

CCRPC Formal Staff & PAC Review – 2016 Town of Jericho Comprehensive Town Plan
November 18, 2015 PAC Meeting

Staff Review of the 2016 Town of Jericho Comprehensive Town Plan
Emily Nosse-Leirer, CCRPC Planner
November 6, 2015

The Town of Jericho has requested, per 24 V.S.A §4350, that the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (1) approve its 2016 Comprehensive Town Plan; and (2) confirm its planning process.

This draft 2016 Comprehensive Town Plan replaces a 2014 update to the 2011 Town of Jericho Comprehensive Town Plan, which was intended solely to add information about flood resilience and Jericho's Designated Village Centers. The 2016 Plan is an update of the entire 2011 plan, and incorporates new input from Town boards and residents. CCRPC completed an initial review in June 2015, as the Plan was updated. The review is attached with annotations explaining what was completed. This is an excellent plan that shows clear connections between different aspects of planning. The Jericho Planning Commission's public hearing will be held on November 17, 2015.

Following the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission's (CCRPC's) *Guidelines and Standards for Confirmation of Municipal Planning Processes and Approval of Municipal Plans (2013)* and the statutory requirements of 24 V.S.A. Chapter 117, I have reviewed the draft 2016 Town of Jericho Comprehensive Town Plan to determine whether it is:

- Consistent with the general goals of §4302;
- Consistent with the specific goals of §4302;
- Contains the required elements of §4382;
- Compatible with the 2013 Chittenden County Regional Plan, entitled the *2013 Chittenden County ECOS Plan* (per §4350); and
- Compatible with approved plans of other municipalities (per §4350).

Additionally, I have reviewed the planning process requirements of §4350.

Staff Review Findings and Comments

1. The 2016 Town of Jericho Comprehensive Town Plan is consistent with all of the general goals of §4302. See the attached Appendix A submittal that describes how the Plan is consistent with these goals.
2. The 2016 Town of Jericho Comprehensive Town Plan is consistent with the specific goals of §4302. See the attached Appendix A submittal that describes how the Plan is consistent with these goals.
3. The 2016 Town of Jericho Comprehensive Town Plan contains the required elements of §4382. See the attached Appendix A submittal that describes compliance with these required elements.
4. The 2016 Town of Jericho Comprehensive Town Plan is generally compatible with the planning areas, goals and strategies of the 2013 Chittenden County Regional Plan, entitled the *2013 Chittenden County ECOS Plan*.
5. The 2016 Town of Jericho Comprehensive Town Plan is compatible with the municipal plans for Essex, Underhill, Bolton, Richmond and Williston. The towns all have similar goals and visions and the land use strategies on the borders are compatible. The analysis of this issue is thorough.

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6. Jericho has a planning process in place that is likely to result in an approved plan. In addition Jericho has provided information about their planning budget and CCRPC finds that Jericho is maintaining its efforts to provide local funds for municipal and regional planning.

Additional Comments/Questions:

- The connections made between every chapter in the plan are impressively clear and thorough.

Proposed Motion & Next Steps:

PROPOSED MOTION: The PAC finds that the draft 2016 Town of Jericho Comprehensive Town Plan, as submitted, meets all statutory requirements for CCRPC approval, and that the municipality's planning process meets all statutory requirements for CCRPC confirmation.

Upon notification that the Plan has been adopted by the municipality, CCRPC staff will review the plan, and any information relevant to the confirmation process, for changes. If staff determines that changes are substantive, those changes will be forwarded to the PAC for review. Otherwise the PAC recommends that the Plan, and the municipal planning process, should be forwarded to the CCRPC Board for approval. The public hearing was not conducted at this PAC meeting, and therefore should be held by whichever body (PAC or CCRPC Board) sees the Plan next in this review process.