



Planning Advisory Committee

Wednesday, February 13, 2019

2:30pm to 4:30pm

CCRPC Main Conference Room, 110 West Canal Street, Winooski

WIFI Info: Network = CCRPC-Guest; Password = ccrpc\$guest

Agenda

- 2:30 Welcome and Introductions, Joss Besse**
- 2:35 Approval of December 12, 2018 Minutes***
- 2:40 Data – 2018 Development Activity and Census Prep, Melanie Needle**
Melanie Needle sent out the annual data request for 2018 development activity and bike-ped infrastructure in January. Please let us know if you have any questions and send in this data if you haven't done so already. Melanie will also give a brief update on preparations for the 2020 Census including review and modification of statistical boundaries*.
- 2:50 CCRPC's draft Act 250 Legislative Recommendations*, Regina Mahony**
- 3:20 2019 Colchester Municipal Development Plan (& Enhanced Energy)*, Emily Nosse-Leirer**
- a. *Open the Hearing*
 - b. *Accept Public Comment*
 - c. *Close the Hearing*
 - d. *Review Staff Summary*
 - e. *Questions and Comments*
 - f. *Recommendation to the CCRPC Board*
- 3:50 2019 Winooski Master Plan*, Emily Nosse-Leirer**
- a. *Review Staff Summary*
 - b. *Questions and Comments*
 - c. *Recommendation to the CCRPC Board*
- 4:10 Regional Act 250/Section 248 Projects on the Horizon, Committee Members**
- 4:20 Other Business**
- a. Underhill Amendment Letter*
 - b. River Corridor Maps – The State has now released a new version of the River Corridor maps with the old geomorphic/fluvial erosion hazard area data incorporated. See our [online map](#) to compare the newest River Corridor map layer, with the previous version and your municipal setbacks. Related to this, attached to the packet you'll find the latest ERAF rule and information from DEC*.
- 4:30 Adjourn**

* = Attachment

NEXT MEETING: March 13th or April 10th meeting

In accordance with provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, the CCRPC will ensure public meeting sites are accessible to all people. Requests for free interpretive or translation services, assistive devices, or other requested accommodations, should be made to Emma Vaughn, CCRPC Title VI Coordinator, at 802-846-4490 ext *21 or evaughn@ccrpcvt.org, no later than 3 business days prior to the meeting for which services are requested.

1 CHITTENDEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
2 PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MINUTES
3

4 DATE: Wednesday, December 12, 2018
5 TIME: 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
6 PLACE: CCRPC Offices, 110 West Canal Street, Suite 202, Winooski, VT
7

Members Present:

Jessica Draper, Richmond
Joss Besse, Bolton
Matt Boulanger, Williston
Larry Lewack, Bolton
Darren Schibler, Essex
Alex Weinhagen, Hinesburg
Eric Vorwald, Winooski
Everett Marshall, Huntington
Ravi Venkataraman, Shelburne

Other:

John Adams, VCGI

Staff:

Regina Mahony, Planning Program Manager
Emily Nosse-Leirer, Senior Planner
Melanie Needle, Senior Planner
Pam Brangan, GIS Data & IT Manager

8
9
10 **1. Welcome and Introductions**

11 Joss Besse called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.
12

13 **2. Approval of November 7, 2018 Minutes**

14
15 Everett Marshall made a motion, seconded by Darren Schibler, to approve the November 7, 2018 minutes. No further
16 discussion. MOTION PASSED.
17

18 **3. Neighborhood Development Area**

19 John Adams provided the PAC with an update on the State's project to create and regularly update parcel data to
20 meet state standards. Project information can be found here: <http://vcgi.vermont.gov/parcels>. Parcel data is the most
21 searched for data set on the VCGI website. Most of Chittenden County is in a good place with this program. All but
22 Colchester and South Burlington have and will be done in Phase 1 and 2. The data is on the Interactive Map Viewer
23 where you can see the parcel data linked to the grandlist (maps.vermont.gov/vcgi). With parcel data, the State (and
24 others) can do more value added products, including the 3D value by parcel maps ([https://vcgi.github.io/value-per-](https://vcgi.github.io/value-per-acre)
25 acre).
26

27 There was a discussion regarding maintenance going forward. Surveyors are on board with the concept of a single
28 statewide survey library for digital copies of surveys. It would allow surveyors to upload new surveys and it would
29 provide an option for municipalities to confirm the approval of an actual new subdivision and add information like
30 the deed reference. The idea of verification at the municipal level for subdivisions and lot line changes after the
31 surveyor submits seemed to have merit for some PAC members, because there are scenarios when the surveyor
32 doesn't know the status of the plat after they've completed it and sometimes the landowner decides to not record it.
33 There are also many surveys that don't need approval from the Town; and the surveyors or landowners for those
34 don't necessarily want to make them public. The survey library will help to keep the digital information in a useful
35 place; however the actual parcel updates still need to be done.
36

37 There was a suggestion that CCRPC and/or Planners advocate for continued funding for this program going forward.
38

39 **4. 2018 Richmond Town Plan – Energy Review**

40 Joss Besse opened the public hearing at 3:14pm; hearing none, the public comment period was closed.
41

42 Emily Nosse-Leirer provided an overview of the staff report for Richmond's enhanced energy plan. The PAC has
43 reviewed this Plan a few times; and the Plan was adopted on November 6. Post-adoption, the town is seeking a
44 Determination of Energy Compliance. Emily recommended that the PAC approve the motion and this will be added
45 to the full Plan motion and forwarded to the Board as a recommendation to approve both.

1
2 Thoughts/comments from the PAC:

- 3 • There was a discussion about the energy plans in general, not just in relation to Richmond's Plan. The
4 discussion was about whether the Plans are going far enough to ensure that real changes will happen to meet
5 the State's energy goals. Particularly because this is an incentive based program where a municipality is
6 given the ability to say no to a renewable energy project at the Public Utility Commission, but only because
7 they've committed to meeting the State's goals like energy use reduction. The PAC discussed that there are
8 only so many things that a municipality can influence in this realm. Land use density is within a
9 municipalities control. There was a discussion about checking in on implementation of the Plans, and that
10 this is the first round of energy plans and we'll know a lot more over the coming years as we implement the
11 Plans and as we re-write them in the next round. For Winooski they don't need to switch direction; but for
12 a rural town they really need to go in a different direction to put a park and ride in, or densify, etc.

13
14 Specific comments on Richmond:

- 15 • Great that the information from CCRPC has been incorporated.
- 16 • Concern that there is no way to actually measure and evaluate success. There are a number of good actions,
17 but no way to know whether it will actually meet the goals or not. If transportation energy is the real
18 problem, tightening up land use might be the real solution. Like for a park and ride is there a target portion of
19 the Richmond residents that will use the park and ride? There is only so much that a municipality has control
20 over and the causality is challenging to match up. It is more than likely that gas prices will impact use of the
21 park and ride. The hope is that a municipality is not preventing desired effects, and they've done what they
22 can.

23
24 There was an ask to discuss the implementation/accountability topic on another PAC meeting agenda outside of a
25 specific Plan review, including whether CCRPC should review the Plans earlier than 24 months before they expire.

26
27 Darren Schibler made a motion, seconded by Ravi Venkataraman, that the PAC finds that the 2018 Richmond Town
28 Plan with the draft energy amendments, as submitted, does meet the requirements of the enhanced energy planning
29 standards set forth in 24 V.S.A. §4352. The PAC recommends that the Plan should be forwarded to the CCRPC
30 Board for an affirmative determination of energy compliance. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED.

31 32 **5. 2019 Winooski Master Plan & Enhanced Energy Review**

33 Joss Besse opened the public hearing at 3:44pm; hearing none, the public comment period was closed.

34
35 Emily Nosse-Leirer provided an overview of the staff report for the Winooski Plan. The Plan was reviewed for both
36 the municipal plan approval and confirmation, as well as the enhanced energy component. Emily indicated that the
37 format of the Plan was very good. The Plan only needs to address resource extraction for Plan confirmation, though
38 there are a few other suggested recommendations as well.

39
40 Eric Vorwald thanked CCRPC for their work on the Plan. Eric explained that the last Plan was really done in 2004,
41 so this is a major re-write based on the City's vision. The City has been working on a number of more specific
42 studies over the last few years, so this Plan is a summary, overarching document and many of the actions live in the
43 more specific plans. The implementation component of the Plan is purposefully at a pretty high level, so the City can
44 pivot as necessary going forward.

45
46 There was quite a bit of discussion regarding the Enhanced Energy Plan. The City isn't certain they are going to
47 officially request the determination because there is a concern that the State's constraint maps include resources that
48 the City doesn't view as a development constraint (namely agricultural soils). Generally speaking the PAC felt that
49 Winooski is a leader in energy efficiency based on its land use density and multimodal transportation options and that
50 should be the focus of the energy plan; rather than a lack of land area for renewable energy generation.

51
52 Other questions/comments from the PAC:

- 1 • Like the format and the identity of what Winooski is and what it's becoming. The City has been able to
- 2 define that better than other municipalities.
- 3 • Maps don't have a legend and so it is difficult to understand. Talked about having a separate appendix so
- 4 these can be full size with a legend.
- 5 • There was a discussion regarding the future land use map and the areas identified as "city park zoned
- 6 commercial or industrial". There are three areas in the City that are owned by the City and currently used as
- 7 parks but zoned as commercial and industrial. There was a recommendation that the Land Use map
- 8 disconnect from the actual zoning, and make the future use of these areas more clear in the map if the City
- 9 has clarity on what they want to do with them.
- 10 • Recommendation to be more clear in the intent of the Implementation Section, such as: The way in which we
- 11 are implementing this Plan is by making commitments in these specific plans and we are taking our actions
- 12 from those.
- 13 • There are a number of grammar/typos.
- 14 • Recommendation to think about requiring EV charging in the City's building code (essentially ensuring the
- 15 conduits are in place to allow for future charging stations) and consider requiring the stretch energy code.
- 16

17 There was a discussion about whether the PAC was ready to make a motion to recommend approval with conditions
18 (to include addition of resource extraction, clarify future land use map, be more intentional in the implementation
19 section, and clarify if the City is seeking enhanced energy planning or not), or whether there was time to see the Plan
20 again before making a motion. There is time for the PAC to review another version of the Plan, however there
21 wouldn't be enough time for another round of PAC comments to be addressed by the City.

22
23 Alex Weinhagen made a motion, seconded by Darren Schibler, to table this to another meeting. No further
24 discussion. MOTION PASSED. Eric Vorwald abstained.

25 26 **6. Regional Act 250/Section 248 Projects on the Horizon**

27 Essex: none

28 Shelburne: none

29 Huntington: none

30 Williston: none

31 Bolton: none

32 South Burlington: New hotel in City Center. Preliminary Plat for 160 housing units application. 2 little PUCs projects
33 on UVM. Fed Ex in review for 140,000 sq.ft. building by the whale's tails.

34 Hinesburg: Nothing

35 Richmond: Nothing new. Creamery re-development is moving slower than originally planned.

36 Winooski: 24 unit multifamily going to Act 250 for an amendment.

37 38 **7. Other Business**

- 39 a. Williston 2018 Amendment to 2016 Comprehensive Plan – the packet included a letter from CCRPC
- 40 indicating that previous approval and confirmation are not affected by Williston's adopted Plan
- 41 amendments.
- 42 b. Regina indicated that there may not be a need for a January PAC Meeting – Wednesday, January 9th
- 43 c. CCRPC Board member communication – Regina indicated that Staff will be cc'ing our Board
- 44 Representatives when doing municipal projects in the respective municipalities; particularly when going
- 45 to a PC or SLB meeting so that the Board members can be kept abreast of our work and participate if
- 46 they'd like.
- 47

48 **8. Adjourn**

49 The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

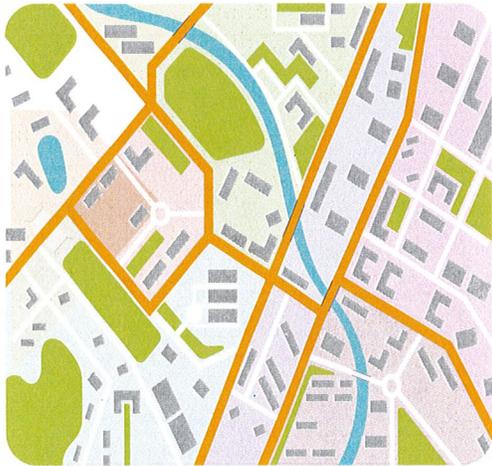
50
51 Respectfully submitted, Regina Mahony

Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP)

PSAP offers federally recognized tribes, state tribal liaisons, local governments, councils of governments, and regional planning organizations the opportunity to review and modify select statistical boundaries that the U.S. Census Bureau uses to count people in your community, so that we can give you the most relevant, useful data possible.



Statistical boundaries let us give you the small-area statistics and spatial data you need. You know your local community best. By participating in PSAP, you can help us provide relevant, useful data about population, income, and housing for small-area geographic analyses.



The Census Bureau uses these boundaries to tabulate data for the 2020 Census, the American Community Survey, and the Economic Census. Data tabulated to PSAP geographies are used by tribal, federal, state, and local agencies for planning and funding purposes, as well as by the private sector, academia, and the public.

Standard statistical geographies include:

- Census tracts
- Census block groups
- Census designated places (CDPs)
- Census county divisions (CCDs)

Tribal statistical geographies include:

- Tribal census tracts
- Tribal block groups
- Tribal designated statistical areas (TDSAs)
- State designated tribal statistical areas (SDTSAs)
- State reservations
- Oklahoma tribal statistical areas (OTSAs)
- OTSA tribal subdivisions
- Alaska Native village statistical areas (ANVSAs)



Statistical vs. Legal Boundaries

A *statistical boundary* breaks down large geographical areas into smaller, local areas. These small-area boundaries let you compare poverty, health, education, and many other topics across local areas.

The Census Bureau also tracks *legal boundaries*—such as state and county borders, city limits, and federally recognized American Indian Reservations—through the Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS).

To learn about PSAP and to obtain the most up-to-date schedule, please visit www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/about/psap.html.

For additional assistance, please contact the Census Bureau at geo.psap@census.gov or 844-788-4921.

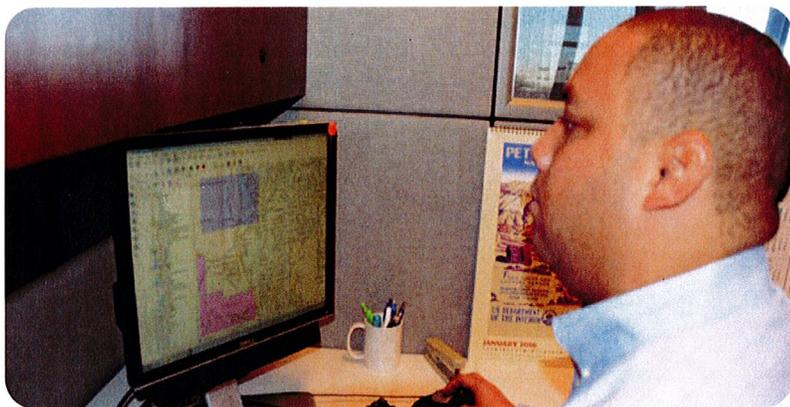
How can I participate?

In July 2018, the Census Bureau will invite regional planning agencies, councils of governments, local governments and organizations, and all federally recognized tribes and state tribal liaison offices to participate in PSAP.

If you are interested in PSAP and do not receive an invitation, please visit the PSAP Web site to locate the contact information for your participating local planning agency, council of government, or other organization. Once you have identified and contacted the proper PSAP participant, you will work directly with the PSAP participant and the PSAP participant will work with the Census Bureau to review and modify statistical boundaries for your locality. An updated list of PSAP participants will be published on the PSAP Web site in the fall of 2018.

Before the start of PSAP, the Census Bureau will create a proposed 2020 PSAP plan of modified PSAP geographies for PSAP participants to review. We will send participants both the 2010 PSAP geography and the proposed 2020 PSAP plan to review.

During the program, participants will work with interested local parties to review the 2020 PSAP plan and send modifications back to the Census Bureau. The Census Bureau provides a free software called Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS) for participants to review the boundaries and generate the final 2020 PSAP plan.



Other Census Bureau Geography Programs

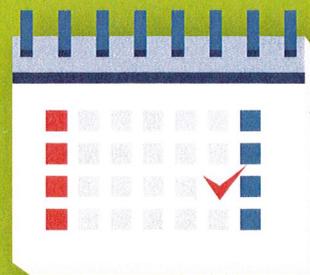
As the 2020 Census approaches, tribal, state, and local governments will have several opportunities to provide input on Census Bureau geographic programs. In addition to PSAP, you may hear about these important programs:



The Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) is the only opportunity offered to tribal, state, and local governments to review and comment on the Census Bureau's residential address list for their jurisdiction prior to the 2020 Census.



The Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) is the primary way that tribal, state, and local governments ensure that their legal boundaries are correctly recorded with the federal government.



Upcoming Key Dates

- March–May 2018: The Census Bureau contacts 2010 Census PSAP participants to inquire about 2020 Census PSAP participation.
- July 2018: The Census Bureau sends an official letter to PSAP participants and state, county, or local points of contacts.
- Fall 2018: List of local planning agencies, councils of governments, and organizations published on the PSAP Web site.
- January 2019: PSAP participants receive materials to provide input on the 2020 PSAP plan for statistical boundaries.
- January 2019: PSAP Webinar training begins.
- January 2020: PSAP participants receive an updated 2020 PSAP plan in order to verify that the statistical boundaries are correct.
- December 2020: The Census Bureau begins to release geographies from the 2020 Census.

Recommendations for Improving Vermont's Act 250 Permitting System Draft January 31, 2019

Act 47 (in 2017) created a commission of six legislators to “review the vision for Act 250 adopted in the 1970s and its implementation with the objective of ensuring that, over the next 50 years, Act 250 supports Vermont’s economic, environmental, and land use planning goals.” CCRPC has reviewed the work of this Commission and offers the following overarching comments.

1. In general, the state permit process should **encourage development in appropriately planned places** and discourage development outside of those areas. Therefore, CCRPC strongly supports the concept that Act 250 should not have jurisdiction in areas planned for growth to encourage affordable housing and economic investment in our smart growth areas: walkable, transit-friendly, water and sewer-serviced areas. However, the **enhanced designation concept** as proposed is unworkable for the following reasons:
 - a. It is not a true Act 250 release; it merely shifts the burden of all the Act 250 criteria to the municipal level. Instead, we should support existing local planning and Downtown Board efforts to designate these areas as places for housing and economic development, acknowledge the greater environmental benefit of clustering growth into areas with existing infrastructure, and *not* enforce Act 250 criteria that were originally intended to minimize and mitigate indirect and cumulative impacts of development in our *rural* areas.
 - b. The current geographic boundaries of the designation programs are unnecessarily limited and are not large enough to incorporate the urban area that supports the village or downtown. The Downtown Board should analyze each individual area on its merits as a smart growth area, and there should be incentives to improve existing sprawl areas.
 - c. Asking municipalities to apply for an additional designation is unnecessary. Using and possibly expanding existing designations is better than creating new designations. The Downtown Board has already approved these areas as appropriate for growth under strict standards.
2. CCRPC encourages the Legislature to ensure a **predictable review process** that minimizes inconsistency and duplication at all levels of review and puts those reviews in the most appropriate hands so environmental protection is not compromised, and housing and economic development is not unnecessarily time-consuming and expensive.
3. CCRPC supports the comprehensive nature of **resource area protections** and the acknowledgement that Act 250 jurisdiction should be triggered by location in areas of statewide interest, regardless of project size (even single-family home developments).
4. The current proposal will result in significantly **more costly development** through expansions in climate change (including a greenhouse gas mitigation fee), energy efficiency, and forest block (including a mitigation fee) criteria, which is counter to the state’s housing affordability crisis. If the Act 250 release concept is not expanded, this could be catastrophic.
5. Act 250 permitting should rely more on **conceptual plans** and capacity analysis as opposed to engineer-sealed plans with more detail. Land Use Permits should include conditions of obtaining the other more detailed permits (stormwater, wastewater, etc.). This would ensure a more resident-friendly, efficient and less costly state permitting process, helping to reach affordable housing and economic development goals.
6. CCRPC finds that any mapping established to define jurisdiction in Act 250 should be based not only on state-level maps, but also on **mapping in local and regional plans** due to the extensive public participation involved in their development. There may also be resources that should be considered by Act 250 that are not identified on state-level maps.
7. CCRPC asks that the Legislature either work out **further details** before adopting new concepts, or hold until further details are worked out (e.g. greenhouse gas mitigation fee). The development costs of some of these concepts could be substantial and would exacerbate existing inflated housing costs for Vermonters. New

concepts should be more thoroughly considered before adoption.

8. CCRPC encourages the Legislature to consider a **phased approach** to implementing the new jurisdiction paradigm to counterbalance this issue. If it moves forward, it will greatly expand the reach of Act 250, and could greatly disrupt the market. If this is done before municipalities can achieve the enhanced designation, all development might be halted.
9. CCRPC supports an **appeals** process that allows coordination or consolidation of appeals of various permits to ensure consistency in decision-making and prevent unaligned requirements between Environmental Court and Environmental Resource Board decisions.

DRAFT

Staff Review of the Draft 2019 Colchester Town Plan, Including Enhanced Energy Plan Review
Emily Nosse-Leirer, Senior Planner

February 5, 2019 – Updated February 6, 2019 per attached memo (Note annotations highlighted below)

The Town of Colchester has requested, per 24 V.S.A. §4350, that the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (1) approve its draft 2019 Colchester Town Plan; and (2) confirm its planning process.

Additionally, the Town of Colchester has requested that the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission issue a determination of compliance with the enhanced energy planning standards set forth in 24 V.S.A. §4352 for the draft 2019 Colchester Town Plan.

This draft 2019 Colchester Town Plan is an update and re-adoption of the 2014 Colchester Town Plan. In accordance with statute, re-adoption means that this is a fully compliant plan that will expire eight years after adoption by the Selectboard. CCRPC reviewed the 2014 plan and met with Colchester staff and the Colchester Planning Commission to discuss it in June 2017 as part of an informal review and consultation process. The draft 2019 Colchester Town Plan addresses several new required elements, provides updated data, addresses recent changes to the community and includes an enhanced energy plan. The plan has an engaging breakdown of sections and clearly demonstrates the challenges and future plans for each are of town in an understandable manner. Additionally, the enhanced energy section has clear and useful descriptions of the limited municipal role in energy planning. The preferred site designation section and related scorecard is a great step towards making preferred site designations objective without limiting them to a few parcels identifying in the town plan. Staff have completed this formal review of the plan and review of the plan against the Vermont Department of Public Service’s Energy Planning Standards for Municipal Plans in advance of the Planning Commission’s first public hearing on the plan on February 5, 2019 hearing.

Confirming and Approving the Municipal Plan

Following the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission’s (CCRPC’s) *Guidelines and Standards for Confirmation of Municipal Planning Processes and Approval of Municipal Plans (2018)* and the statutory requirements of 24 V.S.A. Chapter 117, I have reviewed the draft 2019 Colchester 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 2018 Chittenden County Regional Plan, entitled the *2018 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 draft 2019 Colchester Town Plan is consistent with the general goals of §4302. See the attached Appendix A submittal that describes how the Plan is consistent with these goals.
2. The draft 2019 Colchester 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.

CCRPC Staff & PAC Review – Draft 2019 Colchester Town Plan and Enhanced Energy Review
Prepared for the February 13, 2019 PAC Meeting

3. The draft 2019 Colchester Town Plan contains the required elements of §4382. See the attached Appendix A submittal that describes how the Plan is consistent with these goals.
4. The draft 2019 Colchester Town Plan is generally compatible with the planning areas, goals and strategies of the 2018 Chittenden County Regional Plan, entitled the *2018 Chittenden County ECOS Plan*.
5. The draft 2019 Colchester Town Plan is compatible with the municipal plans for South Hero, Milton, Westford, Essex, South Burlington, Winooski, and Burlington.
6. Colchester has a planning process in place that is sufficient for an approved plan. In addition, Colchester has provided information about their planning budget and CCRPC finds that Colchester is maintaining its efforts to provide local funds for municipal and regional planning.

Comments/Questions:

While no changes are needed to meet statutory requirements, the following suggests may help clarify the plan:

- Land Use pg. 14, Action 3 says “Within three years of adoption of this plan, fluvial erosion hazard standards should be evaluated for incorporation into the Development Regulations.” When I first read this, the intent was not clear. To clarify, I suggest the following:
 - Consider updating this action to clarify that the plan is to move away from the town’s current static setback on rivers and streams and towards the areas defined in the state’s draft river corridor maps.
 - Add the FEH overlay to one of the maps (possibly the state and local known constraints map) to clarify that it is what is currently being regulated (Map 11 shows the ANR River Corridor, which shows what you will be investigating moving towards).
Please see the attached memo from Sarah Hadd about the PC’s agreed upon changes to the text, which may be available online by the time of the PAC meeting.
- In the Land Use chapter, think about adding parentheses or a side bar in the text to define each zoning district abbreviation. They are often presented without that information.
- The plan effectively draws on many other planning processes and documents, such as the Economic Development Action Plan and the 2017 Housing Needs Assessment. It would be very useful for the reader if the final PDF of the plan had a link to each of these plans as they are discussed.

Enhanced Energy Plan Review

Following the statutory requirements of 24 V.S.A. §4352 and Vermont Department of Public Service’s Energy Planning Standards for Municipal Plans, I have reviewed the draft Comprehensive Plan to determine whether:

1. The Comprehensive Plan includes an energy element that has the same components as described in 24 V.S.A. §4348a(a)(3) for a regional plan and is confirmed under the requirements of 24 V.S.A. §4350.
2. The Comprehensive Plan is consistent with following State goals:
 - a. Vermont's greenhouse gas reduction goals under 10 V.S.A. § 578(a);
 - b. Vermont's 25 by 25 goal for renewable energy under 10 V.S.A. § 580;
 - c. Vermont's building efficiency goals under 10 V.S.A. § 581;
 - d. State energy policy under 30 V.S.A. § 202a and the recommendations for regional and municipal energy planning pertaining to the efficient use of energy and the siting and development of renewable energy resources contained in the State energy plans adopted pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 202 and 202b (State energy plans); and
 - e. The distributed renewable generation and energy transformation categories of resources to meet the requirements of the Renewable Energy Standard under 30 V.S.A. §§ 8004 and 8005.
3. The Comprehensive Plan meets the standards for issuing a determination of energy compliance included in the State energy plans as developed by the Vermont Department of Public Service.

Staff Review Findings and Comments

Consistency with the requirements above is evaluated through the Vermont Department of Public Service’s Vermont Department of Public Service’s Energy Planning Standards for Municipal Plans, which is attached to this document and briefly summarized below.

Standard	Met	Not Met	N/A
1. Plan duly adopted and approved			Necessary for final determination
2. Submit a copy of the adopted plan			Necessary for final determination
3. Plan contains an energy element	X		
4. Analysis of resources, needs, scarcities, costs and problems in the municipality across all energy sectors	X		
5.a. Report Current energy use for heating, electricity, and transportation		X	See note below
5.b. Report 2025, 2035 and 2050 targets for energy use	X		
5.c. Evaluation of thermal-sector energy use changes	X		
5.d. Evaluation of transportation-sector energy use changes	X		
5.e. Evaluation of electric-sector energy use changes	X		
6.a. Encourage conservation by individuals and organizations	X		
6.b. Promote efficient buildings	X		
6.c. Promote decreased use of fossil fuels for heat	X		

CCRPC Staff & PAC Review – Draft 2019 Colchester Town Plan and Enhanced Energy Review
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6.d. Demonstrate municipal leadership re: efficiency of municipal buildings?	X		
7.a. Encourage increased public transit use	X		
7.b. Promote shift away from single-occupancy vehicle trips	X		
7.d. Promote shift from gas/diesel to non-fossil fuel vehicles?	X		
7.e. Demonstrate municipal leadership re: efficiency of municipal transportation?	X		
8.a. Promote smart growth land use policies	X		
8.b. Strongly prioritize development in compact, mixed use centers	X		
9.a. Report existing renewable energy generation	X		
9.b. Analyze generation potential	X		
9.c. Identify sufficient land to meet the 2050 generation targets	X		
9.d. Ensure that local constraints do not prevent the generation targets from being met	X		
9.e. Include policy statements on siting energy generation	X		
9.f. Maximize potential for generation on preferred sites	X		
9.g. Demonstrate municipal leadership re: deploying renewable energy	X		
10. Include maps provided by CCRPC		X	See note below

Changes Necessary for a Determination of Energy Compliance

Two changes need to be made to the energy chapter to ensure that the standards are met.

- On pg. 5 of the Energy chapter, “Energy for our Future” states that no data are available for EV ownership in Colchester. We actually do have this datapoint from the Department of Motor Vehicles, and it should be reported in the plan to meet the data standard related to current transportation use (there were 39 EVs registered in Colchester in July 2017).

Please see the attached memo from Sarah Hadd about the PC’s agreed upon changes to the text which may be available online by the time of the PAC meeting.

- The plan’s text discusses state and local constraints, but all state and local constraints also need to be mapped to meet the energy planning standards. The easiest way to do this is to include two additional maps, one of state and local known constraints and one of state and local possible constraints. These maps were provided in the original data package sent to the town in February 2018, and CCRPC can update them and resend them.

Please see the attached memo from Sarah Hadd about the PC’s agreed upon additional maps which may be available online by the time of the PAC meeting.

Additional Comments/Questions:

The edit discussed above is the only changes necessary for the draft plan to be granted an affirmative determination of energy compliance. However, the questions below may be useful as the plan continues to be edits, or in future versions of the plan.

- In the Land Use section, there are many statements that renewable energy is appropriate if it follows the same standards as commercial and residential development and if it doesn’t detract from the area’s rural character. However, I don’t see definitions of these standards or of rural character, which means these statements about standards for commercial and residential development and rural character may not be

CCRPC Staff & PAC Review – Draft 2019 Colchester Town Plan and Enhanced Energy Review
Prepared for the February 13, 2019 PAC Meeting

specific enough to be applied by the Public Utilities Commission, and may create uncertainty for applicants.

- A solar screening bylaw is one clear way to make sure that the same screening standards are applied to solar as to commercial development.
- Page 11 of the natural resources chapter says that the Open Space plan should continue to be used in the development review process (Policy 4). Should this also apply to energy siting?
Please see the attached memo from Sarah Hadd about the PC's agreed upon changes to the text which may be available online by the time of the PAC meeting.
- A clarification is needed in the introductory text to the preferred site scorecard. On page 13 of the energy chapter, it states that the PUC does not regulate non-net-metering development over 500 kW. This is not entirely accurate – while you're correct that generation facilities over 500 kW don't qualify for net metering, the PUC does still regulate them.
- The overview document for your net metering preferred site scorecard says that the Water Protection Overlay District, the Shoreland Overlay District and the Floodplain District “would not be acceptable at all for net metering.” Are they also definitely not acceptable for other kinds of non-net metering energy generation? This isn't stated as clearly in the main text of your plan, which just states that these districts are “a constraint” to energy development (Energy chapter pg. 11).

Proposed Motion & Next Steps:

PROPOSED MOTION: The PAC finds that the draft 2019 Colchester Town Plan meets all statutory requirements for CCRPC approval, and that the municipality's planning process meets all statutory requirements for CCRPC confirmation.

The PAC also finds that the draft 2019 Colchester Town Plan will meet the requirements of the enhanced energy planning standards (“determination”) set forth in 24 V.S.A. §4352 **with the addition of data on current electric vehicle registration and state and local constraint maps.**

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. If staff determines that substantive changes have been made, the materials 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, confirmation, and an affirmative determination of energy compliance.

Emily Nosse-Leirer

From: Sarah Hadd <SHadd@colchestervt.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2019 12:28 PM
To: Emily Nosse-Leirer
Cc: Regina Mahony
Subject: RE: CCRPC staff review of draft plan

Emily,

Your comments were well received by the Commission last night. The changes you recommended to the Preferred Sites Overview and Scorecard were incorporated. The following changes were made to the plan and will be updated on the website this PM:

1. Land of Colchester Chapter, pg. 14, Action 3. “Within three years of adoption of this plan, fluvial erosion hazard standards should be evaluated for incorporation into the Development Regulations.” Clarify to state: “Within three years of adoption of this plan, fluvial erosion hazard standards IN THE DEVELOPMENT REVIEW REGULATIONS should be UPDATED TO REFLECT THE VERMONT RIVER CORRIDOR MAPS ~~evaluated for incorporation into the Development Regulations.~~”
2. The Lands of Colchester Chapter has statements that renewable energy is appropriate if it follows the same standards as commercial and residential development and if it doesn’t detract from the area’s rural character. Statements about standards for commercial and residential development and rural character may not be specific enough to be applied by the Public Utilities Commission, and may create uncertainty for applicants. It is recommended that the following actions 11 and 12 be added”
 11. In evaluating the rural character of a neighborhood, the Open Space plan should be looked to for guidance.
 12. Within a year of adoption of this plan, the Development Regulations should be revised to include a solar screening bylaw to ensure that the similar screening standards are applied to solar as to commercial development.
3. Our Home Chapter, first page, line 33 should be 42% rentals and not 2%.
4. Powering Colchester Chapter, pg. 5, line 191 “An example is that it is unknown how many electric vehicles are owned in Colchester and how many homes are being weatherized.” We now know there are 39 EVs and should strike “how many electric vehicles are owner in Colchester” from the above sentence. Line 266 should have a new sentence “As of 2018 there were 39 electric vehicles registered in Colchester not including hybrids.”
5. The Power Colchester Chapter’s text discusses state and local constraints, but all state and local constraints also need to be mapped to meet the energy planning standards (in our plan and not rely upon the CCRPC maps). The easiest way to do this is to include two additional maps (map 15 & 16), one of state and local known constraints and one of state and local possible constraints. These maps were provided in the original data package sent to the town in February 2018 (see attached). Where these constraints are noted in the chapter, parenthetical references to map 15 and 16 should be added.
6. The Power Colchester Chapter will have sidebars added with the following facts:
 - i. Green Mountain Power, Colchester’s electricity provider, stated in their December 13th 2018 article that 90% of its power source is carbon free and 62% renewable. Half of GMP’s power is provided by Hydro-Quebec with a contract that expires in 2038.
 - ii. Vermont spends between two and three billion dollars a year for energy services according to the Vermont Climate Action Commission. Locally generated renewable energy increases the amount of energy dollars that stay in our community and Vermont.

- iii. Moving energy generation away from fossil fuels such as oil, gasoline, kerosene, and natural gas will help guard against energy cost volatility and decrease carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions that impact climate change.
7. Cultivating Colchester Chapter, page three, third line, delete “maintain one district status” as this statement is not factual as it implies that the School District has decided not to unify with other district as part of Act 46. This I not a decision or discussion that the School District has had.
8. Add Fluvial Erosion Hazard Overlay District to Map 11.
9. Attached intro, contents, and acknowledgements will be added.

Thank you for pulling everything together for us!
-Sarah



Sarah Hadd, AICP, CFM
Director of Planning & Zoning

Town of Colchester
781 Blakely Rd.
Colchester, Vermont 05446
P: 802.264.5602 | F: 802.264.5503

colchestervt.gov

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Colchester
VERMONT

781 Blakely Road • Colchester, Vermont • 05446 • 802.264.5500

www.colchestervt.gov

January 21, 2019

Emily Nosse-Leirer, Senior Planner
Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission
110 West Canal Street, Suite 202
Winooski, VT 05404

Re: Draft Colchester 2019 Town Plan

Dear Ms. Mahoney:

On behalf of the Colchester Planning Commission, I wish to request formal review of the enclosed draft Town Plan. The Planning Commission will hold its first public hearing on the draft plan on February 5th. The Commission welcomes your input. Thank you for your assistance. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you or the Regional Planning Commission may have.

Sincerely,

Sarah Hadd, AICP & CFM
Director of Planning & Zoning

Cc: File



Payments to CCRPC by Town of Colchester FY15 to FY19						
Cash Account	Check #	Check Date	Warrant	Clr	Cleared Date	Amount
1000 101001	50950	12/25/2018	WAR19-18	N		3,769.01
1000 101001	50427	10/23/2018	WAR19-12	Y	11/30/2018	500.00
1000 101001	49739	08/14/2018	WAR19-05	Y	08/31/2018	500.00
1000 101001	49594	07/24/2018	WAR19-03	Y	07/31/2018	25,482.00
1000 101001	48219	04/24/2018	WAR18-30	Y	05/31/2018	500.00
1000 101001	47750	02/27/2018	WAR18-24	Y	03/31/2018	500.00
1000 101001	47354	01/09/2018	WAR18-20	Y	01/31/2018	6,273.43
1000 101001	47146	12/12/2017	WAR18-17	Y	12/31/2017	7,917.59
1000 101001	46741	10/24/2017	WAR18-12	Y	10/31/2017	13,972.75
1000 101001	46482	09/26/2017	WAR18-09	Y	09/30/2017	7,836.20
1000 101001	46206	08/22/2017	WAR18-06	Y	08/31/2017	7,774.69
1000 101001	45896	07/25/2017	WAR18-03	Y	07/31/2017	25,092.00
1000 101001	45895	07/25/2017	WAR18-03	Y	07/31/2017	500.00
1000 101001	45521	06/27/2017	WAR17-36	Y	07/31/2017	8,646.63
1000 101001	45350	06/13/2017	WAR17-35	Y	06/30/2017	11,967.30
1000 101001	45213	05/23/2017	WAR17-33	Y	05/31/2017	10,839.72
1000 101001	44925	04/25/2017	WAR17-30	Y	05/31/2017	5,436.00
1000 101001	44924	04/25/2017	WAR17-30	Y	05/31/2017	500.00
1000 101001	44713	03/28/2017	WAR17-27	Y	04/30/2017	10,996.12
1000 101001	44622	03/14/2017	WAR17-26	Y	03/31/2017	11,270.37
1000 101001	44373	02/14/2017	WAR17-23	Y	02/28/2017	9,379.65
1000 101001	44160	01/10/2017	WAR17-20	Y	01/31/2017	2,808.55
1000 101001	43500	10/25/2016	WAR17-12	Y	11/30/2016	5,500.00
1000 101001	42593	07/26/2016	WAR17-03	Y	08/31/2016	25,633.00
1000 101001	42129	06/14/2016	WAR16-35	Y	06/30/2016	15.00
1000 101001	39852	09/08/2015	WAR16-08	Y	09/30/2015	2,000.00
1000 101001	39331	07/14/2015	WAR16-02	Y	07/31/2015	25,089.00
1000 101001	39023	06/23/2015	WAR15-36	Y	06/30/2015	15.00
1000 101001	38765	05/26/2015	WAR15-33	Y	06/30/2015	575.00
1000 101001	37623	01/13/2015	WAR15-20	Y	01/31/2015	475.00
1000 101001	36722	09/23/2014	WAR15-09	Y	10/31/2014	2,000.00
1000 101001	36435	08/26/2014	WAR15-06	Y	09/30/2014	60.00
1000 101001	35981	07/22/2014	WAR15-03	Y	08/31/2014	25,123.00

01/24/2019
09:11:19

TOWN OF COLCHESTER
HISTORICAL ACTUALS COMPARISON REPORT

PAGE 1
glactrpt

ACCOUNTS FOR: 1000 GENERAL FUND	FY2015 ACTUALS	FY2016 ACTUALS	FY2017 ACTUALS	FY2018 ACTUALS	CY REV BUDGET
<hr/>					
1000419 PLANNING / ZONING					
1000419 411000 SALARIES	303,588.05	342,550.71	351,643.73	328,870.57	358,839.00
1000419 412030 SALARIES - PLAN COMM/DRB	3,600.00	3,554.34	3,743.66	3,996.00	3,600.00
1000419 413000 OVERTIME	3,232.21	5,225.82	2,491.75	629.26	3,000.00
1000419 421001 HEALTH INSURANCE	68,443.57	71,824.92	75,206.74	71,840.15	81,486.00
1000419 421002 DENTAL INSURANCE	6,924.20	6,093.40	7,891.80	5,743.10	6,295.00
1000419 421003 LIFE/DISABILITY INSURANCE	3,889.48	4,803.73	4,975.80	4,530.03	4,716.00
1000419 421020 INSURANCE-PACIF/CL BOND/E&O	10,237.99	9,504.70	12,129.41	8,735.96	8,586.00
1000419 422000 SOCIAL SECURITY	23,844.73	26,883.94	27,350.15	25,610.60	27,956.00
1000419 423000 RETIREMENT	19,810.21	22,346.53	22,828.44	21,264.68	23,279.00
1000419 425000 UNEMPLOYMENT COMP	2,912.19	2,911.75	2,470.39	1,947.45	2,099.00
1000419 426000 WORKERS COMPENSATION	3,090.93	3,564.56	3,701.56	3,767.65	3,498.00
1000419 429001 PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT	2,681.65	5,202.96	8,615.86	3,965.29	7,875.00
1000419 429003 DUES & PUBLICATIONS	933.99	6,300.65	6,049.56	6,034.25	6,100.00
1000419 432001 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	10,715.48	11,839.25	18,780.28	19,331.39	24,500.00
1000419 432002 LEGAL	26,951.58	23,936.71	26,142.54	35,908.58	26,600.00
1000419 432005 3RD PARTY CONSULTANT FEES	.00	13,287.61	.00	.00	.00
1000419 441020 TELEPHONE	838.22	.00	.00	.00	.00
1000419 441033 COMMUNICATIONS	874.73	789.27	692.06	702.45	900.00
1000419 443002 VEHICLE MAINT & TRANSPORTAT	715.23	.00	.00	.00	.00
1000419 454001 ADVERTISING	.00	.00	.00	.00	500.00
1000419 454002 RECRUITING	231.48	.00	.00	1,183.45	.00
1000419 454006 ADV-PUBLIC MEETINGS	2,264.75	2,686.70	2,054.50	1,658.63	2,200.00
1000419 455001 PRINTING & BINDING	524.13	217.00	561.50	376.00	300.00
1000419 460002 OPERATING SUPPLIES	5,097.82	3,419.52	3,223.22	4,112.21	4,000.00
1000419 460025 POSTAGE	1,759.79	1,661.91	1,589.58	1,891.06	1,700.00
1000419 462600 GASOLINE	950.77	796.63	780.93	800.08	1,100.00
1000419 462601 MILEAGE ALLOW & REIMBURSEME	730.71	887.41	710.46	374.43	1,000.00
1000419 474102 COMPUTERS	21,900.00	12,550.00	6,671.00	5,787.49	16,500.00
1000419 474109 VEHICLE	.00	542.09	268.37	46.81	1,000.00
1000419 474112 GIS	300.00	1,333.34	650.00	650.00	1,500.00
1000419 480000 MISCELLANEOUS	.00	225.00	.00	.00	.00
TOTAL PLANNING / ZONING	527,043.89	584,940.45	591,223.29	559,757.57	619,129.00
TOTAL GENERAL FUND	527,043.89	584,940.45	591,223.29	559,757.57	619,129.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	527,043.89	584,940.45	591,223.29	559,757.57	619,129.00
GRAND TOTAL	527,043.89	584,940.45	591,223.29	559,757.57	619,129.00

TOWN OF COLCHESTER



YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET REPORT

FOR 2019 13

ACCOUNTS FOR: 1000	GENERAL FUND	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANFRS/ ADJSTMTS	REVISED BUDGET	YTD EXPENDED	ENC/REQ	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USED
1000419 PLANNING / ZONING								
1000419	411000	SALARIES	361,968	0	361,968	204,468.43	.00	157,499.57 56.5%
1000419	412030	SALARIES - PLAN	4,350	0	4,350	1,923.00	.00	2,427.00 44.2%
1000419	413000	OVERTIME	3,000	0	3,000	160.35	.00	2,839.65 5.3%
1000419	421000	HEALTH INSURANCE	0	0	0	10,667.86	.00	-10,667.86 100.0%*
1000419	421001	HEALTH INSURANCE	93,755	0	93,755	28,575.17	.00	65,179.83 30.5%
1000419	421002	DENTAL INSURANCE	5,095	0	5,095	2,843.20	.00	2,251.80 55.8%
1000419	421003	LIFE/DISABILITY	5,363	0	5,363	2,573.22	.00	2,789.78 48.0%
1000419	421020	INSURANCE-PACIF/	9,399	0	9,399	7,681.68	.00	1,717.32 81.7%
1000419	422000	SOCIAL SECURITY	28,195	0	28,195	15,758.34	.00	12,436.66 55.9%
1000419	423000	RETIREMENT	23,621	0	23,621	13,244.34	.00	10,376.66 56.1%
1000419	425000	UNEMPLOYMENT COM	2,669	0	2,669	951.38	.00	1,717.62 35.6%
1000419	426000	WORKERS COMPENSA	3,771	0	3,771	3,880.37	.00	-109.37 102.9%*
1000419	429001	PERSONNEL DEVELO	8,000	0	8,000	1,812.49	.00	6,187.51 22.7%
1000419	429003	DUES & PUBLICATI	6,100	0	6,100	4,923.45	.00	1,176.55 80.7%
1000419	432001	PROFESSIONAL SER	24,000	0	24,000	3,048.69	1,000.00	19,951.31 16.9%
1000419	432002	LEGAL	27,000	0	27,000	23,443.57	.00	3,556.43 86.8%
1000419	432005	3RD PARTY CONSUL	0	0	0	2,787.75	.00	-2,787.75 100.0%*
1000419	432013	MASTER PLAN REWR	2,000	0	2,000	.00	.00	2,000.00 .0%
1000419	441033	COMMUNICATIONS	800	0	800	352.45	.00	447.55 44.1%
1000419	454001	ADVERTISING	500	0	500	.00	.00	500.00 .0%
1000419	454006	ADV-PUBLIC MEETI	2,200	0	2,200	1,275.76	.00	924.24 58.0%
1000419	455001	PRINTING & BINDI	300	0	300	188.00	.00	112.00 62.7%
1000419	460002	OPERATING SUPPLI	3,500	0	3,500	512.99	.00	2,987.01 14.7%
1000419	460025	POSTAGE	1,700	0	1,700	633.11	.00	1,066.89 37.2%
1000419	462600	GASOLINE	1,285	0	1,285	452.06	.00	832.94 35.2%
1000419	462601	MILEAGE ALLOW &	900	0	900	94.83	.00	805.17 10.5%
1000419	474102	COMPUTERS	16,500	0	16,500	1,848.24	.00	14,651.76 11.2%
1000419	474109	VEHICLE	1,000	0	1,000	169.97	.00	830.03 17.0%
1000419	474112	GIS	1,000	0	1,000	500.00	.00	500.00 50.0%
TOTAL PLANNING / ZONING			637,971	0	637,971	334,770.70	1,000.00	302,200.30 52.6%
TOTAL GENERAL FUND			637,971	0	637,971	334,770.70	1,000.00	302,200.30 52.6%
TOTAL EXPENSES			637,971	0	637,971	334,770.70	1,000.00	302,200.30

YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET REPORT

FOR 2019 13

	ORIGINAL APPROP	TRANFRS/ ADJSTMTS	REVISED BUDGET	YTD EXPENDED	ENC/REQ	AVAILABLE BUDGET	PCT USED
GRAND TOTAL	637,971	0	637,971	334,770.70	1,000.00	302,200.30	52.6%

** END OF REPORT - Generated by Sarah Hadd **

YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET REPORT

REPORT OPTIONS

Sequence	Field #	Total	Page Break
Sequence 1	1	Y	Y
Sequence 2	9	Y	N
Sequence 3	0	N	N
Sequence 4	0	N	N

Report title:
YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGET REPORT

Includes accounts exceeding 0% of budget.
 Print totals only: N
 Print Full or Short description: F
 Print full GL account: N
 Format type: 1
 Double space: N
 Suppress zero bal accts: Y
 Include requisition amount: Y
 Print Revenues-Version headings: N
 Print revenue as credit: Y
 Print revenue budgets as zero: N
 Include Fund Balance: N
 Print journal detail: N
 From Yr/Per: 2018/ 1
 To Yr/Per: 2018/13
 Include budget entries: Y
 Incl encumb/liq entries: Y
 Sort by JE # or PO #: J
 Detail format option: 1
 Include additional JE comments: N
 Multiyear view: D
 Amounts/totals exceed 999 million dollars: N

Year/Period: 2019/13
 Print MTD Version: N
 Roll projects to object: N
 Carry forward code: 1

Find Criteria	
Field Name	Field Value
Fund	1000
Function	
Dept/Loc	419
Character Code	
Org	
Object	
Project	
Account type	Expense
Account status	Active
Rollup Code	

§4382(a) – Required Elements	§4302(c) – Goals	Description and Locations
(1) – Objectives, Policies, Programs	N/A	<p>Every section in the 2019 Town Plan begins with a vision statement reflecting the original goals of the 2012 Heritage Project. Continuing; each section utilizes a goal statement and objective statement before discussing the section’s topic. Each chapter ends with a list of policies and actions for attainment of these goals and objectives for the duration of the plan.</p>
(2) – Land Use Plan	<p>Goal 1 – Historical Development Goal 10 – Natural Resource Use</p>	<p>The land use plan found in <i>The Lands of Colchester</i> Chapter contains future land use (under section <i>A Land Use Plan for Now and the Future</i>, p. 2) and current land use descriptions (under section <i>Planning our Neighborhood Areas</i>, p. 3). Development plans for these areas can also be found in this section. Maps 2, 3, 4 and 5 display relevant information for this section.</p> <p>Much of the language throughout the <i>Planning our Neighborhood Areas</i> (p.3) section satisfies the Historical Development goal, especially the subsections about Fort Ethan Allen, Colchester Village, and the section titled <i>Our Rural Lands</i> (p.12).</p> <p>Land use descriptions in the <i>Our Rural Lands</i> (p.12) and <i>The Lands Between</i> (p.11) sections discuss the usage of natural lands for development and other transformative usage. With mention of the goals to maintain the rural character of these neighborhoods, these sections satisfy Goal 10.</p> <p>For required maps, please see Maps 2 and 3.</p>
(3)- Transportation Plan	<p>Goal 4 – Transportation Goal 6 – Land Resource Quality Goal 7 – Energy</p>	<p>The transportation element can be found in the <i>Getting There</i> Chapter. This Chapter focuses on the Transportation goal as seen in sections <i>Maintaining the System</i> (p.1) and <i>Planning for the Future of the System</i> (p.2).</p> <p>This chapter also touches on energy usage and emissions in the <i>Energy and Transportation</i> (p.8) subsection.</p>

		For required maps, please see Map 13.
(4) – Utility and Facility Plan	Goal 12 – Public Facilities & Services Goal 8 – Recreation	<p>The <i>Systems and Connections</i> Chapter details utilities and telecommunications. The <i>Serving Colchester</i> Chapter also mentions the services provided by the Town’s Parks and Recreation Department such as programs and park maintenance.</p> <p>These two chapters address the Public Facilities and Services goal. The section <i>Parks & Recreation</i> (p.3) in <i>Serving Colchester</i> outlines the structure behind park management for recreation and conservation in Colchester.</p> <p>For required maps, please see Maps 6, 7, 8, and 13.</p>
(5) – Natural and Historical Preservation	Goal 5 – Historical and Natural Areas Goal 8 – Recreation Goal 10 – Natural Resource Use	<p>The historical and natural elements can be found within the <i>Who We Are</i> Chapter and the <i>Natural Heritage</i> Chapter.</p> <p>While the <i>Natural Heritage</i> Chapter primarily discusses the natural resources present in Colchester, the section titled <i>Water Resources</i> (p.1) mentions the recreational value of Lake Champlain and other waterways in the Town.</p> <p>The goal of Historical and Natural Areas is mentioned in the <i>Our Culture</i> (p.6) section of the <i>Who We Are</i> Chapter. In the <i>Natural Heritage</i> Chapter, this goal can be found in the <i>Flora & Fauna</i> and <i>Natural Areas</i> (p.6) sections.</p>
(6) – Educational Facilities Plan	Goal 3 – Education and Training Access Goal 8 – Recreation Goal 13 - Childcare	<p>The <i>Cultivating Colchester</i> Chapter focuses on fulfilling the Education and Training Access goal, to provide access to public education (under subsections <i>Education – Colchester School District</i> (p.1) and <i>Higher Education</i> (p.4)) and continued education and training for all residents of Colchester.</p> <p>The recreation goal is addressed in the second half of this chapter, under the heading <i>Recreation and Wellbeing</i> (p.5). This section outlines Colchester’s structured and</p>

		<p>non-structured opportunities and their impact on creating a healthier community.</p> <p>Childcare is addressed in this chapter on p. 2.</p> <p>For required maps, please see Map 13.</p>
(7) - Program for plan implementation	N/A	<p>These programs for implementation are found at the end of each chapter under “policies” and “actions.”</p> <p>The full list:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Lands of Colchester p. 13-14 2. Natural Heritage p. 11-12 3. Our Homes p. 10 4. Powering Colchester p. 14-16 5. Who We Are p. 9-10 6. Serving Colchester p. 7-8 7. Cultivating Colchester p. 6-7 8. Our Place in Vermont p. N/A 9. Our Economy p. 7-8 10. Getting There p. 10-11 11. Systems & Connections p. 6-7 (Maps)
(8) - Regional Cooperation	N/A	<p>One of our goals is to plan mutually with our bordering municipalities. The <i>Our Place in Vermont</i> Chapter is dedicated to this. Each bordering municipality’s plan is discussed and possible conflict is explored in each relevant section. For reference, here is where each bordering municipality can be found:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. South Hero p.1 2. Milton p.1 3. Westford p.2 4. Essex p.3 5. South Burlington p.4 6. Winooski p.4 7. Burlington p.5
(9) - Energy Plan	<p>Goal 6 – Land Resource Quality</p> <p>Goal 7 – Energy</p> <p>Goal 11 – Housing</p>	<p>The energy element can be found in the <i>Powering Colchester Chapter</i>. As it provides background on and sets policies for energy use throughout the plan, this chapter seeks to satisfy the Energy Goal.</p> <p>Regarding Goal 6, Land Resource Quality, the Powering Colchester Chapter mentions</p>

		<p>population distribution and growth centers in the <i>Transportation Trends</i> (p. 8) subsection.</p> <p>In the subsection titled <i>Heating, Cooling, and Sealing the Cracks</i> (p.5), the topic of housing and weatherization is discussed. Housing energy efficiency is discussed as a way to provide safe and more affordable cost of living.</p>
(10) - Housing Element	<p>Goal 11 – Housing</p> <p>Goal 2 – Economy</p>	<p>The housing element can be found in the <i>Our Homes Chapter</i> and it primarily focuses on goal 11, of housing. Sections such as <i>Condition of Housing Stock</i> (p.3), <i>Home Values</i> (p.4), and <i>Housing Affordability</i> (p.5) provide background on this part of Colchester, and the <i>Current Trends</i> (p.7) and <i>Future Needs</i> (p.8) discuss what the Town is planning for.</p> <p>The Economy Goal is briefly addressed in the <i>Housing Affordability</i> (p.5) and <i>Future Needs</i> (p.8) sections of the chapter.</p>
(11) - Economic Development Plan	<p>Goal 2 – Economy</p> <p>Goal 9 – Agricultural and Forest Industries</p>	<p>The Economic Development element can be found in the <i>Our Economy Chapter</i>. Present economic descriptions are described in the section titled <i>History of Our Economy</i> (p.1) and <i>Present</i> (p.2). Future pathways are described in the <i>Future</i> (p.6) section.</p> <p>Policies, projects and programs necessary to foster economic growth can be found at the end of the section under <i>Policies and Actions</i> (p. 7-8). The Town’s Economic Development Plan is referenced and agricultural and forest industries are mentioned in the <i>Future</i> (p.6) section.</p>
(12) - Flood Resiliency Plan	Goal 14 – Flood Resiliency	<p>Flood Resiliency is not a standalone chapter in the 2019 Town Plan, but rather is part of the <i>Natural Heritage</i> chapter. Flood resiliency is mentioned in the section titled <i>Floodplains</i> (p.4). This section outlines the standards Colchester has developed regarding new or rebuilt structures in the Floodplain and Shoreland Districts.</p>

§4382(b): See Maps.

§4382(c): The Who We Are Chapter, Our Homes, and Our Economy Chapter each reference inventories, studies, and analyses of current trends including population, housing needs, and rates of growth. The Lands of Colchester Chapter details patterns of growth in various land use classifications and desired patterns and rates of growth. The Town Plan does not address parking demand specific to transit passes but addresses transportation demand management in the Getting There Chapter (see Article 10 of the Development Regulations).

****Please note: Page numbers are in reference to the draft chapters available now. They are not cumulative, but rather reference the page within that chapter.****

Appendix A – Municipal Plan Review Tool

Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission

Guidelines and Standards for Confirmation of Municipal Planning Processes and Approval of Municipal Plans

This form addresses the statutory requirements of the State of Vermont for town plans, as cited in the Vermont Municipal and Regional Planning and Development Act, Title 24 V.S.A Chapter 117 (the Act). It includes the 12 required elements found in § 4382 of the Act; the four planning process goals found in § 4302(b), the 14 specific goals found in § 4302(c); and the standard of review found in § 4302(f), which covers consistency with goals and compatibility standards.

During the Regional approval and confirmation process, specified in § 4350 of the Act, the regional planning commission is required to assess town plans and the process whereby they are developed according to the criteria of the Act. Sections of relevant statute are quoted at each question.

Required Elements § 4382		Met	Not Met
1	Statement of Objectives, Policies, Programs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Land Use Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Transportation Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Utility and Facility Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Rare Natural Resources/Historic Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Educational Facilities Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Implementation Program	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Development Trends	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Energy Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Housing Element	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Economic Development Element	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Flood Resiliency Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

State Planning Goals § 4302		Met	Not Met
1	Development Pattern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Economy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Natural and Historic Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Quality of Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Energy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Recreation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Agriculture and Forest Industries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Use of Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Housing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Public Facilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Child Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Flood Resiliency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

TOWN PLAN REQUIRED ELEMENTS

Title 24 Chapter 117: Municipal and Regional Planning and Development

24 V.S.A. § 4382. The plan for a municipality

(a) A plan for a municipality may be consistent with the goals established in section 4302 of this title and compatible with approved plans of other municipalities in the region and with the regional plan and shall include the following:

(1) A statement of objectives, policies and programs of the municipality to guide the future growth and development of land, public services and facilities, and to protect the environment.

Comments:

Every section in the 2019 Town Plan begins with a vision statement reflecting the original goals of the 2012 Heritage Project Continuing; each section utilizes a goal statement and objective statement before discussing the section's topic. Each chapter ends with a list of policies and actions for attainment of these goals and objectives for the duration of the plan.

Pages:

1. Lands of Colchester
2. Natural Heritage
3. Our Homes
4. Powering Colchester
5. Who We Are
6. Serving Colchester
7. Cultivating Colchester
8. Our Place in Vermont
9. Our Economy
10. Getting There
11. Systems & Connections

(2) A land use plan, consisting of a map and statement of present and prospective land uses, that indicates those areas proposed for forests, recreation, agriculture (using the agricultural lands identification process established in 6 V.S.A. § 8), residence, commerce, industry, public and semi-public uses and open spaces, areas reserved reserved for flood plain, and areas identified by the State, the regional planning commission, or the municipality that require special consideration for aquifer protection; for wetland protection, for the maintenance of forest blocks, wildlife habitat, and habitat connectors; or for other conservation purposes; sets forth the present and prospective location, amount, intensity and character of such land uses and the appropriate timing or sequence of land development activities in relation to the provision of necessary community facilities and service; identifies those areas, if any, proposed for designation under chapter 76A of this title, together with, for each area proposed for designation, an explanation of how the designation would further the plan's goals and the goals of § 4302 of this title, and how the area meets the requirements for the type of designation to be sought; and indicates those areas that are important as forest blocks and habitat connectors and plans for land development in those areas to minimize forest fragmentation and promote the health, viability, and ecological function of forests.

Comments:

Choose an item.

Pages:

(1) Lands of Colchester p. 1-14

MAPS

Present Land Use Plan

Prospective Land Use Plan

(3) A transportation plan, consisting of a map and statement of present and prospective transportation and circulation facilities showing existing and proposed highways and streets by type and character of improvement, and where pertinent, parking facilities, transit routes, terminals, bicycle paths and trails, scenic roads, airports, railroads and port facilities, and other similar facilities or uses, with indications of priority of need;

Comments:

Choose an item. Pages: (10) Getting There p. 1-11
MAP Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Map 13)

(4) A utility and facility plan, consisting of a map and statement of present and prospective community facilities and public utilities showing existing and proposed educational, recreational and other public sites, buildings and facilities, including hospitals, libraries, power generating plants and transmission lines, water supply, sewage disposal, refuse disposal, storm drainage and other similar facilities and activities, and recommendations to meet future needs for community facilities and services, with indications of priority of need, costs and method of financing;

Comments:

Choose an item. Pages: (11) Systems and Connections p. 1-7
MAP Utility and Facility <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Maps 6, 7, 8, 13)

(5) A statement of policies on the preservation of rare and irreplaceable natural areas, scenic and historic features and resources;

Comments:

Choose an item. Pages: (2) Natural Heritage p. 1-12

(6) An educational facilities plan consisting of a map and statement of present and projected uses and the local public school system;

Comments:

Choose an item. Pages: (7) Cultivating Colchester p. 1-7
MAP Educational Facility <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Map 13)

(7) A recommended program for the implementation of the objectives of the development plan;

Comments:

- Choose an item.
- Pages:
1. Lands of Colchester p. 13-14
 2. Natural Heritage p. 11-12
 3. Our Homes p. 10
 4. Powering Colchester p. 14-16
 5. Who We Are p. 9-10
 6. Serving Colchester p. 7-8
 7. Cultivating Colchester p. 6-7
 8. (*Our Place in VT - N/A*)
 9. Our Economy p. 7-8
 10. Getting There p. 10-11
 11. Systems & Connections p. 6-7

(8) A statement indicating how the plan relates to development trends and plans of adjacent municipalities, areas and the region developed under this title;

Comments:

- Choose an item.
- Pages:
- (8) Our Place in Vermont p. 1-6

(9) An energy plan, including an analysis of energy resources, needs, scarcities, costs and problems within the municipality, a statement of policy on the conservation of energy, including programs, such as thermal integrity standards for buildings, to implement that policy, a statement of policy on the development of renewable energy resources, a statement of policy on patterns and densities of land use likely to result in conservation of energy;

Comments:

- Choose an item.
- Pages:
- (4) Powering Colchester p. 1-16

(10) A housing element that shall include a recommended program for addressing low and moderate income persons' housing needs as identified by the regional planning commission pursuant to subdivision 4348a(a)(9) of this title. The program should account for permitted accessory dwelling units, as defined in subdivision 4412(1)(E) of this title, which provide affordable housing.

Comments:

- Choose an item.
- Pages:
- (3) Our Homes p. 1-10

(11) An economic development element that describes present economic conditions and the location, type, and scale of desired economic development, and identifies policies, projects, and programs necessary to foster economic growth.

Comments:

- Choose an item.
- Pages:
- (9) Our Economy p. 1-8

(12)(A) A flood resilience plan that:

(i) identifies flood hazard and fluvial erosion hazard areas, based on river corridor maps provided by the Secretary of Natural Resources pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 1428(a) or maps recommended by the Secretary, and designates those areas to be protected, including floodplains, river corridors, land adjacent to streams, wetlands, and upland forests, to reduce the risk of flood damage to infrastructure and improved property; and

(ii) recommends policies and strategies to protect the areas identified and designated under subdivision (12)(A)(i) of this subsection and to mitigate risks to public safety, critical infrastructure, historic structures, and municipal investments.

(B) A flood resilience plan may reference an existing local hazard mitigation plan approved under 44 C.F.R. § 201.6.

Comments:

Choose an item.

Pages:

(2) Natural Heritage p. 4-6

§4382(c) Data:

Where appropriate, and to further the purposes of subsection 4302(b) of this title, a municipal plan shall be based upon inventories, studies, and analyses of current trends and shall consider the probable social and economic consequences of the proposed plan. Such studies may consider or contain, but not be limited to:

(1) population characteristics and distribution, including income and employment;

(2) the existing and projected housing needs by amount, type, and location for all economic groups within the municipality and the region;

(3) existing and estimated patterns and rates of growth in the various land use classifications, and desired patterns and rates of growth in terms of the community's ability to finance and provide public facilities and services.

Comments:

The Who We Are Chapter, Our Homes, and Our Economy Chapter each reference inventories, studies, and analyses of current trends including population, housing needs, and rates of growth. The Lands of Colchester Chapter details patterns of growth in various land use classifications and desired patterns and rates of growth. The Town Plan does not address parking demand specific to transit passes but addresses transportation demand management in the Getting There Chapter (see Article 10 of the Development Regulations).

Choose an item.

Pages:

(1) Lands of Colchester p. 2-13

(3) Our Homes p. 1-10

(5) Who We Are p. 1-6, 8-9

(9) Our Economy p. 1-7

(10) Getting There p. 10

GOALS AND STANDARDS OF REVIEW

GOALS

24 VSA § 4302

(a) General purposes . . .

(b) It is also the intent of the legislature that municipalities, regional planning commissions and state agencies shall engage in a continuing planning process that will further the following goals:

- (1) To establish a coordinated, comprehensive planning process and policy framework to guide decisions by municipalities, regional planning commissions, and state agencies.
- (2) To encourage citizen participation at all levels of the planning process, and to assure that decisions shall be made at the most local level possible commensurate with their impact.
- (3) To consider the use of resources and the consequences of growth and development for the region and the state, as well as the community in which it takes place.
- (4) To encourage and assist municipalities to work creatively together to develop and implement plans.

(c) In addition, this chapter shall be used to further the following specific goals:

Goal 1:

To plan development so as to maintain the historic settlement pattern of compact village and urban centers separated by rural countryside.

- (A) Intensive residential development should be encouraged primarily in areas related to community centers, and strip development along highways should be discouraged.
- (B) Economic growth should be encouraged in locally designated growth areas, or employed to revitalize existing village and urban centers, or both.
- (C) Public investments, including construction or expansion of infrastructure, should reinforce the general character and planned growth patterns of the area.

Choose an item.

Pages:

(1) Lands of Colchester p. 2-13

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal:

Throughout the Lands of Colchester chapter, development patterns are oriented to sustain historical growth patterns. This is apparent in the land-use plans for neighborhoods such as the Village and the Fort, as well as the rural neighborhoods. Growth in both the residential and commercial sectors is focused in their respective neighborhoods.

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Goal 2:

To provide a strong and diverse economy that provides satisfying and rewarding job opportunities and that maintains high environmental standards, and to expand economic opportunities in areas with high unemployment or low per capita incomes.

Choose an item.

Pages:

(3) Our Homes p. 5-9

(9) Our Economy p. 1-8

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal:

In the Our Economy Chapter, past, current, and future economic conditions are outlined and displayed. Present economic descriptions are described in the section titled History of Our Economy and Present. Future pathways are described in the Future section. Much of this information comes from the original Economic Development Action Plan and the 2018 Market Analysis.

The economy goal even finds its way into the Our Homes chapter, especially in the discussion of housing affordability and condition.

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Goal 3:

To broaden access to educational and vocational training opportunities sufficient to ensure the full realization of the abilities of all Vermonters.

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal:

The Cultivating Colchester Chapter focuses on fulfilling the Education and Training Access goal, to provide access to public education (under subsections Education – Colchester School District and Higher Education) and continued education and training for all residents of Colchester.

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Choose an item.
Pages:
(7) Cultivating Colchester p. 1-5

Goal 4:

To provide for safe, convenient, economic and energy efficient transportation systems that respect the integrity of the natural environment, including public transit options and paths for pedestrians and bicyclers.

- (A) Highways, air, rail and other means of transportation should be mutually supportive, balanced and integrated.

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal:

The Getting There chapter focuses on transportation within the Town. The plan focuses on diversifying options for commuters, and explores the possibilities of multi-modal transportation. Efficiencies are addressed, and budget allocations are discussed as well.

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Choose an item.
Pages:
(10) Getting There p. 1-11

Goal 5:

To identify, protect and preserve important natural and historic features of the Vermont landscape including:

- (A) significant natural and fragile areas;
- (B) outstanding water resources, including lakes, rivers, aquifers, shorelands and wetlands;
- (C) significant scenic roads, waterways and views;

Choose an item.
Pages:
(2) Natural Heritage p. 1-12
(5) Who We Are p. 6-8

(D) important historic structures, sites, or districts, archaeological sites and archaeologically sensitive areas

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal:

The goal of Historical and Natural Areas is mentioned in the Our Culture section of the Who We Are Chapter. In the Natural Heritage Chapter, this goal can be found in the Flora & Fauna and Natural Areas sections. The focus on preserving natural, scenic, and historic resources and amenities is a constant theme throughout these chapters.

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Goal 6:

To maintain and improve the quality of air, water, wildlife, forests and other land resources.

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal:

The Natural Heritage outlines the natural resources present in Colchester that the Town has identified as important to conserve. The Powering Colchester Chapter mentions population distribution and growth centers in the Transportation Trends subsection. The Getting There chapter also touches on energy usage and emissions in the Energy and Transportation subsection. While the Natural Heritage Chapter focuses on the places themselves, the Powering Colchester and Getting There chapters focus on the emissions and pollution that could threaten these places.

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Choose an item.
Pages:
(2) Natural Heritage p. 1-12
(4) Powering Colchester p. 8-10
(10) Getting There p. 8-9

Goal 7:

To encourage the efficient use of energy and the development of renewable energy resources.

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal:

The Powering Colchester chapter primarily discusses energy efficiency, the electrification of the grid, and the move towards renewable energy generation within the Town. In the Getting There chapter, the application of energy efficiency and electrification are discussed as applied to transportation needs within the Town.

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Choose an item.
Pages:
(4) Powering Colchester p. 5-14
(10) Getting There p. 8-9

Goal 8:

To maintain and enhance recreational opportunities for Vermont residents and visitors.

(A) Growth should not significantly diminish the value and availability of outdoor recreational activities.

(B) Public access to noncommercial outdoor recreational opportunities, such as lakes and hiking trails, should be identified, provided, and protected wherever appropriate.

Choose an item.
Pages:
(2) Natural Heritage p. 1-4, 9
(6) Serving Colchester, p. 3-5
(7) Cultivating Colchester p. 5-6

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal:

The Natural Heritage chapter outlines the amenities provided to the Town from Lake Champlain and the impact they have on tourism. This chapter also discusses the Natural Areas used for conservation and recreation in the Town. The Serving Colchester Chapter introduces the role of the Parks & Recreation Department, and the parks and facilities managed by them. The Cultivating Colchester chapter discusses the effect recreation has on community health and wellbeing.

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Goal 9:

To encourage and strengthen agricultural and forest industries.

- (A) Strategies to protect long-term viability of agricultural and forestlands should be encouraged and should include maintaining low overall density.
- (B) The manufacture and marketing of value added agricultural and forest products should be encouraged.
- (C) The use of locally-grown food products should be encouraged.
- (D) Sound forest and agricultural management practices should be encouraged.
- (E) Public investment should be planned so as to minimize development pressure on agricultural and forest land.

Choose an item.
Pages:
(4) Powering Colchester p. 14
(9) Our Economy p. 6

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal:

The Town has addressed this goal primarily in the Our Economy chapter, which encourages on-farm diversification to promote the longevity of the industry within the Town. This topic was also mentioned in the Powering Colchester chapter, in which local food production was encouraged as a means to reduce the Town's carbon footprint.

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Goal 10:

To provide for the wise and efficient use of Vermont's natural resources and to facilitate the appropriate extraction of earth resources and the proper restoration and preservation of the aesthetic qualities of the area.

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal:

The Lands of Colchester chapter outlines the methods the Town plans on using to limit development in rural and slow development in low-density residential areas. The primary method is by concentrating growth in the Severance Corners neighborhood. The Natural Heritage chapter provides a summary of the Town's natural resources.

Choose an item.
Pages:
(1) Lands of Colchester p. 2-13
(2) Natural Heritage p. 1-11

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Goal 11:

To ensure the availability of safe and affordable housing for all Vermonters.

- (A) Housing should be encouraged to meet the needs of a diversity of social and income groups in each Vermont community, particularly for those citizens of low and moderate income.

Choose an item.
Pages:
(3) Our Homes p. 1-10
(4) Powering Colchester p. 5-8

(B) New and rehabilitated housing should be safe, sanitary, located conveniently to employment and commercial centers, and coordinated with the provision of necessary public facilities and utilities.

(C) Sites for multi-family and manufactured housing should readily available in locations similar to those generally used for single-family conventional dwellings.

(D) Accessory apartments within or attached to single family residences which provide affordable housing in close proximity to cost-effective care and supervision for relatives or disabled or elderly persons should be allowed.

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal:

This goal is primarily addressed in the Our Homes chapter. This chapter provides statistics about past, current, and projected future housing stock and values, but also discusses the importance of maintaining the current stock. The Powering Colchester chapter mentions this in the section Heating, Cooling, and Sealing the Cracks. Weatherization and improvements in energy efficacy are promoted in this section

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Goal 12:

To plan for, finance and provide an efficient system of public facilities and services to meet future needs.

(A) Public facilities and services should include fire and police protection, emergency medical services, schools, water supply and sewage and solid waste disposal.

(B) The rate of growth should not exceed the ability of the community and the area to provide facilities and services.

Choose an item.
Pages:
(6) Serving Colchester p. 1-8
(7) Cultivating Colchester p. 1-4
(11) Systems and Connections p. 1-7

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal:

The Serving Colchester chapter outlines the services provided by the Town, such as the Town Government, Parks & Recreation, Public Works, Police, Rescue, Firefighters, etc. The Cultivating Colchester chapter focuses on the educational facilities provided by the Town, and the Systems and Connections chapter provides information on the utilities and services (water, stormwater, wastewater, telecommunications, etc.) provided by the Town.

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Goal 13:

To ensure the availability of safe and affordable child care and to integrate child care issues into the planning process, including child care financing, infrastructure, business assistance for child care providers, and child care work force development.

Choose an item.
Pages:
(9) Cultivating Colchester p. 2

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal:

Beyond providing elementary education opportunities for school-age children, the Town has strived to emphasize child-care options for local families.

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Goal 14:

To encourage flood resilient communities.

(A) New development in identified flood hazard, fluvial erosion, and river corridor protection areas should be avoided. If new development is to be built in such areas, it should not exacerbate flooding and fluvial erosion.

(B) The protection and restoration of floodplains and upland forested areas that attenuate and moderate flooding and fluvial erosion should be encouraged.

(C) Flood emergency preparedness and response planning should be encouraged.

Choose an item. Pages: (2) Natural Heritage p. 4-6
--

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal:

The sections in the Natural Heritage chapter outline the importance of the Town's updated Development Regulations in protecting against the dangers of flooding in certain areas. These areas include the floodplains and lands near watercourses. By updating their Development Regulations, the Town has been able to join FEMA's Community Rating System, and this is explained further in this section.

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

STANDARD OF REVIEW

24 V.S.A. § 4302(f)

(1) As used in this chapter, "consistent with the goals" requires substantial progress toward attainment of the goals established in this section, unless the planning body determines that a particular goal is not relevant or attainable. If such a determination is made, the planning body shall identify the goal in the plan and describe the situation, explain why the goal is not relevant or attainable, and indicate what measures should be taken to mitigate any adverse effects of not making substantial progress toward that goal. The determination of relevance or attainability shall be subject to review as part of a consistency determination under this chapter.

(2) As used in this chapter, for one plan to be "compatible with" another, the plan in question, as implemented, will not significantly reduce the desired effect of the implementation of the other plan. If a plan, as implemented, will significantly reduce the desired effect of the other plan, the plan may be considered compatible if it includes the following:

(A) a statement that identifies the ways that it will significantly reduce the desired effect of the other plan;

(B) an explanation of why any incompatible portion of the plan in question is essential to the desired effect of the plan as a whole;

(C) an explanation of why, with respect to any incompatible portion of the plan in question, there is no reasonable alternative way to achieve the desired effect of the plan, and

(D) an explanation of how any incompatible portion of the plan in question has been structured to mitigate its detrimental effects on the implementation of the other plan.

Details of CCRPC's review process can be found in "Guidelines and Standards for Confirmation of Municipal Planning Processes, Approval of Municipal Plans and Granting Determinations of Energy Compliance," as amended on September 19, 2018.

2014 Town Plan Policies - Implementation Status			
Policy #	Policy	Status	Notes
Land Use Chapter			
Severance Corners Growth Center			
1	Form based zoning should be implemented in the growth center to create higher densities and additional commercial development	Implemented	
2	Development for this area should be balanced in terms of residential and commercial development with a greater emphasis on commercial development during the term of this plan	No Longer Applicable	Commercial market not conducive.
3	This area is a high priority for infrastructure	Ongoing	
4	The Town should work to implement the recommendations of the bicycle and pedestrian study of this area conducted by the Regional Planning Commission	Ongoing	
5	The Town should maintain State New Town Center designation and State Growth Center designation for Severance Corners.	Implemented	
6	The Town should continue to work with the State of Vermont and developers within the growth center to preserve options for this intersection and ensure that improvements occur in a manner that will continue to facilitate growth within the neighborhood	Ongoing	
7	Severance Corners is designated as a growth center on the Future Land Use Map	Implemented	
Exit 17			
1	Zoning within the future growth center shall continue to be in accordance with the Exit 17 Growth Center Plan (2000).	Implemented	
2	Plans should be developed to serve the land west of Interstate 89 with potable water	No Longer Applicable	Longer term than plan.
3	The 2006 Exit 17 Traffic Scoping Project should be accommodated in development plans. To this end, the Town may request the Regional Planning Commission to assist in reviewing traffic impacts of proposed developments. The Town should continue to work with the State to implement traffic improvements within the area that preserve capacity for the neighborhood and sufficiently handle background growth in traffic.	Implemented	
4	Development within this neighborhood should be in accordance with long-term plans for this area which include pedestrian, bicycle, infrastructure, and roadway improvements. Limited developments under current conditions should be planned to accommodate future infill. The 2003 Exit 17 Wastewater Study should be utilized in considering proposed development within this neighborhood.	Implemented	
5	Exit 17 is a gateway to Colchester, Franklin County, The Champlain Islands, and Milton. These communities should realize and respect the impact their communities have on this neighborhood. The Town will continue to work with these adjacent communities in planning for the future of Exit 17.	Implemented	
6	This area is designated as suburban residential and village mixed use on the Future Land Use Map	Implemented	
Exit 16			
1	This area should continue to be the dominant commercial and business center for Colchester	Implemented	
2	The Town should provide opportunities for high-tech and research uses within this area and continue to work with the Albany College of Pharmacy and the University in accommodating its research facilities and other high-tech developments as well as complementary amenities within the community that will make Colchester competitive with other communities for these uses	Implemented	
3	Infrastructure improvements necessary for the Exit 16 transportation corridor as well as pedestrian, bicycle, and traffic circulation as well as streetscape improvements is a priority to ensuring the continued economic viability of this area	Ongoing	
4	A future connection to Route 15 and a full interchange at Exit 15 are encouraged	Ongoing	
5	The Planning Commission may consider residential in long-term planning in a comprehensive manner. Single-family residences should not be allowed	Implemented	
6	This neighborhood is designated as business use on the Future Land Use Map	Implemented	

Policy #	Policy	Status	Notes
Fort Ethan Allen			
1	No changes in zoning are needed over the term of this plan for this area. The campus/ institutional uses and the historic character of Fort Ethan Allen should be maintained and enhanced.	Implemented	
2	The balance among the businesses, residences, and cultural facilities within this area should be maintained and enhanced to include community gathering places, civic facilities and other amenities that would foster the development of the neighborhood as a cultural center.	Implemented	
3	High-tech industry, such as the communications industry, should be encouraged at Fort Ethan Allen	Implemented	
4	The Town should maintain its current cooperation and outreach with the various institutions of this neighborhood to encourage the expansion and vitality of these businesses within Colchester	Implemented	
5	Improvements to Route 15 are needed to better facilitate current volumes of traffic; however, these improvements should not be done at the expense of local traffic and circulation. The Town should continue to work with Route 15 communities to complete bicycle and pedestrian facilities for safe access along the Route 15 corridor	Ongoing	
6	A full interchange at Exit 15 and connection road between Exit 16 and Route 15 should be pursued by the Town	Not Implemented	Longer term than plan.
7	The Campus Connector Road should be incorporated into the Official Map	Implemented	
8	The Town should continue to work with the Regional Planning Commission to mitigate the possible impacts of increased truck traffic on Route 15 and Lime Kiln Road	No Longer Applicable	Longer term than plan.
9	Long term, the Town should address how Camp Johnson could be adapted should the current military use be abandoned. Reuse of this area should accommodate the existing institutions in the area as well as economic expansion that could link to Exit 16. Environmental concerns such as the presence of sandplains and brownfields could present difficulties in the adaptive reuse of the Camp	Not Implemented	Longer term than plan.
10	This area has been designated as village mixed use on the Future Land Use Map	Implemented	
Colchester Village			
1	The Village should remain zoned GD1 and no rezonings are anticipated during the term of this plan within this neighborhood	Implemented	
2	Opportunities for residential infill outside the Village core should be examined although care must be taken to preserve connectivity of natural resources, minimize impacts to agriculture, and not to expand the Village north or south into rural areas.	Implemented	
3	Improved pedestrian and bicycle facilities particularly between neighborhoods outlying the Village core such as Country Meadows and Creek Farm developments and the core are a priority	Implemented	
4	The park under design for the Village will provide significant recreational facilities for the Village. These facilities should be connected with the school and other public buildings in the Village through pedestrian and/or bicycle facilities	Implemented	
5	The Town should continue to promote other viable transportation alternatives that would replicate the benefits of the Circumferential Highway in order to curtail regional truck and commuter traffic onto Main Street.	Ongoing	
6	The Town should continue to work at the Regional and State levels to accelerate improvements made to the intersections of Roosevelt Highway and Route 2A	Implemented	
7	This area is designated as village mixed use on the Future Land Use Map	Implemented	
West Lakeshore Drive			
1	The Malletts Bay Initiative and resulting LS1 and LS2 Districts shall continue to provide the parameters for development in this area balancing limited traffic capacity and environmental sensitivity with the community's desire to transition the area to a more pedestrian friendly village area placing importance on recreational amenities and the Bay	Implemented	
2	The Town's land use plans shall continue to guide infrastructure plans for the neighborhood and the Clean Water Initiative will prioritize the infrastructure projects necessary to achieve the future land plans	Implemented	
3	Development in this area should meet the highest possible standards to protect water quality in Malletts Bay	Implemented	
4	This area is designated as village mixed use on the Future Land Use Map	Implemented	

Policy #	Policy	Status	Notes
Town Services Center			
1	Most expansion of Town facilities should take place in this area if possible. The same is recommended for school facilities	Implemented	
2	This is a high priority area for improvements to transportation infrastructure	Ongoing	
3	No rezonings shall be considered within this area during the term of this plan	Implemented	
4	This area is designated as village mixed use on the Future Land Use Map	Implemented	
Prim Road/Warner's Corner/Heineberg Drive			
1	Neighborhood-scale commercial services should be encouraged in this corridor without allowing for high-turnover traffic uses that could further degrade traffic beyond current problems.	Implemented	
2	Multiple uses and mixed uses should be allowed on properties as long as they are in keeping with the village mixed use future land use for the area	Implemented	
3	It is important to recognize that the businesses within this neighborhood have the ability to serve the surrounding residential neighborhoods. Efforts should be made to sustain this neighborhood as the commercial service area for the adjacent medium and high density residential neighborhoods	Implemented	
4	The Town will work with the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission and the State to implement the Route 127 Corridor Plan. The Warner's Corners portion of this plan should be implemented during the term of this plan	Ongoing	
5	New curb-cuts to Heineberg Drive and Prim Road are to be discouraged. Access management planning for this corridor should be a priority	Ongoing	
6	An alternate east/west roadway to improve traffic safety, should continue to be evaluated in light of the termination of the proposed Circumferential Highway	Implemented	
7	Public transportation that would link this neighborhood to the north end of Burlington is encouraged.	Ongoing	
8	This area is designated as village mixed use on the Future Land Use Map.	Implemented	
Shipman Hill			
1	During the term of this plan, the Planning Commission should continue to evaluate the Agricultural Mixed Use District zoning to ensure that it promotes the continued agricultural use of this area while respecting property owners' needs to access the equity in their land	Implemented	
2	The current transfer of development rights provision in the Zoning Regulations should be reevaluated as the Planning Commission continues to work with property owners on solutions for balancing continued agriculture use with the need of owners to access the equity in their land	Not Implemented	Longer term than plan.
3	The Planning Commission should examine any new opportunities that may accomplish the goal of balancing the continued agricultural use of this area while respecting property owners' needs to access the equity in their land	Not Implemented	Longer term than plan.
4	The future of this neighborhood area should include opportunities for agricultural tourism and the commercial elements that are necessitated by the changing face of agriculture	Ongoing	
5	The Town should encourage the work of land trusts to provide land owners with fair compensation for their development rights	Implemented	
6	Rezoning of this area to a higher-intensity district that could not be developed under current State Primary Agricultural Soil restrictions should not be considered as this would unduly increase tax burdens on property owners without providing for a means of accessing the equity in their land	Ongoing	
7	Piecemeal rezoning of agricultural land in this area to residential use should be discouraged in order to avoid conflicts between residential and agricultural uses	Implemented	
8	This area should continue to have a distinct designation as agriculture/mixed use on the Future Land Use Map during the term of this plan	Implemented	
Bean/Macrae			
1	The character of the area should be sustained with no substantial changes to density	Implemented	

Policy #	Policy	Status	Notes
2	Development should be sensitive to existing environmental issues such as drainage issues, marginal soils, unstable river banks, wildlife habitat, and floodplains	Implemented	
3	This area is designated as suburban residential and rural on the Future Land Use Map	Implemented	
Porters Point			
1	The residential character of the area should be maintained; however, increases in densities to promote residential infill should be considered.	Implemented	
2	Additional pedestrian and bicycle facilities in this area are planned to better connect the neighborhood internally and externally and should be addressed as part of any development application	Ongoing	
3	Public transportation opportunities within this neighborhood should be planned for in the long-term.	Ongoing	
4	This area should be recognized as significantly contributing to the community's affordable housing stock and care taken to preserve these opportunities as the neighborhood continues to transition	Ongoing	
5	This area is shown as suburban residential on the Future Land Use Map	Implemented	
Blakely Road			
1	The character of the area should be maintained. No increases in density should be considered within the time frame of this plan.	Implemented	
2	Pedestrian and bicycle facilities should be constructed within this area that connect to the neighborhoods to the east and west. Recreation areas are also encouraged	Ongoing	
3	This area is designated as suburban residential on the Future Land Use Map	Implemented	
Severance Road			
1	Any consideration of density increases should adequately address traffic safety on Severance Road, storm water impairments to Sunderland Brook, and on-site septic capacity. Density increases must not adversely impact existing agricultural uses.	No Longer Applicable	No density increases sought.
2	A comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian network must be incorporated into both short-term and long-term plans for this area that will facilitate connection to the Severance Corners growth center	Ongoing	
3	This area is designated as suburban residential on the Future Land Use Map	Implemented	
East Lakeshore Drive Vicinity			
1	Areas along the Lake should continue to be a priority for conservation particularly those areas immediately adjacent to existing Town or State owned lands.	Not Implemented	Longer term than plan.
2	Reconstruction of structures between East Lakeshore Drive and the Lake should preserve views of the Lake from the road and provide for adequate bank stabilization	Ongoing	
3	Water quality remains a high concern in this neighborhood. The Town should continue to encourage the upgrading of on-site septic systems within this area and educate homeowners on system maintenance. To this end, an on-site sewage disposal management program could be developed	Ongoing	
4	Traffic safety is a high-priority issue within this area. Pedestrian and bicycle circulation should be encouraged and additional traffic should be discouraged. Design improvements to East Lakeshore Drive are a traffic safety priority; however, traffic reduction measures should also be considered	Ongoing	
5	This area is designated a combination of suburban residential and rural on the Future Land Use Map	Implemented	
Marble Island/Malletts Head			
1	Development applications, both residential and non-residential, in this area need to be carefully evaluated for compatibility with surrounding uses.	Ongoing	
2	Continued development of recreational amenities in keeping with the character of the area, such as walking paths, should be encouraged to the greatest extent possible	Ongoing	
3	The right of Brown Ledge Camp to keep horses for their camp use should be in no way limited	Ongoing	

Policy #	Policy	Status	Notes
4	Existing residential densities and commercial/recreational uses should be retained and embellished; however, commercial uses not compatible with the character of the area should not be allowed. Rezoning of the area currently designated as GD1 may be considered in the long term to a new district in order to keep this balance.	Ongoing	
5	The natural area, with views, at the crest of Malletts Head should be considered for acquisition by a Land Trust or the Town.	Not Implemented	Longer term than plan.
6	Public access to the Lake should be maintained in this neighborhood	Ongoing	
7	This neighborhood is designated as suburban residential on the Future Land Use Map	Implemented	
Malletts Bay Avenue			
1	No re-zonings within this area should be considered within the time frame of this plan	Implemented	
2	The adjacent floodplains and wetlands are undevelopable and should continue to be excluded from density calculations for development	Implemented	
3	Pedestrian amenities along Malletts Bay Avenue are needed due to high residential densities along the Winooski Town Line and increased traffic	Ongoing	
4	New development should be designed to be sensitive to pre-existing agricultural uses, natural resources, industry, and the design limitations of Malletts Bay Avenue	Ongoing	
5	This area is designated a combination of suburban residential and commercial/industrial on the Future Land Use Map	Implemented	
Clay Point			
1	Frontage on public roads should continue to be required for any new subdivisions.	No Longer Applicable	PUDs continue to allow for frontage re
2	Development on existing lots without frontage should be allowed only by the Development Review Board if negative impacts to the character of the area can be mitigated and sufficient access can be constructed	Ongoing	
3	Agricultural uses should continue to be allowed and encouraged within this area	Ongoing	
4	No re-zonings within this area should be considered within the time frame of this plan. Allowed development densities should not be increased beyond the levels allowed at the time of adoption of this plan.	Implemented	
5	Although not currently a priority, the Town should in the long-term evaluate developing a unique zoning district for this area that recognizes the natural features of the area and develops target densities in-line with preserving these amenities	Ongoing	
6	This area is designated as rural on the Future Land Use Map	Implemented	
Poor Farm Road			
1	This is an area that should not be rezoned within the time-frame of this plan	Implemented	
2	Connections to the Poor Farm Road sewer line should continue to be prohibited by the Town.	Implemented	
3	The intersections of Poor Farm Road are a safety concern. Any additional development accessed off of Poor Farm Road should be evaluated for traffic impacts to these intersections. Improvement to Poor Farm Road and its intersections should be studied and considered in conjunction with any development proposals. New development should not be allowed to occur unless plans for recommended road improvements also occur.	Implemented	
Mill Pond			
1	This is an area that should not be rezoned within the time-frame of this plan	Implemented	
2	Efforts should be made to financially encourage continued farming	Ongoing	
3	Road improvements such as the replacement of the Mill Pond Bridge are necessary	Implemented	
4	This area is designated as rural on the Future Land Use Map	Implemented	
Northeast Quadrant			
1	The zoning districts shall remain agricultural or very low-density residential	Implemented	
2	The preservation of additional land surrounding Colchester Pond should be encouraged	Implemented	
3	East Road is discouraged as an alternate commuter route to Roosevelt Highway	Ongoing	

Policy #	Policy	Status	Notes
4	Residential construction and outdoor recreational opportunities should positively reinforce the agricultural activities in this area	Ongoing	
5	Property owners and residents should be made aware of the radioactive bedrock properties and new development should not increase the degree of human exposure to these properties	Ongoing	
6	The rail line should be recognized as an important transportation corridor which should be maintained. Railyards and rail spurs are not in keeping with the rural character of the area and should not be permitted	Implemented	
7	Railyards and rail spurs are not in keeping with the rural character of the area and should not be permitted	Implemented	
8	This area is designated as rural on the Future Land Use Map	Implemented	
Cultural Resources Chapter			
1	Predictive modeling of archaeological sites should be explored by the Town as a tool to locate potentially important sites and assist developers in recognizing archaeological resources before final plans are developed and thereby reducing project costs. To the extent possible, the Town should encourage important archaeological sites be avoided and thereby preserved for future generations	Ongoing	
2	The State Register and National Register listings for the Town should be used to assess the significance of historic buildings and structures. These listings should be maintained and updated by the Town to provide accurate documentation of the Town's historic resources.	Ongoing	
3	Colchester's historic and cultural properties are opportunities for economic development through expanded tourism and adaptive reuse of historic buildings. The Town should encourage the preservation and rehabilitation of all historic structures in Colchester through its regulations, policies, and budget. Changes to historic structures should be sympathetic to the structure and, to the extent possible, in accordance with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties	Ongoing	
4	The Town should explore participating in the Certified Local Government program and other State or Federal historic preservation programs.	Not Implemented	Longer term than plan.
5	Community organizations, such as the Historical Society, that serve as stewards of the Town's history and its historical and cultural resources are important community assets and should be sustained.	Ongoing	
6	The Burnham Library should continue to provide life-long learning opportunities and assistance with early childhood literacy as it expands upon its mission to become a clearinghouse for information on arts, culture, and related events in Colchester	Ongoing	
7	Care should be taken to maintain and enhance the Village Green as an important amenity and public gathering place.	Ongoing	
8	Satellite library facilities in the Town's growth centers and other villages should be explored as a way of broadening the Library's audience and providing additional space	No Longer Applicable	Library refurbished adjacent meeting h
9	Private development of cultural facilities, including religious facilities, should continue to be encouraged. As Colchester continues to grow more diverse, religious organizations will continue to be important in facilitating a sense of community while supporting cultural diversity	Ongoing	
10	As the community becomes more diverse, the Town should look to preserve and expand upon its cultural facilities, including private facilities, in order to sustain and enhance the community's quality of life. Cultural facilities should continue to be integrated into the existing fabric of the community as well as incorporated in multi-use areas.	Ongoing	
11	The work of organizations such as the VCWA should be supported as providing exposure to and education on various cultures	Ongoing	
Natural Resources			
1	The Town should continue to encourage new development as well as re-development that is sensitive to the Lake views.	Ongoing	
2	The Town will strive to work with other organizations and governments to find long-term cost effective solutions to water quality issues	Ongoing	
3	The Town should work with its neighbors within the Winooski River Basin to improve water quality	Ongoing	

Policy #	Policy	Status	Notes
4	New development and redevelopment of properties along the Winooski and Lamoille Rivers should stabilize the banks and meet current setbacks in order to limit threats to water quality as well as threats to public infrastructure and public welfare	Implemented	
5	Colchester should maintain its current Flood Plain Zoning District standards prohibiting any new floodplain construction to protect the public good	Implemented	
6	The Town should maintain its cooperation with Federal Agencies in reviewing floodplain projects	Implemented	
7	The Town should work with the State and Federal permitting agencies to provide consistency in regulating wetlands to the greatest extent practicable	Implemented	
8	Colchester should maintain its Water Protection Overlay District and adapt these regulations as needed to comply with all applicable State requirements	Implemented	
9	The Town should evaluate connectivity between significant natural resources that would foster wildlife habitat	Ongoing	
10	The Town will continue to work with State agencies to determine suitable alternatives for sandplain areas.	Ongoing	
11	Efforts to sustain and enhance on-site interpretive resources and awareness of Open Space resources should be supported by the Town.	Ongoing	
12	The Town of Colchester should continue to maintain and enhance its GIS system in part to better delineate and define geographic data as well as involve the public in management and stewardship of natural resources	Ongoing	
13	Wildlife habitat mapping should be enhanced	Not Implemented	Longer term than plan.
14	As development occurs on smaller and smaller lots, PUD minimum lot size and other requirements should be reviewed to ensure continued compliance with the intent of these regulations.	Ongoing	
15	Large tracts of undeveloped land should be comprehensively planned for connectivity to adjacent parcels and natural areas. Well-thought-out conservation plans are encouraged as well as comprehensive plans of large tracts	Ongoing	
16	The Colchester Land Trust should assist the Town in open space conservation efforts and to work with these Boards and Departments to achieve Town open space goals	No Longer Applicable	Land Trust defunct.
17	Management plans should be developed or sustained for the Town's various natural areas, parks, conserved land, and public parcels that include significant natural resources	Ongoing	
18	The Town encourages the development of management plans for privately held lands that contain significant natural resources as well as privately conserved land such as PUD open space lots.	Ongoing	
19	The Town should develop a policy of prioritization for land acquisition and study preferred financing options	Not Implemented	Longer term than plan.
20	The 2000 Open Space Plan should be referenced for specific, high-priority parcels for conservation and recommended conservation techniques	Implemented	
21	Care should be taken to conserve important features and mitigate any long term adverse impacts of development to natural resource areas of significance listed within this Chapter	Implemented	
Parks & Recreation Chapter			
1	The Town should undertake a comprehensive capital planning process for future parks and recreation needs including the need for a Community Center	Implemented	
2	As part of the capital planning process the Town should continue to plan and secure appropriate levels of funding that reflect the current costs of services, maintenance of existing facilities, and planned projects. The recreation impact fee should continue to be an appropriate part of this process.	Implemented	
3	Multi-use paths and trails have significant recreational value and should be encouraged as both transportation and recreational amenities. These amenities should be interconnected whenever feasible.	Implemented	
4	Non-Town owned public facilities provide significant resources to community members and should be encouraged.	Implemented	
5	Unstructured recreational opportunities contribute positively and significantly to the character of the community and care should be taken to preserve these opportunities.	Implemented	

Policy #	Policy	Status	Notes
6	The importance of the Lake to the community and its economy should be continually recognized and action taken where necessary to keep this resource available and attractive for future generations. Water-based tourism should be emphasized, plans developed, and funding identified to expand water-based opportunities such as a community boathouse	Implemented	
7	Where snowmobile trails are present or anticipated, the Town should work with local snowmobile clubs to minimize conflicts between anticipated development and these recreational opportunities.	Ongoing	
8	As it is deemed necessary, the Town should plan for four-wheeling and mountain biking uses in a manner that provides sufficient opportunities but that minimizes property damage and other conflicts	Implemented	
9	Hunting and fishing are important local traditions. To preserve these traditions, large landowners should be encouraged not to post property and developments within rural and outlying areas should be designed so as to be sensitive to these types of recreation.	Ongoing	
10	Private recreational industries, such as marinas, should be recognized as creating important recreational opportunities for the community and also significantly impacting tourism	Ongoing	
11	Private sporting and cultural venues that positively contribute to community recreational opportunities should be encouraged	Ongoing	
12	The Town should continue to support the range of wellness services and activities that serve the community as these organizations, programs, and services combine to make Colchester a healthier community.	Implemented	
13	Community organizations should continue to be encouraged as these organizations compliment the range of recreational offerings within the community and often contribute to the Town's diverse culture and community spirit	Implemented	
14	As Colchester continues to grow, care should be taken to preserve and enhance public access to the Lake especially within the area connecting Bayside Park to the Town-owned parcel on East Lakeshore Drive	Implemented	
15	As the Town looks to establish itself as a premier destination for recreation, efforts should be made to increase the visibility and publicity of the area.	Implemented	
Education			
1	As part of any Town effort to quantify costs and benefits of residential development, costs associated with school capital projects, which are attributable to a development, should be paid by the permittee. The Town and School District should work together to monitor and maintain capital plans, budgets, and impact fees to ensure that this occurs.	Implemented	
2	The Town should seek opportunities for mutually beneficial sharing of services, facilities and personnel with the School District. It is recommended that municipal and school resources be combined wherever legally possible to help minimize costs.	Ongoing	
3	Lifelong learning in the community should be an educational priority	Ongoing	
4	The School Board should continue to examine all alternatives such as consolidated supervisory unions or regional negotiations to keep per student costs as low as possible while still providing a quality education.	Ongoing	
5	The Town supports the development of a regional technical center that will provide a skilled workforce for Town businesses and future businesses	No Longer Applicable	Tech Center no longer project.
6	The Town will continue to work with Saint Michael's College and the University of Vermont to encourage the continued investment of these institutions within the community.	Ongoing	
7	This Colchester School District Vision/Strategic Plan 2012-2017 will provide the goals for the school district and the -community with regard to K-12 education during the term of this plan.	Ongoing	
Housing Chapter			
1	Colchester's land use plan should continue to guide residential development	Implemented	
2	Residential density increases within the Severance Corners growth center may be considered	Implemented	

Policy #	Policy	Status	Notes
3	Village planning areas may be suited to additional residential opportunities; however not all village areas are currently conducive to additional residential opportunities and additional development should not detract from the character of these areas.	Implemented	
4	Infill residential development should continue to occur within the Suburban Residential planning area	Implemented	
5	The Town should consider developing a wastewater allocation ordinance that allocates future reserve capacity for housing	Implemented	
6	The Town should continue to pursue additional wastewater treatment capacity to assist in meeting residential demands in the designated growth center.	Implemented	
7	Density bonuses and other incentives for affordable housing, particularly starter homes and senior housing, should be considered to assist in meeting the Town's housing needs within medium and high density areas	Ongoing	
8	Owner occupied residential opportunities are encouraged over rental for infill development	No Longer Applicable	The Town can not affectuate.
9	Current programs such as the Town's building code program, on-site wastewater program, and on-site wastewater revolving loan program should be continued and enhanced as these programs help to ensure the quality of Colchester's homes as safe and decent places to live	Ongoing	
10	Opportunities for affordable homes and senior housing, such as smaller dwellings on small lots, should be encouraged within the limits of zoning	Ongoing	
11	The Town should continue to work with regional and state entities and organizations to seek solutions for regional housing and affordable housing needs. A healthy regional housing market is important for the future of economic development within the region	Ongoing	
12	The Town should consider forming public/private partnerships, such as revolving loan funds for mobile home replacement, which promote affordable housing	Ongoing	
Energy & Telecommunications Chapter			
1	The Town will promote sustainable development patterns that minimize energy use through internal and external connectivity and the promotion of alternative transportation options	Ongoing	
2	The Town will continue to require, through its Building Codes and inspection program that construction meets or exceeds accepted energy conservation standards. To this end, efficient building operation, maintenance and landscaping should be encouraged in design	Ongoing	
3	The Town should adopt a comprehensive energy plan that addresses energy conservation in the construction, operation, and maintenance of its facilities and equipment. The Town should be a leader in demonstrating energy conservation with the community	Ongoing	
4	The Town should partner with energy conservation organizations and programs such as the 10% Challenge, LEED, the Champlain Valley Weatherization Service, and Shareheat to ensure the continued availability of adequate, safe, and affordable energy resources for the community	Implemented	
5	The Town will continue to encourage the development of renewable energy resources in Colchester such as wind turbines, solar panels, biomass fuels, methane, silvicultural operations, and geothermal cooling.	Implemented	
6	Utility infrastructure should be upgraded and expanded as necessary; however, care shall be taken to appropriately site and screen this infrastructure. Wherever possible, new or relocated electric cables, communication cables, transmission lines, switches and similar equipment shall be located underground and so as not to interfere with or impair Colchester's development plans	Ongoing	
7	The extension of natural gas service to areas not currently served is encouraged by the Town	No Longer Applicable	No expansions planned.

Policy #	Policy	Status	Notes
8	The Town will continue to foster a variety of telecommunications infrastructure. To this end, the Town will encourage solutions that minimize possible conflicts that might arise from these varied sources. Emergency broadcasting capabilities should be preserved first and foremost	Ongoing	
9	The Town shall continue to work toward a comprehensive, fast, and reliable telecommunications network for the community. To this end, partnering with public and/or private companies may be appropriate	Ongoing	
10	The Town will continue to promote co-location of telecommunication facilities and appropriate siting and screening of these facilities from larger towers to smaller residential dishes	No Longer Applicable	Town has no input on review process.
11	As Colchester has a substantial telecommunications industry presence, it should continue to foster the growth and development of these businesses and, as appropriate, participate in regional, State, and Federal dialogues regarding telecommunications	Ongoing	
12	The Town should, to the greatest extent possible, utilize its telecommunications infrastructure and networking technology to increase community outreach efforts. Current examples are the broadcasting of Town meetings and forums on local access television. Possible future examples include emerging Internet news syndication protocols, access to Public Information stored digitally on Town servers	Implemented	
13	Future growth should be coordinated with telecommunications providers to ensure that areas of expansion are adequately served	No Longer Applicable	Town has no input on review process.
14	The Town will leverage its investment in digital technology and access to high-speed networks to expand the concept of "e-government" in Colchester. This on-line technology could make Town services and information available 24/7, 365 days a year	Implemented	
Transportation Chapter			
1	Roadway construction and reconstruction projects must address stormwater treatment and required stormwater permitting. Stormwater treatment for all impervious surfaces, including parking lots, is a good practice to preserve and enhance water quality	Implemented	
2	The Official Map delineates future transportation network improvements and other facilities. Developments, road projects, and all other plans shall take into consideration the Official Map and should implement the proposed improvements to the greatest extent possible	Ongoing	
3	The Town planning process shall address the expansion of utilities and provide guidance for the reconstruction of roadways, including the Route 127 corridor	Ongoing	
4	Traffic studies that address both capacity and safety issues shall continue to be required as part of the development review process. Where necessary, improvement to the transportation infrastructure will be required as part of development projects	Ongoing	
5	The capital transportation program is a significant benefit to the community which should be sustained	Implemented	
6	The Town may impose development impact assessments where private projects are anticipated to necessitate transportation improvements. The Town should evaluate methods for fairly distributing the cost of road improvements and maintenance associated with new development or redevelopment	No Longer Applicable	Impact fee evaluated and determined
7	New curb-cuts to arterial roadways should be avoided, with shared curb-cuts and side streets utilized for access wherever possible. The Town should maintain its regulations on access management	Implemented	
8	The Town should implement bus service along the Roosevelt Highway corridor in coordination with CCTA to serve the Severance Corners growth center and commercial development at Exit 16	Implemented	
9	Light-rail solutions should be explored where feasible. If light-rail mass transit solutions are proposed through Colchester, stations or stops within the Town should be encouraged. Expansion of freight rail should be limited to existing rail corridors with the creation of rail yards being prohibited	No Longer Applicable	VTrans light rail project abandoned.
10	The development of alternative transportation infrastructure such as commuter lots will be encouraged by the Town	Implemented	

Policy #	Policy	Status	Notes
11	New subdivisions and other developments should provide for and encourage bicycle access, circulation and parking. Bicycle paths may be required to be built as part of subdivisions. Easements may be required to be dedicated to the Town for future bicycle paths	Implemented	
12	The Town will consider bicycle path improvements in designing, scheduling and constructing roadway improvement projects. Where possible and practical, the Town will strive to provide Class I paths along arterial and collector roadways as well as on-road facilities.	Implemented	
13	Sidewalks should be implemented as land use plans require. The need for sidewalks is particularly important on roads carrying heavy traffic volumes through developed areas including Exit 16	Implemented	
14	While new private roads should generally be discouraged, the Town should be afforded the opportunity to consider the use of private transportation infrastructure to facilitate sustainable development patterns or innovative development such as high-density new urbanism	Implemented	
15	The CCRPC's Transportation Improvement Plan as well as other State and Federal funds are important sources of funding for transportation infrastructure and Colchester should continue to take advantage of these opportunities to bolster local funding for improvements to the transportation network. As non-local funding sources diminish or shift priorities, it will become increasingly important for the Town to develop creative solutions for funding projects that are more self-reliant	Implemented	
16	The Town shall work to implement the recommendations of the Route 127 Corridor Study	Ongoing	
17	The Exit 16 improvements and Severance Corners Intersection improvements are top priorities for the community in looking to replicate the goals of the Circ Highway through alternative forms of delivery now that the highway project has been terminated. ⁷ As these projects have been funded and listed as high priorities in this process, construction should progress as expeditiously as feasible	Ongoing	
18	Interconnectivity between developments shall be required to the greatest extent feasible. The creation of cul de sacs should be discouraged. New cul de sacs should be designed to be temporary and to provide future connections whenever possible. Future connections between neighborhoods shall be addressed by all development projects	Implemented	
19	A new arterial roadway connecting Hercules Drive and Rte. 15 would decrease travel time, increase efficiency, and reduce traffic volumes in the Exit 16 area and in Winooski's central business district. This is a project with regional significance and should be pursued in conjunction with the Regional Planning Commission and the U.S. Army Administration	Not Implemented	Longer term than plan.
20	The Public Works Standards and Specifications provide diversified standards based in part on land use. These Standards shall be updated as needed to reflect changes in land use planning and evolving technologies	Implemented	
21	Current Zoning Regulations promote Transportation Demand Management principles through the use of parking standards for large parking facilities, the requirement of bicycle parking, and enabling shared parking concepts. These efforts should be sustained and strengthened	Ongoing	
22	The efforts of the SSTA to provide transportation services for the disabled and the elderly should be sustained; however, efficiencies should be looked to as demand continues to escalate	Implemented	
23	A bicycle path between Colchester Pond and Airport Park shall be the priority bicycle path for Colchester to complete. This route shall act as a trunk line that all other bicycle routes shall strive to tie into. The Town shall strive to integrate this trunk-line and other bicycle paths with bicycle routes of adjacent communities	Ongoing	
24	While the maintenance and repair of the existing transportation network will remain a priority, the construction of new projects that build capacity shall also be of importance to the community	Ongoing	
25	The Lake Champlain Byways program should continue to be supported for its importance in promoting alternative transportation and tourism	Ongoing	
26	The Town shall continue to partner with the Vermont Highway Bridge Program to maintain its infrastructure	Implemented	

Policy #	Policy	Status	Notes
27	Intelligent Transportation Systems Architecture shall be utilized to the greatest degree possible to promote local and regional efficiencies. The Town should continue to work with the State and -agencies providing mutual aid to ensure standardization of -pre-emption devices	Implemented	
Utilities & Services Chapter			
1	The Town should continue to work with the State to successfully administer the State’s water and wastewater permitting program. To this end, the State should be encouraged to create efficiencies and improvements to this program that better facilitate permitting efficiencies at the local level	Ongoing	
2	The Town should investigate the feasibility of a local onsite wastewater management program	No Longer Applicable	Investigated and found not possible un
3	On-site septic systems will continue to be cost-effective solutions for providing wastewater disposal outside of Colchester’s sewer service areas during the term of this plan. The Town should continue to encourage upgrades and new technologies that improve the environmental soundness of onsite systems	Ongoing	
4	The 2002 Exit 17 Wastewater Study should be a reference for development within this area until such time as plans may be considered to establish municipal sewer service within this area	Ongoing	
5	Care should be taken to develop priorities for wastewater -allocation and update the Town’s wastewater management plan accordingly during the term of this plan. The Town’s Sewage Ordinance should prioritize wastewater allocation based on land use goals instead of a first-come first-served method of distributing allocation.	Implemented	
6	Sewer service areas shall be planned to implement the community’s land use planning goals as provided within this plan and to maximize the cost-effectiveness of investments	Implemented	
7	The Town shall participate in any consideration of sewer service expansion by other organizations, such as Fire Districts, as any expansion of sewer service areas impacts the Town’s land use planning and has the potential to reprioritize priority areas for growth	Implemented	
8	The Town shall participate in and encourage regional discussions regarding wastewater and regional wastewater utilities	Implemented	
9	As the Town continues to grow, it should ensure that property owners have access to municipal water supply systems in an effort to provide safe, efficient, and affordable potable water for the community where possible	Ongoing	
10	Water lines should be looped wherever feasible to ensure continuity of water pressure	Ongoing	
11	The Town should take appropriate actions to ensure adequate water supply for the implementation of its land use goals. During the term of this plan, the Town should work to implement, in conjunction with the Fire Districts, the recommendations of the current 20-year water needs analysis project	Ongoing	
12	As the Town continues to grow and looks to expand municipal water infrastructure and opportunities, the efficiency of scale of municipal fire districts should be examined	Ongoing	
13	The Town should continue to work with the Chittenden Solid Waste District to evaluate the community’s needs	Implemented	
14	The Town should continue its current efforts regarding stormwater and, where feasible, expand these efforts.	Implemented	
15	The Town should evaluate implementing a stormwater utility	Implemented	
16	The Town will continue to work to ensure that pre-emption devices are installed on all new and retrofitted traffic lights	Implemented	
17	The effect of land use goals and fire protection services on one another should be recognized and a balance sought. As Colchester strives to implement its land use goals, the Town should continue the dialogue with fire protection agencies to minimize adverse impacts to fire services while fulfilling its land use goals	Implemented	
18	The Town will continue to work cooperatively with the various agencies and organizations that assist the Town in maintaining the fabric of the community, providing services for individuals with special needs, and planning for the future of the Town within its greater regional community	Implemented	
19	Protecting surface water from stormwater impacts is a high priority in review of proposed developments.	Implemented	

Policy #	Policy	Status	Notes
20	The Town should maintain and enhance the overall high quality of services delivered to Colchester residents and businesses and constrain costs to tax and ratepayers	Implemented	
21	The Town should increase the contribution and participation of people who live and work in Colchester	Ongoing	

Key	
Symbol	Defintion
Implemented	Policy was implemented successfully between 2014 and 2019.
Ongoing	Policy was not fully implemented but will continue in 2019.
No Longer Applicable	Policy is no longer applicable and will not be implemented.
Not Implemented	Policy was not implemented.



2019 Town Plan Policies - Implementation Table

Policy #	Policy	Status									
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
The Lands of Colchester Chapter											
1	No rezonings should occur during the term of this plan except as called for herein										
2	Severance Corners should remain a Growth Center and be the focus of new development over the term of this plan										
3	The Town will continue to work with the State on advancing intersection and bike/ped improvements at Severance Corners and Exit 16 during the term of this plan										
4	The Town will work with the State to advance regional projects such as the Exit 17 Scoping Study and Route 15 Corridor plan to address the impacts of traffic growth on the community										
5	Continued cooperative efforts between the Towns of Colchester and Essex to support the Fort as a cultural center, and the expansion and vitality of businesses and institutions located here										
6	At such time as feasible, a connection should be made between Exit 16 and the Fort										
7	The Malletts Bay Initiative infrastructure improvements should begin under the term of this plan and remain a priority to maintain and improve water quality										
8	The Route 127 Corridor Plan should continue to be implemented as funding allows and within the context of town-wide transportation priorities. Preservation of right of ways along the abandoned circumferential highway, for the possibility of limited emergency access and or bike / ped connections is encouraged										
9	Affordable public transit to the growth center should be maintained. Private development of walking and biking infrastructure within the center should be required to connect the center to surrounding neighborhoods										
10	Infill of village mixed use areas is to be encouraged to make best use of land and to be compatible with bike/ped infrastructure										
Natural Heritage Chapter											
1	The Town will work with local, regional, and State partners to implement the recommendations of the Lamoille and Winooski Basin Plans as well as the Lake Champlain TMDL										
2	During the term of this plan, Colchester will continue to look to its Integrated Water Resources Management Plan for guidance on sustaining and improving water quality										
3	The Town should continue its work to reduce flood insurance rates and improve flood resiliency										
4	The Open Space Plan should continue to be used in the municipal development review process										
5	Opportunities for hunting should not be excluded from land conservation and landowners should be encouraged not to post property and developments										
6	The maintenance of forest blocks and the habitat corridors between them is encouraged and landowners are recommended to develop and implement forestry plans										
7	Forested areas should be promoted for various environmental and economic reasons including the use of carbon offsets that may offer economic and environmental benefits										
8	The Town should continue to work with organizations such as the Intervale Center to promote incubator farms, succession planning, and business plans for new and existing farms.										
9	The Town should continue to be supportive of land conservation and the use of prime agriculture mitigation money acquired through the State's Act 250 process for local conservation projects										
10	Development Regulations should continue to allow for a variety of on-the-farm businesses and agri-tourism to support and supplement agricultural operations										
Our Homes Chapter											
1	Colchester's land use plan should continue to guide residential development										
2	Village planning areas may be suited to additional residential opportunities, however not all village areas are currently conducive to additional residential opportunities and additional development should not detract from the character of these areas										



Policy #	Policy	Status								
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
3	Infill residential development should continue to occur within the Suburban Residential planning area									
4	The Town will continue to comply with the Vermont Fair Housing Act in its regulations									
5	Current programs such as the Town’s building code program, on-site wastewater program, and health officer program should be continued and enhanced as these programs help to ensure the quality and safety of Colchester’s homes									
6	The Town should promote energy efficiency improvements such as weatherization, efficient heating systems, and utilization of renewable energy sources									
7	The Town should continue to work with housing providers, regional and state entities, and other organizations to seek solutions for regional housing and leverage affordable housing and improvements to affordable housing within Colchester									
8	Co-housing, home-shares, and other programs that provide support to first-time buyers and aging residents should be promoted within Colchester									
Powering Colchester Chapter										
1	The Transportation Capital Plan should be used to leverage funding for the continued implementation of multi-use paths throughout the community									
2	The Town should continue to partner with Green Mountain Transit to provide mass transit options for residents									
3	Infill and cluster development, such as PUDs, should continue to be encouraged through the Development Regulations in conjunction with the Village Mixed Use and Growth Center areas to reduce energy needs and support densities that could, long term, support investments such as heat plants									
4	The Town should promote weatherization and other sustainable energy investments by the community and continue to serve as a model through implementing improvements and efficiencies to Town facilities									
5	The Town should consider joining ICLEI as a means of promoting sustainability and receiving technical support in its energy efforts									
6	Much of Colchester’s economy has historically relied on agricultural production within the Town. The Town should continue to promote local food as a means to reduce carbon footprint associated with food production. Continued efforts by the Colchester Food Shelf to glean and reduce food waste should also continue to be supported as about one third of the food produced for human consumption worldwide is wasted increasing both carbon and methane gas from production and discard									
7	While Act 250 has helped to promote stretch energy codes, many existing properties in Colchester are subject to pre-existing Act 250 permits that specifically ban electric heat. The conversion of these properties to electric heating may require work with the District Commission. The Town should be supportive of such modifications as electricity becomes an affordable thermal source and assist property owners with navigating this process									
8	Building codes and development requirements should be continuously re-evaluated to include new technologies that improve efficiency and the use of renewable resources. Barriers to the installation of heat pumps and other bridge technologies, especially for thermal use, should be reduced or eliminated									
9	At the time of the development of this plan, suitable metrics for many of these milestone are not yet identified. During the term of this plan, the Town should work with CCRPC to quantify progress									
Who We Are Chapter										
1	To the extent possible, the Town should encourage important archaeological sites be identified and avoided by development; thereby preserving the sites for future generations and reducing development costs									
2	Colchester’s historic and cultural properties are opportunities for economic development through expanded tourism and adaptive reuse of historic buildings. The Town should encourage the preservation and rehabilitation of historic structures in Colchester through its regulations, policies, and budget. Changes to historic structures should be sympathetic to the structure and, consider the Secretary of Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties									
3	Community organizations, such as the Historical Society, that serve as stewards of the Town’s historical and cultural resources are important community assets and should be sustained									



Policy #	Policy	Status								
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
4	Private development of cultural facilities, including religious facilities, should continue to be encouraged as they are important in facilitating a sense of community while supporting cultural diversity.									
5	As the community becomes more diverse, the Town should look to preserve and expand upon its cultural facilities, including private facilities, in order to sustain and enhance the community's quality of life									
6	The work of organizations providing exposure to and education on various cultures should continue to be supported									
7	Cultural and historical events should continue to be celebrated, promoted, and expanded upon.									
8	Opportunities for engagement and outreach should continually be assessed and potential barriers addressed.									
9	Mobility impairments and other special needs will continue to be addressed and accommodated									
Serving Colchester Chapter										
1	Increase participation in Town government and services									
2	Maintain a level of services and maintenance of Town assets in accordance with the voter's ability to support and grow services as the Town grows									
3	Make improvements to Bayside-Hazlett property and Bayside Park, ultimately leading to the creation of an indoor recreation facility									
4	Provide a framework for safe development through ordinance and regulations									
Cultivating Colchester										
1	The Town should seek opportunities for mutually beneficial sharing of services, facilities and personnel with the School District									
2	Lifelong learning in the community is an educational priority									
3	The Colchester School District Vision/Strategic Plan will provide the goals for the school district and the -community with regard to K-12 education during the term of this plan									
4	Higher educational facilities, such as St. Michael's College and the Albany College of Pharmacy, are an asset to the community and should continue to be supported by the community									
5	The Development Regulations should continue to promote passive recreation and connectivity of trail networks									
6	Opportunities for new and expanded medical uses should be allowed within the village mixed use, business, and growth center districts									
7	Markets, community sustained agriculture, and other partnerships to increase food options and access should continue to be encouraged									
8	Increased public gathering spaces and opportunities for social connectedness, such as events and programing, should be encouraged through development review and Town programing									
9	Create and encourage health care partnerships									
10	As the State of Vermont looks to increase focus on early childhood education, new and expanded child care centers and registered homes should be encouraged.									
Our Economy Chapter										
1	The Heritage Plan and Economic Development Action Plan will continue to be used as a metric to gage and guide economic development planning in Colchester									
2	Colchester supports the continually changing needs of agriculture									
3	The Town should continue to participate in such regional and state-wide conversations about economic development as it exists within these larger markets									
4	The Town of Colchester encourages sustainable and diverse economic growth that creates well-paying, livable wage jobs									
5	The community's attributes should be utilized to foster economic development through the use of such tools as tourism and recreation									
6	Colchester's land use planning should shape appropriate areas for economic development with diverse opportunities									



Policy #	Policy	Status								
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
7	The Town will maintain and foster partnerships with organizations that can assist in the promotion of Colchester through efforts such as prospect tours									
8	Infill development is to be encouraged and efforts made to retain and expand existing businesses within the community									
Getting There Chapter										
1	The Transportation Capital Plan provides a continual source of funding for projects that can be used to leverage additional money to complete significant projects within Colchester and should be sustained.									
2	Developments, road projects, and all other plans shall take into consideration the Official Map and should implement the proposed improvements to the greatest extent possible									
3	Traffic studies that address both capacity and safety issues shall continue to be required as part of the development review process. Where necessary, improvement to the transportation infrastructure will be required as part of development projects									
4	New curb-cuts to arterial roadways should be avoided, with shared curb-cuts and side streets utilized for access wherever possible. The Town should maintain its access management restrictions									
5	While passenger rail expansion is encouraged, expansion of freight rail should be limited to existing rail corridors with the creation of rail yards being prohibited									
6	Colchester will continue to support the development of park and ride facilities that promote ride sharing, bus service, transportation demand management and alternative transportation options that have the potential to decrease vehicle miles traveled									
7	The Town will consider bicycle path improvements in designing, scheduling and constructing roadway improvement projects. Where possible and practical, the Town will strive to provide Class I paths along arterial and collector roadways and improve on-road facilities									
8	Sidewalks should be implemented per land use plans. The need for sidewalks is particularly important on roads carrying heavy traffic volumes through developed areas including Exit 16. Easements for future sidewalks should continue to be required through the development review process to support land use plans									
9	While new private roads should generally be discouraged, the Town should be afforded the opportunity to consider the use of private transportation infrastructure to facilitate sustainable development patterns or innovative development such as high-density new urbanism.									
10	The CCRPC's Transportation Improvement Plan and other State and Federal funds are important sources of funding for transportation infrastructure and Colchester should continue to take advantage of these opportunities to bolster local funding for improvements to the transportation network. As non-local funding sources diminish or priorities shift, it will become increasingly important for the Town to develop creative solutions for funding projects that are more self-reliant									
11	Interconnectivity between developments shall be required to the greatest extent feasible. The creation of cul de sacs should be discouraged. New cul de sacs should be designed to be temporary and to provide future connections whenever possible. Future connections between neighborhoods shall be addressed by all development projects									
12	The Public Works Standards and Specifications provide diversified standards based in part on land use. These Standards shall be updated as needed to reflect changes in land use planning and evolving technologies									
13	The Lake Champlain Byways program should continue to be supported for its importance in promoting alternative transportation and tourism									
14	The Town shall continue to partner with the Vermont Highway Bridge Program to maintain its infrastructure									
15	Intelligent Transportation Systems Architecture shall be utilized to the greatest degree possible to promote local and regional efficiencies and reduce congestion									
16	Roadway safety should continue to be improved and the Colchester Traffic Calming Manual deployed as needed through the cooperative efforts of the Colchester Police and Public Works Departments									
Systems & Connections Chapter										



Policy #	Policy	Status								
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
1	The Malletts Bay Sewer Project is a high priority to implement during the term of this plan to address high risk septic areas and water quality in Lake Champlain									
2	The Town should continue to work with the State to successfully administer the State’s water and wastewater permitting program.									
3	The Town should continue to encourage upgrades and new technologies that improve the environmental soundness of onsite systems									
4	The Town’s Sewage Ordinance should continue to prioritize wastewater allocation based on land use goals									
5	The Town should take appropriate actions to ensure adequate water supply for the implementation of its land use goals. During the term of this plan, the Town should work to implement, in conjunction with the Fire Districts, the recommendations of the current 20-year water needs analysis project									
6	The efficiency of scale of municipal fire districts should be examined									
7	The Town should continue to work with the Chittenden Solid Waste District to consider a drop off center to better meet the Town’s needs									
8	The Town Stormwater Utility will continue to advance stormwater improvements within the community and advance the Colchester Clean Water Initiative.									
9	The Town will continue to foster a variety of telecommunications infrastructure. To this end, the Town will encourage solutions that minimize possible conflicts that might arise from these varied sources. Emergency broadcasting capabilities should be preserved first and foremost									
10	The Town shall continue to encourage a comprehensive, fast, and reliable telecommunications network for the community that does not diminish the character of the area or create conflict with the planned future land use									
11	The Town will continue to promote co-location of telecommunication facilities and appropriate siting and screening of these facilities from larger towers to smaller residential dishes.									



2019 Town Plan Actions - Implementation Table

Action #	Action	Status									
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
The Lands of Colchester Chapter											
1	The Planning Commission shall not consider rezoning except as called for in this plan or that correct spot zones or split lots										
2	The Town should apply for renewal of the Growth / New Town Center with the State as necessary over the term of this plan										
3	Within three years of adoption of this plan, fluvial erosion hazard standards should be evaluated for incorporation into the Development Regulations. Development shall continue to be prohibited in the floodplain and redevelopment only allowed that addressed Development Regulation requirements for floodproofing										
4	The AMU zoning should be revisited within six years of adoption of this plan. The remainder of the rural lands in this neighborhood that are not precluded from development by floodplains should be considered for AMU zoning										
5	The zoning on East Lakeshore Drive and similar areas should be examined within two years of adoption of this plan to address view preservation as rebuilds along the Shoreline continue										
6	The zoning for Clay Point should be re-evaluated within two years of adoption of this plan to determine what zoning would best maintain the character of the area and the planned rural land use.										
7	The GD4 zoning at Exit 17 should be evaluated within five years of the adoption of this plan to consider opportunities for development that would not negatively impact economic growth opportunities for this neighborhood over the long-term										
8	Within seven years of adoption of this plan, the zoning for Marble Island should be reevaluated to determine if better zoning could be created that would maintain the rural character but maintain residential densities and setbacks										
9	Within five years of adoption of this plan, the zoning of the Northeast Quadrant should be reviewed for possible incorporation of fixed area based density cluster developments and more opportunities for recreational uses and on-the-farm enterprises and event facilities										
10	During the term of this plan, grants to evaluate public transportation options for the Bay should be explored to see if there is a cost effective service that could provide reasonable service time to Burlington										
Natural Heritage Chapter											
1	Maintain the FEMA Community Rating System										
2	Colchester's current regulations should be examined to consider additional river corridor protections and fluvial erosion hazard zone areas										
3	The Open Space Plan should be updated during the term of this plan and the mapping of resources should be improved as feasible										
4	Management plans for natural areas should be developed and deployed as feasible with recreational uses receiving due consideration										
5	The community should continue its efforts to building resilience against climate effects by maintaining flood and hot weather emergency preparedness plans										
6	The Town should actively engage farmers and other agriculture entrepreneurs in developing strategies for supporting the changing face of agriculture										
Our Homes Chapter											
1	During the term of this plan, the Town should maintain its growth center designation at Severance Corners as a means to promoting mixed income housing that accommodates regional need										
2	The Health Officer should continue to monitor the number of rental units and associated complaints annually and work with the Building Inspector to address necessary code improvements including, if warranted, a more proactive inspection process or program										
3	Possible violations of the Vermont Fair Housing Act reported to or discovered by the Health Officer will be reported to appropriate enforcement authorities such as Vermont Legal Aid or the Vermont Attorney General's Office										
4	The Town should pursue partnerships with financing agencies for energy efficient mobile home replacements to maintain and enhance mobile homes as affordable owned housing.										
5	The Colchester Department of Planning and Zoning should investigate the requirements for Federal Housing Administration financing approvals for condominium associations during the term of the plan and, if found to be tenable reach out to associations to promote receiving and maintaining such approvals										
6	Universal design for occupancy during all stages of life and at all ability levels should be evaluated during the term of this plan as well as other code improvements										
7	During the term of this plan, Planning and Zoning Staff should work to evaluate the benefit of additional code requirements to reduce energy and increase sustainability in construction while considering the need for affordability										
Powering Colchester Chapter											



Action #	Action	Status									
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
1	While Colchester’s building codes have stringent requirements for enhancing energy efficiency in construction, additional standards such as green construction or net zero requirements could be added to further reduce energy use related to buildings. During the term of this plan, Planning and Zoning Staff should work to evaluate the benefit of additional code requirements to reduce energy and increase sustainability in construction while considering the need for affordability										
2	The Town should designate an energy ombudsperson within Planning and Zoning to direct community members to sources of information regarding weatherization and other energy efficiency opportunities within a year of adoption of this plan										
3	The Town should evaluate the designation of the Planning Commission as an official energy committee to promote and evaluate energy planning on the behalf of the Town working with an ombudsperson in Planning and Zoning. The Town should partner with groups such as Button Up Vermont, Efficiency Vermont, GMP, the Champlain Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO), and pursue grants to promote information on weatherization and other energy improvements.										
4	During the term of this plan, the Town should site another solar photo voltaic generation facility on Town land so as to approach a goal of producing electrical energy close to the total amount consumed by the Town directly										
5	The Town should continue to work with organizations such as the Champlain Housing Trust to make their existing properties more energy efficient and to provide other alternatives to home owners in our community through their programs										
6	The Development Regulations should be revised within three years to include standards for electric car charging stations and include further incentives within the parking standards for transportation demand management or other vehicle reductions										
7	The Town should continue to utilize ClearPath to monitor greenhouse gas emissions										
8	The Town should continue maintaining information on vehicle efficiency to improve the ClearPath model and inform decision making regarding the purchase of newer, more efficient, vehicles including electric vehicles										
9	The Town will continue to utilize the Vermont Community Energy Dashboard and keep updated with information on solar panel permits and other energy efficiency measures (retrofitting electric systems, replacing windows, etc.).										
10	The Town will implement a scorecard review process involving Planning and Zoning Staff and the Planning Commission to objectively assess sites for possible “preferred site” designation										
Who We Are Chapter											
1	The Town should explore participating in the Certified Local Government program and other State or Federal historic preservation programs during the term of this plan.										
2	The State Register and National Register listings for the Town should be used to assess the significance of historic buildings and structures. This inventory should be maintained and updated to provide accurate documentation of the Town’s historic resources										
3	The Town’s online presence should continue to be evaluated for accessibility and translation services for documents and meetings made available as necessary										
Serving Colchester Chapter											
1	Invite youth and others to attend public meetings										
2	Engage our boards and commissions with policy decisions										
3	Support and honor volunteers providing services to the Town										
4	Continue adaptive management of Town services under a private sector approach, respecting that the Town belongs to the community as represented by the voters, Selectboard, and boards and commissions										
5	Continue and grow public safety collaborations to improve services and cost-effectiveness										
6	Work with organizations that assist the Town in maintaining the fabric of the community, providing specialized services and government fee based utilities, and planning for the future of the Town within its greater regional community										
7	Advance the Bayside-Hazlett project as funding allows and continue the recreation impact fee in support of the needs of a growing community										
8	Re-evaluate Chapter Seven of the Colchester Code of Ordinances to promote the safety of those serving Colchester in emergency services										
Cultivating Colchester Chapter											
1	A comprehensive plan for elementary educational facilities in Colchester is expected to be advanced during the term of this plan. At such time as the School District requests, the Planning Commission should become engaged in reviewing any regulatory barriers to necessary school improvements										
2	As higher education continues to become more diversified and delivery of education more dispersed, the Development Regulations should be examined during the term of the plan to ensure these uses are widely allowed										
3	During the term of this plan, the first phases of the Bayside Park Master Plan are anticipated to be implemented resulting in increased recreational offerings benefiting the community.										



Action #	Action	Status									
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
4	Health and fitness clubs should continue to be widely allowed in the Development Regulations as these regulations are re-evaluated over the term of this plan										
5	Changes to the Development Regulations should be evaluated for community health impacts. Rezoning and other changes that would result in negative health impacts should not be permitted.										
6	Over the term of this plan, new options for improving social connectedness should be evaluated including dog parks, caregiver support, free arts and cultural events										
Our Economy Chapter											
1	The Colchester Economic Development Department will continue to assess marketing approaches and systems of delivery as part of its branding program and market niche development										
2	Colchester's economic development should continue to be focused within its existing commercial / industrial area at Exit 16 and its growth center at Severance Corners										
3	Village areas should continue to focus on the development of small businesses with broader markets and neighborhood scale services										
4	Home offices and similar uses should continue to be permissible and encouraged										
5	The Town will implement an on-line inventory of available commercial/industrial sites within a year of adoption of the plan										
6	As Development Regulations are amended, these regulations should be evaluated to ensure that new commercial and industrial uses are incorporated with no unnecessary barriers to growing sectors										
Getting There Chapter											
1	The Exit 16 improvements and Severance Corners Intersection improvements are top priorities for the community in looking to replicate the goals of the Circ Highway through alternative forms of delivery now that the highway project has been terminated. As these projects have been funded and listed as high priorities in this process, construction should progress as expediently as feasible and is expected during the term of this plan										
2	A new arterial roadway connecting Hercules Drive and Rte. 15 would decrease travel time, increase efficiency, and reduce traffic volumes in the Exit 16 area and in Winooski's central business district. This is a project with regional significance and should be pursued in conjunction with the Regional Planning Commission and the U.S. Army Administration at such time as the Camp Johnson facility transitions to another use.										
3	A bicycle path between Colchester Pond and Airport Park shall be the priority bicycle path for Colchester to complete. This route shall act as a trunk line that all other bicycle routes shall strive to tie into. The Town shall strive to integrate this trunk-line and other bicycle paths with bicycle routes of adjacent communities and acquire easements as opportunities present during the term of this plan										
4	The efforts of the SSTA to provide transportation services for the disabled and the elderly should be sustained; however, efficiencies should be looked to as demand and costs continue to escalate										
5	Roadway construction and reconstruction projects will address stormwater treatment and should preserve and enhance water quality										
6	Right of way for an east-west corridor providing access to the Inner Bay and Bay Neighborhoods should have easements acquired as opportunities present										
7	The Development regulations should continue to promote bicycle parking, shared parking concepts, and be reviewed as necessary to include electric charging facility standards and other technologies as new opportunities in the transportation sector continue to evolve.										
8	During the term of this plan, public transportation options should be evaluated to determine if there is a cost effective service that could provide reasonable service time to Burlington from the Bay										
Systems & Connections Chapter											
1	Onsite wastewater education and outreach should continue and State Wastewater Permits shall include requirements for maintenance as feasible and practicable										
2	The Malletts Bay Sewer Project should be implemented during the term of this plan within the Inner Bay neighborhood area.										
3	The waterline serving Severance Corners should be built within the first year of this plan to maintain adequate water pressure to serve the growth center										
4	A capital funding program for future stormwater investments should be considered during the term of this plan										
5	If local oversight of telecommunications facilities is reinstated by the State during the term of this plan, the Development Regulations should be revisited to ensure that new advances in equipment can be accommodated in Colchester to balance with our land use plans										
6	The Town should encourage regional discussions regarding services and utilities such as wastewater and continue efforts to work with staff and boards of adjacent communities to find efficiencies and improve services										

Energy Element Compliance Checklist – Colchester, VT

This document is intended to pool policies, actions, and relevant sections from the 2019 Town Plan in order to provide more targeted information regarding Colchester’s effort to attain an affirmative determination of energy compliance from the CCRPC.

Figures, Policies, Actions, and Sections are pulled from most current drafts as of January 15, 2019. Any changes made thereafter may void this document. Intent of final document will include page numbers.

Plan Adoption Requirement	
1. Has plan been duly adopted for confirmation under 24 V.S.A. §4350?	Adoption Date: TBA Confirmation Date: TBA
2. Is a copy of the plan attached?	Y
Energy Element Requirement	
3. Does Plan contain energy element per §4348a(a)(3)?	Y (see below)
Analysis & Targets Standard	
4. Does the energy element contain an analysis of energy needs, scarcities, costs, and problems within the municipality?	Energy Needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy – <i>Energy Sources subsection</i> Energy Scarcities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy – <i>Energy for Our Future subsection</i> Energy Costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy – <i>Energy Sources subsection</i> Energy Problems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy – <i>Energy Conservation subsection</i> • Energy – <i>Energy Sources subsection</i>
5. Does your plan contain an analysis that addresses A-E below, either as provided by your Regional Planning Commission or as developed by your municipality?	(Regionally provided, skip to #6.) Current electricity use and natural gas use estimates from 2016, and 2018 renewable generation data, provided by Energy Action Network, were used in place of CCRPC’s originally provided data, but this doesn’t affect the standard.
Pathways (Implementation Actions) Standards	
6. Does your plan’s energy element contain a statement of policy on the conservation and efficient use of energy?	a. Does the plan encourage conservation by individuals and organizations? Policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Policy #4 • Energy Policy #6 Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Action #2 • Energy Action #3 • Energy Action #5 Relevant Sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy – <i>Heating, Cooling, and Sealing the Cracks.</i>
	b. Does the plan promote efficient buildings? Policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Policy #4 • Energy Policy #8 Actions:

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Action #1 • Energy Action #5 Relevant Sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy – <i>Heating, Cooling, and Sealing the Cracks.</i>
	c. Does the plan promote decreased use of fossil fuels for heating?	Policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Policy #7 • Energy Policy #8 Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Action #4 Relevant Sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy <i>Table 1</i>
	d. Does the plan demonstrate the municipality’s leadership by example with respect to the efficiency of municipal buildings?	Policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Policy #4 Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Action #8 Relevant Sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy – <i>Greenhouse Gas Emissions</i> • Energy – <i>Energy Conservation</i>
	e. Other	
7. Does your plan’s energy element contain a statement of policy on reducing transportation energy demand and single-occupancy vehicle use, and encouraging use of renewable or lower-emission energy sources for transportation?	a. Does the plan encourage increased use of public transit?	Policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Policy #2 • Lands of Colchester Policy #9 Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Use Action #10 • Getting There Action #8 Relevant Sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy – <i>Transportation Trends</i>
	b. Does the plan promote a shift away from single-occupancy vehicle trips through strategies appropriate to the municipality?	Policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting There Policy #6 Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Action #6 Relevant Sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy – <i>Transportation Trends</i>
	c. Does the plan promote a shift away from gas/diesel vehicles to electric or other non-fossil fuel transportation options through strategies appropriate to the municipality?	Policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Action #6 • Getting There Action #7 Relevant Sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy – <i>Transportation Trends</i>
	d. Does the plan facilitate the development of walking and biking infrastructure through strategies appropriate to the municipality?	Policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Policy #1 • Getting There Policy #7 • Getting There Policy #8 Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lands of Colchester Policy #3 • Lands of Colchester Policy #10 • Getting There Action #3 <p>Relevant Sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy – <i>Transportation Trends</i>
	<p>e. Does the plan demonstrate the municipality’s leadership by example with respect to the efficiency of municipal transportation?</p>	<p>Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As state in the Getting There Chapter, the Town recently replaced more than 900 of its street lights with LEDs. resulting in a 50% reduction in energy costs for street lights. As noted in the Energy Chapter, the Town sold off older vehicles in 2015 reducing the number of vehicles owned by the Town. The Town replaced its Police fleet of Chevy Tahoe with a mixed fleet of smaller vehicles. The Town will continue to maintain information on the efficiency of its vehicles to continue to improve and optimize its fleet efficiency. <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Action #8 <p>Relevant Sections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy – <i>Greenhouse Gas Emissions</i>
<p>8. Does your plan’s energy element contain a statement of policy on patterns and densities of land use likely to result in conservation of energy?</p>	<p>f. Other</p> <p>a. Does the plan include land use policies (and descriptions of current and future land use categories) that demonstrate a commitment to reducing sprawl and minimizing low-density development?</p>	<p>Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lands of Colchester Policy #10 • Getting There Policy #11 <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lands of Colchester Action #6 • Lands of Colchester Action #8 • Lands of Colchester Action #9 <p>Relevant Sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lands of Colchester – <i>The Lands Between</i> • Lands of Colchester - <i>Our Rural Lands</i>
	<p>b. Does the plan strongly prioritize development in compact, mixed-use centers when physically feasible and appropriate to the use of the</p>	<p>Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Policy #3 • Lands of Colchester Policy #2 <p>Actions:</p>

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	<p>development, or identify steps to make such compact development more feasible?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lands of Colchester Action #2 <p>Relevant Sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy – <i>Transportation Trends</i> • Lands of Colchester – <i>Growth Center</i> • Lands of Colchester – <i>Our Mixed Use Village Neighborhood Areas</i>
	<p>c. Other</p>	<p>The energy chapter also includes a description of how Colchester’s agricultural lands and its encouragement of gleaning and farm stands, CSAs and other on-farm businesses reduce GHG emissions from food transportation and food waste.</p>
<p>9. Does your plan’s energy element contain a statement of policy on the development and siting of renewable energy resources?</p>	<p>a. Does the plan evaluate (estimates of or actual) generation from existing renewable energy generation in the region, and break this information out by municipality?</p>	<p>(Received info from CCRPC) Policies: In 2018, 12,928 MWh of energy production in Colchester was energy generated from renewable resources. We will continue tracking the energy generated with information provided by CCRPC and update these numbers once the Town’s Roosevelt Highway and Malletts Bay Ave project’s energy generated information is tallied.</p> <p>Actions: The Town will continue to work with CCRPC and the Energy Dashboard to quantify energy generation.</p> <p>Relevant Sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy – <i>Renewable Energy</i> • Solar & Wind sections
	<p>b. Does the plan analyze generation potential, through the mapping exercise (see Mapping standards, below), to determine potential from preferred and potentially suitable areas in the municipality?</p>	<p>Policies: With the maps provided by CCRPC and information from the ECOS plan, we will continue to track the potential of energy generation in Colchester.</p> <p>Actions: As mentioned above, we will continue to track potential energy generation with the assistance of the ECOS plan and CCRPC.</p> <p>Relevant Sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy – <i>Renewable Energy</i> • Solar & Wind sections • CCRPC Solar Map

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCRPC Wind Map • CCRPC Biomass Map • CCRPC Hydro Map
	<p>c. Does the plan identify sufficient land in the municipality for renewable energy development to reasonably reach 2050 targets for renewable electric generation, based on population and energy resource potential (from potential resources identified in the Mapping exercise, below), accounting for the fact that land may not be available due to private property constraints, site-specific constraints, or grid-related constraints?</p>	<p>Policies: We have included the CCRPC maps for solar and wind energy generation sites. Using these maps and other resources, applicants can apply for preferred site designation through the Town’s scorecard process. This process helps not to limit the potential of energy generation to specific sites.</p> <p>Actions: Potential constraints will continue to be reviewed and have the opportunity to be updated during the preferred sites designation process.</p> <p>Relevant Sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy – <i>Renewable Energy</i> • Solar & Wind sections • Energy – <i>Preferred Site Designation</i>
	<p>d. Does the plan ensure that any local constraints (locally designated resources or critical resources, from 12B and 12C under Mapping, below) do not prohibit or have the effect of prohibiting the provision of sufficient renewable energy to meet state, regional, or municipal targets?</p>	<p>Policies: Developing the preferred sites scorecard helps to avoid undue limitations on net-metering projects while providing community tailored constraints.</p> <p>Actions: Constraints can be found in the preferred sites designation overview process and will minimally affect the location of net metering projects.</p> <p>Relevant Sections: In order not to unduly limit renewables, the Town Plan does not provide specific constraints other than preferred neighborhoods. A separate process outside the Town Plan has been created for preferred sites noting local constraints.</p>
	<p>e. Does the plan include statements of policy to accompany maps (could include general siting guidelines), including statements of policy to accompany any preferred, potential, and unsuitable areas</p>	<p>Policies: The constraints and potential constraints represented on by the CCRPC are written into the plan, which shall be used to assist in the preferred sites designation process.</p> <p>Actions: The maps and information have</p>

Colchester Energy Element Checklist – 01/15/2019, [CCRPC Comments 2/5/2019](#)

	<p>for siting generation?</p>	<p>been included to assist in the preferred sites designation process and should be used by applicants to help identify constraints.</p> <p>Relevant Sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy – <i>Renewable Energy</i> • Solar & Wind Sections • Energy – <i>Preferred Site Designation</i>
	<p>f. Does the plan maximize the potential for renewable generation on preferred locations?</p>	<p>Policies: The Town has developed the preferred sites designation scorecard to evaluate which sites should be given this status and avoid limiting renewable energy potential to a small number of sites.</p> <p>Actions: The scorecard is incorporated by reference into the Town Plan as a separate document to allow for future revisions or actions, if necessary.</p> <p>Relevant Sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy – <i>Preferred Site Designation</i>
	<p>g. Does the plan demonstrate the municipality’s leadership by example with respect to the deployment of renewable energy?</p>	<p>Policies: The Town will continue to explore large scale net metering projects such as the 2 recent projects on Malletts Bay Ave and Roosevelt Highway.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Action #4 • Energy Action #10 <p>Relevant Sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy - <i>Solar</i>
	<p>h. Other</p>	
<p>Mapping Standards</p>		
<p>10. Does your plan contain one or more maps that address 11-13 below, as provided by your Regional Planning Commission or as developed by your municipality? (Y-Region or Y-Custom/N; if Y-Region, skip to #14; if Y-Custom, address 11-13 below)</p>	<p>Yes Map 13. - Regionally Provided.</p> <p>Maps of the state known and possible constraints will need to be included to meet the energy planning standards.</p>	

Staff Review of Draft 2019 Winooski Master Plan, Including Enhanced Energy Plan Review
Emily Nosse-Leirer, Senior Planner
February 6, 2019

The City of Winooski has requested, per 24 V.S.A. §4350, that the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (1) approve its draft 2019 Winooski Master Plan; and (2) confirm its planning process.

Additionally, the City of Winooski has requested that the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission issue a determination of compliance with the enhanced energy planning standards set forth in 24 V.S.A. §4352 for the draft 2019 Winooski Master Plan.

The Planning Advisory Committee reviewed this plan at their December 12, 2018 meeting and requested that several changes be made to the plan to ensure compliance with statutory requirements. Additionally, the PAC’s motion indicated that they would review the plan again before deciding whether to recommend that the CCRPC board grant approval, confirmation and a determination of energy compliance to the plan. The comments from the December PAC meeting and the City of Winooski’s response to them are summarized in the attached memo (dated December 13, 2018 and annotated February 6, 2019).

I have completed this formal review of the plan against the statutory requirements of 24 V.S.A. Chapter 117 and the Vermont Department of Public Service’s Energy Planning Standards for Municipal Plans in advance of the first City Council hearing on the plan on February 19, 2019.

Confirming and Approving the Municipal Plan

Following the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission’s (CCRPC’s) *Guidelines and Standards for Confirmation of Municipal Planning Processes and Approval of Municipal Plans (2018)* and the statutory requirements of 24 V.S.A. Chapter 117, I have reviewed the draft 2019 Winooski Master 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 2018 Chittenden County Regional Plan, entitled the *2018 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 draft 2019 Winooski Master Plan is consistent with the general goals of §4302. See the attached Appendix A submittal that describes how the Plan is consistent with these goals.
2. The draft 2019 Winooski Master 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.

**CCRPC Staff & PAC Review – 2019 Winooski Master Plan
February 13, 2019 PAC Meeting**

3. The draft 2019 Winooski Master Plan contains the required elements of §4382. See the attached Appendix A submittal that describes how the Plan is consistent with these goals.
4. The draft 2019 Winooski Master Plan is generally compatible with the planning areas, goals and strategies of the 2018 Chittenden County Regional Plan, entitled the *2018 Chittenden County ECOS Plan*.
5. The draft 2019 Winooski Master Plan is compatible with the municipal plans for South Burlington, Colchester and Burlington (both existing plans and upcoming drafts).
6. Winooski has a planning process in place that is sufficient for an approved plan. In addition, Winooski has provided information about their planning budget and CCRPC finds that Winooski is maintaining its efforts to provide local funds for municipal and regional planning.

Enhanced Energy Plan Review

Following the statutory requirements of 24 V.S.A. §4352 and Vermont Department of Public Service’s Energy Planning Standards for Municipal Plans, I have reviewed the draft 2019 Winooski Master Plan to determine whether:

1. The plan includes an energy element that has the same components as described in 24 V.S.A. §4348a(a)(3) for a regional plan and is confirmed under the requirements of 24 V.S.A. §4350.
2. The plan is consistent with the following State goals:
 - a. Vermont's greenhouse gas reduction goals under 10 V.S.A. § 578(a);
 - b. Vermont's 25 by 25 goal for renewable energy under 10 V.S.A. § 580;
 - c. Vermont's building efficiency goals under 10 V.S.A. § 581;
 - d. State energy policy under 30 V.S.A. § 202a and the recommendations for regional and municipal energy planning pertaining to the efficient use of energy and the siting and development of renewable energy resources contained in the State energy plans adopted pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 202 and 202b (State energy plans); and
 - e. The distributed renewable generation and energy transformation categories of resources to meet the requirements of the Renewable Energy Standard under 30 V.S.A. §§ 8004 and 8005.
3. The plan meets the standards for issuing a determination of energy compliance included in the State energy plans as developed by the Vermont Department of Public Service.

Staff Review Findings and Comments

Consistency with the requirements above is evaluated through the Vermont Department of Public Service’s Vermont Department of Public Service’s Energy Planning Standards for Municipal Plans, which is attached to this document and briefly summarized below.

Standard	Met	Not Met	N/A
1. Plan duly adopted and approved			Necessary for final determination
2. Submit a copy of the adopted plan			Necessary for final determination
3. Plan contains an energy element	X		

**CCRPC Staff & PAC Review – 2019 Winooski Master Plan
February 13, 2019 PAC Meeting**

4. Analysis of resources, needs, scarcities, costs and problems in the municipality across all energy sectors	X		
5.a. Report Current energy use for heating, electricity, and transportation	X		
5.b. Report 2025, 2035 and 2050 targets for energy use	X		
5.c. Evaluation of thermal-sector energy use changes	X		
5.d. Evaluation of transportation-sector energy use changes	X		
5.e. Evaluation of electric-sector energy use changes	X		
6.a. Encourage conservation by individuals and organizations	X		
6.b. Promote efficient buildings	X		
6.c. Promote decreased use of fossil fuels for heat	X		
6.d. Demonstrate municipal leadership re: efficiency of municipal buildings	X		
7.a. Encourage increased public transit use	X		
7.b. Promote shift away from single-occupancy vehicle trips	X		
7.d. Promote shift from gas/diesel to non-fossil fuel vehicles?	X		
7.e. Demonstrate municipal leadership re: efficiency of municipal transportation?	X		
8.a. Promote Smart growth land use policies	X		
8.b. Strongly prioritize development in compact, mixed use centers	X		
9.a. Report existing renewable energy generation	X		
9.b. Analyze generation potential	X		
9.c. Identify sufficient land to meet the 2050 generation targets			X
9.d. Ensure that local constraints do not prevent the generation targets from being met			X
9.e. Include policy statements on siting energy generation	X		
9.f. Maximize potential for generation on preferred sites	X		
9.g. Demonstrate municipal leadership re: deploying renewable energy	X		
10. Include maps provided by CCRPC	X		

As drafted, the draft 2019 Winooski Master Plan meets the requirements above.

Proposed Motion & Next Steps:

PROPOSED MOTION: The PAC finds that the draft 2019 Winooski Master Plan will meet all statutory requirements for CCRPC approval, and that the municipality's planning process meets all statutory requirements for CCRPC confirmation.

The PAC also finds that the draft 2019 Winooski Master Plan meets the requirements of the enhanced energy planning standards (“determination”) set forth in 24 V.S.A. §4352.

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. If staff determines that substantive changes have been made, the materials 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, confirmation, and an affirmative determination of energy compliance.

To: Winooski Planning Commission

From: Emily Nosse-Leirer, Senior Planner

Date: December 13, 2018 – [Annotated for PAC review on February 6, 2019](#)

Re: CCRPC Staff and Planning Advisory Committee Review of Draft 2019 Winooski Master Plan, Including Enhanced Energy Plan Review

Per the City of Winooski's request, the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission's staff and Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) reviewed the draft 2019 Winooski Master Plan in advance of tonight's public hearing. The review evaluated requirements for plan approval and confirmation; as well as whether the plan meets the standards of the Vermont Department of Public Service's Energy Planning Standards, should the City choose to pursue a determination of energy compliance. I completed a formal review of the plan against the statutory requirements of 24 V.S.A. Chapter 117 and the Vermont Department of Public Service's Energy Planning Standards for Municipal Plans in advance of the PAC discussion of the draft plan. You may access the formal review starting on page 19 here: https://www.ccrpcvt.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/PAC_Packet1_20181212.pdf.

Overall, staff and the PAC enjoyed the plan and especially liked the format of arranging topics under relevant city vision areas. The PAC also found that the Plan does a great job of describing who Winooski is and where you want to go. **The PAC identified a few changes (summarized below) necessary for the plan to meet Vermont's planning statutory requirements. Additionally, the PAC had a few other comments, summarized below, which may be useful to you as your public hearing process commences. After the requirements below are addressed, the PAC will review the plan again to recommend it to CCRPC's Board.**

Amendments to Meet Statutory Requirements

1. To be consistent with statutory planning requirements, the Winooski Master Plan must better address Goal 10 (Use of Resources).
 - [To address Goal 10 \(Use of Resources\), the plan should include information about why the goal isn't relevant for Winooski. The plan's section on adjoining municipalities does mention that there is an existing quarry operation just over the northern border with Colchester. However, compliance with the goal would be improved by including a table showing where each statutory requirement is met and indicating that this goal is not relevant to Winooski. \(The City of Burlington included a similar table in their latest draft of planBTV.\)](#)
 - [Appendix 1, "Alignment with State Requirements," has been added to the plan and addresses this requirement.](#)
2. On the future land use map on page 18 of the draft plan, the areas designated as "City Parks Zoned for Commercial or Industrial" caused confusion. The PAC understands that the City's plan is to retain these areas to support recreation in some way, rather than to sell them for commercial or industrial use. The PAC requests that the future land use map designate these areas as you would like to see them in the future, rather than expressing the existing zoning/use mismatch. (This mismatch is already shown on the existing land use map).
 - [Map 2, Future Land Use, has been updated to indicate that the future land use of these areas are not yet determined, and text has been added to explain the current situation and call for future conversations about it.](#)

3. The PAC liked the City's idea to implement the plan by completing an annual work program. However, it was suggested that the Implementation Program section on Page 29 say more explicitly that each plan incorporated by reference has specific actions that will be completed via these work programs.
 - [This section has been updated to refer to the specific plans, the adoption of committee and staff work plans and planning for the increased tax revenue that is expected to occur with the expiration of the City's TIF district in 2024.](#)

The PAC had a few other suggestions that may be helpful:

4. Not all maps have a legend, which can make some of them difficult to understand. Consider adding a legend to each map and/or having a separate appendix where each map can be seen in full size with legends. [Legends were added where necessary and larger maps were added at the end of the plan.](#)
5. There are policies in the plan's energy section and energy supplement that seem to be contradictory. On page 23, the plan describes Winooski's urban density and says that it is not the intent of the plan to protect primary agricultural soils. On page 22, the plan states that the City will need to work with DEC to determine whether the mapped river corridor is accurate and figure out how to best protect those areas. However, the energy planning supplement contains a policy protecting state-defined constraints, including river corridors and agricultural soils, during all development, not just energy. To gain a determination of energy compliance, the plan needs to identify constraints, map them and take these areas into account when determining the amount of generation potential in the municipality. The standards do not state the municipality is responsible for enforcing these state constraints. For the sake of clarity in the plan, I suggest the following:
 - a. The plan's statement about Winooski's agricultural soils no longer holding any value for mitigation is tucked into the text of the plan and is not included in the Goals/Objectives section at the end of the chapter. To make sure the policy stands out to the reader, consider moving it or repeating it there. [This statement has been removed from the main body of the plan and replaced with a side bar indicating the city's intention to increase the Neighborhood Designation to decrease agricultural mitigation fees in the city. The caveat remains in the energy section to alert potential developers to the possibility of state review on this constraint.](#)
 - b. The statements about known and possible constraints should be edited to reflect the City's attitude towards these development restrictions. Currently, the energy supplement includes statements that "known constraints are areas in which development, including renewable energy generation, is not appropriate," and that "possible constraints are areas in which the effects of development, including renewable energy generation, may need to be mitigated," as well as policy 11, "site renewable energy generation to avoid state known constraints and to minimize impacts to state possible constraints." Consider explaining in the constraint section that known and possible constraints have been defined by the state and will be monitored and protected during the PUC process (and in many cases, during Act 250 review) by relevant state agencies, but not by the City of Winooski. This will alert residents and developers to constraints that may be in place from outside forces, furthering Winooski's "get to yes" development review culture. Further, policy 11 in the Supplement might be replaced with a statement such as "Encourage renewable energy generation facilities in areas that have reached their full development potential and educate potential developers on development constraints that may be applied by the State of Vermont." [The previous statements about known and possible constraints have been removed and replaced with the suggested text. As discussed in my edits to a. above, explanatory text about the constraints and their possible role in state review of renewable energy facilities has been added.](#)

6. **The PAC understands that the City has not decided whether or not to pursue a determination of energy compliance. If the City decides to pursue a recommendation, simply inform us before the next time the plan is reviewed by the PAC. Staff and the PAC did review the plan against the energy planning standards to keep this option open for the city, and found that the plan would meet the standards.** Several suggestions are below.
- a. The PAC discussed the fact that Winooski's biggest contribution to meeting Vermont's energy goals is its energy efficient high density land use, and multi-modal transportation options. The PAC was not concerned that Winooski does not have much land area available for energy generation. However, the PAC suggests including more text in the plan celebrating Winooski's great work on density, walkability and low transportation energy use. [Text was added to the energy plan to describe the city's transportation demand management \(TDM\) strategies, as outlined in the Transportation Master Plan.](#)
 - b. Since Winooski has a building code, the PAC suggested including requirements for electric vehicle charging in the code, especially to make sure that the necessary conduits are in place for installing future charging stations. One member also suggested that the City consider the stretch energy code (a standard higher than the base building code). [Text was added to consider the stretch code, or at least the electric vehicle conduit requirements for new development.](#)
 - c. The plan could be improved by including Vermont Gas service lines on the map showing existing energy facilities. [Utility lines were added to the Winooski online map viewer, which is linked in the Municipal Infrastructure chapter.](#)

January 23, 2019

Andrew Strniste, Planning Director
Town of Underhill
P.O. Box 120
Underhill, VT 05489

Dear Mr. Strniste,

The Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission approved the 2015 Underhill Town Plan and confirmed Underhill's planning process on July 15, 2015. On January 15, 2019, the Town of Underhill adopted amendments to the 2015 Underhill Town Plan. These amendments amend the description, maps and implementation items related to the Underhill Center Village district to reflect recent changes to the Underhill Unified Land Use and Development Regulations.

CCRPC staff have reviewed the amendments and determined that the affected sections continue to meet the relevant required elements and goals and are consistent with the 2018 ECOS Regional Plan. **Therefore, CCRPC's approval of the 2015 Underhill Town Plan and confirmation of Underhill's planning process are not affected by the 2019 amendments.**

Please let me know if you need any other information or have any questions.

Sincerely,



Charlie Baker
Executive Director

CC (via email): CCRPC Planning Advisory Committee
Sherri Morin, Underhill Town Clerk and Treasurer
Brian Bigelow, Underhill Town Administrator and CCRPC Commissioner from Underhill
Kurt Johnson, CCRPC Alternate Commissioner from Underhill

Regina Mahony

From: Evans, Rob <Rob.Evans@vermont.gov>
Sent: Friday, June 8, 2018 2:04 PM
To: alougee@acrpc.org; jsullivan@bcrvt.org; Bonnie Waninger; Charles Baker; tasha@lpcvt.org; David Snedeker; Catherine Dimitruk; Ed Bove (ebove@rutlandrpc.org); tkennedy@swcrpc.org; pgregory@trorc.org; ccompany@windhamregional.org
Cc: Kline, Mike; Rose, Ben
Subject: ERAF Guidance Updates.
Attachments: ERAF_Criteria_17 5%_June2018.pdf; RCPA FAQ5.pdf

Good Afternoon VAPDA EDs,

We have recently updated our Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund (ERAF) 17.5% guidance document under *Option 2 River Corridor Protection*. The significant changes from the previous guidance are as follows:

- 1) We have removed the option to adopt the River Corridor Protection Area (RCPA) since it is partial river corridor and does not minimize fluvial erosion hazards. The attached FAQ explains in more detail and will be used to update our model bylaw FAQ sheet posted on our website.
- 2) We removed the 2-year clock for early adopter communities. Prior to this change, communities that received early adopter status were expected to adopt full river corridor overlays w/n 2 years of our updated statewide river corridor map being published (on track to be published later this year). The attached allows early adopter communities to continue to be eligible for the 17.5% state cost share, until such time that the ERAF rule is amended. Since these communities adopted their higher standards prior to the current ERAF Rule going into effect, it seems reasonable to tie any change in status to a change in the ERAF Rule. Amendments to the ERAF Rule will take more than 2 years to take effect, as the process has not commenced.

In the coming months we will be reaching out to set up meetings with your staff to further discuss roll-out of the updated RC map, model bylaws, and address any questions with respect to ERAF eligibility.

Happy to chat, if you have questions in the interim.

Best,

Rob Evans, CFM, State Floodplain Manager
River Corridor & Floodplain Protection Program
1 National Life Drive, Main 2
Montpelier, VT 05620-3522
802-490-6152 / rob.evans@vermont.gov
<http://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/rivers>
<http://floodready.vermont.gov/>
<http://floodtraining.vermont.gov/>



WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
RIVERS PROGRAM

Emergency Relief & Assistance Fund Eligibility Criteria – 17.5% State Share

BACKGROUND:

The [Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund \(ERAF\) rule](#) was amended in September 2012, which created a sliding scale framework for cost share on the non-federal match requirements for [FEMA Public Assistance Grants](#). The current ERAF rule took effect in October 2014. To qualify for the maximum state cost share of 17.5%¹ of the non-federal match, municipalities have two options; 1) Enroll in the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System and adopt a bylaw that prohibits new structures in the Flood Hazard Area, or 2) Adopt River Corridor protection standards that meet Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) criteria.

DEFINITIONS:

Flood Hazard Area means the land in the flood plain within a community subject to a 1 percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year and shall have the same meaning as “area of special flood hazard” under 44 C.F.R. § 59.1, and are shown on published Flood Insurance Rate Maps.

Fluvial Erosion Hazards means those hazards related to the erosion or scouring of riverbeds and banks during high flow conditions of a river.

River means the full length and width, including the bed and banks, of any watercourse, including rivers, streams, creeks, brooks, and branches, which experience perennial flow. *River* does not mean constructed drainageways, including water bars, swales, and roadside ditches.

River Corridor means the land area adjacent to a river that is required to accommodate the dimensions, slope, planform, and buffer of the naturally stable channel and that is necessary for the natural maintenance or natural restoration of a dynamic equilibrium condition, as that term is defined in 10 V.S.A. §1422, and for minimization of fluvial erosion hazards, as delineated by the Agency in accordance with the ANR Flood Hazard Area and River Corridor Protection Procedure².

Option 1 - Community Rating System

Eligibility to receive the 17.5% state share under this option has 2 requirements: Enrollment in the Community Rating System (CRS), as well as specific CRS Activity requirements.

Enrollment in the [Community Rating System \(CRS\)](#) is done through FEMA Region I. As a first step, communities need to conduct a [CRS quick check](#) self-assessment and close out a successful Community Assistance Visit (CAV) with FEMA Region 1. [ANR Regional Floodplain Managers](#) are available to assist

¹ To qualify for at the 17.5% state match level, communities must adopt one of the 17.5% options in this document, in addition to the [four basic ERAF mitigation measures](#) to qualify at the 12.5% level.

² Available at: http://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/documents/DEC_FHARCP_Procedure.pdf

communities and serve as a liaison with FEMA. Please note that enrollment in the CRS program typically takes 12-18 months to complete.

In addition to enrollment in CRS, communities must be receiving some credit under Activity 430 (Higher Regulatory Standards) for having a flood hazard bylaw that prohibits new structures in at least some parts of their FEMA-mapped Flood Hazard Areas that are largely undeveloped.

Option 2 – River Corridor Protection

- A. To qualify under the River Corridor Protection option, a community must:
- i. Adopt a River Corridor overlay for all streams and rivers draining greater than two square miles.
 - ii. Adopt a river corridor setback for small streams as part of their flood hazard/river corridor bylaws. The setback must be a minimum of 50' from top of bank for streams with a watershed area between 0.5 and 2 square miles³. The setback shall be regulated as the River Corridor for streams draining between 0.5 and 2 square miles⁴.
 - iii. Adopt a minimum regulatory requirement for River Corridors that are at least as restrictive as those outlined in the [ANR Model River Corridor bylaws](#) in effect at the time of adoption.

Early Adopter communities that adopted partial River Corridor protection standards or protective flood inundation regulations prior to the ERAF rule going into effect on October 23, 2014 have taken important steps toward minimizing stream erosion, reducing exposure to flood hazards, and ensuring public safety, and will remain eligible for the 17.5% ERAF cost share under the current ERAF rule. However, it is anticipated that future amendments to the ERAF Rule will change the cost-share rate and/or the various qualifying activities for these communities to reduce their exposure to flooding.

To verify whether you are an *early adopter* community, generate an ERAF Summary Report on the Flood Ready website (http://floodready.vermont.gov/assessment/community_reports#ERAF). If the report indicates “RC Interim”, then your community is considered an early adopter based on hazard area regulations currently in place as of October 2014.

³ Streams draining less than half a square mile have a higher likelihood of being intermittent or ephemeral. For ERAF purposes, ANR requires river corridor protection for small streams draining at least half a square mile, to minimize the need to determine whether streams are perennial and reduce the sheer number of stream miles regulated. Please be aware that under Act 250, ANR may review and comment on projects impacting watersheds smaller than half a square mile. Therefore, the Statewide River Corridor map layer on the ANR atlas still identifies small streams with a watershed of 0.25 square mile, as well.

⁴ The River Corridor layer on the ANR Natural Resources Atlas has been updated to show streams draining between 0.5 and 2 square miles.

Communities interested in qualifying for enhance ERAF cost share should contact their ANR Regional Floodplain Manager to determine applicability of existing municipal regulations, and options available to the community. ANR, VLCT, and regional planning commission staff will provide technical assistance to interested towns in qualifying for increase state cost share under the ERAF rule.

Regional Floodplain Manager Contact Information:

http://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wsm/rivers/docs/floodplain_mngr_regions.pdf

Regional Planning Commission Contacts: <http://www.vapda.org/>

Milly Archer, Vermont League of Cities and Towns; marcher@vlct.org

Additional Resources:

ERAF:

http://floodready.vermont.gov/find_funding/emergency_relief_assistance

CRS:

<https://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program-community-rating-system>

<http://crsresources.org/>

River Corridors:

http://floodready.vermont.gov/flood_protection/river_corridors_floodplains

http://floodready.vermont.gov/flood_protection/river_corridors_floodplains/river_corridors

<http://floodready.vermont.gov/RCFAQ>

River Corridor Mapping:

http://floodready.vermont.gov/assessment/vt_floodready_atlas

<http://anrmaps.vermont.gov/websites/anra5/>

5. Why is there not an option to adopt “river corridor protection areas” (RCPAs) as referenced in statute and already regulated by many municipalities?

The option exists but is no longer encouraged by the ANR. The River Corridor Protection Area (RCPA) is a relic of the past, which the Agency now recognizes as being inconsistent with State policy to achieve stable, least erosive, equilibrium conditions in our streams and rivers. The primary objective of River Corridor protection, as defined in Vermont Statute, is to provide enough lateral space for a river to achieve a stable slope (meander geometry) and minimize fluvial erosion hazards. The RCPA is a partial river corridor, as defined, lacking the 50-foot setback provision required to protect the full meander belt of a River Corridor. Thus, ANR does not promote the RCPA via the state model bylaws since it will not maximize hazard mitigation and water quality objectives.

Communities that adopt and regulate the River Corridor Protection Area (RCPA) will not be eligible for the 17.5% ERAF cost share since protecting the RCPA does not provide enough lateral space to reduce erosion hazards over time. Towns opting to regulate the RCPA should be aware that support from ANR will be largely unavailable since the agency is dedicating all of its resources to mapping and protection of the full River Corridor, consistent with state policy.

Early Adopter communities that adopted partial River Corridor protection standards or protective flood inundation regulations prior to the ERAF rule going into effect on October 23, 2014 have taken important steps toward minimizing stream erosion, reducing exposure to flood hazards and ensuring public safety and will remain eligible for the 17.5% ERAF cost share under the current ERAF rule. However, it is anticipated that future amendments to the ERAF Rule will change the cost-share rate and/or the various qualifying activities for these communities to reduce their exposure to flooding.