

Curriculum Vitae

Craig Della Penna

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www.TrailsideCompanies.com and www.CraigDP.com

Work History

The Murphys Realtors, Inc. Broker www.CraigDP.com

2003-to present

I am a Realtor with a special niche practice. I specialize in properties near to bike and pedestrian pathways and other conservation lands. I also specialize in historic or antique houses in walkable or bikeable neighborhoods. Because of this, I am one of the top Realtors in the Five College Area of Western Massachusetts.

Sugar Maple Trailside Inn Owner www.sugar-maple-inn.com

2003 to present

SMTI is an award-winning renovation of a Civil War era residence that we operate as a two-room bed & breakfast—and our home. This is the closest B&B to both Smith College and downtown Northampton and we typically book-up the entire summer by the end of April in a given year. I get several real estate transactions a year from people who start off as B&B guests and they love our valley so much, they end up relocating here.

Northeast Greenway Solutions Executive Director www.GreenwaySolutions.org

2005 to present

NEGS is a small, but capable consulting firm set up to bring cogent solutions to communities considering trail development. NEGS partners with other non-profits, engineering companies, communities or grass-roots trails organizations, helping to bring fresh ideas to the difficult questions surrounding trail development.

Central Highlands Conservancy, LLC. Manager

2005 to present

CHC is a hybrid land acquisition vehicle I set up to prevent the sale of former railroad corridor in Massachusetts to adjoining land owners. Since its inception, CHC has directly saved 3.2 miles and indirectly saved another 8 miles of former railroad corridor that would have been sold to adjoining landowners. As a part of the land transactions, CHC has also saved several rare railroad bridges.

Trailside Tours Tour Leader www.TrailsideCompanies.com

2013 to present

I lead tours of the rail trail network in the Pioneer Valley. There are three separate tours on Tuesdays of the three different legs of the rail trail network here. Focusing on the railroad history of the line, the political history of the conversion to a trail and an update on the recent sales of houses near the path. [CLICK HERE FOR THOSE TOURS](#). Also, in 2015, I will lead two different tours for the Wistariahurst Museum in Holyoke. Mills and Mansions. The Mills is a tour of Canal District and the ghost of industrial past. The Mansions tour is of the up-scale district in the Highlands of Holyoke.

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy New England Representative

1998 to 2004

I was a political organizer and lobbyist for a national non-profit based in Washington DC. I prevented bad policy from happening at the state level and travelled to communities all over the 6-state region to assist them in developing linear parks. I helped organize over 50 "Friends of the Trail" groups in New England and New York.

Railroad Distribution Services Terminal Manager

1986-2000

I planned the start-up and managed the operations of several railroad-owned trans-loading facilities. Over the course of that career I effectively took off the roads coming into New England, over 250,000 trucks.

Education

Holyoke High School. 1970

UMass Amherst. Attended several courses.

Professional Qualifications

1. Certified Residential Specialist [CRS]
2. Graduate of Realtor Institute [GRI]
3. Eco-Broker
4. Green Realtor

Awards

1. In their 10th anniversary issue, **THE RIDE MAGAZINE** named me as the most effective advocate for bicycle and rail-to-trail issues on the eastern seaboard.
2. In November 2008, **American Trails**--a national organization-- gave me a similar award for advocacy in Massachusetts.
3. The extreme makeover / renovation of our historic house and B&B was featured on [Home and Garden Television's HGTV's; Restore America](#) program and we were awarded the Historic Preservation Award from the City of Northampton's Historical Commission.

4. Since 2009, four books have been written that feature me in them as a case study for courage or creativity in four different realms. [Here's a link to them.](#)

Publications

1. *TRAILSIDE family of companies: "What They Are: How They Came to Be: And Why I Just Might be Living Your Dream Life."*
2. *Home Sales near Two Massachusetts Rail Trails*
3. *Life adjacent to a rail trail: the Sugar Maple Trailside Inn*
4. *Where rails cross trails: the safety solution*
5. *Railroad rail: should it be preserved on rail trails?*

All these can be found on www.AmericanTrails.org. Put my name into the search panel on the American Trails site and all my articles will pop-up.

I've also written several Op-Ed pieces in various newspapers in the northeast. Also, my real estate practice and trail advocacy has been featured in two National Assoc. of Realtors Trade Magazines, a state Realtor Trade Magazine, the Wall St. Journal, the Boston Globe, and even United Airlines in-flight magazine Hemispheres.

Books I've authored or co-authored:

1. *Great Rail-Trails of the Northeast: Guide to 26 Rec Trails and their RR History.* 1995 N. E. Cartographics
2. *24 Great Rail-Trails of New Jersey.* 1998 N.E. Cartographics
3. *Rails-to-Trails: New York: The Official Rails-to-Trails Conservancy Guidebook.* 2002 Falcon Press
4. *Images of America: HOLYOKE.* 1998 Arcadia Publishing
5. *Images of America: Florence.* 2013 Arcadia Publishing

Books I've written forwards for:

1. *New Hampshire Rail Trails:* by Charles F. Martin 2008 Branch Line Press. 1st and 2nd editions.
2. *Marblehead's Emerald Necklace:* by Dennis Curtin. 2012 Marblehead Conservancy

Books that have featured me in them as a case study:

1. *Why Not Do What You Love.* Martha Johnson. 2009
2. *PATHFINDER.* Ron Strickland. 2012
3. *Re-Inventing You.* Dorie Clark. Harvard Business Review Press. 2013
4. *Legendary Locals of: Holyoke.* Jacqueline Sears. Arcadia Publishing. 2015

Professional Memberships

National Association of Realtors
Massachusetts Association of Realtors
Realtor Association of the Pioneer Valley
Massachusetts Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Board
Former Co-chair of MassDOT's Trails & Greenways Taskforce
Former Chair of the East Coast Greenway's Massachusetts Committee
Coordinator for the Mass Central Rail Trail Coalition
Member of the Northampton Historical Commission
Former Board member Greater Northampton Chamber of Commerce
Former Board Member for Mass DCR's Recreational Trail Advisory Board
Board Member for Friends of Schell Bridge
Member of the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals
Member of the Congress of New Urbanism
Advisory Board Member of the Mass Bicycle Coalition [MassBike]
Former Board member of MassBike
Professional Association of Innkeepers International

Keynote speaker at state level or regional conferences in the past four years in: California, Michigan, New York, New Hampshire, Virginia, Connecticut, and Massachusetts.

Interests

Public speaking. I have given over 1200 lectures in 19 states and Canadian provinces and am the most in-demand speaker in the U.S. on various topics related to rail trail development.