

November 2008 Monthly Report

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

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

Budget balance:

- Planning Division 57%
- Zoning Division 58%
- Community Development Division 69%
- Inspection Division 55%

Permit Revenue: Building \$21,838; Plumbing \$3,215; Mechanical \$13,821; Electrical \$9,203; Late filing/re-inspection \$500.

PROJECTS:

- Sign Ordinance Amendment: Planning Board further amended the proposed zoning amendment at the 17 November 2008 Board meeting. The Sign Ordinance proposed amendment will have a final review at the 15 December 2008 Planning Board meeting. It will then be forwarded to Council for a public hearing and approval.
- Comprehensive Plan Update: Staff and the Planning Board Chair met with the Office of Statewide Planning on November 18, 2008 to discuss strategies for completing the update to Newport's Comprehensive Plan. This project will begin early in 2009.
- Alternative Energy: Staff continues to review 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 school was open for inspection from 10-12 on November 6 and November 20. Approximately seven parties visited the school on each of the two days. Proposals are due on December 17, 2008. There appears to be significant interest in the property despite the weak economy.
- RIPTA Bike Rack and Bench Grant: RIPTA bike racks and benches were installed by Public Services 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: By-law and Memorandum of Understanding documents pertaining to the LRA were finalized by local, state and federal agencies. Endorsement of the documents and creation of the LRA by all three municipal Councils is anticipated in December 2008.
- SAMP Plan (West Side): Modifications to the draft were made as a result of municipal staff input and comments provided at the October 16, 2008 meeting. The plan provides a regulatory framework from which developers will work in redeveloping the West Side of Aquidneck Island.

- John H. Chafee Boulevard/BankNewport: Staff has communicated with BankNewport regarding their construction plans. This project has been delayed and does not currently have a construction schedule. They plan on finalizing their construction plans in 2009.
- J.T. Connell Development Parcel: Staff continues to finalize a lease for the front 1.5 acre lot for a prime tenant. The lease will be addressed by City Council on December 10, 2008. The site plans and utilities plans have been submitted for the Minor Subdivision of the property (Plat 3, Lot 35). Review of the proposed subdivision is scheduled for the 15 December 2008 Planning Board meeting.
- Waterfront Planning: A meeting was held on November 6, 2008 with URI and other partners to discuss progress on the project. 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. Staff participated in a national urban waterfront conference in Chicago from November 20 – 22, 2008. This conference was paid for by URI grant funds.
- Hazard Mitigation Plan: The Federal Emergency Management Agency provided conditional approval of the submitted Hazard Mitigation Plan subject to Council approval. City Council approved the plan on November 12, 2008.
- Harbor Shuttle Landside Improvements: The one-hundred percent bid package for the construction RFP is being finalized. The RFP will be issued early in 2009 seeking the construction at Perrotti Park and Ann Street Pier. This project is 100% grant funded.
- 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. These proposals are due on December 3, 2008.
- Perrotti Park Dredging: Bourne Engineering is refining the engineering plans for dredging permits. The CRMC Dredging Coordinator has given guidance as to the schedule and cost of dredging. The window for utilization of the CAD cells will expire 31 January 2009. Newport's dredging timetable has shifted outward to Fall 2009/Winter 2010.
- Deputy Zoning Officers: The DZOs responded to 20 noise complaints. One violation was cited. Two short-term registrations were missing.
- Building a Healthy Newport Environment Committee: Staff continues to 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.
- Stormwater and Development Plan Review: A public hearing was held by the City Council on this recommended zoning amendment. Final approval is anticipated by Council at the December 10, 2008 meeting.
- Building/Inspection Division Number of Inspections:

❖ Building	34
❖ Electrical	56
❖ Plumbing/Mechanical	63

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

Historic Preservation and Historic District Commission: Nineteen new applications were received. Due to lack of a quorum, the Historic District Commission did not meet in November. Applicants were advised of the cancellation. The Historic District Commission will hold a special meeting and a regular meeting in December to address the October applications. A vacancy exists for a Historic Planner since the departure of Shantia Anderheggen.

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

Zoning Board of Review: One regular meeting was held. Six 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 received further scrutiny with a completed update forthcoming. The Board gratefully acknowledged with a Resolution the contributions of Janet Palmer.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

Girard Avenue Sidewalk. Work on the sidewalk was completed on November 16. This is the last line item remaining open in the Year 27 (FY04-05) CDBG Grant.

Residential Rehab Loans. No new loans were closed this month. Disbursements totaling \$21,813.63 were made on open loans. The Department has initiated a new policy of verifying that proper permits have been pulled prior to cutting checks to contractors.

Hillside Avenue Improvements. Staff met with RIPTA and the Housing Authority to discuss replacing the bus shelter that was vandalized/removed during sidewalk construction on Hillside Avenue. RIPTA is eager to replace the shelter and will pay 80% of costs, with CDBG funds making up the remainder. RIPTA will sponsor a design/build RFP to acquire 2 historic-themed shelters for Hillside Avenue, perhaps incorporating stonework similar to the Miantonomi tower and wall.

OHCD Monitoring. Charles Kimes of the State of R.I. Office of Housing and Community Development was in the office on November 25 and 26 to monitor the CDBG program. He has not completed his review and will be returning on December 9.

Respectfully submitted: Paige R. Bronk, Director