

THE YANKEE PLANNER



American Planning Association
Northern New England Chapter
Making Great Communities Happen

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The Architectural Jewels of Rochester

Article excerpted from the Rochester Times

In the fall of 2002, City Planner Michael Behrendt launched an architectural series in the "Rochester Times," with the assumption that it would extend to four or five parts. Every second week, he came around to the newspaper in his lunch hour, borrowed a camera, and came back a bit later with several photographic examples of architectural styles and building types, which were then tied together with some explanatory prose and captions.

One year and 28 episodes later, Behrendt finally rested on his laurels, in the knowledge that his enthusiasm and affection for Rochester's enormously varied architecture had infected thousands of readers, by giving them a renewed sense of appreciation for their city, and a gentle education to boot.

Behrendt didn't sit back for too long though. It transpired that he had more passionate feelings to express about Rochester's wealth of building types and styles than the space that was allotted to him every couple of weeks ever permitted. And so, the idea of a groundbreaking book was born. After linking up with a prestigious publisher, The History Press, and an intense spell of re-

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APA and ACSP: Planning's Town and Gown

By Jim Fisher, AICP, PhD

Senior Planner, Hancock County Planning Commission

In the thick of conference season I've burned through a bit of vacation leave attending back to back planning conferences, NNECAPA in Belfast and ACSP in Crystal City, Virginia. ACSP you ask, what's ACSP? In my non-systematic NNECAPA poll I found not one planner that knew the acronym, nor even the organization, Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning.

My results at ACSP were similar. The eight hundred plus attendees at ACSP are the professors and advanced doctoral students from planning schools throughout the country. If you studied planning, urban studies or related materials, it is very likely you studied with one or more of them. They are a

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Special points of interest:

[Book your hotel and register NOW for the 2010 APA National Conference in New Orleans, LA.](#)

President's Message

By Peg Elmer - NNECAPA President

Thank you to the Chapter for sending me to Washington D.C to represent you at the fall round of APA "leadership meetings". These include a mixture of APA business and national legislative background, and conclude with visits to our congressional delegation staff. Let me pass on my notes to you.

We heard from John Mercurio, Executive Editor of "The Hotline" of the *National Journal*. To quote him, "This is the best opportunity for planning to be a respected part of federal legislation since the 1970's." He noted the collaboration happening and that partnerships are being noticed, such as with ASLA and AIA are building (no pun intended) and providing value.

He noted that Republicans in Congress are at their lowest numbers in forty years but will seek to capitalize on Obama's plummeting popularity in the coming election cycle. Mercurio expects there will be some real Republican gains, based on a common position that bipartisan balance is needed, in both congressional and gubernatorial elections. We were offered some estimates on Senate, House seat changes. In the Senate, it boils down to about three seats which are likely to turn Republican, but which wouldn't shift the large Democratic majority. In the House, where the Democrats have a thirty-nine seat majority, at least forty current Democrats face tough Republican opponents. The guess was, if Obama's approval ratings dip into the 40's, all those seats will probably change to Republican Representatives.



Historic Building, Belfast, ME
Photo by Lee Krohn

Republicans are blasting the over-reaching agenda of the new Administration and will question "where are the jobs?". Mercurio finished up by saying the time is rapidly going by when blame can be cast on the previous Administration – the Democrats will be held accountable.

On infrastructure issues, we heard from the interesting new Director of the five year old transportation NGO, Re-Connecting America. Major John Robert Smith, long time mayor of Meridian, Mississippi, ("which has a gap in historic preservation opportunities due to General Sherman's special brand of urban renewal") long-time AMTRAK board member and chair, who has left the house his grandfather built (and a "fun with new grandson") to move to D.C. to gain a "transformational transportation bill – NOT a highway bill". He describes it as a robust multi-modal, inclusionary bill encouraging affordable and senior housing near transit stops, with more local control, encouraging clean freight, and including strong performance measures.

Also described was HR.2724 and Senator Dodd's S 1619, liveable communities bill. He described the big funding gap in meeting the wishlist provisions but noted that "we spend more \$'s removing road kill from the nation's highways than we do on passenger rail." Also that the U.S. comes in just behind Pakistan in its investment in rail. According to Smith, AMTRAK has been saved by rural America while it's heavily utilized in the urban corridors. He reminded us that the ARRA set

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Congratulations to the 2009 NNECAPA Awards Recipients

By *Rebecca Schaffner-Tousignant, NNECAPA Maine Director*

Plan of the Year

Moving Forward Together: Keene Community Vision 2008 was nominated by Jennifer Czysz, President of the New Hampshire Planners Association (NHPA) and was awarded the Plan of the Year Award. The Awards Committee chose this plan because in addition to meeting the basic award criteria it included an impressive level of public participation engaging various segments of the community through multiple means. This public process has resulted in a high quality, comprehensive vision supported by the community.



Mikaela Engert, Planner in Keene

Photo by Lee Krohn



Christine Walker, Director, UVLSRPC

Photo by Lee Krohn

Project of the Year

Innovative Land Use Planning Techniques Handbook was nominated by the NHPA Executive Committee and awarded Project of the Year. The Awards Committee chose this project because of the impact it has had on planning in New Hampshire. The handbook is the product of collaborative work by the State's nine RPCs and has resulted in 32 municipalities undertaking 40 different ordinance initiatives.

Professional Planner of the Year

Dana Farley, Community Development Director in Essex, VT was nominated by Polly McMurtry, Past President of the Vermont Planners Association (VPA) and was awarded the Professional Planner of the Year Award. The Awards Committee chose Dana for her years of commitment to the planning community; her work at both the local and state levels and public, private, and nonprofit sectors of planning; and her literary contributions to the education of current and future planners.



Dana Farley, Community Development Director, Essex, VT

Photo by Lee Krohn

Citizen Planner of the Year

Scott Mapes, current member of the Burlington Conservation Board and engineer, was nominated by Scott Gustin, Senior Planner, City of Burlington and awarded the Citizen Planner of the Year Award. The Awards Committee chose Scott Mapes for his dedication to the protection and improvement of water quality and applauds his ability to turn passion into action.

NNECAPA Photo Sharing Project

By Sandrine Thibault, NNECAPA Public Information Officer

Planners in northern New England often exchange and share their localities zoning and ordinance *language* by e-mail list serve. This, however, is often insufficient for local town planners to understand if the projects that result from the language would actually be appropriate for their town or city. Traditionally illustrative design guideline “best-practice” documents have been confined by static printed book type manuals. These documents often are outdated inside of 5-10 years. Planners in northern New England are simultaneously cursed and blessed with local and regional designs and problem solving that are best conveyed by showing photographic samples with descriptions. NNECAPA developed a continuously expanding (and expandable) photographic library that can function like a Web-log (Blog) of examples, completely searchable.

This innovative communication mechanism, through internet-web technology, is meant for the graphic and illustrative sharing of planning knowledge. Only through a photographic medium can enough detail about the physical manifestation of planning language be understood. Comprehensive understanding can best be achieved through photographs and images for analyzing if specific innovative solutions are appropriate for ones own locality. Key components to its success is its dynamic nature so we need your help to continue populating the library. Below are some of the benefits this project will bring:

- time effective sharing of best-practices type examples throughout a region where home-rule RULES;
- an inexpensive and instantaneous distribution across the region;
- a growing and dynamic “repository” of examples which is searchable and accessible to anyone interested in our regions development;

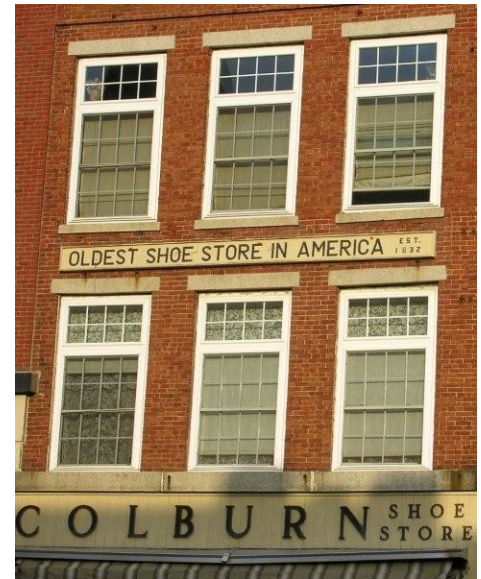


Photo by Lee Krohn.



Picture by Lee Krohn.

- an opportunity for members and anyone with an internet connected computer to learn about what northern New England Planners consider “good planning” made real.

To access the library and share examples of good planning in your community go to: www.flickr.com/photos/nnecapa/

**Check the NNECAPA website for more information shortly, especially for an explanation on how to upload pictures.

Professional Development Updates

By Ben Frost, Professional Development Officer

CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW AICP MEMBERS!

Erica Anderson, AICP, Lakes Region Planning Commission, NH

Christa Koehler, AICP, Clean Air Cool Planet, NH

Jeffrey Mast, AICP, Bennington County Regional Planning Commission, VT

David Versel, AICP, Economic Stewardship, Inc., ME

CM REPORTING GRACE PERIOD

The current CM reporting period ends on December 31, 2009, by which time all AICP members should have reported 32 credit hours earned, including 1.5 hours each for Ethics and Law. But if you've been unable to do this, there is an additional "grace period" to earn and file your necessary credits. ***This grace period will end on April 30, 2010.***

NNECAPA CM CREDIT LOGGING GUIDE

To help you log your CM credits, several chapters have collaborated on the creation of a template. This has been tailored to suit the peculiarities of the Northern New England Chapter, and it is available on the Chapter website under "Professional Development > Certification Maintenance".

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Free Course: Planning for Healthy Places

Planning for Healthy Places with Health Impact Assessments is the first in a series of CM-eligible online courses from APA. Through examples and activities, this "how-to" guide explains the value of Health Impact Assessments and outlines the steps involved in conducting one.

This course was developed in partnership between the American Planning Association and the National Association of County & City Health Officials and is offered free of charge through a grant from the Centers for Disease Control. CM | 6

professional.captus.com/Planning/hia

Free Monthly Webinars

A dozen chapters of APA have pooled their resources to offer webcast training opportunities that are free to APA members. Below is the list of sessions that are still open for registration. You can visit the APA Utah Chapter website to register for any of these: www.utah-apa.org/webcasts.htm. CM | 1.5 each

Creating Sustainable Communities (registration not yet available)

December 4, 2009 – 1 pm – 2:30 pm

Community Strategies for Dealing with Distressed Properties

December 10, 2009 – 1 pm - 2:30 pm CM | 1.5
LAW

Social Equity

December 11, 2009 – 1 pm - 2:30 pm CM | 1.5
ETHICS

APA Training Online

Tuesdays at APA

The free podcast recordings of the after-work lectures "Tuesdays at APA" are available for CM credit, CM | 1.0 per recording. AICP members listen to the audio recording and follow along with a provided PowerPoint. To participate, visit www.planning.org/tuesdaysatapa/previous.htm.

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VT Legislative Update

By Sharon Murray ,AICP

NNECAPA Vermont Legislative Liaison

Vermont's legislative session ending in June was, as in other states, all about money – mostly where to cut – and as expected planning did not fare well. Our Agency of Commerce and Community Development was proposed for elimination – still under consideration by the Legislature – but instead went through administrative restructuring. The Departments of Economic Development and Housing and Community Affairs were merged in July, resulting in the permanent loss of two positions once filled by professional planners – the Commissioner of Housing & Community Affairs and the State Planning Director. We also lost GIS-support staff and our downtown program coordinator. Program duties have been assumed by remaining staff, which now include of the Director of Community Planning and Revitalization, two Planning Coordinators, and a Downtown Development Specialist.

Many of the department's housing functions – including some HUD-funded programs – were transferred under a memorandum of understanding to the Vermont Housing & Conservation Board. The Legislature assigned a summer study committee to consider merging ACCD with the Department of Labor, but the committee, for lack of gubernatorial appointments, has not yet met. Residual state planning functions are scattered among departments and divisions of other agencies, and are undertaken only as required by remaining staff or appointed committees. There are now three APA members left in state government – all working in transportation (who's you're daddy?).

Some state level planning survives in other forms. The Vermont Council on Rural Development wrapped up its two-year Council on the Future of

Vermont, issuing its final report “Imagining Vermont: Values and Visions for the Future” last spring, followed by a well-attended statewide summit. The Commission on the Future of Economic Development (CFED), established by the legislature in 2005-06 and staffed by the Snelling Center for Government, has been asked to define state development benchmarks and a state economic development “planning entity or model.” This session the Legislature also established the Vermont “Farm to Plate” (F2P) program, under the auspices of the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund, to develop a 10-year strategic plan for Vermont's food and farm sector.

State funding for regional planning commissions was cut back significantly, though RPCs may see some benefit from federal ARRA funds. State funding for municipal planning was reduced by 50% in the 2010 budget as enacted, and has since been placed on hold. Fortunately, to date there have been no regional or municipal planning staff cuts, but there are few remaining planning consultants, and they're looking afar for project work.

The substance of the past session also reflected available funding – local and state permitting requirements were relaxed, at least temporarily, to ensure that ARRA projects would be ready to go, and to meet statewide goals for comprehensive telecommunications coverage and renewable energy development. As a result, telecommunications projects, wind towers and other renewable energy projects are generally exempt from local regulation and state Act 250 review. On the upside, efforts to limit the state's current use program for farm and forest land, and to gut the Vermont Housing & Conservation Trust Fund, were defeated. Legislation also was enacted to authorize state bonding for transportation improvement projects, and to create municipal “clean energy

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State Grapevines

Vermont

By Polly McMurtry, VT State Director

On October 16th, the Vermont Planners Association held its annual meeting, at which Ambassador/Governor Madeleine Kunin handed out the 2009 Awards.

Scott Mapes, of Burlington, Vermont, was recognized as the **2009 Outstanding Citizen Planner**, for his dedication to his community. (See NNECAPA Awards for more information)

The **2009 Outstanding Citizen Board** award was awarded to the **Town of Bennington's Planning Commission**. The members are very thorough in their deliberations, considering all sides of an issue, and recognize the importance of engaging the public and educating the larger community about their ideas. The Bennington Planning Commission has undertaken an impressive number of planning projects and regulatory changes in the last 10 years to implement their planning goals, including (but not limited to) Downtown Bennington Historic District Design Guidelines, Scenic Resource Protection Regulations, Large Scale Retail Bylaw, Growth Center Designation, Fluvial Erosion Hazard Regulations and a major Town Plan Update. The sustained dedication and record of achievement of the Bennington Planning Commission are exemplary, demonstrating a commitment to planning principles, and effective application of these principles to the betterment and improvement of the Bennington community.

Dana Farley, Community Development Director for the Town of Essex, was the recipient of the **2009 Outstanding Professional Planner of the Year**. (See NNECAPA Awards for more information)

The award for **2009 Outstanding Plan Award** was given to the **Neshobe Farm Planned Com-**

munity Development of Brandon. The Neshobe Farm Plan is a sustainable-oriented community designed to integrate housing, open space, natural features, organic agriculture, alternative energy production, and innovative business models within a single community. It incorporates a network of pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods, located within walking distance of goods and services scattered among open space, wildlands and agricultural areas. It has been dubbed "New Ruralist" by planners because of its embodiment of the rural values of agricultural production, natural beauty, small-scale economics, and community-based self-sufficiency. This planned community supports the growth center concept by developing available land adjacent to the Historic Village Center. The innovative way that this plan addresses issues currently being faced by many other communities in Vermont is an important factor in making this award.

The **Town of Manchester** was the recipient of VPA's **2009 Outstanding Project Award** for their Youth Engagement project. This project is innovative in creating tangible, meaningful, lasting ways to involve youth in civic affairs. This process and project, which resulted in appointing high school students to all town boards, gives youth a real voice in municipal policymaking and decision-making, while helping everyone learn from each other in ways that would not otherwise occur. The success of this project has many dimensions: the interest and willingness of the boards to listen to the town's youth, take their advice, and apply it to both policy and projects; the interest and motivation of these students to participate actively, and to take the initiative to encourage their peers to apply for these positions; the lessons learned by the students themselves (as in many aspects of life, many of them unanticipated); and the very positive receptions received from adults. This

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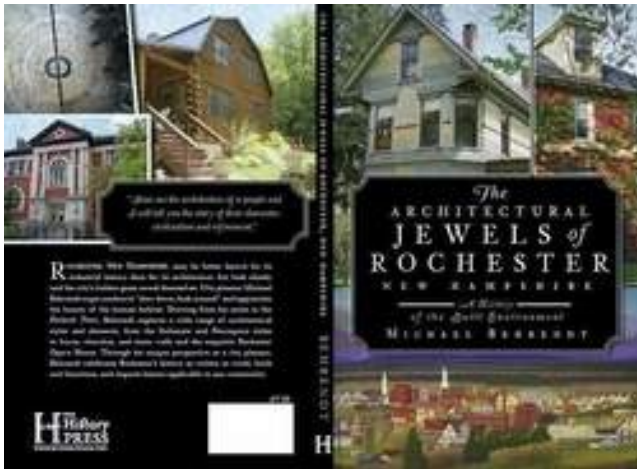
The Architectural Jewels of Rochester

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search, writing and revising, (in his own time, City Hall watchers should note) Behrendt has produced "The Architectural Jewels of Rochester, New Hampshire: A History of the Built Environment."

It runs to 190 pages, divided into 30 easily absorbable chapters that follow the original outline of the *Rochester Times* series fairly closely, except that the dozens of photographs of the city's building and architectural features are complemented by a warm and friendly writing style that always informs and never intimidates. A preface, introduction and conclusion have also been added, and, most helpfully, an extensive glossary of the architectural terms that sprinkle the chapters.

Public officials are full of praise for Behrendt's book, which, in its way, records the city's history via the architecture of early settlement in the 1700s, through the residential and industrial styles of the 19th and 20th centuries, right up to the exciting modernism of building like Granite Ford, the new Burger King, Ocean Bank and the Frisbie Conference Center.



Rochester Main Street Director Mike Provost said, "Anything that creates a sense of community heritage is wonderful. This book is eminently readable and it develops an awareness and an appreciation of the icons in the community. I am impressed. Rochester is very fortunate to have someone of Michael's knowledge."

Chamber of Commerce President Laura Ring agreed. "There is a nice depiction of businesses and different architectural styles in town. Kudos to Michael for a great job," she said, adding that it will be of interest both to visitors in the city and residents looking for Christmas gifts.

City Manager John Scruton said he appreciated Behrendt's dedication to Rochester for producing such a labor of love in his own time.

"This is a good example of his literacy and aesthetic taste being used to benefit Rochester. There is a lot in there. It is a good book for a coffee table or a gift for people who grew up in Rochester," said Scruton, adding that it is a much better read than "McDuffee's History of Rochester," in that "The Architectural Jewels" is genuinely interesting. "

This view is borne out by Rochester Historical Society President Martha Fowler, who, without conceding that "McDuffee's History" contains long passages of sawdust, said of "The Architectural Jewels," "It is so complete. From the historic to the modern he has done a wonderful job. I went to see a lot of the houses when they were in the newspaper. Now they are in the book I will go and see them again. I don't think much about a street until someone points out the architectural features of the houses. He (Behrendt) is to be commended for all that work."

"The Architectural Jewels of Rochester New Hampshire" can be purchased at various locations around Rochester, RiverRun Bookstore in Portsmouth, Barnes & Noble, and on Amazon.com. It is priced at \$21.99.

APA and ACSP: Planning's Town and Gown

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valuable asset to the planning community. While ACSP attendees are well aware of APA, few attend APA conferences unless invited to speak and few are active with AICP.

Perhaps more perplexing to me has been the very common response at both conferences, “why should they know about us? Why would we know about them?” My relatively uncommon position of transitioning from a planning professor to a practicing planner no doubt heightens my sensitivity to town-gown relations within our profession, but I think we will be stronger academics and stronger professionals when we work together. I'll highlight a few cases to make my point.

The NNECAPA conference, [Yes We Plan: Seizing Opportunity](#) provided attendees with plenary and breakout presentations on the local economy, the built environment and transportation. While emphasizing very practical solutions to challenges we have all faced, there was no lack of academic interest in the materials. Maureen O'Meara walked us through the process and product of a challenging bicycle-pedestrian path built in Cape Elizabeth. Jim Lysen presented a movie that chronicled the “Visible Neighborhood” movement in Lewiston (strongly recommended and available on DVD), Uri Avin described how transit oriented development can be adapted to small cities and towns. The best sessions always left time for dialog. Success stories are energizing as well as educational. Many of us probably wish that we had a bit more of this in graduate school.

The presentation provided us with ideas for new ways to analyze old problems, a deeper understanding of the underlying factors that contribute to planning successes and failures and left us energized to try new strategies for our own work. The best sessions left time for dialogue. The gownies would do well to spend more time attending professional meetings, not just as speakers, but more importantly as collaborators in building an academic discipline that is in the end more an applied profession than a social science.

The theme for ACSP this year was [Reinvesting in America](#). As with [Yes We Plan](#), the conferees are looking forward to the planning opportunities and resource challenges accompanying the dramatic political and economic changes we're experienced this year. ACSP attendees had lots of choices, with sixteen different concurrent sessions every 90 minutes, each with three to four presenters. Being national and being academic, a majority of the attendees presented papers or participated in roundtable presentations. Topics ranged widely, but did not often stray from core disciplines within planning, such as sustainability, the built environment and transportation.

A few examples may help me to illustrate where we townies can learn from the gownies. If you are interested in learning more, you will find the 400+ page ACSP 2009 book of abstracts online at www.acsp.org. Most of the authors will be happy to share a copy of their papers. I concentrated on transportation, infrastructure and growth modeling.

Presentations devoted to creating a better integrated transportation system asked fundamental questions about human preference and behavior. These included “how far will people walk to a transit station?”, “what factors contribute a sense of safety while walking in urban areas?”, and “how important are amenities like food sales at intermodal facilities?” Even while wading through challenging statistical models, it was not difficult to see the importance of these questions to my practice.

I was an invited “discussant” at a session on rebuilding America's crumbling infrastructure. In these pa-

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APA and ACSP: Planning's Town and Gown

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pers another set of fundamental questions were explored, not about individual behavior, but about the behavior of institutions. The authors in this session asked whether privatization of heretofore public services, ranging from trash collection to large bridge and tunnel construction projects produced the fiscal savings and public services as promised. Their conclusions reflected a concern for the long term capacity for governments to serve the public under the constraints of private provider contracts. Does Chicago's selling a 75 year lease for parking meters compromise the city's public trust?

Finally, a third cluster of sessions I attended considered complex models to project population growth, land development, transportation demands and economic change. Most practitioners are unlikely to have the time or training to build these sophisticated models, but the process can provide an opportunity to dissect development decisions and how their effects ripple across our social and economic space.

These questions of individual behavior, institutional efficiency and equity, and large systems changes are critical to how we use planning to serve the public good. Despite the often rarified and abstract ways that academic questions are posed and analyzed, I believe that we practitioners will benefit by the process. The benefits will be more immediate and pronounced if we listen to the dialogue, and triply so if we engage in it ourselves. Planning is a learning process, and I think the gownies remain relevant long after we graduate.

My challenge to practicing planners is to make an effort to reach out to planning academics. Offer to give presentations in their classes, read their work and challenge their conclusions. My challenge to academics is to go to the field, job shadow practicing planners, devote a little of your time to supporting local planners with your energy and insight. There is no better time for us to bridge the gap between town and gown.



Sunset on the Bay in Belfast, ME

Photo by Lee Krohn

President's Message

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aside 20% for green infrastructure and efficiency measures and to advocate for putting those to good use in our states. Check out the website: www.T4America.org. He also referenced: www.mycommutesucks.org.

From my notes on water bills: S. 1005 includes a never before federal requirement to notify the public of sewage spills. It also includes research provisions, encourages integrated management and efficiency improvements. The House version is HR. 3202, Water Protection and Reinvestment Act, with less funding and includes new ideas on how to fund; such as, raising the volume cap on private investment bonds and setting up a Federal Water Infrastructure Bank. It also includes "water sense" provisions/water efficiency, water re-use and recycling studies and assessment, provisions "to serve no new development unless to test decentralized options", establishes the Office of Sustainable Watershed Resource Management in the White House and includes funding for planning at the state level

On climate change: "Moving Cooler", NRDC's publication, was much touted. This is available as the full book from ULI or as a summary downloadable from www.movingcooler.info. The Center for Climate Strategies is also a source. NOAA is looking for good education models – how to get the message out. King County (Boulder, CO) climate change guide was cited as a good community example. The legislative bill on the subject to check out is S.1733: the Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act. Connections with our partner organizations, particularly AIA, were touted throughout the gathering so we were urged to check www.aia/rebuildandrenue.org

On CM and membership questions....We were asked to remind retired status AICP planners that they are exempt from CM requirements and to remember there is a dues reduction option for unemployed members. The PDO committee is working on a self-reporting guide for members. APA is developing their first two specialty AICP's over the next year: in transportation and in the environment. These will follow the medical model: first the professional takes the exam to gain the overall credential and then can move further to pass a "specialty" exam to become a specialist.

A final item I learned from my trip to D.C .is a new acronym: CAVE, which means citizens against virtually everything.

Here's hoping the fall treats you and your communities well!



Early morning in Belfast, ME
Photo by Lee Krohn

Professional Development Updates

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Economic Development Today

In partnership with APA, the U.S. Economic Development Administration is producing a series of broadcasts called Economic Development Today for up to CM | 2.0. To participate, visit www.planning.org/eda/broadcastcm.htm.

APA Online Courses Now Available:

Ethical Practice for Practicing Planners – CM | 2.0 ETHICS

Hot Topics in Planning Law – CM | 3.0 LAW

Coming soon – *The Transportation/Land Use Connection*

To register, visit the Self-Directed study site, and select “online courses” at:

www.planning.org/education/selfdirected/index.htm.

Regional Meetings

Practical Ethics in Planning—What Keeps You Up At Night?

NHPA Annual Meeting

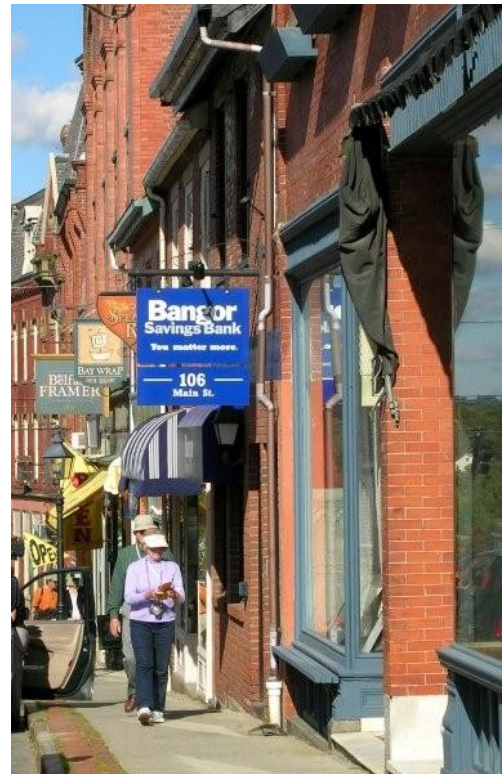
November 13, 2009 – CM | 1.5 ETHICS (not yet approved)

www.nhplanners.org

AICP EXAM QUESTIONS

Applicants can refer all exam related questions to aicpexam@planning.org. We also encourage you to check out our new AICP Exam web page at www.planning.org/certification/index.htm.

The Fall 2009 AICP Exam testing window will be open from November 9 to 24.



Street View in Belfast, ME
Photo by Lee Krohn

State Grapevines

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project embodies the best of expanded public participation, by creating the opportunity for continued, meaningful participation by youth (whose future lives and communities we are shaping by our present actions) and serves as a model to other municipalities.

The October 16th VPA meeting also included a day-long workshop on growth patterns called **Two Sides of the Coin: Density and Design in the Village and Countryside**. The panelists (Greg Winterowd and Sandi Young from Oregon, Tom Daniels from Pennsylvania, and Peter Flinker from Massachusetts) were all excellent and the discussion throughout the day was very lively. All in all, the workshop provided a lot of food for thought that will help form a basis for the upcoming CPC grant received by NNECAPA, as well as for two more sessions that VPA



Boats in Belfast, ME

Photo by Lee Krohn

is sponsoring on Growth Centers. These two forums, to be held in November and December, have been developed as a means for VPA members to reflect on Vermont's Growth Centers Program as it relates to growth center goals and objectives. The first session will explore whether the original goals and objectives are still valid and/or should be revised, and whether or not those goals and objectives are being met by the current program. The second session will focus on what steps VPA (with others) can take to ensure that the growth center program is aligned with the desired goals and objectives.

In other news, word has it that NVDA Regional Planner **Laurie Zilbauer** recently got married to Thomas Stillwell on July 12th, in Buffalo, NY. Congratulations, Laurie! **Dave Pelletier** has taken a position at the Vermont Agency of Transportation as the Public Transit Administrator. Prior to this position, Dave managed LCPC's regional transportation program for 9 years, served as Assistant Director for 4 years and interim Executive Director in 2008. In his new role, Dave oversees financial and technical assistance to public and non-profit transit providers throughout Vermont.

Andy Flagg, formerly of DHCA before moving to California, has now moved back to Vermont and is a planner with LCPC.

Bethany Remmers, NWRPC's Transportation and GIS Planner, has been named to the Peer Council of RPO America. RPO America serves as the national professional

organization for planners, practitioners, and policy officials involved in the field of rural transportation planning and development. **Tom Kennedy**, Executive Director of the SWCRPC, was recently elected to the Board of Directors of NADO (National Association of Development Organizations).

Maine

By Rebecca Schaffner, ME State Director

Brian Madigan has been hired as Staff Planner

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State Grapevines

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for Bar Harbor. He is also a LEED Accredited Professional and has attended the Muskie School of Public Service at the University of Southern Maine.

Joel Greenwood has joined Eastern Maine Development Corporation (EMDC) as a Planner. He previously worked as a community planner in the North of England specializing in revitalization projects and local development plans.

Jennifer Boothroyd has been hired as the Community Planner for Kennebec Valley Council of Governments. She recently completed her Masters degree in Public Administration from the University of Maine. Her prior experience includes working as a community planner for EMDC, working for the Hancock County Planning Commission, and the Maine Departments of Environmental Protection.

Rebecca Lambert joined Greater Portland Council of Governments as a Planner where she is working on energy and transit initiatives. She holds a Masters in Environmental and Natural Resources from the University of Vermont. Her graduate work included research for the Maine legislature on biofuels policy.

Paul First has been hired as the Town Planner of New Gloucester. He previously served as Executive Director of the Woodie Wheaton Land Trust in Washington and Aroostook counties, and serves on the Durham Planning Board.

Sandra Mowery now serves as the Zoning Administrator for Gorham. Her previous work includes working as the Town Planner for Kittery and Old Orchard Beach.

VT Legislative Update

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assessment districts” to promote community investment in renewable energy infrastructure. The Vermont Mapping Program (orthophoto mapping) was transferred from the Tax Department to the Vermont Center for Geographic Information, providing on-line public access to a valuable planning resource.

The coming session will continue to focus on money – and related government restructuring, program elimination, and staff cuts – and will likely include additional permit and tax reform initiatives, including proposed changes to the state’s current use program. VPA has initiated discussions to assess the effectiveness of state’s growth centers program, including related statutes, board makeup, staffing and resources. Efforts may also be afoot to re-evaluate Act 250 – after nearly 40 years there’s general agreement that it’s gotten a bit creaky and out of date, and lacks the underpinnings of coordinated statewide planning.

We’re headed into an election year – and given the shakeup caused by Gov. Douglas stepping down, practically every Democrat in the Senate is running for something – should make for a wild and crazy time under the Vermont golden dome this spring!

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Events Calendar

APA Webcasts

Creating Sustainable Communities

December 4, 2009

Details: www.utah-apa.org/webcasts.htm

2010 APA National Conference

Date: April 10-13, 2010

Venue: New Orleans, LA

Details: www.planning.org/conference/neworleans/index.htm

Visit our Calendar frequently for additional professional development opportunities: www.nnecapa.org/calendar



Belfast, ME

Photo by Lee Krohn

Are you working on an innovative project in your community?

Have you just finalized the creation or update on a plan you are proud of?

Please share your successes with your peers and submit an article for the NEW Northern New England Community Highlight section of the Yankee Planner!

Contact NNECAPA PIO Sandrine Thibault (sthibault@ci.burlington.vt.us) for information and publication deadlines.