

YANKEE PLANNER WINTER 2022

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A Remembrance of Mark T Eldridge, AICP 1943-2021

Mark Thomas Eldridge, AICP, former Planning Director in Burlington VT died surrounded by his family at home in Burlington, VT on December 27.

Mark received his undergraduate degree from Dartmouth College, and a master’s in city and regional planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Mark was a veteran of the Vietnam War where he served in the Navy, and prior to moving to Burlington was the Assistant Planning Director and Redevelopment Coordinator in Brookline, MA.

Mark was Burlington, VT’s Director of Planning and Zoning from 1985 to 2005 where he was a champion for quality urban design, and the availability of affordable and accessible housing. Mark led efforts to preserve and reuse relics of Burlington’s industrial waterfront including the Pease Grain Tower and the Moran Generation Station, as well as improving the accessibility of buildings across the city.

Mark was an early leader in the City’s battle against climate change, and instrumental in the City participation in the the 10% Challenge and in ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability -

an international non-governmental organization that promotes sustainable development. He tested early versions of electric cars in the 1990s, and was behind efforts to create the City's first Climate Action Plan.

Among his most visible work was conceiving of the Burlington Community Boathouse. He suggested that the City's initial footprint on the evolving waterfront be built on a barge while the City worked to acquire the surrounding land in the late 1980's. To this day the Community Boathouse remains a centerpiece and focal point for waterfront activity in the Burlington Harbor.

Mark served the greater planning profession at both the chapter and national levels, including President of the Northern New England Chapter of the APA and being elected to the AICP Commission representing Region 1 in the mid-1990's. Through his work in APA and AICP Mark had many friends and colleagues from around the country.

After his retirement, Mark remained engaged in his profession including completion of the Green Roof Professional Training program in Toronto, and occasional attendance at regional and national planning conferences to reconnect with old friends.

Mark's deep intellect, big picture view, commitment to ethical planning, and that mischievous twinkle in his eye will long be remembered by those of us who had the pleasure of knowing and working with him over his long and meaningful career.

David E White, FAICP

Burlington Director of Planning 2007-2021 and Comprehensive Planner 1995-2007.

NNECPA Conference Wrapup

Virtual | Reality: A Recap



In October 2021, over 200 planning professionals gathered in Burlington, Vermont for the annual Northern New England Planning Conference. After moving to a virtual format for the 2020 rendition, the Conference Committee forged ahead with an in-person event for 2021. Planners from Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, and even Rhode Island attended this year's event. Over the two days, attendees chose from a list of 15 concurrent sessions

that covered topics from visualizing form-based codes, to identifying unfair housing regulations in your land use codes.

This year's conference also featured mobile workshops that explored multiple projects in Vermont's Queen City and neighboring Williston. In Burlington, participants saw examples of nature-based climate solutions and revitalized downtown locations including the waterfront, transit center, City Hall Park, and the Great Streets initiative on St. Paul Street. Another mobile workshop



transported attendees, via Green Mountain Transit's electric bus, to the Town of Williston to learn about the town's master planning process and goals to transform the vehicle-oriented growth center into a more pedestrian-friendly hub by infilling utilized parking lots.



In a literal play on the theme, the conference included a virtual keynote presentation by APA's Director of Research, Petra Hurtado. This presentation challenged the attendees to envision a future that we may not expect. From 3D-printed houses and bridges to space travel, the key note provided thoughtful and insightful takeaways to help planners prepare for an unknown and unexpected future.

This year's conference also featured two receptions for friends and colleagues new and old to meet and catch up on a year that provided

many challenges and opportunities. The opening reception also returned a conference tradition that

was started at the 2018 conference in Maine; the state cocktail competition. In an upset victory, three-year defending champions, New Hampshire, were bested by the hometown favorite, Vermont. Thanks to the New Hampshire Executive Committee, the competition has been stepped up a notch: with a bedazzled trophy to be passed on to next year's winner.

And finally, before departing the conference into an unseasonably warm and sunny Vermont afternoon, we bid farewell to several long-serving officers on the NNECAPA Executive Committee welcomed new officers, and celebrated 2021 award winners. A recap of departing and new officers and more about the 2021 award winners are in this edition. You can also find presentations from many of the sessions, on the NNECAPA website at nne.planning.org.

A huge thank you to and the Conference Committee and Nancy Kilbride, and all of the event volunteers who worked tirelessly to plan, organize, and arrange for this year's conference. We couldn't have done it without you!

Don't forget to join us for the 2022 Conference which will be held at Maine's Sunday River Resort from October 17th thru 19th. The 2022 Conference Committee is already hard at work planning the event so stay tuned for more details.

Eric Vorwald, AICP
Planning & Zoning Manager
City of Winooski

NNECAPA 2021 Annual Awards

The Northern New England Chapter of the American Planning Association is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2021 planning awards. For decades, these awards have recognized outstanding achievements in community planning in Northern New England. The awards are traditionally announced during the annual planning conference each year. Please help us to congratulate this year's winners.

Citizen Planner of the Year: Jon Levenstein, Town of Bedford, NH

"Jon has tirelessly served as a strong forerunner in Bedford's public arena. His leadership on the Planning Board has guided Bedford residents through a significant time of change. His work and volunteer efforts in the field of planning spans more than two decades."

Project of the Year: Rupert Village Revitalization Project, VT

"A café and community center right in the center the village will serve as a hub of community activity. The community center will offer a space where Rupert residents can come together for activities based on shared interest. The café is a place that will foster conversations and social gatherings. It also becomes a destination for visitors already coming to Rupert, generating economic and social activity in the village."

Guess What's Coming To Rupert!

A New Community Center & Café at The Historic Sheldon Store



Rupert Village Trust
The Trust is a newly formed nonprofit organization whose mission is historic preservation and community development in the Designated Village Center of Rupert, Vermont.



Our Project: The Sheldon Store
We plan to acquire & renovate the Sheldon Store, and transform it into a community center and café for Rupert residents and visitors.

Slide Presentation and Information Session

Learn about the project and offer your ideas

Thursday, September 6, 6:00 - 7:00 pm, Rupert Killay Library
Monday, September 17, 6:00 - 7:00 pm, Rupert Town Office
Saturday, September 22, 10:00 - 11:00 am, Rupert Killay Library
Sunday, September 30, 1:00 - 2:00 pm, Rupert Congregational Church
Please note the times and locations vary.

For information contact [Jane Davies](mailto:Jane.Davies@RupertVillageTrust@gmail.com) at RupertVillageTrust@gmail.com



Professional Planner of the Year: Meagan Tuttle, AICP, Burlington, VT

"Meagan has quickly established herself as a highly valued partner, skilled practitioner, and practiced leader in all of the planning and policy initiatives with which she has been engaged. She is a very highly regarded and sought-after partner by her many colleagues – both within and outside of city government."

Plan of the Year: Maine Won't Wait- A Four-Year Plan for Climate Action

"Maine Won't Wait represents the culmination of a tremendous and ambitious undertaking of devoted planners, scientists, public officials, and members of the public to develop an informed and thoughtful roadmap for Maine to address the greatest and most pressing issue of our time: climate change. More impressive than the Plan itself, is the process by which it was developed. An extraordinary assemblage of people following an innovative process of a central Climate Council with six supporting Working Groups, ample public engagement, and expert facilitation resulted in a Plan that was unanimously supported and approved by the Council."



Mad River Valley Unified Trailhead Kiosk & Mapping Project Completed

The Mad River Valley Planning District (MRVPD) is excited to announce that the installation of the Lower Woods Trail Network kiosk in November 2021 officially completes the MRV Unified Trailhead Kiosk & Mapping Project. The project, which launched in July 2018 with the first kiosk installation at Scrag Mountain Town Forest, features 47 total trailhead signs—15 “major” and 32 “minor” signs installed at publicly accessible recreation fields, parks, village path segments, conserved forest land, multi-use paths, and more—each with a site map, trail information, and user guidelines that together identify, unify, and celebrate the Mad River Valley’s expansive trail network.

In addition to the kiosks, the project also included a substantial mapping component. The effort resulted in the creation, production, and distribution of 2,000 paper trail network maps that were dispersed for free throughout the MRV at community libraries, town offices, elderly housing, public events, and other gathering sites. The 2019 edition of the Mad River Valley Trail Map was produced in partnership with Maine-based cartographers Map Adventures and is currently available from local retailers and online. The map utilizes the latest trail data and descriptions to detail activities for hikers, bikers, skiers, snowshoers, swimmers, and more, showcasing the vast, multi-use trail resources for recreationists in the Valley in one cohesive place. In addition to the paper trail maps, the trail data and narratives have been incorporated into the online Trail Finder platform, a free, interactive mapping site showcasing recreation options across Vermont and New Hampshire (<https://www.trailfinder.info>).

Planning Webcast Series

Did you know that we are members of a consortium that offers free webcasts on planning issues?

The Planning Webcast Series offers changes to earn over 50 AICP CM credits each year online - at no cost to members of participating organizations that support the Planning Webcast Series:

https://associationdatabase.com/aws/APAOH/pt/sp/webcast_home_page

Check back often as they frequently add additional offerings. Webcasts take place live on Fridays from 1:00 - 2:30 PM ET and are worth 1.5 AICP CM credits (for live viewing only) unless otherwise noted.

NNECAPA's Winter Webinar Series

We also have our own winter webinar series!

Next up on Thursday January 27, 2022; 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.:

Awarded Plan of the Year by both the Maine Association of Planners and NNECAPA, Maine's climate action plan is an extraordinary assemblage of documents produced by the Maine Climate Council in 2019-2020. Fundamental to its relevance and success is the original research and analysis provided in the Scientific Assessment of Climate Change and Its Effects in Maine, the report of the scientific and technical subcommittee of the Maine Climate Council. A draft of this document was issued early in the work of the Council and thereby informed the efforts of each of six Working Groups (Buildings, Infrastructure, and Housing; Transportation; Energy; Resilience, Public Health, and Emergency Management; Coastal and Marine; Natural and Working Lands). The final document – Maine Won't Wait, a title that echoes Governor Janet Mill's speech and commitment to the United Nations Assembly in 2020 - integrates the work of hundreds of Working Group members with a five-volume cost-benefit analysis and an assessment of the equity implications of its recommendations. A year out from its adoption in December of 2020, implementation is well underway. Emissions reductions targets are bold and being met with E/V network deployment, renewable energy sector development, and installation of thousands of heat pumps. Legislation is also moving apace to improve resilience and multiple funding streams are coming online from state and federal sources. This webinar will provide attendees with insights into the success of the planning process that produced the plan as well as the ongoing opportunities of its implementation.

Members: \$25.00, Non-Members: \$35.00

Available for CM Credits

[Register Today](#)

Our Next Webinar: Mobility Manager Network

Wednesday February 23, 2022, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

Questions: [contact Nancy Kilbride](#), Chapter Administrator

APA Asian and Pacific Islanders Interest Group

Members are pleased to announce the formation of APA's Asian and Pacific Islander Interest Group (<https://planning.org/divisions/groups/asian/>). This group seeks to connect and support Asian and Pacific Islander planners and communities.

Goals include:

- Increase the numbers of Asians and Pacific Islanders participating in planning in their communities;
- Provide a forum for planners to better understand the needs and desires of Asian and Pacific Islander communities;
- Facilitate planning processes to provide and improve results for Asian and Pacific Islander community residents and stakeholders;
- Support Asian and Pacific Islander planners and planning students in their career development;
- Build a diverse network for all planners to share their experiences and ideas relating to Asian and Pacific Islander communities; and
- Collaborate with other APA Interest Groups and APA Divisions to address issues of significance to Asian and Pacific Islander communities.

There are no fees or dues to join this Interest Group. One just needs to fill out this survey (<https://tinyurl.com/apa-api-survey>) and this Interest Group is open to all.

Vermont Downtowns

VT's downtowns and placemaking efforts were recently highlighted on the Social Life project blog post:

<https://www.sociallifeproject.org/rural-placemaking-vermont-downtowns/>

Portland Selects Local Artist for Bramhall Square Redesign

On Wednesday, December 15, the Portland Public Art Committee (PPAC) voted to select local artist Chris Miller to create a new public art commission for the redesigned Bramhall Square Park. The Bramhall Square Redesign Project is an ongoing design process to reimagine Bramhall Square, located at the corner of Congress Street and Deering Avenue in the Parkside neighborhood of Portland, Maine.

Miller, who lives in South Portland, was given the recommendation by a five-member selection committee. His proposal, “Keeper of the Picnic,” is composed of a large reclining bear containing five individual concrete pieces –head, two front paws, and two back paws- and is set within the proposed landscaped areas of the redesigned park.



The City’s RFQ called for proposals that could: be integrated into the small parks design both visually and physically, be attractive to children/families, have a playful or whimsical character, and have the ability to serve as an emblematic gateway for the Parkside neighborhood. The RFQ received 19 total submissions and Miller’s submission was selected from a pool of four finalists.

A robust public process for the redesign of Bramhall Square has been underway for several years. A neighborhood charrette in 2015 was held with area stakeholders, culminating with a design competition in 2017. In 2019, Mitchell & Associates was selected as the landscape architecture firm to complete the redesign of this small urban park. The schematic design was approved by the Portland Historic Preservation Board in June 2021. The public artwork will be incorporated into the overall redesign.

Portland Releases Land Use Code Evaluation

On December 17 the City of Portland released a detailed review of the City's land use code as part of ReCode Portland. The review and recommendations, contained within a Land Use Code Evaluation, are based on the goals and vision of the city's comprehensive plan, Portland's Plan 2030, broad public input received on Portland's Plan and during previous phases of the project, and technical analysis of the existing code. The evaluation was prepared for the City by Camiros, a planning and zoning consulting firm.

The evaluation will be available for public comment through December and January, when the City anticipates a public forum on the recommendations. The evaluation can be read, downloaded, and commented on at www.recodeportland.me/code-evaluation.

ReCode Portland is the City of Portland's first major effort to comprehensively rewrite its land use code in over 50 years. The goal of ReCode Portland is to create a new, unified development code to serve Portland for the 21st century. The new code will be more user-friendly, will advance the goals of the city's comprehensive plan, Portland's Plan 2030, and be better equipped to meet the many needs of the city in such areas as housing, design, preservation, conservation, the working waterfront, energy, and transportation. For more information, visit www.recodeportland.me.

Grapevine

- ✦ Jamel Torres, AICP, was recently hired as the Planning Director in Conway, NH
- ✦ The Hancock County Planning Commission (ME) hired Robert Sellers as a regional planner. He studied planning at Concordia University in Montreal and did his Masters in GIS, along with coursework in British Columbia
- ✦ The Southern Maine Planning & Development Commission welcomes Dean Williams to their team. Dean is coming to SMPDC after a long & successful time with Central New Hampshire Planning Commission in Concord! Eric Sanderson left SMPDC after 4 years and has become the Planner for the Town of Scarborough.



- ☛ SMPDC has recently developed a new set of Street standards for towns to use as a model and has incorporated LID stormwater standards into the document.
- ☛ SMPDC has successfully guided 5 municipalities and one sewer district into a joint Solar agreement to purchase power from the provider. SMPDC received 9 Bids and awarded the bid to ENCORE Solar with offices in Maine & Vermont. They are providing a 27.5% reduction in energy costs to the municipalities and Included the REC's as part of the bid. This will save these entities in the vicinity of 2 million dollars over the next 20 years. All of the agreements have been signed and we are awaiting the Solar farms construction. The site should be operational by late spring early summer of 2022.

- ☛ Andrew Deci reports:

"I am leaving the employment of the Town of Topsham this month; I'm excited to announce that I'll be joining the [Maine Coast Heritage Trust](#) team in January as the Southern Maine Regional Steward.

Although certainly different than the last fifteen years within the municipal planning and local government world, this will continue my work understanding and managing people's interaction with land--how people have used land and places in the past (cultural resources/archaeology/history), how we manage and regulate land to achieve better conditions for people and develop social connections (community planning), and now, managing the land in order to connect people to special places and ensuring access for future generations. In this capacity, I'll be the caretaker for a number of island and mainland public preserves and recreation areas in the greater Casco Bay area; sometimes working on trails and access, other times pulling invasive weeds! Hands-on! In the non-field season, I'll be assisting with the development of management plans and connecting with allied organizations and users of the facilities.

I look forward to being outside often (even in the cold dark of winter), especially on the water handling the Goslings, Whaleboat, Lanes, Malaga islands! I'll be a part of the development of two new preserves, Cousins River and Fields in Yarmouth and Woodward Point in Brunswick."

- ☛ Susanne Fogt Paul joined The Musson Group in early July as a Planner and GIS Analyst. The Musson Group is a planning consultancy located in Southwest Harbor specializing in Land Use and Community Planning, Economic Development, Geographic Information Services (GIS), Permitting, and Project Management. Susanne moved to Mount Desert Island in early 2021 from Washington, DC for her husband's job at the College of the Atlantic. Most recently she was a Senior Planner for the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) Montgomery County Department of Parks for

eight years. In that position she managed suitability studies for park facilities, equity studies, land acquisition, parks and trails recommendations for sector and master plans, site plan review, and greenway planning. Susanne has diverse work experience in GIS and planning including projects with local and national non-profits and large city governments and regional planning agencies. She has a master's degree in City and Regional Planning from the School of Design at the University of Pennsylvania and a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies, Geography and Studio Art from Middlebury College.

- ✦ The Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Council announces that Jake Palant has moved on to a county planning position in New York, and Sage Doviak will be joining them as a new Planner in January. Sage will be working on town plans, mitigation plans, and economic development. In addition, Kevin Geiger has moved into a new role as Director of Planning.
- ✦ Kati Gallagher joined the Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC) as the new Sustainable Communities Program Director; she was previously a Community Planner with the Mad River Valley Planning District.
- ✦ After more than thirty years as the Executive Director at the Mount Ascutney Regional Commission (MARC), Tom Kennedy will be stepping down, and Jason Rasmussen will become the new Executive Director starting on January 1, 2022. At that time, Kennedy will start his new position as Director of Community Development. In this new position, he will remain involved with brownfields, solid waste, and other community development activities.
- ✦ In November 2021, David E White, FAICP, left his post as Burlington's Planning Director after an incredible 26+ year career with the city. Also in November, Meagan Tuttle, AICP was appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council as the next Director of the Office of City Planning.
- ✦ Matthew Bachler, AICP will join the Windham Regional Commission as a Senior Planner in the new year. Most recently Matthew has served as the Director of Planning and Economic Development for the Town of Swanzey, NH.

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