

**NORTH COUNTRY
COUNCIL
PLANNING
REGION
COMMUNITIES**

- Albany
- Bath
- Benton
- Bartlett
- Berlin
- Bethlehem
- Campton
- Carroll
- Chatham
- Clarksville
- Colebrook
- Columbia
- Conway
- Dalton
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- Eaton
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- Gorham
- Groton
- Harts Location
- Haverhill
- Jackson
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- Lancaster
- Landaff
- Lincoln
- Lisbon
- Littleton
- Lyman
- Madison
- Milan
- Monroe
- Northumberland
- Pittsburg
- Plymouth
- Randolph
- Rumney
- Shelburne
- Stark
- Stewartstown
- Stratford
- Sugar Hill
- Thornton
- Warren
- Waterville Valley
- Wentworth
- Whitefield
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Bethlehem, NH 03574

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*****Local Conservationist Honored*****

Dick Mallion of Whitefield was recently honored with the Environmental Protection Agency's 2008 Environmental Merit Award for Lifetime Achievement. Mallion's current civic and conservation activities include chairing the Whitefield Conservation Commission as well as the Board of Trustees of the Nature Conservancy of New Hampshire among others. Congratulations Dick!

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS...**

An up-to-date listing of meetings and events is available on our website at www.nccouncil.org

June 24, 2008, **NCC Quarterly Meeting**, 5:30-7:00 p.m., Red Barn, Rocks Estate.

June 25, 2008, **NCC Board Meeting**, 3-5 p.m., NCC Offices.

July 2, 2008, **CEDS Meeting**, 2-4 p.m., NCC Offices.

July 24, 2008, **CPTNC Meeting**, 12-2:00 p.m., NCC Offices.

August 27, 2008, **NCC Board Meeting**, 3-5 p.m., NCC Offices.

September 17, 2008, **Transportation Advisory Committee**, 3-5 p.m., NCC Offices.

September 24, 2008, **NCC Board Meeting**, 3-5 p.m., NCC Offices.

October, 2008, **NCC Annual Meeting**, date to be advised.

DID YOU KNOW?

OUR NEWSLETTER IS NOW
AVAILABLE VIA OUR
WEBSITE

WWW.NCCOUNCIL.ORG



North Country Council
Regional Planning Commission

POINTS NORTH

A Regional Report From The North Country Council

North Country Council, 107 Glessner Road, Bethlehem, NH 03574

June 2008

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CDFA Awards \$20,000 to NCC for Grant Writing and Technical Assistance

Article by: Pat Garvin

The NH Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) has awarded a one-year grant to NCC to assist with grant writing and technical assistance activities in support of the strategic recommendations of the Northern Forest Sustainable Economy Initiative (SEI) and specific actions identified in the Coos 5-Year Economic Action Plan (EAP). NCC will help identify project development needs, including implementation partners and financial needs, in each of the main industry areas identified in the SEI and EAP. These include forest products, tourism, energy, the creative economy and

healthcare. A previous grant from the CDFA allowed NCC to provide similar grantwriting and technical assistance to municipalities and nonprofit organizations in the North Country. Over the past two years, NCC assisted ten communities and five nonprofits in applying for grant funding. Applications were as varied as assistance to firefighters, watershed restoration/water quality planning, capacity building and cemetery restoration. Twenty-two applications were made on behalf of regional efforts, such as broadband access, numerous eco-

economic development projects and brownfields assessment. Funding sources included the Dept. of Commerce/Economic Development Administration, US Dept. of Agriculture-Rural Development, Homeland Security, US Environmental Protection Agency and state sources such as LCHIP, DRED and CDBG. Foundation funding sources included the NH Charitable Foundation, the Tillotson Foundation, the Upper CT River Fund and the Corporate Fund. The value of grants awarded over the past two years was nearly \$3.4 million, with another \$2 million in grants pending.

Littleton Food Co-op CDBG Application Approved

Article By: Pat Garvin

After receiving approval for a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the Littleton Food Co-op is poised to begin construction on a 13,505 sq. ft. grocery store at the intersection of Rt. 302 and Cottage St. in Littleton. The Co-op will create 35 full-time and 22 half-time jobs.

full-time equivalent jobs will be created in the local economy to produce these food products for sale at the Co-op. The Co-op will encourage local production by providing mentoring and in-store opportunities to test market new products. It will dedicate shelf space and promote goods produced by local bakers, agricultural growers, cheese makers etc. To the extent that local producers get their start at the Co-op, they can then sell elsewhere too.

The Food Co-op will benefit the community not only in jobs but reduced food costs. A study reported in the local newspaper determined that a family in Littleton pays \$1,200 a year more for food than a family in Plymouth. The Co-op was formed specifically to address the community's need for fairly priced food.



Planning For Floods—Is Your Community Adequately Protected From Flooding By The National Flood Insurance Program?

Article By: NCC Planning Staff

Is your community adequately protected from flooding by the National Flood Insurance Program?

Not really. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is an insurance program. In return for residents' eligibility for flood insurance, the community adopts regulations requiring flood-proofing or elevating buildings above the flood level that has a 1 in a 100 chance of occurring each year (a level that has been exceeded by flood events in New Hampshire in recent years). The NFIP is not intended to keep the public safe from floods, but to reduce flood damage by putting some parameters on floodplain development in exchange for affordable insurance. The NFIP does nothing to address the safety of rescue workers attempting to

reach stranded residents, or to prevent the filling in of one area of the floodplain that may contribute to increased flooding somewhere else. In addition, the NFIP requirements apply only to areas mapped by FEMA from modeled 100 year flood levels, yet floodwaters often behave in unexpected ways, such as when ice dams occur, or when heavy rains run off the frozen winter landscape.

Better protection for your community is provided by "NO Adverse Impact" floodplain regulations. The Association of State Floodplain Managers defines "No Adverse Impact" floodplain management as preventing the actions of one property owner which may adversely impact the rights of other property owners, as measured by increased flood flows,

peaks and velocity, erosion and sedimentation, degradation of water quality, or increased cost of public services.

FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS) program provides an incentive to communities which go beyond the minimum NFIP requirements. Through the Community Rating System program materials, FEMA provides information on a number of approaches communities can take to further reduce damage from flooding and protect the functions of the floodplain. The CRS program encourages conservation of floodplain areas as open space, higher regulatory standards for construction, public education, development of better flood data and flood preparedness. As an incentive for incorporating some of these approaches into the community's floodplain management, FEMA reduces

flood insurance rates for policyholders in participating communities.

Some experts predict that climate changes will cause an increase in severe and unpredictable weather. Because of this, planning for floodplain management is becoming more and more important for towns. For information on tools available to better protect your community from flooding, contact Tara Bamford at tbamford@nccouncil.org or 603-444-6303.



Historic Preservation Workshop Presented

Article by: Pat Garvin

Maggie Stier, who works jointly for the NH Preservation Alliance and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, presented a workshop on tools and techniques for historic preservation at NCC's quarterly representatives meeting on May 28.

Ms. Stier has a wealth of information about historic preservation, and can provide one-on-one coaching, technical assistance and preservation advice to communities.

For more information about the services she can provide, visit the following website: www.nhpreservation.org. The resource tab contains information about services, grants and useful publications.



Planning Issue Have Your Board Boggled? Call NCC Planners!

Article by: NCC Planning Staff

Have a tough topic that's got your board bogged down by differing opinions of what to do? Are you a member town of North Country Council? Looking for a neutral third party's view? NCC provides FREE technical assistance to participating communities – we're only a phone call away! No need to waste precious meeting time wondering what the right process is or how other towns have handled the same issue. Getting answers is as easy as

picking up the phone or firing off an email to:

William Rose, Senior Planner 444-6303 x12 or wrose@nccouncil.org

Tara Bamford, Planning Director 444-6303 x20 or tbamford@nccouncil.org

If we don't have the answer, we'll help you find it.

Transportation Program Updates

Article by: NCC Planning Staff

NCC was recently awarded funding to expand and update the **Regional Coordinated Transit Plan** for the North Country (first written in 2006.) NCC will be working with the communities, providers and other stakeholders in the region to identify the organizations providing public transit services, including human service agencies and community-based volunteer groups; services offered, needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults and people with lower incomes; and gaps between needs and services. NCC will be hosting 5 community planning meetings throughout the region and public input will be a key factor in creating a document that will be useful to both users and pro-

viders. For more information contact Mary Deppe, NCC Transportation Planner at 603-444-6303 or mdeppe@nccouncil.org.

Following a presentation to the NCC Transportation Advisory Committee by NHDOT's John Corrigan, three North Country towns applied for funding in the recent **Safe Routes to School** application round. NCC staff assisted the Town of Jackson with an application for start-up funding and the Town of Franconia with infrastructure funding for a sidewalk project. In addition, the Town of Plymouth also applied for infrastructure funding for a sidewalk project. NHDOT expects to open another round of funding in the fall of 2008. For more information on this

assistance available to towns to encourage safe walking and biking to and from school, contact John Corrigan at NHDOT at 603-271-1980 or jcorri@dot.state.nh.us, or Mary Deppe at 603-444-6303 or mdeppe@nccouncil.org. Also see www.nh.gov/dot/bureaus/planning/SRTS_home.htm.

NCC recently submitted an application to the NHDOT to fund a **US Route 3 Corridor Study** from Whitefield to Stratford. If funding is awarded, NCC intends to conduct a collaborative planning process to ensure that the transportation system will support successful economic development initiatives. The intended approach will include a strong emphasis on public participation, education and consensus building, as well as data collection and analysis. The recom-

mendations will focus on traffic calming, access management and reduction in conflicts between through-traffic and main street businesses. A number of public meetings will be held in the region as public involvement will be critical in the success of this project.

Check the NCC Events Calendar regularly at <http://www.nccouncil.org/calendar/month.php> for upcoming meetings of the Scenic Byway Council and Transportation Advisory Committee. NHDOT Commissioner George Campbell has been invited to attend an upcoming meeting to exchange ideas on the needs of the North Country.

Community Planning Updates

Article By: NCC Planning Staff

NCC staff has recently completed a draft baseline **build-out analysis for the Easton Planning Board**. The study was requested to assist with evaluating the development potential of the town under existing zoning. The results will provide a foundation for the Planning Board to develop recommended changes to development regulations and policies in Easton as part of the anticipated Master Plan update process. A public meeting to present and discuss the results is planned for early this summer.

If your town is interested in gaining an understanding

of the potential maximum units possible under current zoning as well as an understanding of what the impacts of population increases and new roads could be - or would just like additional information on build-outs in general, please contact Tara Bamford, NCC Planning Director at 444-6303 or tbamford@nccouncil.org, or William Rose, NCC Senior Planner at 444-6303 x12 or wrose@nccouncil.org.

Work continues on the development of **Capital Improvement Plans** (CIPs) in the towns of Carroll and Colebrook, while a start later this summer on a CIP for Whitefield is anticipated.

These towns have chosen the involved but highly rewarding path to better fiscal understanding in these increasingly difficult economic times.

CIPs provide communities the opportunity to understand current fiscal realities for municipalities, as well as allowing for improved forecasting of future costs, obligations – and opportunities to fund them. If your town is interested in finding out more about how NCC can help develop a CIP, please contact William Rose, NCC Senior Planner at 444-6303 x12 or via email at wrose@nccouncil.org.

Interested area residents, board members and other local leaders gathered in Sugar Hill on

April 24 and 25 for the **North Country Conservation Initiative**. The event was organized by participants from the Ammonoosuc Conservation trust, Arts Alliance of Northern NH, Plymouth State University and others. Facilitator Jay Connor led the brainstorming sessions focused on intercommunity collaboration aimed at sustaining the special features of the area while encouraging the growth of livable-wage employment opportunities. NCC will be continuing to provide guidance and assistance with next steps. For more information, contact Tara Bamford, NCC Planning Director at 444-6303, or tbamford@nccouncil.org.