

MEET ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE

JAMES KELLY

Upon finishing graduate business school, James co-founded a strategic consulting firm with a professor at Harvard Business School. As the firm's executive director, he expanded the business across the U.S. and worldwide through collaboration with graduate business professors.

After living in London for three decades while leading his consulting firm, James retired and moved to Peterborough to be near his first wife, Kitty Bass Cloud, and one of his daughters, Alex Walker, and her husband, Steve. During his 10 years in Peterborough, James has found this to be a perfect community to support his mantra – positive, collaboration, sustainability. James believes the town, businesses, and non-profits can work together to create innovative social, environmental, and economic improvements.

An example of collaboration between the town committees, businesses, and non-profits is the creation of the MAXT Makerspace, which came about during one of Monadnock Center for History and Culture's Community Conversations and its subsequent implementation committee. James had been on that committee for many years and is now a member of the MAXT Makerspace board of directors, working to attract and train new workers and entrepreneurs.

Another example of innovative collaboration is the YES (Youth Engagement in Service) program developed by Mariposa. This program uses an innovative experiential learning model to develop youth leadership and instill a spirit of volunteerism and real-world problem-solving in high school students. The students work in teams to conduct hands-on research about an issue and an organization that works on that issue. They engage with the organization, meet with staff and participants, pitch in on projects, and then prepare and deliver a presentation to their peers about the organization's focus, strategies, and impact. James has enjoyed working to implement YES through the Mariposa and being a part-time judge of student non-profit evaluations and presentations.

James is deeply involved with the community through his membership on five Peterborough town committees: Economic Development Authority, Agriculture, Affordable Housing, Master Plan, and Capital Improvement Program. For six years, he was Director of the Monadnock Center of History and Culture, in addition to the Mariposa Museum. James still serves on several of Mariposa Museum's committees and has returned this year as Director.

Outside of his town-related volunteerism, James is also a member of the Our Town Capital Group (created to invest in new businesses in this region) and the Peterborough Rotary Club. One of James' favorite roles is to help middle school students learn about positive

collaboration during the Quest summer camp, an annual summer student-training event that James created.

Recently, a valuable collaboration was created through a regional Hub and Spoke system to support innovative sustainability, including 100% renewable energy in the Monadnock community. Several of the town committees James is on are spokes in a collaborating network in the region. In addition, new spokes have been created that James is a part of, including Drawdown Sustainability, Non-Profits, Education, and Our Town Networking (small businesses). The Hub is a committee of leaders from all of the spokes that work to create collaboration between the spokes and communication with the community. James is a member of the Hub.

The final example of organizations James is involved in that support positive collaboration and sustainability in our community is the Greenerborough event. This annual event attracts and educates residents about practical green living in Peterborough.