New Hampshire falls back in love with the bicycle

(Maybe we started seeing other people, but did we ever officially break up?)

Also Inside... Development updates, big staffing changes at state’s RPCs, and APA updates
Happy summer to everyone! And what a summer it's been! In talking with my peers around the state one thing is obvious this summer – the economy is back in full swing! Everyone seems to be having the busiest building season in years! That means lots of application reviews, lots of meetings and lots of site visits. And probably not a lot of new staff to help out, right? So defines the ebb and flow of a planner’s world and NHPA was thrilled to recognize several of the best who have juggled the highs and the lows for years and have done a FABUOUS job while at it! At the NHPA Annual Conference in Hanover NHPA was so pleased to recognize Rick Sawyer of Bedford as Professional Planner of the year and Barbara Annis of the Warner Planning Board as Citizen Planner of the year! The term ‘hardworking’ was used oh, only a dozen times or so (!) as NHPA Members presented these outstanding individuals with their awards! Check out the fun pix later on in this edition of the newsletter.

In addition, we granted project of the year to Concord for their Downtown Complete Streets Improvement Project and Plan of the year to Lebanon for their Downtown Visioning Study and Tunnel Assessment.

NHPA knows how hard all of you work helping your communities grow and prosper. We want to recognize you and/or your fabulous project!! Our awards submission deadline is always in February or March so that decisions can be made in time for the Spring Conference. If one of your board members is that true unsung hero in the community, we want to know about them!! If one of your peers or fellow staff members amazes you every time you work with them, nominate him or her! NH Communities are doing some awesome things around the state and this is your opportunity to shine! The application process is simple and links to documents and websites are encouraged! All award winners are automatically submitted to NNECAPA for consideration as well, so its 2-for-1 submission! Any questions, please reach out to any Executive Committee member below and Good Luck!

A letter from the President

To contact NHPA, e-mail nhplanners@gmail.com
Must love bikes…
New Hampshire reconnects with the bicycle

After a 2013 bike ride in Downtown Manchester, city resident Will Stewart encountered a simple problem; a lack of places to park his bike. Surveying the situation, Stewart noticed that city cyclists were forced to get creative in locking bikes to sign poles, railings, utility lines, and anything else that was available. Stewart took a photograph of the debacle and posted it to Facebook, lamenting in the process the lack of adequate bicycle parking in the city. The post became a minor social media hit, with dozens of users adding comments and pouring on the criticism. Soon Stewart organized a meeting on the issue, and Bike Manchester was born.

In the ensuing years, Bike Manchester has helped dramatically expand bicycle infrastructure in the Queen City and serves as an important voice to ensure cyclists’ interests are represented in city planning and policy decisions. Manchester recently wrapped up its first ever Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan, a bikeshare program sporting 200 members is in operation, dozens of bike racks have been installed across the city, and Public Works officials have adopted an informal policy of adding bike lanes to streets during repaving and painting projects when conditions allow for it.

“I think when you look at 2013 and [Manchester] didn’t have a single bike lane, we’re definitely moving in the right direction,” Stewart said. “There is a lot more to do, but it could be a lot worse.”

Bike Manchester joins a small group of organizations across the Granite State seeking to improve conditions for cyclists:

- In the Concord area, the Central New Hampshire Bicycling Coalition is hard at work planning bicycle rodeos, bicycle valets for major events in the city, temporary demonstration bicycle lanes (slated for August on Broadway Street in the city’s south end), bicycle valets for major events in the city, and organizing a Bicycle Friendly Employer Contest for Concord Area businesses. The coalition has also partnered with local organizations supporting the homeless to make bicycles more accessible to communities in need.

- In Portsmouth, the Seacoast Area Bicycle Riders hosts safety clinics, “Riding in Traffic” seminars, and is lobbying for better pedestrian and bicycle accommodations on Middle Street. The organization also has an active ‘She Rides’ program that encourages women to bicycle through educational events, advocacy, networking, and women only rides.

- The Granite State Rail Trail group is actively lobbying for the completion of the rail trail from Salem all the way to the Vermont border in the Littleton area.

- Organizations like Granite State Wheelmen, HEAL-NH (Healthy Eating, Active Living), Transport NH, and the Bike-Walk Alliance of New Hampshire provide an important voice for bicycle and pedestrian interests and needs on the state
While some note that the Granite State needs to do more to compete with neighboring state on bicycle friendliness, progress on the issue appears to be driven by the state’s wide network of volunteers and active advocacy networks.

**TOP:** Cyclists take to the Goffstown-Manchester Rail Trail.

**LEFT:** Seacoast Area Bicycle Riders network on a Gundalow ride.

**CENTER:** A temporary bicycle lane demonstration in Portsmouth.

**RIGHT:** A bicycle valet organized by the Central New Hampshire Bicycle Coalition in Downtown Concord.

*Courtesy Photos*
After successful NH city launches, Rochester eyes bike share

Manchester, Portsmouth programs called early successes

In an effort to make Downtown Rochester more vibrant and engaging, city boosters are taking a hard look at introducing a bike share program to the Lilac City. The effort comes on the heels of successful bike share program launches this year in Manchester and Portsmouth. Bike share programs had already been operational in Hanover and at Dartmouth College and on the NH Technical Institute campus in Concord.

Both the Manchester and Portsmouth programs are operated through Zagster, a Cambridge, Mass.-based startup company that runs over 100 bike share programs across the country, including Hanover’s program. To get started, communities are required to provide six stations, at approximately $9,000 apiece. Communities are free to charge their own rates. Manchester charges $2 per hour, with discounts available for members, who pay a $30 annual fee. The Manchester project was supported wholly through private sponsorships.

For those unfamiliar with the concept, it allows users to rent bicycles with minimal effort at outdoor stations located in strategic areas of a community, and often centered around downtowns. The Zagster program requires users to download an app, similar to Uber, where they can download codes on their phones to rent bicycles.

Efforts at expanding bicycle friendliness are not just limited to bike share programs. The City of Nashua recently worked with HEAL-NH and the Nashua RPC to measure levels of stress cyclists encounter on city streets. The data will be used to make pedestrian/bicycle investments over time.

Despite progress, NH lags in bike friendliness, advocates say

The most recent state rankings from the League of American Bicyclists ranks New Hampshire 27th, and dead last in the Northeast, for the state’s bike friendliness. And of the Granite State’s 221 towns and cities, just five have earned ‘Bike Friendly’ designations, including Concord, Hanover, Keene, Lebanon, and Portsmouth.

Bike advocates say that while New Hampshire has made important strides, and some communities have accomplished significant progress, more is left to do. Separated bike paths and multi-use paths remain relatively rare in New Hampshire, and the state’s narrow country roads leave little shoulder space for cyclists. Bicycle culture in Granite State communities has not yet reached critical mass status seen in locales such as Boulder, Colo. or Burlington, Vt.

When Manchester residents banded together to launch a bike share program this year, organizers were wholly dependent on private sponsorships, as city leaders insisted that no city funds could be leveraged.
In the first veto of his governorship, Gov. Chris Sununu (R) helped sink a bill that some argued would make it harder to win zoning variances. The legislation, House Bill 86, would have required municipal zoning boards to take five separate votes on each of the five prongs necessary to win a variance. Currently many communities opt to take a streamlined single vote that includes all criteria.

In his veto message, Sununu argued that the legislation “needlessly imposes on local control and is inconsistent with my commitment to remove excess regulation and streamline development and economic growth.”

Sununu also noted that if communities decided to require separate votes for each zoning criteria, they currently have that option by adopting the requirement in their zoning ordinances.

The bill was considered relatively non-controversial and passed the State House and Senate on voice votes. The House Municipal and County Government Committee recommended passage of the bill on a 15-0 vote. Supporters of the legislation argued that it is necessary to consider each variance prong individually to ensure the criteria have been met. They also argued it would help strengthen the case for granting a variance if later challenged in court.

But the bill did have its detractors. The NH Association of Realtors was most vocal in its opposition to the legislation. “Realtors applaud the governor’s veto of HB 86, which would have created unnecessary and potentially costly hurdles for both residential and commercial property owners seeking a variance,” said NHAR President Rachel Eames. “Housing is already too expensive in New Hampshire, and the bill would have simply added to the cost of development.” The NH Association of Homebuilders had also noted some areas of concern with the bill in an earlier draft.

The NHPA Legislative Sub-Committee had not taken an official position on the bill, but included it on its Watch list. It is not clear how likely or realistic a legislative override of the governor’s veto is as the bill passed on voice votes. A 2/3 majority vote from each legislative body is needed to secure an override.
State’s top planners recognized

Planners from across the state gathered in Downtown Hanover on at a luncheon on June 5 to celebrate the professional accomplishments of their colleagues.

The 2017 award winners include:

Professional Planner of the Year:
   RICK SAWYER, Bedford

Citizen Planner of the Year:
   BARBARA ANNIS, Warner

Project of the Year:
   CONCORD MAIN STREET PROJECT

Plan of the Year:
   DOWNTOWN LACONIA PLAN

Lifetime Achievement Awardees:
   BILL PARKER, Milford
   CHRISTOPHER NORTHUP, NHOEP
   RICK TAINTOR, Portsmouth
1.) Lifetime Award recipient Rick Taintor

2.) Citizen Planner of the Year Barbara Annis

3.) VHB and City of Lebanon officials accept ‘Project of the Year’ award
TOP: Attendees listen to international perspectives on planning issues.

BOTTOM LEFT: Officials from VHB and The City of Lebanon accept the Project of the Year award.

BOTTOM RIGHT: The conference’s keynote session focused on planning issues surrounding both seniors and millennials.

Photos by Ben Frost
NH Planners take bite of Big Apple at APA 2017

NNECAPA President and Nashua Community Development Director Sarah Marchant presents alongside Kim Lundgren of KLA Associates.
ABOVE: Several familiar faces, including Chris Parker (Dover), Gloria McPherson (Provincetown, Mass.), Sarah Marchant (Nashua), Becky Hebert (Bedford), Sandrine Thibault (TPUDC), Angela Vincent (Merrimack Valley Commission), and Donna Benton (Dover) gather for a group photo during a networking event at the New York City Public Library.

LEFT: NH native and proud Frost family member Matt Frost presents on his documentary “Getting There”; a film depicting the challenges blind citizens face and strategies communities can adopt to promote accessible spaces.

BELOW: Becky Hebert and Donna Benton walk the Highline in Manhattan.
Worried about legislative changes impacting the planning field?

This event is for you.

2017 APA & NHPA Planning Law Review

September 15, 2017, 1 p.m.
NH Housing, 32 Constitution Drive
Bedford, NH

Catch up on federal and state legislative developments impacting the planning profession.

Visit www.nhplanners.org to register!
Snacks and refreshments will be served.

September 6

Join Arts Alive! as the organization hosts Randy Cohen, VP of Policy & Research at Americans for the Arts (click here for bio), on a whirlwind speaking tour and community engagement blitz across the Monadnock region. Events will be tailored to different topics, including community development, economic development, and town planning. Randy will speak at events across the region, tailoring his message to the audience at hand. The basis for his presentations will be the recent Arts & Economic Prosperity Study conducted in the Monadnock region. More information on the study can be found at www.monadnockartsalive.org/aep5 or by contacting Jessica Gelter, Director of Arts Alive!

Planning for Vitality: NH’s Thriving Creative Communities
9/6 12:30pm || Jaffrey Civic Center, Jaffrey, NH
Registration: $10 includes lunch

Agenda: Randy Cohen will speak about the AEP 5 study and ways communities across the US have leveraged their creative assets for community development. Then Sara Carbonneau, Vice President of NH Planners Association will conduct a panel discussion of stories from successful community development projects across the state that have utilized arts & culture. After the panel discussion, she will open the floor to a discussion of strategies and ideas for the Monadnock region to implement. There will be an art exhibit by local artist Larry Davis: Nature Art Photography

2017 UNH Cooperative Extension Economic Development Academy

UNH Cooperative Extension is pleased to announce the Economic Development Academy (EDA), September 18 - November 3 (online and in person sessions). The EDA is an experiential course for community economic development practitioners and leaders. EDA consists of six online sessions followed by three days of face-to-face learning in historic Manchester, NH, with follow up coaching after the Academy. The course format is designed for those who want to deepen their understanding of community and economic development.

Cost: By August 11: $600 for 3-part Academy; after August 11: $750 for 3-part Academy (Limited scholarships available for New England-based practitioners)

Link to information and registration: https://extension.unh.edu/Community/Economic-Development

For more information contact Sharon Cowen, sharon.cowen@unh.edu

Brought to you by the University of New Hampshire Engagement and Academic Outreach, Cooperative Extension, and Office of Information Technology. Sponsoring partners include: The Mel King Institute/MACDC, NHEDA, and NEDA.
Cyanobacteria, often called blue-green algae, are commonly found in all lakes, ponds, and slow-moving rivers. Under the right conditions a "bloom" may occur in a body of water. Some of these blooms are visible as thick mats or scum on the surface of the water. These mats can vary in color, including bluish-green, bright green, or even red or maroon. So far this year New Hampshire has seen a spike in cyanobacteria blooms however why this spike is occurring is not clear.

A few species of cyanobacteria are known to have the potential to generate harmful “toxins” that can affect human or animal health by inducing fever, affecting your digestive system or causing neurological issues, among other effects. Exposure to these toxins during a bloom is possible through swimming in a recreational waterbody or drinking untreated water from a lake or reservoir. Fortunately, in New Hampshire, toxic or harmful algae blooms (HABs) are relatively rare and public water systems’ using conventional water treatment technologies to treat surface water have so far been able in several cases to effectively remove cyanobacteria toxins.

State agencies, including the NHDES Beach Program, NHDES’ Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau and the NH DHHS Public Health Laboratories are prepared to coordinate with local health, recreation and public water system managers to respond when a bloom occurs. Typically if a bloom is reported, the response will depend upon the resource involved (beach, water supply). Often it involve water sampling to determine the cell count and cyanobacteria genera, (microcystis, anabaena which may produce toxins) and whether it is prudent do additional testing to determine the presence of toxins.

HABs are more common under certain conditions, such as a shallow body of fresh water, warm temperatures, sunlight, and excessive amounts of nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen) in the water. Phosphorus and nitrogen found in animal and human wastes and in fertilizers can be major nutrient sources. It’s important to support local recreational lakes and surface water sources of drinking water with local policies and land use planning to ensure new land development projects incorporate practices that retain riparian vegetative buffers to filter out nutrients and provide shade, maintain septic systems, effectively treat stormwater prior to discharge, limit impervious cover and restrict the application of fertilizers and lawn products near the waterline. Ideally, a rigorous and data-driven watershed plan is informing local planning decisions.

For more information about cyanobacteria visit the NHDES’ Beach Program’s website, and check out information available from US EPA, including a Bloomwatch Program for citizen scientists. Perhaps your local lake association or volunteer monitoring group may be interested in cyanobacteria surveillance and monitoring. Grants that protect sources of drinking water are available (application deadline is November 1, 2017) from NHDES’ Drinking Water Source Protection Program to support development of watershed plans or implement best practices designed to reduce current or future nutrient loading, among other things.

-Pierce Rigrod, NHDES, NHPA Executive Committee
Once a thriving industrial community, The City of Franklin has struggled to revive its fortunes since the closure of its downtown mills decades ago. In more recent years, commercial developers have bypassed Franklin in favor of neighboring communities located directly on Interstate 93. The city’s poverty rate hovers around 21 percent and 60 percent of Franklin public school students qualify for free or reduced lunches.

But in recent years, attitudes in Franklin have begun to change. The community’s walkable downtown, located at the confluence of two rivers, and its historic building stock of Victorian neighborhoods and brick industrial buildings are increasingly seen as untapped assets. Gilford developer Tood Workman is credited with helping reverse the tide, thanks to his boundless determination to revitalize the City with the help of spirited artists, volunteers, and business owners. Workman’s organization PermacityLife has helped secure funds for redevelopment of downtown buildings and mill complexes thanks to federal tax credits and other economic development incentives for economically challenged communities.

“What we really rely on is the [federal government’s] economic development toolbox that’s in place right now,” Workman told U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D), according to an account in the Concord Monitor. “There are very specific target programs that work, and they generate more money than they cost the federal government.”

Workman’s organization has already taken advantage of Rural Development funds from the US Department of Agriculture as well as Community Development Block Grants and funds from the US Economic Development Administration. Without those vital initial investments, Franklin’s redevelopment efforts may have never got off the ground, Workman says.
The places we go

Clockwise from top left: (1.) Nashua RPC planners Matt Waitkins, Andrew Smeltz, Ryan Friedman and VHB GIS Specialist Kristina Sargent enjoy some downtime after a Nashua RPC function at the 110 Grill in Nashua. (2.) NNECAPA President Sarah Marchant bonds with schoolgirls in India during a recent Rotary International-sponsored trip for Nashua Region professionals. (3.) Several attendees from the NHPA Annual Conference enjoy some after-hours camaraderie at a Hanover eatery. (4.) NHPA Executive Committee member Donna Benton captured this dramatic shot from a recent vacation to China depicting over 7,000 unique warriors, horses, and carts protect the tomb of China’s first emperor, Qin. The tomb, which was discovered by farmers and brought to the attention of archaeologists in 1974, is now a UNESCO World Heritage site.
Old & New in Exeter

Dubbed a pocket neighborhood by its developers, The Porches at Exeter consists of 14 townhouse-style ‘cottages’ and a clubhouse under construction in historic Downtown Exeter.

Cannonballs & Brews in Peterborough

Renovations to the historic G.A.R. Hall in Downtown Peterborough continue. The Town sold the building last year to a Mont Vernon couple, who plan to open the Post & Beam Brewing Co. in the space.
Summer in the Granite State

Enjoy it now. It can be fleeting!

1.) The view from a boat ride in Portsmouth Harbor.
2.) The Waterhouse Restaurant on the Contoocook River in Downtown Peterborough.
3.) A beach cottage in North Hampton.
4.) A bench offers a striking view of Jenness State Beach in Rye.
Walker is Portsmouth’s new Planning Director

Juliet Walker, AICP, has been promoted to serve as Portsmouth’s new Planning Director. Walker has been working as part of the planning staff since 2012, having led the City’s efforts in transportation planning and related projects and initiatives, including an instrumental role in the ongoing development and execution of the City’s wayfinding system. As Chair of the City’s Technical Advisory Committee, she continues to lead the City’s review and evaluation of major land use development applications. She is also the 2017 chair of the COAST Board of Directors. Before joining Portsmouth, Walker worked throughout New England as a planning consultant, ultimately becoming President and Co-Owner of Brown Walker Planners, Inc. Walker earned a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania, and a Master’s in Regional Planning from the University of Massachusetts.

Portsmouth’s Planning Department includes six planners and three administrative staff, with one position currently open. Walker will face no shortage of issues as director. City officials have been wrestling with a widely publicized ‘housing crisis’ emerging from its increasingly popular reputation as a vibrant destination city for tourists and seasonal residents. Although Portsmouth is relatively small in population (roughly akin to Bedford), it is a major employment and tourism center. Portsmouth is the only large community in the state with more jobs than residents, and rising rents and housing values have increasingly priced out workers and middle income residents in favor of affluent, seasonal buyers. Many new downtown condominiums in Portsmouth now price tags exceeding $1 million.

Gandia settles into Londonderry planner position

Laura Gandia began her employment with the town of Londonderry as an Associate Planner in September 2016. She comes to Londonderry with a legal background in land use and as a 15+ member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment in Lichfield. Laura’s education includes a Juris Doctorate from MA School of Law and Bachelor of Science degrees in Political Science and Psychology with a minor in Public Administration from Providence College. She currently serves on the NH Bar Association Legislative Committee. Gandia also served as a NH State Representative for four years. Laura and her husband Chris enjoying spending time with their two sons and dog Scout.

Portsmouth opening easy sell for Virginia native Stith

The City of Portsmouth also welcomes Peter Stith to its staff. Stith, who is originally from Virginia and has spent the past 10+ years working in Northampton County, VA for most of that time as the Long Range Planner/GIS Coordinator. He and his family have been visiting family in this area for the past 10 years and Stith says they jumped on the opportunity to relocate. Peter began working for Portsmouth at the beginning of May as Planner I and one of his primary duties is staffing the Board of Adjustment. He has four children ages 7, 10 and 12 and a 3-year-old yellow lab named Enzo. Stith loves to hike and bike and looks forward to exploring everything the Seacoast has to offer.
Big staffing changes at State RPCs

Roache takes director post at Rockingham RPC

After 10 years with the Nashua Regional Planning Commission, including the last two as Executive Director, Tim Roache is taking a post closer to home. The Stratham resident will take over the top spot at the Rockingham Planning Commission starting on August 1st.

Roache served as the Nashua Regional Planning Commission’s Transportation Program director and Assistant Director before taking the director post. He oversaw the development of a new regional transportation plan, a regional public transit plan and continued efforts to expand availability to the Commission data via open source platforms.

Roache’s career spans nearly 30 years in the public and private spheres. A Boston native, Roache enjoys long distance running, craft breweries, meteorology, and spending time with his family. Roache is married with three young daughters.

von Aulock, Miller among several promoted at Southern

For the past two years as Deputy Executive Director, Sylvia von Aulock has been working with SNHPC’s 14 communities. She has managed and worked on a variety of projects including hazard mitigation plans for rural communities such as Chester and Weare, Complete Streets pilot programs for Windham, Deerfield, and Franconia, a multi-modal project with consultant team CivicMoxie in the heart of Manchester, and the exciting Becoming Age-Friendly program which endeavors to assist communities in becoming more livable for any age.

With the retirement of David Preece, Sylvia is taking on the role of Executive Director of SNHPC. “We are as good as the team we inspire, and I am blessed with an amazing team of professionals,” Sylvia enthusiastically shares when asked about her new role.

Sylvia’s career history began in 1981 by creating a solid educational foundation at Rutgers University, earning a Bachelor’s Degree in Civil Engineering, and later in 1985, earned a Masters in Landscape Architecture from SUNY in Syracuse. Her career has been focused in the public sector working for such agencies as Washington State DOT, City of Seattle’s Drainage and Wastewater Utility, and in Exeter, NH as Town Planner.

Sylvia endeavors to utilize all her years of experience as well as education, combined with her skills as an artist, comedian, gardener, and garage sale negotiator to bring about positive solutions to the challenges she encounters. Sylvia’s promotion is just one of several at SNHPC.

Nathan Miller, AICP has been promoted to Deputy Executive Director. Nate has served as the SNHPC’s Principal Transportation Planner since last summer. Prior to that, he was Executive Director of the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission. Nate holds a Master’s Degree in Urban Planning with a concentration in Transportation Planning from McGill University. Nate serves on the Board of Directors of Advance Transit and the Greater Derry-Salem Cooperative Alliance for Regional Transportation. He and his wife, Rita (also a regional planner), are the proud parents of a seven-month old daughter named Olivia. Nate enjoys spending time with his family. When he’s not beating opponents in curling, you can find Nate pruning the multiple apple trees and grapevines at his mountaintop Enfield home. Nate also finds it hard not to brag about winning the office’s annual NCAA March Madness tournament.
Promotions at Southern  CONTINUED

Jihong (Julie) Chen is now Principal Transportation Planner. Julie started at SNHPC in April 2006. She graduated from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey with a Ph.D. in Transportation Engineering, and Southwest Jiaotong University with a M.S. in Transportation Management. Julie enjoys spending time with her family, and is very proud of her daughter for recently graduating medical school and beginning her residency this summer at Bay State Medical Center. Julie is an avid traveler, whether it’s visiting family in China, lounging by the beach in Aruba with her husband, or recently photographic Westminster Abbey in London, England. Julie’s work on high accident locations, road safety improvement programs, and several additional transportation studies are cited heavily among the region’s 14 communities and incredibly valued by the SNHPC community. Julie is excited to continue the work that lays ahead.

Cameron Prolman will soon be a full-time Associate Planner. Cam received his Bachelor of Science in Community and Environmental Planning from the University of New Hampshire, Durham, in 2015. Having been fortunate to travel the world and experience cities such as Paris, London, Tel Aviv, Rome, Quito, Johannesburg, and more, he has a deep affinity for the meaning of community, no matter how seemingly different they can be. Currently, Cam is finishing up his Masters in Public Administration from the University of New Hampshire, and is living in Somerville, Massachusetts where he can enjoy all the Snappy Ramen and Trillium beverages he could want. Between his work navigating grant programs to participate and co-managing the SNHPC Brownfields Program (among many others), Cam makes time to balance the stresses of day-to-day work life by riding his single-speed bicycle on the region’s various rail trails.

Derek Shooster will also be matriculating to a full-time Associate Planner status. Derek received his Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Northeastern University in 2012, followed soon after by a Master of City Planning from Boston University in 2015. He has a broad interest in characteristics that affect our built environment, including economic development, natural resources, social welfare, historic preservation, smart growth, and progressive design. His interest in planning grew from a combination of 20 years playing SimCity and from living in vastly different communities around the world—including Boca Raton, FL; Boston, MA; Cape Eleuthera, The Bahamas; Los Angeles, CA; Kezar Falls, ME; and Thessaloniki, Greece. Derek is thrilled to continue affecting positive change across the 520 square miles that make up the SNHPC region. Don’t be surprised if you bump into Derek winning at bar trivia or cycling down Bridge Street. #ShamelessMillennial
Schneider lands top post at Upper Valley RPC

Steve Schneider started as Executive Director of the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (UVLSRPC) on April 3, 2017 and says he is still learning his new duties. Schneider served as the Town Manager for Enfield, NH for the past 11 ½ years, and in that capacity represented Enfield as a Commissioner for the UVLSRPC for over 7 years. He has worked in three other communities in three other states; Asst. City Manager in Batavia NY, Asst. Township Manager in Tobyhanna PA, and Admin. Asst. in Richmond VT. Steve has a MPA from Univ. of Vermont and a BA in History from SUNY Plattsburgh. He and his wife Sarah, and their children, Owen and Isabelle live in Enfield and they fully enjoy all that the Upper Valley region of NH has to offer. Steve says he is excited for this new role and chapter in his career and looks forward to the upcoming challenges.

Quick Hits

The Town of Goffstown is on the hunt for a new planner after the departure of Planning Director Jonathan O’Rourke in June. O’Rourke, who had occupied the Goffstown post since March 2016, decided to relocate to the Southern United States and return to an earlier work of planning in Department of Defense positions. NHPA wishes Jonathan well in his new pursuits.

Congratulations are in order to Amy Kizak, the Southern NH Planning Commission’s longtime Senior GIS Analyst, who recently landed the GIS Manager/Comprehensive Planner position for the Town of Londonderry. Kizak will replace John Vogl, who occupied the post since 2006. Kizak holds a B.A. in Geography and has been active in the field since 2002.

More congratulations are in order to John Vogl, who left Londonderry to take the GIS Manager post for the Town of Salem. Vogl’s career in Londonderry stretched 13 years, where he provided technical expertise to long-term planning and economic development efforts. Vogl was an active contributor to Londonderry’s Comprehensive Master Plan, Affordable Housing Task Force, School District Impact Fee Study, and several economic development related efforts. Prior to joining Londonderry, Vogl spent eight years as the Nashua Regional Planning Commission’s GIS Manager. He is a 1997 graduate of Keene State University.

Grapevine entries are compiled by Elizabeth Wood.

To include a Grapevine entry from your community or organization,
please email the Elizabeth at
elizabethjwood@hotmail.com
Interested in learning more about Planning issues on the federal level or making your voice heard? APA has made it very easy for members to keep an eye on what's going AND to have your position be heard. How is it easy?

It only takes a couple of clicks... first go to www.planning.org and click on the Policy and Advocacy tab. Click on the Legislative Action Center link and it takes you to the home base of APA's federal Policy and Advocacy information. This page has a couple of key sections:

First, there are easy to click on TAKE ACTION buttons for key legislation related to Planning. When you click that button, it takes you to a page to enter your name, address, email and zip code. From this small amount of information APA will send an individual email to each of your congressional delegates letting them know of your support or opposition to a bill and why. It's just that easy!

Second, there is the Legislative Bill Tracker. This operates similar to NHPA's legislative tracker in that each bill that APA is watching is itemized with a short summary and a link for more information. So you can quickly scan or really take a deep dive into legislation that interests you. Third, you can check out the Legislative Priorities which outlines what APA's legislation priorities are, which forms the backbone of their positions on federal legislation.

Lastly, are you on Facebook? Of course you are! Like the American Planning Association page on Facebook for updates on Planning issues from around the country.

APA has put a huge amount of effort into strengthening their Policy and Advocacy presence on Capitol Hill. That effort is coupled with the improvements to their website, making sure members who want to be involved can. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out directly to APA through their website or Sarah Marchant, NHPA Legislative Liaison and NNECAPA President.

APA at your fingertips with Sarah Marchant

In frenzied Washington, APA helps track planner priorities

From the APA website

APA Research Knowledge Base key resource for planners

Did you know APA offers an online, easy to access Research Knowledge Base? APA's Research Knowledge Base connects APA members to curated collections of topically related resources — including plans, regulations, model codes, guidelines, articles, reports, and multimedia files. Each collection provides commentary and thematic groupings of resource records with bibliographic information, short descriptions, and links to the resources themselves.

The first 25 collections were recently released, including Accessory Dwelling Units and Content-neutral Sign Regulations with everything from best practices to model ordinances.