

New Hampshire Planners Association

Executive Committee Meeting

Friday March 7, 9:00 AM

NH Municipal Center– Concord

Conference Call line Call: 712-432-3011 Passcode: # 996799

Present: S. Marchant, M. Connors, M. Friedman, T. Corwin, P. Rigrod (called in), E. Wood (called in), B. Frost (called in)

Also: Donna Pohli, Town of Merrimack

1. Minutes:
2. Update Wild Apricot online management system -Frost noted that his focus over the last month had largely been in arrangements for the production of the Claudia Folksa video, and therefore he had not had time to make significant progress related to the Apricot operating system.
3. Spring Conference Update - The committee discussed several issues relating to NHPA's Annual Conference planned for June 5 and 6. Friedman introduced Merrimack assistant town planner Donna Pohli, who serves on the conference organizing group and has proven very helpful in planning the event. The committee discussed several logistical issues in the planning of the event including 'Save the Date' notifications, networking event preparations, track sessions, sponsorships and registrations.

There was some discussion regarding the location of the evening networking event and the appropriate level of transport necessary. There was additional discussion regarding walking tours in Durham and Dover as well as conference costs and the structure of the awards and keynote sessions.

4. Annual Awards, Nominations by NHPA Membership – Marchant noted that the deadline for NHPA awards had been extended to March 14. She underscored the importance of executive committee members continuing to engage planners and others for submissions. Marchant noted that the committee would review submissions from the State of Vermont at the April meeting.
Frost noted that Bob Marshall, a member of the Greenfield Planning Board who played a key role in the implementation of a Neighborhood Heritage District in that community, would make an excellent candidate for the Citizen Planner of the Year award.
5. Legislative Breakfast - Corwin noted that the joint NHRPC and NHPA legislative breakfast was slated for April 9 in the cafeteria of the State House. Marchant indicated that all of the state's

regional planning commissions and the planners association would have a presence at the event. Marchant noted that previously she and Saunders had represented NHPA at the event. She added that in the future it would be helpful to have a banner specific to the NH Planners Association to utilize for the event. She indicated that the current NHPA display resembles a high school science project. There was some discussion regarding the design of, and the timeline for producing, a new more professional banner to display at such events. There was a general agreement that the banner should be a priority for major events subsequent to this year's annual conference.

6. Housing Policy and Regulations Committee – Marchant provided a brief update related to progress in drafting a fact sheet relating to building and fire codes as they relate to affordable housing development in New Hampshire. She noted that she had spoken with officials in both building codes and fire codes and hoped to have a draft version of the fact sheet in the near future.
7. Film Update – Frost provided a brief update related to the video production of the Claudia Folksa video. There was some discussion regarding the nature of the production and ancillary topics that might be considered. Frost also indicated those he felt might be interested in serving on the production committee and sought feedback from executive committee members on their availability to serve.
8. Officer Updates

Legislative Liason: Corwin noted that a priority piece of legislation the committee had been monitoring, related to the dissolution of regional planning commissions and the election of municipal planning board members, had been defeated. He noted that HB 1371, related to the grading of roadways, had passed. NHPA had opposed the bill. He also noted that House Bill 1297, related to workforce housing grants, had been defeated. NHPA had also opposed that bill. He indicated that the Legislative Committee would meet in March to track the progress of additional legislation.

Newsletter: Friedman noted that she was working to package the newsletter together. She asked executive committee members to send her content at their earliest convenience.

Professional Development: Connors noted that eight people had reserved spaces in advance of the March 28 NHPA brown bag presentation focused on cottage style housing development. He indicated that he would like to organize a National Park Service canal boat tour in Lowell as a summer continuing education and networking event. Marchant noted that she felt that was appropriate as Lowell had recently implemented a form-based code in part of their downtown.

NNECAPA State Director: Walker noted that the NHPA book-club was scheduled to meet on March 9 to discuss the book 'The Devil in the White City' by Erik Larson. Walker also noted that Rigrod had provided an excellent presentation on water quality issues to officials and community

members in Windham the previous evening. She noted that the presentation would likely be helpful to other municipalities and indicated she would provide members with a link so that they could view video of the presentation.

Treasurers Report: Frost provided a brief update of the treasurer's report. He indicated that the association's finances had not changed significantly since the previous update.

Adjourn: Corwin moves to adjourn, Friedman seconds. All vote in favor.