

Smart Growth E-News



1000 FRIENDS OF CONNECTICUT

Volume 3, Issue 1

January 2008

Smart Growth and a new kind of politics training at CCSU

New Election Laws are in effect for the 2008 legislative races. What will it mean for Property Tax Reform? For transit? For our neighborhoods and green spaces?

Join 1000 FRIENDS of Connecticut for a light breakfast and a guided tour through a new kind of politics in the state!

Andy Sauer, Executive Director of Connecticut Common Cause, will give an overview of the new elections laws. Then, we'll share materials and ideas to foster smart growth legislative champions. This workshop is for those running for office and those who say, "I want a smart growth champion representing me! See details on page 3.

In the Issue, Look For:

- SMART GROWTH EVENTS
- NEWS STORIES
- SMART GROWTH POLICY ACTION ITEMS

Smart Growth In the Community

Thoughtful People Needed: DECD Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Listening Session.

The Department of Economic and Community Development is preparing the first economic strategic plan for the state.

Your input on economic development goals, priorities and practices is critical. Testimony presented by letter, email or in person will inform the state's strategic direction. The Department of Economic and Community Development is interviewing consultants to prepare the strategy. The consultant will be chosen from a field of six finalists.

"As Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development I am not interested in creating more documents for the shelves of the state's libraries. I am interested in creating a comprehensive development strategy, one that has specific initiatives. It is my expectation that the strategic plan will help ensure continued and expanded economic prosperity for the citizens of our state.

Your participation is critical in this regard. We look forward to hearing from you." Joan McDonald, Commissioner of DECD.

January 17th, 4:00-8:00 pm
Legislative Office Building - Room 2C - Hartford

January 22nd, 5:00-8:00 pm
UCONN Stamford - Genre Auditorium - Stamford

January 29th, 5:00-8:00 pm
Western CT. State University,
Ballroom Westside Campus Center- Danbury

Read the transcripts of previous hearings at: <http://www.ct.gov/ecd/cwp/view.asp?a=1096&q=398012>

Make a tax-deductible donation to 1000 Friends at www.1000friends-ct.org/support. Thank you!

Responsible Growth Task Force Coming to an End?

The Responsible Growth Task Force created in Public Act 07-239, **An Act Concerning Responsible Growth** is nearing its expiration date.

The Task Force was charged with: identifying responsible growth criteria to guide the state's future investment. It was to study land use laws, policies and programs, including laws, policies and programs concerning the transfer of development rights, and submit a report containing recommendations to the Governor by February 15, 2008.

Task Force members included the Commissioners of the Department of Agriculture, Economic and Community Development, Environmental Protection, Public Health, and Transportation, the Executive Directors of the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, Connecticut Development Authority, Connecticut Innovations, and the Commission on Culture and Tourism, the president of the Of-

fice of Workforce Competitiveness, Mayor Ryan Bingham of Torrington, First Selectwoman Natalie Ketcham of Redding, Leo Canty, AFT-CT Vice President & 1000 Friends Board Treasurer, William Cibes, Home Connecticut President & 1000 Friends Board member, Heidi Green, 1000 Friends President, Maureen Hart, Principle of Sustainable Measures, Joe McGee, Vice President of the Business Council of Fairfield County, Christine Nelson, Town Planner, Old Saybrook, and Office of Policy and Management Secretary Robert Genuario. In many cases, designees served for state agency executives.

The Task Force has been meeting regularly since fall. It's done careful and thoughtful work, and has made progress. It will not have the sort of comprehensive and definitive recommendations that would truly move responsible growth forward by February 15th, however.

To date, it unanimously adopted a definition of *Responsible Growth* and principles to guide state investment. In addition, it has identified a number of areas for further study, negotiation and work.

The staff of the Office of Responsible Growth is drafting its report and recommendations.

We hope the first recommendation is to include the definition and principles in all state plans and apply them to state expenditures, regulations and permits, agencies, committees and commissions. The next recommendation should be that the Task Force in its current configuration continue the work it's begun on land use laws, policies and programs.

Stay Tuned!

**THE 2008
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY
SESSION STARTS
FEBRUARY 6TH.
DO YOU KNOW
WHERE YOUR
LEGISLATOR
STANDS ON
SMART
GROWTH?**

A conference on Sustainable Development and the Law will take place February 29th from 8:30 to 3:30 at the University of Connecticut School of Law, William F. Starr Hall.

Is It Easy Being Green?

Please register at www.gallivan_conference_2008@law.uconn.edu

The keynote speaker will be Doug Foy, founder of Serrafix.

Volume 3, Issue 1

Hartford I-84 Viaduct Briefing

The Department of Transportation scheduled a public presentation on the Hartford I-84 Viaduct Wednesday, Jan. 16th at 7 pm at the Union Station training center/Transit District HQ.

The presentation will address the Phase I plans for the project to address the safety rehabilitation needs of the structure. The ConnDOT has agreed to separate the issues involving the viaduct into two phases. Phase II will address the long term solutions for this structure through a combined department, community and city approach which will consider all possible options. The Phase II process will begin sometime in the spring.

ConnDOT issues a community wide invitation to attend Wednesday nights presentation where there will be opportunities for comments and questions.

Join 1000 FRIENDS of Connecticut for a light breakfast and a guided tour through a new kind of politics in the state!

1/26/08

11 to 12:30

State Recruiting Smart Growth Leaders

Governor Rell recently announced she is conducting nationwide searches to fill two key smart growth positions.

The state is seeking a Commissioner of the Department of Transportation and an Executive Director for the Office of Brownfield Remediation and Redevelopment.

CCSU Founder's Hall

860/523-0003 to RSVP.

New Urbanism Film Festival

The New Haven Museum & Historical Society is showing six films on development, people and place. 5:30 to 7:30 all dates. Free. Please pre-register.

January 24th Taken for a Ride

January 31st Subdivided: Isolation and Community in America

February 7th Suburbia: The Good Life in CT?

February 21st Independent America

February 28th Save Our Land/Save Our Towns

For more information, call: 203-562-4183 or email info@newhavenmuseum.org.

January 17th Connecticut and Its Cities: Three Centuries of Change



Preserving, Conserving and Growing Smart

1000 FRIENDS OF CONNECTICUT

PO Box 1988
484 Farmington Avenue
Hartford, CT 06144-1988
Phone: 860 523 0003
E-mail: info@1000friends-ct.org

We can rebalance our state/local tax structure to encourage development and sustainable land use!

We can link jobs, housing and transit and stop destructive sprawl!

We can reward cities and towns for working together and end the counter-productive competition for grand list growth!

We can, with your help! Join the Campaign to Grow Connecticut Smart.

<http://www.1000friends-ct.org/events/2007conference/JoinCampaign.pdf>

We're on the Web!
www.1000friends-ct.org

Register Now For New Partners for Smart Growth Conference

Time is running out to register for the most important smart growth event of 2008!

The 7th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth: Building Safe, Healthy and Livable Communities Conference will be held February 7-9, 2008 in Washington,

DC. More than 1,500 participants attended last year's conference, and you don't want to miss this year's outstanding event.

Visit <http://www.newpartners.org> for detailed information on the conference program, tours of

model projects, special workshops, invited speakers, and to register. The conference registration deadline is January 25th, and the last day to receive

the group room rate at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel is January 21st.

Don't miss your chance to attend the premier smart growth event of 2008! Register now to join us in Washington, D.C. in February.