

October 2008 Monthly Report

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

There were no budget deficiencies or anomalies. Financial expenditures/receipts are on target.

Budget balance:

- Planning Division 64%
- Zoning Division 64%
- Community Development Division 75%
- Inspection Division 63%

Permit Revenue: Building \$105,203; Plumbing \$2,736; Mechanical \$10,578; Electrical \$15,435; Late filing/re-inspection \$5,197.

PROJECTS:

- Sign Ordinance Amendment: Planning Board received the proposed zoning amendment on September 15, 2008 and scheduled a special meeting for September 29th. At the special meeting, the Board discussed the intent, options, and various business and enforcement topics with staff. Additional language was developed in October to be added to the draft. A vote on this amendment is expected on November 17, 2008.
- Alternative Energy: Staff reviewed sample ordinances provided by the Newport Environment Committee to begin reviewing sample alternative energy ordinances in an effort to draft one applicable to Newport.
- Sheffield School: The rezoning petition for a Limited Business (LB) designation was approved by the City Council with both public readings held in October. The RFP was released on October 23, 2008. Proposals are due on December 17, 2008.
- RIPTA Bike Rack and Bench Grant: Bike racks and benches arrived and installation began in downtown locations along America's Cup, Thames Street, Long Wharf Mall, Corner of Bellevue and Memorial Boulevard, end of Lee's Wharf, and at Easton's Beach.
- U.S. Navy Hospital: Planners and Manager/Administrators from the three island communities continued meeting to finalize details pertaining to the regional LRA and the future excessing of U.S. Navy lands. The three communities will need to endorse the LRA shortly. Staff continues communication with multiple federal agencies pertaining to the Hospital property.
- SAMP Plan: A draft has been developed through coordination with all three island communities. The plan provides a regulatory framework from which developers will work in redeveloping the West Side of Aquidneck Island. A public meeting was held on October 16, 2008 at Middletown Town Hall to seek public comment.
- Parking Ordinance Amendments: Staff initiated changes for consideration to the Parking section of the Zoning Ordinance.

- John H. Chafee Boulevard/BankNewport: RIDOT approved the revised plan for Girard Avenue Extension modifications. Staff and CCRI have continued coordinating to modify Girard Avenue extension. Modification of Girard Avenue extension is a RIDOT condition for the approval of a traffic signal at Chafee and J. T. Connell Highway. As per RIDOT's directive, the street will be converted to 1-way in from Connell Highway. This will create space for an aisle of diagonal parking to serve the ball fields as well as CCRI. The City will pay for the plan with CDBG funds and CCRI has agreed to pay for the actual improvements.
- J.T. Connell Development Parcel: Staff continues to finalize a lease for the front 1.5 acre lot for a prime tenant and review the preliminary development plans for the site. Preliminary engineering plans have been initiated.
- Waterfront Planning: Grant funds have successfully been awarded for this project to URI to conduct a market analysis for the waterfront. Staff is coordinating with URI staff to accurately map waterfront parcel zones, current land uses and likely activity along the water and to study harbor walk options.
- Hazard Mitigation Plan: On behalf of the City, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Co., has submitted a draft Hazard Mitigation Plan to FEMA which gained preliminary approval contingent upon City Council endorsement.
- Harbor Shuttle: The RIDOT Structural Division finalized its review of revised plans, construction drawings, and specifications for Perrotti Park and Ann Street Pier improvements. An RFP will be issued after RIDOT approves the prepared bid RFP.
- Broadway: The RFQ for the Broadway streetscape improvement project was finalized and released for solicitation. The project includes pedestrian crossing, curb, sidewalk, parking, and roadway parking improvements.
- Perrotti Park Dredging: Bourne Engineering has revised engineering plans for dredging permits. The permit application specialist is working to complete the application documents for submittal to CRMC Dredging Coordinator.
- Deputy Zoning Officers: The DZOs responded to 18 noise complaints.
- Building a Healthy Newport Environment Committee: Staff is working with the group to Develop a Powerpoint presentation for the public, City Manager and Council to outline the process to date, findings, and next steps.
- Digital Scanning, Website and Mapping: Staff attended the Northeast Users' Group in Hyannis. GIS software has been upgraded to ArcPoint 9.3. This gives us the ability to overlay our plat maps with state-wide aerial maps. We hope to supply public interactive plat maps on our web site by the end of November.
- Stormwater and Development Plan Review: The Planning Board found the proposed zoning amendment complying with RIPDES requirements to be consistent with the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The amendment was forwarded to the City Council. The Council ordered the amendment advertised.

- Building/Inspection Division Number of Inspections:

❖ Building	64
❖ Electrical	41
❖ Plumbing/Mechanical	68
❖ Municipal/Minimum Housing	81

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

Historic Preservation and Historic District Commission: The Historic District Commission held one regular meeting in October; the HDC subcommittee also met once at city hall and also conducted several on-site inspections of on-going projects.

Critical Area Review Board: No applications were received for board review.

Zoning Board of Review: One regular meeting was held. Twelve new petitions were received.

Planning Board: One regular Planning Board meeting was held at which several petitions were reviewed for consistency with the Comprehensive Plan. The sign ordinance amendment was received and further refinements and discussion points identified. Review is ongoing. One subdivision was heard. A corrected decision on 26-26-1/2 East Bowery. The board should reach a decision to forward to the city council at the November 17, 2008 meeting.

Respectfully submitted: Paige R. Bronk, Director