

SWRPC

Commission Highlights

October 2022

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2022 Fall Commission Meeting

On October 11th SWRPC held its 2022 Fall Meeting. Attendees learned about an often overlooked but important housing opportunity: resident-owned communities (ROCs). Tara Reardon, Vice-President of ROC-NH and External Relations at the NH Community Loan Fund (NH CLF), provided an overview of what ROCs are, how they work, and how they can serve as a source of affordable housing. The presentation provided a recap of a bus tour conducted the previous week as a team effort by SWRPC and NH CLF. The bus tour visited two ROCs in the Monadnock Region - Tanglewood Estates in Keene and Forest Park in Jaffrey - and gave participants a first-hand perspective on how ROCs can offer a high-quality neighborhood setting. For more information, please contact Todd Horner of SWRPC staff at thorner@swrpc.org.

Transit Feasibility Study

During October, SWRPC held a second round of public meetings to present ideas for improving and expanding public transit in the Monadnock Region. Meetings were held in Peterborough, Keene and remotely on Zoom on October 17th, 18th and 25th respectively. The meetings featured a presentation by Via Transportation, SWRPC's public transit consultant, who summarized the results of its modeling and simulation analyses of ten public transit scenarios in the Monadnock Region. The analyses looked at improving transit service in Keene and potential access to public transit in Swanzey, Marlborough, Peterborough, Jaffrey, Rindge, and Chesterfield. Information included estimates on ridership, fleet size, wait times and costs. Some of the scenarios feature micro transit, a technology enhanced demand-response form of public transit that operates similar to Uber or Lyft. To view the presentation, please visit: <https://bit.ly/MicroTrans102622>. For more information, please contact J. B. Mack of SWRPC staff at jbmack@swrpc.org.

Regional Housing Needs Assessment

During October, SWRPC continued its work on the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) which focused on the region's housing needs and challenges. In Southwest NH, housing supply and affordability continues to be a significant concern as expressed by many through our public survey completed earlier this year. In analyzing recent data, the median home purchase price in our region was \$325,700 in August 2022, up more than 50% from August 2019. Rentals are also on the rise, as the gross rent increased 5.4% since 2021. Stay tuned for more updates and insights at www.swrpc.org/housing as SWRPC continues its work on the RHNA. For more information, please contact Sean O'Donnell of SWRPC staff at sodonnell@swrpc.org.

Southwest Connects Update

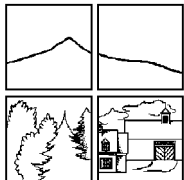
On October 26th, SWRPC hosted a virtual public meeting to discuss the NH Route 12 North Corridor which facilitates north-south regional traffic movements between Keene and Walpole. The Corridor is comprised of a network of regional highways including but not limited to parts of NH Routes 12A, 63 and 123, and other local roads. The Corridor also facilitates traffic flow to and from I-91 in Vermont. Corridor communities include Alstead, Keene, Surry, Walpole, and Westmoreland. This meeting was the fourth in a series designed to inform and update the region's long-range regional transportation plan - *Southwest Connects*. The next meeting in this series will take place on November 21st at 6:30 p.m. and will focus on the NH Route 12 South Corridor, which includes Fitzwilliam, Keene, Marlborough, Richmond, Swanzey, and Troy and includes portions of NH 32 and NH 119. To join this meeting, please go to <https://bit.ly/Nov21SWC12S22> or www.swrpc.org/swconnects. For more information, please contact Andrew Smeltz at asmeltz@swrpc.org or Lisa Murphy of SWRPC staff at lmurphy@swrpc.org.

ENRAC Meeting Focuses on Energy Conservation

On October 5th, SWRPC's Energy and Natural Resources Advisory Committee (ENRAC) met and the theme was municipal energy conservation and energy plans. Members of the Keene Energy Committee provided an overview of actions being taken to assist residents with window inserts as a tool to conserve energy. The program being used in Keene could also be used in other communities. Presenters also provided an overview of the Keene Energy Plan and Energy Week. For more information, please contact Lisa Murphy of SWRPC staff at lmurphy@swrpc.org.

CDBG Update

During October, construction began at two properties in Keene to improve services to under-resourced populations. The new buildings are being funded in part by grants awarded to Keene Housing and Hundred Nights through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Once completed, these facilities will be used to serve populations such as the elderly and disabled community of Harper Acres located on Castle Street, as well as those in crisis or experiencing homelessness in a 48-bed shelter and resource center located on Water Street. For more information, please contact Benjamin Gradert of SWRPC staff at bgradert@swrpc.org.



NH Housing Recovery Program

The New Hampshire Community Development Finance Authority (CDFA) has launched the New Hampshire Recovery Housing Program (RHP). The pilot program makes approximately \$2 million of federal resources available to help increase the availability of stable, temporary housing to individuals in recovery from a substance use disorder. Eligible are limited to public facilities and improvements, acquisition of real property, rehabilitation and reconstruction of multi-unit residential buildings, rehabilitation and reconstruction of single-unit residential buildings, and new housing construction. The deadline for the initial round of RHP applications is **4:00 p.m., December 19, 2022**. Applications will then be accepted on a rolling basis until funding is expended. Additional information is available at <https://nhcdfa.org/cdfa-launches-recovery-housing-program/>. For more information, please contact Terry Johnson of SWRPC staff at tjohnson@swrpc.org.

