



WORKFORCE
HOUSING COALITION
OF THE GREATER SEACOAST

Opening Doors to Vibrant Communities



2011-2012
Annual Report



We support the Workforce Housing Coalition's mission to be a catalyst for the development of a range of housing options for the Greater Seacoast region's diverse workforce.



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Dear Coalition Supporters,

It has been another year of growth and opportunity for the Workforce Housing Coalition. The pages of this booklet are filled with images of our many volunteers helping us achieve our mission—to be a catalyst for the development of a range of housing options for the diverse workforce of the Greater Seacoast Region of New Hampshire and Maine. We are indebted to our volunteers and our funders, including our growing list of individual and corporate members. Thank you!

Since our inception in 2001, close to 25 Seacoast area communities have adopted workforce housing ordinances and over 350 units have been built. We are well on our way to *opening doors to vibrant communities*.

We'll continue to make strides through effective programming: hosting educational forums, conducting an annual design charrette, advising municipalities and developers about best practices, and promoting and protecting laws and policies that create opportunities for workforce housing.

We look forward to your continuing support, enthusiasm and generosity in the coming year.

In gratitude,



Cliff Sinnott
President



Lisa Henderson
Executive Director



Mike Lassel, Lassel Architects; Jamie Calderwood, Calderwood Company; Gavin Barbour, CenterLine Building Company

Workforce Housing Design Charrette

June 6 & 7, 2011

At this year's charrette we evaluated three sites in Portsmouth, Kittery and Durham/Lee/Madbury. Over 40 planning and housing industry professionals worked collaboratively over two days to generate detailed concept plans for attractive, viable workforce housing developments. The charrette process plants the seeds of future workforce housing development.

Sponsored by: Optima Bank & Trust, New Hampshire Housing, Otto Haas Fund 2 of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation and York Hospital.

Housing Happy Hour Series

Over the past year, we hosted networking/educational events in Newmarket, Kittery, Exeter and Portsmouth. Each of these informal gatherings offered a chance to meet other Coalition supporters while enjoying remarks by a guest speaker.

Sponsored by Credere Associates and Kennebunk Savings Bank.



Carla Goodknight, CJ Architects; John DeStefano, DeStefano & Associates



NH State House

New Hampshire's Workforce Housing Law Preserved

For the third consecutive year, NH's workforce housing law was challenged in Concord. Passed in 2008, it requires municipalities to provide "reasonable and realistic opportunities" for the creation of workforce housing. House Bill 1282 would have weakened the law, making compliance optional. The bill passed the House but was stopped in the Senate.

Thanks to Coalition members who called legislators, wrote letters and testified at hearings, reason prevailed and the law remains intact.

Educational Forum

*“Getting Ahead of the Curve—
Anticipating Workforce
Housing Proposals”
May 8, 2012*

At a mock planning board meeting in the fictional town of Pleasantville, an exuberant developer introduced a proposal for a workforce housing development. The 50+ audience members were given roles as members of the development team or planning board or as skeptical abutters. In a light-hearted role play, they grappled with hot-button issues that arise in real-life development scenarios. The exercise proved a highly engaging way to explain NH’s Workforce Housing Law in a local context.



Kenn Ortmann, City of Rochester, in the role of town planner, advises his planning board.



Michael Castagna, Castagna Consulting; George Reagan, NH Housing; and Jon Ring, Jones & Beech Engineers enjoying the performances.

Produced in partnership with Rockingham Planning Commission. Sponsored by Donahue Tucker & Ciandella, PLLC.



Durham’s historic Grange Hall

2012 Annual Celebration

June 7, 2012

Three Chimneys Inn, Durham

This year’s celebration highlighted an outstanding example of a public-private partnership to create workforce housing. Durham’s Grange Hall has a new lease on life, recently redeveloped to include student housing, commercial space and three units of workforce housing. Keynote speaker Dennis Delay of the New Hampshire Public Policy Institute reflected on trends that will impact the need for workforce housing.

Honorees included Ambit Engineering for Employer Leadership; Town of Durham for Municipal Leadership; Peter Murphy for Housing Industry Leadership; Jack Mettee of Mettee Planning Associates received the Visionary Award.

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