

Chat from Main Street RI Roundtable – Jan 23, 2025
Getting Started with Main Street Management

Featuring the Connecticut Main Street Center

Salvatore Nacci to Everyone 12:03 PM
Sal Nacci One Cranston HEZ

Mike Gagas to Everyone 12:03 PM
volume seems to be too low, my pc is at max volume

You to Everyone 12:07 PM
Everyone please say hello here in the chat! What community or organization are you from?

Mike Gagas to Everyone 12:07 PM
south Kingstown ri Economic Dev Committee

Mike Gagas to Everyone 12:08 PM
hello

Michael Collins to Everyone 12:08 PM
Hi All, I'm in East Providence. Congratulations Jillian!

Stephanie Davies to Everyone 12:08 PM
Hi there! Stephanie Davies, Lincoln Town Planner.

Lori Urso to Everyone 12:09 PM
Lori Urso, Senator District 8, Pawtucket, with a work office (Slater Industrial Archives) on Main Street in Pawtucket.

Adriana Del Carmen to Everyone 12:10 PM
Hi all, I'm Adriana Del Carmen, Social Enterprise Greenhouse (SEG)

Lawrence Bacher to Everyone 12:10 PM
Hi there. Larry Bacher, Barrington Planning Board

Toby Ayers to Everyone 12:10 PM
Hi all, I'm Toby Ayers, recently retired from Rhode Island for Community & Justice.

You to Everyone 12:16 PM
If the effort is being led by the municipality itself, could the role of the Board take on the form of

a committee?

Salvatore Nacci to Everyone 12:18 PM
who pays for the administrator?

You to Everyone 12:20 PM
Idea for a separate roundtable: Metrics

You to Everyone 12:23 PM
FYI - we are planning another roundtable on the role and duties of a Main Street manager - even if for many of us that might be a longer term goal!

Renee Jones to Everyone 12:26 PM
Who is the head of the Main Street program in RI/

You 12:29 PM
At the state level, Grow Smart RI is leading this here in RI: <https://growsmartri.org/main-street-ri/>

Sam Brusco to Everyone 12:28 PM
You'll probably answer this, but how does this get accomplished when some city leadership is hostile to it?
Metuchen, NJ is next to Edison, in the center of the state.

You to Everyone 12:34 PM
Special or improvement districts are a way to fund this work - definitely something that needs separate discussions! Start here: <https://www.pps.org/article/bid-2>

Andrea Moshier to Everyone 12:34 PM
Special Improvement District for funding

Caroline to Everyone 12:34 PM
It takes people to get the work done!

Salvatore Nacci to Everyone 12:34 PM
the volunteering

Toby Ayers to Everyone 12:34 PM
Can Main St initiatives link with Opportunity Zones? and jointly utilize funding? to support development in underserved business districts...

Salvatore Nacci to Everyone 12:37 PM

this seem like a small town so I can see how they could do what they did, but how does this work in larger cities with several communities

Sam Brusco 12:37 PM

15,000 residents

Caroline to Everyone 12:38 PM

For communities with less financial resources to support hiring a staff person, where would you start?

You to Everyone 12:39 PM

I've been saying Main Street = "traditional commercial district" - could be Mill Village or a neighborhood center in a bigger community

Sam Brusco 12:40 PM

In Cranston, I'm thinking Rolfe Street, Pawtuxet Village and Garden City.

You 12:44 PM

And Knightsville, and possibly Oaklawn Village?

Toby Ayers to Everyone 12:40 PM

Can you say a little more about the role of transit? In the video, the rail connection was central...

You to Everyone 12:45 PM

Historic and cultural identity

Salvatore Nacci to Everyone 12:47 PM

What about the nimby movement that seem to restrict grow in their community

You to Everyone 12:47 PM

Main Street America has been doing some good thinking and research about housing opportunity in/near Main Street districts: <https://mainstreet.org/resources/knowledge-hub/publication/a-housing-guidebook-for-local-leaders>

You to Everyone 12:53 PM

RI has so many great business service orgs! One thing a local "Main Street" group or manager could do is to know about them and help business owners introduce/connect with the best one to meet their needs

You to Everyone 12:49 PM

Legacy and absentee owners is a question that has come up several times already here in RI

Caroline to Everyone 12:57 PM

RI's Historic Tax Credit program is broken, unfunded and needs fixing! Sign this petition today! [Save Rhode Island's Historic Tax Credit! - Action Network](#)

Lori Urso to You (direct message) 12:57 PM

Hi Jillian, sorry I have to jump off. This has been great. I look forward to getting the recording so I can watch it again. Lori

You to Everyone 12:59 PM

Hype Team RI! Sign me up!

Sam Brusco to Everyone 12:59 PM (Edited)

historic preservation
vacant storefronts and lots
small biz support

Caroline to Everyone 1:00 PM

I loved the Hype Team!

Caroline to Everyone 1:00 PM

Seemed like a lot depended on relationship building

Margaret Noel to Everyone 1:01 PM

trying to work at getting their businesses reflecting their population. Liked they are teaching people how to be successful running a business.

You to Everyone 1:03 PM

When I start talking about Main Street - this is the point that everyone thinks about first! I've been saying that we need more emphasis on the organization point so we have the people to do the work of the design point.

You to Everyone 1:06 PM

The roundtable on Feb 27 will focus on transit and Main Street - starting with talking about transit stops and bus shelters

I'm looking at you on this, SK! Main Street - River - Park

The roundtable back in September was about parking studies as a first step on this BIG topic: <https://growsmartri.org/parking-part-one-parking-studies-wickford/>

Sam Brusco to Everyone 1:08 PM

Litter reduction is very much a matter of having lots of trash cans. Most people will hold their trash if a garbage bin is in sight.

Sam Brusco to Everyone 1:08 PM
Parking SIGNAGE!

Caroline to Everyone 1:08 PM
Green Spaces: another point made in PPS's Most Endangered Properties list last night was the problem of neglect of privately owned public spaces. We can hold these landlords accountable and get these places fixed and maintained. read more here: [2025 Most Endangered Places // Providence Preservation Society](#)

Salvatore Nacci to Everyone 1:09 PM
What I don't see in these photos is the homeless people that occupy many of the parks in Providence and other cities that prevent people from using these green spaces

You 1:17 PM
Certainly, housing and homelessness is a huge issue in RI and across the country that will take many different strategies from many different stakeholders to address over time.

Caroline to Everyone 1:10 PM
Love this image!

Sam Brusco to Everyone 1:11 PM
lighting — LED only (zero maintenance), 2700K to 4000K (yellow to bright-warm). 5000K seems unnatural at night

Salvatore Nacci to Everyone 1:13 PM
Durfee's Hardware store has great window decorations for the seasons

You 1:14 PM
AGREE!

Toby Ayers to Everyone 1:12 PM
LOL, RI has a problem with signage... 😊

You to Everyone 1:20 PM
Place branding is a whole thing - I never knew!
Lots of talk at the Main Street national conference that the best events are the ones that bring people into the businesses and to know the community (not just come for the event and then leave)

Sam Brusco to Everyone 1:22 PM

Parking in BACK. Easier to walk the street. People in a car don't stop; they're driving by.

You 1:23 PM

Drive to not through

Caroline to Everyone 1:23 PM

as a mom, finding events and programs that engage kids is key to getting me out and about!

Sam Brusco to Everyone 1:24 PM (Edited)

(higher density) living spaces over (or near) the businesses mean captive audiences for the businesses

Salvatore Nacci to Everyone 1:27 PM

problem is that there are too many greedy landlords in RI that can prevent people from using so of these buildings

Nancy Letendre to Everyone 1:27 PM

Placemaking

Toby Ayers to Everyone 1:27 PM

hahaha, funding...

Sam Brusco to Everyone 1:27 PM (Edited)

Massachusetts made a state law to increase density near public transit... which is generally downtown areas. Attleboro and Mansfield commuter rail stations are excellent examples. It removed NIMBYs from the equation.

Renee Jones to Everyone 1:29 PM

Do you have samples of questionnaires you used for reaching out to businesses?

Toby Ayers to Everyone 1:29 PM

more about advocacy for changing zoning to allow for example missing middle housing

Sam Brusco to Everyone 1:29 PM (Edited)

I didn't hear anything about bike infrastructure. Because this is 'merica, you need to DRIVE to EVERYTHING. This means too much parking space is needed, and spaces out the businesses, making it less walkable

Stephanie Davies to Everyone 1:30 PM

Thank you! Lots of great ideas and information!

Toby Ayers to Everyone 1:30 PM

great information, great presentation, thank you so much!

Adriana Del Carmen to Everyone 1:30 PM

Thank you so much, very interesting information to work with!

Renee Jones to Everyone 1:31 PM

Thank you

Michael Collins to Everyone 1:31 PM

Thank you!

Sam Brusco to Everyone 1:31 PM

how do we get the recording

which page on