Speaker Biographies

Nathalie Ahyi, Ph.D.
Director
NH Health & Equity Partnership
125 Airport Road, Concord, NH 03301

Dr. Ahyi works with community and statewide partners in New Hampshire collaborating to create the NH Health & Equity Partnership, where she serves as Director, seeking to advance health equity for New Hampshire's racial, ethnic and linguistic minorities. She holds a M.Sc in Plant Physiology from the University of Lomé (Togo, West-Africa), a M.Sc in Molecular Pharmacology from Purdue University (Indiana) and a Ph.D. in Immunology and Microbiology from Indiana University and Purdue University at Indianapolis (Indiana).

Erin Allgood
Project Coordinator, NH Food Alliance
UNH Sustainability Institute
108 Nesmith Hall, 131 Main Street, Durham, NH 03824

Ms. Allgood is dedicated to building a more resilient and sustainable food system in New Hampshire as the Project Coordinator for the NH Food Alliance at the UNH Sustainability Institute. She earned a Bachelor’s degree in Biochemistry from Wheaton College and a Master’s degree in Nutritional Sciences from the University of New Hampshire.

Christopher L. Boldt, Esq.
Donahue, Tucker & Ciandella, PLLC
Towle House Unit 2, 164 NH Route 25 Meredith, NH 03253

Attorney Boldt is a partner at Donahue, Tucker & Ciandella, PLLC, in the firm’s Meredith office where he practices municipal, real estate and land use law. He 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. Attorney Boldt handles cases involving municipal law and taxation, conveyance and title issues, boundary disputes, land use and development matters, conservation easements, litigation, appeals to the NH Supreme Court, and mediation. He has been a member of the NHBA Real Estate Section’s subcommittee in charge of reviewing the NH Title Standards since 2004. He is a member of the Belknap County Bar Association, the State Bar of Texas, and the NH Bar Association. Attorney Boldt is a frequent lecturer for the New Hampshire Municipal Association, the NH Office of Energy and Planning, the NH Bar Association, and the NH Land Surveyors Association.

Daniel D. Crean, Esq.
Crean Law Office
414 East View Drive, Pembroke, NH 03275

Attorney Crean of Crean Law Office in Pembroke has practiced municipal law for more than 35 years and is Executive Director of the NH Municipal Lawyers Association. For the International Municipal Lawyers Association, he is NH State Chair, Personnel Section Chair, an IMLA Fellow, received the 2012 Faculty Award, and writes for Municipal Lawyer. He has taught at the University of New Hampshire Law and Graduate Schools. Attorney Crean wrote Responding to Changes in Building and Zoning Codes, in Municipal Building and Zoning Code Enforcement Best Practices, and contributed two chapters to Town and Gown: Legal Strategies for Effective Collaboration. He has served on many local boards and committees. Attorney Crean graduated from Yale University and the University of Wisconsin Law School.
Jennifer Czysz  
Assistant Director  
Nashua Regional Planning Commission  
9 Executive Park Drive, Suite 201, Merrimack, NH 03054

Ms. Czysz was recently appointed Assistant Director at Nashua Regional Planning Commission and served as the Program Manager for the statewide Granite State Future (GSF) efforts. She supported the many GSF program partners and committees to engage stakeholders, develop a regional planning process template, formulate statewide core data and metrics, and disseminate information to be used by New Hampshire’s nine regional planning commissions in their regional planning efforts. Prior to joining Nashua RPC, Ms. Czysz served as a Senior Planner at the NH Office of Energy and Planning where her work centered on land use policy, municipal and regional planning assistance, and water resources. Previously, she was a regional planner at Southern NH Planning Commission focusing on housing, natural hazard mitigation, emergency management planning, and local land use planning. She has served as President and Vice President of the New Hampshire Planners Association and the New Hampshire State Director of the Northern New England Chapter of the American Planning Association. A 2001 graduate of MIT’s Department of Urban Studies and Planning, she earned a Masters in City Planning and a Certificate in Urban Design, and holds a Bachelor of Architecture from Norwich University.

Todd C. Fahey, J.D.  
State Director  
AARP New Hampshire  
45 South Main Street, Suite 202, Concord, NH 03301

Mr. Fahey was appointed State Director of AARP New Hampshire in 2014, after a 20-year legal career. He was a director at the Concord law firm of Orr and Reno where he counseled nonprofit organizations. Mr. Fahey has served on several nonprofit boards and is a past member of the Bow Zoning Board of Adjustment. Mr. Fahey holds a Bachelor’s in English from Columbia College, Columbia University and a Juris Doctor from the University of Maine School of Law.

Charles Forcey  
Chairman, Durham Energy Committee  
Seacoast Regional Energy Hub  
8 Newmarket Road, Durham, NH 03824

Mr. Forcey is the current chair of the Durham Energy Committee and a member since 2012. He has participated in many of the committee’s projects including solar power purchase agreements, residential property tax exemptions, Button Up workshops, an energy considerations checklist, and electric vehicle charging stations, as well as development of the energy chapter of Durham’s Master Plan. He is the founding coordinator of the Seacoast Regional Energy Hub and his primary employment is as a Senior Developer at Advanced Energy Economy (http://www.aee.net).

Benjamin D. Frost, Esq.  
Director, Legal and Public Affairs  
New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority  
32 Constitution Drive, Bedford, NH 03110

Attorney Frost is the Director of Public Affairs at NH Housing Finance Authority where he coordinates federal and state legislative matters and provides direct technical assistance to municipalities that want to develop regulations to promote affordable housing. He serves as NH Housing Finance’s representative on the NH Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board. He held previous positions such as Senior Planner with the NH Office of Energy and Planning, Executive Director of the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission and as a planner and administrator in local and regional government in New Hampshire and elsewhere. Attorney Frost is the former Chair of the Municipal Section of the New Hampshire Bar Association. He serves as the Treasurer of the NH Planners Association, as the Professional Development Officer of the Northern New England Chapter of the American Planning Association and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. Attorney Frost holds B.A. and M.A. degrees in Geography with a Soviet/Russian focus from Colgate University and Syracuse University, respectively, and a law degree from Cornell Law School with a concentration in business law and regulation.
Benjamin S. Gaetjens-Oleson  
Planning/Zoning Coordinator  
Town of Lancaster  
25 Main Street, Lancaster, NH 03584

Mr. Gaetjens-Oleson is the Planning/Zoning Coordinator and Grant Administrator for the Town of Lancaster, a position he has held for almost 7 years. He was born and raised in Lancaster and continues to call the town his home. He is a member of several community and regional organizations including the Lancaster Rotary Club, Trustees of Weeks Memorial Library and the White Mountains Community College Advisory Board. Although Mr. Gaetjens-Oleson has no formal municipal planning education, he has had the good fortune to be associated with many professionals that have selflessly shared their time and knowledge. His commitment to the responsible and sustainable development of Lancaster is driven by his desire for his children to experience the vibrant community he grew up in.

Sherry Godlewski  
Environmental Program Manager  
NH Department of Environmental Services  
29 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95, Concord, NH 03301

Ms. Godlewski has worked for the NH Department of Environmental Services for 18 years and has experience in the water, air, waste, and environmental health programs. She currently works on Climate Change Adaptation efforts. She has a M.S. in Environmental Communication and Administration from Antioch University.

Gail McWilliam Jellie  
Director, Division of Agricultural Development  
NH Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food  
25 Capitol Street, Concord, NH 03301

Ms. McWilliam Jellie is the Director of Agricultural Development for the NH Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food, a position she has held since 1993, where she develops and oversees programs to bring the consumer and producer together in the marketplace. She works on a local and regional basis with agricultural and community organizations, development of various media marketing and other materials, and trade show and special event coordination. She previously served as an Extension Educator in Agricultural Resources with UNH Cooperative Extension in the Sullivan County office for 10 years. Ms. McWilliam Jellie holds a BS Degree in Animal Science from the University of Vermont and a Master’s Degree in Education from Keene State College.

Terry Johnson  
Director, Healthy Eating Active Living NH (HEAL NH)  
Foundation for Healthy Communities  
125 Airport Road, Concord, NH 03301

Mr. Johnson is Director of Healthy Eating Active Living NH. He is employed by the Foundation for Healthy Communities, the lead organization for HEAL. He is a graduate of the University of Louisiana and has 30 years of experience creating health-promoting environments throughout the country in worksite, hospital, and community settings.

Cordell Johnston, Esq.  
Government Affairs Counsel  
New Hampshire Municipal Association  
25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord, NH 03301

Attorney Johnston is a lobbyist for the New Hampshire Municipal Association where he represents the interests of New Hampshire’s towns and cities. Before joining NHMA in 2004, he practiced law with Orr & Reno, a Concord law firm, for 19 years. He is also a former selectman and planning board member in the Town of Henniker.
Julie LaBranche  
Senior Planner  
Rockingham Planning Commission  
156 Water Street, Exeter, NH 03833

Ms. LaBranche is a Senior Planner with the Rockingham Planning Commission and a native of New Hampshire. Her work in the region includes assisting Local Energy Committees with energy inventories and long range plans to achieve energy conservation and emissions reductions in their communities; working with municipalities and regional stakeholders on planning for climate change; developing zoning ordinances and regulations relating to land use, natural resource protection, and stormwater management; preparing Master Plans; and integrating land use and transportation planning concepts. She holds a B.S. in Geological Sciences from Salem State College in Massachusetts and a M.S. in Earth Sciences-Geology from Montana State University, Bozeman.

W. Rhett Lamb  
Planning Director/Assistant City Manager  
City of Keene  
3 Washington Street, Keene, NH 03431

Since 1996, Mr. Lamb has been the Planning Director for the City of Keene where he performs a broad array of planning tasks including the development of comprehensive plans, drafting of zoning ordinances and subdivision/site plan regulations, and review of development proposals. He is also involved in the implementation of management systems and GIS mapping to support planning functions and municipal decision making. Mr. Lamb has a Master’s Degree from Tufts University, Department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning.

Sarah Marchant, AICP  
Community Development Division Director  
City of Nashua  
229 Main Street, Nashua, NH 03061

Ms. Marchant joined the City of Nashua in June 2014 as the Director of Community Development. She is responsible for the budget and leadership of the Community Development Division which consists of five departments, including Building Safety, Code Enforcement, Planning and Zoning, Waterways, Transportation and Parking, Urban Programs, and various commissions, boards and programs. She previously served in planning positions in Amherst, and Milford, NH. Since joining the Planning Community in 2005, Sarah has spearheaded a wide-range of projects including a comprehensive rewriting of Subdivision and Site Plan Regulations, and Public Works Standards; zoning ordinance amendments including Form Based Codes, Wetlands, Sign Ordinances, Small Wind Energy Systems, and Accessory Dwelling Units; developing Stormwater Management Ordinances and a code enforcement ticketing process; and facilitating annual Capital Improvements Planning and master plan updates. Ms. Marchant was elected President of the Northern New England Chapter of the American Planning Association (NECAPA) representing NH, VT and ME, in the fall of 2105 after serving as the NECAPA Legislative Liaison for one year. She also serves on the Executive Committee of the New Hampshire Planners Association (NHPA) as the NH Legislative Liaison, after serving as President from 2010-2014, and Nashua Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. She holds a BA from the University of New Hampshire and an MA from the University of Connecticut.

Scott Maslansky  
C-PACE Program Manager  
The Jordan Institute  
6 Dixon Avenue, Concord, NH 03301

Scott Maslansky leads Jordan Institute’s NH C-PACE initiative as Program Manager. He works with commercial building owners, municipal officials, energy-project contractors and installers, lenders and investors, and other interested parties to manage a new program for financing energy-efficiency and renewable-energy projects in New Hampshire. Mr. Maslansky has worked in commercial and residential energy efficiency since 2009, most recently for LightTec, Inc. of Merrimack, where he developed an account with Liberty Utilities, expanding and managing their Gas Multifamily Energy Efficiency Program. From 2012-2013 Mr. Maslansky managed BetterBuildings Nashua for the NH Community Development Finance Authority, coordinating commercial and residential energy efficiency projects. He is certified as a Building Analyst by the Building Performance Institute (BPI). Before entering the field of energy efficiency, Mr. Maslansky worked for eight years in community economic development. He holds an M.S. in Conservation Biology from Antioch New England Graduate School in Keene and a B.A. in Environmental Studies from Brown University in Providence, RI.
Attorney Mayer is a partner at Upton & Hatfield, where he has concentrated his practice in serving municipalities since 1986. He represents more than 30 towns as their regular counsel and numerous other towns on special issues. He was Legal Counsel for the New Hampshire Municipal Association from 1981 to 1986, and crafted the original “New Hampshire Roads and Highways Manual,” which eventually evolved into “A Hard Road to Travel.” Attorney Mayer has presented lectures on municipal issues to conferences sponsored by NHMA, the N Bar Association and the Office of Energy and Planning.

Michael McCrory
Senior Planner
Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission
10 Water Street, Suite 225, Lebanon, NH 03766

Over the past 18 years, Mr. McCrory has developed expertise in the interrelationship between community identity and individual sense of place in a changing rural landscape. As Senior Planner at Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission he is responsible for a broad range of planning initiatives that affect the region and its constituent towns. Recent project work has shifted his interests toward community resilience and putting it into practice to benefit the landscape, residents (particularly vulnerable populations) and local economies.

Lorraine Merrill
Commissioner
NH Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food
25 Capitol Street, Concord, NH 03301

Ms. Merrill is in her ninth year as New Hampshire Commissioner of Agriculture, Markets & Food, and is also a partner in her family’s dairy farm. Earlier in her career, she was a free-lance journalist specializing in agriculture, business and the environment. Her work as a technical writer in planning and the environment included numerous writing and editing projects for OEP/Office of State Planning.

Peter Michaud
National Register, Preservation Tax Incentives, and Easements Coordinator
NH Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Historical Resources
10 Pillsbury Street, Concord, NH 03301

Mr. Michaud is the National Register, Preservation Tax Incentives, and Easements Coordinator at the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources, New Hampshire’s State Historic Preservation Office. Before joining the Division of Historical Resources in 2006, Mr. Michaud worked eight years in the Portsmouth office of Historic New England. He is a board member of the New England chapter of the Vernacular Architectural Forum. He also is an active board member at Players’ Ring Theatre, a founding board member of the Piscataqua Decorative Arts Society, and serves on Portsmouth Advocates as well as the Warner House building committee. Mr. Michaud recently served on a committee studying future uses of the Tobias Lear house in Portsmouth and is an appointee to a mayor’s study commission for the reuse of the Hilltop School in Somersworth which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A lifelong resident of the Piscataqua region, Mr. Michaud lives in Dover.

Christopher Parker
Assistant City Manager
City of Dover
288 Central Avenue Dover, NH 03820

Mr. Parker is Assistant City Manager and Director of Planning and Strategic Initiatives for the City of Dover, NH where he has been employed in various capacities since 1997. He focuses largely on land use and transportation planning in community development. Among the projects Mr. Parker is most proud of are the McConnell Center which involved the rehabilitation of a 100,000 square foot former high school into a human services hub; the development of New Hampshire’s first form-based code for Dover’s downtown; the development of a proactive customer service based planning and development process that encourages public participation and education; and a complete revamping of the City’s Capital Improvement’s Program including multi-media elements to enhance the ability of citizens to understand and participate in this vital link between Dover’s Master Plan and financial policies. Mr. Parker lives in Dover and was named the Professional Planner of the Year for both the State of New Hampshire and Northern New England in 2011.
Jane Presby  
Diamond Hill Farm  
Concord, NH 03301  
Ms. Presby is the owner and CEO of Diamond Hill Farm in Concord, where she grew up. For 34 years she was a teacher and coach at the middle and high schools in Concord.

Emily Preston  
Wildlife Biologist  
NH Fish and Game Department  
11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301  
Ms. Preston is a Wildlife Biologist with the NH Fish and Game Department. She is the co-coordinator of the revision of the NH Wildlife Action Plan and participates in conservation and land use planning efforts throughout the state and region. She provides technical assistance to landowners, communities, conservation organizations and agencies on wildlife habitat protection and management. She is responsible for monitoring several of the state-endangered and threatened species along with other at-risk species.

Erick Sawtelle  
Pinewoods Yankee Farm, Lee, NH 03861  
Mr. Sawtelle is the chairman of the Lee Agricultural Commission and a member of the NH Farm Bureau. Along with his wife, he owns and operates Pinewoods Yankee Farm in Lee.

Matthew R. Serge, Esq.  
Drummond Woodsum & MacMahon  
1001 Elm Street, Suite 303, Manchester, NH 03101  
Attorney Serge is a member of the Municipal Group at Drummond Woodsum and MacMahon 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 also 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. Attorney Serge’s active memberships include the New Hampshire Bar Association; New Hampshire Board of Bar Examiners; Daniel Webster Inns of Court; Friends of Tuckerman Ravine (member, Board of Directors); New Hampshire Bar Journal Editorial Advisory Board (Chair); and the Manchester Conservation Commission.

Bruce Simpson  
Chairman, Planning Board  
Town of Dublin  
P.O. Box 296, Dublin, NH 03444  
Mr. Simpson has been a member of the Dublin Planning Board since 1996 and has served as Chair since 2007. He has also served on Dublin’s Open Space Committee and Master Plan Committee, and was a principal drafter of a number of town ordinances including a workforce housing ordinance and a conservation subdivision ordinance. He has a B.A. from Keene State College and a J.D. from Vermont Law School and is president of USA Properties, Inc., a real estate development firm.

Matthew Sullivan  
Senior Regional Planner  
Strafford Regional Planning Commission  
150 Wakefield St., Suite 12, Rochester, NH 03867  
Mr. Sullivan is a Senior Regional Planner at the Strafford Regional Planning Commission. He has served the 18 communities of the Strafford region since 2011 in multiple capacities. Currently, he manages SRPC’s EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant and Strafford Economic Development District, serves as the Planner for the Town of Northwood, and provides GIS and planning technical assistance to a variety of regional stakeholders. Mr. Sullivan has served on the Board of Directors for the Workforce Housing Coalition of the Greater Seacoast since 2014 and is the current president of the 603 Initiative. Mr. Sullivan is a graduate of Miami University of Ohio and is a resident of Dover.
Mr. Whitman is a professional planner and educator based in Plymouth. He is the founder and principal of Resilience Planning & Design and is also an adjunct faculty member at Plymouth State University and Colby Sawyer College. Mr. Whitman frequently teaches courses in the United States and internationally in environmental planning, community planning, permaculture, and sustainability.