

## Concord Planning & Zoning Board Annual Report

The Concord Planning & Zoning Board includes dedicated board members Judy Kurtz, James Gochie, Meagan Johnson, John Christman, Steven Bean, and Cynthia Stuart. Alan Smith serves as the Concord Zoning Administrator. In 2019, the Town of Concord processed 44 zoning applications including:

- 6 for Camps (primitive)
- 4 for New Homes
- 6 for Storage Sheds/Buildings
- 13 for Certificates of Completion
- 4 for Porches or Decks
- 3 for Subdivisions
- 4 for Garages/Barns
- 4 for Additions

### NEK GRAVEL RIDES PROJECT

In 2019, through a Vermont Municipal Planning Grant, the towns of Concord and Burke started a project to assess and map gravel rides in the towns of Burke, Victory, Concord, and Kirby utilizing existing gravel roads. The NEK Gravel Rides Project aims to attract individuals with varying biking levels to the NEK and encourage them to explore lesser-traveled parts of the region.

The overall project goals include:

1. Develop and market gravel riding as a key outdoor activity in the region;
2. Encourage riders to explore town centers, discover local attractions, and frequent local businesses;
3. Bring more visitors and year-round residents to the Northeast Kingdom region;
4. Relieve traffic congestion in East Burke Village, especially by strengthening connections between communities;
5. Educate riders and minimize user conflicts; and
6. Support diverse user groups, including pedestrians and equestrians.

The NEK Gravel Rides Project will feature recommended gravel biking routes on a website to connect the riders to points of interest within the communities and designated village centers. The project capitalizes on existing regional attractions and businesses to introduce visitors to little-known but significant local assets while at the same time seeking to disperse visitors to communities throughout the Northeast Kingdom in an effort to relieve congestion in any one central area. A growing network of locally reviewed and tested gravel ride swill help to spur economic opportunity throughout the region and provide a new asset for year-round residents who appreciate the unique scenic qualities of the NEK and opportunities for outdoor recreation.

## **BOARD DUTIES**

The Concord Planning & Zoning Board is a group of local citizen volunteers striving to provide a variety of services relating to local growth and development, including:

- Reviewing and inspecting construction for compliance with local and state zoning ordinances
- Facilitating the development review process and guiding applicants in the permit process
- Fulfilling requests for information on properties
- Applying and administering the grant process for opportunities relating to growth and development
- Developing and implementing the municipal plan
- Enforcing town zoning regulations

Should community members have questions about the Concord Planning & Zoning efforts, the Board welcomes any inquiries or comments.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Stuart, Planning & Zoning Board Chairperson