

ST. JOHNSBURY MUNICIPAL TOWN PLAN
SELECT BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
Tuesday, April 11, 2017
6:00 PM, WELCOME CENTER

Pursuant to VSA 24 Chapter 117 §4325, this is the second public hearing by St. Johnsbury's Select Board to review the 2017 Town Plan. Copies are available at the Town Clerk's Office and on the website: www.stjvt.com. The primary changes to the 2011 Town Plan are stated below:

1. The Planning Commission formatted the plan based upon recommendations by the Agency of Commerce and Community Development for municipal plans which include the 3 main goals of maintaining/preserving our assets, evolving or preparing for further change; and the transforming or large change to fit the vision of the plan. This structure is set up to present a clear vision for the town for the next eight years (the new life of the plan).
2. This plan has additional emphasis on strengthening neighborhoods: the inter-connectivity, the walk and bike-ability, and neighborhood parks and recreation.
3. The Transportation Plan includes strong visionary statements about the need for more mass transit – to both meet energy goals as well as promote the economic climate with access to employment.
4. The Economic Development Plan expands the previously identified need for targeted growth, and emphasizes a direction that supports State goals outlined in the Clean Water Act, the State Energy Goals and energy siting standards. The plan also acknowledges that the Agency of Natural Resources has begun to set standards for habitat conservation. It speaks strongly to the partnerships necessary with State agencies to meet these goals and standards, as well as partnerships with neighboring communities to expand the travel and tourism opportunities of the Northeast Kingdom.
5. This plan has integrated the priorities which were identified by the Community Visit process in 2015 with a renewed emphasis on improving the quality of life of our community (which includes the targeted business growth, mass transportation, and renewed neighborhoods).
6. The plan has also included an additional agro-tourism business segment as an opportunity for growth based upon data available from the regional plan.
7. Included with this plan are statistics and measures which will make up the town community and economic development dashboard set to be reviewed annually in order to assess progress and potential change in direction while supporting our town goals and policies.
8. Since the first public hearing, new maps from NVDA have been added.
9. Since the first public hearing, the PC responded to public comment and rewrote some of the language for the sake of clarity and understanding.