



2024 HOMEOWNERSHIP CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

HOMES FOR TOMORROW'S HOMEBUYERS

DARREN WINHAM, Economic Development Director, Town of Exeter

Darren Winham has over 20 years of experience in economic development. In addition to owning an economic development consulting firm, he has worked for the Barre Area Development Corporation in Vermont, the County of Lassen in California, Maine Department of Economic and Community Development, and the Business Relations Group at the US Department of Labor in Washington, D.C. Winham believes that affordable housing is the leading economic development issue in this area for the next decade.

CONNECT | exeternh.gov || dwinham@exeternh.gov

CHRIS LEE, Head of Design & Development, Backyard ADUs

Chris Lee began developing multifamily homes 10 years ago and has not strayed from his philosophy of “if my wife and I won’t live in it, no one should.” Lee created Backyard ADUs (accessory dwelling units) after realizing the best opportunities in real estate were in a homeowner’s backyard. Leveraging experience in development projects, working with municipalities, and with real estate finance, Backyard ADUs aims to help homeowners benefit from a tight rental market and help solve the housing crisis.

CONNECT | backyardadus.com || chris.lee@backyardadus.com

KEVIN LACASSE, CEO, New England Family Housing

Kevin Lacasse founded New England Family Housing in 2004, with a focus on making a significant impact in the real estate and rental property market throughout New England. His career began with the renovation of a condemned duplex, and he quickly expanded into multifamily spaces, single-family fix and flip, mobile home parks, apartment complex ground-up construction, and larger scale mixed-use developments, including affordable housing projects. He has been involved in modular home construction and recently completed a 24-lot single-family home subdivision project.

CONNECT | nefamilyhousing.com || klacasse@nefamilyhousing.com

BUILDING MORE HOMES THROUGH CIVIC LEADERSHIP

MOLLY LUNN OWEN, former Executive Director, 603 Forward

Molly Lunn Owen most recently served as founding executive director at 603 Forward and The Forward Foundation. In her five years there, she built and oversaw programs that helped young people run for planning and zoning board positions, and how to share their story on our state's housing crisis, among other civic education-related goals. She served on the Manchester Planning Board for three years, and resigned from the board when a lack of housing inventory required her family to move from the city. She currently serves in an advisory capacity to various nonprofit and civic organizations.

CONNECT | molly.lunn.owen@gmail.com



2024 HOMEOWNERSHIP CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

PETER NICHOLS, Chair, New London Housing Commission

Peter Nichols has over 30 years of experience in commercial real estate. Starting as a geologist and then moving into real estate, he's done everything from developing homes in Pennsylvania to big projects in Boston's Metro market. Nichols founded NorthStar Ally LLC, offering strategic consulting and directing development projects. He holds a Counselor of Real Estate (CRE®) designation and is a Certified Commercial Investment Member. He actively contributes to his community through board memberships and advisory roles.

CONNECT | peterbnichols@gmail.com

IAN ROGERS, co-facilitator, Warner Housing Advisory Committee

Ian Rogers has been the co-facilitator of the Warner Housing Advisory Committee and a member of the Warner Planning Board since summer 2023. Rogers grew up in Warner and returned home in 2022 after teaching English in Japan for many years. Working remotely as a writer and editor, his time abroad gave him a fresh perspective on New Hampshire's shifting housing scene. Rogers is working with the committee to update the housing chapter of Warner's Master Plan.

CONNECT | rogers.ian.m@gmail.com

LAURA KNOY, founding host, The Exchange on NHPR

Laura Knoy is the founding host of The Exchange, New Hampshire's best-known and highly respected statewide call-in program. She stepped down in June 2021 after 25 years behind the microphone. Knoy is known for her award-winning, in-depth coverage of important issues and is well regarded for her interviews with presidential hopefuls. Knoy is a moderator, speaker, writer, and creator/host of the ReadLocalNH podcast.

CONNECT | lauraknoy.com || lauraknoy@gmail.com

THE FUTURE OF HOMEOWNERSHIP

CHRIS HERBERT, Managing Director, Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University

Chris Herbert has extensive experience conducting research related to housing policy and urban development, both in the US and abroad. He has led the team responsible for producing key publications like the annual State of the Nation's Housing and biennial America's Rental Housing reports. Appointed Managing Director in 2015, Herbert oversees the Center's research programs, conferences, and student fellowship programs, aiming to nurture future housing leaders.

CONNECT | jchs.harvard.edu || chris_herbert@harvard.edu