

State Grapevines

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Look for sequels in the next Yankee Planner. Peg is looking forward to new opportunities as she shapes her next chapters.

VTrans announces that **Joe Segale**, former Director of the VT office of Resource Systems Group, joined VTrans as the Policy & Planning Manager on 11/7. He takes over responsibility for all the Policy & Planning functions and oversees a staff of eight.

Brian Shupe became Executive Director of the Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC) in September. VNRC also hired Kate McCarthy as the Sustainable Communities Program Director last month. Before coming to VNRC Kate was a regional planner with Windham RPC.

Terry Boyle was inducted as a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects in San Diego at the ASLA 2011 Annual Meeting. (Terry is a VPA member but I'm not sure if he is an APA member.)

Jim Donovan, FASLA, AICP recently joined the Complete Streets Coalition Speakers Bureau.

New Hampshire

Lebanon, NH hires new Planning & Zoning Director

The City of Lebanon, NH has recently hired Andrew Gast-Bray as the Director of Planning & Zoning, effective September 26, 2011. Dr. Gast-Bray is a graduate of the University of Michigan with both a BS in Engineering and a BA in Linguistics. He earned a Ph.D. in Engineering from the Ecole Centrale de Lille in France, and subsequently, a post-doctoral Master's in Community Planning degree from the University of Cincinnati.

Dr. Gast-Bray brings to the City more than 20 years of Planning, Engineering, and Management Experience, ten of which have been spent specializing in sustainable development. He has worked in the private sector, serving as General Manager of Fontaine Engineering in Bridgeport, WV, and as Director of Sustainable West Virginia, a nonprofit organization that provides workshops and networking services on sustainable development projects. His work in the public sector includes serving as Director of Planning and Development for the Town of Winchendon, MA where he

oversaw the rewrite of the Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance that included innovative land use planning for conservation districts and gateway overlays, accompanied by form-based and performance-based guidelines. During his tenure, he launched a local redevelopment authority, and organized the adaptive reuse of an historic mill complex into a water-powered economic center.



He is a member of the American Planning Association and the Congress for the New Urbanism, holds both AICP (American Institute of Certified Planners) and CNU-A accreditations. He is also on the LEED-ND corresponding committee - the U.S. Green Building Council's effort to promote green communities, has numerous publications, and is responsible for several patents and new technologies. His many years of experience will contribute greatly to meeting the goals of the City as we move forward to make Lebanon a vibrant, balanced, and sustainable community

The Digital Coast Aids Adaptation and Resilience Planning

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CanVis enables viewers to visualize the scenic impact of sea level rise and other coastal changes. The untouched image on top shows the historic Battery in Charleston, South Carolina, while the CanVis visualization below shows projected sea level rise.

Coastal County Snapshots – Coastal County Snapshots turns complex data into easy-to-understand information on management-related issues such as coastal hazards or the number of jobs that depend on the oceans. Users select a coastal county of interest, and the website’s graphics and information give quick insights on issues, while also pointing to relevant tools, data, and training opportunities.

Coastal Inundation Toolkit – The toolkit enables planners or their technical personnel to understand the causes of inundation, visualize inundation and its potential impacts, identify potential risks and vulnerabilities, and communicate effectively to initiate change.

Economics: National Ocean Watch (ENOW) – ENOW describes six economic sectors that depend on the oceans and Great Lakes. ENOW’s annual time-series data for 448 coastal counties and 30 coastal states are produced by the Center using data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Roadmap for Adapting to Coastal Risk Virtual Training – The roadmap course guides users in characterizing their exposure to hazard and climate threats. Participants also consider how plans and policies already on the books can address hazard vulnerabilities and jump-start adaptation strategies. The roadmap training and all Digital Coast webinars provide continuing education credits for planners.

Professional Development Updates

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draws on the insights and expertise of communications specialist Robin Rather of Collective Strength, our Washington, D.C.-based partner Axiom Communications, and other experienced communications professionals who work locally.

Once a week — beginning November 4 and ending January 31 — APA will conduct a webinar or release a detailed how-to guide focused on a key communications topic. Webinars are free but registration is required. System capacity is limited to the first 1,000 registrants, but the webinars will be recorded and posted on the APA website.

For the full list of webinars and “how-to” guides, go to <http://planning.org/policy/communicationsbootcamp/>.

Lead. Inspire. Innovate.

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- Cultivate long-term relationships with forward thinking CEOs and business organizations. These business leaders are essential stakeholders in creating sustainable local and regional economies. Keep them in the loop: invite them to workshops and economic development meetings, send them relevant newsletter articles about successful projects. They are important partners in our community – find ways to incorporate them in a meaningful.
- Develop a solid definition of sustainability. While there is support for sustainable communities in the U.S., there are many definitions floating around. If you have defined sustainable development in your community (congratulations!), promote that definition widely.
- Frame sustainability in terms of creating jobs and boosting economic prosperity. As mentioned above, there is support in our communities for sustainability, creating jobs and enhancing our economy are the most important issues on the public's minds.
- Leverage the power and energy of young planners and citizens. Their energy, commitment to their neighborhoods, and innovative ideas is a breath of fresh air and will inspire us to look outside the box. One way to do this is through the Community Planning Assistance Team projects, but there are lots of opportunities to engage these key players in every day planning and bring new life to our work.

We have an incredible opportunity to be leaders in these tough economic times and to show how planning creates jobs, improves the economy, maintains existing communities, incorporates all sectors of the community in planning for growth, and creates livable walkable places where we can all thrive. It's time to Lead, Inspire, and Innovate.

Sustaining Places Initiative Report

The Sustaining Places Initiative Report is out! Thanks to the incredible work of David Godschalk FAICP and Bill Anderson, FAICP who co-chaired the Sustaining Places Task Force, the 119 page report outlines the role of comprehensive plan as the leading policy document and tool to help communities of all sizes achieve sustainability. The final report outlines key strategies and recommendations for a Sustaining Places Agenda. It calls on the APA and AICP to lead this agenda through:

- Establishing a professional culture that recognizes and fosters the growth of sustaining places applications in planning practice and education;
- Conducting research and development aimed at building our repertoire of sustaining places knowledge, concepts and techniques: and
- Developing education and awareness activities aimed at widening public and professional understanding of the potential and importance of sustaining places planning.

This report outlines the core elements a comprehensive plan should have to develop sustaining places and how to measure our progress towards achieving more sustainable communities. It also outlined leading plans from across the U.S. that incorporated sustainability into their comprehensive planning process. Several of those leaders are right here in the Northeast: Burlington, VT; Keene, NH; Philadelphia, PA; and Albany, NY. We look forward to the next steps for activating the embracing the Call to Action that was made in this report and to taking this opportunity to make a critical difference in the places where people will live in the future through the future. If you would like a copy of this report, please visit: <http://www.planning.org/sustainingplaces>.

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Update from our Region 1 APA Reps

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Five Great Places Designated in the Northeast

Congratulations to the neighborhoods, streets and places in the Northeast that were designated as Great Places in the United States this year. The following were selected as Great Places:

Great Neighborhood: College Hill – Providence, RI

Great Streets: U Street, N.W. – Washington D.C.

Main Street – Nantucket, MA

Market Square and Market Street – Portsmouth, NH

Downtown Woodstock Streetscape – Woodstock, VT

APA leadership was invited to speak at the Nantucket Main Street event on October 8th. This Great Street has balanced the pressures of tourism with the everyday comings and goings of Main Street as the center of Nantucket life and commerce for two centuries. Through strong community leadership, planning and zoning, strategic private investment, and contributions of individuals, families and community groups, Main Street in Nantucket has succeeded at maintaining the quality and character that was recognized as being a true Great Street in the U.S.



The Thomas H. Macy House and the homes known as the 'three bricks' reflect the Federal and Greek Revival styles, respectively, popular along Main Street. Photo courtesy: Angela Vincent

Since the Great Places Program's start in 2007, APA has designated 140 Great Places located in all 50 states and D.C. Great Places are exceptional for many reasons, including creating a sense of place, the leadership of elected officials, the contributions of the businesses and community organizations and the hard work of engaged citizens and planners. Congratulations to Nantucket, Providence, Washington D.C., Portsmouth and Woodstock! For more information on the other Great Places or if you have a place that you'd like to nominate for 2012, please visit: <http://www.planning.org/greatplaces/index.htm>

Community Planning Workshops... Your Chance to Get Involved

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questions. After each breakout, the five groups reassembled and reported their findings.

During the last part of the day, the entire group assembled to create a prioritized list of recommendations for how the community should engage its growing resident base and other stakeholders in the neighborhood. The workshop ended as APA participants and NoMa participants met separately to discuss the day's activities.

The findings of the workshop will help the NoMa BID plan for a healthy proportion of open and park space as it continues to thrive as a vibrant mixed-use neighborhood.

These APA-AICP sponsored workshops are intended to bring extensive planning resources in the form of knowledge and skills from planners from around the country volunteering their services to communities in need of assistance. In return, the planners are able to sharpen their public participation and problem solving skills. It's our hope that many more or you will consider taking part in the Community Planning Workshops and apply to become members of future Community Planning Assistance Teams.

For more information: <http://planning.org/communityassistance/index.htm>

NH Legislative Update

By David Brooks, NH Legislative Liaison

The 2011 New Hampshire legislative session included a number of changes and clarifications to planning- related regulations.

NH previously prohibited more than one planning board member from serving on other local boards and commissions. With this limitation, many small communities had difficulty obtaining enough active members for those other boards and committees to fulfill their obligations. HB409 amends RSA 673:7 to allow two planning board members to serve on other boards or commissions, except that only one planning board member may serve on the local governing body, the conservation commission, or other local land use boards.

Another administrative change this year (HB205) was a clarification of dam owner notification requirements previously adopted in 2009. The new language indicates that the NH Department of Environmental Services Dam Bureau must be notified by first class mail of any proposal within 500 feet of the top of the bank of any lake, pond, river or stream. The legislation also states that the sole purpose of department notification is to provide information for dam hazard classification and does not give the department abutter status.

Senate Bill 104 clarified RSA 674:1, VI to indicate that the Planning Boards do not have the power to regulate timber harvesting operations that are not a part of a subdivision or site plan application. In other words, planning boards cannot regulate pre-application logging.

In another important procedural change, SB144 extended from four years to five the period within which developments must achieve "substantial completion" to become vested from changes in land use regulations. RSA 674:39 also now provides 24 months for developments to achieve "active and substantial development or building." The legislature did away with the temporary vesting periods that had been enacted in 2009 due to the economic downturn. With these changes, Planning Boards must now be mindful of when a development was approved in order to determine how much time is allowed for "active and substantial" (which can vary from 12 to 36 months) and "substantial completion" (which can vary from 4 to 6 years).

In HB109 and SB91, the legislature overrode the governor's veto of bills concerning fire suppression sprinklers in 1- and 2-family residences. House Bill 109 prohibits Planning Boards from requiring fire suppression sprinklers in 1- and 2-family residences as a condition of approval. However, other fire protection measures, including cisterns or fire ponds, can still be required. Senate Bill 91 prohibits a municipality or local land use board from adopting any ordinance, regulation, code, or administrative practice requiring sprinklers in 1- and 2-family structures for residential purposes. Communities that had adopted sprinkler ordinances prior to this year's legislation can continue to enforce those regulations.

With HB316, the legislature provided landowners with a procedure to "undo" involuntary lot mergers completed prior to September 18, 2010, when such involuntary lot mergers were prohibited. Landowners must make a request to the local governing body prior to December 31, 2016. However, if any previous owner had voluntarily merged the lots (and the municipality has the burden of proof), then subsequent owners cannot request the 'unmerger'. Municipalities must post notice of the 'unmerger' provisions in a public place before January 1, 2012 and in their annual reports for 2011 through 2015.

Finally, the NH legislature made substantial changes to the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act. Among the changes are the creation of a permit-by-notification process for projects proposing less than 1500 sqft of impact and no more than 900 sqft of new impervious surfaces. The legislation also relaxed the standards by which the regula-

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President's Message

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issue that would benefit our common practice in our very similar states. Right now I am thinking water resources/ storm water (acknowledging Vermont's recent extreme experiences), or local food resources. Again, let me know if you have an idea or proposal. The Executive Committee will likely hold a retreat this winter or early spring to discuss our business and I plan to bring this up as a major agenda item. This potentially could be an initiative at least partially funded by our organization. I can be reached at ceppich@gpcog.org

Finally, I want to also acknowledge my colleagues on the NNECAPA Executive Committee who really function as a team at making the work of NNECAPA a real pleasure. Many of us have been on the Committee for many years. I see our longevity as a testament our passion around our work and our communities, that our work makes a difference for the better, and that we enjoy serving you our members!



Carl F. Eppich, AICP
NNECAPA President

NH Legislative Update

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tions are calculated, more readily allowed for the expansion of non-conforming structures, and replaced the previous variance procedures with a more lenient waiver system.

Looking ahead, the 2012 session looks to include much more planning-related legislation. Stay tuned...

New England Water Law and Policy Conference, December 7, 2011, 8:30-5:00

Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, 265 Lakeside Avenue, Marlborough, MA

Convened by: American Ground Water Trust (www.agwt.org)

This one day Eastern Water Law and Policy conference will provide a great networking and information exchange opportunity. The program has been developed for local government officials, elected representatives, environmental attorneys, town & county planners, business owners, landowners, and environmental consultants in the New England region. It will provide state and federal regulatory updates and clarifications, information about current water issues and litigation, and cost effective groundwater protection strategies. The conference focus will be on legal and regulatory water resources issues (especially related to ground water) that are impacting (or have the potential to impact) citizens, communities, businesses and municipalities in the New England states.

Program: http://www.agwt.org/events/2011/2011MA_Legal_Program.pdf

Registration: http://www.agwt.org/events/2011/2011MALegal_Reg.htm

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Events Calendar

APA FREE Webcasts

January 7 - NY Metro Chapter - [Active Design Guidelines](#) - CM CREDITS

January 14th - Illinois Chapter - [Imaginative Connectivity: The Return of Streetcars to America's Central Cities, How and Why](#) - CM APPROVED

January 21 - Northern New England Chapter - [Planning Ethics Across the Country](#)- Advanced CM ETHICS CREDITS

January 27 - Michigan Chapter - [RLUIPA](#)- Introductory CM LAW CREDITS

February 1 - Arkansas Chapter- [Planning with Social Media - Tool or Trauma](#)- Introductory - CM APPROVED

February 4 - Missouri Chapter - [Healthy, Active and Vibrant Communities- Allied](#) -CM APPROVED

February 10 - Ohio Chapter - [Helping to Create and Sustain an Ethical Office Environment](#) - Advanced - CM APPROVED

February 11 - Florida Chapter - [Impacts and Opportunities of an Aging Population](#)- Introductory CM APPROVED

February 17th - Planning and Women Division - [Planning for an Aging Population](#) - Introductory CM APPROVED

February 18 - Connecticut Chapter - [Coastal Development and Regulatory Realities](#)- Introductory CM APPROVED

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

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.