



New Hampshire Planners Association

April 3, 2015 Meeting @ 9:15 a.m.

Meeting Location: NHMA, Triangle Park Drive, Concord, NH

Members present: Shanna Saunders, Sara Carbonneau, Sarah Marchant, Ben Frost, Scott Osgood, Donna Pohli, and Mark Connors. Meeting commenced at 9:15 a.m. Participating by phone: Pierce Rigrod and Elizabeth Wood. Jodie Levandowski also participated by phone.

1. **Minutes -**

Minutes from March 6, 2015 deferred.

2. **Spring Conference** – Save the date postcard will be going out soon. Also send the postcard to GSLA members (or distribute to them via email).

Need additional speakers for the medical marijuana session. Levandowski is following up with a call to see if the industry lobbyist would be willing to speak. Wood and Osgood stated that they may have contacts. Noted that Joe Gallagher is the registered lobbyist for New Futures.

Need additional panelist for branding session – Levandowski suggested Will Stewart. Stewart is now the head of the Derry-Londonderry Chamber of Commerce. Levandowski will reach out to Stewart.

Parking – Still working on parking options and validated parking pass.

GSLA has agreed to a session that includes a walking tour of Manchester.

Sponsorship – we need to deal with this right away.

Levandowski left the conference call.

3. **Awards** – VPA awards were discussed. Noted that the Citizen Board and Citizen Planner had only one nomination for each category. NHPA Executive Committee felt that the two nominees (South Burlington Development Review Board and Bob Buermann, respectively) were worthy of selection.

No nominees for Professional Planner.

Plan – ECV What We Want. NHPA Executive Committee recommended that the ECV - What We Want Plan be selected. Comments included the readability of the plan, use of graphics, and photographs. Very engaging.

Project – First choice of the NHPA Executive Committee was the Barnes Camp project. Felt that this project was very unique and not the typical planning project. Liked the incorporation of the historical elements in the project and the attention to reducing environmental impacts.

Second choice was the Circ Alternative Process – noted that this was a very successful effort incorporating many different stakeholders.

NHPA awards were discussed. There were no nominations for professional planner or citizen planner. Frost suggested that the Executive Committee make its own nominations. Upon vote, decided that we would nominate Neil Faiman (from Wilton) as the citizen planner and Cliff Sinnott (Rockingham RPC) as professional planner. Frost will work on getting the applications together with help from others. Will vote on the applications via email. Want to present the citizen planner award at the NH OEP Spring Conference. Saunders will get the awards made.

Lifetime Achievement Award – Suggest Jeff Taylor. Noted that there are no restrictions (i.e., membership in NHPA) for this award. Saunders will shepherd this nomination along. Frost noted that Taylor is very ill.

4. **HB 2 – Budget Trailer Bill.** Executive Committee members discussed concerns regarding HB 2 prior to being joined by representatives from NH OEP. Connors stated that he would need to recuse himself from any vote on this issue. Later joined by Meredith Hatfield and Jennifer Gilbert from OEP and Rick Sawyer from the NHPA Legislative Policy Committee (LPC). Nancy Johnson – NHPA lobbyist was on the phone. It was noted that the LPC sought to present an amendment to HB 2 to create a study commission to review the functions and duties of OEP – specifically geared to planning in NH. Sawyer noted that no one wanted to sign on to this proposed amendment at the House level. The proposed amendment was aimed at curtailing most of the proposed changes to OEP, and instead create a legislative study commission that would be charged with examining the role of a state planning office.

Executive Committee members felt that much planning work has been accomplished recently with the Granite State Futures project and it would be a shame if this work did not move forward. The Granite State Futures project is a substantial building block to updating the state development plan. Noted that the state development plan is due to be updated by this fall. Concern was expressed that if the development plan is eliminated with HB 2, it will never come back. Saunders asked if an extension could be granted and if a collaborative effort be established between OEP and some other entity (perhaps UNH?).

Hatfield stated that the OEP budget submissions were developed to retain those items that are funded and to eliminate those items that have not been funded over the years. Essentially, to align the duties of OEP with the available resources.

Frost stated that our efforts need to be directed at the Senate level at this time – the best hope is to create a study commission and (hopefully) retain the functions/duties proposed to be eliminated in HB 2.

Concerns were expressed about the State Data Center – Hatfield stated that the proposed movement of this position to the Department of Employment Security – ELMI makes sense, as similar functions take place there. However, Executive Committee members noted that Employment Security is not municipally focused. Hatfield stated that if the State Data Center moves to Employment Security, OEP would likely enter into an MOU regarding services.

It was noted that the OEP budget hearing is scheduled for April 10th. Need to have representation from NHPA at this hearing. Chris Parker from Dover was willing to testify at the hearing. Other potential people to testify at the hearing – Mark Tardiff and/or Cliff Sinnott.

It was also suggested that a meeting be scheduled with Senator D’Allesandro and asked lobbyist Johnson to arrange the same. It was noted that the Governor’s office has not been approached regarding the proposed amendment to establish a study commission.

Frost agreed to re-work the NHPA proposed amendment to HB 2, based on comments from today’s meeting. Hatfield expressed appreciation at the concern and efforts undertaken by NHPA with respect to HB 2.

5. **NHQBS.org** – Osgood asked that this item be deferred to the next meeting.
6. **New NHPA Logo** – Frost suggested that any logo contest should involve the NH Institute of Art. Decided that it would be open to anyone interested in submitting a logo. Noted that this is not a slogan contest. Pohli stated that she would promote the contest – parameters include 4 color logo, black and white logo, and the words “NH Planners Association.” All submissions become the property of the NH Planners Association. Decided to offer a \$100.00 VISA gift card to the winning submission.

7. **Strategic Plan** – Draft revisions have been made to the plan. Saunders noted that a small group should look at the sustainability section. Rigrod and Osgood offered to assist. It was noted that Jen Czycz had prepared a spreadsheet, updating it monthly – noting what had been accomplished, and what was pending. Saunders stated that she would update the spreadsheet and Osgood stated that he would attempt to put the action items in a scheduling program.
8. **In Blind Sight** – Frost stated that the premiere has been tentatively scheduled for June 10th at 3 p.m. at the Red River Theatre in Concord. Frost noted that we are looking at getting additional sponsors to cover the cost of the venue and light refreshments. Frost stated that he is interested in getting Randy Pierce to speak at the screening. Frost also stated that it will be shown at the Region 1 conference in Saratoga (Wednesday evening) – with Claudia Folska being present.
9. **Officer Updates** –
 - Professional Development Update (Connors)* – Really Fast Planning Talks was very successful. Will plan on doing again. Planning a brown bag lunch in mid to late June. Rigrod suggested environmental topic(s). Connors stated that he would also like to do another “Lowell type” event – maybe looking at the redevelopment in Newmarket, NH. Location of brown bags was discussed – felt that Concord (NHMA) was the best location and noted that the venue was free.
 - NNECAPA Legislative Liaison (Marchant)* – Noted that the NNECPA conference is scheduled for October 1 and 2nd in Portland, Maine. The Portland Art Walk is scheduled for October 2nd. Request for session proposals has gone out – the deadline will likely be extended past April 8th. Also noted that APA is forming a new interest group on complete streets. Frost stated that NNECAPA is seeking nominations for FAICP members. Frost stated that this is a very intensive nomination process – minimum qualification is that the individual must have been an AICP member for 15 years. Nomination deadline is November.
 - Public Information Officer (Pohli)* – Website is close to being launched. Noted that the domain name needs to be transferred – Frost stated that he had the information to do so. What is next for support services – suggested speaking with NHMA again to see what they have to offer – Frost will contact Judy Silva and invite her to the May meeting.
 - Legislative Liaison* – Reminder that the Legislaive Breakfast is scheduled for April 15th. Executive Committee members interested in attending should contact Corwin.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Sara Carbonneau, Secretary