
CITY OF BIDDEFORD, MAINE

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Biddeford to Host Northeast Funders' Network Annual Meeting

BIDDEFORD, ME (June 13, 2018) – Biddeford has been selected as a host community for the Northeast Funders' Network Annual Meeting on June 18th, 2018. The Northeast Funders' Network (NEFN), part of the Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities, is a membership network of philanthropic foundations and other funders that promotes an interdisciplinary approach to building sustainable, vibrant and just small town and rural communities in the Northeast. The 2018 NEFN Annual Meeting will focus on innovation and key trends affecting older, smaller legacy cities such as Biddeford, using local leaders and national experts to highlight the issues affecting communities at the intersection of rural and urban.

The meeting will begin at the Pepperell Mill Campus at 2 p.m. with a presentation titled "Learning From Place: A Biddeford Deep Dive." This session will feature panelists from several city departments, the Pepperell Mill Campus, Heart of Biddeford, and the Engine community arts nonprofit organization. Biddeford Mill Museum Head Tour Guide Pete Lamontagne and Heart of Biddeford Director Delilah Poupore will follow this presentation with a walking tour of downtown Biddeford.

"This meeting is a great chance to share the work that we are doing here and bring attention to the things that make Biddeford special," Mayor Alan Casavant says. "We hope that the opportunity to host this visit will both highlight Biddeford as a standout example of a small but innovative city and encourage people to invest in this growing community."

Biddeford was recommended by the Orton Family Foundation, which is a member of the funders' network, for the group's site visit. The foundation partnered with Biddeford in 2008 to bring its resident-driven community development initiative, Community Heart & Soul, to the city to create a Downtown Master Plan, sparking downtown revitalization.

"Biddeford is a shining example of the great things that happen when residents work together to decide what matters most as they plan for the future," said David Leckey, executive director, Orton Family Foundation. "The fact that Biddeford continues to thrive is testament to the long term positive disruption that can be achieved when residents are deeply connected to their community. This is the type of from-the-ground-up transformational philanthropy we are proud to be pioneering and showcasing here."

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The second portion of the 2018 NEFN Annual Meeting will continue in Kennebunkport on June 19th, featuring additional presentations on clean energy advancement opportunities, rural development innovation in the Northeast, and the potential of investing in local media. For more information on this event's agenda or to register to attend, please visit <https://www.fundersnetwork.org/event/northeast-funders-network-annual-meeting/>.

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About the Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities

The [Funders' Network](#) is a mission-driven network of grantmakers across North America, working to inspire, strengthen and expand funding and philanthropic leadership that yield environmentally sustainable, socially equitable, and economically prosperous regions and communities.