

**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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