



**NH OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (OPD)
SPRING 2024 PLANNING & ZONING CONFERENCE
SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2024 FROM 8:45 AM TO 3:30 PM**

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

PLANNING BOARD TRACK

**Stephen C. Buckley, Esq., Legal Services Counsel
New Hampshire Municipal Association**

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Stephen C. Buckley directs NHMA's legal services program as Legal Services Counsel, with responsibility for providing legal advice to members and overseeing training programs and educational publications for municipal officials. He was in the private practice of law from 1984 to 2014 concentrating in representing municipalities. In his hometown of Bow, Steve was a member of the planning board for 12 years and served as a member of the budget committee, and he currently serves as a member on the Zoning Board of Adjustment. He is a past chairman and current member of the executive committee of the Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission, and he is currently a representative to the New Hampshire Association of Regional Planning Commissions. Steve received his B.A. from San Diego State University and his J.D. from UNH School of Law.

**Benjamin D. Frost, Esq., AICP, Deputy Executive Director/Chief Legal Officer
New Hampshire Housing**

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Benjamin Frost is the Deputy Executive Director/Chief Legal Officer at New Hampshire Housing, where he manages external relations, legislative initiatives, communications, research, and strategic planning, and provides legal guidance on program implementation. He frequently lectures on issues of affordable and workforce housing, land use law, and ethics. Ben is a founding member of the Governing Council of Housing Action NH, a low-income housing advocacy organization, and serves on the Legislative Committee of the NH Planners Association. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in Geography (with a focus on USSR environmental policy) from Colgate University and Syracuse University, respectively and a law degree from Cornell Law School with a concentration in business law and regulation. He lives in Warner, NH, where he serves as Town Moderator. In their spare time, Ben and his wife Christine seek to employ permaculture principles in the design of their woodland paradise.



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***Stephanie N. Verdile, Member
NH Housing Appeals Board***

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Stephanie began her NH Municipal Planning career in 2001 with the City of Laconia and worked in Alton and Gilford until she became the Town Planner for Pembroke from 2012 to 2018. Stephanie worked for the Office of Planning & Development (OPD) from March of 2018 to April 2024 as a Principal Planner in the Municipal and Regional Assistance (MRA) Program providing training and assistance for municipal land use boards, officials, and the public. She was an elected member of the Alton Planning Board and served as the Municipal Representative for Laconia, Alton, Gilford, and Pembroke on the Transportation Advisory Committees (TAC) for the Lakes Region Planning Commission (LRPC) and the Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission (CNHRPC). In April 2024, Stephanie was appointed a member of the New Hampshire Housing Appeals Board by the NH Supreme Court.



ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT TRACK

Matthew R. Serge, Esq.
Drummond Woodsum

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Attorney Serge is a member of the Municipal Group at Drummond Woodsum in Manchester, advising towns and cities on a wide range of issues including: land use matters, zoning enforcement actions, right to know law, welfare assistance, and general government relations. His experience on behalf of municipalities and other clients includes participation in numerous New Hampshire Supreme Court appeals, individually and as co-counsel. Attorney Serge served as law clerk for the New Hampshire Superior Court and served as law clerk for the Honorable Linda S. Dalianis of the New Hampshire Supreme Court. He graduated summa cum laude from the New England School of Law in 1999, was class valedictorian, and served as Executive Director for the New England Law Review. He has served as a lecturer in the New Hampshire Municipal Association law lecture series in 2009 and 2012, and was a graduate of the NHBA Leadership Academy in 2011.

Steven Whitley, Esq.
Drummond Woodsum

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For nearly 17 years, Steven has been advising clients on a wide variety of municipal legal issues including town governance, annual town meetings, public finance, zoning and land use matters, Right to Know law, and tax abatement appeals. He regularly represents municipal clients in New Hampshire District, Superior, and Supreme Courts, and before state administrative agencies. Steven's depth of experience is a tremendous asset for his clients. Dedicated to serving his community, Steven is also a member of the Selectboard and Economic Development Committee for the Town of Hopkinton.

Christopher L. Boldt, Esq.
Donahue, Tucker & Ciandella, PLLC

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As a partner in DTC since January 2007, Chris conducts a state-wide practice out of the Firm's Meredith offices for a wide range of property owners, businesses, and municipalities. He enjoys helping clients find solutions to problems as cost-effectively as possible. Chris counsels a wide variety of City and Town Managers/Administrators, Boards of Selectmen, City Councils and Land Use Boards in all parts of NH; and he appears before Land Use boards and Superior Courts across the State as well as before the NH Supreme Court and various State Agencies. Chris handles a wide variety of municipal and taxation matters, conveyancing and title issues, boundary and easement disputes, matters involving the creation and interpretation of conservation easements, land use and development matters, shoreland and wetlands issues, site plan and variance applications, and related mediation, litigation and appeals. Since February 2004, Chris has been an active member of the NHBA Title Standards Subcommittee charged with reviewing



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and revising the NH Title Standards under the auspices of the NHBA Board of Governors. Chris is a member of the Belknap and Carroll County Bar Associations and the NH Bar Association. Chris frequently lectures on a variety of municipal, title and land use topics for the New Hampshire Municipal Association, the NH Office of Planning and Development, the NH Bar Association, Primex and the NH Land Surveyors Association. Chris has also served as a Selectman, Planning Board member, Assistant Moderator and Library Trustee in Sandwich and is an active member of St. Andrew's in the Valley Episcopal Church in Tamworth. Chris earned his B.A. from Trinity University in 1984, a Diploma of Anglo-Irish Literature from Trinity College, Dublin in 1985 and his J.D. from the University of Texas School of Law in 1988. Chris became licensed to practice law in Texas in 1988, in New Hampshire in 2002, and in Vermont in 2016.



HISTORIC PRESERVATION & HOUSING TRACK

Andrew Cushing, Community Preservation Services Manager

NH Preservation Alliance

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Andrew works for the NH Preservation Alliance, traveling the state connecting communities to the resources they need to restore and reuse historic landmarks. He provides technical assistance, practical advice on preservation strategy, and fundraising guidance. He is a New Hampshire native who returned to his hometown of Grafton, where he is busy restoring two houses. (It sounds fancier than it is.) When not glazing windows or mowing, he serves as president of Mascoma Valley Preservation and as chair of the Grafton Library Trustees. Prior to returning to the Alliance in 2022, Andrew headed up the Bureau of Historic Sites for NH State Parks. Andrew is a graduate of Bowdoin College and the University of Pennsylvania, where he received an M.S. in Historic Preservation.

Brandee Loughlin, Preservation Planning & Development Coordinator

NH Division of Historical Resources

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Brandee Loughlin is the Preservation Planning & Development Coordinator at the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources (NHDHR). Brandee has worked in both the historic preservation and municipal planning fields, and currently oversees the Preservation Planning, Certified Local Government, and Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit programs for NHDHR.

Chris Skelly, Principal

Skelly Preservation Services

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Chris Skelly served as the Director of Local Government Programs at the Massachusetts Historical Commission from 1997 to 2021, providing preservation planning guidance to over 400 local boards and commissions across the state. Today, as the founder of Skelly Preservation Services, he provides consultant services to local, regional, and state governments on historic preservation planning. Recent and current projects include commission training programs, local historic district design guidelines, local commission strategic plans, historic property survey plans and local historic district study reports. At the University of Massachusetts, Mr. Skelly was an instructor, teaching Cultural Resource Management. He thoroughly enjoys sharing his several decades of experience with students and local commissions.

Judi Barrett, Founding & Managing Director

Barrett Planning Group LLC

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Judi Barrett is the owner and managing director of Barrett Planning Group LLC. She brings 35 years of planning and community development experience as a consultant and community and economic development professional with state and local government. Judi has devoted her career to building the capacity of cities and towns to solve difficult public policy questions and to develop effective leadership



and advocacy skills. She has prepared numerous city and town comprehensive plans, neighborhood revitalization plans, zoning ordinances and bylaws, and housing studies. She is well known for her work in affordable and fair housing policy and inclusionary zoning. A frequent panelist at regional and national conferences and a guest lecturer for graduate planning programs, Judi is also a technical assistance resource and trainer for city and town officials and non-profit boards.

John Christ, Planning Board Chair

Town of Plymouth, NH

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John Christ teaches in the social sciences at Plymouth State University and is currently serving as PI for an ethnographic study being completed for the Lowell National Historical Park, organized through a cooperative agreement between USNH and the National Park Service. Through his interdisciplinary teaching and research, he explores the representational practices through which individuals and communities gain a meaningful voice and shape their cultural landscape. John serves his community in several capacities, including as chair of the Plymouth Planning Board and Housing Committee.

Susan MacLeod, Land Use Secretary

Town of Sandwich, NH

landuse@sandwichnh.org

Susan MacLeod has served as the Land Use Secretary for the Town of Sandwich since 2022 and for the Town of Ashland since 2020. She is an active member of her community of Ashland, having served on several boards and committees, including the Planning Board, which she chaired from 2012- 2018, Zoning Board of Adjustment, CIP Committee, Economic Development Committee, Heritage, Commission, and the HEAL Grant Steering Committee. Susan is also a past board member of the Ashland Garden Club, Ashland Area Recreation Association, and Ashland Historical Society.

Joseph Perez, Town Planner

Town of Plymouth, NH

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Joseph Perez currently serves as the Planner for the Town of Plymouth. His planning career has taken him through a wide range of positions for municipalities in New Hampshire and Alabama. As a Planner for the City of Decatur, Alabama, he worked on land use, plan implementation, and economic development. Upon returning to his home state of New Hampshire, he served the City of Manchester as a Planner and Housing Initiatives Manager responsible for the City's Lead Hazard and Healthy Homes grant, striving to make the City's housing stock healthier and safer. He now serves as the planner for the small yet vibrant community of Plymouth, where his work includes land-use planning; housing; infrastructure; and transportation-related initiatives.

**Michael Tardiff, Executive Director****Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission**mtardiff@cnhrpc.org

Michael Tardiff is the Executive Director of the Central NH Regional Planning Commission. He received a B.A in Political Science from Keene State College and a Master's in City and Regional Planning from Clemson University. He participates in the majority of the Commission's projects and programs, with an emphasis on local planning projects such as local master plan development and transportation planning.

Sarah Marchant, Chief of Staff and VP of ROC-NH**NH Community Loan Fund**smarchant@communityloanfund.org

Sarah Marchant joined the New Hampshire Community Loan Fund in 2021 and now serves as Chief Operating Officer and VP of ROC NH. She leads the organization's environmental justice work, from shrinking the organization's carbon footprint to extending clean energy to low-wealth communities including manufactured housing homeowners and resident owned manufactured parks. She is responsible for business management, operations, executive communications, cross-organizational strategic initiatives, and our Resident Owned Communities Program. Marchant is a leading voice in New Hampshire and among urban planners nationally on the nexus of community development, affordable home ownership and environmental justice. In 2022, Sarah was elected to the American Planning Association's AICP Commission for Region 5. In 2019, Sarah was appointed to the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority (NHHFA) Board of Directors and currently serves as Vice Chair. In 2023 she joined the ROC USA Board of Directors.

Nathan Reichert, Planning & Development Director**City of Lebanon, NH**nathan.reichert@lebanonnh.gov

Nathan has served as the Planning & Development Director for the City of Lebanon since October 2022. Previously he served as the Planning, Development and Zoning Official for the Town of North Stonington, Connecticut, where he directed the Land Use Department. Prior to his employment with North Stonington, Nathan served as the Zoning Official for the Town of Westerly, Rhode Island. Nathan served as an Adjunct Economics Instructor for Muscatine Community College in Muscatine, Iowa from 2008 – 2022, and was a State Representative to the Iowa General Assembly from 2005 through 2011. He has a Master's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Iowa and a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Northern Colorado.