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TOWN OF BOLTON ENGAGES COMMUNITY TO DEVELOP TOWN PLAN

Bolton, VT - The town of Bolton has begun the process of updating its municipal plan, as required every five years for every town in Vermont. As part of this update, the town’s staff and the members of its Planning Commission are seeking a wide range of input from Bolton residents to help plan for the future. From now until Town Meeting Day 2016, the writers of the plan will be engaging community members to ask what they want the town to look like in the future. The project will take place with support from the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission.

The process will start with a Community Kickoff Event on September 30th from 6-8pm at the Smilie School. A light dinner and free childcare will be provided. During the event, Bolton residents will discuss how planning relates to the biggest issues facing the town. Following the kickoff event, four forums will be held around Bolton in October, during which attendees will be able to brainstorm about the ideal future of their neighborhood and identify priorities for the town. The events will be attended by members of the Bolton Planning Commission. After a short orientation to the municipal planning process, residents will participate in a guided discussion activity. Visit BoltonVT.com/TownPlan for event details.

“We’re looking forward to engaging the community in this way as we write the plan,” said Linda Baker, chair of the Bolton Planning Commission. “A municipal plan should reflect the will of the community, but that can only happen if we really make an effort to get out there and ask people what they want.”

“Having community input at this early stage means that we can use our town members’ opinions to develop the goals of the plan,” said Steve Barner, Bolton Planning Commission member. “Then, at Town Meeting Day, people will be able to pick up a survey and rank the goals we’ve come up with. It’s a unique opportunity for collaboration and we hope to involve as many residents as possible.”

The Bolton Planning Commission is a citizen governing board that writes the Town Plan and the town’s Land Use and Development Regulations. For more information about the Bolton Planning Commission and upcoming neighborhood forums, please visit BoltonVT.com/TownPlan. This community engagement project is made possible through a partnership with the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC). The CCRPC provides planning and technical assistance to the 19 municipalities of Chittenden County and to the public. For more information about the CCRPC, please visit ccrpcvt.org.

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