



April 2022

Today!  
Land Use Commission Listening Session

Join the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Special Legislative Commission to Study the Entire Area of Land Use, Preservation, Development, Housing, Environment & Land Use (aka, "the Land Use Commission") for a presentation about their work to date and share your thoughts on the results you would like to see from the Commission.



The session starts at 12PM on April 1 and will last for approximately one hour on Zoom (the link is [here](#)) and will be hosted by the RI Division of Statewide Planning.

Workshops for Municipal Boards



Rhode Island Division of Statewide Planning

free Educational Workshops for Municipal Volunteer Officials  
2022 Proposed Schedule

Workshops will be conducted by Zoom and advance registration is required

**Workshop 1 – Conducting Effective Public Meetings**

An Introduction to meetings, best practices in land use planning

**Proposed Dates:** March 30<sup>th</sup>, May 25<sup>th</sup>, August 31, October 26<sup>th</sup>

**Workshop 2 – Making Land Use Decisions**

Conducting land use reviews, standards and crafting decisions

It is suggested that Workshop 1 be completed prior to this workshop

**Proposed Dates:** April 27<sup>th</sup>, June 29<sup>th</sup>, September 28<sup>th</sup>, November 30<sup>th</sup>

For more information or to register - send an email at least two weeks prior to the workshop you wish to attend with your name, community affiliation and level of experience to:

[Nancy.Hess@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Nancy.Hess@doa.ri.gov) or [Paul.Gonsalves@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Paul.Gonsalves@doa.ri.gov)

## Planner Spotlight: Johanna Walczak



Johanna Walczak is Senior Planner for the City of East Providence and has worked for the city for four years. In addition to subdivisions and other day-to-day planning activities, she is also working on several public art projects in partnership with the East Providence Arts Council, as well as urban forestry projects with the citizens group EP Urban Forest and the city's new Tree Commission. She says, "What I enjoy most about being a municipal planner is the variety of projects that come through our door. It keeps it fresh and exciting. It's very satisfying to see the positive impact of implementing both 'shovels-in-the-ground' projects as well as policy change."

Prior to entering municipal government, Johanna spent nine years in the non-profit sector, gaining experience in program management and community engagement. She holds a Master's degree in Community Development and Planning from Clark University. In her free time, she loves exploring the state's trails, beaches, and other hidden gems. Johanna and her husband have a ten month old daughter and two cats. She is also a musician. Contact Johanna at [jwalczak@eastprovidenceri.gov](mailto:jwalczak@eastprovidenceri.gov).

## APA-RI Awards Party: April 8

Join fellow planners on Friday, April 8 for an indoor-outdoor celebration of old and new friends, new opportunities, and the very best in Rhode Island planning!

The party will take place from 6PM-9 PM at Moniker Brewery, 432 W. Fountain Street, Providence. APA RI Members: \$35, Non-Members: \$45. Tickets include heavy appetizers and 2 drink tickets (non-beer options will be available). Tickets can be purchased at [www.rhodeislandapa.org](http://www.rhodeislandapa.org).



## Comp Plan Approved



The Town of Richmond recently received approval of their ten-year Comprehensive Plan update from Statewide Planning.

The Plan states that residents "choose to live here because of its small-town feel and quiet streets. Its abundant natural areas, historic villages, scenic views and vistas of forests, fields and farms, and active agricultural businesses define Richmond's rural character. Residents envision Richmond as a community that encourages development to expand the property tax base while protecting its rural characteristics."

Congratulations to Town Planner Shaun Lacey, AICP, the Richmond Planning Board, and the Richmond Town Council on this achievement!

## Meredith's Musings

So much information, so little time. My pandemic kittens are ten months old. How did that even happen? My six-year old greyhound was just diagnosed with bone cancer, and suddenly six years isn't enough time. The older I get, the faster time passes. I wish I could communicate that to my former self: when you've got the time, take it.

I'm feeling the same way about vacation time: the last couple of years have involved staycations to burn "use it or lose it" vacation hours. This year I have real travel plans, with a training-wheels trip to Los Angeles in the first week of April. Where are you traveling? Do you find yourself scoping out planning practices in other states and countries? I took pictures of trams, charging stations, and manhole covers last time I was in Oslo.

In the office and our remote workspaces, we're working to develop the FY2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which will guide our tasks for the next year. Our Committees will get more information this month. We're kicking off the Freight and Goods Movement Plan update. We're deciding what data is most critical: for grants, projects, and our partners at the state and municipal level. We're welcoming new staff: hello, Lori Cassin, Chief Implementation Aide (who comes to us by way of RIDOT). We're saying "farewell" but also "we'll see you soon" to Supervising Planner Michael D'Alessandro, AICP, who moves on to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Rhode Island office. We're hearing from planners, developers, architects, and engineers at the Land Use Commission. We're dealing with the follow-up from the MPO/TMA Recertification (I can't release details, but I can tell you I'm very, very proud of the Statewide Planning team).

So much information, with more arriving every day. Today, we will have access to some historical data - you might find it interesting to explore the [1950 Census data](#), released April 1 by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) for the first time.

## Upcoming Statewide Planning Meetings

Please check the links for public meeting format information and/or cancellations.

### [State Planning Council](#)

**April 14 - 9AM**

Room 2A, 1 Capitol Hill, Providence

### [Transportation Advisory Committee](#)

**April 28 - 5:30PM**

Room 2A, 1 Capitol Hill, Providence

### [Technical Committee](#)

**May 6- 9AM**

Room 2A, 1 Capitol Hill, Providence

### PHOTO TRIVIA

Do you know where in Rhode Island you can find this building?



## Events

*Events may be held in person, virtually, or in a hybrid format.*

**April 1 [Land Use Commission Listening Session](#)** See article, above. Time: 12PM on Zoom. Free.

**April 2 - 30 [RI Historical Cemeteries Awareness and Preservation Weeks](#)** Learn about Rhode Island's historic cemeteries and burial grounds by participating in clean-ups, tours, conservation workshops, and other programs. All events are free and open to the public.

**April 5 [Creating Inclusive Mobility](#)**. Presenters will discuss successfully-implemented coordinated approaches to integrated mobility and how these strategies create opportunity for inclusive travel. Time: 11:30AM-1PM. Fee: \$100. 1.5 CM.

**April 5 [Equitable Brownfields Redevelopment](#)**. This National Brownfields Coalition virtual event will address how practitioners can center equity in their work, plus strategies for inclusive brownfields redevelopment. Time: 11:30AM-2:30PM. Free.

**April 6 [The Fluid Border: Reclaiming Indigenous Maritime Traditions and Sovereignty](#)**. Join Aquinnah Wampanoag artist Jonathan James-Perry as he discusses the cultural renaissance of Northeastern Indigenous maritime traditions. Time: 6PM-7PM. Free.

**April 7 [American Urbanist: How William H. Whyte Reshaped Public Life](#)** Learn about the pioneer of people-centered urban design who challenged planners to look beyond their desks and drawings. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

**April 7 [Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council \(EC4\) Meeting](#)**. Time: 10:30AM-12PM. Location: New England Institute of Technology, 1 New England Tech Blvd., East Greenwich. Free and open to the public.

**April 9 [APA-RI Awards Party](#)** at [Moniker Brewery](#) in Providence. See article, above. Time: 6PM-9PM. Fee: \$35-\$40.

**April 12 [Calculating Carbon Savings from Building Reuse and Retrofit](#)**. This session will discuss a "carbon calculator" that will allow preservationists, developers, and planners to compare the carbon impacts of specific reuse, retrofit, and replacement scenarios. Time: 2PM. Free.

**April 12 [Right of Way: Addressing the Silent Epidemic of Pedestrian Deaths in America](#)**. The number of pedestrian deaths has been rising in recent years: what can communities do to turn this around? Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

**April 13 [Challenges and Opportunities for Green Infrastructure, Stormwater, and Resilience Financing in Rhode Island](#)** Learn about the challenges of financing projects in Rhode Island's municipalities and policy recommendations. Time: 11AM-12PM. Free.

**April 14 [Revitalizing Rural Economies and Strengthening Main Streets Through Trails](#)**. This webinar will discuss the Recreation Economy for Rural Communities (RERC) program; hear from one of ten community partners who received RERC assistance. Time: 10AM-11AM. Free.

**April 14** [Emerging Issues in Priced Managed Lane Networks](#). Priced managed lanes have been open in metro areas for the past 25 years to mitigate congestion; presenters will highlight a case study of emerging priced managed lane networks. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

**April 19** [Making Planning More Accessible](#) This webinar will cover the needs of different communities, common barriers to access, and tips and tricks for making your meetings, presentations, and planning products more accessible. Time: 6PM-7PM. 1 CM.

**April 20** [NRCS and USDA Rural Development: Funders that Planners, Municipal Officials, and Other Community Leaders Should Know Well](#) Part of the Penn State Extension Land Use Decision-making Series. Time: 12PM-1:15PM. Fee: \$5. 1.25 CM.

**April 20** [Transforming the Experience for People on Bikes: How Two North American Communities Have Successfully Implemented Low Stress Networks, Quickly](#) This workshop will describe quick transformations with an emphasis on lessons learned from similarities and differences in planning and delivery methods. Time: 3PM. Free.

**April 22** [Earth Day](#). This year's theme is "Invest in Our Planet." [Check here](#) for cleanups and other Earth Day events in Rhode Island or [organize a cleanup](#) in your neighborhood.

**April 27** [Intro to Composting for Rhode Islanders](#). This virtual presentation by RIRRC will give you the information you need to start composting: topics include different ways to compost and what goes (and does not go) in your bin. Time: 6:30PM-7:30PM. Free.

**April 28** [Designing Park Projects that Improve Community Health](#). Learn how to improve park access and connectivity, and the funding sources, engagement processes, and partnerships to set the projects up for success. Time. 2PM-3PM. Free.

**April 28** [Residential Real Estate and Rail-Trails: An On-the-Ground Reality](#). Learn about the reality of getting places, neighborhoods, and communities to “yes” on the idea of a trail, plus experiences of house sales near rail trails. Time: 10AM-11:30AM. Free.

**April 28** [RI League of Cities & Towns Annual Convention](#) RILOCAT is taking precautions to host a safe, in-person event and is monitoring health guidance from public health officials. Location: Crown Plaza, Warwick. Time: 8:30AM-3:30PM. Free to members.

**April 29** [Air Permitting and Environmental Justice: What You Need to Know](#). This webinar focuses on environmental justice and steps that may be required for an air permitting project adjacent to an EJ community. Time: 9AM-11:30AM. Fee: \$0-\$50.

**April 30** [Trees for the People: Environmental Justice for Rhode Island's Frontline Communities](#). RI Environmental Education Association's 2022 Annual Summit. Time: 8AM-12PM. Location: RI College, 600 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Providence. Fee: \$0-\$95.

**April 30 - May 3** [National Planning Conference 2022](#). For the first time, APA's NPC includes two distinct events: an in-person experience in San Diego from 4/30-5/3 and an online event that runs from 5/18-5/20. Fee: \$75-\$1,275.

**Anytime** The [Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals](#) (APBP) has free, on-demand webinars to help create more walkable and bikeable places.

**April 8 [USDA Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry](#)** "Messaging Urban and Community Forestry for All" Program seeks proposals for program development/collaboration to address urban and community forest public awareness and education.

**April 13 [Regional Conservation Partnership Program](#)** from the NRCS addresses natural resource challenges on agricultural land for projects that address climate change, benefit historically underserved producers, and support urban agriculture.

**April 14 [RAISE Transportation Discretionary Grants](#)** U.S. DOT's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program helps communities carry out projects with significant local or regional impact.

**April 15 [Community Placemaking Grants](#)** enable nonprofits and government agencies to address inequality of access to public spaces; awards of \$40,000 are available for physical and programmatic improvements to a public space from the Project for Public Spaces.

**April 19 [Rural Community Development Initiative Grants](#)** help develop rural capacity and ability to undertake projects related to housing, community facilities, or community and economic development. The recipients will, in turn, provide programs that will support their communities.

**April 19 [Rural Innovation Stronger Economy \(RISE\) Grant Program](#)** offers grant assistance to create and augment high-wage jobs, accelerate the formation of new businesses, support industry clusters and maximize assets in low-income rural areas.

**April 21 [Challenge America](#)** grant from the National Endowment for the Arts offers support primarily to small organizations for projects in all artistic disciplines that extend the reach of the arts to populations that are underserved.

**April 25 [Apprenticeship Building America Grant Program](#)** will strengthen, modernize, expand and diversify its Registered Apprenticeship Program to enable more workers to earn while they learn and find reliable pathways to the middle class.

**April 28 [Energy Transitions in Underserved Communities](#)**. The U.S. EPA is seeking applications proposing community-engaged research that will address the drivers and environmental impacts of energy transitions in underserved communities.

## Articles of Interest

[Do gas prices have an effect on land development patterns?](#)

[RI bill aims to end single-family zoning](#)

[Signs of another housing bubble are brewing](#)

[RI city bans short-term rentals in some areas](#)

[Huge impacts predicted for proposed one million square foot warehouse](#)

[This is the biggest issue blocking innovation in local government](#)

## RI Statewide Planning Staff

[Click here](#) for staff contact information.

## Photo Trivia Answer

**FOSTER, RI**

The Old Jail (ca. 1904)

Photo: Town of Foster website