New Hampshire Preservation Alliance Assistance for Communities For CTAP Planning Process January 2006

The New Hampshire Preservation Alliance seeks to assist communities with preservation planning and development issues. The Preservation Alliance is the statewide non-profit organization committed to the preservation of historic buildings, communities and landscapes through preservation services and public policy programs. Here is an overview of some of our community-based preservation services that seem most applicable to the CTAP communities.

Preservation planning workshops help educate-- and increase the effectiveness of -- heritage and historic district commissioners, planning and zoning board members and others involved in directing investment. Preservation consultants, legal experts, state agency representatives and civic leaders offer practical resource information and case studies, using a new 100-page handbook *Preserving Community Character*, as their text. The topics in the new how-to guide include: advantages and disadvantages of preservation planning tools, old building information, funding sources, and how to establish and administer heritage and historic district commissions.

Our surveys show that heritage and historic district commissioners, planning and zoning board members, and others involved in planning and development need basic information, resource information and networks.

Our **project development grants** for community and municipal groups help steer successful projects. The matching grants can be used for building assessments, fundraising or organizational development strategies or "road maps" for local groups guiding a new development, considering a historic district or planning a historic resources survey. The professional guidance underwritten by the grants has been a strong catalyst for communities to organize more effectively, leverage additional dollars and meet their goals.

While hundreds of thousands of acres have been protected through conservation easements, there are only about two dozen buildings with **preservation easements** in the state. The Preservation Alliance holds easements and provides assistance to conservation organizations and local heritage groups interested in protecting historic assets.

We have a track record of successful partnerships with many of the organizations and agencies in your strategic planning groups, and look forward to participating in the process and helping implement its recommendations.

For more information, contact Jennifer Goodman or Pat Meyers at 603-224-2281 or jg@nhpreservation.org