

OUR SPEAKERS



Kyla Scanlon is the founder of Bread, a financial education company delivering daily economic explainers on social media and in her newsletter. She is the bestselling author of *In This Economy?*, creator of the term “vibecession,” and a former Bloomberg Opinion contributor whose work has appeared in *The Financial Times* and *The New York Times*.

PRACTICAL PROGRESS: HOW COMMUNITIES ARE TACKLING HOUSING



Mari Brunner is the Senior Planner for the City of Keene with over 10 years of experience in urban and community planning. She has led complex projects and policy initiatives, including updating Keene’s Comprehensive Master Plan, conducting a housing needs assessment, and advancing policies to support “missing middle” housing.



Matt Gerding is the Mayor of Somersworth, a public school science teacher, and NH’s only openly LGBTQ mayor. A recognized housing champion, he launched the Somersworth Mayor’s Housing Taskforce in 2024 and has advanced major initiatives including a new housing chapter of the Master Plan, expanded ADU allowances, and a housing and zoning audit with the Strafford Regional Planning Commission.



Pamela Laflamme is the Director of Strategic Initiatives and Assistant City Manager for the City of Berlin, overseeing Administration, IT, Grant Management, and Community & Economic Development. She holds a degree in Community and Regional Planning from Plymouth State University and is a Leadership NH graduate and serves on boards including the Community Builders Hub and the Androscoggin Food Cooperative.



Bart McDonough is Director of Planning and Community Development for the Town of Newmarket. With over a decade of public and nonprofit experience, he specializes in regulatory reform, long-range planning, project review, and community facilitation. McDonough is leading efforts to expand housing and economic development, enhance community and climate resiliency, and promote cultural advancement.

TURNING CHALLENGES INTO KEYS FOR SUCCESS



Jeff Lefkovich is Executive Director of Real Estate & Housing Development at Catholic Charities New Hampshire, leading the creation of mixed-income, age-restricted, and workforce housing communities. With more than 30 years in real estate and affordable housing, he has guided projects from concept through financing, construction, and operations.



Danica Miller has served as Peterborough’s Director of Planning & Building since 2020, overseeing land use applications, master planning, zoning, and community development initiatives. She also serves as FEMA’s Floodplain Administrator and works closely with town boards and committees to guide planning efforts.



Ben Southworth is a designer and builder, leading high-performance, sustainable architecture projects at Garland Mill, a worker-owned cooperative design–build firm. With more than 25 years of experience, he specializes in passive house and net-zero buildings, from custom homes and deep energy retrofits to affordable housing that strengthens rural communities.



Jennifer A. Vadney has been with NeighborWorks® Southern New Hampshire since 2000, holding a variety of leadership roles. She oversees community planning and financial feasibility for multifamily development, manages current projects, and pursues new opportunities. She has been instrumental in the creation and redevelopment of more than 500 affordable rental units.



2025 HOUSING & ECONOMY CONFERENCE

October 16, 2025

— 8:00-8:30 AM • REGISTRATION & FULL BREAKFAST BUFFET —

WELCOME & NH HOUSING OVERVIEW

Rob Dapice, Executive Director / CEO, New Hampshire Housing

Governor Kelly Ayotte, State of New Hampshire

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Kyla Scanlon, Author and Economic Commentator

— 10:15-10:45 AM • BREAK —

PRACTICAL PROGRESS: HOW COMMUNITIES ARE TACKLING HOUSING

Mari Brunner, Senior Planner, City of Keene

Matt Gerding, Mayor, City of Somersworth

Pam Laflamme, Director of Strategic Initiatives and Assistant City Manager,
City of Berlin

Bart McDonough, Director of Planning and Community Development,
Town of Newmarket

Moderated by Sarah Wrightsman, New Hampshire Housing

TURNING CHALLENGES INTO KEYS FOR SUCCESS

Jeff Lefkovich, Executive Director of Real Estate Services, Catholic Charities NH

Danica Miller, Director of Planning & Building, Town of Peterborough

Ben Southworth, President, Garland Mill

Jennifer Vadney, Neighborhood Development Director,

NeighborWorks® Southern New Hampshire

Moderated by Ryan Pope, New Hampshire Housing

— 12:30 PM • CONCLUSION —

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