
Mollie Babize

Associate, Walter Cudnohufsky Associates, Inc.

Profile

- Experienced community planner, both as consultant and on municipal staff. Familiar with regulatory climate and new initiatives. Able to find common ground among diverse interest groups.
 - Energetic and enthusiastic facilitator of public meetings. Able to generate broad participation, summarize ideas quickly, and set goals for productive meetings.
 - Experienced in site design and land planning. Skilled at site analysis and assessment, conceptual design development, and project management.
 - Articulate, concise writer with a background in journalism
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Land Use Planning

- 1999-Present Associate, Walter Cudnohufsky Associates, Inc., Ashfield, MA
Project Manager for site planning and design projects throughout New England. Recent projects include master plan of 1400-acre medical/educational campus in New Hampshire; author of citizen guidebook on preservation strategies for historic town commons; courtyard design for North Shore Music Theatre; management plan for 26-acre native plant arboretum; feasibility study for 35-unit affordable housing project in Chatham; community visioning sessions in Scituate, Easthampton and Amherst. Multiple residential and institutional site design projects.
- 1990-92 Consulting Planner and Project Manager:
Open Space and Recreation Plan for Holliston, MA (with New England Environmental Associates, Amherst, MA).
Town Master Plan Update, Bethany, CT (with Dodson Associates, Ashfield, MA).
Community Vision of the Future, Wendell, MA (with Conway Design Associates, Conway, MA): winner of "Outstanding Planning Award for Comprehensive Planning" from the New England Chapter of the American Planning Association, and "Merit Award for Landscape Planning" from the Boston Society of Landscape Architects.
- 1987-1990 Land Use Planner, Town of Amherst, MA
Coordinated development review among multiple town departments; citizen assistance for planning, development and zoning issues; researched land use issues; assisted in rewriting sections of Zoning Bylaw regulating rate and character of new development.
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Landscape Design

- 1984-1986 Design Assistant, Conway Design Associates, Conway, MA
Site analysis and design alternatives for 134-unit PURD, 24-lot riverfront subdivision, conservation and development alternatives, grading and planting plans, site layout, and construction details on commercial and residential projects.
- 1984-1990 Consultant, Private Design Work
Various feasibility studies and master plans (historic preservation of 18th century farmstead and conservation center; preliminary 26-unit subdivision plan; master plan for 1300-acre lakefront former Shaker Village).
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Writing

- 2003 *Building Your Highlands Home, A Guidebook for Homebuilders in the Highlands Region of Western Massachusetts*, with Walter Cudnohufsky.
An edited and revised version of *Designing Your Corner of Vermont*, under contract with the Highland Communities Initiative of The Trustees of Reservations; conducted related workshops.

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- 2002 *Common Wealth*, a citizen guidebook on how to protect and rehabilitate historic town commons, a project funded by the Town Commons Preservation Initiative 2000, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management.
- 2000-2002 *Women's Times*, regional monthly newspaper in Western Massachusetts. Occasional cover stories on women in conservation, humor & media
- 1999-2001 *Connection*, national quarterly newsletter for *American Farmland Trust*. Principal researcher, writer and editor of articles on federal, state and local efforts to protect farmland, geared to those working in the fields of land conservation and farmland protection.
- 1991 Co-author with Walter Cudnohufsky, *Designing Your Corner of Vermont: Protecting Your Property Investment Through Good Site Design (A Guide to Siting New Houses in Rural Vermont)*, Vermont Council on the Arts, Montpelier, VT.
A 32-page guide to siting new houses in rural Vermont, published by the Vermont Council on the Arts.
- 1977-1982 Freelance journalist and photographer for *Newton Times*, *Waltham News Tribune*, *Valley Advocate*, and *Daily Hampshire Gazette* (including feature stories in *Hampshire Life*).
- at present Occasional contributor to *Ashfield News*, a monthly community newspaper

Adminsitration

- 1992-1998 Administrative Director, Conway School of Landscape Design, Conway, MA
Coordinated recruitment, outreach, admissions, project development, fund raising, community liaison, and publications for small graduate program in environmentally sound land use planning and design. Wrote accreditation self-study, annual reports and newsletters, catalog, and extensive outreach materials. Provided academic support for and evaluation of more than 150 student design and planning projects.
- 1970-1982 Over a decade in human service administration: planning, supervising, proposal writing, fund raising, and organizing.

Education

- 1984 M.A. (Landscape Design), Conway School of Landscape Design, Conway, MA
- 1970 B.A. (Religion), Smith College, Northampton, MA
Additional courses in CAD 2000, Groundwater Protection, New England Flora, Architectural Drafting, Natural Resource Planning, Natural History of the Connecticut Valley, Urban Open Space, Design with Native Plants, Ecological Design for the Northeast.

Boards and Committees

- 1991-2001 Franklin Regional Planning Board, At-Large Member
- 1998-1999 Executive Committee
- 1997-1998 Regional Policy Plan Committee, Subcomm. on Land Use & Growth Management
- 1991-1993 Town of Conway, Open Space Planning Committee
- 1989-1992 Board of Trustees, Conway School of Landscape Design; Chair, Academic Committee