



On June 28 and 29, Plan NH will be conducting a community design charrette in the City of Manchester.

Our client will be Families in Transition/New Horizons (FIT/NH), with full blessings and participation of the City of Manchester. FIT/NH have invited us to look at the city block, at 199 Manchester Street, that is the site of a shelter for people without a place to live and for those who might be addicted to drugs or alcohol. (Other programs are also provided there.) The site is visually less than attractive, and the surrounding neighborhood, except for some bright spots, feels as lackluster as the site.

The goal of the charrette is to develop recommendations for making the site appealing and welcoming and perhaps even efficient, as well as recommendations for improvement for the immediate neighborhood.

This will be a different charrette, with a different population to serve. We believe that we, as a team, will be able to make a real difference – for the people who use the services at the site and for the people who work there, as well as the people who live and work in the neighborhood.

As you may know, a *charrette* is a brainstorming session. For Plan NH, the focus is on the *built environment* and its effect on the community, usually around a downtown or other significant neighborhood.

For each Plan NH charrette, a Plan NH member *volunteers* to be the leader, and pulls together a team of other volunteers according to the project. These volunteers are all professionals within their industry – architects, landscape architects, planners, contractors, historic preservationists, engineers of all types, and more. They donate their time because they believe in the process, in the importance of community, and see this as a way to “give back” to the Granite State.

Plan NH Charrette overview (times approximate):

At 10:00 AM on Friday, June 28, 2019, Plan NH team members will gather at w199 Manchester Street. The Team Leader is North Sturtevant, of JSA Inc. Robin LeBlanc, Executive Director of Plan NH, is working with Bright Horizons regarding logistics. The final Team Roster (approximately 12 – 15) is being developed.

At 10:15, the team will introduce themselves to each other and local leaders. From then until about 11:30, there will be a walking tour of the site, led by Maureen Beauregard of Families in Transition.

From 12:00 – 1:00, the Team will have lunch with some of the people who come to the site for their meals. We will provide specific questions, but intend to use this time for team members to learn directly from the people who use the services there what kinds of improvements they would like to see, and/or feel would be beneficial to them and to the overall goals of the programs there.

From 1:30 – 3:00 (at another site to be confirmed) the team will meet with key City and neighborhood leaders, as well as program staff, to learn more about the goals and challenges of the programs and the site.

There will be two public listening sessions (neighborhood residents and business owners and others with an interest or even a stake in this), the first from 3:30 – 5:00, the second from 6:00 -7:30 PM. Each will be conducted in a small group discussion format, with Plan NH Team members acting as facilitators and scribes. The small group format gives every attendee an opportunity to be heard and to listen to other ideas.

At the end of each session, there is time allotted for general discussion.

Between the listening sessions, the Team will have dinner/supper (provided).

On Saturday morning:

- The Team will reconvene between 8 and 8:30 AM (breakfast and lunch provided) to review what has been seen and heard, and begin to formulate recommendations.
- At 3:00, there will be a public presentation of what the Plan NH Team recommends. This will probably be in a Power Point format.
- A final report (which should not contain any new information, but will represent a more thorough and polished presentation of the concepts covered in the charrette) will be completed following the charrette.

Expectations for team members:

For each team member:

- We require a two-day commitment, from 10:00 on Friday to 4:00 on Saturday. (It will go quickly!)
- You may bring your own tools (eg markers, laptops) – we do provide markers, trace and other tools.
- You may be asked to facilitate a group (8-10) discussion on Friday afternoon and/or evening
- During discussions, especially Saturday, we expect collaboration across disciplines.
- We will ask that you keep written notes of your recommendations (and graphics that support them) and submit, post charrette, to the Team Leader so that they can be included in the final report
- You may be a presenter on Saturday afternoon.
- The Town will provide all meals, and, if needed, lodging on Friday night.

AIA provides 16 credits for architects who participate.

Charrette involvement does require a significant effort over the two days of the charrette plus time for preparation and time for contributing to the report. That said, it is one of the more invigorating efforts you will experience. It is a great opportunity to meet like-minded people, to learn and grow professionally, while “giving back” to a New Hampshire community.

Please let us know, ASAP, if you are willing and able to participate in this charrette.

Thank you so much.

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