



American Planning Association
Rhode Island Chapter

APA-RI Annual Meeting

SNEAPA- Foxwoods, CT
Friday, October 9, 2026



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2026-28 Elected Officers

Board elections took place in Aug.-Sept. 2025

- President: **Susan Mara, AICP**
- Past President: **Roberta Groch, AICP**
- President-elect: **Rachel Selsky, AICP**
- Secretary: **Amelia Lavallee**
- Treasurer: **Glenn Modica, AICP**



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Who else is on the APA-RI Board?

Membership Coordinator: **Rachel Selsky, AICP**

Legislative Co-Chair: **Sean Henry, AICP**

Legislative Co-Chair: **Gregory Guertin, AICP**

Awards Chair: **Herbert Durfee III**

Elections Officer: **Michael DeLuca**

Professional Development Officer: **Al Ranaldi, AICP**

SNEAPA rep.: **Jason Parker, AICP, CFM**

Events Chair: **Vacant**

EDI Co-Chairs: **Ryy Dickerson & Peter Friedrichs, AICP, JD**

Emerging Planners Co-Chairs: **Isabelle Gillibrand & Tim Shea**

Treasurer's Report

Submitted by RI APA Chapter Treasurer

Glenn Modica, AICP

APA
RI

FY 26 Financials

INCOME

- 10% over projected income
- Net was four times projected
- Received two APA travel grants for President's travel to NPC 2026 & President's Council fall meeting

EXPENSES

- Kept them down to provide more funding for events and programming.



FY26 APA-RI BUDGET (7/1/25 - 6/30/2026)

INCOME	PROPOSED FY 26	ACTUAL FY 26
SNEAPA	\$12,000.00	\$24,918.17
Membership	\$8,000.00	\$7,295.77
Awards	\$1,270.00	\$1,348.40
Programs	\$200.00	\$2,841.88
Summer Social	\$1,000.00	\$415.43
Parking Day	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$23,470.00	\$30,675.67
EXPENSE	PROPOSED FY 26	ACTUAL FY 26
General Business	\$4,130.00	\$3,660.69
President's Travel	\$5,000.00	\$2,459.94
Awards	\$4,500.00	\$4,736.85
Professional Development	\$1,600.00	\$1,404.00
Programs	\$1,000.00	\$4,720.53
Summer Social	\$1,200.00	\$2,265.57
Parking Day	\$1,000.00	\$20.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$18,430.00	\$19,267.58
BALANCE	\$5,040.00	\$11,408.09



FY27 APA-RI APPROVED BUDGET (7/1/26 - 6/30/2027)

INCOME		PROPOSED FY 27
SNEAPA		\$15,000.00
Membership		\$7,500.00
Awards		\$1,400.00
Programs		\$2,500.00
Summer Social		\$2,000.00
Parking Day		\$0.00
TOTAL INCOME		\$28,400.00
EXPENSE		PROPOSED FY 27
General Business		\$5,000.00
President's Travel		\$5,000.00
Awards		\$5,000.00
Professional Development		\$1,475.00
Programs		\$4,000.00
Summer Social		\$2,000.00
Parking Day		\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$22,475.00
BALANCE		\$5,925.00



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Membership

- We have 254 members: 128 Chapter-only, 126 National APA
 - Decrease from FY25 (287 members)
- Chapter-only membership is down slightly
- Twelve Planning Board Chapter-only memberships (down from 14 in FY25)
- Weekly e-news available only to members; discount tickets to social events and professional development events
- Chapter-only rate of \$35: join today!

ri.planning.org



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Programming

- Co-hosted Trivia Challenge with RIFMA in January at Narragansett Brewery
- Co-hosted three Planners' Roundtable Discussions on new legislation, municipal resilience projects, and OpenGov rollout (March, June, and September)
- Held "Game Changer! Tidewater Landing: What goes into a Public Private Partnership (P3) project?" at Tidewater Stadium
- SNEAPA 2026- Members volunteered on the SNEAPA Committee.



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Events/Programming

Awards' Party- River's Edge, April 2026



Events/Programming

Summer Social –Narragansett Brewery (9/26)





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Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee

- Co-Chair Peter Friedrichs presented about the Americans with Disabilities Act at SNEAPA 2025 (and at the 2026 Grow Smart Summit) and
- Peter also presented about community-driven planning on indigenous lands at CNU 2026 (and at SNEAPA 2026)
- Worked with the Executive Board to receive a grant to the Charette School from APA but unfortunately had to return it because Charette School is slated to close in the near future.
- Moved to a quarterly meeting model to better support committee members.
- EDI Committee member Dwayne Keys was unfortunately not successful in his pursuit of an open Providence City Council seat.
- EDI Committee member Annette Bourne retired from her position with HousingWorks after many years of tireless contribution to providing adequate housing for RI.
- Efforts to encourage chapter action in support of the housing crisis were rebuffed by the Exec Board.
- We will continue to focus on serving our members' needs moving forward.

Everyone is welcome to attend EDI Committee meetings!



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Awards

Annual Topics:

- Excellent Plan
- Excellence in Plan Implementation
- Paul Davidoff Award - Advancing Diversity & Social Change
- Student Award
- Dan Varin Memorial Leadership Award
- Propose your own category!
 - Nomination Form will be available in November.
 - Awards announced in February 2027.
 - Awards Party (TBD for April 2027).
- Herb Durfee, Awards Chair

Emerging Planners

- November 2025: Emerging Planners networking social at the SNEAPA at O'Brien's Pub with 50+ in attendance between RI, MA, and CT SNEAPA attendees.
- March 2026: co-led a social with the APA-RI EDI Committee at Buttonwoods. Had 20+ in attendance.

Ongoing:

- Help distribute info with ongoing APA-RI chapter efforts to our 70+ listserv, including Annual Awards and Summer Social.
- Use listserv to share additional opportunities with emerging planners, including Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) events and job postings upon request.

COMING in late 2026/early 2027 - Launch of pilot mentorship program! We will aim to pair emerging planners with veteran planners based on interest and availability with the goal of each being able to learn and grow from each other! Interest form to begin process forthcoming.

Any questions/ideas related to Emerging Planners? Reach out to Isabelle or Tim!

isabellexgillibrand@gmail.com timhshea@gmail.com





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Legislative Committee

- Worked with Statewide Planning, RILOCAT, and others to monitor bills and form alliances for testimony.
- Many letters of support and opposition were filed this past year.
- Actively working with senators and representatives to have a seat at the table.
- Significant package of housing bills passed last session, further amendments to land development law may be coming in 2027.
- Legislative Committee Co-Chairs: Gregory Guertin and Sean Henry

More help is needed and welcome! See Greg or Sean for more information or email aparilegislative@gmail.com



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Legislative Committee

Legislative Pain-Point / Issue Reporting Form





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We need you!

Send an email to
aparhodeisland@gmail.com if you want
to attend a Board meeting or help with
an event.



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**We hold our Board meetings on the third
Thursday of every month from 4P-5P
(except July and December).**

All are welcome!

The link is on the Calendar page of our
website: www.ri.planning.org

Thank you!

“APA-RI is one of 47 chapters of the American Planning Association and operates as a nonprofit public interest and research organization dedicated to urban, suburban, regional, and rural planning. Our more than 200 members represent a diverse group of professionals and interested citizens across the state. Fundamentally, we are supportive of forward-looking efforts to develop understanding around challenging issues and collective response to address those issues without significant unintended consequences.

We are collectively experiencing a fundamental shift in housing in this country due to decreasing household size and the increasing prevalence of second homes and short-term rentals. The national housing crisis reaches deep into Rhode Island—we presently have had the highest increase in home sale and rental prices year over year and our prices no longer lag far behind Boston, one of the priciest metropolitan areas in the country. Rhode Island, and many of its municipalities, have stepped up big in efforts to address the impacts of this crisis: displacement, loss of disposable income, deferred home repair, delayed home buying, and homelessness, just to name a few. These efforts have challenged many, as we struggle to adjust to significant changes in our communities, just as we did during colonization, the industrial revolution, suburbanization, and 20th century economic decline.”

“Home Rule is a fundamental part of government in Rhode Island, but it has never been a co-equal relationship. We understand and appreciate concern from local governments that feel like they are getting the short end of the stick and additional housing is being thrust upon them. Challenging times like these are ideal for planners to assist communities in building collective understanding and identifying courses of action.

We are aware that efforts are underway to challenge the State’s authority with respect to land use control. While additional guidance from the judiciary regarding policy implementation is always welcomed, either way the case is decided will not remove the effects of the ongoing housing crisis. Regardless of state mandates for municipal action, we will continue to be faced with rising housing costs, decreasing housing quality, and individuals who are unable to find permanent housing. We must work collectively to address these pressing issues and no amount of finger-pointing will resolve the issue. We need to dig in and collectively work tirelessly to create the future we want.”