

**NORTH COUNTRY
COUNCIL
PLANNING
REGION
COMMUNITIES**

Albany
Bath
Benton
Bartlett
Berlin
Bethlehem
Campton
Carroll
Chatham
Clarksville
Colebrook
Columbia
Conway
Dalton
Dummer
Easton
Eaton
Ellsworth
Errol
Franconia
Gorham
Groton
Harts Location
Haverhill
Jackson
Jefferson
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
Woodstock

North Country Council, Inc.
107 Glessner Rd.
Bethlehem, NH 03574

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MAILED FROM
ZIP CODE 03574
PERMIT NO. 3



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

September 2008

Phone (603) 444-6303

Fax (603) 444-7588

E-mail: nccinc@nccouncil.org

Website: www.nccouncil.org

Inside This Issue

<i>Around the NCC Region</i>	
• Bills Affecting NH Planning Boards	2
• Tri-County Cap, North Country Transit	3
• Executive Director's Report	3
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	4

Michael King
Executive Director
mking@nccouncil.org Ext. 11

Jeffrey Hayes
Assistant Director
jhayes@nccouncil.org Ext. 22

Tara Bamford
Planning Director
tbamford@nccouncil.org Ext. 20

Stephen Mengel
Controller
smengel@nccouncil.org Ext. 17

Mary Deppe
Transportation Planner
mdeppe@nccouncil.org Ext. 24

June Garneau
GIS Planner
jgarneau@nccouncil.org Ext. 13

Patricia Garvin
Sr. Economic Devel. Planner
pgarvin@nccouncil.org Ext. 25

Karen Malkiewicz
Office Manager
kmalkiewicz@nccouncil.org Ext. 10

Michelle Moren
Planning Assistant
mmoren@nccouncil.org Ext. 14

William Rose
Senior Planner
wrose@nccouncil.org Ext. 12

James Steele
Solid Waste Planner
jsteele@nccouncil.org Ext. 15

North Country Council Receives National Association of Development Organization's 2008 Innovation Award

WASHINGTON, DC – The North Country Council in Bethlehem, New Hampshire received a 2008 Innovation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for its Coos County Economic Action Plan.

NADO is a Washington, DC-based association that promotes programs and policies that strengthen local governments, communities and economies through regional cooperation, program delivery and comprehensive strategies. The association's Innovation Awards program recognizes regional development organizations and partnering organizations for improving the economic and com-

munity competitiveness of our nation's regions and local communities. Award winners will be showcased during NADO's 2008 Annual Training Conference, October 3-7 in Anchorage, Alaska.

"For more than 20 years, NADO's Innovation Awards Program has provided a unique opportunity to showcase thousands of creative and cutting-edge projects like Coos County Economic Action Plan, which have been integral in preserving and advancing the economic growth and sustainability of our nation's regions. This recognition only further emphasizes the continued need for regional development organizations and their critical role in promoting

economic development for the country's rural and small metropolitan communities," said NADO President Leanne Mazer, executive director of the Tri-County Council for Western MD in Cumberland, Maryland.

Founded in 1967, the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) provides advocacy, education, networking and research for the national network of 540 regional development organizations. NADO members provide professional, programmatic and technical assistance to over 2,300 counties and 15,000 municipalities.

NCC Welcomes New Controller



North Country Council is pleased to welcome Stephen Mengel to our staff as our new controller. Stephen has

been in the accounting field for the past 18 years and brings with him a wealth of experience in financial controls and financial management. He will take over all of the financial and accounting day to day activities

as well as provide strategic financial direction for the Council. Stephen has a Bachelors Degree in Accounting from Fort Lauderdale University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He currently resides in Derby, Vermont. Please join us in welcoming Steve to the North Country Council. We are all looking forward to his help and direction.

NCC Annual Meeting October 9, 2008

North Country Council will hold its 35th Annual Meeting on October 9, 2008 at the Common Man Inn, Plymouth, New Hampshire from 4:30—9:00 p.m. Governor Lynch and NHDOT Commission George Campbell have been invited. If you have not received your invitation and would like to attend, please contact Karen Malkiewicz at (603) 444-6303

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS...

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

October 1, 2008, **Ammonoosuc Local Advisory Committee**, 4-6 p.m., NCC Offices

October 9, 2008, **NCC Annual Meeting**, 4:30-9 p.m. Common Man Inn, Plymouth, NH

October 15, 2008 **Business Resource Team (BRT) Meeting**, 12-2 p.m., NCC Offices

November 5, 2008, **CEDS Meeting**, 2-4 p.m., NCC Offices

November 5, 2008, **Ammonoosuc Local Advisory Committee**, 4-6 p.m., NCC Offices

November 26, 2008, **NCC Board Meeting**, 3-5 p.m., NCC Offices.

December 3, 2008, **Ammonoosuc Local Advisory Committee**, 4-6 p.m., NCC Offices

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

December 18, 2008 **CPTNC Meeting**, 12-2 p.m., NCC Offices.

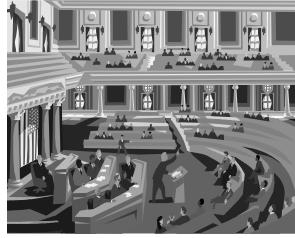
DID YOU KNOW?

OUR NEWSLETTER IS NOW
AVAILABLE VIA OUR
WEBSITE

WWW.NCCOUNCIL.ORG

Bills Affecting New Hampshire Planning Boards

Article By: NCC Planning Staff



Several bills affecting New Hampshire planning boards were passed in the 2008 Legislative session.

SB 342 Establishes a mechanism to expedite relief from municipal actions which deny, impede, or delay qualified proposals for workforce housing.

This is a complex bill and should be studied in its entirety by all planning boards to ensure your community is in compliance and to incorporate the required procedures into your rules and regulations. Some of the highlights:

Municipalities with land use ordinances and regulations must provide "reasonable and realistic opportunities for the development of workforce housing, including rental multifamily housing."

"Workforce housing" is defined as owner occupied units affordable to households with no more than 100% of the area median income and rental units affordable to households with no more than 60% of the median.

"Multi-family housing" is defined for this purpose only as 5 or more dwelling units in a

building.

Workforce housing must be allowed in a majority of the residentially-zoned land in the municipality.

A municipality's existing housing stock" relative to its regional fair share "shall be taken into consideration in determining its compliance..."

Applicants must file a written statement of their intent to have their development qualify as workforce housing with the application in order to qualify for the new special considerations.

Planning boards are given an opportunity to review and amend their decision after receiving information from the applicant on the cost of complying with the proposed conditions and restrictions and their effect on the economic viability of the project.

Successful appeals will result in approval to construct the proposed development.

Municipalities have only until July 1, 2009 to make sure that local zoning is in compliance with this bill. NCC members should feel free to contact Planning Director Tara Bamford at 444-6303 or tbamford@nccouncil for assistance determining what changes may be needed in your community. Also look for upcoming workshops on what SB 342 means for North Country communities.

HB 331 Enables time limits on design review.

In 2006, RSA 676:12, VI was amended to exempt subdivisions zoning amendments that were noticed after the public notice of the design review phase of the subdivision, "provided that a formal application is filed with the planning board within 12 months of the end of the design review process." This underlined the importance of having adequate information from the applicant for the board's review and discussion of the preliminary plans before scheduling and posting the beginning of the design review phase, but left many communities wondering how to determine when the design review process had "ended." In many cases several iterations of the plans are submitted and discussed as issues are resolved prior to the final submission. Several months can pass between these meetings as applicants obtain additional information. Plans can sometimes be in the design review phase more than a year. HB 331, effective August 19, 2008 enables planning boards to "establish reasonable rules of procedure relating to the design review process, including submission requirements. At a public meeting, the board may determine that the design review process of an application has ended and shall inform the applicant in writing within 10 days of such determination."

"Except in an emergency, a quorum... shall be physically present at the location specified in the meeting notice as the location of the meeting." This determination is made by the chairman or other presiding officer and needs to be explained in the minutes.

HB 1408 Clarifies how right-to-know law applies to electronic records and communications. Highlights:

A meeting includes "telephone or electronic communication" among a majority or a quorum of members (the lesser of the two if a quorum is different than a majority) of a board to discuss the business of the board. This means that meetings can not take place by phone or electronic communication unless there is a mechanism to have such meeting open to the public. Exception is made for using email to circulate "draft documents which, when finalized, are intended only to formalize decisions previously made in a meeting..."

A board may if it so chooses allow a member to participate by electronic or other means of participation "only when such [physical] attendance is not reasonably practical." The reason needs to be stated in the minutes.

"Each part of a meeting required to be open to the public shall be audible or otherwise discernable to the public at the location specified in the meeting notice... Each member participating electronically or otherwise must be able to simultaneously

(Continued on page 3)

Bills Affecting NH Planning Boards

(Continued from page 2)

hear each other and speak to each other during the meeting, and shall be audible or otherwise discernable to the public in attendance at the meeting's location." In other words, boards can not discuss board business by email.

All votes taken during a meeting in which a participant was not physically present must be by roll call votes.

"Communications outside a meeting, including, but not limited to, sequential communications among members of a public body, shall not be used to circumvent the spirit and purpose of this chapter..."

The amendments were effective July, 2008 and also include clarifications regarding public records. To

read the full text of this and other bills go to www.gencourt.state.nh.us/ie/. For highlights of other bills important to towns go to www.nhplanners.org and www.nhmunicipal.org/LGCWebSite/Advocacy/Bulletins/Final_Bulletin_8-2008.pdf.

No on-line access or slow dial-up? Planning board members from NCC member communities can contact Tara Bamford at 444-6303 for free copies of bills of interest.



Tri-County Cap, North Country Transit

Article by: Beverly Raymond

Tri County CAP, North Country Transit has had a busy spring and summer. Some exciting things are happening such as:

A one year grant award from the Endowment for Health for \$71,550 to hire a Project Manager for the Carroll County Transit Project. Approximately two years ago this project began with the award of a grant from Community Transportation Association of America with USDA funds for a feasibility study. Outcomes from the study were the establish-

ment of an advisory committee, a preferred service plan including three dial a ride areas (Moultonborough, North Conway, and Ossipee) and two busses that would operate from Wolfboro to West Ossipee and from North Conway to West Ossipee deviating ¼ mile off route to accommodate riders. These busses would meet in West Ossipee where riders could transfer. The Project Manager will be located in the CAP Resource building in Tamworth, he/she will be a resident of Carroll County, and the primary duties will include market-

We would like to thank all of you for your support of the North Country Council this past year. We have made a number of positive changes and completed a number of projects throughout the region. Once again, we reaffirmed the Council's commitment to serve community and regional needs.

Over the past year, we have continued to deliver planning services throughout the region as you will see in this report. We have and we will continue to adjust our capacities to respond to the needs of the communities and you will see this in the programs that we will be introducing in the coming years. We continued our strong relationship with the Department of Commerce and the Economic Development Administration (EDA) in bringing funding and project development to the region. We applied for and received two very

significant grants from EDA for the Coos Economic Action Plan and a second grant to implement the plan. We also are concluding the Sustainable Economic Initiative that we have been overseeing with the Northern Forest Center. These are major economic planning efforts in which we will bring over two million dollars into the region for economic development activity. We continue to promote our Community Outreach program targeted at helping our planning boards in the difficult tasks of managing the planning activities in their communities. These programs, as well as all the traditional programs in master planning, solid waste management, grant writing, natural resource planning, Brownfields Assessments and transportation planning, will continue to be the focus of North Country Council.

ing and seeking funding for the capital purchases and operations. The grant is to begin October 1, 2008. Resumes are being accepted until August 27th with hiring to be done within the first two weeks of September.

North Country Transit is also awaiting two new 9 passenger wheelchair accessible vehicles for their Coös County service area. These new vehicles will sport a new look! They will be blue in color with a white stripe. Past vehicles were white with a blue stripe. The "new look" is to help people distinguish public transit vehicles

from other agencies having similar looking vehicles. The intention is for people to see us as a "user friendly" system serving the general public of all ages.

If anyone would like more information on North Country Transit and the services it provides visit our website at www.tccap.org go to programs then transportation. If you would like to sign up to receive the NCT Newsletter email braymond@tccap.org.

