

## MEET ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE

Stephanie Hurley has been interested in housing issues since she learned about cohousing communities in the 1980s when her sister lived in one. Cohousing is an intentional group of private homes clustered around shared space, usually with open land protected for all to use. Each attached or single-family home has sleeping, eating, and sanitary facilities. Neighbors share common areas and facilities, such as a kitchen for group dinners. People can easily choose social interaction over isolation while maintaining privacy when desired. Cohousing neighborhoods attract people who care about their environment and make earth-friendly lifestyle choices. Stephanie especially likes the concept of clustered houses surrounded by open space shared for all to use.

She's lived in the Monadnock region for 34 years, 22 in Peterborough. While living in New Ipswich in the late 1980s, she found her family's activities centering around Peterborough, so they decided to move here in the early 2000s.

Her family loves this community and would like to maintain the small-town atmosphere. But Stephanie also realizes that if we want the town to continue to thrive, we need more housing for our workforce. She believes it is a balancing act between adding new housing and ensuring the town has the infrastructure to support the desired development.

Stephanie is presently serving her third year on the Planning Board. She also served on the Peterborough Master Plan Housing and Population Committee in 2003-4. She has participated in many planning and housing workshops and diligently continues training on planning and zoning issues.

One of the issues that drove Stephanie's participation in the Planning Board was affordable housing. When the Affordable Housing Committee was reformed, she joined it as Planning Board liaison. She believes the Affordable Housing Committee should support and even lead efforts to develop affordable housing in Peterborough. She feels the town needs to increase the amount of reasonably priced housing and rental opportunities. Peterborough should accomplish this by finding appropriate places for increasing infill development, and allowing multifamily apartment buildings, manufactured homes, and clustered small or tiny house developments. These are needed to accommodate the financial abilities of service workers, childcare providers, young people, and families just starting out.

In addition to her interest in housing, Stephanie has done testing of the Contoocook River for the NH Department of Environmental Services, mapped vernal pools in Peterborough, and been a member of the Salamander Brigade. She volunteers for the Peterborough Players, Children and the Arts, and participates in many town events.

Stephanie holds an undergraduate degree in Environmental Biology, a Master's Degree in Elementary Education, and degrees in Vocal Performance and Music History. She taught in public elementary schools for several years and recently was a substitute teacher in many area schools.