

NEK TODAY and TOMORROW

A Northeast Kingdom
Summit Conference on
Managing Change for the
Best Future of the NEK

Saturday, June 15

8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Lake Region Union High School, Orleans

NEK Today and Tomorrow will build action to advance the health and prosperity of NEK communities while maintaining their character and protecting the working landscape that surrounds them.

With the positive economic growth on the northern tier of the NEK, residents of the Kingdom want to be sure to optimize the benefits to communities, strengthen downtowns and village centers, support the character of the NEK, and enhance the region's farm and forest landscape.

NEK Today and Tomorrow is designed to bring residents of the regional community together to think about key issues connected to the future of the economy, land, and towns of the Kingdom, contribute ideas for local and regional planning efforts, and consider actions that can be taken to advance local communities.

NEK Today and Tomorrow will begin with this public conference and lead to County Meetings to set priorities for action. NEK County Meetings will receive reports from the Summit including lists of ideas toward action and drafted points of vision, and then set local priorities and identify areas for potential action by municipalities or working groups.

GOALS

A. Engage the people of the NEK region to define key points of vision for the future.

- B. Gather concerns and ideas for actions that can be taken to respond to economic development and support strong community centers, the working landscape, education and health, in ways that enhance the quality of life and the strength of local communities throughout the region.
- C. Add up public ideas that can help shape local and regional planning goals for economic development, advancing energy systems, supporting the farm and forest economy, and addressing key needs ranging from housing to education and health care.
- D. Address special needs around three key components of regional development: Housing, Education and the Working Landscape.

A G E N D A

COFFEE AND MUFFINS.....8:00-9:00

Registration 8:00-9:00

Conference Opening Plenary Session 9:00

Introduction to Work of the Day

Paul Costello, VCRD Executive Director

Economic Development and Planning for the Future

Steven Patterson, NVDA Executive Director

Panel: The Future of the Northeast Kingdom,..... 9:30

What will be the impacts of northern tier developments?

How should we be preparing for them?

What are the implications for Housing, Education and Land Use
(especially farm and forest lands) in the Kingdom?

Moderator: *Paul Costello*

Panelists:

Bill Stenger, Jay Peak Resort

Secretary Lawrence Miller, VT Agency of Commerce & Community Development

Patricia Sears, Newport City Renaissance Corporation

Grant Spates, Derby Selectboard, Spates Construction, Inc.

Katherine Sims, Green Mountain Farm to School

BREAK 10:45

**Four Work Group Discussions: Housing, Education, Tourism,
& the Working Landscape 11:00**

What are the key issues for the future in this sector? (30 minutes)

Developing an Action List (30 minutes)

What should be done in this area to preserve the character of the Kingdom and prepare for the future? What specific Actions should be undertaken at the county and local level?

Facilitators: Housing: *Karen Geraghty, UVM Extension*

Education: *Carol Moore*

Tourism: *Claudio Fort, North Country Hospital*

Working Landscape: *Charlie Browne, Fairbanks Museum*

Work Group Reports to the Plenary Conference 12:00

Conclusions and Next Steps 12:15

Paul Costello, VCRD & Steve Patterson, NVDA

ADJOURN 12:30

A Project of: **Northeastern Vermont Development Association & the Vermont Council on Rural Development**

In Partnership with..... the North Country Career Center, Newport Renaissance Corp., NEK Community Action Council, NEK Travel and Tourism, Center for an Ag Economy, NEK Collaborative, Lyndon State College, Sterling College, and the Northeast Kingdom Fund of the Vermont Community Foundation

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