

# THE YANKEE PLANNER



American Planning Association  
Northern New England Chapter  
Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Northern New England Chapter of the American Planning Association

## The Digital Coast Aids Adaptation and Resilience Planning

**By Kitty Fahey, NOAA Coastal Services Center**

Julie LaBranche, like many coastal planners living in northern New England, would like to do more adaptation and resilience planning to address hazards and weather-related events such as coastal flooding, shoreline erosion, and sea level rise.

"For many coastal communities and planners the need and desire is there, but the work is being held back because there's no funding for it," says LaBranche, a senior planner for the Rockingham Planning Commission in Exeter, New Hampshire. Some planning officials also believe they lack the time or technical expertise required to make progress.

The Digital Coast can help. This online suite of data, tools, and trainings is specially designed to aid coastal planners and other officials who are short on time, technical resources, or funds.

The American Planning Association is a partner in the Digital Coast effort, which is led by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coastal Services Center. The resources described below, and many others, can be found at [www.csc.noaa.gov/planning/](http://www.csc.noaa.gov/planning/).

**CanVis** – The CanVis visualization software and online training enable users with minimal computer skills to create realistic simulations of coastal changes, simply by using local digital images and choosing from a library of more than 700 objects that include docks, vegetation, seawalls, and offshore wind turbines.

**[Continues on Page 10](#)**

## Lead. Inspire. Innovate.

**By Angela Vincent, APA Director Elected from Region 1**

This year's APA Federal Policy and Program Briefing left me very inspired, ready to lead and excited to promote the innovate work that planners do to make great communities. Chock full of programs sessions on jobs and the economy, the future of policy for housing and community development, key economic development strategies, and the status of transportation reauthorization, I was reminded of the ever increasing importance of planning and the role of planners. Some important messages from federal agency representatives and local leaders were provided that I'd like to share in the hopes that we all remember that we are leaders in our communities and region in all aspects of planning:

**[Continues on Page 11](#)**

**Volume 29, Issue 4  
Fall 2011**

### Inside this issue:

<a href="#">President's Message</a>	2
<a href="#">NNECAPA Annual Conference a Success in Burlington</a>	3
<a href="#">NNECAPA 2011 Awards Winners</a>	4
<a href="#">Professional Development Updates</a>	5
<a href="#">Community Planning Workshops, your chance to get involved!</a>	6
<a href="#">How Can Your Chapter Have an Impact on More Students?</a>	7
<a href="#">State Grapevines</a>	8
<a href="#">NH Legislative Update</a>	13

## President's Message

### **By Carl Eppich - NNECAPA President**

Greetings! I hope this Fall Edition of the Yankee Planner finds you enjoying relatively mild New England weather and gearing up for the Holidays. It has been an extremely busy few months starting with the very successful NNECAPA Annual Conference in Burlington in early September. With the conclusion of September, I began a standard two-year term as NNECAPA President. I would like to thank my predecessor Peg Elmer, AICP for her THREE-YEARS of leadership of NNECAPA, and for preparing me for this task. The Executive Committee joins me in this appreciation. For those of us who are well aware of the fluidity of time (but not necessarily counting), Peg has served on the Executive Committee for at least 8 years. I know this because she was here when I came on the Committee in 2003!

### **Fall Leadership Retreat and APA Federal Policy & Program Briefing** - Washington DC September 16-19

Although Peg had not yet "passed-the-torch" to me, she was unable to attend the Chapter President's Council (CPC) and APA Federal Policy and Program Briefing meetings in Washington, DC. She asked me to attend as her proxy, and I was off and running as President-Elect. The CPC meets twice a year, in DC in the September and at the National Conference in April. Immediately following a reception, all of the Leadership (including CPC, APA and AICP Boards) met to hear APA's consultant Robin Rather, CEO of Collective Strength, give a presentation on her research and survey findings highlighting several examples of opposition messages demonstrating the need for APA as an organization to be on the forefront of development the planning story. I remember her saying, "Never have the skills of planners – YOUR skills- been more needed than at this time in this nation..." considering our economic and political struggles. Robin stressed that our message needs to change and focus on what resonates with the new political reality. Planners need to shift our message to the planning benefits leading to job creation, cost avoidance, and savings. It's not so much a change in what we do, but a change in what we emphasize, at least in this political and economic climate. I

was inspired and I hope to get a copy or link to her presentation. APA has rolled out a "Planning Communications Bootcamp" series to help you build support for Planning. For those who are interested in <http://www.planning.org/policy/communicationsbootcamp> (you'll need to log in as an APA member)

### **NNECAPA 2012 Maine Conference – October 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, Brunswick, Maine**

#### Around Leadership Explore Planners as Advocates

Mitch Silver, APA's President spoke at both the Burlington conference and the Leadership conference on the role of planners to "Lead, Inspire and Innovate". A call to action of what we as planners should be doing each day. The leadership retreat emphasized the importance of planners stepping up to be leaders and not avoiding confrontation and waiting for others to fight for the vision we create. We must ensure our message is concise and meaningful so people can understand why planning is relevant and crucial for the rebuilding of the economy and sustainable communities that thrive. This is more important than ever as the profession continues to see attacks from groups, such as the Tea Party and others. Members can expect a revised Planners Communication Guide with tools to help divisions, chapters, and members to skillfully tell the story.

#### APA Recognizes 2011 Great Places – Two in NNECAPA Region

In October APA released its 2011 Great Places list which included two in the "Great Streets" category for the NNECAPA region: Market Street and Market Square, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and Downtown Woodstock Streetscape, in Woodstock, Vermont. Congrats to those communities! The full list is here: <http://www.planning.org/greatplaces/>

#### A NNECAPA Regional Initiative?

I am looking forward to serving the NNECAPA membership over the next two years and recently I had this idea to identify a regional initiative for our three states to collaborate on. I have my own ideas, but I welcome yours. My thinking is around a manageable, common

**[Continues on Page 14](#)**

## Our 2011 NNECAPA Award Winners

### Professional Planner of the Year -

Christopher J. Parker, AICP, Planning Director, City of Dover NH



### Citizen Planner of the Year -

Paul Goldberg, Town of Bedford NH



**Project of the Year** - Middlebury Cross Street Bridge, Middlebury VT



**Plan of the Year** - Damariscotta Heart & Soul Planning Charrette Report, Village of Damariscotta ME



*Congratulations to all for a recognition well deserved!*

## Professional Development Updates

### **By Ben Frost, Professional Development Officer**

#### **CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW AICP MEMBERS!**

- ✦ Molly Casto, City of Portland, ME
- ✦ Carl Eppich, PACTS (Portland Maine MPO)
- ✦ Rebecca Schaffner-Tousignant, Greater Portland Council of Governments
- ✦ Christy Witters, State of Vermont DEC
- ✦ Vanessa Goold, Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission

#### **CM REPORTING GRACE PERIOD**

The current CM reporting period ends on December 31, 2011, 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, 2012.***

#### **GET CM CREDIT FOR YOUR EVENT!**

For the past year, NNECAPA has been helping other organizations seek Certification Maintenance credits for their planning-related seminars, conferences, and workshops. This includes our three states' planning associations (VPA, NHPA, and MAP). For us to consider co-sponsoring the activity, a NNECAPA member must be substantially involved in the planning and organization of the event. Remember that CM approval can take up to three weeks, so plan ahead. For more information on the CM credit approval process, contact me at [bfrost@nhhfa.org](mailto:bfrost@nhhfa.org).

#### **TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

Find a listing of free training sessions offered as distance education products at [www.planning.org/cm/free](http://www.planning.org/cm/free). There are over 30 hours of free training available. Programs include *Planning for Healthy Places with Health Impact Assessments*, developed in collaboration

with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Association of County & City Health Officials, and the popular *Tuesdays at APA* series. Also available is a four-hour series on the first 100 years of planning in America, called "Symposium: 1909–2109: Sustaining the Lasting Value of American Planning."

#### ***Free Chapter Webinars in 2012***

Next year NNECAPA will again join with many other chapters and divisions to provide a series of informative and **free** webinars. You can earn all of your required CM credits from wherever you are! After they're organized, you'll be able to see the full listing of 2012 programs on the Utah APA website at <http://www.utah-apa.org/webcasts>. Past webcasts can be accessed here: <http://www.utah-apa.org/webcast-archive>. Some are available for CM Distance Education credit, including a couple of ethics sessions.

Check out the webcasts on social media:

- ✦ Facebook – [www.facebook.com/pages/Planning-Webcast-Series/274203962600243](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Planning-Webcast-Series/274203962600243)
- ✦ Twitter – @planningwebcast

#### **INTRODUCING APA'S PLANNING COMMUNICATIONS BOOT CAMP**

Do you want to be a smart, effective advocate for planning in your community? Enlist in basic training.

Planners encounter a variety of challenges that include ideological attacks on planning, constrained budgets, and inhospitable economic and political climates. APA has launched an intensive effort to help members build public support, counter critics, and reframe local perceptions of planning. Communications Boot Camp will empower and transform planner participants into highly effective messengers and planning advocates.

Communications Boot Camp includes free webinars, how-to guides, case studies, and other online training materials — everything you need to become a forceful champion of planning in your community. The program

**[Continues on Page 10](#)**

## Community Planning Workshops... Your Chance to Get Involved

**By Debbie Alaimo Lawlor, AICP/PP – AICP Commissioner from Region 1 / APA staff**

[\*\*\(dlawlor@live.com\)\*\*](mailto:dlawlor@live.com)

After the annual conference in Boston, I reported that one of the most rewarding activities that I had the privilege to take part in was the Community Planning Workshop which is a full day event where planners from around the country get together to work on a defined project for a local community in need of assistance in close proximity to where APA is hosting a conference.

During the 2011 APA Fall Leadership Meetings and the Federal Policy and Program Briefing, a Community Planning Workshop was held in the NoMa neighborhood of NE Washington, DC. This workshop was designed to give members of APA's Leadership, including the Board and Commission and elected members of Chapters and Divisions, a chance to experience a workshop firsthand and learn how to organize a similar one through their own Chapter or Division. APA participants assisted the NoMa neighborhood with strategies to preserve public open space and create parks in the rapidly growing business improvement district (BID).



On September 17, 2011, planners from around the country and local community members gathered in one of D.C.'s fastest developing neighborhoods — known as NoMa — to come up with strategies to preserve public open space and parks in the midst of remarkable growth. Workshop participants were tasked with presenting NoMa BID with:

1. A vision statement that supports the community's needs and wishes for future public spaces.
2. Park design guidelines and ideas for a breezeway outside the local Metro rail station.
3. A long-term public engagement strategy.

NoMa's name derives from its location "North of Massachusetts Avenue," which has seen a total transformation over the last decade. A once-blighted industrial area has transformed into a bustling transit-oriented, mixed-use community. Since the opening of the public-private partnership project of the New York Avenue Metro station in 2004, the headquarters of the U.S. General Services Administration and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives have located within the neighborhood.

The daytime population is roughly 40,000 people, and the full-time resident population continues to explode.

The pace of development, coupled with an industrial past, has left NoMa vulnerable to the loss of all significant open space and parkland. This is where the workshop participants stepped in to help the community recognize and capitalize on its open space and recreational potential.



Workshop participants used the offices of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) in NoMa as headquarters for the day's events. NoMa Transportation and Planning Manager Jamie Brätt and Ambassador Supervisor/Outreach Coordinator J. Otavio Thompson toured us around the NoMa district on foot for over an hour. This walking tour gave us the opportunity to casually talk to different stakeholders as we walked through their neighborhood to get a better understanding of NoMa from their perspective.

After returning to MWCOG, participants separated into five breakout groups, each consisting of APA members and community stakeholders. These groups met to discuss and produce answers to a set of issues and

**[Continues on Page 12](#)**

## How Can Your Chapter Have an Impact on More Students?

**By Lauren McKim, SRC Representative from Region I  
([lmckim@rutgers.edu](mailto:lmckim@rutgers.edu))**

Why did you become a member of APA? What do you believe are the benefits of membership? Where do you think students can contribute in your Chapter? Think about how you would answer to these questions.

Personally, I am already benefitting from my student membership by learning about new trends and best practices in urban planning. Talking to professionals who are currently working in the field is invaluable to me.

Some students may see membership in a professional organization primarily as a way to expand their professional network and help them land their first job out of school. Or, they view membership as a much needed "activity" on their resumes. APA can offer so much more to students.

Sometimes, increasing student involvement in your Chapter might be as simple as communicating the many benefits of membership and how to get involved. One way to spread the word about APA is through an information session or brief orientation coordinated with your Chapter's Student Representative and/or PSOs.

Here are a few ideas of the types of information students might be interested in learning:

Chapter – Level:

- YPG Events open to students
- Chapter Committees interested in student volunteers
- Chapter events
- Chapter/Regional conferences
- What makes your Chapter stand out?

National – Level:

- Division Membership - \$10 for students: <http://www.planning.org/divisions/>
- Fellowships/Scholarships: <http://www.planning.org/scholarships/>

- Leadership Opportunities: <http://www.planning.org/leadership/students/>
- National Conference: <http://www.planning.org/conference/index.htm>

Communication with students, particularly through social media, was an important topic discussed by the Students Representatives Council (SRC) at the Fall Leadership Meeting. APA has a presence on LinkedIn, Twitter and Facebook; your chapter may as well.

**Here are APA's Details:**

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/AmericanPlanningAssociation>

Twitter: [http://twitter.com/#!/APA\\_Planning](http://twitter.com/#!/APA_Planning)

LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)

Groups: American Planning Association

American Planning Association – Students

So, why are you a member of APA? Share your reasons and enthusiasm with students. Start communicating with students and advertising your upcoming events or information session. Many more of students could benefit from APA membership!

## State Grapevines

### Vermont

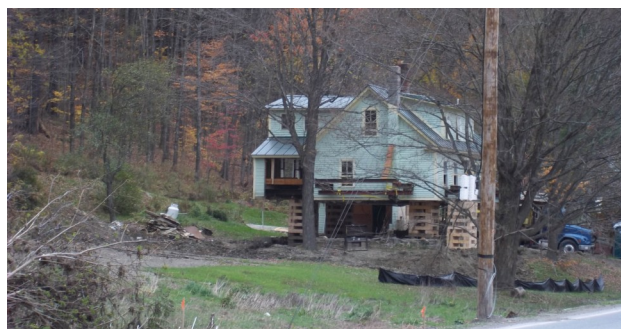
**By Jim Donovan, VT State Director**

**Joss Besse**, Director of Community Planning and Revitalization in the Vermont Department of Economic Housing and Community Development is retiring from state government after over 20 years of service. He worked as a planning coordinator in what was then the State Planning Office and later helped found and run the Downtown Program, Vermont's Main Street Program, before taking on the responsibility of managing the combined staff of the Downtown and Planning programs. He will likely spend a great deal more time sailing but also promises to stay involved with the wide network of people he served through occasional consulting.

**Peg Elmer**, past President, was one of Hurricane Irene's chosen ones. The White River crossed Rte 14 and raged through her 1805 Cape at a height that slurped mud over the kitchen counters where it entered but settled out at around 3 feet in the water level marks left on front parlor windows. It tossed a piano upside down and around, raged out the garage door and carved a deep ravine through Rte 14 at her driveway.

As a result of years of interface with flood hazard policy and program management, Peg was carrying flood insurance for the house, even though it was not required because the house is not in a mapped flood hazard zone. There's plenty of irony, humor and lessons learned all around as she wends her way through the maze of insurance, FEMA and SBA - much of which is not well-designed to serve folks whose property is outside the zone. The extraordinary positive community response and connections gained mean much more to her than any of the loss.

After deciding the September debate of "raze or raise", she's deep in re-design of the property to stand up to the next 200 years. In the photo on the right, the house is raised for a full new foundation which will put it 4 feet higher than it was. The old stone foundation will be part of terraced "breakwater" gardens on the upstream (pictured) side of the house. The land-



scape architecture part of the project will be key to the structure's survival.

Only part way through donating the waterfront side of Rte 14 to the VT River Conservancy, White River Partnership and the Town of So Royalton, Peg is grateful to still have control over a long stretch of ravaged riparian corridor that needs much innovative reconstruction as well.

Hoping to get back into her house in the spring, fully restoring the property as an example of resilient design will be a multi-year project for Peg.

Also from Peg Elmer, as she puts it..."to add to the general washing away of my day-to-day existence"...

The **Vermont Law School Land Use Clinic** in its present form is slated to close, after the spring 2012 semester, at the end of June 2012. The Land Use Clinic has been valuable and appreciated by students as part of the school's experiential offerings, and by the public service provided to its clients. The Clinic had been building a loyal clientele and providing a public service to the larger volunteer and professional land use community in this region.

The current design of the Clinic -- its staff needing to raise the funds to sustain it, along with pulling together the projects for coming semesters while providing faculty support to current clinicians -- is not sustainable. It is always difficult to raise funds for this type of work, and particularly so in this economic climate. The law school is pursuing another model for the Clinic that it hopes will be more sustainable financially while providing students with the opportunity to gain experience in the field of land use law.

**[Continues on Page 9](#)**