

2024 Annual Luncheon
“Local Solutions:
A Ten-Year Retrospective”
June 27, 2023, 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Three Chimney’s Inn
17 Newmarket Rd,
Durham, NH 03824

11:00 – 11:30 Networking

11:30 - 12:00 Lunch

12:00 - 12:10 Welcome and Introductions

- Jennifer Czysz, Executive Director
- Dave Landry, Commission Chair

12:10 – 1:40 Local Solutions: A Ten-Year Retrospective

- John Mullen, SRPC Commissioner, Middleton
- Michelle Mears, Director of Planning and Community Development, Somersworth
- Ryan Pope, Housing Navigator, City of Dover

1:40 - 2:00 Annual Excellence Award and Recognitions

- In Memory of Thomas Crosby, for his Decades’ Long Contribution of Volunteering on SRPC
- Connor MacIver For Community Leadership in Barrington's New Town Hall Project
- The Town of Durham, For Regional Leadership and Vision in Coastal Resilience through the Living Shoreline Project



Meet the Panelists

Michelle Mears

Michelle Mears is the Director of Planning and Community Development for the City of Somersworth overseeing Planning and Zoning, Economic Development, Code Enforcement, and Recreation. Past projects she is most proud of include: InvestNH HOP grant Somersworth, overseeing updating Somersworth subdivision regulations, Rochester's City Hall Annex Restoration, downtown redevelopment projects, past President of Rochester Rotary, arts and culture mural project in downtown Rochester, and Strafford Economic Development District Designation. She started her career in planning at Strafford Regional Planning Commission working as Regional Economic Development Planner, and then moved on to work for the City of Rochester as Senior Planner and Town of Rollinsford as Planning Consultant. Michelle is a proud graduate from the University of New Hampshire receiving a Masters of Public Administration, a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources and an Associate's Degree in Horticulture Technology. She received the national certification from the American Institute of Certified Planners and graduated from New Hampshire Institute of Art National Consortium with a national certificate in Creative Placemaking. She resides in Rollinsford, NH with her husband and two daughters and loves gardening in her spare time.



Ryan Pope

Ryan Pope works for the City of Dover as their Housing Navigator. In this role he works with community stakeholders including residents, businesses, service organizations, and the City's staff and elected officials to identify and address the community's housing needs through regulatory reform and public-private initiatives. Prior to joining the City in April 2023, Ryan worked in a variety of leadership and lending roles at local financial institutions and served as a member of the New Hampshire Bankers Association's Legislative Committee. Ryan is an avid volunteer and currently serves on the boards of several regional housing agencies including Fair Tide, the Workforce Housing Coalition of the Greater Seacoast, the Home For All Coalition, and the Strafford County Coalition to End Homelessness.



John Mullen

I have been active in my community and state in preserving and protecting our land and water since 2008. I served three terms in the NH State Legislature from 2012 to 2018 for the towns of Milton and Middleton. I served on the Resources, Recreation & Development Standing Committee for my entire tenure. Additionally, I served on the EAWAC committee from 2015 to 2018 and am currently a public member.



I served on the Middleton Board of Selectman for one term from 2008 through 2010. I have served on the Middleton Conservation Commission, was the Invasive Species Coordinator for several years, and still work as a Volunteer Lake Assessment Program member. I assisted in developing a Sunrise Lake Watershed Plan with the help of SRPC. I am currently Chair of the Middleton Planning Board. I now serve as Chair of the Sunrise Watershed Advisory Committee, which was formed to assist in implementing that Watershed Plan. I am currently the chair of the Cochecho River Local Advisory Committee. I recently was appointed as SRPC Commissioner for Middleton.

During these times, I gained an appreciation for our NH rivers and lakes, the impacts of adjacent development and environmental activities, and how they affect all our land and water resources.