

Southern Maine Partnership for Sustainable Development

Knowledge Sharing Session #1– February 13, 2012 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Lee Community Hall, Wishcamper Center, Muskie School of Public Service-USM

Placemaking in Our Region

Strengthening investment in our city, town and village centers to sustain a region

The February 13 Placemaking session is an opportunity to share some of the work being done in southern Maine with participants in our HUD project Partnership and other interested parties.

Projects are happening at multiple scales in small towns, the central city, and major transportation corridors. A signature effort, the Maine Model Town Project in Standish, sponsored by GrowSmart Maine, worked with Standish to establish a vision for its town center. Standish then adopted a zoning code (form-based code) to ensure the vision is realized. Form-based codes, an approach to zoning that allows more flexible and integrated land development patterns, models the traditional New England community. Standish set the precedent in Maine for form-based codes with other communities pursuing this approach.

Both Windham and Falmouth are exploring ways to better incorporate their highway strips into the community and GrowSmart Maine is currently developing suggested model practices for addressing the issues of highway strips.

The city of Portland is undertaking new efforts to redevelop arterial corridor neighborhoods, transportation nodes and “Corners.” The Partnership’s December meeting at Pepperell Mill in Biddeford included tours and descriptions of a number of efforts there including mill redevelopment and a thriving arts and culture initiative.

These inter-related projects and the role of tools like form-based codes will be shared by our colleagues as listed below.

- 1. The Standish Model Town Project—Nancy Smith, Executive Director, GrowSmart Maine.**
- 2. Windham Town Center—Mitchell Rasor, MRLD Landscape Architecture + Urbanism.**
- 3. The Forest Avenue Corridor as Center—Alex Jaegerman, AICP, Director, City of Portland Planning Division.**
- 4. New Tools for Placemaking—Form-Based Codes—Alan Manoian, AICP, AboutPlacePartners, LLC.**

Concluding Partnership discussion (for those wishing to participate): how can we maximize different kinds of investment in our places?