

THE YANKEE PLANNER



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Northern New England Chapter
Making Great Communities Happen

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Lessons Learned from a “Fabulous” Trip to India

By Elizabeth Trice, Cumberland County, ME

“Crazy!” “Fabulous!” “Fine.” “Wild!” These are some of the one-word answers I give to those who asked me “How was India?”

I spent five weeks at the beginning of 2010 traveling in India as part of a 5-person Rotary International Group Study Exchange (GSE) Team. Rotary clubs around the world run a number of international exchange programs for non-Rotarians, and this one is open to professionals aged 25-40. The goals are cultural exchange, understanding of Rotary, and vocational development.

Rotary International is a network of clubs that meet weekly for friendship and service. There are over 32,000 Rotary Clubs and 1.2 million members in over 200 countries and geographical areas globally. Clubs are split into 33,000 regional Districts. In my case, I was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Breakwater Daybreak, South Portland – Cape Elizabeth, Maine located in District 7780 which includes Portland and stretches from Newburyport, MA, to Bethel and Damariscotta, Maine. We were hosted by District 3030 in Maharashtra, India, that extended from the city of Nasik northeast of Mumbai to the city of Nagpur in the center of India. Each District sends four young professionals and a Rotarian team leader for 30 days. In fact, I just had the pleasure of spending a day in Downtown Portland with the Indian team this past week.

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NNECAPA 2010 Award Winners

By Sandrine Thibault, AICP, NNECAPA Public Information Officer

Each year, NNECAPA celebrates the outstanding and inspiring work of communities, professional and citizen planners that have demonstrated a creative and innovative way of dealing with and addressing planning issues. The excellence, transferability and comprehensiveness of their work have brought them the recognition they deserved. This year is no exception and NNECAPA recognized four very worthy award recipients during the Annual Conference held in Portsmouth, NH on October 7-8, 2010. Once more, Congratulations to this year’s winners! Keep up the good work!

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2010 NNECAPA Annual Conference Sessions

Presentations are available on the website for download.

Simply go to:

<http://nneccapa.org/resources/2010-annual-nneccapa-conference/>

President's Message

By Peg Elmer - NNECAPA President

Our conferences are probably the highlight of what our membership to this organization offers. For those of us who attended our NNECAPA '10 conference in Portsmouth, we deeply appreciated the work the New Hampshire committee did, led by conference chair Julie LaBranche, to create an excellent event. The venue in the new conference facility, the breadth of workshops, the food and the speakers all demonstrated their hard work. My favorite workshop was hearing Carolyn Eastman describe how Eastman's Local Catch has picked up the "know your farmer, know your food" marketing techniques to sell their fish. Their new terms, "pescatourism", "community supported fishery" (CSF) and "fish to school program" have caught the attention of NOAA, sending them to international conferences. Another favorite was the Friday afternoon walking tour of historic waterfront Portsmouth, which has much to show off to planners.

You can put next year's conference on your calendars now. It will be on the Burlington, Vermont waterfront (the favorite Vermont venue) September 8-9, 2011. If you have someone you'd love to hear as a keynote speaker, please let conference chair Polly McMurtry, or myself, know.

It's not often that the national conference comes as close as Boston, as it will this April 9-12. That proximity makes the travel expense much more do-able, along with the possibility of carpooling and staying with your own or someone else's family and/or friends. Getting to these conferences can make a big difference, in offering new inspiration, ideas and connections to professional cohorts to help you address work projects. If cost remains a concern, please check the APA site for information on scholarships and assistance – assistance is possible.

Planning for 21st Century Farming in Vermont: the Vermont Planners Association Annual Conference

On November 5, VPA brought together farmers and food systems experts with its professional planning members to hear how the face of agriculture is changing in Vermont, and ideas on what planners can do to encourage the growing agri-preneurial economy. The location, at American Flatbread in Middlebury, was warmed with ovens baking yummy pizza made from locally-grown ingredients.



Photo by Lee Krohn

The keynote, VT Sustainable Jobs Fund Executive Director Ellen Kahler, delivered the high points of a year long study requested by the VT Legislature on the contribution of food systems to the Vermont economy. The study will be completed December 10, in time to be part of VT Council on Rural Development's Summit at the Statehouse. The highlights offered by Ellen point to the cutting edge position of Vermont in planning for food systems on a statewide, soil to soil, basis -- aimed not only at the economy but at social and environmental benefits. That food systems are second only to the electronic (IBM world still dominates) industry in Vermont's economy is news. Maybe Vermont's working landscape gets double-counted, by both tourism and the food system tabulators, as a key part of the contribution to Vermont's economy – and maybe that's not a bad thing.

Northern New England Communities and Regions received HUD Sustainability Grants

By Sandrine Thibault, AICP - NNECAPA Public Information Officer

For the first time ever, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is awarding millions in new grants to support more livable and sustainable communities across the country. HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan in October announced that 45 regional areas and 62 local communities will receive funding through a new initiative intended to build economic competitiveness by connecting housing with good jobs, quality schools and transportation.

HUD's new [Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program](#) will support State, local, and tribal governments, as well as metropolitan planning organizations, in the development and execution of regional plans that integrate affordable housing with neighboring retail and business development (see attached list of grantees). Many of the grants will leverage existing infrastructure and all reward local collaboration and innovation.

HUD is also awarding \$40 million in new [Sustainable Community Challenge Grants](#) to help support local planning designed to integrate affordable housing, good jobs and public transportation. Meanwhile, DOT is awarding nearly \$28 million in [TIGER \(Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery\) II Planning Grants](#) to implement localized plans that ultimately lead to projects that integrate transportation, housing and economic development.

What does this mean for NNECAPA communities? Well, below is a breakdown of communities and organizations being awarded funding. Congratulations to all!

Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program

Greater Portland Council of Governments	Maine	\$1.6 Million
Northern Maine Development Commission	Maine	\$800,000
Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission	Vermont	\$995,000

Sustainable Community Challenge Grant

City of Claremont	New Hampshire	\$58,740
Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission	New Hampshire	\$147,878
City of Burlington	Vermont	\$286,750

TIGER II Planning Grant

Penobscot County	Maine	\$770,988
Northwest Regional Planning Commission	Vermont	\$125,000

TOTAL FUNDS ALLOCATED TO OUR REGION		\$4,784,356
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NH Legislative Update

By Ben Frost, AICP - NNECAPA Professional Development Officer

The NH Legislature was again busy this year with a variety of bills that would have impact on planning and zoning. The NH Planners Association took positions on several of these, supporting or opposing them at hearings with the assistance of our lobbyist Nancy Johnson. Other bills were supported or monitored without the NHPA taking an active role, unless amendments were introduced that increase a bill's importance. In all, we tracked over 60 bills, all of which are identified in the NHPA's legislative tracking spreadsheet at www.nhplanners.org.

NHPA Priority Bills

Definition of "Abutter": HB 1200 would have amended the definition of abutter in RSA 672:3 by requiring notification of all unit owners in a condominium association, as opposed to the present requirement that the association itself be notified. Supporters of the bill expressed frustration that the officers of associations don't always inform the membership of legal notices received that there is a land use application for abutting property. NHPA opposed this bill because of the dramatic impact that this notification requirement would have on staff time, and because of the cost impact to applicants. The bill was killed in the House.

ZBA Consultant Fees: HB 1380 clarified the law by granting to the ZBA the same power that the planning board has to hire consultants to conduct third-party review of an application, and to require the applicant to pay for the consultants' costs. The law also recognized that some applications are reviewed by both the planning board and the ZBA, and both boards sometimes need to study the same issues. To prevent duplication of studies, the law did not permit a planning board or ZBA to make an applicant pay for consultant review that "substantially replicates" a review and consultation done by the other board. The NHPA strongly supported this bill, which modifies RSA 673:16, 676:4-b, and 676:5. Effective September 11, 2010.

Zoning Variance Hardship Standard: Last year, in SB 127 the Legislature rewrote the standards for variances by largely codifying the *Simplex* and *Governor's Island* standards for hardship, by codifying the standard that addresses the impact on surrounding property values, and by eliminating the separate test for area or dimensional variances. The Senate held a different bill for interim study, HB 446, for the purpose of giving it time to review the impacts of these changes—particularly to the hardship standard. Although the Senate killed HB 446 this year, it held a different bill for interim study that would allow the same review. The Senate Public and Municipal Affairs Committee will return to SB 317 this fall. NHPA supported the changes to the law last year, and opposes initiatives to repeal those changes.

Role of Alternate Members: SB 448 addressed an ambiguity in the law by adding a sentence to RSA 673:6 stating that local land use board alternate members may participate in meetings of the board as non-voting members, subject to requirements that may be adopted by the board as part of its rules of procedure. This bill was supported by the NHPA. Effective July 6, 2010.

School Siting Standards: SB 59 required school boards to take best planning practices into account when considering a new school site or substantial renovation of an

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UNH's NEW Sustainability Academy

By Mary Adamo Friedman - NNECAPA Faculty Liaison

Tom Kelly, Ph.D., is the founding director of University of New Hampshire's endowed sustainability program and the UNH Chief Sustainability Officer. The endowed sustainability program has recently been transformed into the Sustainability Academy. According to the University of New Hampshire's, Sustainability Academy website, "Since 1997, the UNH's endowed sustainability program -- the oldest in US higher education -- has been transforming UNH into a model sustainable learning community. The Sustainability Academy is 'Sustainability 2.0' at UNH. It will take UNH leadership to the next level by making us even better at what we already do: integrating sustainability across our curriculum, operations, research and engagement (**CORE**) through initiatives in biodiversity, climate, food and culture. The UNH Sustainability Academy will:

Curriculum - Recruit and retain faculty and students engaged in sustainability at UNH.

Operations - Promote best practices and policies in sustainable campus operations.

Research - Attract resources and spur the development of new initiatives across the CORE.

Engagement - Further engage scholarship, extension and outreach in sustainability."

These core initiatives are designed around four foundational systems of sustainability -- biodiversity, climate, food, and culture.

"Biodiversity Education Initiative: Commitment to being a *Biodiversity Protection Campus* that promotes ecological and public health through the protection of biodiversity and ecosystem integrity.

Climate Education Initiative: Commitment to being a *Climate Protection Campus* that pursues carbon neutrality through sustainable energy and emissions reduction policies, practices, research, and education.

Culture & Sustainability Initiative: Commitment to being a *Cultural Development Campus* that promotes a culture of sustainability through a dedication to community, diversity, citizen engagement, public arts, and the conservation and sustainable development of cultural and natural resources.

Food & Society Initiative: Commitment to being a *Sustainable Food Community* that promotes healthy food systems from farm to fork to health and nutrition outcomes."

The UNH Sustainability Academy offers a holistic definition of sustainability:

- "Sustainability provides a systematic framework focused on maintaining the integrity of four foundational systems (biodiversity, climate, food, and culture) that sustain human communities.
- Sustainability is a social reform project that asks us to critically appraise our institutions, values, and knowledge.
- Sustainability promotes vibrant communities that are rooted in place and participation, celebrate diverse social and cultural landscapes, enrich learning, and stimulate both engaged scholarship and public discourse.
- Sustainability presents the inescapable questions of "what is the

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Professional Development Updates

By Ben Frost, Professional Development Officer

CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW AICP MEMBERS!

May 2010 Exam

Matthew Waitkins, Merrimack, NH
 Rita Seto, Lebanon, NH
 Matthew Taylor, Nashua, NH
 Todd Thomas, Waitsfield, VT

November 2009 Exam

Christine Grimando, Portsmouth, NH
 Cathyann LaRose, Williston, VT
 Bethann McCarthy, Hopkinton, NH
 Carolyn Radisch, White River Junction, VT
 Benjamin Smith, Windham, ME
 Charles Wise, Woodstock, VT

NNECAPA CONFERENCE

October's NNECAPA Annual Conference in Portsmouth, NH qualified for almost 40 hours of CM credits. Remember to log your credits – search by date (October 7 & 8) or by provider (NH Planners Association).

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Find a listing of free CM credits that are offered through distance education products at www.planning.org/cm/free. There are more than 40 hours of free training available.

Other programs include *Planning for Healthy Places with Health Impact Assessments*, developed in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Association of County & City Health Officials, and the popular *Tuesdays at APA* series.

Free Chapter Webinars

Earn up to 48 credit hours from wherever you are! Many chapters of APA have pooled their resources along with several APA divisions. This effort is jointly coordinated by Ohio State Univer-

sity and the Utah APA Chapter to offer webcast training opportunities that are free to APA members. Below is the list of sessions scheduled for the upcoming several months. You can visit the APA Utah Chapter website to register for any of these: www.utah-apa.org/webcasts.htm. CM | 1.5 each

November 18	New Approaches to Integrating Economic Development Planning
November 19	TO LEED OR NOT TO LEED: How do you promote "Green Building Design" at the municipal level
December 3	Bridging the gap between Community Based Organizations and the Planning Community: How we can better leverage on-the-ground not-for-profit activities with comprehensive community planning support
December 10	Supporting a Diverse Local Agricultural Economy
December 17	Economic Development Division: Fiscal Sustainability

You can also see the full listing of 2011 programs on the Utah APA website at www.utah-apa.org/webcasts.htm.

AICP REINSTATEMENT

Lapsed AICP members who did not log in 32 CM credits for the 1st reporting are eligible to reinstate their AICP membership. There is a \$100 reinstatement fee. For more information about AICP reinstatement policy please visit <http://www.planning.org/aicp/reinstatement.htm>.

State Grapevines

Vermont

By Polly McMurtry, VT State Director

Robin Pierce, planner for Essex Junction, has been working on a green concept for homeowners. While we are becoming more aware of how to place, design and build structures, Robin believes that we need to go one step further with our built environment. He contends that LEED is a good starting point, looking at sustainable site development, materials selection, indoor environmental quality, and water savings. However, Robin goes on to say, LEED could be misleading, in the sense that we need to look at the energy costs over the life of a building. In terms of a life cycle approach to energy consumption, we could start with an energy manual that is passed on to building users to make informed decisions. A building that comes with an Owners Manual, much like the document that comes with a car, is one way to bring a buildings efficiency potential closer to reality. Robin also has a concept about designing parks as an integral part of our communities – as places to bring people together, improve quality of life, and increase economic opportunity – not just designing leftover space into a “green space.” For more information about either concept, contact Robin at Edenusa@aol.com.

In other news, **Colchester was approved for a Tax Increment Financing District** within their growth center, the second TIF approved in VT under the new statute. The authorization allows the Town of Colchester to use a portion of the incremental property tax revenues generated by new development within the Severance Corners Growth Center to finance certain public infrastructure projects like improvements to the Severance Corners intersection, public sidewalks, walkways, and bike paths, and an increase in water storage capacity, all improvements that will allow the development projects planned for the

Growth Center to move forward. The TIF District was created by the Colchester Select Board on July 27, 2010 following a series of public hearings. The approval of this TIF represents a significant state investment in one of the six designated growth centers.

And speaking of Colchester, congratulations are due to **Kimberly Murray**, Community and Economic Director. She and Dan Tuffley, who works at IBM in Essex, were married at the Inn at Shelburne Farms on September 7, 2010. Dan and Kimberly live in Colchester with her children Tynan and Lina Grace.

Manchester Planning Director **Lee Krohn**, AICP is pleased to announce that the Town has finally acquired all of the property rights and easements needed for its roundabout project in the heart of town. We hope to begin construction of this long awaited project in spring of 2011. In addition to the roadwork itself, the Town is also incorporating water and sewer line replacement, new sidewalks and accessible crosswalks, and relocation or burial of overhead utilities within the project area, all of which will help to convert a highway project into a more full featured downtown improvement project for the benefit of residents and visitors alike. For more information, please feel free to visit our "Function Junction" project web page at www.manchester-vt.gov

Lee's photos continue to find their way into publications near and far.

His images of Manchester were featured in a multi page spread earlier this year in Travel and Abroad magazine, and will be published this month in Cape Air's airline magazine. Lee also illustrated several events in this month's special wedding issue of Vermont Magazine.

On behalf of a County-wide consortium of municipal, planning, transportation, energy, housing,

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Lessons Learned from a “Fabulous” Trip to India

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Our trip in India was vigorous. We were sometimes changing location every two days. We were often met by a different group of Rotarians every morning to visit sites of interest, and were then expected to give presentations in the evening. Many of the sites were fascinating: a rare stone museum, a cotton factory, a deaf and dumb school, a newspaper, a motorcycle dealership, temples carved into a mountainside, a fruit puree factory, an agricultural college (with 200,000 students!), a meditation center. Other highlights included a visit to a morning outdoor laughter club, a music school where I got a sitar lesson, and hiking in a tiger preserve. Almost every visit would include a visit to the owner’s office where we would be served chai (tea). Often, the places we would visit would be owned by a local Rotary Club member, or would be the chief cultural highlight in the area. We were astonished at the quality and care of our hosts and guides, who impressed us as being the most accomplished and articulate possible.



Getting a Sitar lesson



A whole family on a motorcycle is typical transportation

India couldn’t be more different from Maine. It is dry, crowded, and experiencing exponential growth. Less than 1% of households have cars, but 10% of have motorcycles, and everyone else walks, bikes, or takes a 3-wheeled auto-rickshaw taxi. Everywhere we went there were also ox-carts, slow-moving trucks, and cows in the road, and without functioning traffic signals it was always difficult to cross the road. One of the ways the Indian government has handled rapid growth is by bidding out the creation of highways to private companies who must bring their own funding and may collect tolls for 20 years less the period of construction.

Many people in India live in slums, which can range from rough temporary camps under tarps on a highway median to semi-permanent sheet metal or concrete structures. People live on the side of roads and wherever the land is not actively being used for another purpose. At the same time, there is a massive amount of new construction of middle class condo developments, and real estate prices in Mumbai approximate those in Manhattan. I read that there are more millionaires in India than in the United States.

In some of the pricier urban areas there have been successful programs where a developer is allowed to build a multi-unit building to replace a slum. The developer provides one floor of small condos free of charge for all the original slum inhabitants, and the developer then gets to build several stories of market rate housing on top of that.

Most people own their homes rather than rent. The range of new housing starts from small one-story concrete units that are the first step up from the slums, usually 200 square foot row houses with windows on the short ends and a shared latrine. The next step up is small condos of 400 square feet with two stories and a roof deck. I visited a few developments of luxury condos – some with as many as 3,000 units planned. Business is booming right now. I had the opportunity to spend one day with a leading ar-

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Lessons Learned from a “Fabulous” Trip to India

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Small concrete homes built to replace rural slums

chitect in Nasik, who was finishing up a business park and working on a 300 unit condo development as well as multiple other smaller projects. I was shown the zoning maps, and visited the government offices where three levels of government engineers must be consulted and paid to get permits for construction.

One major difference we noted is that Indians still live in what they call “combined families” – what we would call extended families. Most often one son and his wife and children will cohabitate with his parents, and frequently other brothers will live in the same house or very close by with their wives and children. This creates many other differences in the household, as someone is almost always home during the day. Parents are able to travel for study or work as other relatives usually can take care of their children. Some of the houses I stayed in had floor plans similar to American homes, but others demonstrated the needs of the family and subfamily. For example, a wealthy family might have four row houses or a triple-decker built on a property for brothers and their families. One house I stayed in was a maze of rooms including four kitchens!

The extended family system fits well with the high standard of eating that Indians have. My estimation is that the average household spends at least six hours a day on food preparation, which would be difficult for a U. S. nuclear family with two working parents!

Our hosts were amazing. We visited eight cities, and stayed with host families in six of them. Every family I stayed with was incredibly generous and hospitable, and I was extremely comfortable in their homes. I learned quickly which foods I liked best, and my hosts were only too happy to make sure they were available.

In all, I found the GSE to be a great learning experience. Our local District sends a team somewhere every year, and this upcoming year they’ll be sending a group to Hong Kong, Macau, and Mongolia. The only requirement to apply is to be between 25-40 and have two years in a profession. Rotary pays for most of the travel expenses. This year, they’ll specifically be sending people who work in health professions. I highly recommend it!

Elizabeth Trice works for Cumberland County, where she coordinates and writes grants for new regional initiatives, including the county’s Community Development Block Grant program. She is currently assisting with regional housing, energy, and sustainability planning.



Elizabeth with a combined host family

State Grapevines

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conservation and other interested non-profits, **Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission** has been awarded a nearly \$1 million grant through an unprecedented interagency partnership. For the first time, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) ensures, through the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant program, that policies, programs and funding consider a holistic regional planning approach that integrates economic workforce development, housing, land use, transportation, and infrastructure investments with mindful and efficient use of federal dollars.

The **CCRPC** is one of 45 regional areas to receive funding through this new initiative that empowers jurisdictions to consider the interdependent challenges of economic competitiveness and revitalization; social equity, inclusion, and access to opportunity; energy use and climate change; and public health and environmental impacts.

Mark Eldridge, AICP, former Planning Director for Burlington, just returned from a three-week trip to Australia where he was one of three Americans invited to speak at the Green Roofs Australia 2010 International Conference in Adelaide. Mark also did a "Green Roofs Tour" of Sydney and Melbourne as well as Auckland, New Zealand. Anyone interested in learning more about the innovative sustainability initiatives that are occurring "Down Under" can contact Mark at Vtplanner1@AOL.COM.

Susan Schreiber has been promoted to **Assistant Director** at the Rutland Regional Planning Commission. She was previously the Commission's Senior Planner. She has worked at Rutland Regional Planning Commission for eight years, focusing on transportation planning. She has a Master's degree in Urban Planning from McGill University and is a member of American Institute of Certified Planners. She previously worked for the South Alabama Metropolitan Planning Organization and engineering consulting firms in Boston and Cleveland. She is staff to Rutland Region Transportation Council for local input on all transportation projects in the Rutland Region and provides assistance to towns on local transportation projects. She also works with local planning commissions to develop municipal plans and land use regulations, provides training on planning issues to local officials and is staff to Rutland Regional Planning Commission Regional Issues Committee. Susan has been instrumental in the creation of the Stone Valley Byway in the western portion of Rutland County and worked diligently to insure the success of the Multi-Use Bike Path that is now under construction in Rutland City.



Photo by Lee Krohn- VPA Annual Meeting, Flatbread, Middlebury, VT

Vermont Law School's Planning and Law Group celebrated **October's National Planning Month** by sending three members (Jeff Guevin, Ashley van der Lande, and Scott Wold, all class of 2012), to Sharon Elementary School's fifth grade class. The group taught the fifth-graders about what a planner is, what planners do, and why planning

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State Grapevines

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is important. Using an interactive presentation, the students brainstormed some environmental issues that affect towns and explored the planner's "toolbox" of regulatory instruments to manage those issues. Following the presentation, each student had an opportunity to design his or her own town, unleashing intelligence and imagination to create some fantastic -- and fantastical -- communities. The future is bright for the planning world, if the fifth graders at Sharon Elementary are any indication!

Maine

By Rebecca Schafner, VT State Director

Jamie Oman Saltmarsh has left Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission where she has worked since 2000. Starting out on a contractual basis, Jamie worked her way up to GIS Specialist and then Senior Planner. She worked on a variety of comprehensive plans, open space studies, ordinances and development review. She is moving to Plano, Texas where her husband recently accepted a new position. Jamie's future plans remain unclear except for rumors of endless authentic Mexican food.

Thomas Kittredge has been appointed the City of Belfast's first Economic Development Director. Tom is a Maine native and a graduate of Yale University, and holds a Masters Degree from Johns Hopkins University. He is the former Executive Director of the Piscataquis County Economic Development Council where he served for three years.

Jeff Nims, AICP has resigned as the Town of Camden Code Enforcement Officer/Town Planner. Jeff started working for the town in 1992. His accomplishments during his 18 year employment with Camden include developing the Town's first

GIS, working as staff to various boards and committees, as well as drafting several new innovative ordinances. His largest project was the \$30 million dollar Quarry Hill elderly congregate housing and retirement community. In addition he participated in the formation of the Midcoast Pine Tree Zone and was involved in affordable housing in both in Camden and regionally. Jeff's retirement plans include devoting more time to the family blueberry farm and returning to an earlier career as a writer. **Stephen Wilson** has been hired to fill the position. Wilson was a former code enforcement officer in the Town of Southwest Harbor.

Paula Thompson left the State Planning Office in February to accept a job as the Central District Public Health Liaison with the Maine CDC Office of Local Public Health. This position is part of a new regional planning initiative to improve and coordinate public health and environmental health services at the local and statewide levels. She was also formerly employed as a planner for the Kennebec Valley Council of Government.

Myranda McGowan began working as a Senior Transportation Planner at Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission last spring. She holds a Bachelors degree in Sociology, and previously worked for the Strafford Regional Planning Commission as a Transportation Planner.

Jason Bird has resigned from the Eastern Maine Development Commission to accept a position with the Midcoast Council of Governments in Bath where he will continue to work on economic and community development issues and programs.

NNECAPA 2010 Award Winners

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Plan of the Year

Downtown Revitalization Plan Update - Rockland, ME

The *Revitalization Plan* has never been “placed on the shelf,” because it is a living document – an ongoing program – well deserving of recognition for originality, transferability, quality, implementation, and comprehensiveness. The City and Rockland Main Street, Inc. regularly turn to the *Revitalization Plan* as a source of inspiration and practical planning tool. There are many moving parts in the culture, design, and economies of downtowns, and the *Revitalization Plan* creates a framework for not just implementing the specified initiatives, but absorbing change in a strategic manner.

The *Revitalization Plan* is a blueprint for City initiatives, but it also instills confidence in those who have long called the City home or for those who are considering it as a place to visit or relocate. It embodies the highest professional standards for strategic planning by building on the core values of the community. Rockland is proof that visionary programs create sustainable and engaging places.



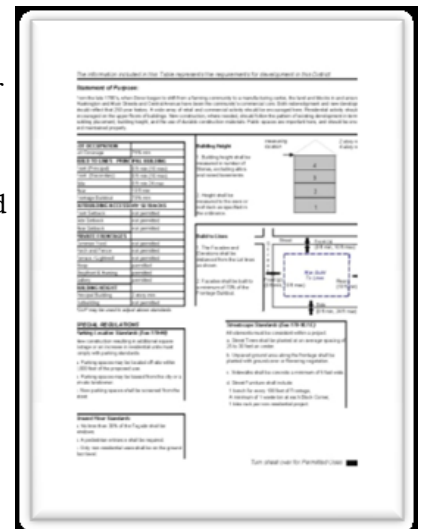
Project of the Year

Form-Based Code for the Downtown Area - Dover, NH

In December of 2009 the City of Dover, NH adopted a Form Based Code for the Downtown Area. Dover is the first community in Northern New England to adopt a Form Based Code, and the lessons learned in Dover indicate that this type of land use regulation may be useful in other village and downtown settings.

So, what is a Form Based Code? The Form Based Code (FBC) is a method of regulating land use which places more emphasis on community character and the impact development has on the public realm than traditional zoning does. A guiding principal behind the development of a FBC is that the buildings and physical alteration of land is more long lasting than the initial use found within the building that is constructed, and we should be concerned about community character and appearance.

The FBC recognizes the value of existing buildings in an area so that the building fabric, as observed from the public right of way, is relatively consistent. It looks to see if buildings on this street are multi-story or other configurations. Do they rest at the back edge of the sidewalk? Then so should new construction. Are they of brick or masonry construction? Then efforts should be made either to replicate those materials completely, or to use them as decorative accents to



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NNECAPA 2010 Award Winners

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assist the new construction in “fitting” with the existing fabric of the community. Are front yards ten feet or less for existing structures? Then the new construction should be set back a similar distance. Form based zoning attempts to replicate the organic process by which our existing downtown neighborhoods grew over time, and simplifies the list of permitted uses.

Professional Planner of the Year

Faith Ingulsrud, State of Vermont

Faith has been integral to award-winning planning work in Vermont for a long time. While she was the planner there soon after VT’s growth management legislation passed in the late 1980’s, Hinesburg became the poster child of well-coordinated and engaged citizen process that resulted in a clear shift in town policy and implementation to support a dense village center with surrounding rural countryside. Hinesburg continues in that vein of adopting innovative strategies, but Faith was key in getting that work moving. As the poster child, the Hinesburg work has been, and continues to be, an example of planning principles of smart growth and natural resource protection, along with planning process of citizen engagement via active committees, provided in planning promotion and training throughout the state and region.

In her work for the VT Dept of Housing and Community Affairs, Faith has coordinated the creation and on-going work program of the VT Land Use Education & Training Collaborative. As noted in the one-page summary, Faith, more than anyone, has transformed the education and training landscape for local officials on the principles and process of planning in the last ten years. Vermont is small – it has been important to corral the myriad trainers of local officials in order to most efficiently utilize their limited time for training and leverage the expertise of training providers. Local volunteers can be easily overwhelmed by the information available. While the Collaborative has created a one stop online clearinghouse for resources, Faith developed a “basic curriculum” approach to the training need for volunteers to allow us to identify and steadily address gaps in available material. Her eye for graphic detail and substantive understanding of the planning world has elevated the presentation of the material into an attractive, more digestible and recognizable Collaborative brand.

Citizen Planner of the Year

James Duffy - Keene, NH

James Duffy is a member of the Keene City Council (in his second term), chairperson of the Keene Cities for Climate Protection Committee (has served for four years), and is also a member of the Comprehensive Master Plan Steering Committee (from 2008 to present).

Mr. Duffy has been elected the Chairperson of the Cities for Climate Protection Committee, a Council committee that was organized in 2000, for the last four years. This committee has been working diligently, as a result of Mr. Duffy’s leadership, to implement items in the City’s Climate Action Plan, to keep the Council and community informed of progress in achieving energy and climate change goals, and to build collaboration between the community and Keene’s civic leadership to

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NNECAPA 2010 Award Winners

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achieve stated sustainability goals. Mr. Duffy was also integral to the development of one of the first municipal climate change adaptation action plans in the country.

He also serves on the Heading for Home Board (a non-profit focused on the issue of affordable housing in the Region), is a member of the advisory committee for the Monadnock Farm and Community Connection Co-op group, sits on the Southwest Region Planning Commission Travel Demand Management group, is Chair of the Ad-Hoc Sustainable Design and Energy Efficiency committee and is an active member of the Keene Rotary.

NH Legislative Update

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existing one. It also prohibits the State Department of Education from awarding building aid for such projects that would conflict with effective statewide planning pursuant to RSA 9-A or the principles of smart growth pursuant to RSA 9-B. NHPA strongly supported the bill. Effective September 18, 2010.

Green Building Property Tax Exemption: HB 487 provided a local property tax exemption for buildings built to “green” building standards. NHPA supports this bill, which has been held for interim study by the House Local and Regulated Revenues Committee. The bill has been recommended for future legislation in 2011.

Other Bills of Interest

Terms of Office: HB 1174 allowed for local land use board members to carry over past the end of their terms until a successor is identified. Effective July 24, 2010.

Special Meetings for Zoning: HB 1211 modified the official ballot law (“SB 2” towns) to clarify that a special town meetings held solely for changes to zoning, building codes, or historic district ordinances shall only consist of one session. This is because such proposals cannot be amended during a deliberative session. Effective July 18, 2010.

Workforce Housing Conditions: HB 1395 clarified that local boards may impose conditions of approval that require workforce housing to be affordable for a defined period of time (e.g., 30 years). Effective June 14, 2010.

Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive: SB 128 modified RSA 79-E to give municipalities greater latitude in defining what is meant by the terms “qualifying structure” and “substantial rehabilitation.” Effective July 20, 2010.

Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Districts. Similar to enabling legislation in other states, HB 1554 authorized municipalities to raise revenues for the purpose of loaning to property owners to make clean energy and energy efficiency improvements to their property, with repayment being made as part of the property tax bill. Effective August 27, 2010. [Note: these programs have been stalled nationwide because of concerns raised by Federal housing regulators.]

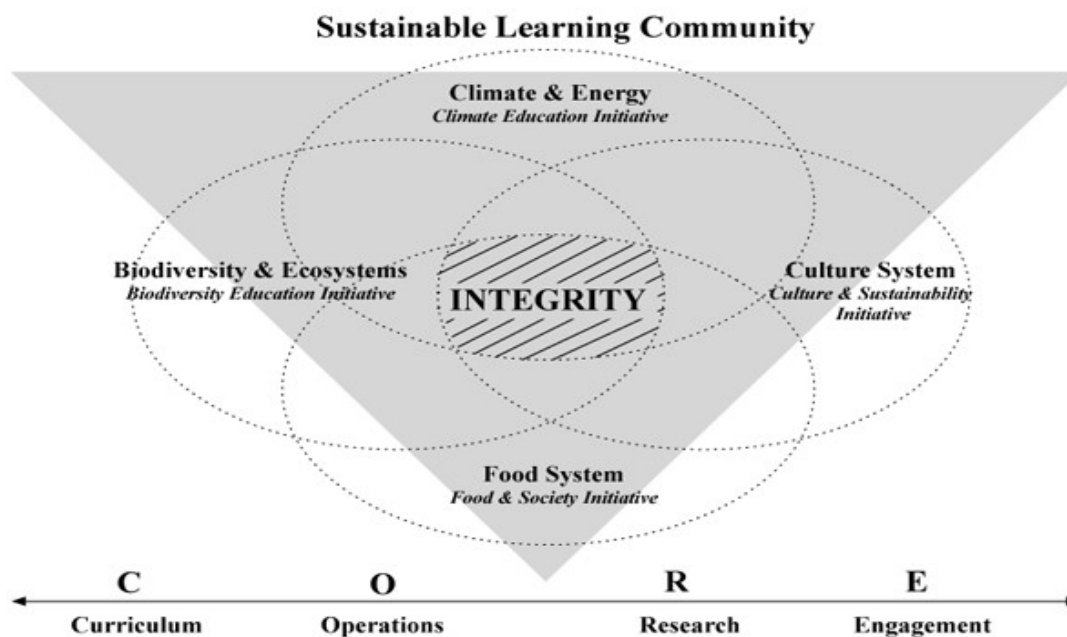
UNH's NEW Sustainability Academy

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good life” and “how do we organize society to sustain a good life now and for generations to come, for everyone?” People have been asking these questions for thousands of years, and so sustainability is not a new concept. But when we talk about sustainability, most of the old, familiar rules no longer apply: this is the case not only for organizational boundaries, but for moral, ethical and intellectual boundaries as well.

- Through sustainability we weave together disparate ways of thinking, integrate knowledge from different disciplines, and connect issues and problems in ways that foster health and integrity over generations.”

The model shown here is how the UNH Sustainability Academy illustrates the interconnectedness and complexity of their sustainability efforts on campus and beyond:



So, you may ask, how can the UNH Sustainability Academy’s work, improve planning in our communities? First of all, the obvious, conditions are improved as more attention is placed on the sustainability of resources in general. The UNH Sustainability Academy is focused attention on these issues. Secondly, students are being trained in an environment surrounded by sustainability practices which should fundamentally change how they as people will behave in the natural and built environment; these students can move on to be models of this behavior for others to witness. Thirdly, students who are trained in sustainability practices will move these practices into their careers from every discipline, some more obvious than others—such as environmental conservation, community planning, and wildlife management, and some not as obvious—such as physics, nursing, history, and sociology (to name just a few). Paying attention to the work of the UNH Sustainability Academy can help us all keep up with the progress of the sustainability movement. This will certainly work to benefit our communities.

To better understand their role in sustainability and planning, please visit the UNH Sustainability Academy website at <http://www.sustainableunh.unh.edu>.

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Events Calendar

APA Webcasts

December 3 - [Bridging the gap between Community Based Organizations and the Planning Community: How we can better leverage on-the-ground not-for-profit activities with comprehensive community planning support](#)

December 10 - [Supporting a Diverse Local Agricultural Economy](#)

December 17th - [Economic Development Division: Fiscal Sustainability](#)

January 7 - [Active Design Guidelines](#)

January 14th - [Imaginative Connectivity: The Return of Streetcars to America's Central Cities, How and Why](#)

January 21 - [Planning Ethics Across the Country](#)- Advanced CM ETHICS CREDITS

January 27 - [RLUIPA](#)- CM LAW CREDITS

February 1 - [Planning with Social Media - Tool or Trauma](#)

February 4 - [Healthy, Active and Vibrant Communities](#)

February 11 - [Impacts and Opportunities of an Aging Population](#)

February 18 - [Coastal Development and Regulatory Realities](#)

March 4 - [Child Care](#)

Details: www.utah-apa.org/webcasts.htm

Consult our Calendar frequently for additional professional development opportunities: www.nnecapa.org/calendar

Are you working on an innovative project in your community?

Have you just finalized the creation or update on a plan you are proud of?

Please share your successes with your peers and submit an article for the NEW Northern New England Community Highlight section of the Yankee Planner!

Contact NNECAPA PIO Sandrine Thibault (sthibault@ci.burlington.vt.us) for information and publication deadlines.