

THE YANKEE PLANNER

APA

American Planning Association
Northern New England Chapter
Making Great Communities Happen

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Welcome to the Bottom of the Sea Travels by a Maine Planner: The Netherlands 2008

By Theo Holtwijk, Director of Long-Range Planning, Town of Falmouth, Maine

Imagine Monhegan not an island anymore, but a place where tour buses just drive up and park. Imagine Rockland harbor not open to the ocean and where ferries and fishing vessels are a thing of the past. Imagine Isleboro, where mansions do not overlook the ocean, but instead look out over acres of farmland and rows of modern windmills. Hard to imagine, right? But that is exactly the scene my wife Susie Wren and I encountered in The Netherlands recently.



Closing of the sea

Never-ending struggles of man versus sea have led to interventions in the “Low Countries” that are of a monumental scale. Central to this has been the closing off of a portion of the sea and the creation of several polders, “new lands” reclaimed from the sea/lake. This tradition dates back to the 17th century and some 3,000 polders of varying sizes now exist in The Netherlands. Based on an

[Continues on Page 9](#)

Checking in with ICLEI

New Guides Available to Help Your Community Reduce Energy Consumption and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

As a planner, you’ve mastered the art of multi-tasking, navigated the world of public outreach, and demonstrated your savviness on integrating economic, social, and environmental issues into land use planning. You’re a jack of all trades and it’s not surprising that your supervisors and elected officials have noticed your skills. So, naturally, when your community begins to seriously consider initiatives to help combat climate change, they thought of you.

The challenge, of course, is that your plate is already overflowing. So how do you make time to investigate what actions you should be taking to reduce your community’s energy consumption while still finding time to tackle all

[Continues on Page 12](#)

Volume 27, Issue 1

Inside this issue:

Presidents Message	2
Major Changes for Major Projects in NH and ME	3
Maine Legislative Update	4
State Grapevines	5
VT Legislative Update	6
Professional Development Updates	7
Regional Planners’ Exchange	8

Special points of interest inside:

- [SAVE THE DATE for the Annual NNECAPA conference](#)
- [NNECAPA dues increase information](#)
- [A report from Quebec - Active Travel and Schools in Montreal and Trois-Rivieres](#)

President's Message

By Peg Elmer - NNECAPA President

Greetings!

As one BBC commentator said, it's great to have an adult in the White House. Someone intelligent, thoughtful and caring with a global view. We can hear the collective world-wide sigh of relief.

My plow guy is already bemoaning "but they won't let him do anything in Congress – nothing will change". I reminded him at the time that President Obama had only been in office for a week. It took eight years to create this colossal mess. And it's not all up to that one man. We all need to be pressing for smarter decisions at every level.

We're in a very difficult time and it's projected to get worse. Planners know the tools for "growth" management. We're not so well-attuned on how to plan for "strategic disinvestment", but that's the term for the times. For example, it doesn't make sense to willy-nilly not fill needed jobs when they go vacant, and then make huge job cuts. Americans have developed a reputation for working long hours, letting their vacation time build up and overflow. As the unemployment funds disappear, doesn't it make sense to ask who wants to go to reduced hours first, then mandate that – before cutting people off health benefits and putting them on unemployment.

As we watch the stimulus package burst billions from federal coffers into our state infrastructure programs, can we convince our state program directors to focus on how to spend those funds to support smart growth in the future? I'm battling

a rural highway widening in Vermont's Act 250, designed according to federal "guidelines" in place 30 years ago. The road doesn't experience traffic or truck numbers to meet the criteria for the truck lanes that almost double the current pavement width. To mitigate the wetlands lost, the proposal is to fill a favorite quarry swimming hole, ten miles away, to create a wetland.



Rte 2 is a major east-west National Highway System link among our three states but its traffic numbers have been decreasing for 10 years. Isn't that what we've been striving for – to reduce VMT? I'm hoping for a decision that creates the precedent that we cannot afford to continue to over-design – that

we cannot afford to construct that extra pavement, nor can we afford to apply the extra asphalt to maintain it over time.

As our state officials in Vermont suggest that environmental permits ought to be set aside in order to get the economic stimulus funding applied to projects, we should not back off from questioning the details of the designs. We're not going to gain a future prepared for global warming from infrastructure designed to meet the "highways rule" thinking in the 1970's. Shouldn't the focus be on keeping the highway system we have in good shape, building up our rail, public transportation, bicycle and pedestrian systems – and in creating stronger intermodal links?

It feels like a long, cold winter. But spring will come. We can plan on it.

Major Changes for Major Projects in NH and ME

Helen L. Edmonds and Joanna B. Tourangeau
Pierce Atwood LLP

New Hampshire and Maine development projects face new permitting requirements. New Hampshire completed significant revisions to its Alteration of Terrain Rules effective January 1, 2009, while Maine is beginning to iron out major changes to its Site Location of Development Law.

New Hampshire's New Alteration of Terrain Rules (Env-Wq 1500)

New Hampshire's Alteration of Terrain Rules require consideration of the effects of alterations to terrain on water quality and stormwater run off volume. Generally, earth disturbance or alteration of existing run-off conditions, including dredging, earth moving, excavation, filling, mining, certain timber harvesting activities, and construction are subject to these rules.

The new Alteration of Terrain Rules, at Env-Wq 1500, apply to all applications filed after January 1, 2009 and supersede the old rules at Env-Ws 415. The most significant amendments to the rules are as follows:

- **Groundwater Recharge:** Calculation of groundwater recharge volume must now be included as part of the narrative in a stormwater drainage report, associated drainage area plans, and associated hydrologic soil group plans. Env-Wq 1504.08; 1507.04. These calculations are required in order to ensure protection of groundwater by minimizing the water diverted off-site by the proposed development. Groundwater recharge calculations must be conducted in accord with the new Env-Wq 1504.11.
- **Floodplain Criteria:** Projects within the 100-year floodplain now require a report discuss-

ing specific information, including delineation of the 100-year floodplain within the site boundaries, and the total volume of fill within the 100-year floodplain between existing grades and the 100-year flood elevations. Env-Wq 1503.08. Where the total fill volume is greater than 0.5 acre-feet or where a bridge or culvert crossing is proposed, the new rules also require a hydraulic model and analysis check. Env-Wq 1503.09(f).

- **Erosion & Sediment Control:** The new Env-Wq 1506 sets forth requirements for temporary and permanent erosion control methods. These erosion control methods include mulching, vegetation, and erosion control blankets. This section of the new rules also includes specifications for sediment control methods including silt fences, erosion control mix berms, straw or hay bale barriers, flocculants, construction dewatering, and temporary measures such as check dams, catch basin inlet protection, and sediment traps.
- **Permit-by-Rule Provisions:** Certain activities such as utilities, asphalt maintenance, trail projects, and certain smaller development projects are now permissible under a new permit-by-rule process. See Env-Wq 1508.03. The new permit-by-rule process allows developers to avoid the new Env-Wq 1500 application and permitting process so long as certain impact reducing conditions are met. *Id.*
- **After-the-Fact Permitting:** Finally, the new rules allow applications to be filed even after initiation or completion of work. Env-Wq 1503.26. After-the-fact permit applications must include additional information not required as part of the typical permitting process. These additional submissions include,

[Continues on Page 15](#)

Maine Legislative Update

By MacGregor Stocco, ME Legislative Liaison

The 124th Maine Legislature, First Regular Session, convened on Dec. 3, 2008. Bills could be proposed through mid-January 2009 (and literally thousands of them were). In the midst of this flurry of legislative activity, The Maine Association of Planners Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) held its general membership meeting on January 9, 2009.

The general membership meeting is held each year to provide an opportunity for members to discuss proposed bills and identify those that reflect MAP's legislative priorities for the upcoming year. Cloture, the last day in which bills can be proposed, did not occur until January 16th, after the general membership meeting. Therefore, the LPC chose a "short list" of bill titles to track from among those submitted prior to cloture, as well as those carried over from last year. This "short list" comprises those bills the LPC will watch and potentially engage in as the Legislature moves forward. When this newsletter went to print, the LPC was in the process of reviewing the final list of bills, determining a final "short list."

Following the general membership meeting was a legislative tutorial, which was designed as an introductory session to Maine's legislative process for interested planners. Presentations were made by Patrick Norton, from the Office of Policy & Legal Analysis on How the Legislature Works, Senator Peter Mills and Representative Jane Eberle on How Legislators are Influenced by their Constituents, and Maggie Drummond, from GrowSmart Maine on How to Influence Legislators. All planners in attendance agreed the legislative tutorial was informative, entertaining, and precisely the type of foundation necessary for the LPC to increase its effectiveness in representing planning issues to the Legislature. If other state organizations are interested in doing something similar, I would be happy to discuss this tutorial further. Also, if other states already do something like this, please contact me, as I am interested in discussing how to make the tutorial better.

In addition to legislation, the ME DEP is undergoing rulemaking to modify the Site Location of Development Rules, and the LPC is following this process closely. We will put an article in the next newsletter detailing the new rules, and how they might be of interest to planners in other states.

Once the ME Legislature gets going, bills will move very quickly. I will provide an update in the next newsletter on new laws affecting planning in ME. Until then, please feel free to contact me to discuss any interest you have in pending legislation in ME. The MAP LPC will be posting a "tracking spreadsheet" to its website, updated every Friday, identifying which bills the LPC is tracking, when public hearings are occurring, etc. This spreadsheet will also contain links to bill text.

The MAP LPC established a successful process last year, of meeting regularly every two weeks to discuss upcoming public hearings, work sessions, which committee member will draft testimony, etc. We effectively lobbied, on behalf of MAP, and raised awareness of planning issues with many legislators. We hope to continue this positive trend this year. I welcome any advice from planners out there with experience tracking legislation, writing and presenting testimony, or any other method for promoting planning with lawmakers.

State Grapevines

MAINE by *Rebecca Schaffner*

In September at the NNECAPA award ceremonies, our own **Kat Fuller**, AICP, received the 2008 NNECAPA Professional Planner of the Year award. Upon hearing about the award Kat, who is the Chief Planner for MDOT, went on to say: *"This is truly a great honor! I'm very fortunate that Maine-DOT gave me the opportunity to work with a group of talented consultants who along with the Steering Committee are bringing new insights into connecting land use and transportation. Working with the 21 communities in the Gateway 1 corridor has been inspiring and energizing!"*

City of Rockland Community Development Director **Rodney Lynch**, AICP, received the Governor's 2008 Award for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Administrator of the Year. The award was presented by Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner John Richardson at the Annual CDBG Appreciation Day held on August 22, 2008. The award was given in recognition of the numerous grants received and administered by Rodney.

Noel Musson has been promoted to Branch Manager, CES, Inc. in Southwest Harbor.

Liz Hertz has taken over as Land Use Director at the Maine State Planning Office, effective October 15, 2008. Liz is a former senior planner with the Maine Coastal Program where she helped launch the state's Beginning with Habitat Program, developed and managed the Gulf of Maine Council's interstate habitat restoration program, and, most recently, worked on the State's wetlands in-lieu fee working group. Liz has a bachelors in natural resources and a master's degree in remote sensing from the University of Michigan. Liz replaces **Phil Carey** who has been serving as

Acting Director. Phil will return to his senior planner position.

Town of Madison has hired a new Economic Development Director, **Joy Hikel**. Joy comes to the position having previously served as secretary and treasurer for the Skowhegan Economic Development Corporation and more recently as a commercial and mortgage lender at Northeast Bank and Skowhegan Savings bank.

Janet Troth has been hired as the Community Development Coordinator for the City of Ellsworth. She formerly worked for the Eastern Maine Development Council (EMDC) prior to coming to Ellsworth.

Wright-Pierce Engineers have hired **Amanda Walker** as a Land Use Planner within the Civil Engineering Practice Group. She will work out of the Topsham, Maine office. Amanda was a Planning & Design Associate for the past 5 years at Kent Associates where she worked on numerous downtown plans throughout the state.

Knox/Waldo Regional Economic Development Council (KWRED) announced that **Chris Shrum** will be the interim Director of KWRED following the resignation of **Alan Hinsey**.

Chris previously served as the Community Development Division Director for Eastern Maine Development Council in their Bangor Office. Alan did a superb job in economic development for this region attracting AthenaHealth to Belfast and Boston Financial to Rockland, and helped create a new dynamic of regionalism to this midcoast area.

[Continues on Page 14](#)

VT Legislative Update

By Sharon Murray, VT Legislative Liaison

The “Vermont Neighborhoods Program” (VNP) (Act 176), an adjunct to Vermont’s downtown and growth centers programs, was the most significant piece of planning-related legislation to come out of the 2008 legislative session. We’re still trying to figure out what it means.

Originally proposed by the Douglas administration in 2007 as an “affordable housing bill” without much to do with affordable housing, the first neighborhood bill died a quick death in the legislature. VPA then participated in an ad hoc committee – consisting of regional planners, housing advocates, homebuilders, conservationists, business interests, and smart growers – to resurrect the bill in a more palatable form that defined neighborhoods with minimum density and design standards, in relation to state-designated growth, downtown and village centers, with real incentives for affordable and mixed income housing. Surprisingly, there was much we agreed on that made it into the drafting process. As a result, legislation introduced in 2008 received broad based support, but nevertheless took a torturous path through several committees and, in the eleventh hour, was hung with other housing initiatives that almost killed the bill.

Credit for its passage goes to Greg Brown, who chaired the ad hoc committee, Mike Munson, who represented VPA on the committee, Fred Dunnington and, Brian Shupe, then working for Smart Growth Vermont, who did the hard work of shepherding the bill through the legislature.

The VNP, from a purist’s perspective, is not so visionary as Maine’s “Great Neighborhoods Initiative,” but it does establish a limited state program that builds on past efforts to maintain Vermont’s historic settlement patterns, and to stimulate new

housing development within or contiguous to downtowns, villages and new town centers. Under this program, municipalities can request state designation for one or more new neighborhoods that meet state program requirements. New housing developments within these areas are then eligible for certain benefits, including relaxed Act 250 permitting requirements, exemptions from the land gains tax, and reduced permit fees. What are we still trying to figure out? For starters, what “contiguous” means, and how statutory minimum densities (four units per acre for single family) will be applied. Apparently these concepts are trickier in practice than we ever could have imagined. Act 176 also set up yet another study committee to address Act 250’s traffic, growth and rural development criteria, on which VPA is ably represented by Dean Pierce.

Looking forward, at the state level these are bleak days for Vermont planners. We’ve suffered through two administrations, spanning too many years, that have not viewed planning as legitimate function of state government. Our SPO is long gone. State plans, such as they are, are largely mandated by federal programs or, on an ad hoc basis, by the state legislature. Recent cuts have decimated the ranks of planners in state government, including planners at DHCA and VTrans. Given the current economic downturn and, as I write, the likelihood of another Douglas administration, we’re now sitting tight – trying in the upcoming year to hold onto whatever support’s still available from the legislature for local and regional planning. But we plan to be back, legislation in hand, when the timing is right. In the meantime we’ll be following the money, working on the little stuff, and supporting the good work that’s still happening throughout our larger planning community. Best wishes to our legislative colleagues in New Hampshire and Maine for the upcoming session.

Professional Development Updates

By Ben Frost, AICP, NNECAPA Professional Development Officer

New AICP Members

Congratulations to the following, who passed the AICP exam in November 2008:

Christopher Sargent

Two Rivers Ottawaquechee Regional Commission

Mary C. McCrann

The Olympia Companies

Sandra M. Duchesne

James W. Sewall Company

Nathan C. Miller

Upper Valley Lake Sunapee RPC

Peter Dzewaltowski

Upper Valley Lake Sunapee RPC

Training Opportunities

Free Podcast on Green Communities

The October 2008 AICP Symposium, "Making a Difference with Green Community Strategies," is now available on our website as a free podcast, eligible for CM credits until March 2009. CM | 2.5
www.planning.org/aicp/symposium/2008/index.htm

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. The full 2009

monthly webcast calendar is posted to the NNECAPA website. You can visit the APA Utah Chapter website to register for any of these: www.utah-apa.org/webcasts.htm. All sessions are approved for 1.5 hours of CM credit or are pending approval, including credit for Law and Ethics. Coming soon –

- **Agricultural Preservation**

April 3, 2009 – 1 pm – 2:30 pm EDT

- **NEW! Social Networking: Applications for Planners**

April 10th, 2009 – 1 pm – 2:30 pm EDT

Free AICP Exam Preparation Webcast

Jennifer Evans-Cowley, AICP, Ohio APA PDO and Assistant Professor in the Department of City and Regional Planning at Ohio State will present a free AICP Exam Preparation Webcast on Monday, February 23, 2009 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM EST. Register here:

www2.gotomeeting.com/register/887686532

New Certification Maintenance Registration System

The new [Certification Maintenance education-provider registration system](#) is completed and ready to use. All providers should resume registering your training events for CM credit.

The following new features and capabilities are included in the new provider registration system:

- **A provider dashboard.** A "one-stop-shop" displays all the important information you need to track your event status, account information, and financial transactions. APA states that you will never be unsure whether your event was submitted properly or approved for CM credit.
- **Submit activities at your own pace and convenience.** Better navigation tools help you enter and save data, make changes, and come back to finish at a later time.
- **Get instant feedback on your event.** Comments submitted by AICP members who attended your event and their overall ratings

[Continues on Page 17](#)

Regional Planners' Exchange - Time to begin!

By Lee Krohn

As you know, we were awarded an APA Chapter Presidents Council grant last year to explore the concept of a northern New England regional planners' exchange, and to create a structure by which exchanges could be arranged. By keeping this within our region, we hoped to facilitate opportunities that were affordable and achievable. Kate Harvey did a great job with the foundational research for that effort (the final report is online at www.nnecapa.org), and we are now ready to begin.

Lee Krohn has offered to continue shepherding this concept into reality. Toward that end, he would like to hear from anyone who is interested in pursuing an exchange. When we receive your information, we'll build a database of interested partners - both for those who wish to visit and work elsewhere, and those who can provide a 'host' location - and then play matchmaker between parties. Perhaps we'll set up a small number of exchanges during the first year, seek feedback from participants, and fine tune the system as we go.

For now, let's see who among us is able, interested, and willing to participate. Please feel free to ask questions, or reply via the contact information below. Thanks for your interest!

CONTACT: Lee Krohn, AICP
6039 Main Street
Manchester Center, VT 05255
802.362.4824
vtplannr@sover.net

INFORMATION:

- Name, address, phone, email... the usual contact info;
- Present employer (town, state, federal, NGO, self...);
- Job Position/current responsibilities - summary;
- Structure of exchange sought (trade positions concurrently, shadow/work together with others; host or visit - or both);
- Type of experience or position sought or available - list specifics if desired, or "any" if you're

open to who or what's available:

- Job or organizational level;
- Skills sought;
- Issues of interest;
- Geographic area desired;
- Housing - needed, or available?
- Can you provide housing for others, even if you're not in an exchange yourself?
- Length of time sought, or available to host;
- Best time of year for exchange;
- Employer approval (at least preliminary or conceptual);
- Special accommodations needed;
- Any other information you think we'll find helpful

Save the Date for the Annual NNECAPA Conference

September 24-25, 2009 in Belfast ME

Organized by Maine Association of Planners

Contact [Rebecca Schaffner](#) for more info.

AN interesting report from our friends up north...

Active Travel and Schools in Montreal and Trois-Rivières

An analysis of active travel by elementary school students in Quebec

By Groupe de recherche Ville et mobilité
Institut d'urbanisme de l'Université de Montréal
and
Institut national de santé publique du Québec

Follow the link below:

mapage-web.umontreal.ca/lewispl/GVM%20Active%20travel%20and%20schools.pdf

Welcome to the Bottom of the Sea

Travels by a Maine Planner: The Netherlands 2008

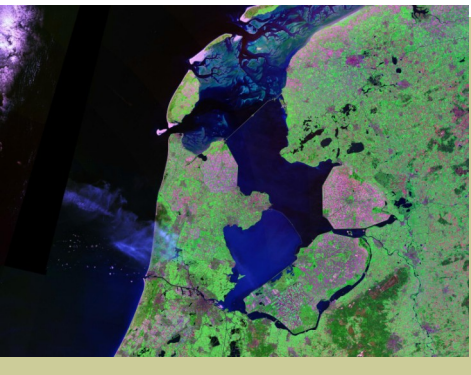
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1891 plan, over 400,000 acres of new land, called Flevoland, have been created in The Netherlands in the last hundred years along with a conversion of almost 500,000 acres of salt water into fresh water. The main purpose of this was flood protection and creation of new agricultural land. Its scale is immense. To give you a perspective, 400,000 acres represents almost the size of Lincoln County and the new Dutch fresh water lake is 16 times the size of Sebago Lake.

This new land represents a total blank slate from a land use perspective. Imagine this place, which, over a sixty-year period, now houses almost 400,000 people, more than the populations of Cumberland and Androscoggin counties combined. Hard to imagine, right? It has been, and still



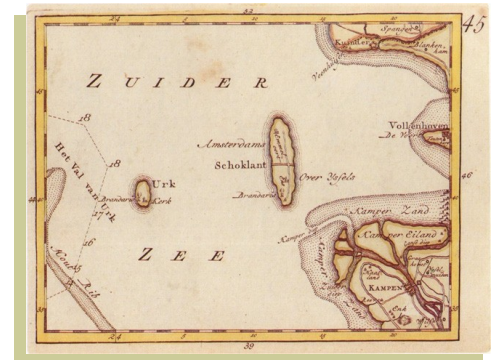
New land (green), Fresh Water (blue)



Satellite image of the polders
have escaped the planner's map.

is, a huge planning and engineering challenge and opportunity. How to build entire cities, towns, and villages from scratch? What infrastructure to build? How to make it well functioning, affordable, and stimulating? A planner's dream, you might think. And in many ways it is, and it is a story that is worth telling. But rather than give you an account of the grid-like road patterns (very atypically Dutch), the modern architecture (new land calls for new architecture, right?), the clusters of four farmhouses (aimed at fostering neighborly cooperation), and those windmills (quite fitting in this new land), we found two places that made us pause and wonder. Two places that seemed to

The places are Schokland and Urk, two former islands that are just eight miles apart, both once were land, then were part of the sea, then became islands, and now are part of the mainland again. IMAGE 4 And both are anomalies in this massive land reclamation project. The two places have similarities, but also contrast. Where once more than 600 people lived on Schokland, only eight do now. Where 4,000 people lived on Urk in the 1940s, 18,000 do so today.



Map from 1773



18th century map

Schokland, an island on dry land

A World Heritage archaeological site since 1995, Schokland measures just 3 by 0.3 miles. Until the early Middle Ages, Schokland, like Urk, was part of a large peat area that had been exposed to the encroaching sea for centuries. From around 800 AD, this land suffered constant erosion. By the year 1200, Schokland became a peninsula and around 1450 Schokland became an island. IMAGE 5 Over several centuries the inhabitants of

[Continues on Page 10](#)

Welcome to the Bottom of the Sea

Travels by a Maine Planner: The Netherlands 2008

(Continued from Page 9)



Schokland in 1935

Schokland tried to defend themselves from the intruding sea by building small dikes, but to no avail. More and more land was lost and Schokland eventually shrunk into a narrow strip of land. The situation eventually became untenable, and in 1859, King William III ordered the island evacuated. This meant that approximately 635 inhabitants had to move to the mainland. Afterwards most of the predominantly wooden houses were demolished.

Ironically, since its evacuation the island did not lose any more land and was ultimately incorporated in the Northeast Polder, one of the large polders that the Dutch created, in 1942. And because it was abandoned, Schokland has literally been preserved as an island on dry land. The original, curvilinear outline of the former island can still clearly be seen from the air, outlined by trees and vegetation, intentionally planted so as not to lose this historic place, in stark contrast to the orderly subdivision of the agricultural land of the polder.



Schokland today



The church from 1834 as seen from the bottom of the sea

Many archaeological studies have been conducted in and around Schokland, since the land around it fell dry, and its development history has been documented in great detail. We visited a fascinating museum, an original restored church, and several modest wooden buildings that were built in the style of the old dwellings to give the feel of the former neighborhood that once stood here. Traces of over 165 “dwelling mounds” where people made their homes to stay safe from the water had been located, as well as many discoveries dating back to the Neolithic Age, some 10,000 years ago, such as bones of a mammoth, which once roamed here. The struggle against the sea continued at the same location for several thousand years makes this place so unique.

An eerie quiet is in the air as we look out over the open land. We imagine how hard life must have been on Schokland. The isolation, the struggle, and then having to give it all up. A sculpture titled “Geen weg terug” (“No return”) by artist Kiny Copinga has been placed on the museum grounds, commemorating the forced evacuation of some 150 years ago. It shows a tall woman about to go through the door of her house for the last time. Imagine her feelings. If she only knew what her island looks like now...



Sculpture titled “Geen weg terug” (no return) by Kiny Copinga

[Continues on Page 11](#)

Welcome to the Bottom of the Sea

Travels by a Maine Planner: The Netherlands 2008

(Continued from Page 10)

Urk, its age-old isolation gone

Urk is the second former island we visit. Its written history is more than a thousand years old and over the years the main livelihood of its population was, and still is, fishing. However, fish catches varied greatly from year to year and islanders lived in isolation eking out a meager existence, with poor hygiene and health conditions. The dangers of the sea were very real. Some 343 fishermen from Urk have died at sea since 1865. Just as with Schokland, storms reduced the size of Urk. At one point Urk was just 200 acres and the several thousand people lived in close quarters.



Urk from the air in 1934

These conditions helped form the character of Urk's population. It is a very devout, closed community with its own, seemingly impenetrable, dialect, suspicious of the outside world. On Sundays, most people attend church twice and refrain from any work whatsoever. Childbirth is double that of the rest of the nation. While some of this character is still evident today, polder making changed life in Urk forever.



Urk from the air in 1958

In 1939, Urk, over significant protest of its population, ceased to be an island. As Urk was situated at the southwestern tip of the new Northeast Polder, it was able to retain its harbor. However, as the sea had been closed off, the water around it became fresh water causing fish species to change over time. In many harbor communities the fishing fleet was significantly reduced or completely disappeared. But not so in Urk. Urk fishermen adapted to the changed circumstances and relocated their fishing grounds further away to the North Sea. As trawlers got bigger it became impractical to sail back to Urk every weekend and the fleet started to use other ports. The catch continued to make its way to Urk, albeit it by road. The reason for that is Urk's efficient fish auction drawing catches from vessels of various nationalities. Today the Urk fishing fleet numbers some 130 ships with 900 crew.

The new polder, besides providing access to services that had been inaccessible before, also created space to expand the village. This meant that many Urkers, who had been forced to live elsewhere due to the lack of space on the island, could now return home. Its population quadrupled in the last 60 years. But the polder also brought other influences of the outside world, such as drugs, to Urk and its young population. This has put the community in an upheaval. Half

In 1939, Urk, over significant protest of its population, ceased to be an island. As Urk was situated at the southwestern tip of the new Northeast Polder, it was able to retain its harbor. However, as the sea had been closed off, the water around it became fresh water causing fish species to change over time. In many harbor communities the fishing fleet was significantly reduced or completely disappeared. But not so in Urk. Urk fishermen adapted to the changed circumstances and relocated their fishing grounds further away to the North Sea. As trawlers got bigger it became impractical to sail back to Urk every weekend and the fleet started to use other ports. The catch continued to make its way to Urk, albeit it by road. The reason for that is Urk's efficient fish auction drawing catches from vessels of various nationalities. Today the Urk fishing fleet numbers some 130 ships with 900 crew.



Topographical map of Urk and surroundings

[Continues on Page 12](#)

Welcome to the Bottom of the Sea

Travels by a Maine Planner: The Netherlands 2008

(Continued from Page 11)

the population is younger than 26 and one third is younger than 14. How to maintain a culture that has been so inwardly focused for so long? How to best embrace the outside world?

We walk the narrow, curved streets that lead to the harbor. Small houses stand cheek by jowl. We eat the most delicious fresh fish in a local restaurant, aptly named The Bottom of the Sea. We gaze out over the water and think about the changes that Schokland and Urk have seen. As we carry their images back home, we wonder what Maine might have been like if the same had happened here. We also leave with some unanswered questions: Where did the people of Schokland go? What is the ecological impact of these enormous man-made interventions? And, what happened to the fish?

Checking in with ICLEI

(Continued from Page 1)

the tasks on your plate?

The answer: ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability USA, Inc. (ICLEI USA). ICLEI USA is a membership association of local governments that are committed to climate protection and sustainable development. For the past 16 years, ICLEI USA has been providing the tools and resources that local governments need to measure and reduce their energy use. ICLEI USA is proud to announce that yet another set of resources for local governments has just been released. As part of the New England Cities Project, a collaborative ten-community project that focused on implementation of climate action measures, ICLEI USA developed four guides that provide step-by-step strategies for implementing climate protection measures in your community.

New England Cities Project

The four guides and other resources developed through the New England Cities Project were generously funded by the Kendall Foundation. The Project provided ICLEI USA with the resources to assist ten New England communities with the implementation of greenhouse gas emissions reduction measures. The ten communities that participated in the Project were: Amherst, MA; Boston, MA; Burlington, VT; Fairfield, CT; Montpelier, VT; Nashua, NH; Portland, ME; Providence, RI; Stamford, CT; and Worcester, MA.

Implementation Guides

The four implementation guides developed for this Project were designed specifically for busy local government staff and explain how to move forward with implementing one of four measures: 1) [enhancing your recycling and solid waste program](#); 2) developing an [environmentally preferable purchasing program](#); 3) [creating a revolving energy fund](#); and 4) boosting [community outreach and engagement on climate change](#).

These implementation guides provide step-by-step guidance on how a community can implement the

[Continues on Page 13](#)

Checking in with ICLEI

(Continued from Page 12)

identified measure as well as information on common obstacles, how to garner political support, and communities who have successfully implemented the measure. All guides are online and can be found on the ICLEI USA website (www.icleiusa.org). Of the four guides, only the Community Outreach and Engagement guide is available to all local governments. The other three are only for members of ICLEI USA.

More New Tools

In addition to the guides, ICLEI USA also developed implementation plans that detail how a specific local government (i.e., Burlington, VT) should progress in regards to reaching its implementation goal. In total, four implementation plans were created that cover the following topics:

- How a community can create a revolving energy fund to help finance energy efficiency and clean energy installations
- How to educate, inform, and inspire compliance with a new environmentally preferable purchasing policy
- Strategies that will help to increase community-wide recycling rates, thereby increasing recycling recovery rates
- Strategies that will help to increase recycling participation in underperforming neighborhoods, which will thereby increase city-wide recycling recovery rates

All implementation plans are available for download by ICLEI USA members. Additionally, ICLEI also created two tracking sheets to help municipalities monitor their progress on environmentally preferable purchasing and financing energy efficiency measures:

- Environmentally preferable purchasing tracking sheet
- Revolving Energy Fund (REF) tracking sheet to monitor and evaluate projects financed through a REF

Future Implementation Assistance

The tools highlighted above are the first in a series of implementation tools that ICLEI USA is looking to develop. For more information about ICLEI USA's efforts to support local governments with the implementation of emission reduction measures, please contact the New England ICLEI USA liaison, Courtney Forrester (courtney.forrester@iclei.org) or Missy Stults (missy.stults@iclei.org).

ICLEI USA and Your Community

Through membership in ICLEI USA, local governments are finding new and innovative ways to reduce their energy consumption, save money, and develop in a more sustainable and just way. As a planner concerned about climate change and sustainable development, ICLEI USA has a number of resources to help you integrate these concerns into your daily activities. Stay tuned to future issues of the *Yankee Planner* to learn more about the benefits of ICLEI USA membership and what your planning colleagues are doing to combat climate change.

For more information or to join the ICLEI USA network of local governments, please visit www.icleiusa.org or email membership-usa@iclei.org.

State Grapevines

(Continued from Page 5)

NEW HAMPSHIRE by *Tim Thompson*

NHPA News

With election season over, the NH Planners Association has had some changes to the executive committee. The NHPA Executive Committee would like to say thank you and farewell to Becky Hebert (City of Concord) who decided not to rerun as her term ended this year, you will be missed!

Mikaela Engert (City of Keene) has graciously agreed to fill Becky's position as Secretary, which means....

I am back (for the time being) to fill the empty space on the NHPA Board as the NNECAPA Ex-Officio. After 7 years of being on the NNECAPA executive committee as both the webmaster and NH State Director, and taking a year and a half break from "the action," I have agreed to fill Mikeala's shoes as the NH State Director on an interim basis until the elections in September 2009. If you are interested in following in my footsteps as NH State Director, please let me or any of the NHPA officers know, and be sure to check out www.nnecapa.org for more information.

Office of Energy & Planning

Deputy Director **Jack Ruderman** has left to take a position with the Public Utilities Commission. Jack had been with OEP as the Deputy Director for 5 years. Congratulations to Jack as he moves on to his new position!

City of Dover

The City of Dover hired the planning firm **Jeffrey H. Taylor and Associates** earlier this year to assist them with the creation of a Form Based Code for the Downtown Area. The Form Based Code (FBC) is a method of regulating land use which places more emphasis on community character

and the impact development has on the public realm than traditional zoning. A guiding principal behind the development of a FBC is that the buildings and physical alteration of land is more long lasting than the initial use found within the building that is constructed. The Code is currently being drafted based on stakeholder interviews, inventories of existing properties, and two design charrettes. Stay tuned for more information on this exciting project!

That's all I've got folks. Please let me know of any news or happenings as they happen, so that my next newsletter article won't be as brief as this one. Fee free to e-mail me at tthompson@londonderrynh.org with anything you'd like to share with your colleagues in VT and ME...

VERMONT by *Tara Bamford*

During the past six months, the Lamoille County Planning Commission has said goodbye to some longtime employees and welcomed a new Executive Director and GIS Planner. **Bonnie Waninger**, former Assistant Director of the Northwest Vermont Regional Planning Commission has taken the helm at LCPC. She brings 11 years of planning and public administration experience to LCPC. In addition to her role directing the commission, Bonnie will work with local communities on emergency management planning issues. Congratulations Bonnie! LCPC was also fortunate to hire **Adrienne Adamek** as their new GIS Planner. Adrienne is a native Vermonter, returning home after a number of years leading GIS and marine research on the coast of Maine. Her education, experience, and positive attitude make her a great addition to the LCPC team.

Joshua Schwartz moved from his position as

[Continues on Page 15](#)

State Grapevines (Continued from Page 14)

Barre City's Planning & Zoning Director to take over as Executive Director at the Mad River Valley Planning District in Waitsfield. Mike Miller took over as the new Planning & Zoning Director for Barre City. He came down from Lamoille County RPC. Linda Lloyd, Mad River Valley's previous Executive Director headed down to Amarillo, Texas where she is CEO/Project Director of Natural Systems Developers, an ecoVillage developer that is currently working on Mariposa EcoVillage.



CarShare Vermont was launched in Burlington on December 15th. ! For the past year CarShare Vermont has been organizing, fundraising, and collaborating with a host of local organizations to develop a mission-driven car-sharing service that will help reduce car use, increase mobility, and improve the environment. Each CarShare Vermont vehicle is expected to serve an average 30 members and replace 15 privately owned vehicles as people opt to share instead of own.

CarShare Vermont will offer its members affordable and easy access to a network of vehicles parked around town that they can use whenever they want and pay low hourly and mileage fees based on how much they drive. CarShare Vermont takes care of everything-from routine maintenance, 24-hour emergency assistance, and car washes to covering insurance, gas, and parking-while members save money. The entire community benefits from better air quality and increased mobility. Find out more at www.carsharevt.org.

Major Changes for Major Projects in NH and ME

among others, a construction monitoring plan with inspection reports and a current conditions plan identifying all disturbance and construction completed without a permit. *Id.*

Notably, the anti-degradation regulations that were included in New Hampshire's draft rulemaking were suspended. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services is forming an advisory work group to obtain input regarding anti-degradation requirements that will likely be added to the rules later this year.

In short, projects subject to New Hampshire's Alteration of Terrain Rules have a brand new regulatory regime to contend with – one that includes lengthy new specifications and requirements.

Maine's Site Location of Development Law

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) has released its initial draft of proposed amendments to the Site Location of Development Act (also known as the Site Law), the State statute that regulates industrial, commercial and residential developments that due to their nature or size could significantly impact the environment. These proposed amendments, if enacted, will dramatically change the review landscape for future projects. Some of the most striking proposed changes to the Site Law statute include:

- a new Section 483-B, prohibiting Site Law projects, including (with limited exceptions) most commercial and industrial projects, outside of locally designated growth areas, areas served by public sewer, or identified census "designated places" or urban compact areas;

[Continues on Page 16](#)

Major Changes for Major Projects in NH and ME

(Continued from Page 15)

- new requirements for “conservation subdivisions” that would apply to all regulated residential subdivisions outside of the areas listed in Section 483-B;
- repeal of existing Site Law subdivision exemptions for lots over 40 and 500 acres;
- a new Section 484-C, authorizing MDEP to require a bond or other security where MDEP determines that construction or operation of a proposed development poses an “unacceptable risk of unreasonable impacts to the environment or existing uses”; and
- a new general permit program for Maine Department of Transportation development projects.

The draft statutory amendment also calls on MDEP to review and report to the Legislature on provisions in both the Site Law and Storm Water Management Law that provide for delegation of licensing authority or exemptions within certain municipalities, and whether changes to these provisions are needed in light of changes to the Storm Water program.

MDEP has also released its initial draft of amendments to the Site Law Regulations, proposing expansive alterations to current law. Several existing MDEP rule chapters implementing the Site Law will be repealed and replaced in their entirety, while others will be amended. The regulatory changes, which will be refined through rule-making over a number of months, include, among other provisions:

- revisions to policies and procedures under the Site Law, including “codifying existing interpretations” of certain statutory exemptions, updating standard conditions, and providing for a “permit-by-rule” for certain minor permit modifications;

- changes to the requirements for demonstrating financial and technical capacity;
- a variety of amendments to the rule sections for the “no adverse environmental effect” standard of the Site Law, including *new standards* relating to light pollution, minimization of impervious area and heat effects, habitat conservation, solid waste reuse and recycling, landscaping, and “mobility and connectivity”; and
- new standards for “long-term construction projects” and “conservation subdivisions.”

MDEP staff has already begun to hear a number of significant concerns relating to both the statutory and regulatory amendments, including concerns by municipal planners about how the new regulations would conflict with existing local rules. The amendments appear to be continuing a trend, exemplified by Maine’s enactment of the Informed Growth Act in 2007, whereby land use issues that have traditionally been seen as local concerns and subject to local decision making will be regulated at the State level. It will be very important for municipal planning and economic development authorities, as well as the regulated community, to become engaged in the legislative and rulemaking processes in the coming months.

Helen Edmonds and Joanna Tourangeau are attorneys at Pierce Atwood LLP where they practice in the firm’s Land Use Team. If you have questions or concerns relating to the subjects of this article, you may contact them at their email addresses, hedmonds@pierceatwood.com and jtourangeau@pierceatwood.com, or call them at (207)791-1100.

Professional Development Updates

will help you improve your training activities.

- **More flexible payment options.** Choose from electronic check, paper check, or credit card to register events.
- **Transaction histories.** View, print, and e-mail yourself receipts whenever you need them.
- **Relist your events.** Make changes and re-submit your event listing instead of entering the information all over again.
- **Save time entering data.** Copy from the CM data collection template or your own electronic programs and paste into the text boxes instead of re-typing event details.

Phase II of APA's New Website

The following features are scheduled to launch with Phase II of the new web redesign (expected early 2009): self-reporting, logging credits for authoring or speaking/instruction at an event. You should keep a personal record of these credits until the web system is live.

Experiencing a Technical Problem?

If you experience a technical problem with your CM log, to assist with the technical issue, please report the issue to CMTechnical@planning.org and include the following:

1. Approximate date and time the problem occurred
2. The web address (URL) where the problem occurred (paste from web browser)
3. ID number (*see below*)
4. Description and details of the problem, including as much of the text that appeared in the error message (if you get one)
5. *Optional:* Please copy and paste a screenshot where you are experiencing the problem

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.

Newly Updated AICP Exam Prep Package 2.0

AICP's official exam-preparation guide is an annotated outline of the topics likely to be covered on the exam. Sections cover functional topics and planning processes. A list of references for each topic area is included. The CD-ROM contains three sets of study questions. This interactive feature provides good practice for the exam; your members answer a set of questions and receive a score. While these questions do not constitute a sample exam, they will familiarize them with the different types of questions they're likely to encounter in the actual exam. You may purchase it for \$195 here:

myapa.planning.org/APAStore/Search/Default.aspx?p=3943

If you have questions about certification maintenance or professional development generally, please email me at bfrost@nhhfa.org.

CHAPTER DUES INCREASE

"Remember we voted a change in dues at the annual meeting in the fall? Now the dues are 25% of the APA dues. For some, that will represent no change but for most of us there will be an increase, from the previous \$20 to more likely \$35-50. Those billed in the first quarter of the year have noted the change."

Our dues, for 14 years, at \$20, were the lowest among the 40 chapters, and we were no longer able to meet costs with revenues. Those who are "Chapter only" members are set at \$35.

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Events Calendar

APA Webcasts

Sustainability in Codes and Public Policy - Diving Deep

March 6th, 2009

APA Webcasts - Agricultural Preservation

April 3, 2009

Current Trends in Planning Law (LAW CM credit)

June 5, 2009

2009 Planning Law Review

June 24, 2009

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

APA Webinars

Designing for Water Conservation

March 18, 2009

Social networking: applications for planners

April 10, 2009

Details: www2.gotomeeting.com/register/198970635

APA's 2009 National Planning Conference

Date: April 25th, 2009

Venue: Minneapolis, MN

Details: www.planning.org

Visit 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.