people with common interests oriented toward a shared challenge or theme. There are no speeches, formal presentations, or panel discussions. Instead, using a simple process gently guided by a facilitator, participants create their own agenda, convene their own sessions, and generate their own proceedings.

The facilitator explains the four principles, and one law, which create the conditions for everyone to organize themselves with ease throughout the event. Individuals who have a passionate interest in an issue are invited to post their topic, assign it a time and place, and then convene a group discussion. When all issues have been stated and assigned, participants choose freely how to spend their time. They are responsible for their own schedules, for exchanging ideas, and for creating whatever outcomes each group may produce. There is no other agenda.

The 125 participants of the Maine Land Use Planning Summit, many of whom were antagonists in other settings, created their two-day agenda in sixty minutes. Four ninety-minute sessions over two days filled rapidly with about thirty or forty discussion topics, like "Thinking regionally, acting locally," and "Should we abolish the Growth Management Act?" Each convener received several simple blank poster templates on which to record any proposals to the

Legislature which emerged as a product of their conversations. With that, they were off and running.

This diverse gathering of Mainers formed, reformed, and formed again over the two days - debating, proposing, discussing, creating. Energy was high, and the response was enthusiastic. Some sixty discrete proposals surfaced and were recorded on poster templates. Upon review of all proposals at Summit's end, a number of common themes emerged clearly.

Here, in Sue's own words, are the Summit's results:

"There are at least three big things we got from the event. The first is credibility with our constituents. We said at the beginning of the event that we were there to listen and then we listened for two days. Going into the event, the State Planning Office had little credibility with the planning community. As one participant put it, 'We came here with our shotguns loaded, but we never had a reason to shoot them off.' So we greatly improved our relationship with many people through holding this event.

"The second thing we got from the event was that people now believe change is possible. Prior to the event, I'd say we want to make improvements in the Growth Management Act, and the way we carry it out, and people would roll their eyes. Now the word is out. SPO is serious about making changes."

"Third, we got many, many ideas to work with. We'll be sifting through all of them and using them as the basis of our next phase of work, which is convening focus groups." Thus the major themes that emerged at the Summit were refined through focus group feedback to become formal recommendations put before the Maine Legislature.

So, like Sue, consider a forum using Open Space Technology as a means of convening public conversations in challenging cases where you want to:

- 1) Involve large numbers of citizens
- 2) Welcome an extraordinary diversity of views
- 3) Appear as conveners, rather than advocates
- 4) Act quickly, and
- 5) Seek solutions outside the usual box of possibilities.

Jay W. Vogt is a consultant and has led over 40 forums in Open Space involving over 4000 people, in groups as large as 350. He can be reached at jay@peoplesworth.com

Employment

Experienced Urban Planner seeks Senior Planning Role

Experienced planner with 23 years experience in the UK, looking to relocate to the Boston area with my American wife this summer. I have 6 years experience in local government, 10 years with a Development Agency (the London Docklands Development Corporation) and 7 years in consultancy, currently Associate Director in a large multi-disciplinary consultancy. Have worked on wide range of strategic to scheme specific planning and urban regeneration projects as well as masterplans, development and regeneration frameworks, environmental and transport studies/projects and from sub-regional to town centre/urban district to campus/site specific scales, especially brownfields and waterside, and across all sectors. Commercial approach, with extensive policy background. Leading multi-disciplinary project teams is key strength. APA member (since 1998) – believe skills/experience are very transferable. References available. Visiting Boston in mid April – would come if immediate vacancy before then, and available to start by negotiation. Please contact: ian.charie@ntlworld.com

Staff Assistant – ZBA and Housing Needs Committee, Weston, MA

The Town of Weston is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Staff Assistant – Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) and Housing Needs Committee (HNC). This individual performs administrative, technical and support work for the ZBA and HNC. Serves under the direction of the Town Manager, ZBA and Housing Needs Committee. Recommended skills and qualifications: a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, land use management, architecture or a related field; three to five years experience with zoning statutes, bylaws and related regulations. Master's degree in Planning, Public Administration, Public Policy, or related field preferred. Starting hourly rate for this benefited part-time position 20 – 25 hours per week is \$24.21 to \$27.87 depending on qualifications. Salary range up to \$31.53. Visit <http://weston.govoffice.com> for detailed job description. Send cover letter and resume to the Human Resources Director, Town Hall P.O. Box 378, Weston, MA, 02493 or email to humanresources@westonmass.org. The Town of Weston is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, sexual orientation or age.

Transportation Planner, Old Colony Planning Council, Brockton, MA

Old Colony Planning Council, a regional planning agency, seeks an experienced Transportation Planner. The ideal candidate must have excellent analytical capabilities, demonstrated knowledge of the principles and practices of transportation planning (highway and transit) and modeling, traffic engineering computer applications, and have strong written and oral communication skills. In addition, the candidate should have familiarity with land use planning, consensus building principles, and practices as applied in an urban setting in order to manage and support the "3-C" planning process.

Requirements:

- Master's Degree in planning (or related field) or a Bachelor's degree in planning (or related field) and two or more years of experience. Equivalent combinations of education and experience may be considered.
- Ability to use sound judgment, follow safety guidelines and procedures, formulate sound professional recommendations, and communicate clearly and concisely both orally and in writing.
- Proficiency in basic computer applications such as MS Office, Lotus SmartSuite, etc.
- Proficiency in various transportation software applications (SYNCHRO, HCS, TAS, PETRA, TransCAD, etc).

Resume to: Charles Kilmer, Transportation Planning Supervisor, OCPC, 70 School St, Brockton, MA 02301. EOE

Planning Department Principal Clerk, Palmer, MA

Applications are now being accepted for the position of Planning Department Principal Clerk. Job descriptions may be obtained from the Palmer Town Manager's office.

Position is available immediately at the hourly rate of \$11.88 per hour and will consist of a 32.5-hour workweek. Normal working hours will be 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Evening work will be required to cover Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Conservation Commission and Palmer Redevelopment Authority meetings. An occasional Saturday may be required. This is a full time position with benefits.

The Principal Clerk will report directly to the Town Planner and will be responsible for providing skilled secretarial support to the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Conservation Commission, and Palmer Redevelopment Authority. The ideal candidate will be extremely organized and have the

ability to work with the public in a sometimes stressful and fast paced environment. Ability to multi-task and work under the pressures of strict time limits a must. Pleasant phone manners, organizational skills for filing, legible handwriting and the ability to work independently are required. Technical writing skills are desired and previous minute taking experience is preferred.

The ideal candidate for this position will have a minimum of a High School diploma and a working knowledge of Microsoft Office. A working knowledge of general office procedures is a must. Experience in recording minutes is a plus. Office experience is preferred.

If applicant is qualified, duties of the Palmer Conservation Agent may also be added to the position, for an additional 8 - 10 hours a week at \$20/hour.

Applicants may send resumes to the Palmer Town Manager's office, Town of Palmer, 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069, 413-283-2603.

Form-Based Codes Classes

Virginia Tech's Academy for the New Urbanism, in partnership with the Form-Based Codes Institute (FBCI), is pleased to announce a series of courses on the subject of form-based codes (FBC). The first course provides a general introduction to this emerging practice area. Two follow-on courses, one focused on the design-related aspects of FBC, and another focused on administrative and legal issues further prepare professionals for FBCI's Certificate in Form-Based Codes. Course activities include lectures by leading FBC practitioners, group discussions and hands-on team exercises. Courses will be taught in Alexandria Virginia, and other locations throughout the United States; see <http://www.conted.vt.edu/newurbanism/formbasedcodes/#register>

Local Wastewater Management Conference

Kingston, RI - Save the date! On Tuesday, March 14, 2006, the University of Rhode Island Cooperative Extension will be hosting an all-day workshop at the Narragansett Bay Campus entitled Local Wastewater Management: Starting It, Running It, and Clearing the Hurdles. The workshop will highlight the struggles and successes of Rhode Island communities who have effectively implemented plans to protect public health and manage water quality from a watershed perspective. It will run from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm, and attendance can be used to earn 4 Continuing Education Units. National APA has also approved this course for 8 credits towards the CPD Program. The cost for licensed designers and professionals is \$150. The cost for government officials, community board members, non-profits, and private citizens has been subsidized by the Block Island /Green Hill Pond Wastewater Project, and registration for these individuals is \$25. For additional information and to register visit: ><http://www.uri.edu/ce/wq/mtp/html/munitrai.html>.

Calendar

March 14 - Local Wastewater Management, Narragansett Bay Campus, URI

See previous page; 8 AM to 5 PM, \$150 for professionals; \$25 for community board members, non-profits, and private citizens. For additional info, go to <http://www.uri.edu/ce/wq/mtp/html/munitrai.html>.

March 18 - Citizen Planner Training Collaborative Annual Conference, Holy Cross College, Worcester, MA

This workshop will cover the problems and solutions that towns and local land trusts face when a developer is setting aside open space pursuant to Planning Board or ZBA mandates. Presenters will discuss the necessary steps to ensure protection, pitfalls to be avoided, and long-term stewardship issues. We will also explore the range of bylaws that Massachusetts towns have implemented to encourage open space developments. Registration \$50. Contact Diana Krauth, (413) 545-2188, www.umass.edu/masscptc

April 5-6 - Build Boston's Residential Design 2006 Conference, Seaport World Trade Center, Boston, MA

Through a variety of exhibits, workshops and events, Residential Design 2006 provides the residential-design industry with access to the wealth of new technologies, products and services that have emerged in this industry sector over the past decade. Call 800-544-1898 or see www.buildboston.com for further info.

April 12 - Community Planning Day on the Hill, Boston, MA

See www.massapa.org for more information.

April 19 - 23, 2006: Conference on Historic Cities - "From World Heritage to Your Heritage"

9th Annual US/ICOMOS International Symposium in Newport, Rhode Island
The World Heritage List as a rich source of models for the protection and management of heritage sites with a particular focus on World Heritage cities (the symposium will feature an international roster of renowned speakers)

U.S. Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites 401 F Street, NW, Suite 331, Washington, DC 20001

For more information, go to <http://www.icomos.org/usicomos>

April 22-26 - APA National Conference, San Antonio, TX

Register online at www.planning.org

May 11-12 - International Greening Rooftops for Sustainability Conference, Boston, MA

For information regarding membership, sponsorship, and trade show opportunities, call Jennifer Sprout at 416.971.4494 or email jsprout@greenroofs.org. Visit www.greenroofs.org to register for the conference.

June 1-4 - Congress for New Urbanism Conference, Providence, RI

The aim of the Congress is to increase the number of New Urbanist developers creating great urban buildings and places, and to help designers and planners become more effective in getting their visions implemented. See www.cnuxiv.org for more information.

September 28-29 - Southern New England Regional Planning Conference, New Haven, CT

November 13-15 - 2006 Brownfields Conference, Boston, MA

Co-housing Community Tours

Join us for a tour of four Cohousing Communities in Massachusetts! and please forward this note to others who might be interested. May 13, 2006. The tour will start in Cambridge and travel west to New View Cohousing in Acton. Then it's on to the Northampton area to visit Pioneer Valley Cohousing in Amherst and Pathways (and Rocky Hill) Cohousing in Florence. A box lunch will be served in the Pioneer Valley Common House. We will return to Boston to tour Cambridge Cohousing. The tour will be led by Laura Fitch <<http://www.cohousing.org/news/#laura>>, cohousing architect and 12-year resident of Pioneer Valley Cohousing <<http://www.cohousing.com/>>. The tour will run from 8:15 AM to 6:00 pm and will start and end at the Alewife Station (end of redline) in Cambridge. Alewife is easy to get to and within walking distance from our final stop and neighborhood restaurants. If we get a large number of participants interested in urban cohousing, we will consider substituting Cornerstone Cohousing in Cambridge for New View - just let us know so we can make this happen for you. A fall tour of Massachusetts Communities is tentatively scheduled for Oct. 14 - Jamaica Plain, Pioneer Valley, Pathways and Rocky Hill communities. Register on the [cohousing.org](http://www.cohousing.org) website under events.

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The Trust for Public Land (TPL), a national land conservation organization, functions as a risk-taker, problem-solver and catalyst for public acquisition of open space. TPL has completed over 100 projects across New England, preserving our region's natural and cultural integrity. For more information, contact Peter Forbes, Regional Manager at (617) 367-6200.



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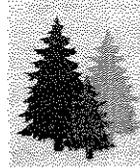
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Submissions: We welcome articles, letters to the editor, photos, calendar items, project profiles, etc. Please do not hesitate to send anything you think of interest, or query editor to discuss an idea. We may need to edit due to space limitations. If possible, please send electronic version in .txt format via email or disk.

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 MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2006**