



**CAMP Rhode Island**  
**February 11, 2026**

12:00 - 12:15 | **Welcome and Introduction**

12:15 - 1:15

**Protecting Rhode Island's Historic Resources: An Introduction to Demolition Delay Ordinances**

Join us for an informative presentation on demolition delay ordinances—a proven preservation tool that gives communities time to explore alternatives before historic buildings are lost forever. While neighboring Massachusetts has implemented these ordinances in over 155 communities, Rhode Island has been slower to adopt this approach. This session will explain what demolition delay ordinances are, how they work, their legal framework, and how they balance property rights with community preservation goals. We'll examine successful models from other states and discuss the key components of effective ordinances.

We invite participants to submit questions in advance on topics including:

- **Legal authority and framework** for Rhode Island municipalities
- **How demolition delay differs** from historic districts or other preservation tools
- **Practical implementation** (age thresholds, delay periods, staff resources)
- **Property owner concerns** (rights, hardships, waivers, economic impacts)
- **Enforcement mechanisms** and effectiveness
- **Rhode Island-specific issues** and experiences (Pawtucket, Tiverton, etc.)
- **Case studies and best practices** from other states
- **Support for property owners** during the delay period (grants, tax credits, alternatives)

Please submit any questions [here](#) by February 7, 2026.

1:15 - 1:45 | **Wrap-up**

**National Alliance of Preservation Commissions**

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*"Helping to build strong local preservation programs and leaders through education, training and advocacy."*

## CAMP Trainer Bio



**James K. Reap** is Professor Emeritus and past Director of the Historic Preservation Program in the University of Georgia College of Environment and Design. He currently serves as Vice President of the United States Committee of the Blue Shield and as a member of the Executive Committee of ICOMOS USA (International Council on Monuments and Sites). He is a board member of the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation and a past board member of the Lawyers' Committee for Cultural Heritage Preservation and Preservation Action.

Professor Reap has served as chair of the preservation commissions in the City of Decatur and DeKalb County and as vice chair in Athens, Georgia. He is a founding member and former board member of both the Georgia Alliance of Preservation Commissions and the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions and has provided training and technical assistance to preservation commissions throughout the United States. His background in planning includes service as Georgia's first regional preservation planner and as Deputy Executive Director of the Northeast Georgia Area Planning and Development Commission (now Northeast Georgia Regional Commission). **[jreap@uga.edu](mailto:jreap@uga.edu)**

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