

PLAN NH SEES A YEAR OF CHANGES, ACTIVITY AND MORE

As we look back on the year we are just wrapping up (Plan NH runs on a July 1-June 30 year), we are very proud of the accomplishments of the organization and its members!

But first, THE major change happened in October, as Plan NH bid farewell to Mal Merrill, when she retired from her position of Executive Director, a role she had for 17 years.

Mal worked long and hard with members and boards through the years to develop and execute the many programs we have today. As Board President Roger Hawk said, "She [was] the glue that kept this organization going

and on track for nearly its entire twenty year existence."

Mal turned over the leadership—and boxes of papers, disks and other paraphernalia—to Robin LeBlanc of Portsmouth.

Robin had been active in the organization for a couple of years when she was with John Turner Consulting. Hers was one of 30 applications, and it was Robin whom the Search Committee chose to head the organization into its third decade.

Last Fall saw the annual Golf Tournament (Sunapee) and a Design Charrette in Franconia. In December, there was a

gathering at the Shaker Table in Canterbury, and in February Plan started a series of monthly gatherings around the state. Towns for Design Charrettes were chosen in March and Merit Awards were given in April. June marks the Annual Meeting (this year on the *Mt. Washington* cruise boat!) and awarding of scholarships and fellowships to students from New Hampshire.

2009 is our

20th anniversary year,

and we are looking forward

to the next decade ...



2009-2010 Executive Board:
(top to bottom)

President Roger Hawk (Hawk Planning Resources, Concord)
(photo by Roger Ramirez, Chariot Photo, Manchester)

VP Ken Hadley (JH Spain, Concord)

Treasurer Peter Middleton (Martini Northern, Portsmouth)

Secretary Ryan Bianchetto (Allen and Major, Manchester)

Immediate Past President Michael Castagna (Castagna Consulting Group, Manchester)

See page 3 for complete list of Board Members.

**Plan New Hampshire ~
The Foundation for Shaping the
Built Environment**

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www.plannh.org**

PLAN NH'S DESIGN CHARRETTES GOING STRONG



Last year, Plan NH conducted Design Charrettes in Winchester, Bristol and Franconia—we have now completed 40. This is our signature program, where we have the most impact for our communities.

Each year, every town in NH is invited to submit a project for our consideration, and each year we choose three or four. These are usually the smaller towns that don't have the resources for a more formal consultant, but have a design challenge. Plan NH brings in volunteer members to listen to the community's ideas, concerns and needs, and then brainstorms to find solutions. These members are from

large and small offices around the state, and represent disciplines needed to look at the target area—civil engineers, landscape architects, traffic engineers, contractors, architects and more.

Plan NH conducted a Design Charrette on June 19 and 20 in Lee. Later this year, we will visit Newton. In addition, we are piloting a "mini" Charrette program in Rindge and in East Kingston. The requests from these towns do not require full charrette programs, but we will offer an abbreviated form—and results from which they might be able to move forward.

Participation in a Charrette is rewarding for participants on many levels, both personal and professional. If you are interested in participating—or just observing, please let us know. And go to our website at www.plannh.org and click on Charrettes for more information and to look at our work from last year.

"When Franconia was awarded the Design Charrette, we really had no idea what to expect. What did we get? We got our socks knocked off!" from letter to Plan NH from Bernie Costa of Franconia.

PLAN NH IS GROWING

INTRODUCING PLAN NH AFTER HOURS

Plan NH is a *statewide* organization, but with no specific place to gather. In order to meet more of our members, we are now going to visit them in their own environments.

In February we met in Concord at the offices of North Branch Construction. In March, we visited 2008 Merit Award-winner AVA Art Gallery in Lebanon (hosted by Engineering Ventures), and in April we were in Manchester at the offices of Allen and Major. May saw us in Keene visiting CHA (co-hosted by Dan Scully Architects).

Although no date has been set, we are planning a visit to the Conway area soon, and the Seacoast.

We like to schedule these on the first Wednesday of the month. If you have a space for us to gather and would like to host an event (usually about 35 people), please let us know.

These are informal events, in which we meet members and members to be, and find out what's on their minds.

And of course, they are great networking opportunities.



Van Nichols of Edward Jones in Portsmouth and Alicia Dunstan of Terracon get acquainted at North Branch in Concord last February.

NEW LOGO AND NEW WEBSITE PART OF LOOK TO FUTURE

Our new logo reflects our commitment to the built environment, to the social capital of our communities, and to sustainability and "green."

Back in early 2008, the Board chose 36 Design, of Salem, NH to develop a new website for Plan NH.

Before they could do that, Steve and Trent (the "web guys") encouraged us to think about a new logo, and after 11 versions, we landed on what you see on the front page.

We like it, because it draws the eye, is colorful and interesting, and tells who we are and our vision of our role in the decade ahead: a commitment to excellence in the built environment in our Granite State towns, to the people that make up those communities, and to sustainability and "green".

From there, they went on to design and develop the website. We are starting with basics, and will add features as we have funding and need. We use the site for announcements, program descriptions and updates, and more. We hope you visit it often—and let us know what you think.

www.plannh.org

If you would like to support Plan NH by advertising on the site, please contact us. It's an inexpensive way to demonstrate your commitment to and support for our philosophy—and to let others know that you do.

PLAN NH AWARDS \$22K IN FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

At its Annual Meeting on June 12, this year on board the cruise ship *Mount Washington*, Plan NH awarded seven students from New Hampshire with Fellowship or Scholarship financial support:

- a \$2,000 Scholarship to Andrew Hollis Cushing of Piermont NH, who is pursuing a degree in Environmental Studies at Bowdoin College.

Undergraduates receiving \$2,500 Fellowship grants this year include:

- Alexander Pape of Strafford NH, studying Civil Engineering at UNH

- John Walton of Meredith NH, studying Mechanical Engineering at MIT
- Nicole Ward of Salem NH, studying Interior Design at Endicott College
- Justin Paul Ware of Gilsum NH, studying Architecture at RPI.

Graduate Students receiving \$5,000 Fellowship grants this year were:

- LouAnn Fornataro of Nashua NH, who is pursuing a Masters in Architecture at the BAC
- Braden Hunter of Concord NH, who is also pursuing a Masters in Architecture at the BAC.

2009 MEMBERSHIP AND SPONSORSHIP

Members of Plan New Hampshire are part of a growing list of individuals and firms with a connection to, or interest in, the built environment, and who care about its impact on the land and community in which it exists.

Membership means interaction with others in different disciplines but with a common philosophy that reflects our mission. This diversity of ideas and viewpoints often results in good networking (which can

lead to new clients and/or project partners), new perspectives, and fresh approaches to project development.

Recognizing the economic climate in the Granite State, the Board of Plan NH chose to *not* raise membership dues at this time (in fact, it has been at least 6 years since they were last raised.)

The success of our programs and mission-fulfillment depends on our membership.

100% of dues and sponsorships fund the daily operations of Plan NH—from paper clips to paying the Executive Director.

In these tight times, we hope you will choose to allocate a portion of your own budget to support of Plan NH.

Go to our website and click on MEMBERS for more information.

Members cite networking with others from different disciplines—but still in the industry—as a top benefit of membership in Plan NH.

Whether at informal gatherings or more structured events, there is always an opportunity to connect with new people—and who knows where that might lead?

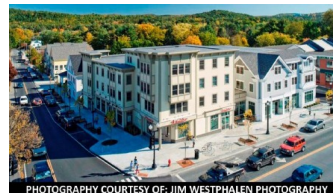
PLAN NH 2009 MERIT AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE ...

... in planning, design and development of the built environment:

- The Green Affordable Housing Pilot Project for the Child and Family Services Transitional Living Program in Manchester (NH)
Owner: Child and Family Services of New Hampshire
- Hanover (NH) South Block Development
Owner: Dartmouth College
- Webster Place Recovery Center, Franklin NH
Owner: Alex Ray
- Rehabilitation of the Haverhill-Bath (NH) Covered Bridge
Owners: Towns of Haverhill and Bath, NH

Awards were given to projects in New Hampshire that have been completed since 2004 and not only exemplify excellence in sustainable planning, design and development, but went above and beyond in the areas of smart growth, sustainability, social responsibility and/or creative approaches to partnership and collaboration.

These projects were recognized and celebrated at a dinner held on April 22 at The Derryfield Country Club in Manchester. More information and pictures of team members can be found at www.plannh.org, under AWARDS.



PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF: JIM WESTPHALEN PHOTOGRAPHY

SAVE THE DATE

20th Anniversary
Golf Classic

September 21, 2009
Nashua Country Club

visit www.plannh.org
for information and updates

Proceeds to support Plan NH
Scholarship Fund and other ongoing
efforts of the organization.

**For more information about any of our programs,
visit our website at www.plannh.org.**

PLAN NH BOARD

In addition to the Executive Board you met on the front page, Plan NH's Board is currently made up of:

- **Linda Connell** of McLane, Graf, Raulerson & Middleton in Manchester.
- **Bill Jean** of Fulcrum Associates in Amherst
- **Chris Nadeau** of Nobis Engineering in Concord.
- **Fred Richards** of Concord
- **Jayme Simoes** of Louis Karno and Company Communications in Concord
- **Heather Rowan** of Office Interiors in Dover
- **North Sturtevant** of JSA in Portsmouth
- **Wes Tator** of 2bgreenprofitably in Dover
- **Steve Peach** of Dennis Mires PA. The Architects in Manchester
- **Mal Merrill** has an honorary position as past Executive Director.

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SHOTS FROM THE MERIT AWARDS DINNER, APRIL 22, 2009



All photos by Roger Ramirez, Chariot Photo, Manchester.