



**September 2021**

## **Kevin Nelson is Retiring**

After thirty-five years of working for the State of Rhode Island and over thirty years with the RI Division of Statewide Planning, Supervising Planner Kevin Nelson is retiring. Kevin started his career with the Statewide Planning in 1989 as a Planning Technician, reviewing local comprehensive plans.



During his tenure with the Division, Kevin has worked on strategic planning, natural resource and land use planning, the intergovernmental review program, and (most famously) comprehensive planning. His responsibilities also included serving on the RIDEM Agricultural Lands' Commission, the RI Historic Preservation & Heritage Commission, the RI Trails Advisory Committee, and the RI Recreation Resources Review Committee.

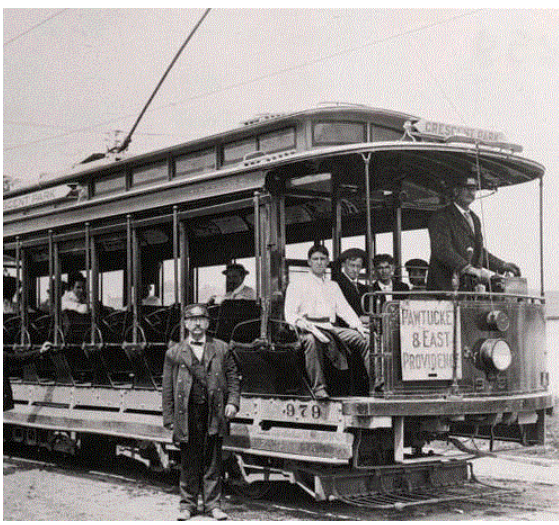
In his role as the guru of all things Comp Plan, Kevin has provided valuable assistance to other State agencies and most of the State's community planners. As he puts it: "We're solving problems and making Rhode Island a little bit nicer place to live."

Kevin has degrees from the University of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College in economics, political science, and philosophy. Outside of work, Kevin loves nature and loves hiking the trails of the Audubon Society, Nature Conservancy and RIDEM refuges. He is active in the leadership of his church congregation and can often be found on a golf course.

Please plan to attend an open house for Kevin on **Friday, September 17 from 1:30PM-3PM at the Div. of Statewide Planning office** in The Foundry, 235 Promenade St., Suite 230, Providence. (Use the Beach Street entrance at the rear of the building).

You can sign a digital card for Kevin [here](#). Or contact him at 401/222-2093 and [Kevin.Nelson@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Kevin.Nelson@doa.ri.gov) until September 24. Good luck, Kevin: you will be missed!

Below: Kevin (in white shirt) on the way to his first day of work at Statewide Planning.



Above: Kevin doing one of his favorite things: explaining the comprehensive planning process.

## Planners' Roundtable: October 1



Planners' Roundtables are back!

And what a great way to kick off the start of

National Community Planning Month!

Join fellow planners on **Friday, October 1 at 3PM** for "Market to Metacom: Adaptation and Economic Development in Warren, RI." The Town of Warren has developed a bold plan to prepare for the more frequent flooding and more severe storms that will be impacting Warren in the years to come.

Bob Ruilli, Warren Town Planner, and

Arnold Robinson, Regional Director of Planning at Fuss & O'Neill, will discuss adapting to climate change challenges while also promoting redevelopment opportunities that will create a community where people can live, work, and shop.

We'll be meeting *in person* at the East Providence Public Library, 41 Grove Ave. in the community room. (And maybe add a happy hour outing afterward??)

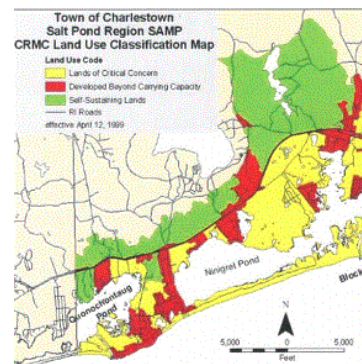
To register for this free event and/or for more information, please contact [Roberta.Groch@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Roberta.Groch@doa.ri.gov)

If plans change, all registered attendees will receive a Zoom link. 1.25 CM credits pending.

## Comp Plan Approved

Congratulations to the Town of Charlestown for the recent approval of their Comprehensive Plan!

Charlestown has created a plan around their vision of a community "united by its desire to provide a healthy, high quality of life which depends upon the protection of its natural, cultural and historic resources. These resources also protect wildlife and mitigate future climate change, and provide economic benefits in terms of tourism."



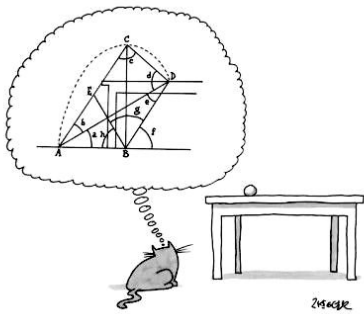
View the Charlestown Comprehensive Plan on our website: [www.planning.ri.gov](http://www.planning.ri.gov).

## Municipal Board Training: Sept. 29

The RI Division of Statewide Planning will conduct a free training for new or returning volunteers who serve on planning and zoning boards via Zoom on **Wednesday, September 29** in the early evening. This will be a small session, with a maximum of approximately twenty people, for a few communities.

To register, please please send your name, community, board position, and contact information by September 17 to [Nancy.Hess@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Nancy.Hess@doa.ri.gov). Zoom login info and details will be sent to registrants shortly before the workshop.

## Brady's Bits



This has been one long, strange summer: a weird hybrid between in-person and virtual, a daily calculation of personal risk as the world opens up slowly, two steps forward, one step back. I feel a little like a cat doing complex equations in its head to calculate a jump (see illustration!) every time I pull a meeting together. Hybrid technology is in it's infancy and, much like the early days of Zoom meetings, there's a steep learning curve.

My "big" adventures this summer have included sharp things. Two new kittens, sisters, now 13 weeks old. And also a set of new kitchen knives (it's the little things) and the subsequent steep learning curve of how many things we do with our dominant thumb... I give my new knives a heavily-bandaged thumbs up for sharpness.

How are your meetings going, now that the Executive Order has expired and statute requires in-person Board and Commission attendance? How are YOU doing: personally, professionally? I'm still here, if you just want to talk. Let's go for coffee, virtual or in-person. [Meredith.brady@doa.ri.gov](mailto:Meredith.brady@doa.ri.gov) or (401) 368-7601.

## Upcoming Statewide Planning Meetings

All meetings are open to the public.

**These meetings will be held in person. Please check the links for cancellations.**

### [State Planning Council](#)

**September 9 - 9AM**

Room 2A, 1 Capitol Hill, Providence

### [Technical Committee](#)

**September 10 - 9AM**

Room 2A, 1 Capitol Hill, Providence

### [Transportation Advisory Committee](#)

**September 23- 5:30PM**

[RIGIS Executive Committee](#)

**September 30 - 2PM**

Cranston Public Library, 140 Sockanosset Cross Rd.

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## Photo Trivia

Do you know where in Rhode Island this building is located?

See the answer at the bottom of the newsletter!



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## Events

*Please note: Events scheduled to be held in person may be held virtually due to uncertainty surrounding Covid.*

*Always contact the organizer of the event for the latest information.*

**September 3** [A Planner's Toolkit to Reboot Small Businesses](#). This panel explores targeted social impact investments and small-scale manufacturing that invest in place in an inclusive way to empower systemic transformation. Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

**September 9, 10, 13 & 14** [Conference on Advancing Transportation Equity](#). The virtual conference of the Transportation Research Board will help bridge the divide between people, research, and practice. Fee: \$80-\$150; student rate is available.

**September 10** [A Matter of Truth: The Struggle for African Heritage and Indigenous People Equal Rights in Providence](#). This APA-RI webinar will discuss historical inequities in our land use regulations, transportation, and housing access. Historian Keith Stokes presents this groundbreaking report and leads a Q-and-A session. Time: 12PM-1PM. Free. 1 CM.

**September 10** [Rhode Island's Pandemic Response: Where We Were and Where We're Going](#). The Hassenfeld Institute and the RI League of Cities and Towns host a digital event featuring two conversations on Rhode Island's initial response to the pandemic and the once-in-a-lifetime wave of federal funding. Time: 9AM-10:30AM. Free.

**September 10** [Zoom Towns: Broadband and the Culture of Connection](#). Communities with natural assets and robust internet service have become attractive places for telecommuters to locate full time. How can the economic advantages of "Zoom towns" benefit all community members? Time: 1PM-2:30PM. Free. 1.5 CM.

**September 13-15** [Transportation Law Workshop](#). This workshop will provide a virtual opportunity to hear about significant legal issues in transportation presented by leading subject matter practitioners from the FHWA, FTA, and Federal Railroad Administration.

Fee: \$250.

**September 15** [Short-Term Rental Trends and How to Craft an Ordinance to Handle Them](#). This Penn State Land Use Series virtual webinar will help planners, elected officials and citizens better engage in land use decision-making processes. Time: 12PM-1:15PM. Fee: \$15. 1.25 CM.

**September 15, 16, 22, & 23** [Next Stop: The New Normal](#). This virtual transportation conference of the Eno Centennial Institute will give participants information and resources for innovation-sharing in transportation. Fee: \$39-\$129. CM credits.

**September 16** [Advances in Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety](#). Learn the latest methods for data collection and using data for active transportation safety. Time: 3PM-4:15PM. Free.

**September 17** [SNEAPA 2021 Session Proposal deadline](#) The Southern New England American Planning Association (SNEAPA) Planning Conference will be held virtually on October 28 & 29, 2021. (All speakers *must* pay a registration fee to speak at a session).

**September 21-23** [Innovations in Freight Data Workshop](#) will virtually bring together a data users and developers to share recent advances for multi-modal freight applications and advances in freight data and practice. Fee: \$100-\$230; student rate is available.

**September 22** [Exploring the Future of Autonomous Driving and Vision Zero](#). This webinar features leaders in the AV world talking about critical traffic safety priorities and plans. Time: 1PM-2PM. Fee: Up to \$25.

**September 22-23** [Engaging Older Adults](#). This AARP Livable Communities workshop will showcase effective strategies, initiatives and programs that engage older adults and solve pressing community problems. Time: 1PM-4PM. Free.

**September 23** [Spending for Equity: How the American Rescue Plan Act and Other Federal Funds can Support Inclusive Economies](#) This discussion features experts on municipal finance speaking on how cities are meeting ARPA's equity requirements. There will also be a brief panel discussion with local leaders. Time: 1PM-2PM. Free.

**September 29** [Planning & Zoning Board training for municipal volunteers](#). Please see article, above. Free.

**September 29** [Racism and the Economy Series: Focus on Health](#). This event will examine how systemic racism impacts health and, ultimately, economic outcomes. Time: 2PM-4:30PM. Free.

**September 29** [Road Diets](#). A "road diet" is a road reconfiguration that offers high-value improvements such as enhanced safety, access for all users and a "complete streets" environment, at a low cost. Time: 10AM-2PM. Free.

**September 30** [Living with Heat – How Cool\(ing\) Things Can Help Us Thrive in the Future](#). This EBC webinar presents experts from Phoenix and Boston who will address policy, and zoning for extreme heat and share the tools they are developing. Time: 9AM-12PM. Fee: \$25-\$120.

**October 1** [Planners' Roundtable: Market to Metacom- Adaptation and Economic Development in Warren, RI](#). See article, above. Time: 3PM-4:15PM. Location: East Providence Public Library, 41 Grove Avenue. Free. 1.25 CM.

**Anytime** [edX](#) offers on-demand courses on urban planning topics like inclusive and

sustainable cities, infrastructure management, transit and rail development, smart cities, and more. Free.

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## Grant Opportunities

**September 13** [Areas of Persistent Poverty Program](#) deadline. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announces \$16.3 million in competitive grants to support projects that will improve transit services or facilities in areas of persistent poverty through planning, engineering, technical studies, or financial plans for projects.

**September 21** [Healthy Homes Production Grant Program](#). This HUD program takes a comprehensive approach to addressing multiple childhood diseases and injuries in the home by focusing on housing-related hazards in a coordinated fashion to address a variety of high-priority environmental health and safety hazards.

**September 28** [Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge Grants](#). National Endowment for the Humanities supports the design, purchase, construction, restoration, or renovation of facilities for humanities activities and the maintenance, modernization, and sustainability of existing digital scholarly projects and platforms.

**September 27** [Agriculture Innovation Center Program](#) deadline. The USDA will make grants to Agriculture Innovation Centers that may be used by to provide technical assistance to help agricultural producers develop and market value-added agricultural products using a variety of options (except joint marketing efforts).

**September 30** [Coastal Program](#) deadline. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Coastal Program is a voluntary, community-based program that provides technical and financial assistance to coastal communities, conservation partners, and landowners to restore and protect fish and wildlife habitat on public and private lands.

**September 30** [Endangered Species Recovery Implementation](#) grant deadline. The objective of this U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service funding is to support the implementation of priority recovery actions for federally endangered and threatened species.

**October 1** [RISCA Arts Access Grant](#) deadline. Provides program support (maximum of \$3,000) to new ventures or occasional arts programs executed by non-profit organizations, or groups fiscally sponsored by a non-profit organization.

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## Planning Articles of Interest

[New park named in honor of planner Dave Westcott](#)

[Town Council considers turning farm into high-tech agricultural project](#)

[Town will use grant for economic and social equity plan](#)

[Council considers Innovation Hub zoning](#)

[Town approves limit on number of students per home](#)

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**PHOTO TRIVIA ANSWER:**

**SCITUATE**

Smithville Seminary (now Scituate Commons)- 1839

Photo: Wikipedia