

March 2019

RI Complete Count Committee Begins Work

In preparation for the 2020 Census, Governor Raimondo has issued an [Executive Order](#) that forms a Complete Count Committee to ensure that every person in the State is counted. Committee members are volunteers who include representatives of agencies that provide services to what is known as "hard-to-count" populations, which include children, the homeless, college students, and people with low English proficiency. There are over forty-five organizations represented on the Committee: the ultimate goal is to create outreach methods and materials to target these populations and develop awareness, trust, and knowledge about the importance of completing the Census.

The Division of Statewide Planning is charged with convening meetings of the Committee and providing staff support to the Committee and its eight sub-committees.

For more information, contact Supervising Planner Vin Flood at Vincent.Flood@doa.ri.gov.



United States
Census
2020

Our New Mission Statement

The Division of Statewide Planning recently had a day-long staff retreat to create a new mission statement for the Division that will help guide our future work. Following the retreat, staff were asked to submit their version of a mission statement, to choose the most relevant components of the 18 statements submitted, and, ultimately, to vote on one of three options created from the original eighteen. The resulting Mission Statement was then polished by several advisory groups.

"The Division of Statewide Planning promotes and encourages best practices for the balanced growth and development of the State of Rhode Island. We do so by:

- Connecting agencies, communities, and organizations;
- Guiding land use and transportation choices; and
- Promoting continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive application of planning principles, along with data-driven analysis, to create and implement State, regional, and local plans.

Our goal is to ensure equitable, sustainable, and resilient development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the needs of the future."

From the Associate Director

In like a lion! Well, March has certainly stormed into New England, dropping a variable amount of snow on Saturday morning, and a rather more significant snowfall today, Monday, March 4th. As with many challenges we face at this time of year, only so much advance planning can be done: we need to be adaptable and able to manage change.

Some of you may be aware that in my copious free time (you can probably hear the sarcasm in my tone and see me rolling my eyes from right there, where you're sitting) I manage a winter farmers' market. Why take on an additional burden? Because there was no Market Manager going into the winter season, and someone had to do it. However, I have found it remarkable how the market and my daily work during the week mirror each other. There are egos involved, there are issues of communication, there is not enough time to do everything necessary, and there are judgment calls to be made: not everyone is going to agree with everything you decide, but if you involve the stakeholders, at least everyone can understand what went into the decision.

Underlying everything else, there's one basic reason why I get up at the crack of dawn: I care. Despite the hiccups in process, the occasional public excoriation, the personality conflicts, the tough choices and limited resources, the hard work necessary to move the needle, the endless meetings: I think both the Division of Statewide Planning and my farmers' market are the vehicles necessary to implement and manage change, and to develop the adaptability necessary to grow policies, plan, relationships, and communities that preserve the best features of the Ocean State while moving toward a better future.

So March comes in like a lion, and it may or may not go out like a lamb. Frankly, climate change means that the weather folklore we mention, without a second thought, may no longer hold true. We're going to have to develop new paradigms as we step into the future. *"The only thing constant is change."* ~ [Heraclitus](#)

Round-table on Solar Siting

On March 1, Statewide Planning convened another Planners' Round-table for RI municipal planners to learn and share ideas. This month's session featured a presentation on [the State's final guidance for solar facility siting](#) by Statewide Planning and the RI Office of Energy Resources. Many municipalities around the State have been struggling with multiple applications for large-scale facilities that have overwhelmed



planning staff and planning boards. Planners from seventeen municipalities discussed the guidance, the application process, energy storage, tax assessment, and other issues. For more information about the solar siting guidance, contact Nancy Hess, Supervising Planner, at Nancy.Hess@doa.ri.gov.

RI Planner Spotlight

Diane Williamson is the Director of Community Development for the Town of Bristol. She started with the Town in 1995 as the Planner and became the Director in 2005. Diane provides staff assistance to the Planning Board and serves as the Administrative Officer. Her other duties include assisting in the long range planning for the Town, grant administration, and overseeing the functions of the Department, which includes planning, zoning, building, and historic district. Diane received her Master's Degree in Community Planning and Area Development from URI. Diane is accredited by the American Institute of Certified Planners and is also a Certified Floodplain Manager. Diane was recently appointed to serve on the State Planning Council's Technical Committee. Her current interests are climate change, green infrastructure, and healthy communities: one of the things she loves to do is to engage with the local school students— elementary through university— and share real world planning experiences with them. When not at work, Diane enjoys thrifting, traveling, knitting, reading books with her cats, and “researching” breweries with her husband. Contact Diane at DWilliamson@bristolri.gov.



Upcoming Meetings

[State Planning Council](#)

March 14 at 9AM

DOA Conference Room 2A
One Capitol Hill, Providence

PHOTO TRIVIA:

Do you know where in RI this building is located?

See the answer at the bottom of the newsletter.

[Transportation Advisory Committee](#)

March 28 at 5:30PM

DOA Conference Room 2A
One Capitol Hill, Providence

[Technical Committee](#)

April 5 at 9AM

DOA Conference Room 2A
One Capitol Hill, Providence

[RIGIS Executive Committee](#)

March 21 at 2PM

USDA-NRS Building

All meetings are open to the public.



Upcoming Events

March 9 [RI Land and Water Summit](#) Who should attend the Summit? Board members, volunteers and staff from Watershed Councils, Land Trusts and Conservation Commissions ... and anyone interested in land and watershed conservation! [Registration](#) is \$55 until February 23; \$80 thereafter. Time: 8A-4P.

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

March 15 "[Smart Buildings/Smart Cities: Opportunities for Designers](#)" Smart buildings are emerging as a connected Internet of Buildings, leading to urban environments becoming Smart Cities. Learn how leading firms are using technology as the basis of design for the physical world while capitalizing on the management of the digital world of Smart Cities. Time: 8A-10A. Cost: \$50. Please respond with your reservation by March 8 to: mvalois@acec-ri.org.

- Location: Providence Marriott, 1 Orms Street, Providence

March 21 [URI Landscape Architecture Lecture](#)Gina Ford, Principal- Agency Landscape + Planning, Boston. Lecture Title: At the Water's Edge: Case Studies in Riverfront and Coastal Restoration. Time: 7PM.

- Location: The Beaupre Center for Chemical & Forensic Sciences, Room 105A, 140 Flagg Road, Kingston, RI.

March 26 "[The CT Community Connectivity Program: Road Safety Audits to Accommodate Bicycles and Pedestrians](#)" Speaker: Patrick Zapatka, Planner- CT DOT. Time: 12PM-1PM. For more information and to RSVP, contact Roberta.Groch@doa.ri.gov (1.0 CM). Sponsored by the Division of Statewide Planning and APA-RI.

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

March 27 "[Alternative Tools for Encouraging Alternative Transportation](#)." Adequate sidewalks and bike lanes alone may not make a trip outside the car enjoyable in and of themselves. So what else can be done? This workshop will explore tools to make being a pedestrian or bicyclist more enjoyable, sociable, safer, and fun. Walking tour to follow! Free, but [registration](#) is required. Time: 10:30A to noon. (1.5 CM)

- Location: 1 Empire Street, Providence.

April 5 "[The Future of Transportation Funding: 2019](#)." Speaker: Terrance J. Regan, Adjunct Professor, City Planning & Urban Affairs- Boston University. Time: 12:15PM-

1:15PM. For more information and to RSVP, contact Roberta.Groch@doa.ri.gov (1.0 CM). Sponsored by the Division of Statewide Planning and APA-RI.

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

April 6 "[Preservation, Recreation and Sport: The 34th Annual RI Statewide Historic Preservation Conference](#)." All conference updates, registration and information are on the conference website. For more information, contact ripresconf@gmail.com or call Janet Balletto at 401-222-2078.

- Location: East Providence (multiple locations: see website for [details](#)).

Grant Opportunities

March 29 Deadline for [Resilient Rhody: Municipal Resilience Program](#) For municipalities that wish to assess their vulnerability to and prepare for climate change impacts, build community resilience, and receive designation as a Resilient Rhody Municipal Resilience Program (MRP) municipality. Designation will be given to municipalities who complete a Community Resilience Building (CRB) workshop process. Municipalities who complete this CRB process and develop a final summary of findings report will be eligible to apply for MRP implementation funds. Three municipalities will be selected in this first round of the program.

March 30 Deadline for [Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program](#) (HRSP), Department of the Interior/National Park Service. The goal of this program is to support the rehabilitation of historic properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Applicants must make subgrants for physical preservation projects within the jurisdiction of the applicant. Project must be in communities defined as "rural" by the US Bureau of the Census. Award Ceiling: \$750,000; award floor: \$100,000. Opportunity #P19AS00015 on [Grants.gov](#)

April 11 [Archives Collaboratives: Planning Grant](#) deadline. The National Historical Publications and Records Commission seeks projects that will make collections from small and under-represented archives more readily available for public discovery and use. The grant program will fund best practices, tools, and techniques among member organizations; assess institutional strengths and opportunities; and develop plans and management structures for long-term sustainability and growth. Archives Collaboratives must consist of three or more organizations.

April 11 [National Endowment for the Arts' Challenge America](#) grant deadline. 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.

April 17 [AARP Community Challenge grant](#) program funds community-based "quick-action" projects related to housing, transportation, smart cities and public spaces. The goal is to spark change and build momentum to improve livability for people of all ages. Grants can range from several hundred dollars for smaller short-term activities to several thousand for larger projects. All projects must be completed by November 4, 2019.

Planning Articles of Interest

[Hope Mill moving forward after Town appeal denied](#)

[Despite Uber and Lyft, urban car-ownership is growing](#)

[Waterfront quandary: restoration or redevelopment?](#)

[How NIMBYs made "backyard" mean "entire neighborhood"](#)

[Three-fourths of nation's businesses don't have paid employees](#)

[Homes lose \\$15.8 billion in value as seas rise, Maine to Mississippi](#)

Outdoor Recreation Survey



We want to hear from you! Tell us your thoughts about outdoor recreation opportunities in Rhode Island:

- Do you fish, camp, bike, hike, walk, skateboard?
- What kinds of outdoor activities would you like to do more often?
- Why do you like to be active outside?
- What would get you outside more often?

The Rhode Island Division of Statewide Planning and the Department of Environmental Management are seeking public input on outdoor recreation across our State to help inform the *Rhode Island Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan* ("SCORP") update. Feedback will help us create better outdoor opportunities for all Rhode Islanders and visitors and will be used to help prioritize funding for future outdoor recreation projects. Please fill out the [Rhode Island Outdoor Recreation Survey](#) to make your voice heard.

Check out our website for plans, maps, publications, and more!

www.planning.ri.gov

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PHOTO TRIVIA ANSWER:

Firemen's Museum (1846)

Warren

Photo: R. Groch