Hot Topics in Land Use Conference
November 1, 2008

Speaker Bios

Chet Arnold
Associate Director, UConn Center for Land Use Education and Research
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Chet Arnold is a Water Quality Educator for the University of Connecticut Department of Extension, and the Associate Director of the Center for Land use Education and Research (CLEAR). Mr. Arnold has been with the University since 1987, and is the founder of the Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO) Project, a national award-winning program that uses remote sensing and geographic information system (GIS) technology to educate local land use decision makers about the relationship between land use and water resource protection. As the Associate Director of CLEAR, Mr. Arnold focuses on the integration of the Center’s research, technology, and outreach functions, and how these activities can best benefit Connecticut communities. He currently serves on the UConn Environmental Policy Advisory Council, the Connecticut Institute of Water Resources Advisory Board, and the Advisory Committee of the CT Department of Environmental Protection Landscape Stewardship Initiative. He has served on his local (Essex) land trust board for 17 years.

Timothy Bates
Partner, Robinson and Cole
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Tim Bates assists clients in meeting requirements for land development, particularly planning, zoning, and wetlands regulations. He appears regularly before planning, zoning, and wetlands commissions throughout the State of Connecticut and has brought and defended numerous court appeals of these types of decisions, including several involving Connecticut's Affordable Housing Appeals Act.

Mr. Bates serves on and is a past chairman of the Planning and Zoning Section of the Connecticut Bar Association. He is the state chair of the International Municipal Lawyers Association. He has spoken to bar members and to planning and zoning officials on subjects such as the appropriate conduct at hearings, the legal limitations and role of planning and zoning commissions, and the effect of Connecticut's Affordable Housing Appeals Act. Mr. Bates has also made presentations to the American Planning Association on right to farm, nonconforming uses, and review of recent Supreme Court cases regarding land use law. Further, he has addressed the International Municipal Lawyers Association Annual Meeting on the legality of design review requirements in local zoning and subdivision.
regulations. Mr. Bates also has experience in the general practice of law and, as head of the firm’s New London office, can support client needs in other areas of practice.

Mr. Bates received his B.A. from Yale College, where he served as editorial chairman of the *Yale Daily News*. He graduated from Columbia Law School and clerked for the Honorable Robert P. Anderson, senior judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. He is admitted to practice in Connecticut’s federal and state courts, the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, the United States Supreme Court, and the United States Court of Claims. He is a James W. Cooper Fellow of the Connecticut Bar Foundation. Mr. Bates serves as board chair of Lawrence and Memorial Hospital.

Marty Connor

*AICP, City Planner, Torrington*

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Martin (“Marty”) Connor is Torrington’s City Planner. He is also the Consulting Town Planner for the Town of Goshen. On an as needed basis he has performed work as a Planning Consultant for New Hartford, Barkhamsted, North Canaan, Hartland and Burlington. A Certified Member of the American Institute of Certified Planners, he has been doing Planning, Zoning and Inland Wetlands work in the Northwest Corner of Connecticut for over 20 years. Marty has a real passion for skiing, seeking snow in the summer in far away places such as Las Lenas, Argentina, Valle Nevada and Portillo, Chile. Marty has taught skiing at Mohawk Mountain, in Cornwall CT for 18 years. He enjoys photography and his favorite subject is his lovely wife, Janice. Marty learned a little something about photography while training as a crime scene photographer/evidence technician at his former job as a Police Officer in the Detroit, Michigan area. Born and raised in Detroit, Michigan he is a graduate of Wayne State University with a degree in Business Management. Marty is an avid runner, exercising with his running partners several times per week year round and competing in local road races primarily so that he can eat ice cream for dessert without suffering from a lot of guilt. Marty also proudly serves as President on the Board of Directors for the Northwest YMCA.

Dimple Desai

*Community Development Director, Office of Responsible Growth, CT Office of Policy and Management*

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Dimple Desai was hired in March 2008 by the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to oversee the newly enacted Housing for Economic Growth Program under Public Act 07-4. This legislation authorized the Secretary of the OPM to provide funding for technical assistance in the planning of Incentive Housing Zones (IHZs) and funding incentives to municipalities which create IHZs.

Mr. Desai previously worked for the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) for 13 years. He was involved with managing the state’s large-scale real estate development initiatives from pre-planning through final construction. Specifically, he was involved with managing various programs and projects dealing with industrial parks, brownfields redevelopment, Municipal Development Plans, and municipal infrastructure projects. He has successfully managed a 110 million
dollar DECD funded project in downtown Waterbury comprised of renovation to the Palace Theater, 2 parking garages, site preparation for the UCONN Waterbury Branch and Performing Arts magnet school. Prior to that, before coming to US in 1992, he worked as a Structural Engineer and a Construction Manager in India. He has more than 18 years of experience in the field of civil and environmental engineering, construction management and economic development.

At a local level, he has served on the Open Space and Conservation Commission and the Design Review Advisory Board. He received his bachelor’s degree in Civil Engineering from the National Institute of Technology, Nagpur, India in 1988. He is a certified Economic Development Finance Professional.

David Fink

Policy and Communications Director, CT Partnership for Strong Communities
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David Fink is the Policy and Communications Director for the Partnership for Strong Communities and the Lyceum. In that role, he is the staff director of the HOMEConnecticut campaign, which is seeking solutions to the shortage of housing affordable to workers, young professionals, families and others across the state. David also coordinates press relations and education activities. David comes to the housing field from the worlds of journalism and government. He spent 25 years as a newspaper reporter, editor and opinion writer for five newspapers, including USA Today, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, The Boston Herald-American and The Hartford Courant, where he served as a legislative correspondent, government editor and associate editor of the editorial page. David left The Courant in 2001 to serve as press secretary for the Speaker of the state House of Representatives in the Connecticut General Assembly. David was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. He graduated from the State University of New York with a B.A. in political science and received a masters degree in journalism from Ohio State University. David joined The Partnership in January 2004. He and his wife, an attorney, live in West Hartford and have two children.

Jim Gibbons

Land Use Educator, Director, Land Use Planning Program, UConn CLEAR
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Jim Gibbons is a Land Use and Natural Resource Program Coordinator with the University of Connecticut. Mr. Gibbons is a professional land use planner who has been on The University of Connecticut faculty for 32 years. Prior to his UConn appointment, Mr. Gibbons was a private land use planning consultant for 10 years, developing land use plans and regulations for communities throughout the northeast. Mr. Gibbons served on the Durham Planning and Zoning Commission for 14 years. In 1996 he served on the Connecticut Greenways Committee. He has also served on a number of state advisory boards dealing with open space and natural resource protection. Each year, upon request, Mr. Gibbons conducts an average of 70 workshops reaching approximately 2,000 local land use officials across the state of Connecticut.
Mr. Gibbons has received awards from the American Planning Association, American Society of Landscape Architects, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, The Nature Conservancy, The Rivers Alliance of Connecticut, The Rockfall Foundation and the Connecticut Greenways Council. In 2000, he was presented the Frederick Law Olmstead Award by the CT Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, in recognition of his outstanding service.

Robert Hust

*Supervising Environmental Analyst, Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse, CT Department of Environmental Protection*

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Rob has been at DEP since 1988. He has been involved in a wide range of water resource and land use management programs. He has supervised a number of DEP water programs including: Water Quality Standards & Classifications, Watershed Management & Coordination, Aquifer Protection, Water Supply Planning, and the Long Island Sound Study. Prior to working at DEP he worked as a municipal planner for the Town of Groton involved in various local land use planning and water management activities ranging from drinking water to harbor management. Rob has been a CT DEP representative on a number of National and New England workgroups and numerous Connecticut advisory committees dealing with water resource management. He also serves as the CT DEP Commissioner’s representative to the Interstate Environmental Commission.

Rob is a 1978 graduate of the University of Connecticut, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree. He has received many honors for his work, including the Distinguished Service Award, for promoting sound planning and natural resource protection, by the Governor on behalf of Conn. Resource Conservation & Development, July 1998, and Outstanding Professional Conservationist by the New London County Soil & Water Conservation District, 1987. He is also a member of the Continuing Legal Education Faculty of the Connecticut Bar Association.

Mary Ellen Kowalewski

*AICP, Director of Community Development, Capitol Region Council of Governments*

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Mary Ellen Kowalewski, AICP, is the Director of Community Development of the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG). CRCOG is a voluntary association of municipal governments serving the City of Hartford and 28 surrounding suburban and rural communities. As Director of Community Development, Mary Ellen oversees projects spanning the topics of housing, land use, environmental planning, cooperative purchasing and municipal services. Through its varied projects, CRCOG works to expand voluntary cooperation among its member municipalities as the means to successfully respond to many of the region’s pressing governmental and public challenges. Mary Ellen holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology from Bates College, and the degree of Master in City and Regional Planning from Harvard University. She currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association, is President of the Housing Education Resource Center, and is a member of the Partnership for Strong Communities’ HOMEConnecticut Steering Committee.
David LeVasseur

Undersecretary for Intergovernmental Affairs, CT Office of Policy and Management
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He received his B.A. from University of Connecticut and his J.D. from Western New England College/School of Law. He is admitted to practice before the Connecticut Bar and served in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate Generals Corps.

His staff is responsible for the preparation and submission of the Conservation and Development Policies Plan for Connecticut 2005 – 2010 and he represents or has represented Secretary Robert L. Genuario on several boards and commissions including: the Municipal Finance Advisory Commission; the Connecticut Regional Institute for the 21st Century; the Water Planning Council and the Blue Ribbon Commission on Property Tax Burdens and Smart Growth Incentives. He has recently been appointed to serve as the Responsible Growth Coordinator overseeing the Office of Responsible Growth in accordance with the terms of Governor Rell’s Executive Order No. 15, which was issued on October 6, 2006.

Jiff Martin

New England Field Representative, American Farmland Trust
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Jiff Martin is AFT’s New England Field Representative and Project Director for the Working Lands Alliance coalition. She is responsible for a variety of education and advocacy initiatives pertaining to farmland preservation, farm viability, and local food policy in Connecticut. Martin’s prior experience includes working toward sustainable food and agriculture policy on behalf of Hartford Food System; conducting field research on food emergencies and trade economies in Eastern Africa for USAID and USDA; and teaching public school in New Orleans. She recently received the Merit Award from the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation for grassroots advocacy.

Martin has a M.A. in Development Economics from Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy and a M.S. in Food Policy from Tufts School of Nutrition. She received her B.A. from the University of Michigan. Martin hiked the entire Appalachian Trail in 2001 and is currently devoted to community gardening and small scale farming, including a cut flower retail enterprise targeting home/office/restaurant delivery and the Storrs Farmers’ Market.

Jennifer Pagach

Drinking Water Section, CT Department of Public Health
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Jennifer Pagach holds undergraduate honors degrees in Geology and Philosophy, graduate certification in GIS and is currently completing graduate work in Medical Geology and Policy at UCONN, Storrs. She is
John Rozum
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John Rozum is the director of the Connecticut NEMO program. As director, he delivers workshops and training to Connecticut’s 169 towns, assisting them to implement land use practices that protect water resources. Mr. Rozum is a certified planner (AICP) with a M.S. in Land Use Planning and a M.S. in Ecology, both from the University of Arizona. He has professional experience in land use planning, scientific research, and ecological field science. As a planning consultant, he prepared land use and watershed plans, wrote regulations, and completed technical reports for numerous municipalities. Recently, he coordinated the development of the CT LID Regulation Inventory, a searchable database of low impact development regulations across the state. Mr. Rozum has served on his town's planning and zoning commission and the board of directors of the East Haddam Land Trust.

John Simone
Executive Director, CT Main Street Center
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John Simone , President & CEO, has been with the Connecticut Main Street Center since 2000. Under his leadership, CMSC has grown in many directions. The number of Connecticut Main Street member communities has grown from 6 to 39. In 2005, John oversaw the launching of two new programs – the Downtown Resource Center (DRC) and the Downtown Revitalization Institute (DRI). The DRC provides more opportunities, at various levels of commitment, to communities that want to benefit from learning how to implement a comprehensive revitalization program. DRI offers quarterly seminars that, collectively, will provide a comprehensive training experience for municipalities, organizations and individuals in all aspects of downtown revitalization.

To support this growth, John has built the staff from two to four professionals. He is also responsible for developing the team of regional and national experts and partners to complement CMSC staff's expertise and provide a wide spectrum of resources and services in downtown revitalization. Last year,
he was elected by his peer statewide Main Street directors to serve on the first national executive committee to advance national advocacy issues. This past year he was invited by Dick Moe, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, to participate on a national task force to develop a strategic plan for the National Trust Main Street Center.

John’s Main Street career began in 1996 when he became the first executive director for First Town Downtown, Windsor Center’s Main Street program. In the first three years of this program 30,000 square feet of vacant space was filled with retail and restaurants representing over $5 million of investment. Prior to this, he worked for the Hartford Ballet for over 20 years. He was a founding member of its professional dance company serving 15 years as managing and then executive director. He was a contributing author to the anthology entitled, “Market the Arts” published by the Foundation for the Effective Development of American Professional Theater (FEDAPT) and he has served on numerous grants panels and awards juries.

He lives in West Hartford with his wife and two children.

Brian Smith
Partner, Robinson and Cole
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Brian Smith, chair of the firm’s Land Use Group, concentrates his practice in land use and real estate as well as in litigation concerning these topics. He represents municipalities, developers, and neighbors in land use, planning, wetland, and coastal resources issues. He has been lead counsel in numerous trials and appeals relating to these issues. Mr. Smith has lectured extensively on the topic of affordable housing, land use, and roads and highways. On behalf of the secretary of state of New York, Mr. Smith presented its public access reports to interested government officials and citizens in Manhattan and Westchester County.

Mr. Smith is an Executive Committee member of the Planning and Zoning Section of the Connecticut Bar Association and the Natural Resources Section of the American Bar Association. He is admitted in Connecticut and to the U.S. District Court for Connecticut, the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court.

Mr. Smith obtained his B.A., cum laude, with honors in history from Colgate University and his J.D. from Cornell Law School. Mr. Smith, prior to law school, worked in planning for Saratoga County, New York, and the City of Eugene, Oregon.

Paula Stahl
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Paula Stahl is a licensed landscape architect (ASLA, LLA) with the Green Valley Institute, a part of CLEAR, comprising a partnership between the University of Connecticut’s College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Quinebaug-Shetucket National Heritage Corridor. As a land use educator, she works
with municipal officials in the 35 towns in the Heritage Corridor to find ways to protect the region’s cultural and natural resources as its economy grows.

With a dual background in Finance (BS, MBA) and Landscape Architecture (BS), she brings a unique perspective to community planning issues through workshops and presentations. Her topics include Economics of Land Use, Growth and Rural Character, Subdivision Design and Building Sustainable Communities. Active in her community, she is Chair of her town’s Planning Commission and sits on numerous local boards and committees.

Christopher S. Wood

*MS, AICP, Wood Planning Associates*

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Christopher S. Wood has over 25 years experience in land use regulation, land use and economic planning, and municipal planning. He holds a master’s degree in science and is certified by the American Institute of Certified Planners.

Wood served as Town Planner for the Town of Woodbury, Connecticut for seven years and now, as the principal of Wood Planning Associates, provides planning consultant services to towns, businesses, and organizations in Connecticut. He is currently a consulting planner to the newly established Northwest Connecticut Regional Planning Collaborative, serving eight small communities in northwestern Connecticut.

Before becoming a municipal planner, Wood was Executive Director of the Connecticut Department of Public Utility Control and Executive Director of the Connecticut Siting Council and he served on the Connecticut Energy Advisory Board for twelve years. He has also worked as a land use manager and conservation planner for The Nature Conservancy.

Wood has chaired the Government Relations Committee of the Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association for four years and manages the Chapter’s legislative program. He is Chairman of the Woodbury Open Space Committee and a member of the Pomperaug River Watershed Association Board of Directors.