



**LEBANON HERITAGE COMMISSION
MARCH 9, 2022 - 7:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL OR
REMOTE VIA VIRTUAL PLATFORM
LEBANONNH.GOV/LIVE**

-
- 1. Call to Order**
 - 2. Approval of Minutes**
 - A. February 9, 2022
 - 3. Public Review**
 - A. None
 - 4. Study Items**
 - A. Special Projects
 - Historic Districts
 - Landmark designations
 - Oral History
 - B. Dana House
 - C. Education
 - D. CLG 2022 Grant Application for Colburn Park Historic District Expansion
 - 5. Other Business**
 - A. City Workplan/Outcomes (Master Plan)
 - B. Discussion re: NHMA Legislative Policy Proposals
 - 6. Open to the Public**
 - 7. Future Agenda Items**
 - A. DPW projects
 - B. Colburn Park Pollinator Garden
 - 8. Adjournment**

The order of agenda items is subject to change.

Meetings are open for in-person and remote attendance. Members of the public that wish to attend remotely may do so by going to LebanonNH.gov/Live where you will find instructions on how to enter the meeting. Members of the public will be able to participate and ask questions through the City's virtual platform or by phone. Please note: Should technical difficulties occur during the meeting that disrupts virtual or phone connection(s), the meeting will continue without remote access capabilities.

**Agenda
Heritage Commission
March 9, 2022**

**Agenda Item #2A
Approval of Minutes**

February 9, 2022

DRAFT

**LEBANON HERITAGE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL or
REMOTE VIA VIRTUAL PLATFORM
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2022
LebanonNH.gov/Live
7:00 pm**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Doug Boisvert (Vice Chair), Jeremy Rutter (Planning Board Rep.), Matthew Smith, Nicole Ford Burley (City Historian), and Devin Wilkie (City Council Representative)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Karen Zook (Alt. Council Rep)

STAFF PRESENT: Rebecca Owens (Associate Planner)

GUESTS: Barbara Slaiby

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Boisvert called the meeting to order at 6:54 PM.

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A. Chair and Vice Chair

Mr. Rutter nominated Mr. Smith for the position of Chair. Mr. Smith declined the nomination.

Ms. Ford Burley nominated Mr. Boisvert for the position of Chair. Mr. Boisvert accepted the nomination.

Ms. Ford Burley MOVED to nominate Mr. Boisvert for the position of Chair. Seconded by Mr. Rutter.

**The MOTION was approved (5-0).*

Ms. Ford Burley nominated herself for the position of Vice Chair. Mr. Smith Seconded.

Ms. Ford Burley MOVED to nominate herself for the position of Vice Chair. Seconded by Mr. Smith.

**The MOTION was approved (5-0).*

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 12, 2021

Amendments to the Minutes:

Page 2, line 12- change "pursing" to "pursuing"

Page 2, line 37- insert a space between "C." and "City/Development"

Page 2, line 46- change "Robert Levitt" to "Robert Hayes Leavitt"

Mr. Rutter MOVED to approve the January 12, 2022 minutes as amended. .

Seconded by Mr. Wilkie.

**The MOTION was approved (5-0)*

4. PUBLIC REVIEW**A. None****5. STUDY ITEMS****A. SPECIAL PROJECTS**

Ms. Owens gave a brief review of the historic district discussion from the last meeting. At that time, the Members agreed that they would like to move forward with Phase 2 of the Colburn Park District Expansion. The next step in the process is submitting the CLG grant application, which is due in March. Ms. Owens noted that there was also some interest from members in the creation of additional historic districts; Maple Avenue and Crafts Avenue were two potential districts suggested by Ms. Papazian in her report. Next, Ms. Owens asked for a volunteer (s) to research properties for the purpose of landmark designation. She suggested reviewing the recent area forms received from the State; these are mostly from the High Street/ Hanover Street neighborhoods. Mr. Rutter and Mr. Wilkie agreed to review a list of properties for potential landmark designations.

Ms. Slaiby presented her idea for an Oral History project in Lebanon. She worked with the Hartford Historical Society on a similar project and has purchased a digital recorder. Ms. Slaiby feels that people will be more likely to participate if the project is sanctioned by the City/ Heritage Commission. She has spoken to the Lebanon Library about storing the finished interviews, transcripts and possibly photographs. Ms. Owens requested that Ms. Slaiby write up a brief synopsis of the project and a list of potential interview subjects. Once the synopsis has been submitted, the Heritage Commission can make a motion to support the project. Mr. Wilkie noted that one of the Master Plan priorities for the Commission is the collection of oral histories. Art Pease, a former Lebanon history teacher and local historian, was suggested both as a potential interview subject and a resource for the project. Mr. Pease will attend the March Heritage Commission meeting.

B. DANA HOUSE

No updates at this time.

C. EDUCATION

Ms. Owens is working on formatting the historic photo gallery. The current version cannot be edited by the recipients when shared. The educational presentation for the evening focused on the process of regulatory review within the historic district. Creating a local historic district is meant to protect the “historic character of buildings, streetscapes and neighborhoods from inappropriate alterations and incompatible new construction, as well as outright demolition. Local historic districts are about guiding change and preserving community character as an area grows and evolves.....”. Ms. Owens shared a FAQ sheet which addressed the benefits and concerns of living in a historic district; she suggested posting a link to this information on the website so that it is easily accessible to the public. Ms. Owens reviewed the Zoning ordinance as it pertains to the historic district and explained when a Certificate of Approval from the Commission is required. Examples include: proposed demolition, changing doors/windows or exterior steps and re-roofing. The COA form can be found on the Heritage Commission website. Ms. Owens shared some past applications to help illustrate the process for new members who have not yet experienced a regulatory review.

D. MASTER PLAN PRIORITIES

The process of updating the Master Plan will start with natural resources and housing. The Heritage Commission's priorities will be updated at a late time.

6. OTHER BUSINESS**A. 2022 GRANTS (CLG notice)**

Ms. Owens informed the Commission that the State is offering two new CLG mini-grants. The first is a grant to cover the cost of the National Alliance of Preservation Commission membership for the community and requires no matching funds to apply. The Members agreed to apply for this grant. The next grant to consider would provide funds to send up to 2 members to the National Alliance of Preservation's annual conference, to be held in Cincinnati, OH this July. Some travel expenses will also be eligible for reimbursement. Ms. Owens requested that any members interested in attending this conference please let her know by tomorrow. Lastly, there are grants available for the Commission Assistance and Mentoring Program (CAMP). The CAMP grants cover 1 or 2 day workshops, offered online or in-person and available in 3 different formats. The "Core CAMP" offers expert guidance on the basics of being a Heritage Commission or Historic District. Topics include: procedures, guidelines, legal basics, identifying and designating historic resources, hands-on design review and gaining community support. A second option allows the Commission to design a custom CAMP by picking up to 5 topics from the menu. The third option is a 1 to 3 hour session with an expert discussing a specific project. Ms. Owens suggested the review/revision of current zoning ordinances and the Dana House restoration vision as suitable topics for this format. Members agreed that the custom CAMP would be the most appropriate. Ms. Owens will submit the application and keep the Commission updated. The application deadline for the CLG grant for Phase 2 of the Colburn Park Historic District expansion is in March.

B. BUDGET

Ms. Owens reported that the available Heritage Commission funds currently total \$30,759.65. She explained that the budget is broken down into three sections: Undesignated, or general Heritage Commission funds, which can be used for projects, events, grant matches and purchases; as an example, the last expenditure was the purchase of a glass display case for the Dana House. Typically, the Commission requests a few hundred dollars from the City during each budget season to add to this account. The Capital Reserve Fund, approved by the City Council in 2020, started with a balance of \$50K. A large portion of this fund was used to finance the re-roofing of the Dana House. This money may also be used when applying for grants that require a more substantial matching of funds, such as the LCHIP. Lastly, under the stewardship of the City, there is \$25K in Leavitt funds which are to be used for the restoration of the Dana House. These funds are not to be used for general maintenance and their distribution will be decided in conjunction with the Historical Society.

C. MT. FINN

A community member inquired as to whether or not the Commission had information about "Mt. Finn" or "Mt. Finnish" being demolished for the Pike Industries stone quarry. Ms. Ford Burley reported that her attempts to research this topic have been unsuccessful.

D. HANOVER ST. AREA FORM per NHDOT I89 EXIT 18 PROJECT

The DHR reviewed the Area Form and concluded that the Hanover St. neighborhood does qualify for the National Register as a historic district. The "vernacular architecture" and the community it represents were the two qualifying factors. This neighborhood was originally a French-Canadian community and home to the City's mill workers.

Ms. Ford Burley asked for follow-up regarding the sign on the Mall mentioned at the last meeting. The sign references indigenous people and contains a quote by Robert Levitt. Ms. Owens reported that she did reach out to the Parks and Recreation department. If residents have specific concerns regarding the sign, they should contact Parks and Rec directly.

1 **7. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: No one came forward.**

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3 **8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

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5 **A. DPW PROJECTS**

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7 **B. COLBURN PARK POLLINATOR GARDEN**

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9 **9. ADJOURNMENT**

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11 *Mr. Wilkie MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM.*

12 *Seconded by Mr. Rutter.*

13 ** The MOTION was unanimously approved (5-0).*

14
15 Respectfully submitted,

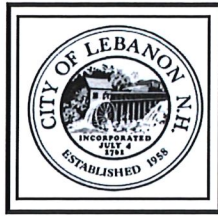
16 Megan Castillo

17 Recording Secretary

**Agenda
Heritage Commission
March 9, 2022**

**Agenda Item #5B
Other Business**

Discussion re: NHMA Legislative Policy Proposals



CITY OF LEBANON ~ PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Conservation Commission
Heritage Commission
Pedestrian & Bicyclist Advisory Committee
Planning Board

FROM: David Brooks, Planning & Development Director

RE: NH Municipal Association Legislative Policy Process

DATE: February 8, 2022

To Board, Committee, and Commission members

During its meeting on February 2, 2022, the City Council reviewed and discussed the New Hampshire Municipal Association's (NHMA's) Legislative Policy Process for 2023-2024.

Each Fall, NHMA holds a Legislative Policy Conference to establish priorities and positions on behalf of its member communities for the upcoming legislative sessions. The process begins with a solicitation of policy proposals from local officials to create an initial issues list. The deadline for communities to submit policy proposals is April 15, 2022. Upon receipt, NHMA's legislative policy committees, including General Administration and Governance, Finance and Revenue, and Infrastructure, Development, and Land Use, will review all policy proposals and make recommendations for the full Legislative Policy Conference in September.

This year, as part of the City's consideration of potential policy proposals, the Council has invited other boards and committees to provide ideas and input into the process. This is a new invitation that has not previously been extended to individual boards and committees in the past.

Attached for your review is NHMA's final adopted Legislative Policy Positions for 2021-2022. Many of the adopted policy positions do not relate to any individual board's or committee's areas of responsibility, or are tangential at best. However, some of the policy positions under the Infrastructure, Development, and Land Use may be relevant or of interest.

Please review the relevant adopted policy positions in advance of your next meeting. Then, each full board, committee, or commission will be given an opportunity to provide feedback to the City Council on policies that should be supported or opposed, as appropriate.

If there is an issue that is not represented among the currently adopted policy positions that a board or committee feels should be highlighted, a template form is provided for each proposed new legislative policy.

Understanding that this is a new process, department staff will be available to offer guidance to each board, committee, or commission for these discussions.



New Hampshire Municipal Association

2021-2022 Legislative Policy Positions

General Administration and Governance

Local Authority and Efficiency

NHMA supports maintaining local government authority without infringement by the state, and supports measures that enable municipalities to exercise existing authority more efficiently and with greater discretion.

NHMA supports:

- Legislation granting towns the same authority to adopt ordinances that cities have under RSA 47:17;
- The authority of municipalities to regulate or limit the use of firearms on municipal property, and to regulate the carrying of firearms by municipal employees while on duty;
- Legislation allowing a town, by vote of its legislative body, to authorize appointment of the town clerk or town clerk/tax collector by the governing body, or by the chief executive officer based on a town charter;
- Legislation allowing municipalities to satisfy notice publication requirements through the use of electronic notification rather than newspaper publication, in addition to posting notice in public places.

NHMA opposes legislation that detracts from existing local authority.

Right-to-Know Law

NHMA supports the purposes of the Right-to-Know Law: to ensure the greatest possible public access to the actions, discussions, and records of all public bodies, and to ensure government's accountability to the people. NHMA also supports measures to make the law clearer and make compliance with public access requirements easier and less burdensome for public officials and employees and less costly for taxpayers.

NHMA supports:

- Reasonable requirements to make governmental records available electronically if no additional cost is involved;
- The ability to recover reasonable labor costs for responding to voluminous, excessive, or vexatious record requests;
- Exemptions from disclosure that are easy to administer and that provide appropriate protection for confidential and other sensitive information;
- An expedited and inexpensive process for resolving right-to-know complaints;
- Legislation and funding that provide support for education about the Right-to-Know Law.

Elections

NHMA believes that state and local elections should be fair and open, that voting should be simple and convenient without risking election integrity or security, and that election processes should be efficient without imposing undue burdens on local officials.

NHMA supports:

- Establishment of an independent redistricting commission to draw election districts fairly and without regard to partisan advantage;
- Local autonomy over town and city elections;
- More frequent state review and approval of electronic ballot-counting devices;
- Registration and voting processes that are not unnecessarily complex or burdensome, either to voters or to election officials;
- The use of secure technology such as electronic poll books to make election processes more efficient;
- Greater flexibility in the processing of absentee ballots;
- State assistance for the cost of accommodations for disabled voters in local elections.

Labor and Employment

NHMA recognizes the importance of municipal employees, the need for good working conditions, and the right of employees to organize if they choose. NHMA also believes municipal employers should be free to set reasonable terms and conditions of employment or negotiate the same with their employees or employee representatives, without undue state interference.

NHMA supports existing laws governing public employee labor relations, and opposes changes that impose greater burdens or liabilities on employers.

NHMA opposes:

- Legislation creating a mandatory “evergreen clause” for public employee collective bargaining agreements;

- Mandatory binding arbitration as a mechanism to resolve impasses in municipal employee collective bargaining;
- A right to strike for public employees;
- New mandated employee benefits, including any proposal to enhance retirement system benefits that may increase employer costs in future years;
- Unnecessary limits on municipalities' discretion in making hiring decisions;
- Restrictions on municipalities' ability to privatize or use contracted services.

Substance Misuse Prevention & Response

NHMA supports programs to address substance use disorder and response to substance use issues, to include treatment and recovery support programs.

NHMA supports:

- State funding to address substance use disorder for the following efforts:
 - Prevention
 - Treatment
 - Recovery
 - Enforcement;
- Legislation that supports prevention, treatment, recovery, and enforcement efforts.

NHMA opposes:

- Reductions in state funding for substance use disorder or recovery support programs;
- Legislation that makes it more difficult to address the substance use disorder problem in our communities.

Finance and Revenue

Property Taxes and Related Revenues

NHMA supports legislation that allows municipalities to manage property tax levies in a manner that stabilizes tax rates and ensures equity, fairness, and efficiency in the assessment and collection of property taxes.

NHMA supports:

- The continuing right of municipalities to use any recognized method of appraisal upheld by the New Hampshire judicial system;
- Legislation to ensure that:

- property taxes are assessed to the proper owner by requiring that all owner name changes be separately filed at the registry of deeds when such an owner change is not created by a transfer of the property, and
- all liens, whether of a private or institutional nature, be filed at the registry of deeds, and that all changes to the name of a recorded lienholder be similarly filed;
- A legislative commission to study assessment and collection of property taxes and/or municipal utility fees on manufactured housing on land of another and on transient-type properties;
- Legislation ensuring fairness and accuracy in property tax exemptions including ensuring that all household income and assets are taken into account;
- Legislation that prohibits the use of the income approach by a taxpayer in any appeal of assessed value if the taxpayer refuses to provide such information as requested by the municipality;
- A legislative commission to study reimbursement through payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTs) for municipal services provided to exempt charitable properties, including charitable non-profit housing projects;
- Legislation amending RSA 80:56 to enable municipalities to charge a fee for any financial remittance issued to the municipality that is returned as uncollectible;
- Legislation to lower the abatement interest rate that municipalities pay under RSA 76:17-a from six percent to four percent to align it better with the interest rates on delinquent taxes that were lowered by the legislature in 2019.

NHMA opposes:

- Legislation that directly or indirectly increases property taxes, including but not limited to new or expanded mandatory exemptions or credits, or changes in the process for valuing, assessing, or taxing specific classes of properties;
- Legislation that undermines the basic goals of the current use program or reduces the 10-acre minimum size requirement for qualification for current use beyond those exceptions now allowed by the rules of the Current Use Board;
- Legislation that expands the definition of “charitable” in RSA 72:23-1 unless the state reimburses municipalities for the commensurate loss of property tax base;
- An assessment methodology for big box stores that employs comparisons to “dark store” properties abandoned or encumbered with deed restrictions on subsequent use.

State Aid and Non-Property Tax Revenues

NHMA supports funding of state aid to municipalities, supports legislation authorizing local control over non-property tax revenue streams, and opposes legislation that reduces, suspends, or eliminates existing local taxes, fees, or state aid.

NHMA supports:

- Full restoration of revenue sharing under RSA 31-A;

- A state transportation policy that provides adequate and sustainable funding for state and municipal infrastructure and transportation systems and maintains at least the 12 percent share of state highway funds distributed to municipalities;
- Legislation authorizing the establishment of local option fees and providing for periodic adjustments to statutory fees to compensate for factors including, but not limited to, the effects of inflation, such as an increase in the maximum optional fee for transportation improvements;
- Legislation to ensure the collection of unpaid bills for ambulance and other emergency services;
- Reimbursement from the state for the cost of municipal services provided to state-owned properties;
- Legislation amending motor vehicle registration enforcement laws to ensure collection of all state and local registration fees owed by New Hampshire residents;
- Legislation amending RSA 36-A:5 II to allow trustees of trust funds to invest conservation funds instead of only the town treasurer, if voted by the legislative body;
- Programming that supports reduced cost, cost sharing, or equipment sharing that upgrades or replaces aging or unsafe transportation network(s) for towns.

NHMA opposes:

- Suspension of the statutory catch-up provision of the meals and rooms tax distribution;
- Diversion of state highway funds for non-state transportation network purposes.

New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS)

NHMA supports the continuing existence of a retirement system for state, municipal, school, and county government employees that is secure, solvent, fiscally healthy, and financially sustainable, and that both employees and employers can rely on to provide retirement benefits for the foreseeable future.

NHMA supports:

- Restoration of the state's 35% share of employer costs for police, teachers, and firefighters in the current defined benefit plan and any successor plan;
- Inclusion of participation by a municipal official designated by NHMA on any legislative study committee or commission formed to research alternative retirement system benefits plans or designs;
- Performance of an actuarial analysis of any legislation proposing benefits changes or other plan changes that may affect employer contribution rates.

NHMA opposes:

- Legislation expanding benefits that increase current or future employer contribution costs;
- Legislation that assesses additional charges on employers beyond NHRS board-approved rate changes;
- Legislation that expands the eligibility of NHRS membership to positions not currently covered by the plan;

- Legislation further restricting a municipality's ability to employ NHRS retirees in part-time positions or the imposition of any fees or penalties associated with such employment.

Education Funding

NHMA supports a revenue structure for funding an adequate education to meet the state's responsibilities as defined by the constitution, statutes, and the common law with revenue sources that are predictable, stable, and sustainable.

NHMA supports:

- A revenue structure that is not disruptive to the long-term economic health of the state;
- A revenue structure that is efficient in its administration;
- A revenue structure that is fair to citizens with lower to moderate incomes.

NHMA opposes:

- Retroactive changes to the adequate education funding distribution formula after the notice of grant amounts has been provided to local governments.

Infrastructure, Development, and Land Use

Energy, Environment, and Sustainability

NHMA supports preservation and enhancement of municipal energy, climate, and sustainability planning for communities, protection of the natural environment, and implementation of clean and renewable energy, while recognizing the need for municipalities to manage their resources and the natural environment without undue cost.

NHMA supports:

- Legislation that broadens municipalities' ability to install and use renewable energy sources, including higher caps or elimination of caps on net energy metering;
- Legislation that provides financial and other assistance to municipalities for conservation techniques and installation and maintenance of renewable energy sources;
- Legislation that allows municipalities to adopt local environmental regulations that are no less stringent than those implemented by the state;
- Legislation that enables municipalities to enact measures that promote local energy and land use systems that are both economically and environmentally sustainable;

- Legislation that protects and preserves local natural resources and public infrastructure, builds community resilience, and fosters adaptation to climate change and mitigates its risks;
- Policies that support customer and community choice in energy supply and use competitive market-based mechanisms to promote innovation, cost effectiveness, and sustainability; and
- Legislation that provides state or federal assistance to municipalities to mitigate environmental inequity impacts faced by their residents, and drive early local engagement in decision processes.

NHMA opposes:

- Legislation that overrides local determinations of appropriate energy sources and regulations.

Water Resources Protection, Control, and Management

NHMA supports measures enabling municipalities to protect, control, and manage efficiently and safely water and its resources, treatment, and movement, with a focus on management and infrastructure. NHMA believes any new mandates that impose additional costs on municipalities must be funded by the state or federal government.

NHMA supports:

- Legislation that provides state or federal investment in maintaining and making improvements to the state's critical water infrastructure, including, but not limited to, public drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater systems, and dams;
- Legislation that encourages regional and innovative solutions to drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, and groundwater issues;
- Regulation of emerging contaminants at feasibly achievable levels when supported by relevant scientific and technical standards that are broadly accepted by peer review and cost-benefit analyses, when coupled with appropriate state or federal funding.

NHMA opposes:

- Enactment of stricter drinking water, wastewater, or stormwater regulations for municipalities unless any costs of compliance are funded by the state or federal government.

Solid Waste Management

NHMA recognizes the need for cost-efficient solid waste disposal mechanisms that allow municipalities to protect, control, and manage efficiently and safely solid waste. NHMA believes any new mandates that impose additional costs on municipalities must be funded by the state or federal government.

NHMA supports:

- Programs that support municipal, regional, and state efforts to handle solid waste disposal through reduction, reuse, recycling, resource recovery, composting, and other measures, while maintaining local control;
- Comprehensive state programs to deal with existing and emerging contaminants at no additional cost to municipalities.

NHMA opposes:

- Increased tipping fees to pay for solid waste programs unless they are fully reimbursed by the state.

Housing

NHMA recognizes the need for diverse and affordable housing in New Hampshire and the responsibility of each municipality to afford reasonable opportunities for the development of diverse and affordable housing. NHMA believes municipalities should have discretion in how to satisfy this responsibility and supports legislation that enables municipalities to find innovative ways to ensure an adequate supply of housing.

NHMA supports:

- Legislation that allows municipalities to require the inclusion of affordable and diverse housing opportunities as part of new housing developments;
- Financial and other incentives to municipalities to encourage development of diverse and affordable housing;
- Statewide efforts to provide housing for those recovering from substance misuse, subject to reasonable municipal regulation;
- Policies that encourage documentation and financial traceability of cash and bartered rental transactions;
- Legislation and policies that encourage creative and flexible approaches to meeting housing needs of current and future demographics in different regions.

NHMA opposes:

- Legislation and policies that allow for or encourage housing practices that exclude people from and decrease the availability of quality, affordable housing;
- Legislation that erodes local control over land use decisions.

Land Use

NHMA supports the long-standing authority of municipalities to regulate land use matters with minimal interference from the state.

NHMA supports:

- Legislation authorizing municipalities to regulate short-term rentals of residential properties, including licensing requirements and health and safety protections;
- Legislation enabling municipalities at their discretion to adopt more recent editions of national/international building and fire codes than the current state-adopted editions.

NHMA opposes:

- Legislation that limits municipal control in implementing statewide priorities in zoning and land use regulation;
- New state mandates requiring municipalities to allow specific types of housing;
- All other statewide land use mandates.

Information Technology, Communications, and Cybersecurity

NHMA supports initiatives to make the most current information and communication technology accessible to New Hampshire communities, so long as local authority over land use regulation and safety issues is not compromised.

NHMA supports:

- Legislation that increases the ability of municipalities, especially those in rural and remote areas, to facilitate and advance access to reliable broadband technology to the premises in their communities;
- Legislation that provides flexibility for municipalities in accessing poles and pole attachments, including legislation that directs the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission to adopt the FCC rule on access to poles called “One-Touch-Make-Ready” in order to facilitate bringing high-speed fiber optic cable to service all New Hampshire communities, homes, and businesses by internet service providers (ISPs) in an expedient and cost-effective manner;
- Legislation that provides state and federal investment, including grants, for installation of high-speed fiber optic broadband technology to serve all New Hampshire communities, homes, and businesses;

- Legislation that requires or encourages and incentivizes providers to disclose information to local government relative to access and broadband connections provided in the municipality to help municipalities better understand and address the needs of their community;
- State investment in cybersecurity assistance to municipalities to protect data and infrastructure.

NHMA opposes:

- Legislation that limits municipalities' ability to prevent or regulate deployment of technologies that would impede vehicular or pedestrian passage on roadways or sidewalks;
- Statewide mandates on cybersecurity practices unless any associated costs are funded by the state or federal government.

Transportation

NHMA supports state policies that ensure access to convenient, efficient, reliable, and safe multi-modal transportation in New Hampshire as cost effectively as possible.

NHMA supports:

- Appropriate funding for state and local modes of transportation, including but not limited to roads, culverts, and bridges;
- Continued state and federal investment in public transit projects designed to reduce traffic on New Hampshire's roads.

NHMA opposes:

- Any action or inaction by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation that results in the downshifting of road, bridge, culvert, or drainage maintenance responsibilities from the state to municipalities.

Economic Development, Recovery, and Vitality

NHMA supports allowing municipalities to implement measures to foster economic development which allows for the preservation and creation of jobs and vitality within our communities.

NHMA supports:

- Legislation that allows for local adoption of more options and more flexibility to provide incentives for economic recovery and development;

- Expansion and more flexibility of state tax credit and exemption programs to foster economic recovery, development, and vitality.

NHMA opposes:

- Legislation that makes it more burdensome to implement economic recovery, development, and vitality measures.



New Hampshire Municipal Association 2023-2024 Legislative Policy Process

Explanation of Proposed Policy

Submitted by (Name): _____ Date: _____

Title of Person Submitting Policy: _____

City or Town: _____ Phone: _____

To see if NHMA will SUPPORT/OPPOSE:

Municipal interest to be accomplished by proposal:

Explanation:

A sheet like this should accompany each proposed legislative policy. It should include a brief (one or two sentence) policy statement, a statement about the municipal interest served by the proposal and an explanation that describes the nature of the problem or concern from a municipal perspective and discusses the proposed action that is being advocated to address the problem. Mail to NHMA, 25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord, NH 03301; or e-mail to governmentaffairs@nhmunicipal.org **no later than the close of business on April 15, 2022.**