

Thursday, October 11th
10:45am-12:00pm

Green Zoning and Beyond

Planners from communities throughout New England developing zoning bylaws, ordinance and regulations weigh in on greening their communities. The Massachusetts Environmental Protection Act (MEPA) Office recently passed a new requirement that all projects coming before it be reviewed for their climate change and greenhouse gas impacts. The Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) requires projects undergoing Large Project Review to comply with Article 37-Green Building, an ordinance promoting green building design. Also learn how communities from RI and CT are greening their regulatory environments.

Peter Lowitt, AICP | Director, Devens Enterprise Commission

Briony Angus, AICP | MEPA Analyst, Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

John Dalzell, AIA, LEED AP | Senior Architect, Boston Redevelopment Authority

John S. Rozum, AICP | Director of CT NEMO Program, University of Connecticut

Getting to Yes on Suburban Smart Growth Development Projects

The local approvals process for development projects in New England often pits developer against municipality. Municipal service impacts (i.e. schools, police, fire), traffic, environmental quality and design aesthetics are debated in public forums and hearings. The technical peer review process often entails “dueling consultants” poking holes in each other’s analysis, arriving at an ultimate decision in an inefficient way. This session focuses on the redevelopment of 135-acres of land adjacent to the MBTA/Amtrak Station in Westwood, MA, and how the developer and town took a collaborative approach to conducting peer review, resulting in a project that has quickly emerged as a national model for suburban smart growth.

Ken Schwartz, AICP | Director of Planning, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.

Robert Malster | Planning Board Chairman, Town of Westwood, MA

Nancy Kolb | Westwood Station Program Manager/Planning Board Consultant

Steven Cecil, AIA, ASLA | President, The Cecil Group

Revitalizing Main Street – Hyannis, MA

This session will include a presentation of the methodology undertaken to generate approximately \$30 million in private reinvestment in a previously underutilized and deteriorating historic retail commercial and institutional center, and will describe how the establishment of a management organization for local businesses and creative zoning and planning created the medium for smart growth revitalization.

Ruth J. Weil | Director, Growth Management Department, Town of Barnstable, MA

Patty Daley | Director of Comprehensive Planning, Growth Management Department, Town of Barnstable, MA

Kate Kennen, RLA | Principal, Kennen Landscape Architecture

Cynthia Cole | Executive Director, Hyannis Main Street Business Improvement District

Johannes H. Wagner, RLA | Associate, Weston & Sampson

Regenerative Design Applied: From Dirty to Desirable

A working class neighborhood consisting of over 300 homes and a former public middle school in Hamden, CT sits on top of extensive industrial waste caused by historic dumping by factories in nearby New Haven. The middle school has been closed and a new school constructed on an alternate site; only the buildings remain. Residents live over contaminated soil and groundwater—in some cases on unstable land. What should be done? Regenerative Design principles call for going beyond sustainability to a new vision of “healing the land,” and in this case, “healing the neighborhood.” Find out how one of the new LEED for Neighborhood Development pilots used these principles to create a neighborhood that recognized man-made constraints but found ways to create a better place to live by developing a new neighborhood center.

Michael Taylor | President, Vita Nuova LLC

Leslie Creane, AICP | Planner, Town of Hamden, CT

Abbie Emison | Director of Municipal Services, Regional Growth Partnership, CT

Ed Mitchell | Yale School of Architecture

George Buchanan | Buchanan Architects LLC

Thursday, October 11th
2:00pm-3:15pm

Planning Games: Beyond Sim City

The session will present three different games that can be used in a planning context to involve citizens in the planning process and/or educate students about the importance of planning. Emphasis will be on low-tech games that encourage interaction, not high-tech simulations, build-out models, and visualization tools. Time and attendance permitting, participants will be invited to play a scaled-down version of one of the games. Everyone will leave with a complete package of games and tools to take back to their community.

Ezra Haber Glenn, AICP | Director of Community Development, City of Lawrence, MA

Jan Ham | Program Director, Learning by Design in Massachusetts

The Challenges of Downtown Parking

The purpose is to explore the special issues, conditions and opportunities that impact the provision of parking in the Central Business Districts in small towns and cities. The session largely surrounds a case study of parking in the town of Darien, CT. The session will discuss the methodology of the case study as well as the findings and recommendations. Strategies for evaluating parking demand will be covered.

Carol S. F. Gould, AICP | Principal Planner II, Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc.

Samuel K. Eisenbeiser, AICP | Senior Planner, Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc.

Jeremy Ginsberg | Director, Planning and Zoning Department, Town of Darien, CT

Smart Growth – A Statewide Approach

State officials will give presentations on approaches to smart growth being promoted by the administrations of Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick and Connecticut Governor M. Jodi Rell. Both administrations have relatively new programs that will be of interest to attendees. Topics to be discussed include economic development, housing, land and natural resource protection, permitting, and transportation policies, programs, and investments. Presentations will focus on those aspects of the states' land use policies and programs most pertinent to land use planners and municipal officials.

David LeVasseur | Under Secretary of Intergovernmental Policy Division, Connecticut Office of Policy and Management

David Cash | Assistant Secretary for Policy, Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Community Planning for Baby Boomer Retirement

This session will focus on the benefits and the barriers of planning for the aging baby boomer population. Specifically, the development of retirement housing options and their placement within cities and towns will be addressed, as well as land use and zoning challenges, and what facilities and services are required to encourage retirement development. The session will also highlight the planning services provided by the federal and state governments that communities may use to promote successful retirement development.

Jessica P. Lohnes, AICP | FOLLIES architecture, urban design, planning

Francis G. Caro | Professor of Gerontology, University of Massachusetts-Boston

David P. Stevens | Executive Director, Massachusetts Association of Councils on Aging

Scott Hayward | Regional Vice President, Erickson Retirement Communities

Jennifer M. Raitt | Chief Housing Planner, Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Annette Hodess | Gerontology Department, University of Massachusetts-Boston

Thursday, October 11th
3:30pm-5:00pm

Planner's Code of Ethics

Given the adoption of the revised Code of Ethics, this session will explore the changes and their impact on professional planners. The session meets the requirements of the AICP Certification Maintenance Program for professional ethics. As the revised Code goes into its third year, this is a valuable opportunity to reinforce provisions of the Code with practicing planners in MA CT, and RI. Speakers will review the key principles of the Code of Ethics, and include highlights of revisions from the previous Code. Although the Code of Ethics applies specifically to certified planners who have passed the AICP exam, it is the code to which all planners in the professional are held. The session will include tips on what the professional planner can do to keep the planning board/zoning board etc. on the ethical path.

Pamela Sherrill, AICP | Principal Planner, Pare Corporation

Neil Angus, AICP | Staff Planner, Devens Enterprise Commission

Strategic Thinking About Retail Development

Many municipalities have considered various strategies for regulating retail development. Retail forms an essential component of many non-hierarchical places within a community. These places provide community identity and result in much of the social interaction that defines them as places of merit within our municipal boundaries. This session will review and assess some of the direct and indirect effects of regulatory strategies and explore the relationship of retail development to comprehensive planning. Issues will include preserving and protecting community character while enabling for successful outcomes for commercial development.

William S. Voelker, AICP | Town Planner, Cheshire, CT

Mike Goman | President and CEO, Konover Development Corporation

Patrick Pinnell | Principal, Patrick Pinnell Architect & Town Planner

Todd Lornell | Principal, Strategic Retail Advisors

Hi, I'm New Here: Tips for Making an Effective Transition

This session will examine what skills are called upon when making a transition from one set of planning responsibilities to another, or from citizen to Board member. Each speaker has made one or more transitions in their career and will share their experiences. Panelists run the gamut from state-level planning to small communities and private sector. Several panelists have made more than one transition. This session could be helpful for those who have new staff or board members and want to ease the transition, as well as those who are making, or are considering, a change in career responsibilities.

Melanie Jewett, AICP | Principal Planner, Department of Planning and Development, City of Providence, RI

Jared L. Rhodes | Chief, Division of Planning, RI Department of Administration

Meredith E. Holderbaum | Legislative Fiscal Analyst, RI Senate Fiscal Advisory Staff

Foundations for Smart Redevelopment

This session will focus on the pervasive challenge of revitalizing village centers and commercial strips in Southern New England. Presenters will discuss how to use zoning reform and public initiatives to leverage high quality private investment in these areas. Critical issues of density and design will be closely examined in this context to provide a concise list of planning elements that must be addressed to ensure the success of these revitalization efforts.

Nathan Kelly, AICP | Senior Project Manager, Horsley Witten Group

Mark Nelson, P.G. | Principal, Horsley Witten Group

Nick Cracknell, AICP | Senior Land Use Planner, Horsley Witten Group

Jon Reiner | Planning Director, Town of North Kingstown, RI

Friday, October 12th
9:00am-10:15am

“The Merrimack Valley Means Business” - An Economic Development Program That Gets Results!

The Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce has coordinated an interactive, planning and economic development program with the communities of Andover, Lawrence, Methuen and North Andover, promoting business and job growth through planning and economic development. The Merrimack Valley Means Business (MVMB) program received the 2007 Massachusetts Municipal Association Award for Innovation at their annual statewide conference, for recognition of a regional program that works. The session would describe how the program came to be, the working of the program, and a pictometry presentation of available real estate buildings and sites, etc.

Joseph Bevilacqua | President & CEO, Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce

Salvatore Lupoli | President & CEO, Riverwalk Properties and Sals Pizza

Peter Matthews, Jr. | President & CEO, Merrimack Valley Federal Credit Union

Mayor Michael Sullivan | City of Lawrence, MA

The Resilient Communities Method of Placemaking

The Town of Smithfield, RI is undertaking a major overhaul of its planning process as it realigns its comprehensive plan and implements a new placemaking strategy and policy for developing and revitalizing its core communities. The resulting program means a significant change to Smithfield and will create two new villages and revitalize the existing five villages in Smithfield. The process The Town of Smithfield applied in undertaking this work is titled “Connected Communities”. Connected Communities uses a complex systems approach to analyze, understand and create community driven strategy and development. Critical to this process and approach is to see a community as more than a geography, a municipal entity, or as a development real estate opportunity – but as a complex network of six interdependent dimensions or systems – the social, economic, ecological, cultural, community knowledge and built environments – that require an integrated planning approach as a ‘whole place’ that creates sustainable value across all six dimensions of community. This session will present and discuss the background to this need for change, the placemaking process utilized to assist in updating the comprehensive plan – ‘Connected Communities’, and how this applies to other communities.

Frederick J. Presley | Senior Planner, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.

Larry Quick | Principal, New Commons

Restoring Urban Rivers

Representatives of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Massachusetts Riverways Program, and Massachusetts Urban River Visions Program will describe their approaches to improving the water quality of urban rivers and encouraging communities to consider their rivers as recreational, aesthetic, and economic assets. The goal is to provide attendees with enough information for them to determine whether the approach taken by these three programs may have applicability in their community.

Eric Hove | Assistant Director of Sustainable Development, Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Cindy Delpapa | Urban Rivers Coordinator & Stream Ecologist, Riverways Program, Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game

Trish Garrigan | Office of Ecosystem Protection, EPA New England

Using Humor to Make Your Point and Keep Your Audience Awake

At some point in time, you have met The Drone: the speaker whose topic should be fascinating, but whose delivery is so dry...arid...desert-like...so completely devoid of any signs of life that the audience starts shuffling, shifting, yawning, or leaving the room. You don't have to be a stand-up comic to be remembered, but humor can help you to make your point, whether subtle or laugh-out-loud. This session is designed to give you strategies for keeping your presentations lively: join us and learn how to avoid becoming The Drone. Learn the importance of humor as a tool to make your point, help your audience retain information, and make discussions livelier.

David R. Westcott, AICP | Principal Planner, Maguire Group, Inc.

Kevin M. Flynn, AICP | Associate Director, Division of Planning, RI Department of Administration

Meredith E. Holderbaum | Legislative Fiscal Analyst, Rhode Island Senate Fiscal Advisory Staff

Friday, October 12th
10:30am-11:45am

Municipal Climate Change Protection: Tools and Best Practices

This session will provide an overview of local governments in the region taking an active role in climate change protection through ICLEI's Cities for Climate Protection Campaign. The session will include an overview of existing tools and resources available through ICLEI as well as other entities to engage in climate protection activities, specific examples from municipalities within the region that have conducted greenhouse gas emissions inventories, quantified the climate impacts of various municipal policies and programs, developed climate protection action plans, initiated community outreach and educational programs, and are shaping national policy through their innovative initiatives.

David Dann | Town Administrator, Town of Shutesbury, MA

Mike Zembruski | Director of Solid Waste and Recycling, Town of Fairfield, CT

Garry Bliss | Policy Director, City of Providence, RI

Kim Lundgren | Regional Director - Northeast and Mid-Atlantic, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability

Planners Under Fire: How to Put It Out and Survive Life As A Planning Director

One of the most important things public sector professional planners need to know is never taught in graduate school. This bundle of tools and techniques is needed to survive and develop professionally in the highly politicized environment in which we work. The importance of understanding and dealing with the politics of daily survival cannot be underestimated. An insight into these important tools is presented in this session by a group of seasoned and battle tested professional planners.

Jason Vincent, AICP | Senior Planner, Planimetrics, LLC

Hiram Peck III, AICP | Director of Planning & Community Development, Town of Simsbury, CT

Mark Pellegrini, AICP | Director of Planning & Economic Development, Town of Manchester, CT

Marcia A. Banach, AICP | Director of Planning, Town of South Windsor, CT

Daniel A. Tuba | Town Planner, Town of Monroe, CT

John D. Pagini, AICP | CT APA Professional Development Officer and Land Use Planner, Coventry, CT

Dominick Caruso, AICP | City Planner, City of Meriden, CT

So You Think You Want Biotech

Biotechnology is often considered the hot prospect for communities and economic development offices. This session will introduce what it takes to attract and build high tech/biotech facilities. This session will review what designers consider in building and siting of typical facilities, what it takes to market projects and support the facilities with infrastructure, and what land use issues must be considered. The panel will present success stories, and losses with lessons learned.

Kenneth Buckland, AICP, LEED AP | Associate & Senior Planner, The Cecil Group

Robert Halpin | President, Merrimack Valley Economic Development Council

Jeffreys Johnson | Principal, ARC/Architectural Resources Cambridge, Inc.

Beth Ashman-Collins | Director of Research, Rhode Island Economic Policy Council

Revising Zoning Ordinances in Small Cities

A number of small cities have recently undergone a comprehensive zoning rewrite process. The zoning rewrite processes in cities such as Peabody, MA and Portsmouth, NH have similarities and differences that serve as interesting examples of how to manage a major rezoning project. In this session you will learn what worked well, what pitfalls to avoid, and how to tailor rezoning efforts to meet your municipality's needs.

Ralph Willmer, AICP | Senior Planner/Project Manager, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.

Rick Taintor | President, Taintor & Associates, Inc.

Friday, October 12th
1:30pm-2:45pm

Affordable Housing, Sustainability and the Suburban Context

This session will illustrate many of the unique opportunities associated with building affordable housing in the suburban landscape. Increases in density often allow for better site design and decreased environmental impacts than what is generally developed in these residential neighborhoods. Case studies from Southeastern Massachusetts will be used to illustrate the integration of affordable housing and low impact development.

Nathan Kelly, AICP | Senior Project Manager, Horsley Witten Group

Mark Nelson, P.G. | Principal, Horsley Witten Group

Jake Upton | Managing Director, EA Fish Associates

Elizabeth Dillen | Special Projects Coordinator, Growth Management Department, Town of Barnstable, MA

AICP Classroom

Learn more about the AICP exam and prepare for the upcoming November 2007 and May 2008 AICP Certification Exam. The session will consist of a review of AICP Exam eligibility requirements, review of the exam registration process, and test scheduling for the three states. The session will provide an exam overview including exam elements, preparation material and sources, test-taking tips, sample questions, and a review of the newly-passed Certification Maintenance Program.

John D. Pagini, AICP | CT APA Professional Development Officer and Land Use Planner, Coventry, CT

Pamela Sherrill, AICP | Principal Planner, Pare Corporation

Expedited Permitting and Smart Growth

This session will examine new and proposed expedited permitting plans and programs. This will include a look at what is happening at the state level in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Massachusetts has recently adopted a new Expedited Permitting Program (Chapter 43D) that provides financial and technical resources to cities and towns. Rhode Island is looking at adopting legislation regarding expedited permitting. In addition, a case study of one city that has changed its permitting processes using 43D funding will be presented.

Robert Mitchell FAICP | Special Assistant for Planning Initiatives, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Kevin M. Flynn, AICP | Associate Director, Division of Planning, RI Department of Administration

Michael Milanoski AICP | Executive Director, Attleboro Redevelopment Authority

Preserving the New England Village Character Through Zoning Tools

People come to New England's Villages for the sense of history and place that exudes from these destinations. All too often, pre-fabricated structures, and formula based businesses are invading these villages and replacing them with structures and businesses that detract from the "sense of place" that is present in village centers and lend themselves to the "Anywhere USA" descriptor. This topic will address preserving community character through regulating design and business operational standards. Learn strategies of preserving the historic downtown and village atmosphere and experience through effective zoning techniques and tools such as land use controls and design guidelines.

Daniel J. Fortier, AICP | Town Planner, Town of Dennis, MA

Sarah Korjeff | Preservation Specialist, Cape Cod Commission

Aaron Marcavitch | Acorn Heritage Services

Friday, October 12th
3:00pm-4:30pm

Land-Use Law Round-Up

Leading land-use lawyers from each of the three southern New England states will address changes in federal, state and local land use law that have occurred over the last year and assess the impacts in their respective states. The changes will include court decisions, legislation, administrative regulations and interpretations of existing law. The session meets the requirements of the AICP Certification Maintenance Program for professional law.

Dwight H. Merriam, FAICP, CRE | Partner, Robinson & Cole LLP

Gregor I. McGregor, Esq. | Founding Partner, McGregor & Associates, P.C.

John M. Boehnert, Esq. | Senior Counsel, Partridge, Snow & Hahn LLP

Marvin P. Bellis

Landlocked: Planning for Port Growth in an Age of Urban Renaissance

Many of Southern New England's major cities are situated on ports or harbors, and indeed owe their existence to these water resources. Over time, many of the port facilities have grown outdated, been underutilized and maybe unappreciated - yet they remain important components of the economic vitality of the region, and offer opportunities for intermodal transportation services. A renewed awareness of the importance of these ports has led to planning for their expanded and more efficient use. At the same time, the host cities are undergoing revitalization and growth which can create conflicts with the land use and operations of the ports. This session will examine the means by which regional and municipal planners are working with port operators and managers to accommodate these needs.

Michael Piscitelli | Acting Director, Department of Traffic & Parking, City of New Haven, CT

Andrew G. Hargens, AICP | Senior Planner/Project Manager, Massachusetts Port Authority

Jeff Schechtman | Director - Ports & Marine Division, PB

Clean Energy Plans – Three Perspectives

The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, in collaboration with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, has just completed the Pioneer Valley Clean Energy Plan. Martha's Vineyard began implementing a similar plan in 2005, and an energy action plan for Cape Cod is being released in mid-2007. This session will provide an overview of three different approaches to regional clean energy planning.

Catherine Miller | Principal Planner/Section Manager, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

William G. Veno, AICP | Senior Planner, Martha's Vineyard Commission

Chris Powicki | Principal, Water Energy & Ecology Information Services & President, Cape & Islands Renewable Energy Collaborative

Planning for Impacts of Increasing Immigrant Populations on Local Government

This session will explore a hot topic nationwide in planning: municipal attempts to regulate illegal immigrant populations. This seminar will give planners the tools to understand the issues raised by such regulations, and to propose alternative planning solutions that will address the legitimate health, safety, and welfare concerns generated by an influx of illegal or legal residents. Scores of communities across the region, and, indeed, across the country, have reacted to what are perceived as social ills created by population increases caused by sudden influxes of illegal (or legal) immigrants. Many of these attempts have ended in court battles and failed to address the real issues. Planners may be called upon to offer solutions to mitigate the problems of traffic, parking, overcrowded housing, and waste disposal that can result from large influxes of legal or illegal residents. This session will focus on providing positive, pro-active solutions for planners to address these issues, so that they can steer their municipalities to workable, legal solutions, and avoid the emotional and potentially flawed regulations that have been implemented in some communities across the country.

Barbara J. Saint André | Petrini & Associates, P.C.

John W. Grande, AICP | Planning Board Director, Town of Framingham, MA