



Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission

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Kick Off Meeting Traditional Settlement Patterns Technical Advisory Subcommittee A Granite State Future

June 11, 2012
3:00 to 5:00 PM

SNHPC Conference Room
438 Dubuque Street, Manchester, NH

AGENDA

- 1. Introductions, Rules for Discussion, and Objective of Meeting** – David J. Preece, AICP, SNHPC Executive Director
- 2. Review Objective of Subcommittee** – Lisa Murphy, Southwest Region Planning Commission
- 3. Define and Discuss “Traditional Settlement Patterns”** – Lisa Murphy
- 4. Discuss “Livability Principles”** – Matt Sullivan, Stratford Regional Planning Commission
- 5. Identify relevant appendices for the assigned livability principles** – David Preece
- 6. Identify existing plans and resources** - David Preece
- 7. Election of Chair** – David Preece
- 8. Future Meeting Dates/Times** – David Preece
- 9. Adjournment**



All Traditional Settlement Patterns Technical Advisory Subcommittee meetings are open to the public.
For questions, special accommodations or directions, please call 669-4664

Minutes of the
Traditional Settlement Patterns TASC Meeting
June 11, 2012

Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission
Conference Room
438 Dubuque St Manchester, NH

Members in attendance:

David Preece, SNHPC
Jillian Harris, SNHPC
Monica Leap, SNHPC
Marilyn Batteu, SRPC
Matt Sullivan, SRPC
Robin LeBlanc, PlanNH
Erin Reardon, Nobis Engineering
Lisa Murphy, SWRPC
Carolyn Russell, NHDES
Nadine Peterson, NHDHR
Kyle Barker, AIA NH

1. **Call to Order:** David Preece called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM followed by a round of introductions and a review of the rules for discussion (see handout of rules).
2. **Overview of Project:** Jillian Harris gave an overview of the history and scope of project: A Granite State Future. The 9 MPOs in NH will work together over a 3 year timeline to create a shared vision that addresses local problems and needs. The vision will take a multidisciplinary and big picture approach while embracing livability principles and best practices (see handout map and detail).
3. **Review of Subcommittee Objective:** Lisa Murphy stated that the Advisory Committee's mission is to identify local and statewide resources, policies, and plans that may be helpful as we create our vision moving forward.
4. **Definition and Discussion of "Traditional Settlement Patterns":** Lisa Murphy gave a brief Powerpoint presentation. While there is no technical definition to "traditional settlement patterns", the general understanding of the word is that it is the patterns of development a community takes that make up the identity of a town. Some examples might be, efficient use of land, compact design, mixed uses, investing in existing community centers, NH village characteristics, conservation of landscape, and recognition of the "central places".
5. **Discussion of "Livability Principles":** Matt Sullivan gave a brief Powerpoint emphasizing the importance of incorporating the Six Livability Principles into our mission as members of this TASC (see handout of livability principles). The Six Principles were categorized in the following context:
 - a. **Interconnectedness** (Housing, Transportation, Settlement Patterns & Development Design)
 - b. **Balance** (Community and Economic Development must be balanced with Natural Resources and Quality, Climate Change and Energy efficiency.)

Question: Robin LeBlanc, PlanNH, Why are we using this term “traditional settlement patterns”? Is it a matter of semantics? Is there any overlap with HUD or DOT livability principles? Yes, there is a great deal of overlap, though we are using NH’s definitions. It is more expansive because it includes a discussion on energy.

6. **Identify relevant appendices for the assigned livability principles:** David Preece facilitates. An attempt was made to start by listing the appendices that should be included with the final vision.

Lisa Murphy suggests we use the worksheet from the original packet each TASC member was given to fill in existing resources, existing policies, and baseline data. Jillian makes copies (see handout).

Nadine Peterson mentions the **State Historic Preservation Plan** (last updated 2012). It is updated every 5 years and outlines guidelines of how to leverage historic funds. They have to follow state and Federal regulations for historic preservation, but they also go to the community for added input. The **National Register** and the **State Register** also highlight important cultural resources. **Heritage Commissions/Historic District Commissions** are another good resource. They will know character defining features of the local architecture and environment. Most of these resources are found online or on their website. However, Nadine will provide the list of the commissions in the state because those are not on their website.

Carolyn Russell- The **strategic plan** took several years. They took a survey of public priorities and then, internally, projected 25 years ahead and asked, “what will people say we missed the ball on? What can we do now to avoid that?” From this exercise, 7-8 priorities were created, but how the patterns of land use impact our quality of our life and climate change were at the top. **See list of resources on handout.** Ones listed below were highlighted in the meeting as especially relevant. Carolyn will add primary contact person and website link where each resource can be found.

NH Water Resources Primer

NH Climate Action Plan

Favorable Gravel Well Analysis

Fluvial-Erosion Hazard Analysis

Various Watershed, River and Lake Management Plans

Water Quality Assessments

Water Infrastructure Needs Assessment

Robin LeBlanc begins by describing what PlanNH does. They are a group of volunteer planners, architects, contractors, and other people who have an interest in the built environment and understand the impacts of social and economic capital of the community. They are best known for their Charette program, where one town is selected annually to have their town center revised. They also started the Vibrant Villages NH website as a place for ordinary citizens to learn what is going on in their own state. They also have a Scholarship program and a Merit Reward program. It is a platform for people to learn how to get involved and to showcase NH projects. They like to remind communities that the times are changing. We are getting severe and unpredictable weather events, the economy is different, energy is no longer limitless – the context we are building and living in is different. How do we revision our future within this new context? Everyone has a different take on it – but PlanNH focuses on the values – security, economics, etc. **Community is the most important resource in their planning process. They rely on the expertise of the individuals who volunteer. They reference master plans and follow livability and smart growth principles and will keep Granite State Future themes in mind so they can dovetail efforts together.**

Kyle Barker has participated in 14 Plan NH design charettes. Not related to PlanNH, he has worked with Jeff Taylor in the Concord Housing Commission to study a target property to determine its best use for housing. In doing so, they identified several other properties that had more potential than that one. Ultimately, they develop a new paradigm to view these properties - not just how can you fit more units into a space, but how can a neighborhood be designed to create a community. **Kyle will email the booklet and presentation of these findings to the group.** Kyle has worked with communities, been to lots of town and district meetings. He mentioned some of the negative effects of poor planning: loss of young folks, no volunteer fire depts., decaying infrastructure, etc.). Finally, **a report by Lou Feldstein from the Charitable Foundation** about the importance of social capital in a community was shared. In a Candia project, Kyle applied the benefits of social capital into design principles, explaining WHY compact design is beneficial. Usually zoning must be changed to allow for more flexibility. Design has a direct influence on the livability principles.

Erin Reardon says that in their process they start local – what are the **master plans and zoning**, then look to **state permitting and regulations**, what DES regulations we are working within? The top regulations that impact their plans: alteration of terrain to mitigate storm water, and water quality for water supply. Then, they look to **Federal regulations**, where construction, erosion, flood plain impacts are the most common elements that need to be considered. Their job is to tie it all together, because they all need to be integrated. **Projects that start by getting all the parties involved to create a big picture idea of what needs to happen before they start are often much more successful.** They make presentations to city staff (because they make recommendations to City Council) to change zoning laws. They add **technical expertise to LID.**

Nadine Peterson mentioned the EPA grant to green downtown and create a report about Concord's usage and potential for vacant second floor space.

Lisa Murphy suggests **hazard mitigation plans**, but is unsure of where they fit into this. They are updated every 5 years, funded by FEMA for a community plan on how to mitigate man-natural hazards. Fire, police, road agent, emergency management director, planner, facilitator will compile a list of ideas to reduce loss of life and property in the event of flood, fire, erosion, hurricane, earthquake, etc. Storm drains need to be revisited because the storm events are changing. The technology needs to be updated. Perhaps it fits in the Environment/climate change section? **Master plans, local lakes, river, transportation corridors plans**

Nadine Peterson: **FEMA and DOT culvert assessment** about 4 years old – took a look at stone bridges and class 6 roads, looked at ways to retain the old but update the infrastructure.

Carolyn Russell asks how will this list of resources will be used? David Preece responds that we are taking a macro approach. We will ID all that is out there, and then narrow it down to see which will apply to our task as TASC. Lisa Murphy adds that at the next meetings we will tie it all together- create goals, and then create a baseline of data and trends. Kyle also asks: What level of detail do we need? I.e. LEED certification is that too much detail? David Preece responds that our purpose now is to get it all written down.

Matt Sullivan lists: **Comprehensive Economic development strategies** (CEDS, i.e. Dover is still compact, but may not have stayed that way without a plan), **energy efficiency plans, fair housing needs assessment, transportation plans, long range plans**

Jillian Harris mentions: **Open space plans, agricultural commissions, Livable/Walkable communities Tool Kit.**

Other elements that may tie in: **Ped/Bike Plans, Arts and Cultural Plans**

7. Identify existing Plans and Resources: David Preece, Group discussion

The group was charged with matching the plans and resources listed here into the worksheet they were given. We need to ID the goals and objectives of larger plans that we need to fit into.

- 8.** Next meeting Date/Time is **16th of July, 1:30pm, Monday at SNHPC.** Meeting time was moved up to avoid the high school release and to end before rush hour.
- 9.** Election of Chair: Chair's responsibility is to conduct the meeting and make sure appropriate topics are covered. **Nadine Peterson** volunteers to be Chair.
- 10.** Time sheets are handed out.
- 11.** Meeting is adjourned at 4:15PM

Opportunities for NHDES Support for Granite State Future – Regional Plans June 6, 2012

NHDES either serves or served as the lead agency for these activities or is or was significantly involved. Some state-level planning activities are federally-funded. NHDES staff will support RPC efforts to understand and incorporate information and recommendations from these efforts into the Regional Plans. NHDES support may involve: attending one or two meetings (per topic) with RPC staff; directing RPCs to the most relevant materials; or, reviewing sections of a Regional Plan for consistency. Similarly, NHDES staff will look to the Regional Plans, once prepared, to inform NHDES activities in the future.

NHDES-Related State Planning Activities

- **NH Water Resources Primer** (provides current information and numerous recommendations for all aspects of water resource management and protection)
- **NH Climate Action Plan** (and implementation being tracked by the NH Energy and Climate Collaborative)
- **NH Climate Change Adaptation Planning** (planning by the coastal communities is being supported by DES)
- **Local Energy Working Group** (provides strategic coordination for multiple municipal-level energy committees)
- **Sprawl Indicator Measures** (a collaborative effort led by NHDES to develop new data and define specific measures to assess changing patterns of land use)
- **Water Demand/Consumption Estimates** (developed by USGS for the Stressed-Basins Project and water resource planning, see <http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2009/1168/>)
- **Stressed-Basins Project** (screening analysis by NHGS comparing water demand versus availability across the entire state)
- **Favorable Gravel Well Analysis** (identifies areas of stratified-drift aquifers in New Hampshire that may be suitable as new public water supply sources, updated in 2010)
- **Fluvial-Erosion Hazard Analyses** (identifies areas of high risk along certain river corridors) *we have bigger streams now.*
- **Various Watershed, River and Lake Management Plans** (provide watershed specific data, objectives, and management recommendations)
- **Southeast Watershed Alliance** (a coordinating entity for coastal watershed communities developing recommendations for increased control of nutrient pollution to Great Bay)
- **Governor's Water Sustainability Commission** (charged with developing a plan to help ensure New Hampshire has a safe, clean and sustainable water supply for the future)

NHDES-Related Federal Planning Activities

(These are Federal programs or federally-required activities that are supported by NHDES)

- **305(b)/303(d) Water Quality Assessments** (identifying impaired waters)

- **Water Quality Restoration Plans (TMDLs)** (plans to reduce pollutant loading to impaired waters)
- **Water Infrastructure Needs Assessment (2010)** (estimated costs to maintain and improve NH's drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater management infrastructure)
- **Regional Transportation Plans** (DES staff serve on MPO/RPC transportation committees)
- **NH Coastal Program** (coastal watershed land use planning recommendations, conservation planning)
- **Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership** (management plan & recommendations, indicator/measures work)

Specific Staff/Program Expertise

NHDES staff will participate on several Technical Advisory Subcommittees, which will advise the Sustainability Policy Committee on the various NH Livability Principles through assessing existing conditions and trends and aligning the Regional Plans with the work of the Consortium's partners (and vice versa) consistent with the sustainability principles.

Carolyn Russell	Ms. Russell will serve as overall coordinating liason for the Department, connecting RPCs to specific DES staff and information on an as-needed basis. Ms. Russell will advise the RPCs on the use of the <i>Sprawl Indicator Measures</i> , developed by Ms. Russell using data sets developed by the RPCs. She will also participate on two Technical Subcommittees, the Water Infrastructure & Environmental Planning subcommittee and the Compact Development subcommittee.
Paul Heirtzler	Mr. Heirtzler, or a member of his staff as appropriate, will provide information to support the Water Infrastructure & Environmental Planning subcommittee, particular on NHDES funding opportunities to support wastewater infrastructure/system planning and physical improvements and the 2010 water infrastructure needs assessment.
Sarah Pillsbury	Ms. Pillsbury, or a member of her staff as appropriate, will provide information to support the Water Infrastructure & Environmental Planning subcommittee, particular in the areas of financial support options for drinking water infrastructure/system planning and physical improvements, source water protection planning, including land use principles to protect drinking water supplies and use of the Favorable Gravel Well Analysis to identify future potential groundwater resources for public water supply.
Rebecca Ohler	Ms. Ohler, or a member of her staff as appropriate, will participate on the Transportation Choices subcommittee. NHDES staff will continue to serve on MPO/RPC transportation committees. NHDES, through its on-going work, will encourage state and regional-level transportation projects and planning efforts to be consistent with the regional plans for sustainable development.

Chris Skoglund

Mr. Skoglund will participate on the Climate Change and Energy Efficiency subcommittee and serve as liaison between the RPCs RPSD work to the Local Energy Working Group, which is coordinating energy efficiency improvement efforts by local municipalities.

Frederick Chormann

Mr. Chormann, the NH State Geologist, or a member of his staff as appropriate, will provide guidance to the RPCs on the use of newly available groundwater and geologic data, including the Stressed Basins Project analysis, which may be useful in developing RPSD.

A GRANITE STATE FUTURE

New Hampshire, its regions and municipalities have a unique opportunity to address local problems and needs by joining forces through an ambitious three-year project being led by the State's nine Regional Planning Commissions. A Granite State Future will develop nine regional comprehensive plans based upon local values and needs that together present a vision for how we can improve our communities, regions, and the State. The 3-year project will culminate with a shared vision for New Hampshire's future. The project is based on the recognition that better public decisions get made when we consider all the options and look at the big picture. Throughout the state, regions and localities are facing decisions about transportation and land use, about economic development and resource management, and about housing, public health, energy, and cultural, historic, and natural resources. A Granite State Future will help make decisions about all of these from within a common framework, increasing efficiencies and benefits for New Hampshire's taxpayers.

The program provides an unprecedented level of support for, and emphasis on, public engagement in the planning process. The staff of New Hampshire's nine Regional Planning Commissions will be working with a range of community and business leaders, state agencies, counties and municipalities, and citizen groups, to develop a robust and productive public dialogue within each region. The project is specifically committed to engaging members of communities at the grass roots level and being responsive to the interests of every sector of the community. Better public decisions are made when everyone affected participates in the process. Supported by NH based resources and technical support, A Granite State Future will be the product of the people of New Hampshire to identify shared interests, and direct the use of limited government resources.

This initiative will help to truly engage communities, regions and the State, to identify, share and replicate successful projects. Together, this collaboration will make it possible for large communities and small villages throughout the state to achieve economic vitality, and can protect the natural resources, character and rural landscapes that are so important to New Hampshire.

The objectives of this project are to:

- Protect New Hampshire's unique beauty and character.
- Identify local assets that are important to the lasting prosperity of our communities, regions and State.
- Capitalize on and incorporate shared values and opportunities included in existing plans and research.
- Plan for public infrastructure investment through an open and transparent process.
- Direct capital investments toward locally identified needs.
- Conserve our natural, social and financial resources.

Starting in the fall of 2012, the project will be sponsoring community listening sessions, with support from the University of New Hampshire's Carsey institute. These sessions will provide vital information and perspective, toward addressing the unique needs of local and regional communities through a fair and democratic process. Over the following months, the RPC's will lead their communities in looking at the big picture to consider the impacts of land use and transportation on our economic development, our health, our costs, and our natural and cultural resources. Through scenario planning, communities will think through desired future development patterns, and identify and prioritize place-based implementation projects that support social connections and cultural values. The plans will identify implementation actions that balance community needs and identify the most efficient use of limited government resources for future infrastructure and community investments, making wise use of limited financial resources.

Right now, each of the Regional Planning Commissions is looking for local and regional partners to help recruit and serve on regional leadership teams representing a broad cross-section of their communities. Members of these teams will help shape and promote the process, and will have a unique opportunity to serve their communities, to listen to their neighbors, and to help build A Granite State Future.

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSIONS

Region 1: North Country Council

Bethlehem, NH

Michael King, Executive Director

www.nccouncil.org/

Region 2: Lakes Region Planning Commission

Meredith, NH

Kimon Koulet, Executive Director

www.lakesrpc.org/

Region 3: Upper Valley Lakes Sunapee

Regional Planning Commission

Lebanon, NH

Christine Walker, Executive Director

www.uvlsrc.org/

Region 4: Southwest Region Planning Comm.

Keene, NH

Tim Murphy, Executive Director

www.swrpc.org/

Region 5a: Central NH Regional Planning Commission

Concord, NH

Michael Tardiff, Executive Director

www.cnhrpc.org/

Region 5b: Southern NH Planning Commission

Manchester, NH

David Preece, Executive Director

www.snhpc.org

Region 5c: Nashua Regional Planning Commission

Merrimack, NH

Kerrie Diers, Executive Director

www.nashuarpc.org

Region 6: Rockingham Planning Commission

Exeter, NH

Cliff Sinnott, Executive Director

www.rpc-nh.org/










Region 7: Strafford Regional Planning Commission

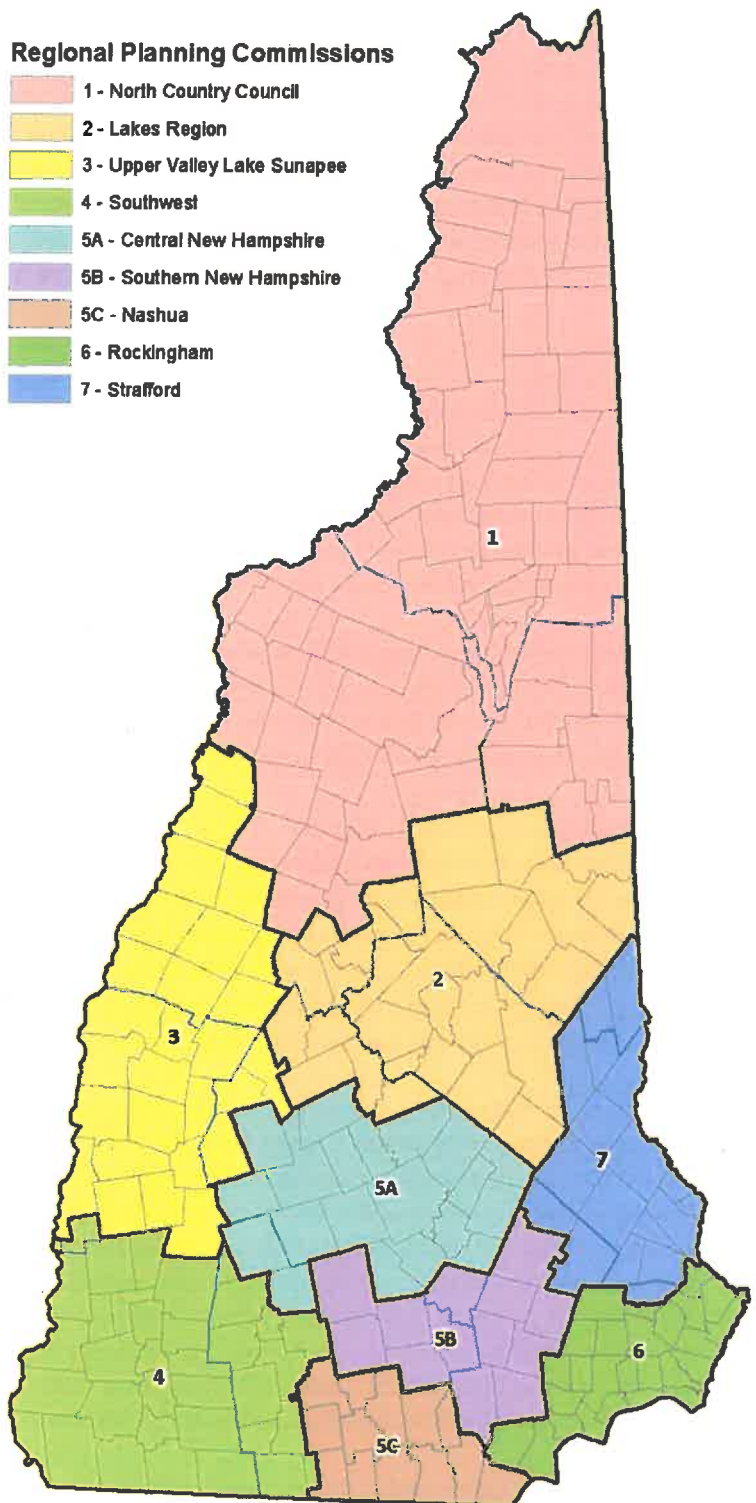
Rochester, NH

Cynthia Copeland, Executive Director

www.strafford.org/

Regional Planning Commissions

-  1 - North Country Council
-  2 - Lakes Region
-  3 - Upper Valley Lake Sunapee
-  4 - Southwest
-  5A - Central New Hampshire
-  5B - Southern New Hampshire
-  5C - Nashua
-  6 - Rockingham
-  7 - Strafford



The NH Livability Principles

As noted above, all but the Equity and Engagement TASC are formulated based upon the NH Livability Principles. These will serve as a unifying set of principles throughout each of the regional plans. The Principles encompass:

Traditional Settlement Patterns & Development Design

- Efficient Land Use
- Compact Design Principles
- Invest in Existing Community Centers
- Infrastructure – Water, sewer, roads, stormwater, utilities
- Mixed Use
- Traditional Character
- Conserve Working Landscape
- Unique Community Character
- Central Place

Housing Choices

- Affordable Housing Options Integrated Throughout Community
- Energy-efficient
- Location-efficient
- Mixed-Use/Integrated Design
- Transportation Connections & Options
- Adaptive reuse of historic structures
- Changing demographics (older population)
- Variety of housing options and ownership types
- Flexibility of design and adaptability, as units are used by different populations over time
- Housing as Neighborhoods, not just Housing Units

Transportation Choices

- Transportation Options (Transit, Walk, Bike, Auto, Freight, Bus, Rail, Air)
- Connectivity
- Multi-modal Planning & Connections
- Walkability – connecting housing, economic activity, and cultural/social activity
- Efficiency (energy use, traffic flow, goods transport, etc)
- Parking Options
- Safety
- Movement of Goods to support the economy (freight, rail, air, etc.)

Natural Resource Functions & Quality

- Conserve/Protect Key Natural Resource Areas
- Maintain Natural Hydrology
- Water Quality & Quantity
- Working Landscape Maintained
- Air Quality
- Drinking Water – Provision & Quality
- Water Infrastructure

- Archeological Resources
- Agricultural Resources
- Recreation
- System Resilience
- Habitats

Community and Economic Vitality

- Economic Development Opportunities
- Employment
- Cultural
- Education
- Community and Individual Health
- Personal and Communal Safety
- Social Connectivity and Capital

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency

- Energy Conservation
- Adaptation and Resiliency
- Green Building
- Low Impact Development
- Renewable Energy
- Green Building and Reuse of Existing Structures
- Resiliency

Common Themes/Considerations

The following are to be addressed throughout a Master Plan and related to each of the Principles:

- Creating opportunities for all citizens
- Public Health and Safety
- Data, Metrics and Scenario Planning
- Funding Alignment
 - Invest in Existing Community Centers
 - Advancement of Plan Objectives
 - Align Federal, State and Local Funding
- Plan and Program Alignment
 - Coordination between Federal, State and Local Planning and Program Requirements
 - Further direction toward joint plan implementation