



NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION
OF REGIONAL PLANNING

COMMISSIONS

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North Country Council
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**Rockingham
Planning Commission**
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**Southern NH
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NHARPC Meeting

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions	1:00-1:05
2. Action items a. Review and Approval of the June 24, 2026 Minutes (enclosed)	1:05-1:10
3. Legislative Updates Noah Hodgetts, NHOPD Tim Moore, NHARPC Legislative Liaison	1:10-1:25
4. Discussion: a. Spring 2027 Convening b. Marketing/ Potential NHARPC Podcast c. Developing 501c3 Foundations d. Multi Year Strategic Plan for NHARPC e. Regional Coordination Councils' Boundaries f. Data Center Resource Guide Update	1:25-2:35
5. NHARPC - NHMA Partnership a. Town & City Articles and Webinars	2:35-2:45
6. RPC Updates a. Please plan to share current activities of interest from your region	2:45-2:55
7. Public Comment	2:55-3:00
8. Adjourn	3:00

NHARPC FY2027 Meeting Schedule

Date	Potential Topics	Notes
Dec. 9, 1-3PM		
Mar 17, 1-3PM		
Jun. 23, 1-3PM		

New Hampshire Association of Regional Planning Commissions
Meeting Minutes
June 24, 2026
1:00-3:00PM
John Andrews Room
NH Municipal Association Building
25 Triangle Park Drive
Concord, NH

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

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

Present: Peter Griffin, SNHPC; Jen Czysz, SRPC; Shanna Saunders, LRPC; Sandy Crystall, CNPC; Paul Rasmussen, SRPC; Dave Kerr, LRPC; Sarah Wrightsman, SRPC; Noah Hodgetts, Principal Planner, NHOPD; James Steel, NCCRPC; Katrin Kasper, SRPC; Mike Tardiff, CNHRPC; Tim Moore, Jerry Coogan, UVLSRPC; Sandy Crystall, CNHRPC; Ray Clement, SNHPC; Nate Miller, SNHRPC; Shanna Saunders, LRPC; Christine Robidoux, SWRPC

Zoom: Meghan Butts, UVLSRPC

2. Action items

Approval of the March 25, 2026 Minutes

T. Moore moved to approve the March 25, 2026 minutes. S. Wrightsman seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting in favor. J. Coogan and Nate Millar abstained from the vote. The motion passed.

**3. Legislative Updates with Noah Hodgetts, NHOPD, Tim Moore, NHARPC
Legislative Liaison**

Noah Hodgetts reviewed his top bills that affecting regional planning commissions:

1. [HB 244](#) - moves all references to building codes and adoption of local building code enforcement authority from the planning and zoning statutes into RSA 155-A. Doesn't make any substantive change to any planning or zoning statutes, but local building officials/inspectors and building code board of appeals will no longer be considered local land use boards. *If signed by the governor, it would take effect July 1st.*
2. [HB1010](#) - amends RSA 674:80 to clarify how planning boards should assess where adequate road infrastructure, water infrastructure, or sewage infrastructure is present when evaluating applications for multi-family dwelling units on commercially zoned land. Adds language for when a planning board may deny an application for multi-family dwelling units on commercially zoned land. *If signed by the governor, it would take effect July 1st at 12:01 AM.*
3. [HB1103](#) - amends RSA 79-E to give municipalities the option of using RSA 79-E Community Revitalization Tax Relief for conversion of industrial and commercial structures to residential use, and to allow 79-E tax relief in Housing Opportunity Zones, without any prescribed affordability requirements. In municipalities which already have adopted 79-E, it would

have to adopt these other provisions separately and designate new boundaries for these 79-E districts. *If signed by the governor, it would take effect 60 days after the signing date.*

4. [HB1588](#) - clarifies that under RSA 674:16, VII municipalities can't require that residential parking spaces be garaged. It also amends RSA 674:80, IV to only allow municipalities to regulate frontage, setback, and height of multi-family dwelling units on commercially zoned land, where adequate infrastructure is present. Municipalities would be liable for legal fees if an applicant is denied an application for multi-family housing on commercially zoned land based on regulations other than frontage, setback or height. *If signed by the governor, it would take effect 60 days after the signing date (there would be a two-month window from July 1st when 674:80 takes effect to when the stricter requirements in HB1588 take effect).*
5. [HB1195](#) - amends RSA 674:16, VI to require that home-based childcare for up to 12 children be allowed in primary residential or existing accessory structures on lots where residential uses are permitted and not be subject to site plan review, if the family or group family childcare meets DHHS childcare licensing requirements ([He-C 4002](#)). This is an expansion of 2024 HB1567 which gave municipalities the option of subjecting family or group family childcare to a conditional use permit. It also establishes a new requirement that childcare centers be allowed by right on commercially zoned land if the center meets all DHHS childcare licensing requirements, and exempts centers with licensed capacity up to 30 children from site plan review. *If signed by the governor, it would take effect July 1st.*
6. [HB1468](#) - amends RSA 674:2, III to allow planning boards to adopt a separate flood resilience section in their master plan (in addition to the existing natural hazards, and coastal management sections). *Signed June 19, Effective August 18th.*

7. [HB1681](#) - creates new definition of innovative housing structures, which include tiny houses, tiny houses on wheels, and yurts in RSA 674:81, and gives municipalities the option of allowing them on a single-family lot or as an ADU but doesn't require them to be allowed. It also standardizes the requirements in the state building code and fire code for permitting innovative housing structures. *If signed by the governor, it would take effect 60 days after signing.*
8. [HB2026](#) - adopts the 10-year 2026 – 2027 transportation plan, with additional projects added back in Albany, Manchester (293 Exit 6/7), Bow-Concord (93 widening), Randolph, Enfield, Plymouth, Marlborough, Hillsborough, Madbury, Hooksett, Plaistow, Nashua, Dover-Somersworth-Rochester, and Dunbarton. Also creates two different toll schedules for NH EZ-Pass holders and non-NH EZ-Pass holders, which the governor has said she doesn't support. There is a separate bill, [SB627](#) which creates the same two-tiered toll schedule effective 1/1/27, but doesn't adopt the 10-year plan or add back projects. *If signed by the governor, most of the bill would take effect upon signing with the toll increases taking effect Jan. 1, 2027.*
9. [SB502](#) - changes all references to the office of planning and development to the division of planning and community development at BEA for the purpose of delineation of RPC boundaries (RSA 36:45, 36:46, I-II), soliciting comments on consistency of each regional plan with the state development plan, and other references to OPD in RSA 36:47. *Signed June 19, Effective August 18th.*
10. [SB564](#) - Creates 674:21-b, which would (1) prohibit municipalities from limiting road length if the road complies with the state fire code, (2) removes the ability for municipalities to cap the number of housing units on dead streets unless the cap is in compliance with the state fire code and NFPA standard 1141, and (3) allows for the placement of utilities within permitter buffers and "open space areas" of subdivisions. There is also conflicting language which says that utilities in "conservation areas" of subdivisions shall be subject to a conditional use permit or special exception. It also adds a retroactive requirement that municipalities shall not impose additional restrictions or requirements regarding building or lot size for affected properties before the effective date of the bill. *If signed by the governor, it would take effect April 1, 2027.*
11. [SB592](#) - adds responsibilities for habitat strongholds and wildlife corridors to RPC responsibilities in RSA 36:45 and RSA 36:47, I. It also would amend RSA 36-A:2 requiring municipal conservation commissions to include an inventory of habitat strongholds and wildlife corridors in their Natural Resource Inventories for information purposes for RPCs and gives the Fish & Game Executive Director authority to consult with the RPCs about wildlife corridors. It also creates a commission to study transferring ownership of the Winnepesaukee River Basin Program (DES owned sewer system through several Lakes Region communities) program to an alternative authority which supports municipalities served by the WRBP. *If signed by the governor, it would take effect 60 days after signing.*

Tim Moore reviewed his list of top ten bills:

HB1010: This bill repeals the statewide mandate for municipalities to permit multi-family residential development on commercially zoned land.

HB1079: This bill expands the definition of accessory dwelling units to allow them to be built within nonconforming structures.

HB1089: This bill extends the authorization of the department of environmental services for the evaluation and mitigation of new community water system contamination risks.

HB1369: This bill allows the warrant for a special town meeting to be posted on the town's website in lieu of in a newspaper of general circulation.

HB1425: This bill simplifies wetland permitting for small projects and gives the department of environmental services the authority to create an alternative adaptive permitting process for emergency or natural disaster response.

HB1588: This bill establishes special assessment districts and expands the housing infrastructure grant program to allow for municipal upgrades linked to new housing.

HB1594: This bill changes the annual registration fees for electric vehicles from a flat fee to one based on type and weight.

HB1681: This bill establishes standards for innovative housing structures such as tiny houses, tiny houses on wheels, and yurts, allowing their use as single-family or accessory dwellings, setting inspection and permitting requirements, authorizing municipal property tax assessments, regulating transport, and permitting grey water disposal systems.

HB1738: This bill changes the carbon dioxide emissions budget allowances for 2027 through 2030 and thereafter, and creates 2 cost containment allowance levels and the trigger price at which the department releases allowances for years 2027 through 2030 and thereafter.

HB1742: This bill requires electric utilities to restore customer-generators who are inadvertently enrolled in a third-party electricity supply program to default service and apply net metering credits retroactively for up to 6 months.

HB2026: This bill adopts the state 10-year transportation plan for 2027-2036.

SB440: This bill modifies the requirements for adoption of energy efficient and clean energy districts by municipalities.

SB538: This bill establishes long-term eligibility for certain customer-generators to receive net energy metering compensation under alternative tariffs approved by the public utilities commission. This bill also outlines conditions for transitioning to future tariffs.

SB541: This bill makes an appropriation to the department of environmental services to fund regional drinking water infrastructure. (\$16,500,000).

SB590: This bill authorizes municipalities to use revolving funds to support energy services under approved electric aggregation plans.

SB592: This bill enables regional, conservation, and energy resource planning for habitat strongholds and wildlife corridors.

There was discussion on house Bill 244, which rewrites building code enforcement references, and House Bill 1010, which makes changes to multifamily and commercial zone regulations, both taking effect July 1st. Tim explained House Bill 1195, which allows home-based childcare for up to 12 children in residential structures and exempts licensed childcare centers from site plan review, also taking effect July 1st.

The group discussed House Bill 2026 regarding the 10-year transportation plan, which includes a bifurcated toll rate for in-state and out-of-state drivers, though the governor has said she doesn't support the toll increase portion and said she would veto it.

4. Discussion: Data Centers—How to Support Municipalities, Planning & Legal Framework

Brodie Deshaies join the group to provide some clarification on New Hampshire's approach to regulating data centers, following Senate Bill 439. Participants noted municipalities already have the power to regulate or prohibit data centers through their zoning ordinances.

Brodie explained that the bill was originally intended to address concerns about data center development but was amended in a way that may have expanded where data centers could be permitted. They noted that New Hampshire currently has very few data centers, with only one significant large-scale proposal, in Nottingham, which was ultimately withdrawn after strong public opposition. The group talked about how data centers represent a relatively new land use for many communities.

The group discussed the RPC's role and to provide guidance on issues such as environmental impacts, water use, energy consumption, and infrastructure demands, while preserving local control over land-use decisions; draft a white paper to help municipalities evaluate data center proposals, including considerations such as water demand, electrical capacity, noise, and vibration impacts.

Overall, they emphasized that data centers represent a relatively new land use for many communities and that local officials would benefit from clear, balanced technical guidance and asked what threshold do you call it a data center; how many computers does it take to make a data center?

Nate Miller offered to head the project with help from NHMA(Brodie), BEA, (Noah), Matt Monahan, regional planning commissions, planners, the New Hampshire Planners Association and other interested groups to coordinate on a resource.

J. Czysz volunteered to reach out to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES).

5. Annual Business Meeting Items

a. FY2026 Financial Report

M. Taylor-Fetter provided a brief review of the FY2026 financials and stated there is nothing unusual and the transactions remain minimal to include dues payments and the website/social media and administrative services agreement payments.

b. Annual Dues Assessment (\$1,000/RPC?)

S. Saunders motioned to approve the FY dues as proposed at \$1000.00 per RPC. N. Miller stated that there is a \$500.00 shortfall. S. Saunders amended the motion to say the dues will be increased at \$1,050.00 per RPC, which includes an additional \$50.00 per RPC to cover the anticipated expenditures and to approve the FY27 Budget with the additional dues added. N. Miller seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting in favor. The motion passed.

c. Contracts for Services

S. Saunders motioned to approve the contracts as presented:

- Administrative Support Services Agreement with SRPC at \$8,000.00 for FY2027
- Website and Social Media Support Services Agreement with CNHRPC for \$1,500.00 for FY2027

J. Coogan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted with all members voting in favor. The motion passed.

d. Election of Officers

T. Moore motioned to approve the slate of officers for FY 27:

Peter Griffin, Chairperson
Christine Robidoux, Vice Chairperson
Sarah Wrightsman, Treasurer

J. Coogan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted with all members voting in favor. The motion passed.

6. Priorities for FY 2027

a. Spring 2027 Convening

The group discussed when to hold the convening and agreed that April would be a good time. By then, each region will have completed its regional plan updates and will have an opportunity to discuss implementation and next steps. April is also a good fit because it is not too close to the annual meetings.

At the April NHARPC meeting Peter Griffin, Jay Minkarah, and Paul Rasmussen, volunteered to form a subcommittee.

The group discussed potential themes and ideas for the convening:

- Highlight the value of regional planning and make the case for restoring RPC funding in the state budget.
- Invite Patricia Quinn, Executive Director of NNEPRA, to provide a regional transportation perspective, including the Downeaster service in New Hampshire.
- Showcase each RPC's success stories.
- Invite the press to attend.
- Focus on implementation and project results.

b. Marketing

J. Coogan stated that Jay Minkarah was recently on WMUR's New Hampshire Business to talk about the planning commissions. It was agreed that someone from a different commission should offer to appear on the show. Peter and Jerry volunteered to make contact with their connections with the press.

7. NHARPC-NHMA Partnership, Town and City Articles and Webinars

J. Czysz provided a quick update on upcoming articles.

- **Jul/Aug: Transportation Safety** – SS4A, RSAs, HSIP and more? RPC – Dave Walker, SRPC – Colin Lentz, SNHPC – Adam/Dave
- **Sep/Oct: 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

Potential 2027 Articles:

- **Jan/Feb: C-PACER** –LRPC, CleanEnergyNH

8. RPC Updates

- SRPC: J. Czysz reported that SRPC's annual meeting was scheduled for the following evening, featuring the three state agency commissioners as guest speakers and Steve Pesci as emcee.
- CNHRPC: M. Tardiff reported continued work on multiple master plans, circuit-rider assistance, and other local planning projects.
- N. Miller highlighted Manchester's \$400 million CSO project, a major infrastructure investment that will use an underground tunnel to separate stormwater and sewage systems and improve Merrimack River water quality.
- North Country: Demand for local planning services, including master plans, circuit riding, and zoning audits, continues to grow. Local service revenue exceeded federal and state funding for the first time.
- SWRPC: The annual meeting honored retiring board chair Tom Mullins for 29 years of service and included updates on transit projects, hazard mitigation efforts, and community support initiatives.
- Lakes Region: The annual meeting featured a presentation on charrettes and a review of the commission's accomplishments over the past year.

- UVLSRPC: Reported a successful annual meeting and discussion of the Croydon Game Park as a topic of regional interest.
- Windham: A proposed private school sports complex remains controversial, with the applicant seeking 18 variances. The project has generated strong public interest, and additional hearings are pending.
- K. Kasper shared that New Hampshire Energy is currently conducting an Environmental Justice Assessment and would greatly value partnering with the RPCs. Your organizations have a unique understanding of the region and can help us connect important pieces of the puzzle better than anyone else.

9. Public Comment

There was no public comment

10. Adjourn

Following a motion and a second, a roll call followed with all members voting in favor. The meeting adjourned at 2:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan Taylor-Fetter

NHARPC/NHMA

Planning Education Partnership

Schedule for Town & City Articles

CY2027 List

Issue	Due Date	Topic	Authors
Nov/Dec	9/25/2026	Household Hazardous Waste	UVLSRPC – Tim NRPC – Mary Brundage RPC – Jill Longval LRPC-Shanna
Jan/Feb		C-PACER	LRPC – Shanna CleanEnergyNH – Sarah
Mar/Apr		Transportation Funding Beyond the Ten-Year Pan	RPC – Dave SRPC – Colin UVLSRPC – Meghan/John LRPC – Glenn
May/Jun		CDBG, NBRC grants and their economic benefits	SWRPC – NCC – Michelle UVLSRPC – Tim LRPC –
Jul/Aug		Data Centers and Land Use Planning	CNHRPC – Matt SNHPC – Nate SRPC – Jen NCC – Liz OPD, NHMA partners
Sep/Oct		Watershed Planning	NRPC – SWRPC – SRPC – Kyle
Nov/Dec		Intermunicipal Agreements to Further Regional Efforts	SRPC – Mike, Climate RPC – Scott, rail trail NRPC – Jay, HHW

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)

NHARPC/NHMA

Planning Education Partnership

Schedule for Town & City Articles

2026 Articles

- Natural Resource Inventories and Assessments
- Grants, Grant Writing to create change for communities
- Innovative Affordable Housing Solutions
- Transportation Safety – SS4A, RSAs, HSIP and more?
- HOP Grants Results and Impacts – Funding Yields Results
- Household Hazardous Waste

2025 Articles

- Housing Navigator Success Stories
- Why Engagement is Important in the Planning Process
- How Investing in Regional Planning gets Results
- The Ten Year Plan
- Brownfields and Affordable Housing
- Investment in Transit and Mobility Management
- Resources for Volunteer Planners

2024 Articles

- Why do we Plan? The Importance of Planning
- Hazard Mitigation and Home Elevations
- Complete Streets
- NH's Changing Demographics
- Sidewalks: Walkability and Accessibility

2023 Articles

- Municipal Natural Resource Inventories
- Community Transportation
- Final RHNA Products and HOP Implementation
- Solid Waste, HHW
- Climate resiliency

2022 Articles

- Community Power/ Electricity Aggregation
- Data Collection – SADES, etc.
- Hazard Mitigation Planning
- Regional Housing Needs Assessment
- Economic Resiliency Planning

<https://www.nharpc.org/educational-materials/>

NHARPC FY2027 Meeting Schedule

Date	Potential Topics	Notes
Sep. 23, 1-3PM		
Dec. 9, 1-3PM		
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Jun. 23, 1-3PM		