

## **Pittsfield Airport Final EIR Submitted**

The Pittsfield Airport Commission has submitted the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the Airport Master Plan, the largest elements of which are relocation and extension of the main runway and expansion of the safety areas at both ends. In response to comments on the 2003 Draft EIR by BRPC and others, significant changes have been made to avoid impacts on wetlands and endangered plant species, and to retain through-traffic on South Mountain Road, which will be relocated. Since the extended runway will cut directly through the Wild Acres Conservation Area, the lost parkland will be replaced with adjoining property to be acquired. Other elements of the plan include a new taxi-way, removal of landforms intruding into possible flight paths, a precision landing system and new terminal facilities. BRPC endorsed the recommendations at its June 9 meeting, but proposed taking less farmland and granting continued farming rights for a larger portion of the land to be acquired for parkland replacement. *Contact: Nat Karns*

## **Berkshire Brownfield Effort Expands**

The Berkshire Brownfield Program received U.S. Environmental Protection Agency funds for Phase I and Phase II assessments of sites suspected of contamination by hazardous substances. Assessments determine the sites' environmental conditions and identify clean-up requirements. This award complements a previous one related to petroleum-related contamination. To refer a property, or to participate in a regional Brownfield Steering Committee, contact BRPC. *Contact: Tom Matuszko/Joellyn Warren.*

## **Right-to-Farm Keeps Growing**

Throughout late winter and spring BRPC worked with residents of Sheffield, Alford, Savoy and Pittsfield to craft Right-to-Farm bylaws and recommendations for Agricultural Commissions. In recent town meetings, Alford, Sheffield, Hancock, New Marlborough and Savoy passed such by-laws, with Alford and Savoy also forming Agricultural Commissions. This brings the total number of Right-to-Farm towns in the state to 16. The Pittsfield City Council will take up the issue later in the summer. These measures raise the level of support for farmers, encourage advocacy, mediation of disputes and will add points on the towns' Commonwealth Capital applications. *Contact: Jennifer Kenny*



*MCLA President Mary Grant*

## **MCLA President Mary Grant Speaks at BRPC Annual Dinner**

Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA) President Mary Grant delivered an informative speech to BRPC's 2005 Annual Dinner audience. Dr. Grant delved into MCLA's potential integration into regional workforce training, and its possible coordination and development efforts with local secondary schools, among other things.

## **2006-2010 Transportation Improvement Program**

BRPC transportation staff is heavily engaged in preparing the annual update of documents required for federal certification of the metropolitan planning process in the region: The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The Draft TIP is a list of federally funded highway, bridge, transportation enhancement and transit projects recommended for the next five years. Recommendations are based on regional priorities in relation to funding targets.

The UPWP contains descriptions and budgets for all planning work to be performed by BRPC using federal transportation funds. Highlights include an update of the 2003 Regional Transportation Plan, Completion of the Downtown Pittsfield Circulation and South Street (Pittsfield) Circulation Studies, several bike path projects, access management along highway corridors, a study of traffic issues in Lee, region-wide technical assistance, and implementation of Community Development Plans (CDPs). Drafts of both documents will be released on June 30 for a 30-day public comment period, and final approval is expected by mid-August. *Contact BRPC for copies. Contact: Andrew Lenton*

## **New Faces at BRPC**

BRPC welcomes two summer transportation interns and two new planners, one in the transportation dept. and one in community development. Interns Dekka Michael and Jason McWhirter are planning students at SUNY Albany and will primarily be working on traffic counts and pavement surveys. Planner Ethan Abeles has a Masters of Transportation Technology and Policy from the University of California, Davis and worked in transportation for the Nat'l. Park Foundation prior to joining BRPC. Jennifer Kenny holds a Masters of Urban and Regional Planning from Portland State University, and has experience working in both rural and urban communities.

### **CALENDAR**

July 6	Executive Committee Meeting	3:30 PM	BRPC
Aug 3	Executive Commission Meeting	3:30 PM	BRPC
Aug 4 or 11	Full Commission Meeting	7:30 PM	BRPC

**Commonwealth Capital Program Update**

The Office of Commonwealth Development released the Commonwealth Capital criteria for FY2006. EOE staff visited BRPC on June 28<sup>th</sup> and presented the revised application and guidance document. The application form is electronic and required attachments are fewer. Some criteria is revised, added or dropped. The number of state funding programs affected by a community's Commonwealth Capital score increased from 12 to 19, including some housing, economic development, pedestrian & bike, and brown-fields programs. The State is providing funding to the regional planning agencies to assist communities in developing their applications. The funding is limited and available for only a few months. Applications for assistance are to be submitted directly the EOE by July 15.

We encourage our communities to submit their Commonwealth Capital applications as it gives you some benchmark to determine how you may make progress in improving your scores (and hence competitiveness for various grants and loans), as well as in "growing smarter." For further information, go to [www.mass.gov/OCD](http://www.mass.gov/OCD) or contact Nat Karns, Tom Matuszko or Lauren Gaherty on the BRPC staff. of a local Agricultural Commission

**E-mailing BRPC Staff?**

*Use first initial and last name (all lower-case) followed by @berkshireplanning.org*

**Spring is Bylaw and Ordinance Revision Time!**

A number of our communities have adopted planning-related bylaws or ordinances over the past few months. Highlights are listed below:

- Alford** - Right-to-Farm bylaw and Agricultural Commission
- Lenox** - Lenox Gateway District and Village District
- New Marlborough** -Right-to-Farm bylaw
- North Adams** -Mill conversion ordinance change
- Peru and Windsor** -Wind turbine bylaw
- Pittsfield** - Downtown Arts Overlay District and Dan Fox Drive Corridor Access Management Ordinance
- Savoy** -Right-to-Farm bylaw and Agricultural Commission

**Clearinghouse Reviews**

- Pines at Bousquet Mountain ENF comments (5/13/05)
  - Lenox Gateway ENF comments (6/14/05)
  - Pittsfield Airport Safety Improvement Project EIR comments due 6/24/05.
- Contact: Nat Karns

**Farewell to Bryan Boeskin**

Senior Planner Bryan Boeskin will be leaving BRPC in July to assume the position of Director of Resource Development with the Albany-based, Foundation

for Quality Care. In his nearly four years with BRPC, Bryan worked on a variety of projects; most notably among them was his management of the Community Development Plans for 24 towns in Berkshire County. His professionalism and infamous practical jokes will be missed.



*Bryan and Peter (rear, from left to right) hand off the batons to new staff, Ethan and Jennifer*

**Peter Falcier Bids Adieu**

Associate Planner Peter Falcier will leave BRPC in August to attend graduate school at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. In Peter's 2.5 years here he has worked on numerous projects including the development and implementation of Community Development Plans, Official Map research and reports, wind power planning initiatives, bike path planning, as well as administrative duties such as (abundant) meeting minutes and cultivation of BRPC's website. BRPC will greatly miss Peter's humor and dedication and wishes him well in graduate school.