

March 2020

Rhode Island's First Resiliency Planner

Rhode Island has its first local resiliency planner: Kim Jacobs is located in the Barrington Planning Department and has already been instrumental in several significant resiliency achievements.

"Kim has already been instrumental in several significant achievements, including the successful application on behalf of Barrington and Warren to become designated as a Municipal Resilience Program (MRP) community and the awarding of a \$201,000 MRP Action Grant from the RI Infrastructure Bank for a coastal adaptation project at Walker Farm," says Philip Hervey, AICP, Barrington's Planning Director. "Kim has been working for my department as a Resiliency Planner as a consultant, rather than as a part-time position, so that her role could expand as we bring in grants for resiliency projects,"



Kim is a civil engineer whose career began as a Peace Corps volunteer in Nepal, where she helped communities develop potable water and irrigation systems. She has also worked in the private sector, primarily engaged in municipal engineering. "Resilience is no longer a luxury to contemplate, but rather an immediacy," she says. "The Town of Barrington is fortunate to have a progressive Town Council and Administration that recognizes the need to educate, mitigate, and adapt to the climate changes that are, and will, impact us." For more information on the projects Kim is working on, please see the Barrington Planning Department's [website](#) or email her at KJacobs@Barrington.ri.gov

New RI Planning Master's Program



For the first time since 2006, Rhode Island will be home to a master's degree program in planning! Rhode Island College, located in Providence's Mt. Pleasant neighborhood, will be offering a Master of Community and Regional Planning (MCRP) that will be housed in the Department of Political Science. The proposed forty-credit curriculum will be spread over four semesters. Classes will tentatively include: planning history and law; sustainability; public sector finance and budgeting; emergency and disaster planning; urban design; geographic information systems (GIS);

and other classes that are necessary for current practitioners in the planning field. For more information and to provide feedback on the program, please contact Professor Mark Motte at mmotte@ric.edu.

US Census: RIP, AFF and Welcome data.census.gov



After twenty years, the US Census Bureau has retired American FactFinder (AFF), its statistics and information search engine. AFF will remain as an archive system for data and functionality that are not yet available in data.census.gov until March 31, 2020: after that date, American FactFinder will be decommissioned. The Census Bureau stopped releasing new data in AFF at the end of June 2019 and transitioned to data.census.gov for data releases formerly on AFF. For more information about the transition, see the US Census [website](#).

Brady's Bulletin

Life is a balancing act: whether we are balancing need to complete projects against time available, needs of individual staff against overall policies, need to keep ourselves and our families safe from viruses against a need to serve the public, need to count as many people as possible in Rhode Island (remember, We've Never Counted More!) against the need to be involved in other programs, need to stay within budgetary guidelines with the need to ensure that our infrastructure is resilient. I've also spoken before about the need to find work/life balance. Notice something in common between all those statements? It's all about needs.

There's nothing I've listed that isn't absolutely and fundamentally necessary, from hiring new staff people to balancing a budget. So how do we decide what gets our attention first? How do we keep ourselves from being overwhelmed by our day-to-day responsibilities: to ourselves, our families, our jobs, and our communities?

We prioritize, whether consciously or unconsciously. But how? It's a bit like a Sophie's Choice sometimes (have I dated myself yet?): what takes precedence when it's all important? We assess the value of the things (and sometimes, the people) on our long lists. On the days when I joke that my to-do list has its own to-do list, the only way to provide yourself with direction is to make those value-based assessments.

Here's one tool I've discovered that helps: an [Eisenhower Matrix](#). It's one way to lay out a list so that you can more clearly delineate ways to deal with the "junk", the less important, and what comes first.

Another tool I use is a simple question: if I do THIS now, will it make the other things on my list easier, more palatable, or less overwhelming? If I go for a 30 minute walk now, sure, it takes 30 minutes, but it prioritizes my health and well-being and may allow me to spend time strengthening a relationship while I walk. Maybe I'll even figure out what to do with something else on my list.

Anyone else have tools you'd like to share or questions to ask yourself? I'll include the best suggestions next month! Most of all, remember: be kind to each other. We are all human, we all err, and we all need a little help from our friends and colleagues.

Upcoming Meetings

Technical Committee

March 6 at 9:00 AM

DOA Conference Room 2A
One Capitol Hill, Providence

State Planning Council

March 12 at 9:00 AM

DOA Conference Room 2A
One Capitol Hill, Providence

Transportation Advisory Committee

March 26 at 5:30 PM

DOA Conference Room 2A
One Capitol Hill, Providence

All meetings are open to the public!

Parking at the Providence Place Mall
is free for the first two hours.

PHOTO TRIVIA:

Do you know where in RI this structure
is located?

See the answer at the bottom of the
newsletter.



Upcoming Events

March 3 RI Complete Count Committee meeting. The RICCC is tasked with developing Census outreach strategies to encourage full Statewide participation in the 2020 US Census. Time: 3PM-4:30PM.

- Location: RI Department of Administration Building, Room 2A- 1 Capitol Hill, Providence.

March 7 RI Land and Water Conservation Summit The annual Summit is developed to meet the needs of land trusts, watershed organizations and municipal conservation commissions. The Summit offers dozens of hands-on workshops designed to enhance technical and organizational effectiveness. Time: 8:30A-4PM. [Registration](#) fee required.

- Location: URI Memorial Union, 50 Lower College Road, Kingston.

March 9 Aquidneck Island Climate Caucus workshop. The workshop will focus on sea rise and resiliency strategies from other states and communities and will feature Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) Executive Director Grover Fugate as guest speaker. Time: 6PM-8PM.

- Portsmouth Free Public Library, 2658 East Main Road.

March 12 Rhode Island Compost Conference & Trade Show. The annual Rhode Island Compost Conference & Trade Show features sessions of workshops that include composting on Aquidneck Island, urban bokashi composting, and the issue of micro-plastics in compost. Time: 8:30AM-3PM. There is a [registration fee](#).

- Location: RI College, Donovan Dining Center- 600 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Providence.

March 14 "Who's Counting Anyway?: Understanding the Census." Workshop about how Rhode Island is preparing for an accurate count in 2020. Time: 10:30AM-12PM. Free, but RSVP is requested.

- Location: Southside Cultural Center, 393 Broad Street, Providence.

March 14 [RI Statewide Planning Institute](#). This is a comprehensive training for members of Rhode Island planning boards, zoning boards, historic district commissions, conservation commissions, municipal staff, and city/town councils. A light breakfast and full lunch will be provided. Time: 8AM-4PM. The event is free for appropriate personnel. Please contact cjopperthouser@growsmartri.org for more information.

- Location: RI College, Alger Hall- 600 Library Rd., North Providence.

March 20 "[Innovative Transportation Funding for Planners](#)." Join Boston University Urban Affairs Professor Terrance J. Regan for another great talk on planning and transportation. Mr. Regan is also a Program Manager at the USDOT's Volpe Center. Time: 12:15PM-1:15PM. RI Division of Statewide Planning Speaker Series, co-sponsored by APA-RI. Event is free, but please [register in advance](#).

- Location: DOA- Room 2A, 1 Capitol Hill, Providence.

March 26 [How To Draft a Comp Plan That Can Be Implemented: A Planning Round-table Discussion](#). How do you write a Comp Plan with action items that can be completed by the required five-year check-in date? This discussion for planners about the five-year check-in will be led by municipal planners who have had short-term implementation success and staff from the RI Div. of Statewide Planning. Time: 2PM-3:15PM. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Roberta.Groch@doa.ri.gov.

- Location: Department of Administration, Room 2A- 1 Capitol Hill, Providence.

March 27 "[Power of Place](#)" Summit. The Grow Smart RI 2020 Power of Place Summit will focus on prominent issues, including climate action, housing availability and transit, and how to connect the dots to a more prosperous, lower carbon future. Time: 8AM-5PM. There is a [registration fee](#).

- Location: RI Convention Center, 1 Sabin Street, Providence.

Grant Opportunities

March 13 [RI Foundation Community Grants](#) deadline. The Foundation's Community Grants program provides grants up to \$10,000 for community-making efforts that make important things happen at the intersection of people and places. Nonprofit organizations, municipal governments, public agencies, and volunteer-led groups such as neighborhood and resident associations are eligible to apply.

March 20 [Agriculture innovation Center Program grant](#) deadline. The purpose of this USDA program is to establish and operate Agriculture Innovation Centers in rural areas that provide technical and business development assistance to agricultural producers seeking to engage in the marketing or the production of ValueAdded products. Eligible applicants include nonprofit and for-profit corporations, public bodies, and institutions of higher education. See [USDA map](#) web page for grant eligibility.

March 30 [National Forest Resiliency Innovation Challenge Cost Share Grant Program](#) deadline. Funds are to support national urban and community forestry projects on non-federal public land that have a national or multi-state impact and application. All USDA grant funds must be matched at least dollar for dollar with non-Federal source funds. The match may include in-kind donations, volunteer assistance, and private and public (non-federal) monetary contributions.

March 31 "[The Future of Shopping](#)" Small Grant Program deadline. This Main Street

America program is intended to support eligible small businesses that are innovating in the evolving retail landscape. Eligible small businesses are those businesses with fewer than 100 employees and that are: recognized as a business; not part of a national franchise; and operate out of a physical location. Ten small business owners will be awarded \$10,000 each to help their businesses innovate in an evolving retail landscape

April 1 [AARP Community Challenge Grants](#) deadline. This program provides small grants to fund "quick-action" projects that can help communities become more livable for people of all ages; projects can improve housing, transportation, public space, technology ("smart cities"), civic engagement and more. Grants can range from several hundred dollars to several thousand or tens of thousands of dollars for larger projects.

April 6 [RIDEM Climate Resilience Fund grant deadline](#) Funds are to implement climate resilience projects for climate-driven challenges facing Rhode Island communities, both inland and coastal. RIDEM is seeking grant proposals for projects that will support governmental and non-profit entities in restoring and improving the climate resilience of vulnerable coastal habitats, as well as river and stream floodplains and related habitat. The funds will provide matching grants (75%-25%) to government and non-profit entities.

April 9 [National Endowment for the Arts' Challenge America](#) grant deadline (Part I). The program offers support primarily to small and mid-sized organizations for projects that extend the reach of the arts to under-served populations -- those whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, ethnicity, economics, or disability. Grants are for a fixed amount of \$10,000 and require a minimum \$10,000 match.

Planning Articles of Interest

[Citing property rights, council rejects law to protect trees](#)

[Main Street parking problems continue](#)

[Do older taxpayers balk at supporting schools?](#)

[Cumberland seeks demolition delay, tax incentives](#)

[Newport adopts guidelines for elevating historic homes in the face of climate change](#)

[R.I. encourages solar panels as canopies on parking lots](#)

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PHOTO TRIVIA ANSWER:

Gilbert Stuart birthplace (1750), Saunderstown

(South Kingstown)

Photo: [Gilbert Stuart Birthplace & Museum website](#)