

LCHIP

Land & Community Heritage
Investment Program



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For Immediate Release

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Land and Community Heritage Investment Program Announces New Executive Director

Concord NH – The Board of Directors of the New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) announces that Governor Sununu and the Executive Council have appointed Paula Bellemore of Goffstown as the program’s Executive Director, succeeding Dorothy “Dijit” Taylor of Hopkinton, who retires December 31 after eleven years leading the program.

Prior to joining LCHIP in 2014, Bellemore served as the executive director of the Piscataquog Land Conservancy, a regional land trust in south-central New Hampshire, where she worked for more than ten years. A fifth-generation New Hampshire native, Bellemore’s 17 years of experience in land conservation are balanced by strong administrative and managerial experience gained through a previous career in hospitality management, and a passion for preserving the state's unique heritage.

Said Bellemore, “With a 21-year history of program success, LCHIP enjoys an enviable position in the state, having garnered tremendous support from the Legislature and our constituents. By maintaining a steadfast focus on the original intent of the program and by protecting LCHIP’s past investments in our natural, cultural, and historical resources, LCHIP’s coming twenty years will only build on that past success. I welcome the opportunity to serve the program as it enters its third decade.”

Ben Wilson, Director of the State’s Division of Historical Resources, says “Paula has earned the trust and respect of the land conservation community. She is known throughout the state for her communication skills, and her ability to bring stakeholders and communities together to construct projects with the most historic resource value for the citizens of the State. She is an equitable advocate for both land conservation and historic preservation, and understands the value both endeavors produce for communities in the form of quality of life and economic vitality.”

Ben Wilcox, President and General Manager at Cranmore Mountain Resort in North Conway and chair of the LCHIP Board of Directors commented “In her seven years with LCHIP Paula has proven herself to be a dynamic, energetic, and committed leader. She is thoroughly familiar with the legal and legislative framework within which LCHIP operates and I believe her knowledge, experience, and skills will be invaluable as we move forward.”

New Hampshire Land Trust Coalition President Debbie Stanley said “Paula has years of experience and knowledge regarding land conservation. Her appointment as Executive Director is certainly a win for protecting our natural resources and advancing land conservation in New Hampshire. It should be a smooth and seamless transition from Dijit to Paula which is so great for the program”.

About New Hampshire’s Land and Community Heritage Investment Program

The New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program is an independent state authority created by the Legislature in 2000. LCHIP’s legislative mandate is to ensure the perpetual contribution of natural, cultural and historic resources to the economy, environment, and quality of life in New Hampshire. LCHIP does this by providing matching grants to New Hampshire municipalities and non-profits to conserve and preserve the state’s most important natural, cultural and historic resources. Since its inception, the program has invested \$54 million in 179 communities across New Hampshire. Funding for LCHIP grants is generated by a \$25 fee on certain types of documents recorded at the Registry of Deeds in every county in the state.

For more information about LCHIP visit www.lchip.org or call (603) 224-4113.

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