

# Speaker Bios

## Jason Bachand

Jason, AICP, CFM, has served as Town Planner for the Town of Hampton, New Hampshire since 2014. Mr. Bachand's responsibilities in this position include but are not limited to the review of land use and development applications, drafting and amending local regulations, providing staff support to the Planning Board and other local Boards/Commissions, and directing the daily operations of the Town's Planning Office. In addition to leading the ongoing Town of Hampton Comprehensive Master Plan Update, he has managed several additional special projects for Hampton including the development of Architectural and Site Design Guidelines, the preparation of an Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance, and a rewrite of the Town's Floodplain Management Ordinance (which is currently being re-evaluated to address the anticipated effects of sea level rise). Mr. Bachand holds a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) Degree in Regional Planning from Westfield State University and a Master of Regional Planning (M.R.P.) Degree from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He has more than 20 years of professional planning experience in the public and private sectors. Mr. Bachand is also a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) and a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM).

## Donna Benton

Donna, AICP is the Director of Planning and Community Development for Dover, NH and President of the New Hampshire Planners Association. She has worked in Dover in multiple roles since 2015. Past projects she is most proud of include: shepherding partnerships for new and redevelopments, revamping and expanding the Community Trail, representing Dover's Amtrak Station with the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority, serving as a Board member of COAST Bus, revising the city's Capital Improvement Program, overseeing the creation of the Dover Customer Service Center, bringing arts and culture into a Master Plan Chapter and zoning ordinance, and other placemaking efforts such as wayfinding and architectural and streetscape standards. Prior to the Garrison City, Donna worked in the Towns of Merrimack and Newmarket. She holds a Masters of Public Administration, a Bachelor of Science in Tourism Planning and Development and Minors in Community and Environmental Planning and Environmental Resource Economics. She resides in the Granite State with her two children and husband and loves exploring New England and travelling internationally.

## Seth Bongartz

Seth of Manchester represents the towns of Arlington, Manchester, Sandgate and Sunderland in the Vermont House. His election in 2020 marks his third stint in the legislature, having served in the House from 1981 - 1985 and the Senate from 1987 - 1989. An attorney, he spent 11 years practicing law until taking the job as President of Hildene, The Lincoln Family Home, which he and his dedicated staff transformed from a house museum to a 412-acre, world-class cultural heritage site. He retired at the end of 2019 after 18 years. Seth served for 19 years, 15 as Chair, on the board of Burr and Burton Academy, which serves as the local high school for Manchester area students. He is a founder and current Chair of the Northshire Community Land Trust (formerly the Manchester Community Land Trust). He has served for 18 years on the board, and is the current Chair, of the National Development Council, a nationwide non-profit with the mission of bringing economic opportunity to all. Seth is currently a principal in the consulting firm of Gubb & Bongartz, which focuses on helping Vermont non-profits reach their full potential.

## Greg Boshart

Greg is a 12-year member of the Manchester, Vermont, Planning Commission and a 1997 graduate of the Syracuse University School of Architecture. He is a licensed architect in Vermont, Massachusetts, and New York and owns a design-build residential construction firm based in Manchester. During his time on the Planning Commission, he has participated in multiple zoning ordinance and town plan review cycles, including a full rewrite of the zoning ordinance in 2018. Greg has taken a personal interest in developing quantifiable ways that local zoning can promote a dense, mixed-use, dynamic and livable town core with improved housing opportunities for all residents while maintaining the rural character of the town's periphery.

## Victoria Boundy

Victoria is Community Engagement Coordinator for Casco Bay Estuary Partnership (CBEP) at the University of Southern Maine in Portland. CBEP, one of 28 EPA-funded National Estuary Programs nationwide, is a collaborative effort of people and organizations interested in protecting and restoring Casco Bay. Victoria has over 25 years of experience in community planning and engagement, particularly in the natural resources and environmental sectors. She has worked in municipal government, regional planning organizations, naval air station planning and redevelopment, and for two national estuary programs. Victoria has a BA from the University of Vermont, a MS in Environmental Studies from Antioch University, and is a Certified Climate Change Professional with the Association of Climate Change Officers.

## David Cawley

David Cawley lives in Burlington, Vermont where he and his wife have resided for 31 years. After his retirement in 2017, Dave began to explore and connect with the history, environment, and neighbors in the Old East End community where they live. Community issues brought the neighbors together to form the Old East End Neighborhood Coalition, and they began to work on traffic calming, creating bike lanes, reviving the history of the neighborhood, and building a sense of place and community. Dave's background as an operation manger for a local non-profit has served well to help organize neighborhood events such as picnics, music events, history tours, installation of a neighborhood mural, and pop-up winter events. Dave also serves as a liaison for the neighborhood with Burlington Parks and Recreation Department, AARP VT, and UVM Office of Student ad Community Relations. Dave enjoys exploring history, travel in his campervan, and road biking.

## Susan Clark

Susan is coauthor of *Slow Democracy: Rediscovering Community, Bringing Decision Making Back Home*; and *All Those In Favor*, a book about Vermont town meetings (with Frank Bryan). Susan consults with communities across the northeast on how to build inclusive, deliberative and empowered public engagement. She is Middlesex town moderator. Susan is a writer and educator focusing on community sustainability and engagement. She is coauthor of "Slow Democracy: Rediscovering Community, Bringing Decision Making Back Home" (with Woden Teachout) and "All Those In Favor," a book about Vermont town meetings (with Frank Bryan). Her career has included serving as communication director of a statewide environmental organization, coordinating a rural grants program, and directing a community activists' network for the northeastern U.S. and Canada. Susan consults with communities across the northeast, leading trainings with leaders and community groups on how to build inclusive, deliberative, empowered public participation. An award-winning radio commentator, Susan's democratic activism has earned her broad recognition, including the Vermont Secretary of State's Enduring Democracy Award. She serves as Middlesex, Vermont town meeting moderator.

## Judy Colby-George

Judy is the owner of Viewshed, which brought together Spatial Alternatives and TJD&A. Viewshed is a multidisciplinary firm working in Landscape Architecture, GIS, and Planning. She has worked with municipal governments, regional planning agencies, and state governments in New England for over 25 years. Judy has extensive experience with public participation GIS and working with clients to implement geospatial tools. She currently serves on the Board of URISA and chair of the Social Justice and Equity Workgroup. Judy believes that GIS is a tool that can help to engage the public in the messy problems that face our world today, she works with clients to tell their stories, represent data in an understandable format, and invite many people to the decision-making process.

## Emily Cole-Prescott

Emily, AICP, is currently Saco's compliance Manager, where she does public outreach, grant writing, planning, and manages compliance initiatives. She brings fifteen years of city planning, policy development, and land use experience to this work. Emily co-chairs the Maine Water Environment Association's (MeWEA) Government Affairs Committee and serves on the Water Environment Federation's Water Leadership Institute Steering Committee. Her interests are in building collaborative partnerships with others to find healthy solutions to complex matters that face our communities.

## Dayton Crites

Dayton is a Planner who believes in building spaces for people and the power of creativity to change our world for the better. He loves nothing more than an opportunity to convey ideas visually and can often be found with a pencil in handwriting ideas down on the nearest available surface. He rides his bicycle as much as Vermont land use patterns and his family will allow and has bicycle riding to thank for his career contributing to the planning, design and development of the built environment.

## Christa Daniels

Christa, PhD., AICP, specializes in land use, with a focus on local climate resilience and sustainability, and participatory community engagement strategies. In her personal and professional life, Christa's passion centers around systems thinking to achieve transformational change that creates equitable, vibrant, livable communities. For the past two decades, Christa has worked with local and regional governments to create ecological regenerative communities. Christa's current research relies on equitable participatory planning methods within local and regional governments to overcome barriers to climate resilience solutions to create sustainable, circular, and regenerative communities. Christa's past experience includes working for the United Nations, NH Department of Environmental Services, Clean Air Cool Planet, and as a city planner for Keene, NH. Dr. Daniels has facilitated and created innovative participatory stakeholder engagement strategies with towns and regions such as Pittsburgh PA, the Greater Portland Council of Governments, the Monadnock region in New Hampshire, NY Department of Conservation, Maplewood NJ, and Bridgeport CT. She has also worked for Climate Access as a research coordinator to translate social science into effective engagement strategies. In addition, Christa worked on an innovative sea level rise in situ 3D visualization project in San Mateo County, Marin County, and the San Francisco Bay region of California to increase public support for action on climate change.

## Nell Donaldson

Nell Donaldson is the Director of Special Projects in the Department of Planning & Urban Development at the City of Portland, where she has worked for the past 10 years. In her various roles with the city, she has worked on large scale development review projects, policy initiatives, and long-range plans. She is currently managing the city's ReCode effort. She was born and raised in eastern Maine, graduated from Brown University, and holds a master's degree in city planning from MIT.

## Carol Eyerman

Carolyn "Carol", AICP is an experienced, award-winning professional planner. Her current work focuses on long-range planning and managing the Planning Board development review process. She has been employed by the towns of Cumberland, Harpswell and Topsham, ME and is currently the Town Planner for the town of Gorham, ME. She was the Director of Planning and Zoning for Montgomery Township and Zoning Officer/Planner for Middletown Township both in PA. In her 25 years as a planner, she has worked with communities on Comprehensive Plans, Open Space and Recreation Plans, Historic Preservation Plans, Development Plans and implementation of many elements within each of them. She has served the planning profession as the President, Vice President and Secretary of the Maine Association of Planners and the Vice President and Maine Section Representative of Northern New England Chapter of the American Association of Planners. She grew up in Portland, ME and has lived in Bucks County, PA. She currently lives with her husband, Mark, in Gorham, ME. Did you know she was the first girl to play Little League baseball in Portland and once worked as a Chemical Oceanographic Technician for Bigelow Lab. in Boothbay Harbor, ME where she got to go on one of the first research cruises to study the warming Pacific Ocean?

## Lee Jay Feldman

Lee Jay is currently the Director of Land Use and Planning with Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission (SMPDC), which is a non-partisan nonprofit that cultivates thriving, sustainable communities and strengthens local governments by leading planning and economic development for 39 member towns in Southern Maine. Lee Jay's previous experiences include Director of Planning and Permitting for the City of Auburn, Director of Planning at Sebago Technics in Westbrook and most recently, Principal Planner for the City of Portsmouth, New Hampshire. His professional experiences have been in staffing Planning Boards, Boards of Adjustment, Municipal Liquor Committee, and Historic District Commission. Lee Jay is well known to the SMPDC community for assisting Planning Boards with Development review assistance, findings of fact

and ordinance work. He has also been putting on workshops relating to help boards with the planning process and Roberts Rules of Order.

## Ben Frost

Ben is the Deputy Executive Director and Chief Legal Officer of New Hampshire Housing. Frost manages external relations, legislative initiatives, communications, research, and strategic planning, and provides legal guidance on program implementation. He frequently presents on issues concerning affordable and workforce housing, land use law, and ethics. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. Frost holds bachelor's and master's degrees in geography from Colgate University and Syracuse University, and a law degree from Cornell Law School with a concentration in business law and regulation.

## Karina Graeter

Karina, Sustainability Coordinator, Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission: Karina is the Sustainability Coordinator with Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission (SMPDC). Karina works collaboratively with local governments to develop regional sustainability efforts and support local climate action. Prior to joining SMPDC, Karina served as the Sustainability Coordinator for the University of Maine. She led sustainability initiatives, reporting, and outreach activities to integrate sustainability into all aspects of the campus community. Karina studied physics and earth sciences at Bowdoin College and obtained her M.S. in earth sciences at Dartmouth College.

## Kristen Grant

Kristen is Senior Extension Program Manager for Coastal Community Resilience and Diversity Equity and Inclusion with Maine sea grant and University of Maine Cooperative Extension. Her work focuses on the interactions between the people and the ecosystems of the coast and includes a range of activities to build the capacity of coastal communities to plan and adapt for their future. Her programming seeks to build community resilience by centering the needs of socially vulnerable community members in planning for coastal hazards and erosion trends, considering housing options, addressing coastal access and waterfront development issues, and engaging community stakeholders. To this work, Kristen brings a Master of Science degree focused on Environmental Education and has an extensive background in outreach education and community development.

## Christine Grimando

Christine Grimando, AICP, joined Portland, Maine's Planning & Urban Development Department in 2014 2019. Currently Department Director, she oversees all aspects of the department, and has overseen implementation of an array of policy initiatives, the creation of Portland's new Comprehensive Plan, as well as creation of the City's first new land use code in over half a century. Prior to Portland she served as a planner elsewhere in Maine, Massachusetts and New York. She's a past recipient of an Urban and Regional Policy Fellowship from the German Marshall Fund to study urban sustainability initiatives in the UK and Italy. She holds a Master of Science in Urban Planning from Columbia University.

## Jacob Hemmerick

Jacob, AICP, is a planning & policy manager at the Vermont Department of Housing & Community Development where he supports special projects and municipal/regional planning and development policy -- mostly focused on housing concerns. Jake administers designation programs providing location-based incentives, planning grant programs, and regional planning block grants. He previously worked as Planning & Economic Development Director in Milton, Vermont, holds a BA and MPA from the University of Dayton and is a resident of Barre City - where he currently serves as Mayor in a volunteer role.

## Elizabeth Hertz

Elizabeth has a 22-year career in state service, culminating as the director of the municipal planning assistance program, was preceded by work on natural resource issues for the forestry industry and federal government. Liz's ability to identify opportunities and challenges, successfully facilitate unlikely partners sharing a common cause, and creatively problem solve are hallmarks of her approach to complex topics. Liz has been instrumental in delivering many multi-faceted, innovative projects that remain in use by state, federal, municipal and non-government entities, including the State Planning Wetlands Characterization, Maine Vernal

Pool Special Area Management Plan, Maine Coastal Risk Explorer and the Southern Mid-Coast Social Resilience Project. On retiring from state government, Liz established Blue Sky Planning Solutions, through which she continues to apply her extensive knowledge of policy and practice at the intersection of emerging social and environmental issues.

## Emily Heymann

Emily, AICP is Senior Planner for the Town of Williston, VT. Emily is involved in long-range planning, development review, meeting facilitation, and community outreach & engagement. Emily has a bachelor's degree of Urban and Environmental Planning from the University of Virginia. She is also a PSIA Level 1 Ski Instructor and enjoys the usual Vermontry things like skiing, mountain biking, and cheese.

## Todd Horner

Hailing from southern Maine, Todd moved to the Monadnock Region in 2009 to pursue a career in agriculture, spending most of the next decade operating an organic farm in Peterborough, NH. His time farming instilled in him an interest in how people use, share, and relate to land and the resources it provides. That interest prompted a transition into the planning field, where he admittedly has less opportunity to get his hands literally dirty, but still finds himself digging into familiar issues: how we balance the productive use of land with its protection, how we organize our built communities upon the natural landscape, and how we can cooperate with one another to work towards shared prosperity. Todd manages and contributes to projects in a variety of program areas at SWRPC, including economic development, transportation, housing, and broadband planning. He holds a B.A. in English from Vassar College and a Master's of Regional Planning from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

## Ian Houseal

Ian Houseal (pronounced "how-seal") is the Director of Community Development for the City of Sanford since 2017. Among many of his responsibilities for Sanford, he operates the City's Land Bank Authority and regulates its rentals and vacant buildings. Ian's background is in construction and development, environmental engineering, and public administration. Ian came to Sanford from the City of Portland, where he worked there for 7 years in multiple capacities and on multiple projects and prior to that, the City of Lewiston. He is a Bates College graduate and holds a Master Degree in Architecture from North Carolina State University and a Master Degree in Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

## Dalyn Houser

Dalyn is the principal administrative, operational, and executive employee of the Saco River Corridor Commission (SRCC). Dalyn is responsible for the Commission's operations and directs the land-use regulatory program, environmental education, and water quality monitoring programs. A 2013 graduate of Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, Dalyn studied Environmental Science and Policy and has worked for a wide range of environmental and consumer organizations, including, *inter alia*, the United States Public Interest Research Group ("U.S. PIRG") where she, as a state-wide director, advocated federal and state public policies on renewable energy, public transportation, and other consumer and environmental issues in Florida. For the last four years, Dalyn has worked similarly at the SRCC and takes pride in the Commission's advance in strengthening and conforming development on the Saco, Ossipee, and Little Ossipee Rivers. The scope and extent of the Commission's work protecting these rivers and their watersheds is available through a video presentation ([accessible here](#)). Please contact Dalyn with your comments or questions about educational event opportunities, water quality monitoring, the land-use regulatory program, or other community topics.

## Janet Hurley

Janet is the Director of Planning & Zoning for the Town of Manchester, Vermont - a destination town with a per capita economy second only to Williston in the state. She has worked for Manchester since 2014, overseeing the town's first comprehensive zoning overhaul in 40 years and focused on addressing needs for a community in which most people working in the town, do not live in the town for lack of attainable housing. Janet also serves as chair of the Bennington County Regional Commission and enjoys getting out on the trails in the Green and Taconic Mountains as much as she can when not at work.

## Catherine Ingraham

Catherine Ingraham is the founder of CEI Consultants, LLC and provides Community Heart & Soul® Coaching for towns in Maine and Massachusetts. CEI Consultants, LLC also offers contract services for meeting design and facilitation, community engagement, project management, strategic planning, grant writing, fundraising and donor strategy to organizations, ad-hoc groups, and communities. Catherine is a board member of the Maine Association of Planners and serves on the executive committee of the American Planning Association Northern New England Chapter. Catherine graduated from the University of Maine, Farmington with a bachelors in Planning & Policy. She holds a certificate in nonprofit management and is in the process of obtaining a Masters of Legal Studies degree from University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law. She is a multi-generational Mainer and in her spare time an aspiring farmer in Aroostook County, Maine.

## Harrison Kanzler

Harrison is the Executive Director of Affordable Housing Education and Development Inc. (AHEAD) in Littleton, NH. AHEAD has served New Hampshire's North Country for over 30 years creating pathways to safe, affordable housing which strengthens and revitalizes New Hampshire's rural communities. AHEAD is a nonprofit developer and property manager which also offers counseling and educational services out of its Homeownership Center. Prior to his role at AHEAD Harrison served as the Executive Director for the Mount Washington Valley Housing Coalition, an affordable housing advocacy group located in New Hampshire's Mount Washington Valley. There he worked with the State of New Hampshire, municipalities of the Mount Washington Valley, and the public to promote affordable housing in his native community. Harrison sits on the Governing Council for Housing Action New Hampshire as well as the NH Governor's Council for Housing Stability. Harrison's interest in planning and community came from his studies at the University of New Hampshire and the University of Edinburgh where he gained his BA in History and MSc in Archaeology, respectively.

## Liz Kelly

Liz is a professional planner with consulting firm Resilience Planning and Design nestled at the foothills of the White Mountains in Plymouth, New Hampshire. Resilience Planning and Design is a small firm that partners with communities and organizations to co-create and design forward-thinking and solutions-oriented municipal and regional planning projects throughout the northeast. They specialize in long-range planning initiatives grounded in place and that emphasize community resiliency and equity. Prior to working with Resilience Planning and Design, Liz was formerly a municipal planner for the Town of Bristol, NH and a regional planner in southwest NH. Liz has both a B.S. and M.S. in Ecological Design and Planning, is a certified Permaculture designer and teacher, and is involved in project management, plan development, graphic design, and community engagement for a variety of planning projects with Resilience Planning and Design. She's extremely active in her local community garden group and is passionate about local food security, gardening for biodiversity and climate resilience, and edible landscaping.

## Kevin Kraft

Kevin Kraft joined the City of Portland Planning & Urban Development Office as the Deputy Director in September 2020. Prior to his role in Portland, he was a Senior Planner & Borough Certification Manager for the NYC Department of City Planning where he was responsible for overseeing the Brooklyn office's pipeline of applications, led large-scale development projects, and worked on neighborhood studies including the North Brooklyn Industrial Study and Gowanus neighborhood study. Before NYC, he was a Senior Planner at the Mercer County Planning Department in New Jersey. He is an AICP certified planner and earned his Master's in City & Regional Planning from the Pratt Institute and a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies from Rutgers University - Camden.

## Natasha Kypfer

Natasha is the Zoning Administrator for the City of Dover, NH, a position held since January 2022. Prior to working in the seacoast region of New Hampshire, she served as Town Planner in Amherst, NH and was originally introduced to land use planning as a profession working in Bozeman, Montana with the Gallatin County Office of Planning and Community Development. In Dover, she serves as staff liaison to the Arts Commission and staffs the ZBA. She holds a Masters of Public Administration from the University of Montana and a Bachelor of Science in Speech Communication from Northern Arizona University. Raised in the

metropolises of London, England and Bangkok, Thailand, an appreciation for the built environment was instilled at an early age; she loves to travel as well as spend time out in nature with her husband.

## Pamela Laflamme

Pamela Laflamme is the Community Development Director for the City of Berlin. Pam earned her degree in Community and Regional Planning from Plymouth State University. Pam serves on many board and committees including the NH Municipal Association, NH Community Loan Fund and the North Country Regional Advisory Board of the NH Charitable Foundation. Pam participated in Leadership New Hampshire, Class of 2004. She was the recipient of a Fannie Mae Foundation Fellowship to attend the Kennedy School of Government for their senior executive program focused on state and local government officials. Pam has been recognized by NH Public Radio & the NH Charitable Foundation with the Next Generation Civic Leadership Award. Pam lives in Gorham, NH with her husband and two children.

## Jeff Levine

Jeff, AICP, is an urban planner who has worked in New England for 25 years. Currently, he is 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. He is also a faculty member of the Department of Urban Studies & Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Until 2019, he was the Director of Planning & Urban Development for the City of Portland. Jeff served on the Maine Legislature's Commission to Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions.

## Mike Miller

Mike 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, economic development, 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.

## Sara Mills-Knapp

Sara, Director of Sustainability, Greater Portland Council of Governments: Sara Mills-Knapp works to position GPCOG as a regional and statewide leader in climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience. She leads the statewide Maine Clean Communities program and supports members with technical assistance on key sustainability issues. Sara comes to GPCOG with extensive experience providing technical, financial, and organizational guidance on urban sustainability programs for cities around the globe through her work with the World Bank, the U.S. Agency for International Development and the C40 Cities Network. She has partnered closely with cities to advance best practices in climate action planning, including data collection and analysis and citizen engagement and governance. Sara has a Masters in sustainability management from Columbia University in New York and a Bachelors in international relations from American University in Washington, D.C.

## Gabe Mason Perkins

Gabe is at least a fifth-generation resident of the Bethel, ME area. In 2011, Gabe started as a founding board member of Inland Woods + Trails and since 2014, has served as the Executive Director. In that time, he has led the organizations efforts to steward and develop 80 miles of trails at 21 locations in nine communities throughout Oxford County. Gabe holds a degree in Environmental Policy and Planning from the University of Maine at Farmington. He serves as co-coordinator of the Maine Trails Coalition, is a Senior Fellow in the Environmental Leadership Program, and an alumnus of the Community Practitioners Network. He can sometimes be found patiently renovating his grandparents' old home on in Bethel with his wife, Jessie, dogs Champ, Mike, and cat, Indiana Jones.

## Zoe Miller

Zoe, MPH, Principal, Zoe Miller Strategies, LLC. Zoe works to build healthy, equitable communities through inclusive engagement and collaborative strategies. As an independent consultant, she provides facilitation, project management, grant writing, and strategic planning services that are grounded in inquiry, trust, and inclusion. Her areas of expertise include transportation and land use planning, community public health improvement, and public engagement. In her previous role as the Director of Community Engagement with the Greater Portland Council of Governments, Zoe led a team that was integrating inclusive practices and equity data into the decision-making process for transportation investments. Zoe currently leads the Moving Maine Network, a statewide coalition focused on improving transportation access.

## Tom Morgan

Tom, AICP, is a community planner assisting cities and towns in Maine and New Hampshire. When the Air Force departed Pease AFB, he led a hard-fought (and successful) campaign to establish NH's first federal wildlife refuge, situated along 5.25 miles of estuarine shoreline. Tom was a founding member of the Housing Partnership (a non-profit developer of workforce housing), a commissioner on the NH Coastal Risks & Hazards Commission, and Chair of Portsmouth's Zoning Board of Adjustment. He qualifies as an architectural historian pursuant to 36 CFR Part 61 and has been a proprietor at the Portsmouth Athenaeum since 1985. In 2014, he co-founded [Portsmouth Smart Growth](#), a non-profit that advocates for a vibrant, sustainable and walkable city. He serves as Town Planner in Seabrook, the NH leader in EV fast-charging stations. Tom was recently appointed by the Governor & Council to a third term on the NH Highway Layout Commission. He served as an NGO delegate at the 1992 UN Conference on Environment & Development (The Earth Summit) in Rio de Janeiro and participated in the 2016 UN Conference on Housing & Sustainable Development (Habitat III) in Quito. Tom has been working on climate change issues since 1992.

## Noel Musson

Noel Musson, Principal and Planner of The Musson Group, has almost twenty-five years of experience working on planning, economic development, and permitting projects. Noel has worked with a range of clients from both the public and private sector. He holds a Master's Degree in Community Planning and Development from the Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service at the University of Southern Maine, and a BA in Political Science from the University of Maine. As a professional land use planner, Noel has been trained to identify strategic alternatives to development issues through a comprehensive understanding of the physical and natural landscape, community trends and desires, and economic conditions. Noel has a participatory planning approach that involves clients, government officials, citizens, and other experts in creating livable and sustainable projects. He has experience with multiple regulatory sectors (state, regional, local), downtown revitalization projects, coastal harbor planning, grant writing, land use studies, code review, permitting, and project management. Noel is an expert in relating complex issues to the public and managing projects from conception to completion. He is a trained facilitator and has an understanding of the legal foundation of land use regulations, in identifying site/building permit requirements, associated time lines, and coordinating the process through to completion. Additionally, Noel has experience using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and other tools to help explore land use trends and analyze development opportunities.

## Shelley Norton, AICP

Shelley is Lewiston's Deputy Director of Planning and Special Projects. Lewiston is Maine's second largest City, and Shelley works on a range of projects and development activity. She worked as a Planner in New York State and Landscape Architect there before returning to Maine five years ago to be closer to family. Prior to working for Lewiston, she worked as a regional planner with the Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments (AVCOG) where she focused efforts on bringing land banks to Maine and expanding opportunities for urban agriculture in Lewiston and Auburn.

## Marcel Ntagora

Marcel Ntagora is a Planning & Outreach Associate for the Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG). Marcel supports GPCOG's community outreach efforts - helping to engage community members, groups and organizations in transportation and land-use planning. Marcel works primarily for GPCOG's Mobility For All program and works closely with the Community Transportation Leaders. Marcel also plays a key role in supporting PACTS compliance with civil rights mandates. After his university studies, Marcel worked as an

intern at the German international organization GIZ, where he worked with consultants to build community development plans for rural communes in Burundi. He later joined Ebenezer Ministry International as project manager of a school building project. After he moved to Nashua, NH, he founded the African Community of One Greater Nashua and worked as a community organizer. Marcel has a B.A. in Communications for Development from the Université Lumière de Bujumbura. He is an alumnus of Leadership Greater Nashua Class session 2017-2018. He speaks French, Swahili, Kirundi and Kinyarwanda.

## George O'Keefe

George O'Keefe has been the Economic Development Director in Rumford since October of 2018. He has over 15 years of combined experience in federal, state and local government including two combat tours in Afghanistan working in military intelligence. He has a BA in History from the Catholic University of America in Washington DC and an AAS in Intelligence Operations from Cochise College in Sierra Vista, AZ. He graduated from Munich International School in Starnberg, Germany with an International Baccalaureate Diploma. He has extensive graduate level studies at the Muskie School of Public Service. His work in Rumford has included a focus on tax base growth through innovative approaches to renewable energy projects along with extensive facilitated development projects of commercial, mixed use and residential investment.

## George Reagan

George has been the Community Engagement Manager at New Hampshire Housing since 2008. In that role, he helps communities and organizations show the connection between an adequate and balanced supply of housing and economic growth and stability. He works with public officials, organizations, and business partners, as well as regional workforce housing advocacy groups, to provide education, technical assistance, and support. Prior to joining New Hampshire Housing, Reagan held consumer and commercial lending positions with Fleet Bank and St. Mary's Bank and was the campaign director for United Way of the Greater Seacoast and United Way of Greater Manchester.

## Tara Reardon

Tara Reardon, Vice President of ROC-NH, joined the Community Loan Fund in 2013 and is a member of the Senior Managers Team and responsible for overseeing the strategic direction, growth, and soundness of the Community Loan Fund's Resident-Owned Communities (ROC) activities. Reardon has served as a State Legislator, a Concord City Councilor, the Commissioner of the NH Department of Employment Security, and a former practicing attorney. She has served on numerous boards; she is currently serving as the Past-Chair for the Crisis Center of Central NH, the Chair of the Merrimack County Board of Commissioners, the Governing Council of Housing Action NH and as an Advisor to the Concord Coalition to End Homelessness.

## Rebecca Sanborn Stone

Rebecca Sanborn Stone is a principal with Community Workshop LLC. She is passionate about helping people create great places and communities. She is an award-winning community planner and instigator, writer, speaker and strategist who is known for using creative and surprising techniques to revitalize rural communities, tell great stories, and build vibrant and livable places. Rebecca is the author of the *DIY Community Cookbook: a Do-it-Yourself Guide to Making Your Community a More Livable Place*. Rebecca holds a master's degree in Environmental Science from the Yale University School of the Environment and a bachelor's degree from Williams College. Rebecca lives in Bethel, Vermont with her husband and two daughters, dog, eleven chickens, and a big garden.

## Philip R. Saucier

Having worked as an urban planner, as chair of the Portland Zoning Board, and inside state government, Phil is well acquainted with municipal and land use law. That experience, combined with his legal expertise, makes him extremely adept at counseling municipal officials and boards and obtaining land use approvals at local, state, and federal levels for real estate developers and property owners. And he's just as equipped to help clients with legislative issues: he helped draft and pass health care legislation during his time as a senior legal advisor in the Governor's office. When Phil isn't working, he is cooking up a storm and he loves good food and Maine beer. Phil is a member of the Town of Cape Elizabeth School Board, a member of University of Maine School of Law Alumni Engagement Committee, and a former member of the Board of Trustees for the Portland Stage Company. He enjoys playing tennis, canoeing, hiking, and spending quality time with his family. Phil is admitted to practice law in the State of Maine and the US District Court, District of Maine.

## Abbie Sherwin

Abbie, Senior Planner / Coastal Resilience Coordinator, Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission: Abbie Sherwin is a Senior Planner and Coastal Resilience Coordinator with Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission (SMPDC). She provides technical and planning assistance to Maine communities, specializing in coastal resiliency, climate adaptation planning, and hazard mitigation. Abbie works with municipal planners, local officials, and regional organizations to assess climate-related vulnerabilities and implement strategies to help communities prepare for changing environmental conditions. Prior to joining SMPDC, Abbie was a NOAA Coastal Management Fellow with the Maine Geological Survey and Maine Coastal Program. She holds an M.S. in coastal science and policy from the University of New Hampshire and is a Certified Floodplain Manager.

## Ben Smith

Ben Smith, AICP launched North Star Planning in 2017, following more than a decade of work in state, municipal and private sector planning positions. At North Star Planning, Ben works with the public, municipalities and private companies to create and sustain the places that make New England special. This is accomplished through work on comprehensive planning, ordinance and policy development, project review services and planning board support. Ben is a current Board member and past board chair for GrowSmart Maine. Born and raised in Caribou, Ben loves to explore the woods and waters of northern New England with his family and friends.

## Robyn Stanicki

Robyn is a Community Resilience Coordinator at Kennebec Valley Council of Governments. She brings nearly two decades of experience as a skilled administrator for public and nonprofit organizations which support rural communities. As a regional planner, Robyn develops projects that address workforce challenges, economic development, community broadband initiatives, and climate change impacts. Before coming to Waterville, she maintained a research and quality improvement partnership between Dartmouth College and Maine's health care systems, designing strategies to improve quality and access to community-based substance use treatment. Robyn holds a social work graduate education focused on focusing her degrees on research and public policy.

## Nick Taylor

Nick serves as the Executive Director of the Workforce Housing Coalition of the Greater Seacoast. Nick brings extensive advocacy, policy, and campaign experience to the Coalition. He previously served as the Policy Director in the New Hampshire State Senate, worked on state and federal advocacy campaigns, and ran state legislative and statewide political campaigns. With a deep understanding of the relationship between housing and the economy, Nick appreciates the complexity of solving our housing crisis. Nick recognizes the value of leveraging a good story, building strong relationships, and growing grassroots movements from the ground up. Nick's familiarity with the legislative process in New Hampshire will serve him well when it's time for the Coalition to testify in Concord! Nick has a Bachelor of Arts from Hamilton College in New York, where he studied public policy, history, and legal studies. Nick lives in Manchester and, in his free time, you can find him exploring the state's great craft breweries and local restaurants.

## Ivy Vann

Ivy AICP, CNU-A, principal at Ivy Vann | Town Planning and Urban Design, is a planner and designer. She works on charrettes, planning projects, code review, master planning, and comprehensive planning, primarily in New England.

## Kat Violette

Kat is a Community Engagement Coordinator for the Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG). Kat leads GPCOG's community engagement efforts to advance the inclusion of historically underrepresented communities in transportation planning and decision-making. She manages and coordinates the Mobility For All programs, which engages a broad range of community members, organizations, and decision-makers in improving transportation access for people who experience barriers. Kat was an intern at GPCOG during the summer of 2019 and helped coordinate the Host Homes Program that found housing for the influx of asylum

seekers that arrived in Maine that summer. Kat most recently worked for the City of South Portland as a COVID-19 outreach specialist for marginalized communities. Kat holds a Bachelor's degree in Geography and Development Studies from Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts.

## Cameron Wake

Cameron Wake is a Research Professor at the Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans and Space, and the Dept. of Earth Sciences at the University of New Hampshire. He is also the Josephine A. Lamprey Professor in Climate and Sustainability at the UNH Sustainability Institute. Cameron leads a research program investigating regional climate change through the analysis of ice cores records and historical and instrumental data. In addition to teaching classes and lecturing widely on global environmental change, he serves as the program chair for UNH's Sustainability Dual Major. Cameron also helps lead Climate Solutions New England, a collaborative effort to secure healthy, prosperous, and sustainable communities through the pursuit of integrated solutions that include building energy self-reliance and weather resilience. He is an author on over 85 papers published in the peer-reviewed scientific literature and dozens of reports, and has provided hundreds of interviews for state, regional and national media. His collaborative research on several regional climate assessments in the northeast United States has been shared with municipal, state, and federal agencies and representatives, has been covered widely in the media, and has been cited by several as motivation for policy action. In recognition of his engaged scholarship around the issue of climate change, Cameron was awarded the UNH Faculty Award of Excellence in Public Service in 2010.

## Alex Weinhagen

Alex is the Director of Planning and Zoning for Hinesburg, Vermont - a town of 4,700 people about 12 miles south of Burlington. Like most small-town planners, Alex wears several different hats, from land use planning to development review to GIS map making to economic development to neighbor dispute therapy. He has worked for the Town of Hinesburg for 20 years, during which time the community has seen significant change and positive growth - both in terms of village area development and rural land conservation. He is extremely fortunate to work in a community with a long-term commitment to progressive planning. He currently serves as VPA's President and is an active member of the VPA Legislative Committee. He served as VPA's Legislative Liaison from 2016-2020 and served on VPA's Professional Development Committee for several years prior to 2016. Alex has a MS in Wildlife Biology from the University of Vermont, and a BS in Zoology from the University of Rhode Island. In his previous profession, he spent time chasing after all manner of wildlife including black-backed woodpeckers, cormorants, and woodcock. He resides in Burlington.

## Steven Whitley

Steven is an Attorney at Drummond Woodsum. For nearly 15 years, Steven has been advising clients on a wide variety of municipal legal issues including town governance, annual town meetings, public finance, zoning and land use matters, Right to Know law, and tax abatement appeals. He is also a member of Town of Hopkinton Selectboard and Chair of the Hopkinton Economic Development Committee.

## Dr. Steven Whitman

Whitman is a professional planner and educator who has been working in the public, nonprofit, and private sectors in New England for over twenty-five years. For the past nineteen years he has successfully partnered with others to create dynamic consulting teams tailored to the client's specific project needs. Steve established Resilience Planning & Design to assist communities on planning initiatives and on implementation actions that reinforce their vision and future land use plans. His work includes comprehensive planning projects in small towns and large cities, parcel level ecological design projects, topic specific studies, and regional and watershed scale natural resource planning. He is also actively researching municipal green infrastructure planning initiatives in the United States. Steve serves as a board member for the non-profit Mill City Park and is a founding member of the Pemi-Baker Trails Committee.

## Daniel Windsor

Daniel brings over 17 years of experience in Community Planning and Development, Land Use Planning and Policy Alignment for public and private clients. He is a nationally certified planner (AICP), a licensed professional planner in New Jersey (PP) and leads the Community Development Practice at Woodard & Curran. Daniel has been involved in addressing complex urban challenges and has led the design and project management of urban design and planning projects that look to balance economic revitalization with

responsible growth and the commitment to healthy environments. Daniel frequently conducts zoning and regulatory reviews and works with clients on various projects such as Redevelopment Initiatives, Master Planning, Place Making Strategies, Community Engagement, Resiliency Planning and Long-term Visioning. Overall, his work aims to promote a triple bottom line approach of social benefit, environmental stewardship and long-term economic sustainability in community planning and design.

## Sarah Wrightsman

Sarah is the Community Engagement Coordinator at New Hampshire Housing. Prior to joining the team at New Hampshire Housing, Wrightsman was Executive Director of the Workforce Housing Coalition of the Greater Seacoast and the Housing Coordinator for the Regional Economic Development Center, which serves southern New Hampshire. Wrightsman is a graduate of Leadership Seacoast's class of 2019 and Leadership New Hampshire's Class of 2021. She holds a master's degree in public policy from the Carsey School of Public Policy at the University of New Hampshire. Wrightsman was selected for the Union Leader's 40 Under Forty list in 2020, and featured in New Hampshire Magazine's 2019 "It List," named a "10 to Watch" winner by Seacoast Media Group and Catapult Seacoast and named "Civic Leader of the Year" by Stay Work Play and NH Public Radio in 2018.