

**AWARDS** *(continued from page 6)*

For all the reasons described above and more NHPA Executive Committee is honored to present this award to Steve Whitman!

*Project of the Year***PELHAM ENTERPRISE BANK**

This award is granted to a project, program or tool that is a significant advantage to the cause of planning. Key to eligibility is the implementation of a plan or vision or development of a tool to aid others in implementation of their plan or vision.

The Town of Pelham created and adopted a Strategic Plan for Economic Development which encourages the Town's land use boards to work together to streamline the permitting process for thoughtful commercial projects. NH statues (RSA 676:2) allow for joint hearings, however most communities' land use boards are hesitant or unwilling to meet in this manner. For the Enterprise Bank project, the streamlined process allowed for holding one joint public hearing and one joint site walk for the Planning Board, Zoning Board and Conservation Commission. By embracing the opportunities for concurrent review laid out in the Strategic Plan for Economic Development, Pelham has set a new standard for economic development and created an atmosphere of increased efficiency and better public involvement.

The Pelham's land use boards joint meeting provided a unique opportunity for the public to voice its concerns to all parties involved at a single meeting and later at a single site walk. This approach and the reduced number of meetings and allowed for reduced redundancy of questions and explanations, giving public concern over flooding and other issues prominence, and providing the developer and his team, concentrated access to the public for a more meaningful exchange of ideas.

While all land use meetings require opportunities for public input, having all the stakeholders at one meeting is a vast improvement over the somewhat fractured public input afforded citizens over multiple meetings with differing stakeholders present at each. Another positive facet of this approach was the Zoning Board and Conservation Commission members hearing first-hand the opinion of the Planning Board and its engineering review consultant. In a conventional meeting approach these boards would be more insulated from the stakeholders, forcing their decisions and recommendations to be made in a comparative vacuum.

In addition to the implementation of the innovative ideas defined in Pelham's Strategic Plan for Economic Development, Enterprise Bank, a local commercial lending

bank, set a new high standard of design, construction and attention to detail in architectural design that provides a model worthy of emulation for future projects. As the site is squeezed between a 4th order stream and the busy Route 38 transportation corridor, Enterprise Bank and Allen & Major Associates, Inc. presented an engineered plan including the innovative use of underground flood storage chambers to effectively compensate for lost flood storage even during a 100 year flood event on this small site. This creative solution in the use of flood storage chambers could be a model for other sites around New Hampshire.

The combination of innovation and excellence showcased in the project made it the clear choice as Project of Year. Congratulations to the Town of Pelham and Enterprise Bank!

*Plan of the Year***NH ROUTE 111 CORRIDOR STUDY  
WINDHAM, NH**

This award is granted to a written plan that is a significant advancement to the science and art of planning. Awardees demonstrate excellence in originality, transferability, quality, comprehensiveness, public participation, and implementation.

The town of Windham's vision is to create a vibrant town center where a state highway currently runs. A solution was developed that accommodates the state highway, but in a way that allows the village to prosper as well. Awareness and respect for all modes of transportation is a critical element of the evaluation process and central to the solution developed with the town.

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**AWARDS** *(continued from page 7)*

To achieve this vision the project team used the principles of context sensitive solutions, a community driven outreach process that involves all stakeholders in the project development process. The project was the first corridor planning study in the region employing a true Context Sensitive Solutions approach, which proved to be very effective despite a challenging environment.

The McFarland Johnson team correctly understood from the outset that the Town's concern with the expansion of NH111 was, at its heart, a concern about losing what remains of its village and community character. The project focus became one of combining expanded capacity of NH111 with enhancements in street, landscaping, and pedestrian design that would facilitate further development of the village area as a village.

## NH COMMUNITY PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM GRANT ROUND 1 – PROJECT SUMMARIES

**Amherst:** The town will undertake a regulatory review of its land use related ordinances and regulations to identify how gradually adopted components interrelate and comply with the 2010 Master Plan. The regulatory review will produce a final report that will guide how the town's planning board and associated stakeholder groups can collaborate on public outreach aimed at prioritizing and developing amendments to the land use regulations that meet the goals of the 2010 Master Plan and protect our high quality water resources. One-year grant of \$10,000.

**Brookline:** The town will implement a recommendation from its 2012 Master Plan to develop a Mixed Use overlay district along the NH Route 130 corridor from the junction of Route 13, through the town center to the Hollis town line. The new district, proposed for the March 2013 Town Meeting, will encourage the reuse of existing structures to allow for more small-scale businesses, develop design guidelines to retain the current architecture and style of the neighborhood, facilitate more biking and walking in the corridor, and promote the economic development of the town. One-year grant of \$21,000.

**Dover:** The city intends to build on the success it had in 2010 in developing the first Form Based Code in New Hampshire, by expanding this innovative zoning infrastructure. This expansion will be along major corridors feeding into Dover's historic downtown area. This zoning project is aimed at revamping and reenergizing 20+ year old zoning along these corridors. Two-year grant of \$50,000.

**Dunbarton:** The town currently has a Planned Residential Development ordinance in place that is difficult for applicant to use and for planning board members to administer (applicants must to back and forth between the planning board and the zoning board of adjustment for approvals), and it also lacks any incentives to make its use more likely.

The goal is to develop a new conservation subdivision ordinance that puts the process solely in the planning board's jurisdiction and provides incentives for developers to create more efficient and conservation-oriented developments. One-year grant of \$10,000.

**Enfield:** The town's goal is to adopt Form Based zoning on the U.S. Route 4 corridor between Baltic Street and the Canaan town line at the 2013 Town Meeting. This project will mark the culmination of over 15 years of work at improving the infrastructure, regulations, and tax structure of this portion of town, which has included the creation of a Tax Increment Finance district in 2005, a corridor study in 2007, a design charrette in 2011, and \$3.2 million in sewer and water infrastructure improvements bonded in 2012. One-year grant of \$15,000.

**Farmington:** The town will conduct a regulatory review to identify conflicts between land use regulations and the Master Plan, and to identify any potential impediments to the town's goals for economic development along Route 11 and the revitalization of the downtown district. The town hopes to develop a regulatory environment that will support quality economic development to create new employment opportunities to residents of the town and the region and to identify regulatory incentives to encourage reinvestment in and the revitalization of the downtown business district. One-year grant of \$10,000.

**Goffstown:** This project will entail a two-year effort to focus new attention and creative analysis to the Pinardville section of Goffstown. The goal of the project will be the development and adoption of the Pinardville Sustainable Community Plan, which will be implemented through regulatory changes to strengthen the Pinardville Community

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