

TOWN OF ST. JOHNSBURY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given to the residents of the Town of St. Johnsbury that the St. Johnsbury Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at the Welcome Center, 51 Depot Square, St. Johnsbury, Vermont on Tuesday, September 19, 2017 at 5:30 PM. The hearing will be held for public review of and comment on amendments to the Civil Code of Ordinances, Chapter 6 pursuant to Title 24 VSA, Ch. 117 §§ 4441-4444.

The purposes of the proposed Ordinance changes are:

1. To respond to the needs of the community through the initiatives of the 2017 Town Plan (1.3C: Enforce town housing and fire codes) by providing procedure for the Town Manager's office in order to enforce the current Chapter 6, Article I of the Public Health and Safety Ordinance. The amendments to Article I also divide the responsibilities of enforcement and permitting between the Health Officer and Zoning Administrator. The fixed fees in Article I have been removed and assigned to the Select Board.
2. In Article II of Chapter 6 (Housing Code), to identify the position of inspector as the Code Compliance Officer (Sec. 6-48). All other duties and procedures of the Code Compliance Officer have been moved to the new Article III. Article II also identifies that the Health Officer, not the inspector (Code Compliance Officer) determines that a dwelling is unfit for human habitation.
3. Article III is a new article to describe the Housing Code Compliance and Enforcement. The purpose of this Ordinance is to "protect, preserve, and promote the health, safety, and welfare of all citizens of the Town of St. Johnsbury through establishment of an office for Code Compliance. The intent of this Ordinance is to establish an inspection process that will ensure that rental units throughout the Town meet the standards outlined in Sections 6.66-6.95. Additionally, this Ordinance establishes a complaint process that is equitable to both landlord and tenant."
4. Article IV is a new article to describe the process by which the Town may comply with the Town Plan 1.3C, 3: Maintain a current inventory of commercial housing units. The Town of St. Johnsbury has been tasked with housing initiatives that initially were identified at the Community Visit in 2015 (Vermont Council on Rural Development facilitated these conversations, and over 200 people participated). These initiatives included the development of a housing committee which identified the need for "assessment of the Town's current housing stock and a strategic plan to improve the quality and choice of housing." (Town Plan, page 56) The Code Compliance Officer and Town employees will manage the list and see that it is kept current. The registration procedure and exemptions are outlined in Article IV.

For a full copy of this revision, please see the Town of St. Johnsbury website: www.stjvt.com or pick up a copy at the Town Clerk's office.

Dated August 31, 2017, St. Johnsbury Planning Commission.