

MEET ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE

SARAH ELLIS

After retiring from a career as a registered dietitian, working in nutrition research, education, and private counseling, Sarah returned from California to New England in 2012 to make a home with her father during his last years of life. Their first venture together involved building an ADU for him on the back of her mid-1800s farmhouse in Lyndeborough. When her father required more assistance, they moved together to Peterborough. Now that chapter has closed and Sarah has moved into an even smaller space at the Union Mill.

These transitions, along with becoming involved with a local church and food pantry, have raised Sarah's awareness of regional social welfare issues. Fundraising work with Shelter from the Storm in Jaffrey led her to join a group formed in response to issues arising during the recent pandemic. EMHSC (Eastern Monadnock Housing Security Coalition) was formed in anticipation of renters being evicted after federal benefits ended. Their focus was and continues assisting faith communities in creating short-term transitional housing. As the housing crisis grows nationally, especially the need for affordable and workforce housing, Sarah joined Peterborough's Affordable Housing Committee to become more informed about local challenges and opportunities and to assist the AHC in creating solutions.

With a BA in Philosophy and Religion and an MS in Food Science and Nutrition, Sarah's perspective is broad, inclusionary, and creative.