

2025 APA-RI Award Winners

Award for Excellence in Plan Implementation- [Chepachet Village Revitalization Plan](#): Gloucester Town Planner, Karen Scott.

The Plan, completed in 2020, targeted revitalization in Chepachet Village, creating a five-year implementation and investment plan to identify opportunities for scattered site affordable housing within mixed-use development, preserve historic resources, and strengthen and expand small businesses. Over the past four years, the Town has had incredible success securing funding to guide transformative projects.

Planning for Resilience and Sustainability Award- [Ready and Resilient Barrington Climate Action Plan](#): Phillip J. Hervey, AICP- Barrington Town Manager; Herbert A. Durfee III, Director- Barrington Department of Planning, Building, & Resilience; Kim Lundgren, CEO- Kim Lundgren Associates; Carl Kustell, Former Chair- Barrington Town Council.

The Climate Action Plan puts forward action steps for the years ahead to prepare the community to adapt to climate impacts and also provides a path for net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, in alignment with Rhode Island's 2021 Act on Climate. This plan was skillfully developed through extensive community engagement, including online surveys, public meetings, and the input of a dedicated Climate Action Advisory Group.

Student Award- URI's Landscape Architecture Program- [The Jaycee Arboretum & Senator Roch Riverwalk](#): Jane Buxton, Associate Director; URI Department of Landscape Architecture; Nancy Stairs, Program Supervisor; RIDEM Div. of Forest Environment; Robert Allard, Program Coordinator; RIDEM Div. of Forest Environment; Jack Lancellotta, Executive Director; West Warwick Jaycees Alumni Association; Ron Halloway, Chairman- Jaycee Arboretum Project

This program was a competitive pilot sponsored by RIDEM for projects that incorporated natural elements that help create natural environments, considering the physical, psychological, and intellectual well-being of users, as well as the health of the environment. The URI Landscape Architecture Regenerative Community Design Lab student team provided the Town of West Warwick with two design scenarios showing gateway entrances, wayfinding signage, removal of invasive plants and aging trees, along with tree replacement in strategic locations to improve stormwater uptake and erosion control. Several use areas were proposed for relaxation along the river and improved pedestrian trails.

Award for Excellent Plan - [Old Tower Hill Road Neighborhood Plan and Draft Form-Based Code](#); Town of South Kingstown, James Rabbitt, AICP- Planning Director.

The *Old Tower Hill Road Neighborhood Plan* intends to transform a commercial area characterized by single-story, commercial strip-style development into a new mixed-use district with a variety of land uses, building types including much needed housing, and an integrated network of walkable streets. The new plan considers a different type of development for the area that would include a greater mix of uses, multi-story, street-oriented buildings, and a multi-modal transportation network. The plan also envisions commercial and residential uses that create “neighborhoods” – walkable, safe and inviting.

Award for Excellence in Housing Planning- *Newport Buildout Analysis & Housing Comp Plan Chapter Update*: Patricia Reynolds, Planning Director- City of Newport; Jeff Brooks, Chairman- Newport Planning Board; Kim Salerno, Principal Planner- Libra Planners.

The Newport, RI Buildout Analysis and Comprehensive Plan Housing Chapter update begins with the assumption that beautiful, historic neighborhoods provide excellent models for future housing needs. The Buildout Analysis identified specific sites that could support greater residential density, while maintaining the architectural character of the city. It pointed toward small lots, small increases in density, reductions in setbacks and increases in lot coverage to re-knit torn urban fabric and promote much needed additional housing and development. The *Comprehensive Plan* Housing Chapter furthers the work of the Buildout Analysis by providing housing goals and policies that are inextricable from Historical, Cultural, Environmental and Economic goals. The interweaving of housing policy throughout other policy areas, viewed through the prism of robust historic preservation provides a truly comprehensive approach to planning.

Paul Davidoff Award- [183 Washington Street Project, West Warwick](#): Frank Shea, Executive Director- Women’s Development Corporation; Charlie Thomas-Davidson, Women’s Development Corporation; Kevin Beaulieu, Architect- Union; Tim Behan, Commonwealth Engineers; Steve Andrus - Commonwealth Engineers.

This award nomination is for the Women's Development Corporation for their innovative permanent supportive housing project for low income and protected class individuals. The project includes 30 residential units and two commercial units, and is serviced by RIPTA, providing transportation options. The new 3-story building will have support services provided by Thrive Behavioral Health and the Health Equity Zone (HEZ) of West Warwick. The building will have a full solar array on the roof, and energy-efficient doors, windows, water-conserving plumbing fixtures and high efficiency appliances will be used to achieve Tier III Status of the RI Energy New Construction program.

Dan Varin Leadership Award- Jane Weidman

Jane has been a tireless advocate for planning as the longtime Chair of APA Rhode Island's Legislation Committee, making frequent trips from southern Rhode Island up to Capitol Hill to educate state officials about effective planning policy and to advocate for the planning profession. Jane has also served several communities throughout the state as Town Planner, in addition to private sector

planning roles. The effect of her work in New Shoreham and Charlestown to enhance the community character that makes Rhode Island special.

Peter Friedrichs nominated Jane: Peter, so you have anything to add?

President's Award- Jason Parker, AICP

[Roberta, Ashley, and Sue to present and speak.]