

STATEWIDE PLANNING e-NEWS

Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program • One Capitol Hill • Providence, RI 02908 • 401.222.7901 • fax 401.222.2083 • www.planning.ri.gov

Inside this Issue	
Legislation	Cover
GrowSmart RI, Census Info	2
Meetings, Workshops & SPP HELP	3

Governor Raimondo Signs Legislation Recommended by the Legislative Task Force on Wetland Setbacks

On July 29, 2015 at a ceremony held at the Department of Environmental Management, Governor Gina Raimondo signed measures that strengthen protection for wetlands statewide.

The wetlands bill signed was sponsored by Sen. Erin Lynch and Rep. Arthur Handy. The Bill reflected recommendations of the Division of Planning's 2014 Final Report on the Legislative Task Force for Wetland Setbacks.



Governor Raimondo and members of the Legislative Task Force

The Legislative Task Force was dictated by the General Assembly in 2013. The purpose of the Task Force was to solicit feedback from stakeholders with expertise related to Rhode Island's wetlands, water resources, onsite wastewater systems, and the business community. The Task Force reviewed technical topics presented to it and fostered recommendations related to protecting and regulating wetlands, water resources, and onsite wastewater systems. Associate Director Kevin Flynn and Supervising Land Use Planner Nancy Hess of the Division facilitated the Task Force and summarized the recommendations in a final report. The Report was

forwarded to the General Assembly in December of 2014 and laid out the foundation for the wetlands bill signed by the Governor.

This is a historic event for Rhode Island. The RI Freshwater Wetlands Act was first passed 41 years ago. It was the second of its kind in the Nation. Since then, although there were recommendations from several wetland-related task forces and advisory groups, the Act has not been substantially amended to address our increased knowledge and scientific understanding of wetlands.

The new Law will increase protections for wetlands and create a single wetland standard across the State. Under the new legislation, the Department of Environmental Management and the Coastal Resources Management Council have a year to adopt new regulations for freshwater wetland buffers and setbacks. Additionally, according to the Law, the new state regulations must include a procedure that allows a municipality to petition the agency director with jurisdiction to increase the size of the buffer within the designated jurisdictional area.



GrowSmartRI
Sustainable Economic Growth
& Quality of Place

Municipal Training Offered Writing Sound Decisions

Writing Sound Decisions is designed to help municipal planners, legal staff and boards and commissions write decisions whose content will hold up in court and whose clarity will make them readily understandable for both enforcement officers and property owners. It is specifically intended to address the problem, noted repeatedly in recent Superior Court and Supreme Court decisions, that written decisions coming out of municipal planning boards and zoning boards do not explain how the evidence contained in the record led the board to reach its conclusions. Taught by a Rhode Island land-use attorney, the program is grounded in Rhode Island law and cites recent Rhode Island Superior and Supreme Court decisions. The workshop handbook provides both a summary of material covered in the workshop and appendices that include templates for simple decisions, examples of appropriate content for more complex decisions and a glossary of terms. The workshop culminates in a hands-on writing exercise.

Workshops run from 5:30 PM until 9:00 PM, including a light supper. Upcoming dates and locations are:

- **Monday, August 17** in Middletown at the Police Station Community Room, 123 Valley Road.
- **Monday, September 14** in a northern RI municipality to be determined.

REGISTRATION FEE ASSISTANCE! The Rhode Island Interlocal Risk Management Trust is partnering with the Land-Use Training Collaborative to provide registration fee assistance for Trust members for this workshop. The registration fee for the workshop is scaled according to Member participation levels in The Trust. Trust Members who participate in both the Property/ Liability Pool and the Workers' Compensation Pool may register people free of charge. Trust Members who participate in only one Trust Pool may register people for 50% of the standard fee (ie, \$15.00). Non-Trust members pay the standard registration fee (\$30.00.)

For full information go to www.growsmartri.org or contact Annette Bourne, Training Manager, abourne@growsmartri.org or 401-273-5711 ext. 3.

The workshop is supported by the RI Division of Planning-Statewide Program with funding provided by the US Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration.



2014 ACS Release Schedule Announced

The 2014 ACS 1-year estimates are planned for release on Thursday, September 17, 2015.

The American Community Survey (ACS) produces statistics on numerous social, economic and housing characteristics, including language, education, the commute to work, employment, mortgage status and rent, as well as income, poverty and health insurance. The 2014 ACS 1-year estimates will be available for the nation, all states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, every congressional district, every metropolitan area, and all counties and places with populations of 65,000 or more.

The 2010-2014 ACS 5-year estimates are planned for release on Thursday, December 10, 2015.

The 2010-2014 ACS 5-year estimates will be available for all geographic areas including census tracts, ZIP Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs), and block groups. For the first time, users will be able to compare two non-overlapping 5-year datasets (2005-2009 and 2010-2014).

Please note that the ACS 3-year estimates have been discontinued. Every community in the nation will continue to receive a detailed statistical portrait of its social, economic, housing and demographic characteristics through 1-year and 5-year ACS products.

Be sure to check out the latest Statewide Planning Program, Planning Information Center, Census [Data Bulletin](#) which takes a look at identifying Environmental Justice and Title VI populations in Rhode Island using Census and American Community Survey estimates.

Statewide Planning's Committee Meetings

State Planning Council

August 13, 2015, 9:00 a.m.

CANCELLED

One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI
Conference Room A

Technical Committee

August 7, 2015, 9:00 a.m.

CANCELLED

One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI
Conference Room A

Transportation Advisory Committee

August 27, 2015, 6:30 p.m.

One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI
Conference Room A



We're Here to Help



One of the central missions of the Statewide Planning Program is to enable cities and towns to create great communities.

The staff of the Statewide Planning Program is here to help, with everything from document review to data gathering, fact checking to facilitation. Our staff has expertise in a variety of topics, including GIS and mapping, public participation, data analysis, redevelopment planning and urban design.

If you think your community could benefit from the assistance of the Statewide Planning Program, contact Jared Rhodes at 222-5772 or Jared.Rhodes@doa.ri.gov.



American Planning Association
Rhode Island Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

SNEAPA Registration is Open!

On-line registration for SNEAPA 2015 (Sept. 24-25 in Hartford) is now open at www.sneapa.org. Be sure to check out the full program before you sign up.

In addition to a wide selection of sessions, an exciting key-note speaker (Peter Kageyama), and fun mobile workshops, we are offering some new options and programs this year, including:

- Our first-ever floating reception. Enjoy a sunset cruise on the Connecticut River at the Thursday evening reception. Sign up soon so you don't miss out! Special thanks to Robinson + Cole, our reception sponsor.
- For those arriving early, a free 1-hour Wednesday evening walking tour of Hartford, focusing on the City's recent complete streets and green street efforts.
- A SNEAPA Charrette, running all day Thursday with a show-and-tell on Friday. Join us for all or segments of this intensive, hands-on planning process for a neighborhood in Hartford.
- A Friday Story-Telling Lunch. Submit your tale of woe or wonder and you may get the chance to share your story with your colleagues. See website for submittal deadline.
- A mentor/mentee match, similar to National APA's program. We'll pair mentors and mentees to meet informally during SNEAPA.

On-line registration closes September 16. Questions? Contact us at registration@sneapa.org.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

Rhode Island Department of Administration
Division of Planning, Statewide Planning Program
State Planning Council

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS & COMMENT PERIOD

In accordance with the General Laws, Section 42-11-10(e) and Chapter 42-35, the State Planning Council has under consideration adoption of a draft plan entitled "**Energy 2035**", an Element of the State Guide Plan. This draft plan describes the existing energy system in Rhode Island. It sets goals, and polices to improve energy security, cost-effectiveness, and sustainability in all sectors of energy production and consumption in order to advance effective public and private stewardship of the energy resources of the State.

Notice is hereby given that two public hearings will be held on the adoption of this Plan at which time the opportunity shall be given to all persons interested to be heard upon the matter. The Plan will update and replace the existing State Guide Plan Element 781, *Rhode Island Energy Plan* adopted in 2002.

The date, time and locations of the hearings are:

Tuesday August 25, 2015

11 :00 AM to 1 :00 PM
Conference Room **A**, 2nd Floor
Department of Administration
One Capitol Hill
Providence, Rhode Island

Tuesday August 25, 2015

6:00 to 8:00 PM
Conference Room **B**, 2nd Floor
Department of Administration
One Capitol Hill
Providence, Rhode Island

Each hearing will begin with a brief informational presentation about the draft plan followed by the opportunity for public comment. Written statements relative to any aspect of the proposed Plan can be submitted in writing prior to, at the time of the hearing, or mailed by September 1, 2015 to: Kevin Flynn, Associate Director, Division of Planning, One Capitol Hill, Providence, Rhode Island 02908.

The draft plan may be viewed at Statewide Planning's website at: <http://www.planning.ri.gov/>

Also a copy of the draft plan is available for review during business hours (8:30 AM to 4:30 PM) at the Department of Administration, Division of Planning, One Capitol Hill, 3rd Floor, Providence, Rhode Island (401-222-7901).

These meeting places are accessible to individuals with disabilities. Any individual requiring a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in a meeting should contact Thomas Mannock at 222-6395 (voice) or #7 11 (R. I. Relay) at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting date. Any individual requiring the services of an interpreter to participate in a meeting should contact Michael Moan at 222-1 236 (voice) at least three (5) business days prior to the meeting date.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

Rhode Island Department of Administration
Division of Planning, Statewide Planning Program
State Planning Council

AVISO DE AUDIENCIAS PÚBLICAS Y PLAZO PARA COMENTARIOS

El consejo de planificación estatal, State Planning Council, está considerando aprobar un proyecto de plan titulado "**Energy 2035**" (Energía 2035) de conformidad con las Leyes Generales, Sección 42-11-10(e) y Capítulo 42-35, el cual será un elemento del plan de guía estatal: State Guide Plan. Este proyecto de plan describe el sistema existente de energía de Rhode Island, y establece metas y políticas para mejorar la seguridad, rentabilidad y sostenibilidad energéticas en todos los sectores de producción y consumo de energía a fin de fomentar una administración pública y privada de los recursos energéticos del Estado eficaz.

Por este medio se avisa que habrá dos audiencias públicas sobre la aprobación de este plan. Todas las personas interesadas en expresarse respecto al plan tendrán la oportunidad de hacerlo en su debido momento. Este plan actualizará y reemplazará el existente Elemento 781 del plan de guía estatal, plan energético de Rhode Island aprobado en 2002.

Fecha, horario y sitios de las audiencias:

Martes 25 de agosto, 2015

De 11:00 a.m. a 1:00 p.m.
Sala de conferencias **A**, 2.º piso
Department of Administration
One Capitol Hill
Providence, Rhode Island

Martes 25 de agosto, 2015

De 6:00 a 8:00 p.m.
Sala de conferencias **B**, 2.º piso
Department of Administration
One Capitol Hill
Providence, Rhode Island

Cada audiencia iniciará con una breve presentación de información sobre el proyecto de plan, tras la cual el público tendrá la oportunidad de hacer comentarios. Pueden enviarse comentarios por escrito, relacionados con aspectos del plan propuesto, antes de la audiencia o durante la audiencia, o por correo a más tardar el primero de septiembre de 2015 a la siguiente dirección: Kevin Flynn, Associate Director, Division of Planning, One Capitol Hill, Providence, Rhode Island 02908.

El proyecto de plan está disponible al público en el sitio web de Statewide Planning: <http://www.planning.ri.gov/>

Además, el público puede obtener copias del proyecto de plan en Department of Administration, Division of Planning, One Capitol Hill, 3rd Floor, Providence, Rhode Island (401-222-7901) durante horas de oficina (de 8:30 a.m. a 4:30 p.m.).

Los sitios de las reuniones son accesibles para personas con discapacidad. Quienes necesiten adaptaciones dentro de lo razonable para poder participar en las reuniones, deben comunicarse con Thomas Mannock al 222-6395 (de voz) o 711 (R.I. Relay) tan pronto como sea posible. Quienes necesiten servicios de intérprete para poder participar en las reuniones, deben comunicarse con Michael Moan al 222-1236 (de voz) tan pronto como sea posible.