



keep space

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Horsley Witten Joins KeepSpace Team

PROVIDENCE, RI (Sep. 18, 2008) – Rhode Island Housing, the founding partner of **KeepSpace Communities: *where neighbors meet, people work, children play***, has retained the consulting services of Horsley Witten Group, Inc. (HW). Together with Dodson Associates and the Consensus Building Institute, HW will provide facilitation, architectural design and planning resources to assist the first KeepSpace Communities as they enter into the Comprehensive Community Design phase of this landmark development initiative.

The initial four KeepSpace Communities were announced in May and include neighborhoods in Cranston, Pawtucket/Central Falls, Providence and Westerly. The underlying goal of KeepSpace is to create viable and sustainable communities by bringing together all concerned – the community, developers, cities and towns, and state and local regulatory departments – in a collaborative process. Through these unique partnerships, particularly among those who focus on homes, jobs, environment, transportation and local government, KeepSpace combines expertise, rather than focusing on isolated parts of land development and preservation. The result: strong, healthy, prosperous communities that use integrated solutions to many of the development and environmental challenges facing Rhode Islanders and the state.

“Bringing together such a diverse group of stakeholders and partners, such as Rhode Island Housing, DEM, EDC, the developers, and the neighborhoods themselves, is what makes this initiative so unusual and exciting,” says Nathan Kelly, Senior Planner with the Horsley Witten Group. “We’ve worked in a lot of communities doing consensus building, and providing technical expertise, but never before have we seen so many interest groups at the same table. KeepSpace is working to change policies in ways that have never been done before here in Rhode Island.”

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HW's primary role will be to work with the KeepSpace Advisory Committee and representatives from the four KeepSpace Communities to guide them in their efforts to facilitate constructive dialogues with the key partners for each site and develop Comprehensive Community Designs that achieve their fullest potential as model KeepSpace Communities.

“The HW team has been an industry leader in the areas of affordable housing, low-impact development, smart growth and sustainable civil engineering for decades – all of which are critical pieces of the KeepSpace initiative” says Richard Godfrey, Executive Director of Rhode Island Housing. “They will undoubtedly be a great resource to both our developers and our partners.”

HW is a full-service planning and engineering firm with offices in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. They are partnering with Dodson Associates, a landscape architecture and planning firm that specializes in smart growth and sustainable development, and the Consensus Building Institute, which works with organizations and communities to promote effective negotiations, build consensus and resolve conflicts. The Horsley Witten team was selected because their combined skill sets are well suited to the proposed scope of work, and their previous projects in Rhode Island and around the region are of high quality and in keeping with the KeepSpace philosophy of compromise and cooperation.

For more information on KeepSpace, visit www.keepspace.org or contact Rhode Island Housing at 401 457-1234.

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