

Report on OEP Spring Planning and Zoning Conference

- Attended Plenary session and two Planning Board sessions
- New Technical Bulletins announced
(<https://www.nh.gov/oep/planning/resources/conferences/spring-2016/documents/new-technical-bulletins.pdf>)
 - Accessory dwelling
 - Master Planning updated spring 2016. Will be posted as individual topics (e.g., master Plan overview, Changing housing preferences, etc.)
- Plenary Session covered connections between:
 - Keeping NH's traditional farming and agricultural landscape to foster a sense of place in communities
(<https://www.nh.gov/oep/planning/resources/conferences/spring-2016/documents/dynamic-agriculture-merrill.pdf>)
 - 1982-2010 NH Cropland -25%, Pastureland -28%, Developed land +80.5%
 - NH in "top" 5 in US losing farm land to development
 - SE NH considered threatened area
 - Some discussion on transfer of development rights to save farm lands
 - And the benefits of fostering communities that support the goals of livability, resilience and improved population health.
(<https://www.nh.gov/oep/planning/resources/conferences/spring-2016/documents/partnerships-johnson.pdf>)
 - Focused on public health in planning including access to healthy food, health care, exercise, and complete streets
- Basics for the Planning Board
 - Survey of PB rules, conflict of interest, use of third-party consultants, communication with legal counsel
 - Discussions bogged down on when / how to split Selectmen and PB legal counsel

- Roles and Responsibilities of the Planning Board (double session)
(<https://www.nh.gov/oep/planning/resources/conferences/spring-2016/documents/pb-roles-and-responsibilities-marchant-parker.pdf>)
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 - Heavy focus on role of Master Plan and relationship to / driver of zoning and other ordinances
 - Boggled down on handling applications when zoning ordinances are being considered/posted.
 - Legal update provided on the Fisher doctrine (already covered at M