SWRPC | Southwest Region Planning Commission

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Citizen Planner Resource List

12/5/2024

Below is a preliminary, non-exhaustive list of resources developed in response to issues and challenges raised during conversation at the September 11, 2024 Citizen Planner Roundtable in Gilsum, NH.

General

1. Southwest Region Planning Commission. Perhaps it goes without saying, but SWRPC staff are available to answer planning and zoning-related questions. Don't hesitate to reach out to us at (603) 357-0557.
2. Division of Planning & Community Development, New Hampshire Department of Business and Economic Affairs. DPCD maintains an expansive resource list on their website. Staff are also available to field questions and direct interested parties to information on specific topics. Noah Hodgetts, Principal Planner, can be reached at 603-271-2157 or noah.d.hodgetts@livefree.nh.gov.
3. UNH Extension offers support and services related to public engagement and meeting facilitation. These services could be helpful during a master plan update or when considering specific zoning amendments. Scott Slattery, Extension Field Specialist in Hillsborough County, can be reached at Scott.Slattery@unh.edu. Rebecca Levy, Extension Field Specialist in Sullivan County, can be reached at Rebecca.Levy@unh.edu. Cheshire County does not currently have an extension field specialist, but there may be opportunities for field specialist in neighboring counties to provide assistance. UNH Extension services are often free to municipalities.
4. The American Planning Association offers affordable membership rates for local planning board officials. APA publishes a wide range of resources that could help a local planning board stay apprised of innovation in the field and best practices.
5. The NH Municipal Association is a great resource on planning-related legislation and law.

Local Land Use Regulations

1. Planning and zoning law advisory memos developed by the NH Municipal Association and DPCD. The memos contain a condensed summary of recent state legislative changes that pertinent to planning and zoning.
2. Plan-Link Listserv. The NH Office of Planning and Development (OPD), with support from the NH Department of Information Technology (DoIT), offers the Plan-link Listserv (Listserv) to provide an online discussion and information-sharing forum for the New Hampshire planning, zoning and land use regulation community. Anyone may subscribe to the Listserv.
3. Steep Slope and Ridgeline Protection, Chapter 2.2. in the Innovative Land Use Planning Techniques Handbook. Includes template zoning language.

Topical/Specific Subject Matter Areas

1. From Homes to Classrooms: The Relationship Between Housing Development and School Enrollment in New Hampshire. A recent report developed for NH Housing that analyzes the net financial impact of new residential development on local education costs.
2. A Hard Road to Travel: New Hampshire Law of Local Highways, Streets, and Trails 2022. Includes content on Class VI Roads, among other topics.
3. Saveyour.town. Includes toolkits, articles, and other resources related to volunteerism and building civic capacity in small communities.
4. State of NH Current Use Criteria Booklet is a good resource for building understanding about current use taxation in NH, as well as revenue generated through the Land Use Change Tax.

Procedural

1. Suggested Rules of Procedure for Planning Board (Appendix C in "The Planning Board in New Hampshire - A Handbook for Local Officials – 2023"). Includes template language for rules of procedure.