

LEBANON — SMART AND CREATIVE CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT

— Maggie Howard-Heretakis (Associate Planner, City of Lebanon)

The City of Lebanon became one of New Hampshire's 21 Certified Local Government (CLG) communities in 2011, and has since received four grants through the program. The driver for the city's commitment to historic resources is its master plan, which calls out several goals related to historic resources, specifically the recognition of their value and ensuring they are protected as the city continues to grow within the urban core. To achieve the goals of the master plan, the city has been utilizing the CLG grants in order to identify and examine the historic resources of the community.



The first two CLG grants were for a comprehensive survey of the 19th century

Crafts Avenue neighborhood, which was identified as the first designed subdivision in Lebanon.

Due to the extent of the survey and the availability of funding, the grant was split over two years. The Crafts Avenue neighborhood did not meet the criteria for National Register of Historic Places historic district designation, but the work led to the creation of Lebanon's first "Neighborhood Character Zone." This designation provides a way for the city to identify and preserve the unique features of each designated neighborhood. The Crafts Avenue neighborhood has features that were unique to its 19th century design. With a large development taking place directly next to Crafts Avenue, it was possible to identify the valuable features that should be protected to ensure the neighborhood character was not significantly impacted. These features went beyond the architecture of the houses, and also included the lot layout, the siting of the homes along the street, and the silver maples that still line the street. Without that knowledge, sewer improvements needed for the new development could have severely impacted the trees.



Building on this experience, the next grant focused on outreach and education. Community

involvement and participation is key to the process, and it is clear that education and outreach will always play an important role for all future grants. The next step will be a modified city-wide survey. The grant will identify all the neighborhoods within the city that might have potential for either historic district or Neighborhood Character Zone designation. The modified city-wide survey will provide the Lebanon Heritage Commission with a template for how to proceed with future grants, as it will be able to target specific neighborhoods for future survey within the CLG grant program. The city's goal of promoting preservation and protection of the unique neighborhoods and their characteristics will be assisted through the survey process, but also through education, encouragement, and regulation, as appropriate.

