

***Vibrant Villages in New Hampshire:  
The role of community design in economic growth and development***

Thursday and Friday, October 26 and 27, 2017  
At the Rivermill, Dover NH

***Agenda revised October 13, 2017***

**DAY ONE: Thursday, October 26**

- 10:30 – 12:00    **OPTIONAL walking tour** of Dover (start at Rivermill.) Led by Christopher Parker, AICP, Assistant City Manager: Director of Planning and Strategic Initiatives for the City of Dover. *Participants to have lunch on their own in Dover.*
- 1:00                Registration and networking
- 1:30                Welcome and introductions
- 1:45 – 2:30        **The Dover Story: it did not happen overnight.** Christopher Parker, AICP, Assistant City Manager: Director of Planning and Strategic Initiatives for the City, will talk about technical and other challenges the City has had to address in order for growth and change to happen. Attendees will learn about the governance side of creating livable, appealing towns and neighborhoods.
- 2:30 – 3:45        **Making the case for NH’s quality of life as an economic development strategy.** Businesses *and* employees want a vibrant community in which to live and work. This talk will present ideas and research that show that quality of life characteristics are linked to economic prosperity and that community placemaking has a significant role in economic development. We will discuss using design to enhance *quality of life* – a key factor in business retention, expansion and attraction. (Molly Donovan – UNH Cooperative Extension)
- 3:45 – 4:00        BREAK
- 4:00 – 4:45        **Quality of Life matters – and the numbers support it.** Economist Brian Gottlob will reveal, through numbers, the effects of Quality of Life components in economic terms. Attendees will hear hard positive data about how paying attention to quality of life components can pay off.
- 4:45 – 5:00        small group discussions
- 5:00 – 6:00        Reception (cash bar)
- 6:00                Optional dinner (on-your-own) and socializing across the street at 7<sup>th</sup> Settlement

**DAY TWO: Friday, October 27**

- 8:00                Registration and breakfast
- 8:30                Welcome
- 8:40 – 10:10      **Eight Assets for Communities to Grow and Strengthen for Economic Prosperity.** Based on a recent report for the Michigan Municipal League by Public Sector Consultants, this interactive workshop will continue the discussion begun by Molly Donovan on Thursday. It will review a list of investments in eight areas that communities of any size might consider to help their communities grow and prosper – many of which do not necessarily require more funds, but changes in regulations or policies, or even design requirements. (Shanna Draheim, Michigan Municipal League)
- 10:10 – 10:20    BREAK

- 10:20 – 11:00 **Why We Chose Dover.** This PANEL discussion will include remarks from a current business owner and a resident about what characteristics of Dover made them say “this is the place for me to put down roots”. We will also hear from the Greater Dover Chamber – what do people ask about when they stop in?  
Moderated by Robin LeBlanc of Plan NH, panelists include
- Dave Boynton, owner of the successful 7<sup>th</sup> Settlement, a community-supported brew pub in Dover
  - John Lorden, civil engineer at TF Moran, who chose Dover several years ago to purchase property and has stayed to raise his family
  - tbd
  - Katie MacKinnon, VP, Membership Engagement, Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce
- 11:00 – 11:15 Small Group discussions
- 11:15 – 12:00 **Access Portsmouth.** *Access Portsmouth* is a website (and app in development) that welcomes mobility -impaired visitors, their families and friends to all that historic downtown Portsmouth offers, taking the mystery out of parking, finding accessible restaurants, bars, coffee shops and entertainment venues. It even recommends a wheel-friendly loop around town to take in the sites. Program developers Todd Hanson and Anne Weidman found businesses and attractions want to be included because they care AND they are realizing the economic benefits as well. Attendees will have a new understanding of the importance of accessibility and its social and economic impacts.
- 12:00 – 1:00 Lunch and networking
- 1:00 –1:45 **Leveraging historic assets for local economic activity.** Using recent examples of historic landmark revitalizations and community preservation planning, participants will learn key economic principles of historic preservation. Discussion will reinforce concepts learned earlier in the conference, and suggest practical strategies for NH communities. (Jennifer Goodman, NH Preservation Alliance)
- 1:45-2:00 small group discussions
- 2:00-2:40 **The new NH Department of Business and Economic Affairs.** The NH Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) is undergoing an ambitious reorganization, becoming the NH Department of Business and Economic Affairs (BEA). We will hear how the re-org is shaking out, what some of the goals are of the new Governor and this organization, and some of the strategies being considered to achieve them. (Mark Laliberte, NH BEA)
- 2:40 Wrap up
- 3:00 Depart

*Plan NH wishes to thank the presenters who have agreed to contribute their wisdom and talent to this important conference, as well as the City of Dover and the GreaterDover Chamber of Commerce for their support and partnerships to make this possible.*