

**PRESENTATION MADE TO BOSTON
SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS
by Jeffery J. Smith, Portland, OR**

The Boston Society of Architects selected my paper, "Geonomics: Recovery of Site-Rents for Urban Density" ably edited by Josh Vincent), for publication with nine others in "Density: Myth and Reality - Perspectives and Critiques", by the American Planners Association. (see separate article in this Groundswell for abstract of the paper.)

At the BSA's September conference on density, which was expensive and situated in a five-star hotel (the Omni Parker House where JFK announced his first campaign), the 350 architects, planners, and government officials in attendance, unbidden, picked up a 100 copies of The Geonomy Society's newsletter, The Geonomist.

I chatted with (and received cards from) dozens - including Anthony Flint of The Globe, Gov. Parris Glendinning and Jessica Cogan of the Smart Growth Leadership Institute (who proved wary but open-minded enough to allow future discussion), Doug Foy and Anne Tate of the Office for Commonwealth Development (who admitted to picking up our newsletter), James Kostaras of Harvard, (who cited our transit study at the website of the Victoria Transportation Policy Institute), Larissa Brown, PhD, of Community Design Partnership (community leader open to hearing more about geonomics), and Doug Kelbaugh, a keynoter and Dean of Architecture at the University of Michigan (interested in learning more).

During breaks, I stretched my legs strolling the askew downtown streets and across the Commons, briefly swept up by a march of students protesting the WTO (then meeting in Cancun) and by a throng of happy Hare Krishnas banging drums and bobbing their ponytails. Two tours organized by the BSA, one on the harbor by boat and one on the streets by bus, showed us the developer's perspective of Boston - valuable sites both well-used and fallow.

Some of the follow-up planned with the change-makers who attended the conference are further conversation with the columnist Flint, a talk at Harvard, and a debate/discussion with Gov. Glendinning who worries the property tax shift might overdevelop open land. Time will tell if initial interest pans out into actual events.

My participation in the conference was made possible by a generous grant from the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation and the warm hospitality of Ernie and Marilyn Kahn, leaders in the Boston geoist movement, and friend Fabio Meacci, inventor extraordinaire. Following the conference, eight New England geoists came to my send-off dinner (which lasted five hours!) at the S&S, a restaurant kosher in Cambridge: the Kahns, Mitch Chanelis, author of a geoist novel Sherri Tucker, and Dick and Joan Noyes and Will Grennon, John Watkins, the latter four who carpooled down from New Hampshire. Given their commitment and the state government's openness, one might expect legislative progress soon in the Bay State.

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