

Summary Notes from Municipal Planners' Focus Group Meeting  
September 20, 2006  
Facilitators: Alan Weiner and Dan Tuba

CTPlanners Listserv:

- good service; interactive; open; provides multiple viewpoints

CCAPA Website:

- not always up to date
- consider making some general information available to all visitors and making certain services (e.g., job announcements) available only to Chapter members (via login w. password)

CCAPA E-News:

- helpful, focused, informative
- consider e-mail "blast" of upcoming events sent on a regular basis (e.g., monthly)

Reasons to join CCAPA:

- professional obligation
- educational benefits
- reduced rates on Chapter activities/events
- opportunities for interaction (both formal and informal) with colleagues
- helps planners to stay informed and keep current
- increases credibility of planners
- professional development

Possible additional CCAPA services:

- "training the trainers" – give CCAPA members the tools to train local land use board members
- "hot topics" materials for land use board members
- more informal networking opportunities (e.g., planners' lunches)
- skills training – public speaking, mediation, Site Plan review, how to use Power Point, customer service
- mentoring opportunities for new members
- internships (including for would-be planners)

Other needs:

- more partnering with affiliated organizations (e.g., CCM)
- database of current land use court decisions in CT
- survey of CT planners who are NOT members of CCAPA
- additional opportunities for networking (esp. at Chapter meetings)

Important planning issues in CT

- smart growth
- property rights
- lack of planning at the state level
- the politics of land use and development
- regionalism
- greater citizen awareness
- public attitudes about development
- public involvement

CCAPA has become a more prominent and more active presence/participant in the statewide dialogue about planning, land use, and development issues; as CCAPA becomes a more influential organization, it will also become an increasingly more desirable organization to be a member of.