



# New England Planning Massachusetts Chapter & Rhode Island Chapter



October 2007

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## Announcements

**Smart Growth/Smart Energy Awards Applications Available**

**Governor Patrick Announces New Sustainable Development Policies**

**Chapter Board supports legislation to create a State Infrastructure Bank**

**Community Energy Opportunities**

## Upcoming Events!

**GIS as an Economic Development Tool**  
Tuesday, November 6th, 2007

**Regional Zoning Reform Session**  
Friday, November 9th, 2007

**Regional Zoning Reform Session**  
Friday, November 9th, 2007

**Regional Zoning Reform Session**  
Thursday, November 15th, 2007

**CPA and Housing**  
Thursday, November 29th, 2007

**2007 Massachusetts Smart Growth/Smart Energy Conference**  
Friday, December 7th, 2007

## News and Blog Topics

### Great Places in America Great Places in America

On October 2, APA kicked off National Community Planning Month by launching the Great Places in America program. The designated Great Streets and Great Neighborhoods — selected from APA members' many online suggestions — were thoroughly researched, vetted, and compared to rigorous criteria. They exemplify the best qualities that we work to promote in the communities we serve.

The designated streets and neighborhoods will be the subject of an upcoming Planning Advisory Service Report. It will analyze how planning contributed to the success of these places and explore what planners can learn from them.

By promoting the outcomes of good planning, the Great Places program generated some very good press. In fact, media response couldn't have been better. On October 2 and 3, hundreds of radio and television stations, newspapers — online and in print — and blogs reported stories about APA's Great Places in America. The program also is driving traffic to APA's website. After our October 2 announcement, visits to our web pages more than doubled. All of this benefits APA, since we strive to tell the planning story, raise the public's awareness of planning, and enhance understanding of the value of planning to our communities.

I couldn't be more pleased with the launch of the Great Places in America program. I applaud APA staff for doing an outstanding job. By designating a wide range of places, from small-town streets to big-city neighborhoods, we brought attention both to little-known success stories and to some of America's most famous streets and neighborhoods. I'm looking forward to seeing next year's selections!

Next October, APA also will designate Great Public Spaces. I ask each of you to think about the wonderful places in the communities where you live and work and consider suggesting them for APA's Great Places in America in 2008.

Bob Hunter, FAICP  
APA President

## CPA and Housing

Thursday, December 13th, 2007

### Advertisers

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### Zoning Reform Task Force in Danvers 11/9/07

Greg Bialecki, State Permit Ombudsman and Assistant Secretary for Housing & Economic Development, has been asked by Governor Patrick to chair a Zoning Reform Task Force. The Task Force is examining the current zoning and planning system in the State and is working with the Legislature to develop amendments that would improve zoning and planning in Massachusetts. As part of this effort, a series of regional meetings are being held around the State.

The Task Force will be holding a regional zoning meeting on November 9th from 2:00pm – 4:00pm in The Gordon Room of the Peabody Institute Library at 15 Sylvan Street in Danvers, MA.

This is part of a series of regional sessions across the state to hear from professional and citizen planners, local officials, and other concerned individuals about the effectiveness of our existing zoning and land use statutes. Please visit [www.mass.gov/mpro](http://www.mass.gov/mpro) and click Zoning Reform for more information on the activities of the Task Force.

Please forward this announcement to the appropriate officials within your community and encourage them to participate in this discussion.

[read more](#)

### Zoning Reform Task Force One Pagers

As part of the work of the Zoning Reform Task Force Chair by Greg Bialecki, a number of informative one page write ups have been developed to educate participants and the public about some of the tools other states (and even other communities in Massachusetts) utilize and that are being discussed as part of the task force's work. Once again, the chapter is pleased that the Patrick Administration has taken on this task and we thank them for doing so.

I hope you will find the one page write ups informative and balanced.

[read more](#)

### Thanks to Many

Thanks to Many As my first column as President of the Massachusetts Chapter of the American Planning Association, I find myself reflecting all that need to be thanked and praised for the work that has been done on behalf of the Chapter. Peter Lowitt, for the last four years has been a dedicated Chapter President, that has elevated the status of the Chapter both within the State and nationwide. Under Peter's tenure the Chapter added over 300 new members; cosponsored numerous conferences, workshops; and served as a leader in the efforts to update the State's outmoded zoning and planning

statutes. He has set a very high bar of performance for the chapter that I will strive to maintain. Lynn Goonin Duncan, steps down as the Chapter's the Vice President for Professional Development. Lynn was always providing the best possible service to those that sought the AICP certification. We appreciate all of her contributions as a board member and will miss her. Lyn Billman-Golemme, our former Vice President for Legislation & Policy, always kept us abreast of the latest activities both on Beacon Hill and on Capitol Hill. Her advocacy of issues while serving on the board reminded all board members of our greater duties and responsibilities as planners. Joe Cosgrove stepped down as our Boston Area Representative and will be missed for all of his insight at the MBTA. Finally, Heidi Samokar, who served as Secretary of the Board, was always there to assist us in carrying out all of our duties. Her hard work is greatly appreciated. I thank all of our past board members for your dedication and passing the torch to the new officers. Writing this column on the heels of the Southeast New England Planning Conference, thanks can only begin to express the gratitude to the Chapter representatives on the Conference Committee. Felipe Schwarz ran the conference in such a professional manner, it was truly the best regional conference I have ever attended. Mary McCrann was remarkable with how she assisted Felipe in organizing and running the conference. Chris Kluchman, Chapter Treasurer, and Chris Skelly, our Administrator, must be thanked for all of the registration and financial assistance. The Conference shattered records on attendance, sponsors, and quality of programming. Thank you to those that made the Conference such a great success. I would like to welcome the Chapter's newest elected officers that have agreed to serve on the Board. Felipe Schwarz, VP for Chapter Affairs, Marc Rousseau, VP for Professional Development, Tony Fields, VP for Legislative Affairs, Mary McCrann, Secretary, and Paul Materazzo, NE Regional Representative are a great group of planners that will complement the seasoned board members. Thank all of you for volunteering to serve the Chapter. Finally, thanks to the sponsors and guest speakers at the conference. Your participation is greatly appreciated. Down to Business Just a reminder of some upcoming events to round out the end of 2007. The CPA II legislation is scheduled to be heard before the Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government on Wednesday, October 17, 2007 from 11am to 1 pm. The Chapter is Co-Sponsoring Smart Growth Workshops with the Massachusetts Association of Realtors with the first being held in Lowell on October 18, 2007. The Governor's Smart Growth Conference is scheduled for December 9, 2007 and the Chapter's Award banquet is scheduled for December 16th, please pencil these dates in as more information will become available in the near future. I am looking for to serving you as Chapter President and hope that building off the successes of the past, the next two years will be rewarding years for the Chapter. Sincerely, Steve Sadwick, AICP Chapter President

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### **Chapter Releases Annual Report**

The Chapter released its 2007 Annual Report as part of our annual meeting held at the Southern New England Planning Conference October 12, 2007. It is an attachment. The chapter welcomes your comments and input and we never turn away volunteers.

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### **Citizen Planner Training Collaborative - Fall 2007 Workshops**

The Citizen Planner Training Collaborative (CPTC) has released its Fall 2007 Workshop schedule. Nearly thirty workshops are being offered at locations around Massachusetts. In addition, CPTC has teamed up with Wentworth Institute of Technology's [Center for Community & Learning Partnerships](#) to offer its first ever web-based workshop. For details on the workshop dates and times or to register click [here](#).

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### **APA Hazards Planning Research Center - Call for Documents**

The APA Hazards Planning Research Center is currently looking for planning documents and related publications that address hazard mitigation, to create a collection of best practices that make the connection between hazard mitigation planning and other local planning activities. Planners have a real opportunity to affect change on a wide variety of subjects through their strategic position as advisors to policy makers in town, city, county, and regional governments.

Specifically we are seeking the following types of documents and published materials (examples in parentheses):

long-range visioning documents/blueprints/goals and objectives local plans (comprehensive, neighborhood, regional; housing, transportation, economic development; energy, climate change; water supply management) development management tools (zoning regulations, subdivision regulations, design guidelines) public investment tools (capital improvements program, general fund, financial revitalization tools) local policies built development projects

Help us learn what communities have already accomplished in integrating hazard mitigation into planning. Please send information (documents or links to web-based materials) to [jschwab@planning.org](mailto:jschwab@planning.org). To participate in our online questionnaire and learn more about the project, please click [here](#).

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### **MA APA 2007 Zoning Reform**

In late September APA Chapter President Peter

Lowitt, AICP, Glenn Garber, AICP and Annalise Fonza PhD Candidate at UMass Amherst presented the information to the Patrick Administration task force on planning and zoning reform. The accompanying power point (right) captures Ms. Fonza's efforts to query 27 states about their planning and zoning statutes and to provide context to the legislature about how out of step Massachusetts' legislation really is with the rest of the nation. The chapter hired her to do this study.

[read more](#)

**MA APA Files Amicus to Combat Mansionization**

MA APA has filed an amicus brief to combat the march of mansionization throughout communities in Massachusetts. The brief is available for download to the right. Your comments are welcome below.

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**To download any attachments, you must view the article on the website.**