

September 2008 Monthly Report

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

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

Budget balance:

- Planning Division 75%
- Zoning Division 76%
- Community Development Division 83%
- Inspection Division 79%

Permit Revenue: Building \$35,480; Plumbing \$987; Mechanical \$18,364; Electrical \$4,932; Late filing/re-inspection \$500.

PROJECTS:

- Southern New England Planning Conference: Staff attended this tri-state (CT, MA, and RI) planning conference on September 4 and 5, 2008 in Providence, RI. Over 500 planners participated and Newport staff presented at two different technical sessions.
- 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. A vote on this amendment is expected on October 20, 2008.
- Alternative Energy: Staff attended the Aquidneck Island Energy Conference on September 20, 2008. In addition, staff has been working with 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 recently supported by the Planning Board has been forwarded to the City Council with both public readings to be heard in October. The RFP will be released on October 23, 2008.
- Alliance for Livable Newport (ALN) Noise Forum: City Zoning and Police participated in a Noise Forum held on September 8, 2008 that was organized by the ALN. Staff presented relevant material and answered questions posed by the public.
- RIPTA Bike Rack and Bench Grant: Bike racks and benches arrived and are being prepared for installation 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.
- 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 will be held on October 16, 2008 at Middletown Town Hall to seek public comment.

- John H. Chafee Boulevard/BankNewport: The required plan for Girard Avenue Extension modifications has been completed and submitted to RIDOT. 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.
- 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: Emergency Management and Homeland Security Co. has submitted a draft Hazard Mitigation Plan to elicit preliminary FEMA approval.
- Harbor Shuttle: The RIDOT Structural Division continues its review of revised plans, construction drawings, and specifications for Perrotti Park and Ann Street Pier improvements. An RFP will be issued once RIDOT grants approval to construction documents.
- Broadway: Project scope is nearly complete for the streetscape improvement project including pedestrian crossing, curb, sidewalk, parking, and roadway parking improvements. Staff is finalizing the RFQ with input from steering committee members.
- 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.
- Community Development Block Grant. The basketball courts have been completed at Sullivan School. School officials have been encouraged to identify improvements for the \$29,000 remaining in the budget for this location. Residential rehab loans were approved for 104 Van Zandt Avenue and 191 Third Street. The Housing Authority submitted an invoice for \$164,635 for soft costs associated with Newport Heights Phase 4. The remainder of the City's CDBG \$250K commitment to this activity will come from Program Income.
- Deputy Zoning Officers: The DZOs responded to 37 noise complaints, reported 3 non-compliant properties without Short-term rental registrations, reported 1 illegal apartment unit, reported 6 trash violations, 2 noise citations issued, appeared at second show-cause hearing for second violation by Pizza Hollywood, and presented noise enforcement presentation at Alliance for Livable Newport (ALN) Noise Forum.
- Building a Healthy Newport Environment Committee: Staff is working with the group to analyze air pollution data and to understand the source of the emissions. The group may be seeking additional funding for localized testing of air.

- Digital Scanning and Website: Staff from PZD&I and MIS coordinated to develop a means for scanning new board and commission application submittals to be linked to our website for public viewing, including Zoning Board of Review and Historic District applications. New application packages can be viewed through our Departmental website. This has resulted in a decrease in copy usage. Staff is also now experimenting on scanning of large, map sized documents for the same purpose.
- Stormwater and Erosion Control Zoning Amendment: The Planning Board found the proposed zoning amendment complying with RIPDES requirements to be consistent with the Comprehensive Land Use Plan.
- Building/Inspection Division Number of Inspections:

❖ Building	53
❖ Electrical	57
❖ Plumbing/Mechanical	49
❖ Municipal/Minimum Housing	75

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

Historic Preservation and Historic District Commission: The Historic District Commission held one regular meeting in September; the HDC subcommittee also met once at city hall and also conducted several on-site inspections of on-going projects. Eleven new applications were received; five applications were approved in a summary vote; at the full hearings, three applications were approved, two were continued, and one was denied. Of the five applications continued from the August meeting, four were approved and one was continued (at the applicant's request).

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

Zoning Board of Review: One regular meeting and one special meeting were held to address the lengthy agenda. Nine 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. Approved were one home occupation and one subdivision final plan approval for 381 Gibbs Avenue. Two zoning amendments were found consistent with the Comprehensive Plan (Storm Water Management Plan and Sheffield School rezoning). One special meeting was held for the purpose of discussing revisions to the sign ordinance.

Respectfully submitted: Paige R. Bronk, Director