

## **Zoning: How Local Decisions Shape Our Communities' Futures**

Monday, January 30, 2017  
The Lyceum, Hartford, CT



### Speakers

#### **Commissioner Evonne Klein, Connecticut Department of Housing**

Evonne Klein was appointed Commissioner of the newly formed Department of Housing in 2013 by Governor Dannel P. Malloy. As Commissioner, she has overseen a more than \$1 billion investment in affordable housing, resulting in almost 20,000 newly created or rehabilitated units that have come online or are in some phase of construction. Working closely with partners in the public, private, nonprofit, and philanthropic sectors, her tenure is one marked by a significant reduction in homelessness across Connecticut. Commissioner Klein has made it a point to meet with chief elected officials and educate them on the importance of a strong pipeline of affordable housing in their communities. Over the past few years, she has focused those discussions on the negative impacts of exclusionary zoning. Commissioner Klein previously served as the First Selectwoman for the Town of Darien. She successfully led the effort to develop Darien's first-ever Affordable Housing Plan and supported zoning regulations that increased the stock of affordable housing.

#### **Richard J. Porth, President & CEO, United Way of Connecticut**

Richard J. Porth serves as President/CEO of United Way of Connecticut (UWC). UWC helps to meet the needs of Connecticut and its residents by providing information, education, and connection to services. Mr. Porth previously served from 2003 to 2008 as Vice President for Grantmaking for the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, the community foundation for the Greater Hartford region. Mr. Porth also served as the Executive Director of the Capitol Region Council of Governments for more than nine years beginning in 1994. In his work for the mayors and first selectmen of the Hartford region, and the cities and towns they represent, he collaborated with business, civic, and government leaders to advocate and implement regional solutions to regional challenges. One area of particular focus was promoting better access to opportunity for people living in low-income neighborhoods. Mr. Porth started his career in City government in Trenton, New Jersey, ultimately serving as the City's chief administrative officer. He then served two appointments in New Jersey state government, as Director in the Division of Community Resources and as Executive Director of the Capital City Redevelopment Corporation.

#### **Carl Fortuna, First Selectman, Town of Old Saybrook**

Carl P. Fortuna, Jr. is in his third term as the Republican First Selectman in Old Saybrook. Born in Middletown, Mr. Fortuna graduated from Boston College in 1985 and Fordham University School of Law in 1988. After working in New York City for five years, Mr. Fortuna moved to Old Saybrook and soon thereafter became a principal in the Middletown law firm of Fortuna & Cartelli, PC, a firm his father started in 1954. He became involved in Old Saybrook's government in 1999, first serving on the Town's Water Pollution Control Authority and then as Chairman of the Town's Board of Finance from 2001-2011. In 2011, encouraged to run for the open seat in the First Selectman's office, Mr. Fortuna was elected First Selectman and was re-elected in 2013 and 2015. He has been a leader on environmental issues (preserving 1,000 acres in town), economic sustainability and, of course, housing.

#### **Anika Singh Lemar, Clinical Associate Professor of Law, Yale Law School**

Anika Singh Lemar is a Clinical Associate Professor at Yale Law School. She teaches the Community and Economic Development clinic (CED), which provides transactional legal services to organizations seeking to advance economic opportunity. CED's clients include affordable housing developers, community development financial institutions, farms and farmer's markets, fair housing advocates, and neighborhood associations. From 2007 to 2013, she represented for-profit, not-for-profit, and governmental clients engaged in a variety of real estate projects including building affordable housing, remediating and redeveloping brownfields, and revitalizing urban neighborhoods.

**Mark Branse, *Branse & Willis LLC***

Mark K. Branse is an Attorney practicing law in Glastonbury with the firm of Branse & Willis, LLC. Mr. Branse is a former Planning Director holding a Master's Degree in government from the Fels Institute of Local and State Government, Wharton Graduate School, University of Pennsylvania. He is also a former member of the Glastonbury Town Plan and Zoning Commission and a former member of the Glastonbury Redevelopment Agency. Mr. Branse provides, or has provided, representation and/or legal consultation to land use agencies in more than two dozen municipalities and has represented applicants and neighborhood associations in more than 70 towns.

**Hiram Peck, *Director, Community & Economic Development, Avon***

As a professional AICP certified planner for over 25 years, Hiram Peck has worked with municipalities, the federal government, regional planning agencies, and private clients. As Director of Planning in Avon since 2015, Mr. Peck has been working on a variety of issues connected with the creation of a new Village Center. The goal is to create a cohesive Village Center with the look and feel of an integral part of the Town with the amenities needed to make it a significant, desirable place for pedestrians, cyclists, visitors and residents alike. Mr. Peck has also served as a Town Planner in Simsbury, New Canaan, and Greenwich, CT, and has served on the Board of Selectmen and Board of Tax Review in his hometown.

**John Guskowski, *CME Associates***

John Guskowski is currently Lead Planner with CME Associates, Inc. based in Storrs, CT. John holds a Bachelor's Degree from Fairfield University and a Master's Degree in Natural Resources Management & Engineering from UConn. Mr. Guskowski is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) and holds accreditations from the US Green Building Council (LEED-AP) and the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure (ENV-SP). As a Planner with CME Associates, Mr. Guskowski serves both private sector developers and municipalities. In addition to serving as Consulting Town Planner for Essex, Clinton, and Hampton, CT, John also serves as Economic Development Coordinator for Hebron, and has completed numerous special studies for Milford, Manchester, Putnam, Canton, Brooklyn, Derby, and Wethersfield. Prior to his work with CME Associates, Mr. Guskowski served as Town Planner in Woodstock and Thompson, CT, and as a Planner with the Capitol Region Council of Governments. For the past fifteen years, Mr. Guskowski has also served on the Board of the nonprofit Connecticut Resource Conservation & Development Council, the last thirteen years as President.

**Kevin Grindle, *Chair, Planning & Zoning Commissioner, Hampton***

Kevin Grindle has served as an elected member to the Hampton, CT Planning & Zoning Commission since 2004, serving as the Chairman since 2009 and was a member of the Windham Council of Government's Regional Planning Agency from 2007 to 2014. Mr. Grindle is an associate and senior landscape architect with Anchor Engineering. His career with Anchor Engineering started in 2001 and has included landscape architectural design, performing feasibility & planning studies, site development, building rehabilitation, and construction oversight for numerous Connecticut municipalities, regional planning agencies and private developers.

**Christine Goupil, *Member, Planning & Zoning Commission, Clinton***

Christine Goupil is currently in her second four-year term on Clinton's Planning & Zoning Commission, having recently completed a new Town Plan of Conservation and Development in 2015. Originally from Grand Island, New York, Ms. Goupil has worked in New York City, San Francisco and London in various design capacities. At the Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment, established by HRH The Prince of Wales, she worked as a project manager and designer. After five years in London, she returned to the United States and settled in Clinton with her family.