

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

AGENDA ITEM III



CITY OF FRANKLIN
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT
City Council Meeting Jan 2015

Date: December 16, 2014
From: Elizabeth Dragon, City Manager
Subject: Manager's Update

Contingency Grant Line Activity: The City received the following in the contingent grant line this month:
\$1484.25 Metrocast for PEG Access Programming (technology grant per new agreement)

Northern Pass Advocacy-Again this year, I have arranged for Stuart Tracey to help us with our monitoring of legislation that could impact the Northern pass project and assist us in our advocacy efforts.

K9 Officer Max Update- In case you missed it-Max & Officer Donnelly who recently were certified in tracking by the United States Police Canine Association had their first call to action! (press release attached)

Citizen's Institute for Rural Design-CIRD- Project update:
This project has a new name "*Franklin for a lifetime*". As described in previous updates-this grant is looking at planning for an aging population. The goal is to enhance ways that the City of Franklin can become a place that residents call home for their entire lifetime. I have included a flyer with additional information on the project and the timeline. The steering committee is currently preparing for a site visit from the Citizens Institute for Rural Design (CIRD) on January 15th.

Mapping project- Update-The three year tax map project is coming to an end. Year one- Cartographics (mapping company) researched deeds, surveys and other planning documents. They organized this information and built a data base. This data base includes a scanned copy of all the information they used to build the data base (source documents) attached. Over years two and three they used the State's ortho photography and included ground control to create a better map. They then started putting together the maps- parcel by parcel beginning with the surveyed pieces. Next they looked to deeds that contained "meets & bounds" descriptions and finally to ones that contained just deed descriptions and abutter descriptions. If they had any questions about a deed/survey/plan they sent a follow up letter to the property owner. Out of about 3,700 parcels approximately 60 people were contacted to answer questions however only about 10 people replied. The maps were then digitized into GIS format. The maps are for assessment purposes only (Cartographics did not go out and conduct surveys). These maps create a base map that we are then able to link to other GIS information (such as water/sewer system info). In January-the next step is for the assessing & planning department to review a spreadsheet of differences in acreage by parcel comparing the old maps to the new maps. In February-owners with significant acreage differences will be contacted and given an opportunity to bring in any additional information they may have (such as a survey not recorded etc). March will likely be follow-up meetings with property owners. April-the maps will

need to be accepted by the city council and integrated into our assessing system. Everything will need to be updated and finalized by May so that we will be ready for the next tax billing.

K9 Officer Adam Donnelly and partner MAX's first official call of duty.

On December 6, 2014 Officer Donnelly and MAX reported on duty and ready for calls. The duo was immediately dispatched to a call at 376 Hill Road in Franklin. The subject, Leland Leclerc, had assaulted family members and then fled from the scene of the crime. Family reported that Leclerc was likely under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol and may have been contemplating suicide. Officers taking the report at the scene noticed footprints that led from the residence into a nearby wooded area. Officer Donnelly and K9 MAX went right to work.

An extensive search of the area was conducted with the assistance of Officer Gotthardt and Officer Rector. Putting all of his trust into his partner, Officer Donnelly followed MAX through treacherous conditions. Pouring rain, freezing temperatures, dense woods and waist high swamp water did not stop them. Once the scent was detected, the two never faltered. After approximately one and half miles were covered Mr. Leclerc was located and placed into custody. He appeared to be under the influence of alcohol, he was cold, exhausted and his clothes were soaking wet, but he was safe. Mr. Leclerc later reported that he was unfamiliar with the area and did not know where he was.

Leland Leclerc was charged with Simple Assault, Criminal Mischief and Obstructing the report of a crime. He was transported to the Franklin Regional Hospital for treatment and later transported to the Merrimack County Department of Corrections to await his arraignment.

Officer Donnelly and MAX were certified in tracking by the United States Police Canine Association just 12 days prior to this incident. This was their first call and their first success. Mr. Leclerc was located uninjured and all the residents of Franklin remained safe and in their warm beds. That's what the Franklin Police K9 program is all about. Congratulations to Officer Donnelly and MAX on a job well done.

Franklin, New Hampshire

In partnership with UNH Cooperative Extension, Plan NH and Citizens' Institute for Rural Design

Engage Community and complete information review

January – March 31, 2015
Various times and locations

Audience: All Franklin community members; Franklin Steering Committee

1. Engagement activities:
 - Story-telling (Ariana McBride)
 - Other
 - Other
2. Gather and review existing information: survey data, assessments, demographic data, etc.

Workshop

April 9-11

Day 1: Half day (Thursday eve)

Audience: Steering Committee, Franklin community leaders, all community members, local and statewide stakeholders.

Proposed: Overview and video or other documentation of what was learned from information review and public engagement. Speaker: Jennifer Wallace-Brodeur; small group discussions among attendees

Workshop Day 2: Full Day (Friday)

Audience: Franklin Steering Committee and community leaders, local and statewide stakeholders

- Speakers on aging, housing, community development, economic development, historic preservation etc, incorporating Franklin-specific background, needs and ideas for response. (Phil Stafford, Kennedy Smith, other NH speakers to be named)
- Small group discussions; working sessions/Interactive

Workshop Day 3: Full Day (Saturday)

Volunteer design team made up of Plan NH and other volunteers will work on preliminary design ideas for Franklin, based on learnings from speakers, small group discussions, community input, engagement activities, and information gathering; possible CIRDS and NH expert also involved in process in support of team

Open to anyone to observe team working; at 3:00 preliminary results will be presented to community and other interested stakeholders.

Engage Community

May (TBD- evening)

Audience: Community leaders, all Franklin community members

- Community presentation of report/recommendations by Steering Committee, Plan NH, UNHCE
- Small group discussions
- Engagement activity to determine priorities of community and action plan for moving forward
- Formation of community action plan committees to move selected recommendations forward

Citizens' Institute on Rural Design

COMMUNITY PLANNING NEW HAMPSHIRE

This Information Brief is one in a series of six that explore key facets of community planning in New Hampshire. This brief draws on the experience and expertise of University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension, New Hampshire Housing Community Planning Grants and leading researchers in this field.

Information Brief #3, November 2014

Planning for an Aging Population

Sharon Cowen and Molly Donovan, University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension

Why are we talking about aging?

As in most of America, New Hampshire's population is aging quickly.

Senior Housing Perspectives, a report prepared by the New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies (NHCPPS) for New Hampshire Housing, tells us that New Hampshire has the fourth oldest median age in the country. The state's Baby Boomers are choosing to stay in the Granite State, meaning that our older adult population will nearly double between 2010 and 2025 and, because the state's overall population growth will slow in that time, the elderly population will increase to about one quarter of us all.

This demographic phenomenon challenges community leaders to create planning practices and policies that address the needs of multigenerational communities. Housing, transportation, land-use, economics, social services, healthcare—all require proactive planning that meets the needs of older adults and takes advantage of their skills, knowledge, social connections, and time as workers, volunteers, and civic leaders.

Preparing for an aging population

Most people 45 and older want to stay in their homes for as long as possible—we call it “aging in place” – these are choices observed nationally by the AARP and reinforced in New Hampshire by NHCPPS's report. To meet those needs and hopes, communities will be called upon to provide the necessary accommodations.

Planning policies and practices

Planning can promote affordable, safe access to essential services, and foster social connections and healthy environments that encourage active lifestyles and participation in civic life. Many land use policies and local regulations segregate senior citizens into age-restricted housing, contrary to the wishes of many to age in place. Communities can support interdependence and mutual generational support through planning and policies that value living, working, and engaging in civic activities together. Some communities, but especially in rural and suburban areas, are not designed for easy access to health care (doctors, physical therapy, pharmacies) and community amenities (grocery stores, libraries, senior centers, recreation, and places of worship). Mixed-use, connected neighborhoods can help link seniors to these critical services.

Aging in Place / Aging in Community

Aging in place: Older adults stay in their current home and live independently as they age.

Aging in community: Transitioning to a more supportive, and perhaps more affordable, setting in their community.



University of New Hampshire
Cooperative Extension



New Hampshire Housing
Bringing You Home

Housing options

Housing options to consider

Accessory apartments
Shared housing arrangements
Multi-family apartments
Assisted Living

Many New Hampshire communities have limited variety in their housing stock. Our diverse aging population—from those who are fully independent to those requiring ever-increasing assistance—needs a comparable diversity of available, affordable homes. Communities that promote rehabilitation of existing housing stock and that develop innovative new housing models will be better equipped to accommodate the needs of our older citizens. Options include accessory apartments, shared housing arrangements, multi-family

apartment buildings, and assisted living. Local zoning ordinances in many communities restrict these housing choices and should be updated to allow the housing market to meet these new demands.

Housing characteristics

Some traditional designs, like two-story homes, will need to be updated with features that make it easier for people with physical limitations—or simply the normal frailties of aging—to live on their own. Communities and developers should use design standards that accommodate all levels of ability, such as Universal Design. Housing options should include single story structures and multi-level homes with a bedroom and bathroom on the first floor and entries with few or no steps. Policies should consider physical variations—door levers instead of door knobs, wider doors, and lower countertops—that make it easier for older residents to function independently.

Housing features for older adults

- Low maintenance exterior
- Single story
- A no-step entry
- Lower bathtub or seat in shower
- Slip resistant flooring
- Adequate hand rails
- Lever handle faucets/doors
- Ramps
- Energy efficient features

Housing costs

Older Americans spend more on housing (for New Hampshire homeowners and renters, about 30 percent of their income) than on any other expense. The median income of New Hampshire seniors is about half of the state's overall median; senior renters' income is even lower. Housing costs impact the ability of older adults to pay for basic needs such as food and health care. Affordability is a key factor for communities when determining housing options for older adults.



Transportation options: Everyone knows the benefits of a good transportation system, but high costs and limited funding mean the rural and suburban places where three-fourths of New Hampshire seniors live have little or no service provided by public transportation carriers.

Limited transportation options that don't consider the reduced functioning and mobility of seniors may lead to their social isolation, which in turn can cause diminished physical and mental health. In addition to working with agencies to bring in more public transportation options and exploring potentially more affordable options like shared vehicle programs and demand-responsive services, communities can install benches, lighting, and cross walks that will make existing neighborhoods more walkable.

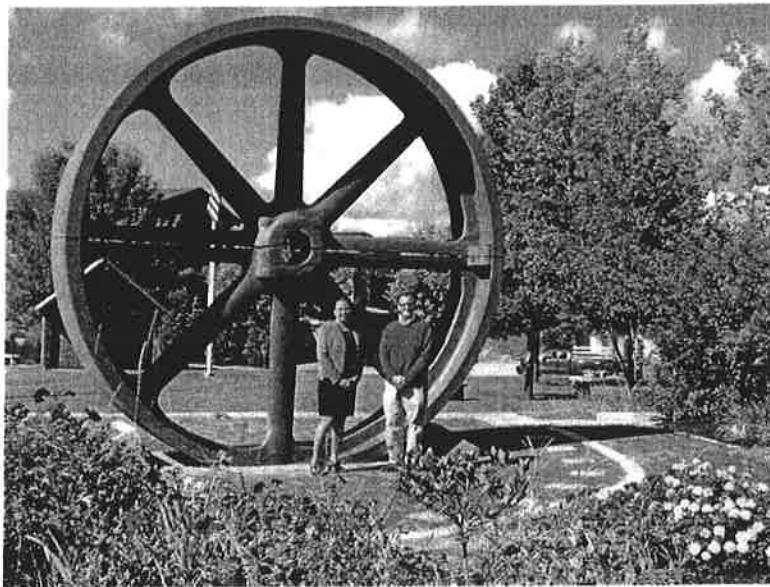
Engaging older adults in planning

All community planning efforts should actively involve older adults, as well as other residents. When engaged, older residents can contribute valuable leadership, time and wisdom to communities in which they live. Older adults may be challenged to participate in planning board meetings or community discussions due to the time, format, or location of the meetings. Community leaders can go directly to their seniors through existing organizations which work with these community members. Older adults can be engaged in the discussion through the senior center, religious organizations, libraries, and clubs.

Spotlight: Franklin, New Hampshire

In this city of 8,500 at the confluence of the Pemigewasset and Winnepesaukee Rivers, the senior residents are struggling to find affordable, suitable homes. *"We must keep our aging populations active and involved,"* said Elizabeth Dragon, Franklin's city manager. *"One man on our city council—a beloved neighbor and very active volunteer—had to move from Franklin because he couldn't find a suitable place to live."* Stabilizing housing and services for the senior community is now a major priority for Franklin.

Franklin city leaders, UNH Cooperative Extension, and Plan NH have joined forces to revitalize the city's economy and community for all its residents. This effort has a hard focus on the downtown district and the city's older residents, and will involve the arts to help convene the community to talk about its future. Funded by the Citizens' Institute for Rural Design, the partners will host a two and a half day workshop in spring 2015 where Franklin residents will come together for a discussion about the city's economy, housing, transportation, services and opportunities to accommodate its aging population. What happens after the spring meeting depends on the collective wisdom of its participants. Dragon expects that the process will deliver "long- and short-term goals and actionable items," and that topics like quality housing and transportation will be on the list.



In conclusion

Small and rural communities in New Hampshire will encounter many challenges when working to create conditions where residents can age in place. Policies and planning should consider:

- A variety of affordable, accessible housing options
- A range of transportation choices
- Walkable communities with mixed-use design
- Easy access to social services, cultural amenities, and civic destinations

Resources to learn more about planning and housing for an aging population:

American Planning Association. (2014). *Aging in Community Policy Guide*.

<https://www.planning.org/policy/guides/pdf/agingincommunity.pdf>

Delay, D., Thibeault, R. New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies. (2014). *Senior Housing Perspectives*. Retrieved from <http://www.nhhfa.org/data-planning/needsassessment/2014/HousingElderV031114.pdf>

Stanford Center for Longevity. (2012). *Independent for Life: Homes and Neighborhoods for an Aging America*. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press

AARP Home and Community Preferences of the 45+ population November 2010

<http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/general/home-community-services-10.pdf>

Evidence Matters HUD.gov Aging in Place: Facilitating Choice and Independence

<http://www.huduser.org/portal/periodicals/em/fall13/highlight1.html>

AARP Public Policy Institute Housing Policy Solutions to Support Aging in Place. March 2010

<http://www.nhc.org/media/documents/fs172-aging-in-place.pdf>

Center for Housing Policy (2014) <http://www.nhc.org/media/AgingInEveryPlace.pdf>

National Association of Home Builders Aging in Place http://www.nahb.org/reference_list.aspx?sectionID=717

Universal Design: <http://www.universaldesign.com/about-universal-design.html>

Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University http://www.jchs.harvard.edu/sites/jchs.harvard.edu/files/jchs-housing_americas_older_adults_2014-ch1.pdf

Housing Solutions for New Hampshire (2014), New Hampshire Housing

<http://www.nhhfa.org/housing-data-solutions-handbook.cfm>

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**City Council Meeting
January 5, 2015**

Mayor Merrifield to reappoint the following to the Planning Board:

Terms of Service to January, 2018.

“I reappoint Powell Glenn to the Franklin Planning Board, Term of Service to January, 2018.”

“I reappoint David Veysey to the Franklin Planning Board, Term of Service to January, 2018.”

“I reappoint Brian Colburn to the Franklin Planning Board, Term of Service to January 2018.”

“I reappoint Mike Freeman to the Franklin Planning Board, Term of Service to January, 2018.”

“I reappoint Brian Sullivan, Director of Municipal Services to the Franklin Planning Board, Term of Service to January, 2018.”

**City Council Meeting
January 5, 2015**

City Council appointments to the Franklin Zoning Board.

Motion: "I move that the Franklin City Council reappoints Sandy Hodgdon to the Franklin Zoning Board, Term of Service to January 2018."