

***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 work in progress – as of August 22 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 – 2:45 **New Hampshire's quality of life helps to create jobs and grow business: Making the case for community arts, history, housing, trails and, even benches downtown, 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 an important role in economic development. (Molly Donovan – UNH Cooperative Extension)
- 2:45 – 3:00 small group discussions
- 3:00 – 3:15 BREAK
- 3:15- 4:45 **Eight Assets for Communities to Grow and Strengthen for Economic Prosperity.** This interactive workshop will introduce participants to those eight assets and why each is important to the economics of a place. (Shanna Draheim, Michigan Municipal League)
- 4:45 – 5:00 small group discussions
- 5:00 – 6:00 Reception (cash bar)
- 6:00 Optional dinner and socializing across the street at 7<sup>th</sup> Settlement

**Friday, October 27**

- 8:00 Registration and breakfast
- 8:30 Welcome
- 8:40 – 9:30 **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.

- 9:30– 10:15 **Why We Chose Dover.** A panel of two Dover business owners and two Dover residents will talk about why they chose Dover – what was it that spoke to them and said “yes, this is the place”?
- Dave Boynton, owner of the successful 7<sup>th</sup> Settlement, a community-supported brewery in Dover
  - Owner 2 to be finalized
  - John Lorden, civil engineer at TF Moran, chose Dover several years ago to purchase property and stayed to raise his family
  - A Millennial who lives and works in Dover
- 10:15 – 10:30 BREAK
- 10:30- 11:25 **Quality of Life matters – and the numbers support it.** Economist Brian Gottlob will present hard data that shows the “soft” side makes economic sense
- 11:30 – 12:15 **Access Portsmouth.** A website and an app that welcomes mobility -impaired visitors, their families and friends to all that historic downtown Portsmouth offers. The program takes 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 (both at JSA Inc) found businesses and attractions want to be included because they care AND they realize the economic benefits as well.
- 12:15 – 1:00 Lunch and networking
- 1:00 – 1:45 **Leveraging historic assets for local economic activity.** Jennifer Goodman, Executive Director of the NH Preservation Alliance, using recent examples of historic landmark revitalizations and community preservation planning, will share key economic principles of historic preservation. Discussion will reinforce concepts learned earlier in the conference, and suggest practical strategies for NH communities.
- 1:45 -2:00 small group discussions
- 2:00 -2:30 **Invited: Taylor Caswell, currently commissioner-elect of the new NH Department of Business and Economic Affairs (BEA).** Mr. Caswell has been invited to close the day with an overview of the changes to the state’s economic development structure, and a preview of the economic development goals and strategies to achieve them of the new organization and state leadership.
- 2:45 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 Dover Chamber of Commerce for their support and partnerships to make this possible.*