



NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION
OF REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSIONS

150 WAKEFIELD ST. SUITE 12
ROCHESTER, NH 03867
TELEPHONE: 994-3500

**Central NH Regional
Planning Commission**

28 Commercial St. Suite 3
Concord, NH 03301
Telephone: 226-6020

**Lakes Region
Planning Commission**

103 Main St. Suite 3
Meredith, NH 03253
Telephone: 279-8171

**Nashua Regional
Planning Commission**

30 Temple St. Suite 310
Nashua, NH 03060
Telephone: 417-6570

North Country Council

161 Main St.
Littleton, NH 03561
Telephone: 444-6303

**Rockingham
Planning Commission**

156 Water Street
Exeter, NH 03833
Telephone: 778-0885

**Southern NH
Planning Commission**

438 Dubuque Street
Manchester, NH 03102
Telephone: 669-4664

**Southwest Region
Planning Commission**

37 Ashuelot Street
Keene, NH 03431
Telephone: 357-0557

**Strafford Regional
Planning Commission**

150 Wakefield St. Suite 12
Rochester, NH 03867
Telephone: 994-3500

**Upper Valley Lake
Sunapee Regional
Planning Commission**

10 Water St. Suite 225
Lebanon, NH 03766
Telephone: 448-1680

NHARPC Meeting
Wednesday, March 25, 2026
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM
John B. Andrews Room
NHMA
25 Triangle Park Drive
Concord, NH 03301

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions	1:00-1:05
2. Action items a. Appoint a New Vice Chair b. Appoint Jay Minkarah to the State Coordinating Council (SCC) c. Review and Approval of the December 10, 2025, Minutes (enclosed)	1:05-1:20
3. CPACER Presentation Brodie Deshaies, Legislative Advocate, NHMA	1:20-1:50
4. Legislative Updates Tim Moore, NHARPC Legislative Liaison Noah Hodgetts, Principal Planner, NHOPD	1:50-2:20
5. Discussion Items a. Marketing and Advocacy Updates	2:20-2:35
6. NHARPC - NHMA Partnership a. Town & City Articles and Webinars b. NHMA Conference Sessions Solicitation	2:35-2:40
7. RPC Updates a. Please plan to share current activities of interest from your region	2:40-2:55
8. Public Comment	2:55-3:00
9. Adjourn	3:00

Next Meeting: March 26, 2026, 1-3PM

New Hampshire Association of Regional Planning Commissions
Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2025
1:00-3:00PM
John Andrews Room
NH Municipal Association Building
25 Triangle Park Drive
Concord, NH

1. Welcome and Introductions

At 1:00 PM Chair Peter Griffin called the meeting to order and asked for introductions.

In attendance: Peter Griffin, SNHPC; UVLSRPC; Tim Moore, RPC; Jerry Coogan, UVLSRPC; Paul Rasmussen, SRPC; Jen Czysz, SRPC; Matt Baronas, CNRPC; Megan Taylor-Fetter, SRPC; David Walker, RPC; Sylvia Von Aulock, SNHPC; Bill Chaisson, UVLSRPC; Sandy Crystall, CNHRPC; Sarah Wrightsman, SRPC; Michelle Morin Grey, NCC

Attending on Zoom: Todd Horner, SWRPC; Megan Butts, UVLSRPC; Shanna Saunders, LRPC; Suzanne Neinaber, SNHPC; Christine Robidoux, SWRPC

Guests: Heather Shank and Janel Lawton, NHBEA

2. Action Items

a. Review and Approval of the September 24, 2025 Minutes

T. Moore moved to approve the minutes of September 24, 2025 as written. P. Rasmussen seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor. S. Crystall abstained.

3. Presentation: RecReady NH Planning Guide

H. Shank and Janael Lawton demonstrated how to navigate the RecReady website, highlighting that the guide is designed to serve as an evolving, long-term resource with tools, case studies, and other materials that will be updated over time. The group also briefly discussed and praised the quality of the artwork featured in the guide.

When asked about next steps, the discussion centered on the need for facilitation and potential resources to help communities pilot projects. Participants were encouraged to work with their Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs), as the state does not currently have funding available to provide additional planning support.

Budget considerations were noted, particularly that support may be possible when projects have a transportation connection—for example, a rail trail. Without that nexus, funding opportunities are limited. RPCs can also provide trail counters to help communities measure and understand year-round usage of their recreational assets.

4. Legislative Updates

N. Hodgetts stated that the LSR sign-off process is underway. In the House, all Senate bill language has been published, while only about 50% of the House bill language is currently available. Both the House and Senate have acted on all bills that were carried over and have filed their reports.

N. Hodgetts provided an update on the following bills carried forward from the prior year:

- HB 459, SB 84 bills to regulate lot sizes have been sent to interim study, can't come back in 2026
- HB 639, relative to the use of and disputes over blockchain and digital currencies, which was going to restrict ability to restrict digital asset mining/cryptocurrency in zoning was sent to interim study
- HB 244: Moves all references to building code adoption and building codes from the planning and zone statutes into 155-A, is going forward, will have vote in early 2026.

The Zoning Enabling Act study commission has met 3 times to date, starting to get into more substantive conversations, about modifications to be made such as moving references such as pattern zoning to the innovative land use controls section (674:21). The commission is also looking at opportunities where statutes could be streamlined to make less confusing.

Looking forward, there are many proposed bills that would make changes to or repeal items enacted last year, some are purely technical in nature such as clarifying that manufactured housing can't be used as an ADU. N. Hodgetts commented that, in general, for nearly every bill proposing a new action or requirement, there appears to be another bill introduced to repeal it or pursue the exact opposite approach.

S. Saunders reported that the New Hampshire Planners Association Legislative Subcommittee has convened and is actively reviewing bills as they are introduced.

T. Moore noted that there are numerous ADU-related bills currently under consideration. There are two bills relevant to NHMA: one would propose the creation of an oversight commission to track financial matters. Another bill pertains to municipalities that pay dues.

Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) should continue to monitor these developments and keep their member communities informed. Most of the bill language is expected to be available within the next two weeks.

N. Hodgetts summarized the following legislative service requests and recently released bills:

- LSR 2866: Establishing a 10-year strategic housing and infrastructure plan. would create some new responsibilities for RPCs. However, no funding.
- LSR 2921: Relative to creating a state assessment on non-homestead luxury second homes to fund statewide housing development programs and address

housing shortages and making appropriations, therefore, may include funding for regional housing need assessments. Don't expect any bills with budget impact to go anywhere this year.

- SB 592: Enabling regional, conservation, and energy resource planning for habitat strongholds and wildlife corridors – adds responsibilities for conservation, habitat strongholds, and wildlife corridors to RPC responsibilities in RSA 36:45, 47
- SB 627: A bill to increase tolls to add back funding to 10 year plan, but it is unlikely to go anywhere this session.
- HB 1195: relative to municipal zoning requirements for child day care providers, builds off 2024 HB1567
- There are bills to repeal workforce housing law (HB1619), ADU law (HB1012), manufactured housing laws (HB 1016), and variations.
- HB 1357: Manufactured housing on individual lots opportunities
- SB 419: Housing champions: Bills to fund housing champions, bills to repeal the housing champion program (HB1196), also a few bills mention including non-housing related qualifications about childcare or floodplain resiliency to housing champions
- HB 1023: Establishing commercial accessory uses by right
- LSR 2300: Mandatory land use board testing
- HB 1273: Expands coastal resilience incentives in 79-e for property tax relief for any flood mitigation in floodplain by property owner. statewide
- HB 1057: Bill to define private road, and clarify maintenance responsibilities
- HB 1625: Relative to annual reporting on accessory dwelling unit construction and use. – OPD, beyond number of units
- HB 1103: Allowing municipalities to utilize community revitalization tax relief credits on a wider variety of properties and structures, make technical fixes and adds flexibility to housing opportunity zones – removes affordability requirements
- HB 1265: Data Centers:, prohibiting construction of data centers and creating commission to study environmental impacts of data centers, SB 439, regulate where data centers be allowed in commercial and industrial districts (SB 439)
- HB 1303: Authorizing municipalities to adopt zoning ordinances related to the protection, management, or replacement of tree canopy.
- HB 1265: Trying to reconstruction data centers and SB 439 regulating where data centers be allowed and zoning with some kind of parameters are allowed.
- HB 1567: A bill that would extend the House Bill 1567 from two years ago around zoning for child care to expand that.

S. Saunders noted that input from municipalities during the public hearing process is critically important. In many cases, there is only one primary opportunity for to speak publicly. While written comments and letters can also be submitted, many municipalities last year chose to take a wait-and-see approach. As a result, direct municipal participation in this process is essential and should be strongly encouraged by the Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs).

5. Discussion Items

a. Marketing Plan

Peter Griffin asked how the Regional Planning Commissions can increase public visibility and raise awareness of the valuable work they do. He referenced ideas discussed at the September meeting, such as engaging with media figures like Fred Coker at WMUR and reaching out to print media to publish articles highlighting RPC efforts, and asked whether there had been any progress on these initiatives.

J. Coogan reported that he contacted Fred Kocher regarding his Sunday morning show on WMUR. Coker expressed interest in having an RPC representative as a guest, with a focus on discussing housing-related topics. At the RPC Directors' meeting, Jay Minkarah volunteered to serve as the RPC representative for the show.

B. Chaisson provided an update on outreach to local print and digital newspapers and magazines, noting that while many outlets lack the capacity to write original articles, they are open to publishing pre-written submissions.

The group discussed potential news outlets, including:

- New Hampshire Bulletin
- InDepth New Hampshire
- New Hampshire Magazine
- New Hampshire Business Review
- Granite State News Collaborative
- NHPR

As next steps, J. Coogan will follow up with Fred Kocher, B. Chaisson will coordinate a list of applicable print and online news outlets and their contacts, and S. von Aulock will inquire with NHMA about the possibility of repurposing articles previously written for *Town & City*.

6. NHARPC – NHMA Partnership Town and City Articles and Webinars

J. Cysz reported that at the last meeting there was a partial list that the RPC directors have since ironed out. Megan has been sending calendar invites for due dates to the authors responsible.

7. RPC Updates

Dave Walker shared that RPC is wrapping up a regional household hazardous waste assessment for a feasibility study to try to figure out what the best option is to collect household waste based on a regional level so that it's not up to the individual communities.

He noted that RPC is also currently looking for funding to do a feasibility study more specifically on building a regional facility that the communities might have access to. He asked if anybody is aware of some money for that that is not USDA Rural limited.

RPC is also working with at least one community on looking into setting up a future community center and is looking for funding and resources. Two or three communities have expressed interest, but we're working specifically with Fremont on that.

RPC is wrapping up a complete streets policy and design guidelines document for the Town of Exeter.

There is a lot good work going on with a large number of communities to address changes required by the last legislative session.

In response to funding a community center, P. Griffin suggested looking at the new community center in Plaistow for ideas.

B. Chaisson shared that he has been made aware of T-Mobile grants for community projects; they award them quarterly.

N. Hodgetts suggested looking at the Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) which had a community center investment program. That program has run out of money. Check if other community development tax credit programs can be used for funding community centers.

M. Moren-Grey shared that NCC was awarded an AARP grant which enabled them to purchase \$1,500 in pop up equipment. She offered the equipment to other RPCs as a lending opportunity. She stated that they had to rent a U-Haul truck to move the equipment to a site.

S. von Aulock shared that SNHPC also got an AARP grant and also purchased equipment. S. von Aulock shared that SNHPC is wrapping up an ADU guide.

SNHPC has a "travel trainer" and is working with Easter Seals staff to teach their clients how to ride the bus, what it's like and what it costs, how accessible it is, all those things that are barriers for people to actually get on the bus.

M. Baronas shared that he is working on a couple of hazard mitigation plans. CNHPC is doing a lot of wrap up of the summer data collection so traffic data analysis and RSMS plans.

He also talked about a demonstration project where they borrowed demonstration equipment from Southern for a project in Hopkinton. That project ended up catching DOT's attention, and when it came time to pave that area, they decided to remove the slip lane based on what they had seen through the demonstration.

M. Butts reported that several road safety audits are underway and nearing completion. The team is also wrapping up HOP grants and is deeply involved in reviewing regulations and drafting materials. In addition, work continues on the Long Island Sound Futures Fund stormwater project, now more than a year in

progress. The project has reached the site-selection phase, with consultants narrowing more than 100 potential implementation sites for spring work.

J. Czysz provided an update for SRPC, noting ongoing efforts related to recent legislative changes. SRPC is collaborating with the Southern Maine Planning and Development Council on implementation work for a joint land use study for the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. Housing emerged as a major issue, and SRPC used available grant funds to help municipalities draft warrant articles and implement the required legislative updates. In total, SRPC assisted eight or nine communities through this process.

SRPC is also partnering with Rockingham Planning Commission on multiple flood-resilience and climate-resilience projects. Rockingham has developed a framework for coastal resilience collaboratives, and SRPC is now seeking grant funding to help municipalities build consensus and develop MOUs to advance the work.

Additionally, SRPC is working with NHDES on coastal flood-resilience planning involving several SWRPC communities. Funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, this project uses GIS analysis to identify community assets located in high-hazard areas, prioritize flood-risk hotspots, and develop mitigation action plans.

SRPC is preparing to host a “Commissioner 101” session, which will feature informal small-group discussions organized by program area. Staff will rotate among stations to engage with commissioners, and the event will conclude with a Jeopardy-style activity.

P. Rasmussen shared a local issue that may have broader regional implications. Recent legislation has enabled developers to build large single-family homes—sometimes with eight bedrooms—in districts that do not allow multi-unit housing. Because occupancy cannot be restricted below two people per bedroom, these homes function similarly to boarding houses. If developers cannot obtain variances for multi-unit housing, this strategy becomes an alternative. Municipalities may need to decide whether to allow multi-unit housing in residential districts or face an increase in oversized homes that serve the same purpose.

P. Griffin reported that the adoption of the Ten-Year Plan has been delayed. As part of ongoing discussions, Councilor Wheeler has proposed advancing the I-293 Exit 6 and Exit 7 projects ahead of prior scheduling, which could result in changes at the expense of other planned projects.

J. Cogan asked what is the overall outlook today on funding for RPCs going forward?

Michelle Moren Grey responded that when we went into our budget season, we were at the highest percentage of local contracts. We have now flipped that as a result of the uncertainty with grant funding.

P. Griffin asked if anyone has contacts with podcasts that could be a valuable platform for promoting regional planning and encouraged them to reach out.

8. Public Comment

There was no public Comment

9. Adjourn

3:00 PM: Following a motion and a second, the group voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Taylor-Fetter

What is the C-PACER program?

C-PACER (Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy and Resiliency) is a financing program that enables commercial property owners and developers to access private capital for energy efficiency, clean energy, water conservation, and property resiliency improvements. Financing is repaid via a special assessment lien (a charge) imposed on the property.

What types of properties are eligible for C-PACER financing?

Eligible properties include those used or zoned for residential, commercial, industrial, or other uses excluding residential property containing less than five (5) dwelling units located in a municipality or county that has adopted a C-PACER ordinance. Eligible property may be owned by any type of business, corporation, individual, or nonprofit organization permitted by state law.

What kinds of improvements can be financed?

Qualified improvements include clean energy systems (like solar), energy efficiency upgrades (like insulation or HVAC), resiliency measures (like flood mitigation), and water conservation systems (like lead abatement and low-flow fixtures).

How does a municipality or county participate in the C-PACER program?

Municipalities or counties must adopt a C-PACER Ordinance or Resolution, establish a C-PACER District, and enter into a Participation Agreement with the NH BFA (Business Finance Authority).

What responsibilities does a municipality or county have once enrolled?

Primary duties include executing and recording the assessment and lien documents and certifying payment in full. Municipalities and counties then assign the assessment and lien to the relevant capital provider, at which time they can also delegate billing and collections responsibilities.

Will municipalities or counties be responsible for the enforcement of loan default provisions?

Municipalities and counties will have no responsibility or liability in this instance. Delinquent payments are handled by the capital provider under RSA 479 procedures, including foreclosure if needed.

Can C-PACER be used for projects that are already complete?

Retroactive financing is allowed for qualified improvements installed and became operational no more than 36 months prior to submission of an application. Verification of project completion by a licensed professional will be required in this instance.

The Energy Committee believes this program would be good for the town, since it would increase the tax base with minimal effort and is recommending that it be pursued.

There is a newly proposed NH bill (not yet assigned a bill number) that if it passes, then any town can opt-in via Selectboard vote instead of waiting for the annual town meeting. Chances of this bill being passed/effective before the March town meeting is slim, so the Energy Committee is recommending to the Selectboard that a warrant article to opt-in as a C-PACER district be presented and voted on at the next town meeting.

NHARPC/NHMA

Planning Education Partnership Schedule for Town & City Articles

CY2026 List

Issue	Due Date	Topic	Authors
Nov/Dec	9/26/2025	Resources for Volunteer Planners	SWRPC – Todd SNHPC – Sylvia NCC - Courtney
Jan/Feb	11/28/2025	Natural Resource Inventories and Assessments	CNHRPC – Craig Tufts SRPC – Rachel Dewey/Jen NRPC - Jay
Mar/Apr	1/30/2026	Grants, Grant Writing to create change for communities	SRPC – Jen/Kyle NCC – Michelle SWRPC - Todd
May/June	3/27/2026	Innovative Affordable Housing Solutions	SNHPC – Sylvia SWRPC – Todd UVLSRPC – John All RPCs include an example if possible
Jul/Aug	5/29/2026	Transportation Safety – SS4A, RSAs, HSIP and more?	RPC – Dave Walker SRPC – Colin Lentz SNHPC – Adam/Dave
Sep/Oct	7/31/2026	HOP Grants Results and Impacts – Funding Yields Results	NRPC – Cassie Cashin SRPC – Mark Davie/Blair Haney SNHPC – Cam Prolman
Nov/Dec	9/25/2026	Household Hazardous Waste	UVLSRPC – Tim NRPC – Mary Brundage RPC – Jill Longval LRPC - Shanna

Procedures

- Megan at SRPC will send out reminders to authors, their directors 1 month and 2 weeks before the due date. Miranda will be copied on these reminders.
- When submitting your article, send it to Miranda Augustine (maugustine@nhmunicipal.org) and copy Megan Taylor-Fetter (mtaylorfetter@straffordRPCnh.gov)

2026 NHMA Annual Conference - Call for Session Proposals

From Conference <conference@nhmunicipal.org>

Date Mon 3/16/2026 11:49 AM

To Conference <conference@nhmunicipal.org>

Good Morning,

The NH Municipal Association is pleased to announce that we are now accepting session proposals for our 2026 annual conference, to be held on Wednesday, October 28 and Thursday, October 29, 2026, with an end time of 2:45pm. We will be returning to The DoubleTree by Hilton Manchester Downtown Hotel in Manchester, NH for the conference.

The deadline for submitting proposals is close of business on Friday, May 29, 2026. We'll let you know if your proposal has been accepted no later than **July 17, 2026**. If your session proposal is accepted, your presentation materials will be due on **Friday, October 2, 2026, three weeks before the conference.**

Read on to learn more about the goals of the conference and what we look for in proposals. With so many different topics and issues of interest to local officials, there is ample opportunity for a variety of creative sessions, and we welcome your ideas!

CONFERENCE GOAL

The overarching goal of our annual conference is to provide a platform for NHMA members to learn and exchange ideas, to hear about successes and challenges that face municipalities across our state, and to reunite and make new professional connections with others who are committed to better serving our New Hampshire municipalities and communities. We aim to ensure that municipalities understand the laws that govern them and the scope of their authority as elected or appointed local officials to enhance their ability to serve the public.

DIVERSITY OF SPEAKERS - MIX OF ROLES AND PERSPECTIVES

Subject matter and presentation styles should be directed primarily toward city and town officials. We welcome topic proposals from NHMA affiliate groups, local officials, attorneys, state agencies, and other individuals who advise or work with local governments. NHMA will not accept proposals for sessions that appear to be selling a product or service. (Please note that this conference is held in person only).

OUR AUDIENCE

Our audience of elected and appointed officials come to their positions from a wide diversity of backgrounds and experiences. Be aware that many in our audience require large fonts/easy to read slide decks and need participant questions to be repeated for all to hear.

TOPICS WE'RE LOOKING FOR

Capital and Long-Range Planning
Censorship/First Amendment Issues

Conflicts/Incompatibility
Civility & Elections /Electioneering
Employment Law
Finance (Policies & Procedures)
First Amendment Audit
Food Waste & Waste Disposal (paint, batteries, wastewater)
Leveraging State & Federal Aid/Grants
Local Solutions to Housing
Human Resource Management (Performance Review, Hiring and Disciplinary Topics, Succession Planning)
Meeting Management
Meeting Minutes
Policies and Procedures & Best Practices for Local Officials
Recruitment & Retention
Resilience/Disaster Planning
Roads (Rules & Regulations)
Social Media
Tax Deeding
Technology/Cyber Security /AI
Treasurer (Duties & Responsibilities)

SESSION FORMAT

Session lengths vary from 60 to 75 minutes, including time for questions. Individual presenter, team presentation, or panel presentation formats are welcome.

SPEAKER BENEFITS & LOGISTICS

If you are selected to speak at the 2026 Annual Conference, we will waive your conference attendance fee, which includes meals. Hotel accommodations and other travel expenses are not provided by NHMA.

HOW TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL

Follow this link to [Submit your proposal via Sched](#)

Once you have reviewed the information on the main Proposal page (linked above), click "Submit Proposal Here!"

You will be prompted to create a Sched account or sign in using Google if you have a Gmail address. If you want to create a new Sched account, click "Sign up with Email," then enter your email address and create a password.

After logging in, you can enter all the details about your proposal. If you do not yet know all your speakers, that is okay. We will follow up on that information if your proposal is approved. However, you must enter at least one speaker's information to continue to page 2, where you will provide your session title, description, and select a session track. To add more than 1 speaker, click on the box, "+Add Speaker".

Once your proposal is successfully submitted, you will receive a confirmation email. Please be sure to click the "Confirm Your Email" button in that message to complete the process.

Please contact us at conference@nhmunicipal.org if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Ashley Methot
Event Coordinator

New Hampshire Municipal Association

25 Triangle Park Drive Concord, NH 03301

603.230.3350 | conference@nhmunicipal.org | nhmunicipal.org



This email has been scanned for spam and viruses by Proofpoint Essentials. Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.