

# SWRPC

## Commission Highlights

January 2023

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### SWRPC 2023 Winter Meeting

SWRPC's Winter Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 p.m. in Cohen Hall, in the Keene Public Library Annex, 60 Winter Street, Keene, NH. Featured topics include a recently completed *Transit Feasibility Study* and the *Promoting the Monadnock Region* branding and marketing campaign. To register, please email [admin@swrpc.org](mailto:admin@swrpc.org) or phone 603-357-0557. For more information, please contact Becky Baldwin of SWRPC staff at [bbaldwin@swrpc.org](mailto:bbaldwin@swrpc.org).

### A CDBG Success Story

In January, SWRPC staff learned that the Peterborough-based cheese spread and ravioli company, Nuttin' Ordinary, plans to rebrand and expand beyond New England. Expansion will focus on increasing distribution around New England, through New York and into some of the mid-Atlantic states. Currently, Nuttin' Ordinary sells its products in about 200 stores and this expansion hopes to double that number. In 2019, The Town of Peterborough was awarded a grant award through the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The Town sub-granted the funds to Monadnock Economic Development Corporation to make a loan to the company. The project resulted in the creation of six new jobs, five of which were for low- and moderate-income individuals. The grant served as a catalyst for the company to expand its operations which continues to this day. The CDBG grant was administered by SWRPC. For more information about the CDBG program, please contact Terry Johnson of SWRPC staff at [tjohnson@swrpc.org](mailto:tjohnson@swrpc.org).

### Community Power: Is it Right for Your Community?

Several towns in the Monadnock Region have adopted or are in the process of pursuing Community Power. Community Power, enabled by NH RSA 53-E, allows local governments to have access to competitive electricity markets, negotiate for lower costs and more price stability, and explore options in purchasing local and renewable energy. In most cases, municipal staff work with experienced electricity market service providers to form plans and start programs. Before engaging in Community Power, there is a lot to learn. SWRPC is partnering with the Monadnock Sustainability Hub to develop resources about Community Power and is offering presentations to local select boards, energy committees and planning boards. For more information, please contact J. B. Mack of SWRPC staff at [jbmack@swrpc.org](mailto:jbmack@swrpc.org).

### New Hampshire State Plan on Aging Listening Sessions

On January 25<sup>th</sup>, SWRPC staff attended a listening session hosted by Home Healthcare, Hospice and Community Services in Keene. The session was sponsored by the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services to inform an update to the State Plan on Aging. To assist in informing the update, please take a moment to take the State Plan on Aging survey, which is available through **February 17<sup>th</sup>** at the project webpage at <http://bit.ly/4ofdISP>. For more information, please contact Henry Underwood of SWRPC staff at [hunderwood@swrpc.org](mailto:hunderwood@swrpc.org).

### Training Activity

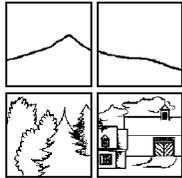
On January 30<sup>th</sup>, SWRPC staff attended a workshop hosted by New Hampshire Housing featuring a presenter from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban development to explain Davis-Bacon requirements. In attendance were a wide range of professionals from local and state organizations and non-profits throughout the State. This training represents a way for SWRPC staff to enhance capacity to administer federally funded grants and help bring in much needed funds for local development, infrastructure and services. For more information, please contact Ben Gradert of SWRPC staff at [bgradert@swrpc.org](mailto:bgradert@swrpc.org).

## InvestNH Housing Academy

SWRPC staff attended two sessions of the InvestNH Housing Academy. The first session was held on January 18<sup>th</sup> which focused on the need for diverse housing options throughout New Hampshire, goals of the program and effective ways to engage communities. The second session, held on January 25<sup>th</sup>, focused on outreach options to work with small groups using methods such as story-telling to get more meaningful feedback at the local level. For more information, please contact Lisa Murphy of SWRPC staff at [lmurphy@swrpc.org](mailto:lmurphy@swrpc.org).

## Funding Opportunities in Support of Economic Vitality

In January, SWRPC staff attended workshops sponsored by the NH Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) showcasing several programs available to municipalities and non-profits in New Hampshire. Through both tax credits and grants, funding is available to support projects designed to help benefit local economies. These opportunities are competitive and will be opening for applications soon. More information can be found on the SWRPC blog: [Upcoming Funding Opportunities through CDFFA - SWRPC](#). For more information, please contact Ben Gradert of SWRPC staff at [bgradert@swrpc.org](mailto:bgradert@swrpc.org).



## Brownfields Program Update

On January 19<sup>th</sup>, the SWRPC Brownfields Advisory Committee (BrAC) met to formally kickoff activities in administering a \$500,000 grant award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The BrAC is critical to the Program's operations through oversight in making policy and funding decisions. In addition to several long-standing members, the BrAC welcomed five new members including Cody Morrison (Monadnock Economic Development Corporation), Julius Peel (Town of Swanzey), Dominic Perkins (Savings Bank of Walpole), Paul Pietrinferni (EPA) and Jesse Rounds (City of Keene). At the January meeting, SWRPC staff provided a comprehensive update on brownfields related activities and discussed the goals and performance measures related to the new grant. In addition, the BrAC reviewed and accepted nominations for two new Brownfields sites including the 24 and 28 Main Street properties in Greenville and the J & G Service property in Winchester. For more information about the Brownfields Assessment program including how to nominate a site, please go to <https://bit.ly/SWRPCBrownfields> or contact J. B. Mack of SWRPC staff at [jbmack@swrpc.org](mailto:jbmack@swrpc.org).

