

# YANKEE PLANNER WINTER 2023

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## President’s Update

Meagan Tuttle, AICP



Happy New Year! As we start the year, our region has seen both record high and low temperatures—from continental US record-low [wind chill of -108 degrees](#) at the Mt. Washington Observatory, to temps [expected in the mid-50’s](#) on the southern coast of Maine recently. Vermont also got top billing in the CNU’s journal, Public Square, highlighting the positive impacts on zoning reform efforts from the state’s inaugural [Bylaw Modern Grant program](#), while unfortunately also moving into the top five of states with the [highest rates of homelessness](#). This sampling of news from our states in just the span of a week highlights the many interconnected issues we face in planning for and supporting our communities—and how we can experience both highs and lows, forward progress and worsening challenges in these efforts. I hope this year brings us all many opportunities to learn, iterate, and have an impact as we help our communities navigate these challenges in the ways that are unique to our region’s needs. And, I hope this Yankee Planner will provide you some insights and concrete ways to do so.

### Help us Identify New Members

There has been a lot of buzz in the Northern New England planning world about planners taking on new roles in recent months! Congrats and best of luck to all who are navigating career changes! For those of you that are in organizations that are looking to fill roles, remember that you can post jobs on our Chapter website for free: <https://nne.planning.org/career/jobs/>

If you're in an organization that has recently brought on a new planner, encourage them to join our Chapter or renew their membership through your organization. If you are an APA member that needs to update your Chapter membership, join NNECAPA through your MyAPA profile online. If you are not an APA member and want to join NNECAPA only, sign up anytime here:

<https://nne.planning.org/membership/renew/>

Remember—one membership gets you membership in both our tri-state Chapter and your state Section!

### **National Planning Conference 2023—in Philly and Online**

Registration for NPC in Philadelphia, PA is live! You again have the option to attend either in person or online; when you register for the in-person conference, you also get complimentary access to the virtual sessions a few weeks later. If you plan to attend in person, reach out to let us know you'll be in Philly!

The in-person conference will take place April 1-4 and the online conference will be April 26-28.

Find more information at: <https://www.planning.org/conference/>

### **APA Equity in Zoning Policy Guide**

In our fall newsletter, I shared that I'd be representing the Chapter as a delegate for the creation of the Zoning in Equity Guide for APA members. This guide was released just this week by APA.

The goal of the guide is to “identify specific ways in which the drafting, public engagement, application, mapping, and enforcement of zoning regulations can be changed to dismantle the barriers that perpetuate the separation of historically disadvantaged and vulnerable communities.” It provides recommendations in three areas:

- **What** the rules of zoning allow/prohibit/incentivize and what impact these have
- **Where** the rules apply and how they reduce or reinforce exclusion and segregation
- **Who** is involved in drafting rules, is notified/involved in procedures, and enforces rules

I encourage all members to take a look at this guide and think about how it can be used in your work. We look forward to helping you learn more about this at our Conference later this year.

<https://planning.org/publications/document/9264386/>

### **Volunteer to support an update to APA's Energy Policy Guide**

On a related note, we're in search of a volunteer who is interested in serving as our Chapter's policy delegate for this year's work. Delegates are appointed for a one-year period and support [APA's policy development](#) by participating in topical surveys, attending virtual meetings, submitting formal comments and weighing in on early drafts of policy guides, and voting on final guides. This year, delegates will support an update to the existing APA Energy Policy Guide, and be able to contribute to this critical component of APA's climate action advocacy.

Please reach out to me by February 28 if you're interested!



## 2023 Northern New England Planning Conference News

Nancy Kilbride, NNECAPA Administrator

The NNECAPA conference organizing committee is pleased to share that preparation is well underway for this year's conference scheduled for autumn. The three-day event will begin on Monday, November 6th and go through to Wednesday, November 8th and take place in New Castle, the easternmost town in New Hampshire. The picturesque Wentworth by the Sea, built in 1874, with its sweeping views of the Atlantic waters as a backdrop, and convenient proximity to Portsmouth, sets the stage as the conference location. Attendees can anticipate a full schedule of the same caliber of interactive, informative, and inspirational sessions that the NNECAPA conference is known for, and ample time to connect with other planners from the northern New England region.

### Call for Sessions

The Committee is soliciting session ideas in a way that allows you to let us know what you want to share with conference-goers, as well as what you would like to gain from the conference. Feel free to share general thoughts on session ideas with the Conference Committee without requiring a fully formed proposal (but those are okay too).

### Submit your Ideas

Send your ideas to the conference committee by **Friday, March 03, 2023**, using the link below. Remember, these do not have to be fully formed session proposals (but they can be). The Conference Committee will review the ideas and develop a program that provides a variety of options for attendees and incorporates feedback from previous conference surveys.

<https://forms.gle/Y9qL7XL93nTFFTZX8>

### Sponsorship Opportunities!

Each year the NNECAPA conference provides businesses and organizations with an opportunity to build on existing relationships with the planning community and establish new ones, reaching out across New England to promote their services. We expect to have up to 250 - 300 planners and related professionals from Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, as well as from Southern New England. We have three different [sponsor levels](#) which are very affordable and will provide you exposure. We have a limited number of vendor tables available.

[Become a Conference Sponsor](#)

For questions about the conference contact:

Natasha Kypfer, Conference Chair, [n.kypfer@dover.nh.gov](mailto:n.kypfer@dover.nh.gov)

Nancy Kilbride, NNECAPA Administrator at [eventsyourwaynh22@gmail.com](mailto:eventsyourwaynh22@gmail.com)

### CONFERENCE SPONSORS



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Shelburne, VT, Takes on a Zoning Rewrite

Aaron DeNamur, Planning Coordinator and Assistant Zoning Administrator, Town of Shelburne

The Town of Shelburne, VT has begun the long process of completely rewriting its land use regulations. The RFP for the work was sent out on the NNECAPA listserv on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and a consultant will be chosen by March 17<sup>th</sup>.

Shelburne has embarked on this journey in the confluence of a 'perfect storm'. There is wide support for the overhaul from the Selectboard, the Planning Commission, the Development Review Board, and residents of the Town. Along with this support, Vermont finds itself in the midst of an acute housing shortage; even the state legislature is considering serious action to address the issue. The Town has received a Bylaw Modernization Grant from the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development to assist with financing the project. In order to receive this funding, Shelburne must make changes to its bylaws that will enable increased development of more affordable housing.

In addition, it is widely accepted that Shelburne's bylaws are needlessly convoluted, not user friendly, contradictory, and generally onerous to understand and enforce. This is one of the main driving factors behind our significant motivation to see this work through. We want to see Shelburne adopt regulations that address the needs of the Town, advance the vision of the 2019 Shelburne Comprehensive Plan, and can be easily understood by residents, applicants, and Town staff.

We should want it to be simple for people to comply with the regulations and know what is allowed within our municipality. If the rules and the process/procedure are incredibly arcane all it does is frustrate people who simply want to understand the standards they'll be held to. In this era of increasing lack of trust in public officials and bureaucracy I think it's important we do what we can to make our work less of a black box for the public.

For those who are interested, I've provided a link to a news article wherein our town manager, Lee Krohn, was interviewed regarding the bylaw rewrite.

[https://www.vtcng.com/shelburnenews/news/local\\_news/shelburne-gets-bylaw-grant-to-create-diverse-housing/article\\_ee4b03f6-9d94-11ed-8b4f-6bdda6101fc8.html](https://www.vtcng.com/shelburnenews/news/local_news/shelburne-gets-bylaw-grant-to-create-diverse-housing/article_ee4b03f6-9d94-11ed-8b4f-6bdda6101fc8.html)

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## New Ruralism Update: Connecting with Rural America Placemaking Toolkit

Peg Elmer Hough  
NNECAPA Emeritus Planner

Remember the "New Ruralism Initiative", NNECAPA's project that was also funded by the Chapter President's Council and the Small Town and Rural Division of APA for much of the previous decade? If it's new to you, please see our webpage for background and the case studies:

<https://nne.planning.org/knowledge/new-ruralism/>

The New Ruralism "team" has been pretty quiet since the release of its 2020 "Lessons in New Ruralism" report. Lynne Seeley, one of the Mainers on our team, came across a reference to our project in a rural planning resource, the [Rural America Placemaking Toolkit](#), on the home page of the Community and Economic Development Initiative of the University of Kentucky. But...the attribution for the project was incorrectly given to the American Society of Landscape Architects! Lynne reached out to offer the correct reference and to share about the "New Ruralism Initiative" given the shared rural planning focus. We ended up having a great exchange with members of their team over a Zoom session shortly before Christmas.

Although better funded and staffed, via the University, than NNECAPA's project, their initiative has followed a similar path of seeking and describing successful case studies around the country, of unique and creative rural solutions. These projects, like those we sought out in New Ruralism, are generally driven by local volunteers, fundraising and leading unique approaches, rather than being drawn up to meet a federal funding source with its already set program criteria and requiring professional staff to get through implementation.

We agreed our work has much in common, and would benefit from building on our shared efforts to support rural planning. As a start, we each agreed to post links on our webpage to each others' initiatives, which vastly broadens the examples we can learn from. While those additions to NNECAPA's website are in progress, the folks at the University of Kentucky have already corrected their mistaken attribution and have us fully linked in on the background to their Rural Placemaking Guide. It's gratifying to see at: <https://www.ruralplacemaking.com/get-started-guide>. Check out their website! There's a host of resources for small communities on their site that NNECAPA planners may put to use.

We've been invited to propose a session at their annual gathering. Much of our team is retired, or soon to be, so please let us know if you're younger and enthused about joining us in maintaining the New Ruralism Initiative. Contact Tara Bamford at [TEBamford@gmail.com](mailto:TEBamford@gmail.com)

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## Convening on Communities Dealing with Climate Change Migration

Christa Daniels, Ph.D, AICP

The time is NOW to come together and begin to proactively plan for the in-migration and out-migration we are already experiencing due to direct and indirect climate impacts. Our goal is to include your input on how to plan for these migration changes in a socially just and equitable framework, This convening will be a culmination of the Northeast Safe and Thriving for All (NEST) project, funded by the NOAA

Climate Adaptation Partnerships, formerly RISA, program to convene stakeholders to create an upper northeast region that can become a climate refugia that is resilient, revitalized, and decarbonized.

This convening will kick-off in the early evening of May 16, 2023, with a Keynote Speaker in Keene New Hampshire.

Participants who attend can expect to:

- Learn how to begin proactive planning for climate migration for sending and receiving towns and cities;
- Develop knowledge of integrating equity into all climate migration work;
- Identify clear next steps for regional and local climate migration planning;
- Engage in peer-to-peer learning and networking;
- Establish a regional network of practitioners with a focus on climate migration in the northeast.

Registration will open February 1<sup>st</sup>. Don't miss your chance to join this conversation to ensure we have an equitable and climate resilient roadmap for the future of our region. Contact for more information at [cdaniels1@antioch.edu](mailto:cdaniels1@antioch.edu)

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## KVCOG Hosting a Planning Day March 2nd

Olivia Kunesh, Kennebec Valley Council of Governments

Kennebec Valley Council of Governments is hosting a *Planning Day* on Thursday, March 2nd on three hot button issues in their region.

They will be touching on sustainable waste management to create a long-term solution to the pending closure of the Hatch Hill landfill facility in Augusta, the current investigation of PFAS contamination in our region, and an overview of the new law known as LD 2003.

For more information or to register, email me at [okunesh@kvcog.org](mailto:okunesh@kvcog.org) or call 207-453-4258 x 222.

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## Spring AICP Certification Registration Coming Up!

Spring registration for the AICP exam is coming right up in April 2023. APA members can check out the AICP [Pre-Check Resources](#) to help prepare and assess readiness.



## Grapevine



- ✦ Jane Lafleur has retired after 42 years in city planning and community development work, mostly in Northern New England. She most recently served as Senior Director of Market Development at Community Heart & Soul. After spending the next 4 months traveling with her husband, she will decide what to do next, probably finding it hard to stay away from her passion for small cities and towns and their residents.
- ✦ Adi Philson has started working for Midcoast Regional Planning Commission
- ✦ Jesse Noone has started as a planner at the Northeastern Vermont Development Association in St. Johnsbury, VT. He hails from Oregon.
- ✦ Lee Krohn reports: "I am pleased to announce that the Shelburne, VT Planning & Zoning Office is once again fully staffed. In recent months, we have welcomed (back) Aaron DeNamur, serving as the Town's Planning Coordinator, and also hired Kit Luster as our DRB Coordinator. Ken Belliveau, retired Planning Director from Williston, VT, was instrumental at various times in helping each get up to speed and integrated into our municipal systems."
- ✦ Mark Lapping reports: "Tom Daniels (UPENN), Kyle McCarthy (UPENN) and I (USM) have had an article published which might be of interest to membership: "The Fragmenting Countryside and the Challenge of Retaining Agricultural Land: The Vermont Case," Society and Natural Resources, 36:1 (2023), 40-57."
- ✦ Anne Kreig, AICP, has been named the Director of Economic & Community Development for the City of Bangor, ME. She was previously a Planning Officer with the City.
- ✦ North Star Planning recently welcomed two new planners to the team: Logan Capone, who was previously an Urban Planner with Principle Group in Boston, and Kate Burch, who joined after working as the Assistant Planner for Topsham, ME.



## **JOBS AVAILABLE**

- ✦ The Kennebec Valley Council of Governments in Fairfield, ME, is hiring a Community/Resiliency Planner. For more information, check at <https://kvcog.org/about-us/employment-opportunities>.
- ✦ The Town of Gilford, NH, has a job opening for a Deputy Code Enforcement Officer. This is a part-time (20 hours per week), year-round position with no benefits. The starting pay is \$26.25/hour. Work hours are flexible (M-F). For more information, check at <https://www.gilfordnh.org/news-item/HELP-WANTED-Deputy-Code-Enforcement-Officer-Part-Time-1485>.

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