MEMO

To: HAAC

From: Emily Heymann, Planner

Date: August 13, 2020

Re: Municipal Planning Grant

Williston Application Proposal- Village Bylaw Appendix H

The Planning office will be applying for the 2021 Municipal Planning Grant (MPG) as part of the village Bylaw Amendment project. Appendix H is outdated. In our work on the intent statements and standards in Chapter 42, we identified Appendix H as outdated and in need of a refresh. **The new Appendix H will use photos, illustrations, and other graphics to bring life to the technical requirements in Chapter 42.** If we receive funding, we can retain the help from a design consultant to help take our conceptual ideas and make them a reality. A picture is worth a thousand words, particularly when we are trying to convey design aesthetics related to building scale, massing, and historic preservation.

You may recall reviewing the Shelburne Design Guide, ours could look something like this: https://www.shelburnevt.org/DocumentCenter/View/2013/Design-Review-Guidelines-

Though Manchester's Design Guide is nearly 20 years old, it resonates with the HAAC's past conversations about what a revised Appendix H could look like: https://vnrc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Design-Guidelines-Manchester.pdf

Information about the MPG:
About the Vermont's communities face tough challenges responding to and recovering from COVID-19, and the State's flexible Municipal Planning Grants are ready to support projects for long-term recovery. Now is a great time to consider proposals that boost resilience in your community. Municipal Planning Grants have helped communities just like ours implement town plan recommendations and jump start initiatives like zoning updates to welcome new homes, plans for a state designated area, or economic recovery strategies. A quarter of the funding has been approved to date, and a total of approximately $450,000 will be awarded to municipalities to promote planning, revitalization, and development activities if the legislature level funds.

Towns may apply for up to $22,000 and joint applications from several municipalities (a consortium) may apply for up to $35,000. A wide range of municipal planning and implementation activities are eligible for funding. Strong grant applications demonstrate a clear need and community partnership. I encourage you to reach out to stakeholders now and discuss local needs, opportunities, and strategies for change.

Even the smallest Vermont towns can write a winning application and open doors to new opportunities.

Application Schedule for the 2021 Grants:
- Online application (GEARS) opens for use: August 1, 2020
- Training webinar: August 19, 2020 (staff will attend)
- RPC confirmation of municipal planning process (for eligibility): September 30, 2020
- **Application Deadline: October 1 @ 6:00 p.m., 2020**
- Award Decisions: Early December 2020