

**Northern New England Planning Conference**  
**November 6 – 8, 2023**  
**Wentworth by the Sea, New Castle, New Hampshire**



**PROGRAM**

**Monday November 6, 2023**

**12:00 p.m.** Registration Desk Opens

**1:00 – 4:00 p.m.** Dover and Newmarket Mobile Tours and UNH Pathways Meetup (2 CM)

**Mobile Tour to Dover, NH ~ Start Time 1:30 p.m.**

Dover is a coastal community combining a mix of open space with a vibrant downtown and is home to roughly 33,000 people. Dover is a 25-minute drive north of the Wentworth by the Sea and is the oldest continuous settlement in NH and the 7<sup>th</sup> oldest in the country. Join City of Dover Director of Planning and Community Development, Donna Benton, AICP, and Deputy City Manager Christopher Parker, AICP, for a van tour to see a tiny house cottage project using Transfer of Development Rights (TDR), and a downtown tour looking at how context sensitive zoning and public art can impact a community. The van can fit 13 passengers for transportation to/from the Wentworth. Pick up at valet area of the hotel.

**Mobile Tour to Newmarket, NH ~ Start Time 1:00 p.m.**

The Town of Newmarket is a historical manufacturing town located at the confluence of the Lamprey River with Great Bay. Over the past 30 years, both the public and private sectors have made impactful investments and regulatory reforms to facilitate the post-industrial transition of Newmarket's core economic and urban center. The Town again finds itself at a critical juncture but with different challenges and opportunities to find remedies: a dearth of housing inventory and accessibility thereto; deepening impacts of climate change on the environment, infrastructure, and public health; and a shortage of multi-modal transportation options amongst other concerns. To that extent, the Town is about to embark on a series of community-driven processes, such as the updating of its master plan and zoning reforms that will assist in providing more development typologies needed in the town in addition to regulatory changes and policy recommendations for the next 5 to 10 years.

This mobile workshop will be a walking tour of Newmarket's downtown that will showcase the improvements and investments made by the town and local stakeholders to revitalize the area while discussing in further detail the challenges the municipality is currently enduring, and finally elaborating upon the town's efforts to develop a comprehensive set of plans to guide future investments and planning initiatives that elevate the entire community. Registrants are to park in downtown Newmarket with the tour beginning in Schanda Park, 12 Water Street.

**Early Career Pathways Meet-Up ~ Start Time 1:00 p.m.**

Join us for an informal conversation about what it's like to have a career in planning. Whether you are a seasoned planner of many years or just considering the first steps in your planning journey, we hope you will join us for a dialogue about how to prepare for a career in planning, how to engage the planners of tomorrow, and what planners really do between public meetings. Please bring your burning questions, best advice, and friendliest smile! Note: This meetup will take place in Durham, NH at Stacey's Café in Barton/Cole Hall UNH. NNECAPA membership and full conference registration are not required to participate in this meetup. Sign-up links for meetups will be available in early October, and advanced sign-up for this meetup is strongly encouraged to assist with session planning.

**3:30 – 5:30 p.m.** Exhibitor Set Up ~ **Exhibitor Hallway**

**6:00 – 8:00 p.m.** NNECAPA Social with Exhibitors ~ *Appetizers & State Cocktails*

*Dinner on Your Own*

**8:00 – 9:30 a.m.** Breakfast and Keynote Speaker ~ [Wentworth Ballroom](#)

**Planning Grit: Advancing Reforms in Planning**

**Jennifer Raitt, Executive Director of the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments**

Centering equity in planning is critical for planners to face historical truths, understand humanity, and build inclusive narratives and places. The American Planning Association Planning for Equity (2019) and Equity in Zoning (2023) policy guides are entry points for planners to gain direction and take action. Sustainable, equitable places center people; equitable zoning is key to ensuring people have access to housing, jobs, transportation, services, education, and more. Jennifer Raitt will deliver the keynote about how planners across Northern New England can advance equity in their communities, reflect on their past and current work, and learn from emerging notable policy and practice. (1.5 CM) This interactive keynote will include a panel of leaders implementing and advocating for equitable policies throughout the region:

*Sarah Marchant, Chief of Staff and Vice-President of ROC-NH, Community Loan Fund*

*Meagan Tuttle, AICP, Office of City Planning, Burlington, Vermont*

*Eli Rubin, City of South Portland*

**9:30 – 10:00 a.m.** Coffee with Exhibitors ~ [Exhibitor Hallway](#)

**10:00 – 11:00 a.m.** Concurrent Workshops (60 Minutes)

**1. Coastal Flooding in Hampton ~ [Garden A & B](#)**

The Town of Hampton faces significant challenges from coastal hazards now and in the future, providing the rationale for taking aggressive steps to build coastal resilience. Currently, 16% of Hampton's developed land area is within the 100-year floodplain. As sea-level rise continues in Hampton, it is projected that another three hundred acres of land will transition and become salt marsh. Fortunately, the Town of Hampton has been proactive in addressing its coastal concerns.

Participants will learn about five strategies and how the Town of Hampton are applying them: No Action, Avoid, Accommodate, Resist, and Relocate. Participants will also be provided with a map identifying specific sites of interest in Hampton that they may wish to (safely) visit after the conference, especially when real-time conditions truly demonstrate the magnitude of coastal flooding events. (1 CM SR)

*Jason Bachand, Town Planner, Town of Hampton*

*Jennifer Hale, Director of Public Works, Town of Hampton*

*Brianna O'Brien, Conservation Coordinator, Town of Hampton*

**2. Implementing Resilience ~ [Garden C](#)**

This session explores codifying resiliency measures and what kinds of requirements, standards and guidelines will help ensure developed and urbanized areas are prepared for a future of increased coastal flooding, stormwater flooding, and increasing temperatures. Rather than a focus on preventing building in vulnerable areas, the session will look at perspectives on how coastal communities can change their zoning and other land use tools in ways to that help them continue to grow and adapt. The session will pose questions and provide examples about how to balance goals around housing and sustainable growth with the urgent need of adapting to a changing climate, and how to ensure the impacts of those changes are equitably born. (1 CM SR)

*Christine Grimando, Director, Department of Planning & Urban Development, City of Portland*

*Nell Donaldson, Director of Special Projects, City of Portland*

*Matthew Littell, Founding Principles, Utile*

*Zoe Mueller, Urban Planner and Associate, Utile*

**3. Rethinking Economic Development Incentives for Growth & Opportunities ~ [Grand Ballroom](#)**

In today's ever-changing economic landscape, cities, towns, and regions are regularly seeking innovative strategies to drive growth, attract investments, and revitalize their communities. Traditional economic development incentives, such as tax breaks and subsidies, have been go-to tools for many years. However, the time has come to challenge these conventional approaches and explore fresh perspectives on economic development and revitalization incentives. This thought-provoking session will explore how targeted incentives and policies can spark economic revitalization in specific industries or geographic regions, breathing new life into strained

communities. The session will discuss the role of innovation and entrepreneurship as catalysts for economic growth while recognizing the importance of inclusive strategies to address social equity, create job opportunities, and empower marginalized communities. (1 CM)

*Jodie Nazaka, City of Manchester*

**11:00 – 11:30 a.m.** Coffee with Exhibitors ~ Exhibitor Hallway

**11:30 – 12:30 p.m.** Concurrent Workshops (60 Minutes)

**1. Access Navigators ~ Garden A & B**

Access Navigators brings awareness, as well as achievable solutions, regarding community accessibility to towns around New England. Working alongside municipal planners, public works staff, economic development departments, regional planning authorities and individual businesses, Access Navigators has advised and provided insights on pedestrian access, outdoor dining, special events, accessible parking, playgrounds, parks, attractions and more. Sometimes small inexpensive fixes make a big difference for people with disabilities, allowing them to stay better connected to their communities. Sometimes big-picture items need to be included in long-range capital improvement planning. Access Navigators can help develop suggestions, both large and small, for making your community more welcoming and inclusive to all. (1 CM EQ)

*Anne Weidman, Co-Founder, Access Navigators*

*Todd Hanson, Principal, JSA Design Inc.*

**2. Rethinking the Comprehensive Master Planning Process and Product ~ Grand Ballroom**

Comprehensive Planning can be a great thing for communities - it can bring people together around a process and shared values, creating a vision together, and broadly defining what steps need to be taken to prepare for the desired future. However, such major planning efforts can be very expensive and very time consuming. The results of the planning work may not have a direct connection to many people's daily lives or contribute to a stronger sense of community. All too often, communities spend more time and effort looking back and doing research rather than thinking about the future. Can there be a better way? Hear from the people in your state who are among the most familiar with the current rules and requirements of regional and municipal Comprehensive and Master Planning and join the growing conversation around ways to make planning for the future less burdensome and more accessible for communities to engage with. This discussion will touch on recent legislative efforts as well as best practices to update or overhaul planning in New England. (1 CM)

*Ben Smith, North Star Planning*

*Carl Eppich, Maine Dept of Agriculture, Forestry, and Conservation*

*Noah Hodgetts, Office of Planning & Development, NH Department of Business and Economic Affairs*

*Meagan Tuttle, AICP, Office of City Planning, Burlington*

**3. Talking COVID, Learning for Climate Migration ~ Garden C**

The news is full of stories claiming that many millions of US residents will be moving in response to climate change, and the counties in Northern New England often get touted as safe receivers of in-movers. But there is a great deal of uncertainty about likely movement and what it would mean locally. COVID-era population movement may provide insights as many NNECAPA communities experienced urbanites moved into more rural areas, bringing both good outcomes (local economic activity, culture infusions) and less desired (high housing prices, sprawling development, culture infusions). Planners could use a forum to talk about their concerns around this emerging issue of climate migration and any lessons learned during COVID. In this session, the presenters will briefly discuss the findings from their NSF grant on climate-migration receiving communities, and then the session will move into a World Café style discussion where planners can talk together about what challenges they saw under COVID, whether they think in-migration is still significant post-pandemic and if it's connected to climate change, and what they expect/hope for/fear if climate migration really takes off. (1 CM)

*Elisabeth Infield, Professor of Regional Planning, University of Massachusetts*

*Damla Kuru, University of Massachusetts*

*Henry Renski, University of Massachusetts*

**12:45 – 2:00 p.m.** Awards Luncheon ~ Wentworth Ballroom

**2:00 – 2:30 p.m.** Dessert with Exhibitors ~ Exhibitor Hallway

## 2:30 – 5:15 p.m. Mobile Session – *Density Walking Tour of Portsmouth*

*(Travel to Portsmouth required by participants. The starting point is Thomas McIntyre Federal Building – corner of Daniel & Penhollow Street. This tour includes walking. Rain or shine – bring an umbrella)*

On this walking tour, we will visit the sites of four building proposals in the city center. Two of the buildings were recently completed, one failed to obtain an off-street parking waiver, and the fourth has yet to materialize. In all four instances, we will explore the issues of density, design, height, massing, neighborhood context, historic district guidelines, public opinion, and the city's off-street parking requirements. At each site, the focus will be on lessons learned. Guest speakers along the route. (2.75 CM)

*Tom Morgan, TZM Planning*

## 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. Concurrent Workshops (90 Minutes)

### 1. **Working Together Toward Housing Choice ~ Grand Ballroom**

As part of Governor Sununu's \$100 million InvestNH initiative, \$5 million was dedicated to municipal planning and zoning efforts. To date, about 60 communities across the state have received a Housing Opportunity Planning (HOP) grant to update the housing chapter of the master plan, assess their housing needs, and audit or update their land use regulations to create opportunities to increase the supply, diversity, and/or affordability of housing. This session will preview a handful of HOP projects to see what communities have learned about local and regional housing needs, how they have engaged the public in the needs assessment and regulatory review process, and their approaches to regulatory reform. Panelists will share challenges, successes, lessons learned, and what gives them hope for the future of housing in their area. (1.5 CM)

*Judi Barret, Founder & Managing Director, Barrett Planning Group LLC*

*John Christ, Planning Board Chair, Town of Plymouth*

*Ryan O'Connor, Town Planner, Town of Conway*

*George Reagan, Manager, Community Engagement, New Hampshire Housing*

*Sarah Wrightsman, Community Engagement Coordinator, New Hampshire Housing*

### 2. **Transportation & Community Development ~ Garden A & B**

Recreational assets are essential to building connections and promoting healthy lifestyles, while possessing the potential to support community development and drive economic growth. In this session, the development of both new and reimagined recreational assets will be discussed, and how communities and partners can come together to leverage existing and steward new facilities. The critical role that thoughtful coordination plays and the challenges that come along with reimagining existing and developing new assets will be explored. While new and existing assets may have different starting points from a regional coordination and investment perspective, the process of leveraging these assets to benefit the community have common lessons to learn. The context for the session will focus on recent planning efforts for two Vermont rail trails – the longstanding Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail (MVRT) in northwestern Vermont and the soon-to-be-completed Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT) that crosses the northern portion of the state. Much like how these trails merge in Sheldon Junction, this session will converge on takeaways applicable to a variety of communities that are seeking to better understand the economic and community development potential of their current or future outdoor recreation assets, and how to leverage that understanding to benefit the community. (1.5 CM)

*Karen Sentoff, Senior Transportation Consultant, VHB*

*Alex Belensz, SE Group*

*Amy Bell, Bureau Director, State of Vermont*

### 3. **Leveraging Higher Education Institutions for Urban Economic Development and Revitalization**

#### **Garden C**

Higher education institutions can play a crucial role in economic development and revitalization of communities. Oftentimes, they can be regional leaders, a keystone for our communities, and a catalyst for job creation and workforce development. However, they can also bring about challenges to communities. Learn why two higher education institutions, the University of Southern Maine and the Roux Institute, are investing in Maine's largest city and how communities can support institutional growth while encouraging more proactive planning and greater transparency through zoning and regulatory tools. (1.5 CM)

*Kevin Kraft, Dep. Director, Christine Grimando, Director of Planning & Urban Dev., City of Portland*  
*Mary Costigan, Berstein Shur*

*Liz Kohler, Managing Director of Partnerships at the Roux Institute, Northeastern*

*Andy Osheroff, Director, Career & Employment Hub University of Southern Maine*

**1. Housing Fact or Fiction: Screening of Short Episodes and Discussion ~ Grand Ballroom**

Over the past decade, organizations and communities across the region have hosted documentary screenings and book discussions with the Communities and Consequences materials exploring our economic and demographic challenges with a focus on housing. Despite the widespread consensus on the critical need for more housing, we still aren't building an adequate supply of new homes. As attendees at NNECAPA know too well, misperceptions and misinformation often defeat worthy zoning proposals and housing developments. This new project, a follow up to Communities and Consequences I & II, presents "Housing FACT or FICTION" episodes that tackle the most pervasive myths about increasing housing. Session attendees will view two or three short films and engage in a discussion with municipal officials and housing advocates about methods to address this issue. (1 CM)  
*Nick Taylor, Executive Director, Workforce Housing Coalition of the Greater Seacoast*

**2. Smart Planning for Electrification ~ Garden C**

To prevent the worst effects of climate change, U.S. and Maine policy is moving us quickly toward electrification. But switching from fossil fuels to electricity generated from renewable sources presents new planning challenges. I will discuss how land use planners can best prepare their communities for new and emerging land uses (solar, wind, and others) and how municipal officials can electrify their own buildings and fleet. I will also focus on the Inflation Reduction Act and how it will likely incentivize more and new forms of renewable development projects throughout Maine. (1 CM SR)

*Aga Dixon, Municipal Land Use Attorney, Drummond Woodsum*

**3. Participatory Planning with Plan NH ~ Garden A & B**

What does it mean to truly invite the community into a participatory process? How does the planning and implementation process benefit from being grounded in such a process? What can communities learn from one another about the benefits, lessons learned, and even the unquantifiable outcomes of making sure there is always room for one more person at the visioning table? Join us for a panel presentation highlighting Plan NH's Community Design Charrette Program and, more importantly, some of the communities who have been through the program. Plan NH has worked with over 66 different municipalities throughout the life of this program as well as countless volunteer practitioners who give their time and talent to the charrette process. Learn more about the highs, lows, and buffaloes of a charrette-style visioning process and interface with those who have been through the process. (1 CM)  
*Tiffany Tononi McNamara, Plan NH*  
*Christine Robidoux, Town of Temple*  
*Lynn Monroe & Joni Praded, Town of Kensington*  
*Katiemae White, GPI*

**6:00 p.m.** Dinner on Your Own – Trolley Service Provided to Downtown Portsmouth (meet outside of the lobby for trolley pick up). Sign-up sheets to reserve space at the conference registration desk.

## Wednesday November 8, 2023

**7:30 – 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast & NNECAPA Business Meeting ~ Wentworth Ballroom

**9:00 – 10:00 a.m.** Concurrent Workshops (60 Minutes)

**1. New Hampshire Zoning Atlas: Tools and Findings ~ Garden C**

Get the first look at the updated New Hampshire Zoning Atlas with 2023 zoning changes, along with key indicators comparing New Hampshire to other New England states with partial or full zoning atlases. This session will also discuss initial research questions and findings based on the atlas data, showing how zoning correlates with housing development and demographics. You'll also get a chance to play with the atlas yourself to study how housing development is regulated in New Hampshire's communities. (1 CM)

*Ben Frost, Deputy Executive Director, Chief Legal Officer NH Housing*

*Noah Hodgetts, Principal Planner, NH Office of Planning and Development*

*Max Latona, Executive Director, Center for Ethics in Society at Saint Anselm College*

*Sarah Marchant, Chief of Staff and Vice-President of ROC-NH, Community Loan Fund*

*Jason Sorens, Senior Research Faculty, American Institute for Economic Research*

**2. Community Outreach and Engagement ~ Garden A & B**

Centered on the methodology of Community Heart & Soul's resident-driven planning process, this session will first provide a brief introduction to the model. Then, we will discuss one of its most



important tools: story gathering and sharing. This tool develops civic engagement and becomes the foundation for later planning efforts. In our model, its value rests on the fact that we begin with the positive step of building relationships based on sharing what is important to residents, rather than with addressing specific problems to solve. This activity enables communities to come together and build the trust necessary to support change. Our goal is to make the session, like the Heart & Soul model, as participatory as possible. (1 CM)

*Jane Lafleur & Judith Hull, Community Heart & Soul*

### **3.Equity for Equity's Sake: Advancing Transportation Projects with the End-User in Mind**

**Grand Ballroom**

Historically, the definition of transportation improvement projects and transportation investment decision-making have been based on the transportation objective of moving people more efficiently with great consideration given to cost and funding availability. We have recently moved into an era in transportation decision-making that considers the effects of our actions on marginalized communities and those who have traditionally been underserved. Considerations of efficiency and cost are very important when choosing projects; however, history has shown the unintended consequences on cities, neighborhoods, and people can be vast. This presentation will highlight examples of recent and current transportation projects geared toward enhancing equity, as well as potential approaches for incorporating equity into future transportation investment. The session will explore projects where equity and the effects on the end-user are the key drivers – ranging from those seeking to mitigate past harms to those designing transit service to accommodate shift workers and others for whom traditional commuting schedules do not work. (1 CM EQ)

*Cathy LaFata, Transportation Equity Director, HDR Engineering, Inc.*

*Pam Yonkin, HDR Engineering, Inc.*

#### **9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Mobile Session – *Portsmouth Naval Shipyard***

In 2019 the Town of Kittery was awarded a Department of Defense grant to conduct a Joint land use study (JLUS) focused primarily on transportation, workforce housing, and land use issues in the area surrounding the Portsmouth naval Shipyard. The study resulted in recommendations to improve traffic congestion (both locally and regionally), climate and economic resiliency, and workforce housing challenges associated with the shipyard, the region's largest employer. This mobile workshop will provide an overview of the JLUS program accomplishments and highlight the impact of the Shipyard on the local, regional and state economies. An initial presentation will take place at the newly renovated Kittery Town Library followed by a quick tour of the vibrant Kittery Foreside neighborhood, and a bus tour of the Shipyard. (3 CM)

*Stephanie Carver, Transportation Director, SMPDC*

*Raegan Young, Special Projects and Communications Manager, SMPDC*

*Thomas Morley, Community Planning Liaison Officer, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard*

*Jason Garnham, Director of Planning and Development & Kendra Amaral, Town Manager, Kittery*

*Laura Machala, Senior Transportation Planner, AECOM*

#### **10:15 – 11:45 a.m. Concurrent Workshops (90 Minutes)**

##### **1. From Information to Impact: Empowering Informed Housing Policy Decisions ~ Garden C**

Setting up your community to make powerful decisions about housing benefits from information and data that tell a compelling story. This session will explore two case studies in housing policy/zoning reform and the information being used to make these reforms possible. In Bar Harbor, ME, understanding local housing conditions in the context of a larger region proved to be critically important in determining the impact of housing solutions within the community. Data-informed research played a pivotal role in identifying local and regional housing challenges, setting the stage for meaningful reform. In Exeter, NH, detailed reconnaissance and inventory was used to reacquaint the community with the diversity of streetscapes, neighborhoods, and housing types already in place. An educational program for the Planning Board was also instrumental in developing a shared understanding of the most basic elements of sound housing policy. Planners from each community along with the consultant team will discuss how these insights shaped strategic engagement activities, informed local zoning and regulatory reform, and how each community positions themselves in their path forward both locally and within their respective regions. This presentation strives to provide practical insights and strategies to leverage data effectively, ensure evidence-based decision-making, and promote inclusive engagement surrounding local housing policy. (1.5 CM)

*Michele Gagnon, Planning Director, Town of Bar Harbor, Maine*

*Erik Woyciesjes, Market Analyst, RKG Associates & Nate Kelly, President, Horsley Witten*

**10:15 –11:45 a.m. 2. The Staying Connected Initiative ~ Garden A & B**

The Staying Connected Initiative (SCI) brings together a unique assemblage of government, non-government and academic partners to conserve, restore, and sustain landscape connections across the northern Appalachian/Acadian Forest region of the U.S. and Canada. SCI partners work at multiple scales in the U.S. and Canada to help safeguard native species from the impacts of habitat loss and fragmentation in a changing climate, while also supporting healthy human communities and compatible interests and activities tied to the landscape. While policy action and projects of regional commissions and municipalities can have a major influence on protecting habitat and improving habitat connectivity, their awareness of the SCI, participation in it, and capacity to participate has been limited. This presentation is intended to be a significant first step to changing that. Tim Abbott will present the SCI and how the network can support regional and local planning, and efforts to provide regional commissions and municipalities with the capacity to engage in this work. (1.5 CM)

*Chris Campany, Executive Director, Windham Regional Commission*

*Mikael Cejtin, SCI Coordinator with The Nature Conservancy*

*Jens Hilke, Conservation Planning Biologist, VT Fish & Wildlife Department*

*Tim Abbott, Housatonic Valley Association & Chair of the Town of North Canaan (CT) Planning Commission*

**10:15 –11:45 a.m. 3. Training the Next Gen. of Planners: Discussion Between Planning Faculty & Practitioners  
Grand Ballroom**

Three planning faculty members will hold an open discussion as to how to best prepare new planners in northern New England for practice in a complicated, changing world. We will offer thoughts on how planning education currently works and what we like (and don't like) about it. However, we also want to hear from attendees. What do they want the new planners in their offices to expect? What skills should they bring? How can we best prepare them for the realities of planning practice, while preserving and encouraging them to think big? How will equity and inclusion figures be put into practice in the next 30 years? How should we prepare them for real-world decision making without scaring them away from the profession? We're looking forward to connecting with the "real world" of planning while offering our thoughts about the state of planning education today. (1.5 CM)

*Jeff Levine, MIT Dept of Urban Studies and Planning*

*James O'Connell, Metropolitan College, Boston University*

*Yuseung Kim, Muskie School of Public Service, University of Southern Maine*

**11:00 a.m. Hotel Check Out**

**12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Concurrent Workshops (60 Minutes)**

**1. Being Resilient to Sea Level Rise ~ Garden C**

Coastal flooding from storms and sea level rise in New Hampshire has become a present-day threat and complex, long-term issue. To deal with the impacts now and plan for future conditions requires: 1) understanding the immediate needs of communities to prepare for and recover from storm events, and 2) making strategic decisions and investments – from the individual level to the local, regional and state level - to minimize impacts. All of this requires communication, planning and an understanding of what is at stake by everyone involved. Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC), in conjunction with the National Weather Service, Gray ME, has worked to put this idea into action by developing a [Storm Map](#) to tell the tale of the December 23, 2022 storm event from the perspective of weather forecasting, roadways and transportation network impacts during the storm, and documenting the extent and severity of coastal flooding from the hightide and storm surge to inform near term investment in coastal resilience projects. Storm Map can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3yopuOp>. (1 CM SR)

*Tim Roache, Executive Director, Rockingham Planning Commission*

*Jennifer Jacobs, Professor, Dept of Civil & Environmental Engineering, University of New Hampshire*

*Donny Dumont, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, National Weather Service, Gray Maine*

**2. Signs of the Times: Clutter, Culture and Corridors ~ Garden A & B**

Commercial corridors depend on the economic success of the businesses that front them. All too often, however, their aesthetic appeal is compromised by a host of factors. Property owners, for one, seek to minimize building investments for tenants who may not be there for the long-term.

Their facades accrue slowly, layer by layer, over time. Commercial tenants, for their part, are motivated to maximize visibility and enhance the market appeal of their brand. Cities and towns have a mandate to maximize the economic viability of their central business corridors, while at the same time improving the look and feel of the place, some of which treads precariously on private property. This session brings together a municipal planner, a signage and wayfinding expert and an urban planner/architect to uncover the conditions that have led to chaotic and cluttered storefronts. With an eye towards returning signage and wayfinding to an era when the craft of signage and the art of building leveraged the uniqueness of urban businesses and resulted in a more superlative public realm, this interdisciplinary session directly engaged a dozen business owners to craft specific design guidelines for commercial businesses. (1 CM)

*David Gamble, Gamble Associates*

*Antonia Medina Abell, Gamble Associates*

*Brian Pearce, Principal, omloop design*

*Tom Skwierawski, Chief of Planning & Community Development, City of Revere*

**12:00 – 1:00 p.m. 3. Legal Review ~ Grand Ballroom**

We propose a thorough and thought-provoking examination on the latest legislative and case law changes, providing an update on the developments of the previous twelve months in Maine and New Hampshire and looking forward to anticipated changes in the law in 2023 and beyond. We intend to cover topics such as the impact on communities of Maine's new affordable housing/smart growth law (LD 2003), food sovereignty, short-term rentals, mandatory penalties for land use violations, as well as a discussion of other recently enacted laws and court decisions that may be of interest to local planning officials. (1 CM Law)

*Amy Tchao, Drummond Woodsum*

**1:00 – 2:30 p.m. Closing Events: Luncheon, Plenary Speaker Panel Session, Raffle, and Conference Wrap-Up**

**Celebrating History: Three NH Communities at 400 ~ Wentworth Ballroom**

New England has some of the oldest established settlements in the country, and three here in New Hampshire have celebrated big birthdays recently! Dover, Portsmouth, and Rye are each celebrating their 400th birthday in 2023. Over the course of 400 years, these great places have evolved through a variety of circumstances unique to their locations. Hear from representatives from these three communities about how they are celebrating the big 4-0-0, how their celebrations have acknowledged the implications of colonization, and how each community is looking toward the future! (1.5 CM)

*Alyssa Murphy, AIA, Principal at Placework*

*Sam Allen, Vice President of Dover400*

*Valerie Rochon, Managing Director of Portsmouth NH 400<sup>th</sup> (PNH400)*

*Andy Stecher, Chairman of the Rye 400 Committee*

*Save the Date for the Next Two Years:*  
Stoweflake, Stowe, VT  
October 28 – 30, 2024

Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, ME  
November 3 – 5, 2025

***Please note all APA Certification Maintenance (CM) credits have been approved.***