

## Speaker Biographies

**John Adams** is the Director of the Vermont Center for Geographic Information, where he is focused on democratizing data and building a culture of openness across government. He previously served as Planning and Policy Manager at the Agency of Commerce and Community Development and worked in the field of land use planning for a decade in Vermont and abroad. John is the primary author of Vermont's Planning Manual and has taught Land Use Policy and Economics at University of Vermont. John grew up in Montreal and currently lives in Montpelier, where he volunteers on the planning commission. He holds a Masters of Urban and Regional Planning from Queen's University and a BA in Environment and Development from McGill University.

**Alex Belenz** is a Planner with the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission. Alex enjoys being involved in all aspects of the Commission's work, from performing stream culvert studies in the field and responding to community inquiries on housing needs to leading the Commission's long-range regional transportation planning program. He currently serves on the New Hampshire Complete Streets Advisory Committee and holds a Master of City and Regional Planning degree from Rutgers University.

**Matt Boulanger** is the Planning Director for the Town of Williston, Vermont. Matt has worked for Williston since 2008 and has been the Planning Director since 2018. Matt holds a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from Saint Lawrence University and a Master's in Sustainable Transportation from the University of Washington. Matt grew up in nearby Monkton and now lives in South Burlington with his wife and son. Matt is fascinated by the challenges facing Williston through its planning program, including how to meet demands for growth while achieving mobility, equity, affordability, and conservation goals.

**Christian Brandt** is a Planner and Community Engagement Specialist at MAPC where his work focuses on creating opportunities for participatory, collaborative, and meaningful community engagement and community self-determination in urban planning. Christian works collaboratively with MAPC staff to design and implement comprehensive community engagement strategies for the agency's projects and identifies and research best practices in engagement, qualitative analysis, and community planning. Before joining MAPC, Christian worked in Social Work, including as a case manager for FamilyAid Boston, a family emergency homeless shelter in Boston. Christian holds an MA in Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning from Tufts.

**Catherine (Cat) Bryars**, AICP, works as senior planner at the Bennington County Regional Commission serving 17 member municipalities in southwestern VT. At BCRC, she holds primary responsibility for comprehensive community planning and development regulation, Act 250 and Section 248 review, enhanced energy planning, and state designation applications. As she has time, she supports implementation projects in community and economic development, transportation, and open space and recreation.

**Dan Cahill** is the City of Burlington's Land Steward, the lead staff person supporting the City's Conservation Division within the Burlington Parks Recreation and Waterfront Department. In this role he uses creativity and passion to fuel relationships amongst the human and more than human world. His work seeks to support the City of Burlington's conservation efforts and support a culture of belonging and health for all living beings.

**Chris Campany** is the Executive Director of the Windham Regional Commission based in Brattleboro, Vermont. The Windham Region consists of 27 towns within a 920 square mile area of Southeastern Vermont. The purpose of the commission is to assist towns to provide effective local government and work cooperatively with them to address regional issues. Prior to his tenure at the Windham Regional Commission, Chris was an Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture and Graduate Program Coordinator at Mississippi State University; Deputy Director of Planning and Zoning for Calvert County, Maryland; Deputy Commissioner of Planning for Orange County, New York; Federal Policy Coordinator for the National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture in its work on the 2002 Farm Bill; founder and Executive Director of the Baton Rouge Economic and Agricultural Development Alliance in Louisiana; and a Program Analyst and Presidential Management Intern with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, DC. Chris holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a Master of Public Policy and Administration from Mississippi State University, and a Master of Landscape Architecture from Louisiana State University.

**Judy Colby-George** is the owner of TJD&A (Landscape Architects and Planners) and Spatial Alternatives (GIS Consulting). She has over 30 years of experience helping clients to implement GIS and engage in complex spatial issues. Judy has extensive experience with public participation GIS and working with clients to understand the spatial relationships of various policies and programs. Her experience includes working with municipalities, regional planning agencies, state agencies, private firms, and utility companies.

**Vanessa L. Farr** is the Principal of Maine Design Workshop and a Senior Planner at Greater Portland Council of Governments, with 22 years of professional planning and development experience. Trained as a generalist, Vanessa has specialized in both urban design, sprawl retrofit, place-based economic development and outcome-driven zoning policy. Vanessa's clients include both developers and municipalities, working across every size and scale of lot, block, street, neighborhood, and community. In a day, Vanessa can be found wearing an orange vest field-testing street design improvements with a public works crew, drawing district-wide vision plans in her studio, and analyzing zoning code to advise on barriers to development. Vanessa is the Co-Founder of Build Maine, served on the New England Board of the Congress for the New Urbanism and Greater Portland Council of Governments Long Range Transportation Plan and Planning Committees, and was the recipient of the 2014 Maine Association of Planners Professional Planner of the Year award. Vanessa obtained her degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the Faculty of Environment, University of Waterloo, Canada.

**Benjamin Frost**, Esq., AICP is the Managing Director of Policy and Public Affairs at New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority, where he manages legislative initiatives, communications, research, and strategic planning, and also serves as internal legal counsel. He frequently lectures on issues of affordable and workforce housing, land use law, and ethics. Ben has 35 years of experience as a land use planner and over 25 years as an attorney. He is a founding member of the Governing Council of Housing Action NH, a low-income housing advocacy organization. Ben is the Treasurer of both the NH Planners Association and the Northern New England Chapter of the American Planning Association and serves on the Amicus Curiae Committee of the American Planning Association. He holds B.A. and M.A. degrees in Geography (with a focus on USSR environmental policy) from Colgate University and Syracuse University, respectively and a J.D. from Cornell Law School with a concentration in business law and regulation. In 2015, Ben received an Honor Award of Merit from Plan NH and was recognized as Professional Planner of the Year in 2016 by both the New Hampshire Planners Association and the Northern New England Chapter of the American Planning Association; also in 2016, the Foundation for Healthy Communities recognized him with the Innovator's

Award. He lives in Warner, NH, where he serves as Chairman of the planning board. In their spare time, Ben and his wife Christine seek to employ permaculture principles in the design of their woodland paradise.

**Kati Gallagher** is the Community Planner for the Mad River Valley Planning District, which carries out a planning program directed toward the physical, social, economic, fiscal, environmental, cultural, and aesthetic well-being of its three member towns in Central Vermont. Kati's work focuses on community engagement, coordination, and research to provide data and community-informed support to municipalities, non-profits, businesses, and residents. Kati's previous research with the University of Vermont related to the challenges and opportunities of wellbeing indicators informed her work on the Mad River Valley Community Dashboard and Wellbeing Survey.

**Kevin Geiger** works across brownfields, water quality, climate change, emergency management, and housing policy areas. However, his strengths lie in being the senior staff person on land use regulations. He is a great resource for towns to call with land use questions. He has led TRORC's award-winning sustainability plan and buyout program. Kevin brings over 25 years of planning experience in assisting Vermont towns. Off hours in March, Kevin can be found pruning apple trees, as well as moderating the Pomfret Town Meeting.

**Juli Beth Hinds**, AICP is the founding principal of Birchline Planning LLC based in Waterbury, Vermont. JB provides public and private-sector clients with leadership and expertise in land use planning, water resources, program development, financial management, and public communications. With over a decade of experience as a municipal planning and stormwater services director in Vermont, she has proven experience managing complex municipal planning, finance, and water resource programs. JB is a passionate teacher in UC San Diego's Department of Urban Studies and Planning Program. She leads research teams working on local and global water resource, land use and resilience issues. She and her husband love fishing, gardening, and trying to keep up with their 4 adult children and 2 dogs

**Petra (Stieninger) Hurtado** is the Research Director at the American Planning Association, heading APA's research programs and foresight practice. In this role, she is responsible for expanding a future-focused research agenda and advancing planning practices that assist communities in navigating change. Her areas of expertise and research include urban sustainability, smart cities, emerging technologies, nature-based solutions, and environmental psychology. Prior to joining APA, she worked as an advisor, planner, researcher, and educator in the global urban sustainability arena. She has a Ph.D. in urban planning from the Vienna University of Technology, where she teaches on urban sustainability and environmental psychology. Additionally, she has been a guest lecturer at Loyola University Chicago and the Universidad Tecnologica de Bolivar, Colombia. Petra has authored and co-authored multiple books, research papers, publicly funded reports, and articles and has presented as a subject matter expert at numerous conferences around the globe.

**Catherine Ingraham** is a community development professional based in Western Maine and Northern New Hampshire. Her experience is rooted in working collaboratively with communities, organizations, and individuals looking to create change and positive impact. She is a multigenerational Mainer who works hard to contribute to the place she loves. As a trusted facilitator, she has designed community engagement strategies and dialogues. She is a convener, a connector, and a collaborator.

**Elizabeth Kelly** of Resilience Planning & Design is a professional planner and ecological designer who worked with the City of Burlington on the creation of an open space planning framework that embraces

nature-based climate solutions. Liz strives to help communities equitably conserve, connect, and restore ecosystems and open spaces to address challenges ranging from climate change to habitat loss.

**Alyssa Kogan** joined MAPC's Data Services Department in May 2019 to work on cross-disciplinary data analysis and mapping for local and regional planning projects. Prior to joining MAPC, Alyssa worked as an Analyst in the Department of Health and Environment at Abt Associates. There, she worked on mixed-methods evaluation and research design, including surveys, interviews, focus groups, and qualitative analysis. She also independently designed and conducted the evaluation of Somerville's Community Preservation Act. Alyssa holds an MS in Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning from Tufts University, where she wrote her thesis on the use of GIS to quantitatively green gentrification.

**Jeff Levine**, AICP, is an urban planner who has worked in New England for 25 years. Currently, he is a faculty member of the Department of Urban Studies & Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is also the Owner and Principal of Levine Planning Strategies, a small consulting firm that specializes in bridging the gap between the development community and city planners. From 2012 to 2019, he was the Director of Planning & Urban Development for the City of Portland. In Portland, he oversaw the development of a new Comprehensive Plan (<https://PortlandsPlan.me>) and developed a set of tools to increase the development of low-income and workforce housing. Prior to working in Portland, Jeff worked in the City of Somerville (MA), where he developed plans for the redevelopment of the Assembly Square district into a new, mixed-use neighborhood centered on a new rapid transit station, as well as for extension of an existing light rail line through the city. He also served as the Director of Planning & Community Development for the Town of Brookline (MA) where he worked on several affordable housing developments and completed their Comprehensive Plan. Jeff also serves on the Greater Portland METRO Board of Directors, the GrowSmart Maine Board, and on the Executive Committee of the Northern New England chapter of the American Planning Association. His book *Leadership in Planning: How to Communicate Ideas and Effect Positive Change* (Routledge) came out in July 2021.

**Amy Macrellis** is a Senior Water Quality Specialist at Stone Environmental, where she has over two decades of experience with wastewater and stormwater management projects, policy development, community wastewater needs assessments and feasibility studies, and applied water quality research projects. She "grew up" on decentralized wastewater feasibility and demonstration projects and remains committed to providing safe, sane wastewater treatment for Vermont's unsewered villages. In addition to managing wastewater needs and feasibility studies, Amy provides permitting and regulatory compliance support for villages both devoted and lucky enough to have soil-based wastewater treatment systems in operation. Since the early 2000s, she has led or supported hydrogeologic investigations for the design, permitting, and construction of a wide variety of soil-based treatment practices for stormwater and wastewater systems.

**Regina Mahony** is the Planning Program Manager for the CCRPC where she has worked since 2011. At CCRPC, Regina assists the Executive Director in managing and implementing the CCRPC's planning program including water quality, energy planning, emergency management, housing, and land use. Regina uses her municipal planning experience to help member municipalities and regional partners with housing programs, land use training, comprehensive planning, drafting bylaws, and development review. Regina also coordinates the organization's Regional Planning efforts through implementation and updates of the ECOS Plan. Regina has a B.S. in Geography from the University of Maryland at College Park and a Masters in Regional Planning from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Regina Mahony is a Certified Planner

with the American Institute of Certified Planners since November 2007; and a 2014 graduate of the Snelling Center for Government's Vermont Leadership Institute.

**Danielle Matkoskey** experience includes the use of GIS to analyze and develop maps for residential, commercial, and industrial properties for planning and permitting, computer generated modeling, photo simulations, renderings, data processing and management, and assisting with visual impact assessments, and planting design. Danielle has proficiency with AutoCAD, 3ds Max, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe InDesign, Google Earth Pro, SketchUp, WindPro, Global Mapper, ArcGIS Desktop, and all Microsoft applications.

**Mike Miller** is the Director of Planning & Community Development for the City of Montpelier and has held that position since 2014. In this role he oversees four employees in a department that is responsible for all planning activities in the City as well as oversight of permitting and the housing programs. Prior to working in Montpelier, Mike worked five years for the City of Barre as the Director of Permitting and Planning. From 2001 to 2008 he worked for Lamoille County Planning Commission as a Senior Land Use Planner and, at times during that span, also had his own planning consulting company among other planning related jobs. Mike got his professional planning career started in 2000 at Northwest Regional Planning Commission as a staff planner. He is certified by the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) as well as being a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) by the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM). He has an M.S. in Natural Resource Planning from the University of Vermont and a B.A. in Biology from Hartwick College in Oneonta, New York.

**Michael Moser** is a Research Specialist at UVM's Center for Rural Studies and coordinates Vermont's Census State Data Center program- a liaison between Census data users and the U.S. Census Bureau. He regularly collaborates with municipalities, non-profits and State and Federal entities on research, evaluation, and indicator projects. Mr. Moser was a member of and chaired his town's local Planning Commission for ten years.

**Christopher Parker** is the Assistant City Manager: Director of Planning and Strategic Initiatives for the City of Dover New Hampshire. Chris has been employed by the City of Dover in various capacities since 1997 and focuses largely on land use and transportation planning functions within the community development arena. Among the projects that Chris has worked on for the City of Dover he is most proud of the McConnell Center a project where a 100,000 square foot former high school was rehabilitated into a human service hub for the Dover community, the development of the State's first Form Based Code for Dover's downtown, the development of a proactive customer service based planning and development process in Dover which encourages public participation and education, and a complete revamping of the City's Capital Improvement's Program, including multi-media elements to enhance the ability of citizens to understand and participate in this vital link between Dover's Master Plan and financial policies. In addition to his department's land use and community development responsibilities, Chris supports all municipal departments with strategic planning activities, oversees downtown development/redevelopment projects, and assists the City Manager with special projects and other community initiatives. Chris lives in Dover and was named the professional planner of the year for both the State of New Hampshire and Northern New England in 2011.

**Carolina Prieto** is the Community Engagement Manager in MAPC's Department of Strategic Initiatives. Ms. Prieto develops and implements community engagement strategies that use creative techniques and that have a special focus on including historically underrepresented populations. She has

worked with municipal staff, coalitions non-profit organizations, neighborhood associations, state agencies, faith-based organizations, and other stakeholders. As a skilled trainer and facilitator, she has developed Equitable and Inclusive Community Engagement trainings for staff, community partners, and municipalities.

**Jason Rasmussen**, AICP, is the Director of Planning at the Mount Ascutney Regional Commission (formerly SWCRPC). He has 22 years of experience as a professional planner in Vermont and New Hampshire. His current duties include, but are not limited to, managing our transportation program, Act 250 review, assisting municipalities with preparing town plans and land use regulatory documents, and technical assistance with local development review.

**Zoe Richards** is the Director and Co-founder of the Burlington Wildways Coalition. She is a Wildlife Biologist, Burlington resident, and currently chairs Burlington's Conservation Board. Her interests lie in making climate resilience and biodiversity core tenets in city planning.

**Rebecca Roman** (she/her) is proud to call Burlington her home. She enjoys biking around the city, walking her dog in town, cooking with local food, and being an active participant in the community. Rebecca is also very connected to conservation and environmentalism in VT. She works at Vermont Land Trust, a conservation organization protecting the working landscape of VT, and connecting communities to the land. Rebecca has served on the Conservation Board since 2019, and quickly joined the Open Space sub-committee to support the work developing Nature Based Solutions for Burlington.

**Sharon Ron** joined MAPC in July 2017. As a Public Health Planner, she manages public health planning projects and contributes to MAPC's efforts to assess the health impacts of planning and policy decision-making. Sharon's work at MAPC includes quantitative and qualitative analysis for Community Health Needs Assessments and Health Improvement Plans, Health Lens Analysis and Health Impact Assessments, and pioneering methods of measuring active transportation. She received her MA in Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning from Tufts. Prior to her graduate degree program, Ms. Ron was a case manager for an organization providing in-home elder care.

**Ben Smith**, AICP launched North Star Planning in 2017, following more than a decade as planner in Windham, one of the fastest growing communities in the state. At North Star Planning, Ben works with the public, municipalities, and private companies around the state to create and sustain the places that make Maine special. Ben holds a master's degree in Community Planning and Development from the Muskie School at the University of Southern Maine and a BA from Bates College. Ben also serves as the Board Chair of GrowSmart Maine, a statewide smart growth organization. Born and raised in Northern Maine, Ben loves to explore the outdoors all around northern New England with his family and friends.

**James Stevens**, AICP is a strategic planner and management consultant that specializes in arts, cultural and heritage developments, visitor attractions, tourism, real estate, and economic development. He is a Senior Associate at ConsultEcon, Inc., a national and international economic research and management consulting firm located in Cambridge, MA and Jenkintown, PA.

**Jim Sullivan** is the Executive Director of the Bennington County Regional Commission, where he has worked in various capacities for over 30 years. He began his planning career in Vermont as the Town Planner for Manchester after completing graduate degrees in natural resource management and public administration. While working at the BCRC, Jim has led programs in land use, transportation, environmental,

and energy planning. He has worked with many communities in his region that have struggled trying to implement municipal plans that promote smart growth principles while lacking supporting village center infrastructure. His interest in residential development in village centers has been heightened by his many years of service on the board of Shires Housing, the regional nonprofit housing developer in Bennington County. Jim lives in North Bennington Village and spends his free time trying to keep up with his wife and two Vizslas on trail runs through the lovely hills of Southern Vermont.

**Meagan Tuttle** has served as the Principal Planner for Comprehensive Planning for the City of Burlington, VT since 2015. Some of her key projects have included leading the first comprehensive update to the Municipal Development Plan in 20+ years; co-organizing the 2019 Mayoral Housing Summit and helping shepherd the resulting package of zoning and code reforms through adoption; and co-managing the design phase of the Great Streets Initiative, which resulted in locally adopted downtown street design standards and the reconstruction of St. Paul Street and City Hall Park. In addition to her duties as a planner, Meagan served as a manager of the City's COVID-19 Analytics Team during the City's declared state of emergency and has been the City's COVID-19 Response Leader since June 2021. Meagan was admitted to the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) in 2015 and is the President of the Vermont Planners Association. She co-chaired both the 2020 and 2021 NNECAPA Conference Committees and has previously served as the Vermont Section Representative and on the transition team to implement the Chapter and Sections' reorganization. In 2021, Meagan was recognized by the Vermont Planners Association as the Mark Bloucher Professional Planner of the Year. Meagan holds both a Master's Degree in Urban & Regional Planning and a Bachelor's Degree of Urban Planning & Development from Ball State University.

**David White** is the Director of Planning for the City of Burlington, VT. In his 25+ years of service to the City, David has played a leading role in securing Burlington's place as one of the country's most celebrated progressive livable and dynamic small cities. Today, he leads the newly created Office of City Planning whose staff provide professional and technical assistance and counsel to the Mayor, City Council, Planning Commission, and other City departments on land use planning and development issues and opportunities as a basis for informing decisions on policy alternatives, implementation strategies, and investment priorities. City Planning also leads the City's data development, analysis, and sharing efforts for both internal and external users.

David was admitted to the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) in 1997 and is a past-president and current VT Section Rep. of the Northern New England Chapter of the APA, and a former member of AICP's National Membership Standards Committee. In 2016 David was recognized by the Vermont Planners Association as their Mark Bloucher Professional Planner of the Year, and in 2018 was inducted into the AICP College of Fellows - the highest honor the American Institute of Certified Planners bestows upon a member. David holds a Master's Degree from Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences in 1989, and a Bachelor's Degree in Geography from the University of Vermont in 1984.

**Steven Whitman**, EdD, AICP, of Resilience Planning & Design worked closely with members of the Conservation Board and City staff to understand and identify nature-based climate solutions for Burlington. Steve is a published researcher on the value of holistic natural resource protection and regeneration at the municipal scale. Steve is also a municipal planning board member and is an active board member for two environmental non-profits.