

# SRPC Planning Board UPDATE 3/24/2020



**1** On Mar. 23, Governor Chris Sununu enacted Emergency Order #12 Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, allowing public meetings to occur digitally without the requirement of a physical meeting location. Articles of 91-A had, until this time, prohibited strictly virtual meetings, as the RSA requires there be a physical space in addition to the virtual meeting space that members of the public can go to in order to participate.

With the current COVID-19 situation, temporary modifications now allow "State and local government bodies...to utilize the emergency meeting provisions of RSA 91-A to conduct meetings through electronic means while preserving, to the extent feasible, the public's right to notice of such meetings and ability to observe and listen contemporaneously."

- The temporary modifications allow these virtual meetings so long as:
- The public can access to the meeting by phone, with additional access possibilities by video, etc.
- The meeting is properly noticed with clear information on how the access it.
- There is a way for the public to notify the body that is meeting about access issues.
- The meeting is adjourned if the public is unable to access it.

Additionally, Emergency Order #16, issued the same day, formally enacts a prohibition of all scheduled gatherings of 10 or more people and remains in effect until April 6, 2020.

Learn more in the [Governor's Emergency Orders](#).

**2** In preparing for its spring conference the NH Planner's Association is now accepting award nominations for Professional Planner, Citizen Planner, Project, and Plan!

Criteria for the nominations can be found [online](#), along with the [nomination form](#). Nominations must be emailed to [nhplanners@gmail.com](mailto:nhplanners@gmail.com) by Monday, Apr. 6 at 4:30 p.m. To view past winners visit [New Hampshire section of the Northern New England Chapter of the American Planning Association website](#).

The conference will take place at Pat's Peake Resort in Henniker, NH and is scheduled for Friday Jun. 12.

To learn more visit <https://nne.planning.org/sections/new-hampshire/>.

**3** **RESHARE from January PB Update:**

As a reminder, Plan NH still has funding available to communities through its Municipal Technical Assistance Grant (MTAG) program. Accepted on a rolling basis, the applications for this program can be found on the [PlanNH website](#). Funding supports municipal expansion of options for places to live (e.g., by location, and/ or design and/or price-point) through changes in zoning regulations. The money can be used to hire consultants to review current regulations and re-write zoning or to create new ordinances to address the wants and needs of the community's members regarding housing choices. Plan NH is more than happy to meet with communities to provide more details about the program and the outcomes of others who have been awarded funds.

In the SRPC region, Dover, Rochester, and Farmington have all been MTAG recipients. Contact PlanNH via [email](#), or by calling 603-452-PLAN.