



Comments Expressed by Workshop Organizers and Participants



The ultimate workshop comment was made by Joe Flaherty of Westford, MA when he announced to the planning board that he was redesigning his conventional subdivision to reflect the conservation neighborhood principles illustrated in my slide lecture to residents and officials given the previous week. The homes pictured above face onto a large central green and back up to preserved woodlands and a trail linking with the town-wide trail network.

"We heard great things about your ideas and presentation, and you more than met our expectations."

David Goudy, Montshire Museum of Science, Hanover, NH

"Thanks so much for an absolutely wonderful presentation. It was exceptionally well-suited to our audience of Placer and El Dorado County officials."

Judy Corbett, Local Government Commission, Sacramento, CA

"I enjoyed hearing you again this summer. Your numerous visits to this state have had great repercussions. In almost every community where I work (in the Brainerd Lakes Area), there are thoughtful discussions about the merits of conservation design. This didn't happen until you showed up."

Phil Hunsicker, Lakes Region Program Director, 1000 Friends of Minnesota

"I learned a lot in the short time you had with us (yes, you 'touched a life'). I now look forward to spreading the good word as I go around the Commonwealth."

Leighton Powell, Scenic Virginia, Richmond, VA

"There were nothing but rave reviews of your presentation."

Hank Metcalf, Planning Board Chair, Orono, ME

"I am a Village Council member and just wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed our day, and how productive it was to me. Applying your ideas and perspectives will be of great value as we continue to deal with change, but preserve the uniqueness of our community."

Douglas Lapins, Village Council, Pinehurst, NC

"Thank you for the time you spent with me in Montpelier recently. I found your presentation fascinating, and think your ideas for growth management and changes in our enabling laws deserve further attention. I will ask Commissioner Holmes to follow up on your suggestions."

Madeleine M. Kunin, Governor, Montpelier, VT

"I cannot thank you enough for coming to Spartanburg. You were a tremendous hit. Thank you for the great job you did knitting trees into your open space story. Everyone was very pleased, and my boss's wife said that you stole the show. I agree."

Stewart Winslow, for the Noble Tree Foundation, Spartanburg, SC

"Rarely have I so clearly experienced the 'scales falling off my eyes'."

David Kay, Harvard, MA

"I want to thank you for the stimulating, informative, and inspiring presentation. We all felt energized by it, as well as gaining the in-depth understanding that you communicate so well. It was fun, too! Some of the town officials are quite ready, now, to launch into the *Growing Greener* program. Thank you for taking the time and effort to provide such an excellent and valuable evening. I only wish we could have you here every month!"

Patty Elkis, AICP, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Philadelphia, PA

"As a result of your presentation we are making great progress in implementing your conservation design principles into our land use code. The response we received and the support

to change some of our Land Use Code was amazing! Our Board of County Commissioners now fully supports the idea of implementing these principles into our code.”

Julia Stantic, La Plata County Community Development Office, Durango, CO

"It was quite amazing to see such a diverse group of people all smiling at the end of your presentation. The reception to your talk has stirred the hope we can find common ground among groups with diverse interests."

Mary Schneidewind, Association for Intelligent Rural Management, New Paltz, NY

“Thank you for bringing in Randall Arendt for the workshop and lectures. He is a real inspiration and I’m very excited to have been a part of it. I had hoped to get him here myself, and would love to be part of any planning or brainstorming process that involves implementing more of these ideas.”

David Weintraub, ECO: Environmental and Conservation Organization, Hendersonville, NC

“Fascinating, effective, gifted speaker. I wish he could have spoken longer. Outstanding. Very enjoyable and informative. This was a wonderful presentation.”

Evaluation Comments, 9th Annual Planning Law Conference, Austin, TX

"The praise and accolades are still coming in.... It was a truly exceptional experience."

Dana Beach, South Carolina Coastal Conservation League, Charleston, SC

"Thank you for such an excellent presentation. Many people expressed to me with great enthusiasm how stimulating your talk was. Your presentation was informative, provocative, and right on target about how conventional zoning is blind to the preservation of land."

Michael Pessolano, Town Planner, Harwich, MA

"The local newspapers and e-mail have been buzzing ever since your inspired commentary. Thank you for being such a key contributor to the success of our gathering in Coeur d'Alene."

Prof. Wendy McClure, Dept. of Architecture, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID

"Thank you so much for your contribution to the Your Town workshop -- and what a contribution it was! We witnessed a remarkable difference in the workshop participants after your presentation."

Lisa Vogel, University of Georgia School of Environmental Design, Athens, GA

"The response to your workshop has been phenomenal. One planning commissioner actually rewrote his township zoning ordinance as a result."

John Koches, Water Resources Institute, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI

"We want to thank you for coming to Moscow and presenting such an informative involving workshop on community design and development. Your ideas and outlook will influence decision makers here for a long time to come. You combined an engaging sense of humor with solid design background in an approach that brought our community together for a rare opportunity for self-analysis."

Paul Agidius, Mayor, and Linda Pall, Council Member, Moscow, ID

"Thank you so much for your wonderful, evocative, excellent presentation at our conference. The audience was stunned and excited. You planted all kinds of wonderful idea seeds. I've organized a lot of workshops over the years and I can't remember another one that had such an immediate, positive impact."

Lyn White, Canoe River Aquifer Advisory Committee, South Easton, MA

"Your visit with us served as a vital catalyst in the reformulation of our master plan. You have launched us into a new planning orbit."

Richard Hull, Sugar Loaf Community Foundation, Sugar Loaf, NY

"Already I am receiving calls for a repeat performance. I shall try to fend them off till Spring, having seen your calendar myself."

Therese Landry, Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments, Auburn, ME

"Given the continued positive response in the ensuing weeks, we can surely say that your visit was an unqualified success."

John McNall, Citizens Advisory Committee, Honeoye Falls, NY

"Thank you for last Saturday's workshop. It was magnificent. There was an incredible amount of listening, learning, and enthusiasm for all you were saying. I have never seen our people so responsive.""

Joan Manzelman, Northern Oneida County Council of Governments, New Hartford, NY

"The evening workshop was such a success that we are already seeing results. On Friday a developer came into our office and said: 'I want to redesign my subdivision using principles that Randall Arendt talked about at the lecture last night'."

*Karen High, Jefferson County Dept. of Planning and Environmental Management,
Louisville, KY*

"I have had several people tell me that yours was the best program they have ever attended at a MMA convention".

William Livengood, Esq., Maine Municipal Association

"I was absolutely inspired by your presentation in Grand Rapids last Friday. I stayed up half the night on Sunday and wrote a new 'vision for our township'."

Stuart Cok, Algoma Township, Kent County, MI

"Our town passed the Open Space Bylaw almost overwhelmingly, with only four dissenting votes. The Planning Board feels that without your expertise in educating our residents, this bylaw would not have been successfully adopted."

Kathleen Mull, Planning Board, Littleton, Massachusetts

"From the conference evaluations, your presentation was overwhelmingly selected as the portion of the program the members of the audience felt to be the most useful to them. I would be interested in learning how to obtain a copy of your video."

Ben Starrett, Florida Dept. of Community Affairs, Tallahassee, FL

"Your workshop was ranked the highest by the participants in terms of overall knowledge gained and practical application. Comments on the evaluation forms include: excellent, thought-provoking, effective, and fantastic."

Raymond Godfrey, Soil Conservation Society of America, Winooksi, VT

"Your ideas will have a lasting impact on the town. Already one developer is proposing to devote part of a major project to an extremely creative cluster design."

Benjamin Frost, Town Planner, Kittery, ME

"On behalf of the Acton Planning Board I would like to express our sincere appreciation for your presentation of the conservation design concept at our Special Town Meeting. Your presentation was instrumental in getting the provisions passed."

Roland Bartl, Town Planner, Acton, MA

"Thanks for the inspiration, the materials, and for putting them in a format that makes it easy to bring directly into the classroom."

Prof. Elmina Hilsenrath, Landscape Architecture Program, University of Maryland