

Notice of Public Hearing

Town of Williston, Vermont - Planning Commission Proposed Amendment to the Comprehensive Plan

Public Hearing Scheduled for Tuesday, December 6, 2016

The Planning Commission of the Town of Williston has scheduled a public hearing for Tuesday, December 6, 2016 for the purpose of considering a proposed amendment and re-adoption of the town's Comprehensive Plan in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §4384(c). The public hearing will be held in the Town Hall Annex conference room, located on the first floor of the Williston Town Hall Annex, at 7878 Williston Road in Williston Vermont 05495. The public hearing is scheduled to begin at 7:00 PM.

The Williston Planning Commission is proposing to re-adopt and re-affirm most of the critical elements and the direction of the 2011-2016 Comprehensive Plan. The goals of the 2016-2024 Comprehensive Plan are summarized below.

Williston will strive to balance responsible, livable suburban growth with rural character and conservation. To do this, the town will ...

- sustain rural landscapes by requiring an open space pattern for subdivisions, conserving land through acquisitions or easements; and finding ways to help the owners of working lands continue their stewardship;
- use design review and public investment to maintain the character of its historic village center;
- permit the flexibility and intensity of use necessary to foster creation of a design-conscious, mixed use, pedestrian-friendly commercial center around Taft Corners;
- protect residential neighborhoods from incompatible uses and offer incentives for the provision of a diverse housing stock, including homes that are affordable to working people and their families;
- attend to the details of site planning and architectural design, including outdoor lighting, signage, access, and landscaping that give development both market appeal and long-term community value;
- invest in new facilities, including utilities, roads, schools, parks, and trails, as necessary, while managing the location and pace of development to ensure that growth does not outstrip the capacity of public facilities and services, including fire protection and law enforcement;
- conserve energy in its own operations and by encouraging builders to meet "green" building standards;
- use regulatory and non-regulatory tools, including funding for the acquisition of development rights or land, to protect water quality, wildlife habitat, scenic views, and other natural and cultural resources

Many portions of the plan were updated as necessary with minor revisions. Portions of the Comprehensive Plan with major updates and revisions include the following:

Demographics of the Town

The plan has expanded some of the information obtained from the 2010 U.S. Census and other recent estimates of the population. Williston's population is getting older; with fewer school aged children and more people in or near retirement age, and this will affect the town's future development.

Transportation

The proposed plan calls for a comprehensive transportation plan continued emphasis on the development and utilization of public transportation, and non-motorized modes of transportation such as walking and bicycling conjunction with the town's land use goals for the realization of a vibrant, mixed use downtown center in the town's Growth Center in the Taft Corners area.

Land Use

The plan continues its emphasis on realizing a design-conscious, pedestrian-friendly, mixed-use development and redevelopment pattern in the Taft Corners area. The town will continue to support this objective by encouraging the construction of planned infrastructure in the Growth Center, concentrating new development in the Growth Center, and examining and monitoring the effectiveness of its bylaws. Only minor changes are proposed.

Economic Development

A chapter describing the town plans for supporting economic development and activity, including commercial, industrial, and service uses, has been added as now required by state law. The town envisions remaining an important part of the region's economy with a strong employment base across a diverse range of economic sectors.

Should you wish to comment on any aspect of the proposed Williston 2016-2024 Comprehensive Plan please contact the Ken Belliveau, Director of Planning and Zoning, Williston Planning Office at (802) 878-6704, or by email to kbelliveau@willistonvt.org .