

SAVE THE DATE

Reinventing the Village: Perspectives on Economic Development & Affordable Housing in the Borderlands

May 4, 2006

5:30 to 7:30 pm

Hilltop Inn & Suites, North Stonington, CT

A light dinner will be served from 5:30 to 6:00pm

Space is limited. Please **RSVP** to Ariana McBride by April 27, 2006 (ariana@ripolicy.org or (401) 521-3120).

Many of New England's rural communities today are struggling with ways to allow for new growth while protecting their unique natural, cultural and historic fabric. This challenge is especially acute for the towns along the CT-RI border, which are facing growth pressure from the surrounding metropolitan areas. Part of the solution rests in exploring the possibility for channeling growth into the traditional centers of activity in these Borderlands communities – their villages.

This panel discussion will focus on the opportunity for reinventing these villages by preserving and reinforcing their traditional form while updating their function. Panelists will address the place of the village in the innovation economy, the potential for creative economic and housing opportunities, the role of design in creating high quality places, and the value of well-crafted land use regulations in enabling desirable development. The presentation will build on ideas suggested at previous Borderlands events, including the May 2005 Regional Collaboration Clinic and the November 2005 Follow-up Workshop. Speakers will include:

Kip Bergstrom, Rhode Island Economic Policy Council

Kip is the Executive Director of the RI Economic Policy Council, a 25-member board of business, government, labor, higher education and community representatives focused on RI's long-term economic development strategy. With over 30 years of experience in the private and public sectors, Kip is a leading advocate for a regional approach to economic and community development.

David Pollak, Abacus Architects & Planners

David is the founding partner of Abacus Architects & Planners in Boston, MA and an Adjunct Professor at both RISD and Roger Williams University School of Architecture. As an architect and planner working for both public and private clients, David designs housing solutions across all scales to address the needs of individuals, families, neighborhoods, communities and society at large.

Paula Stahl, Green Valley Institute

With a dual background in Finance and Landscape Architecture, Paula brings a unique perspective to community planning issues, and clearly understands the impact land use decisions have on a town's mill rate. She works with the 35 towns in the Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor on community planning issues. Active in her community, she sits on the Windham (CT) Planning Commission and numerous boards and committees.

Thomas Kravitz, Town of Burrillville, RI

Tom is the Planner for the Town of Burrillville, RI where he has worked to put in place policies that will enable the town to direct growth towards existing and or planned growth centers, including the villages of Harrisville and Pascoag. Prior to working for the Town, he was a research analyst for the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation. Tom holds a Masters in Community Planning from the University of Rhode Island.

Christopher J. Rixon, Mason's Island Realty Group, LLC, CT Builders

Chris retired from the practice of law in 2001 to pursue his dream of opening a boutique real estate development firm established upon the principles of smart and intelligent development. Chris is experienced with small scale mill redevelopment in communities in Connecticut, including projects on affordable housing, high-end luxury condominiums, and mixed-use higher density projects to reclaim historic village cores. Chris is a housing and development advocate on the federal, state and local levels.

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5:30 to 7:30pm
Hilltop Inn & Suites
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- 5:30 Light Dinner
- 6:00 Introduction & Panelist Presentations
Kip Bergstrom – **The Innovation Imperative & Its Implications for the Village**
David Pollak – **Visualizing Density in the Village**
Paula Stahl – **Using Grassroots Efforts to Transform a Downtown**
Thomas Kravitz – **Regulations for Village Revitalization**
Christopher Rixon – **The Role of the Developer in Village Transformation**
- 6:50 Question & Answer (moderated by Kip Bergstrom)
- 7:30 Wrap-up

Directions to Hilltop Inn and Suites

373 Route 2 W (Norwich Westerly Road)
North Stonington, CT 06359
(860)535-0300

From the south & Providence area:

Take Interstate 95 to Exit 92 to Route 2 West.

Hilltop Inn and Suites is about five miles from the interstate on the left.

From other points north:

Take 395 to exit 85. Take Route 164 to Route 2. Take left at light onto Route 2, go approximately 4 miles to the Hilltop Inn and Suites on the right.

Go through the lobby and the desk personnel will direct you to the meeting room.