

# STATEWIDE PLANNING E-NEWS

## Statewide Planning

**Technical Committee Meeting** Scheduled for May 6 at 9:00 a.m., Conference Room A on the second floor of the Justice William E. Powers Building, Department of Administration, One Capitol Hill, Providence. For the latest schedule information please see the Committee Calendar at [www.planning.ri.gov/misc/calendar.htm](http://www.planning.ri.gov/misc/calendar.htm).

**State Planning Council Meeting** Scheduled for May 12 at 9:00 a.m., Conference Room A on the second floor of the Justice William E. Powers Building, Department of Administration, One Capitol Hill, Providence. For the latest schedule information see the Committee Calendar at [www.planning.ri.gov/misc/calendar.htm](http://www.planning.ri.gov/misc/calendar.htm).

**Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting** Scheduled for April 28 at 6:30 p.m., meeting location to be determined. For the latest schedule information see the Committee Calendar at [www.planning.ri.gov/misc/](http://www.planning.ri.gov/misc/)

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## American Planning Association

### New England Planning

The latest issue of the New England Planning newsletter and a index to past issues can be found at [www.massapa.org/index.php?page=mass-apa-newsletters](http://www.massapa.org/index.php?page=mass-apa-newsletters). If you want to be added to the newsletter mailing list, please contact [Sheryl@diprete-eng.com](mailto:Sheryl@diprete-eng.com).

### SNEAPA Conference

The Rhode Island, Connecticut and Massachusetts APA chapters hold an annual regional planning conference in the fall each year. This year the Rhode Island Chapter will host the conference on October 20 and 21 in Providence. The conference is an excellent opportunity for APA members to attend first-rate sessions and mobile workshops as well as chances to network with other Southern New England Planners. AICP members will also find the conference a great way to gain CM credits towards maintaining your certification.

## Economic Assistance Grants

The process for reviewing applications to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) for Economic Assistance Grants is changing, based on revisions to the program adopted by EDA last year. In the past, applicants were required to submit proposals to the Rhode Island Division of Planning by a specified date following the annual solicitation of project applications. Now applications will be accepted throughout the year. Applications should be sent to Robert Griffith, Statewide Planning, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908 at least 60 days prior to the first day of the quarter the applicant expects to submit a federal grant application to the EDA. Applications for the Federal Fiscal Quarter beginning October 1 should be submitted to Strategic Planning staff by August 1. Contact Robert Griffith Chief, Office of Strategic Planning and Economic Development at 222.5817 or at [Robert.Griffith@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Robert.Griffith@doa.ri.gov) for additional information.

## Grow Smart Rhode Island

### Land-Use Training Collaborative/Narragansett Bay Research Reserve Electronic Calendar

The calendar is available for use by elected and appointed municipal officials and planners, citizen advocates, the natural resource protection community and the design and development community. Please see

[www.communityconnectionri.org](http://www.communityconnectionri.org) for more information.

### Preserving Your Community's Historic Character-Best Practices for Historic District Commissions

This 2-Part Workshop will be offered May 12 and 19 from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 99 Peirce Street, East Greenwich; (a light supper served on both nights). The workshop will be taught by preservation architects from the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission and preservation planners and attorneys experienced in working with Rhode Island HDCs. This two-part workshop is designed to give you the essential information you need about: your legal responsibilities; standards for review; conducting fair and efficient reviews; writing defensible decisions; communicating with property owners and the public; windows, alternative materials and other tough issues. The registration fee is \$15 for both sessions (to cover cost of light supper). Seating is limited and advance registration required. Please print and send [this form](#) along with your payment to register for this workshop.

Delivery of this workshop is funded by a Certified Local Government Grant from the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission to the Town of North Kingstown and managed by the Grow Smart RI Land-Use Training Collaborative.

### Smart Growth and Community Planning

Led by professional land-use planners, this program provides the foundation material that all municipal officials need to proactively fulfill their community planning responsibilities. Not only will you learn how Rhode Island law provides for communities to publicly develop and maintain the Local Comprehensive Plan, which is the foundation for all subsequent land-use decision-making, but you will also learn about innovative strategies being used in Rhode Island and elsewhere to provide for the growth needed to support economic development while at the same time protecting community character. This workshop is being offered May 26 at the Warwick City Hall from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Pre registration is required, please use this [Registration Form](#).

### Conducting Effective Land Use Reviews

Led by experienced Land Use Attorneys and Planners, this workshop will guide you through your legal responsibilities as a public official in Rhode Island and discuss in detail the legally required procedures and best practices that should be followed in conducting land use reviews. The workshop provides ample time for participant questions. This program will be held twice: June 16 at the Johnston Senior Center from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; and June 23 at the Middletown Police Department Community Room from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Pre registration is required, please use the [Registration Form](#).

### Redesigned Land Use and Decision Writing Workshops

Grow Smart RI is pleased to announce that they've redesigned the programs to make them more accessible and affordable for municipal officials. Following participants suggestions, they divided the material that was offered in Making Good Land Use Decisions, the 3-part program, into three individual workshops, and have included the Writing Sound Decisions material. Now you'll get all the same essential information that was provided in Making Good Land-Use Decisions and Writing Sound Decisions in three workshops rather than four, and you'll have the option of taking all the workshops in one year or spreading them out over two or three years. After you have attended all three workshops, you will receive a certificate documenting your completion of the core land-use training program. The three workshops, which will be offered each year.

### Writing Sound Decisions

Taught by a Rhode Island land-use attorney, this workshop is designed to help municipal planners, legal staff, boards and commissions write decisions whose content will hold up in court and whose clarity will make them readily understandable for both enforcement officers and property owners. It is specifically intended to address the problem, noted repeatedly in recent Superior Court and Supreme Court decisions, that written decisions coming out of municipal planning boards and zoning boards do not explain how the evidence contained in the record led the board to reach its conclusions. This workshop will be offered in the fall of 2011.

## Department of Revenue

### Municipal Finance

#### Municipal Memo

The Legislative Reference Service, can be found at [www.muni-info.ri.gov/legislation](http://www.muni-info.ri.gov/legislation) You can view both current and past issues from this site.

#### Directory of City & Town Officials

The 2011 directory, and updates as of March 22, is available at [www.muni-info.ri.gov/publications](http://www.muni-info.ri.gov/publications) Paper copies of the directory are also available; please contact Susan Moss at [Susan.Moss@dor.ri.gov](mailto:Susan.Moss@dor.ri.gov) or at 222.4468 for specifics.

## Spring Reading

### The King's Best Highway

Eric Jaffe's book looks at American history, centered on the development of The Boston Post Road, since its beginning as a well developed footpath. The book examines both the impact of the political and technological changes that brought about improvements to the road, and the impact of these changes and improvements to society throughout the last three to four hundred years. These changes include politics and government change, the development of a postal system, the spread of newspapers, and wealth. Technological changes include the development of stage coaches, trains, trolleys, bicycles, and automobiles. The book examines the impact of transportation on communities, commuting patterns, and the role of government in transportation; as well as looking at the role of some well known individuals including King George III, Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, P.T. Barnum and Senator Claiborne Pell; as well as some lesser known, but equally important, individuals including John Oldham, Levi Pease, Mathias Nicolls, Francis Lovelace, Sarah Knight, and Albert Pope.

## WTS RHODE ISLAND

### 2011 Professional Development Seminar II – HCM New Signalized Intersection Methodologies

WTS-Rhode Island and RIITE are hosting this professional development webinar on Tuesday, May 17 from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the office of Fuss & O'Neill, Inc. in Providence. Cost is \$15 for WTS and RIITE members and \$25 for non-members and includes lunch. Space is limited, so please reserve your spot early! To register for this event please contact Srilatha Ranganadham at 272-8100 Ext. 2095 or [sranganadham@vhb.com](mailto:sranganadham@vhb.com). For the 2011 Professional Development Seminar II flyer, click the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/699t2h2>.

## Department of Administration

### Office of Training and Development

Schedule of classes is available at [www.admin.ri.gov/otd/](http://www.admin.ri.gov/otd/) Check the website for classes, times, and registration information. Please contact Melissa Day at 222-2178 or at [mday@gw.doa.state.ri.us](mailto:mday@gw.doa.state.ri.us) if you have any questions, or would like to offer any suggestions for future offerings.

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

### Open Space Grants

The Department of Environmental Management (DEM) is accepting applications for Rhode Island Local Open Space Matching Grants for land preservation projects; the application period for submissions closes 4:00 p.m., Friday, May 27. These grants will provide up to 50 percent matching funding to municipalities, land trusts and nonprofit land conservation organizations to acquire or protect valuable open space in Rhode Island. Grant applications, rules and regulations, and the application process can be downloaded at: [www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bpoladm/plandev/grants.htm](http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bpoladm/plandev/grants.htm). The Department may provide up to \$4 million for projects with a maximum grant of up to \$400,000. If you need additional information please contact Lisa Primiano, Deputy Chief, Division of Planning and Development at 222-2776 extension 4307 or [lisa.primiano@dem.ri.gov](mailto:lisa.primiano@dem.ri.gov).

In addition to these grants, DEM has funds available in its No-interest Loan Program to assist in the funding of open space projects. The Department will also provide overhead funds within set parameters to successful projects for appraisal, title and survey services provided the services are competitively bid with appropriate documentation. These overhead funds would be in addition to grant awards.