

## NHPA Member Survey – Questions and Responses July 2008

**Total Respondents: 41**

### Purpose:

The NHPA Executive Board wants to hear from all NHPA members! We would like to hear what your needs and ideas are as they relate to professional development, what topics you'd like to see offered through various educational opportunities, as well as ideas about what legislative issues the membership would like to see proposed in the upcoming year.

We appreciate your membership and want to make sure that we continue to serve you well. Please take about 5 to 10 minutes and answer the following five questions.

1. How long have you been an NHPA member? [All 41 respondents answered this question.](#)
  - a. < 6 months 4.9% (2 responses)
  - b. 6 months to 1 year 4.9% (2 responses)
  - c. 1 to 2 years 24.4% (10 responses)
  - d. 3 to 5 years 12.2% (5 responses)
  - e. Over 5 years 53.7% (22 responses)
  
2. What suggestions do you have to help improve NHPA's support and service to New Hampshire Planners? Check all that apply. [36 answered this question, 5 skipped](#)
  - a. More professional development opportunities 80.6% (29 responses)
  - b. List serv 25% (9 responses)
  - c. Blog 30.6% (11 responses)
  - d. Other (please specify) 19.4% (7 responses)
    1. Work with NNECAPA to coordinate professional development opportunities.
    2. Assist those who are AICP meet the continuing ed credit requirements.
    3. We have a listserv!
    4. NH Planner Forum – occasional informal presentations on innovative practices by members or invites, combined with social gatherings.
    5. Annual Salary Survey
    6. More active in state-wide issues with input from members
    7. Increasing federal environmental regulations will require federal funding to support staffing.
  
3. What legislative issues, policy or law changes, would you like to see NHPA address in the coming year? Check all that apply. [40 responded, 1 skipped](#)

- a. Allow impact fees for open space acquisition, specifically for active community oriented uses such as town forest creation and expansion, for protection of watersheds and critical water supplies, and for forest and farmland protection 47.5% (19 responses)
  - b. Amend state building code to incorporate green standards 57.5% (23 responses)
  - c. Rewrite statutory standards for variances 45% (18 responses)
  - d. Ex-officio planning board seat on the ZBA, and vice versa 10% (4 responses)
  - e. Auto registration local option—double to \$10 for funding of mass transit Add a statewide car registration fee devoted to transit funding 37.5% (15 responses)
  - f. Amend constitution to allow gas tax to be spent on things other than highway construction and maintenance 47.5% (19 responses)
  - g. Other (please specify) 17.5% (7 responses)
    - 1. a total review and revamp of the RSAs addressing planning.
    - 2. NHPA Legislative Committee to meet in the early fall and prepare a legislative agenda for review/comment in November timeframe
    - 3. Local Energy Committees
    - 4. Enable municipalities to create a Development Review board to handle all quasi-judicial review & free up the Planning Board to do planning.
    - 5. In addition to incorporation of green standards in state bldg code, incorporate measures making the code more friendly to downtown rehab and re-use of historic buildings, particularly those listed on state and national registers.
    - 6. Creation of a dedicated funding source for municipal planning
    - 7. Change tax structure to support development in urbanized areas and deter development from rural areas.
4. What planning topics would you like to see offered via workshops or other professional development opportunities? Check all that apply. 36 responded, 5 skipped
- a. Innovation in septic disposal 22.2% (8 responses)
  - b. Alternatives to large-scale detention basins (low impact development) 55.6% (20 responses)
  - c. Creating a model master plan energy chapter in response to SB 422 72.2% (26 responses)
  - d. Other (please specify) 22.2% (8 responses)
    - 1. These are all pieces that lead to sustainable community. Let's include these in an overall discussion of what makes a sustainable community (region, state). Also if there is professional development workshop on ethics--can we talk about the practice of "moonlighting"--when appropriate and when not, e.g.

state employees as acting on their own time as private consultants (e.g. planning) in their field of expertise. Do lawyers for the AG's office practice private law on their own time, esp. to public clients?

2. Anything in regards to energy efficiencies, sustainable development, and the like

3. a. Discussion of how municipalities should seek professional planning services; b. Negotiation / mediation

4. Innovative affordable housing design

5. Innovative ways to plan for all mobility needs including efficiency

6. 1. models/examples of wood-fired heating systems for town and municipal buildings 2. Legislative tools, ordinances and innovative subdivision regs. for protecting stone fences - both interior and boundary walls

7. work with RPCs to make sure all planners and planning board clerks know the basics

8. How to incorporate sustainability into comprehensive master planning process

5. What types of professional development opportunities work best for you? (e.g., workshops, webinars) Check all that apply.

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|---------------------------|----------------------|
| a. 2 hour workshops       | 66.7% (26 responses) |
| b. Webinar                | 33.3% (13 responses) |
| c. 1 day conference       | 84.6% (33 responses) |
| d. 2 day conference       | 15.4% (6 responses)  |
| e. Other (please specify) | 10.3% (4 responses)  |
1. Half day workshops / seminars are good
  2. Webinars are technically the most convenient, but you lose the opportunity for shared learning. For me a 2 hour workshop has to be really worth it and centrally located in order for me to be able to justify attendance. One day conferences - perhaps quarterly would be most desirable. Two day conferences are increasingly more challenging for me personally. There are only so many conferences I can attend and there are so many good topics - it is a hard decision.
  3. Evening presentation with dinner
  4. Mobile workshops that are hands on

Thank you for your time!

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=3Wtn4YIcIZrDxYlXUb2l2Q\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=3Wtn4YIcIZrDxYlXUb2l2Q_3d_3d)