SWRPC | Southwest Region Planning Commission

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Citizen Planner Resource List

Updated for 10/28/2025

Below is a preliminary, non-exhaustive list of resources developed in response to issues and challenges raised during conversation at previous Roundtables.

Peer-to-Peer Citizen Planner Roundtable Webpage Link

Citizen Planner Roundtable page on SWRPC's website (contains Meeting Summaries, Agendas, Resource Lists, blog posts, webinars, and more).

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. Cheshire County does not currently have an extension field specialist, but there may be opportunities for field specialists 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.
6. LegiScan – NH Legislature Dashboard provides legislative tracking information, data, and overviews.

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 are 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.
4. Building or Development on Class VI or Private Roads PLAN webinar hosted by NH Office of Planning and Development at the Bureau of Business and Economic Affairs. This webinar was a direct result of conversations at the Temple Roundtable.
5. Do's and Don'ts of Class VI and Private Roads webinar slides hosted by the NH Municipal Association.
6. Investigating and Enforcing Land Use and Zoning Violations PLAN webinar hosted by NH Office of Planning and Development at the Bureau of Business and Economic Affairs.
7. NH Model Solar Zoning Ordinance, published by Clean Energy NH in September 2025.
8. New Solar Zoning Guidance for NH Communities webinar hosted by Clean Energy NH.
9. Implementing C-PACER and Smart Solar Zoning in Your Community PLAN webinar hosted by NH Office of Planning and Development at the Bureau of Business and Economic Affairs.

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.
5. Recipe for CIP: How to start and utilize a Capital Improvements Program PLAN webinar hosted by NH Office of Planning and Development at the Bureau of Business and Economic Affairs.
6. Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy and Resiliency (C-PACER) Program Guidebook published June 2025 from NH Business Finance Authority.
7. Planning for Flooding in the Monadnock Region. This was the topic of SWRPC's fall 2025 Commissioners' meeting. See resources here.
8. NH Stormwater Manual Information Session webinar hosted by NH Office of Planning and Development at the Bureau of Business and Economic Affairs.

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.
2. Volunteer Manual: A Guidebook to Developing Policies and Procedures 2025, NHMA.
3. Crafting Rules of Procedure for Your Public Body, NHMA Town and City Magazine article.
4. Land Use Boards And Municipal Officials, NH Department of Business and Economic Affairs.

Volunteer Recruitment and Social Dynamics

1. Understanding Public Trust at the Local Level is a resource that was referenced in UNH Extension's The Elephant in Your Town Square: Building Trust in Your Community (not recorded) webinar.

2. Beyond Filling Vacancies: Building Strong and Enduring Municipal Boards webinar hosted by UNH Extension. Slides available here.
3. How to Get Young People to Join a Board or Committee, NHMA Town and City Magazine article.
4. Planning Board Manual: Working With Other Boards & Organizations (VI), The Planning Board in NH, Chapter VI, NH Office of Planning and Development.
5. LEGAL Q&A: How to Fill a Vacancy on an Elected Board, NHMA Town and City Magazine article.

New Laws Guidance

1. New Laws Guidance. Informational documents about recent state legislative changes, put out by the NH Municipal Association.
2. New Hampshire Legislative Toolkit - Planning, Zoning, and Housing Bills 2025, Strafford Regional Planning Commission.