



**TOWN OF STOWE**  
**EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE /PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 18, 2024**

The Education Subcommittee of the Town of Stowe Planning Commission held a meeting on **Friday October 18, 2024**, starting at approximately 9:00 AM. The meeting was held at the Stowe Town Office with remote participation via Zoom. Members present included Bob Davison, John Muldoon, Nancy Gleason, and Andrew Kohn. Municipal staff Sarah McShane and Superintendent Ryan Heraty were also present.

The meeting began shortly after 9:00 AM. There were no members of the public present, and no adjustments were made to the agenda.

S.McShane briefly explained the purpose and goals of the subcommittee. She explained that the Planning Commission decided to form a temporary subcommittee to focus on preparing recommended updates to the Education goals, policies, and tasks in the Stowe Town Plan, as well as build better lines of communication into Stowe schools to increase engagement with students, teachers, and student support circles. It is hoped that the subcommittee can meet a handful of times over the fall/early winter and develop recommendations for the Planning Commission consideration. She also provided a brief overview of the existing Town Plan including the Education Chapter, and the anticipated process for updating the Town Plan.

Members broadly discussed the challenges currently facing Stowe schools. Members discussed the State Education fund, how education is funded in Vermont, and ways to improve local tax rate (i.e., increasing enrollment, increasing the diversity of students, etc.). Members discussed the legal issues involving the municipality funding education expenses. Members discussed areas where both school and community needs may overlap, including playgrounds and other recreational improvements to benefit the larger Stowe community. Members discussed facility challenges including Memorial Park drainage, driveway and parking areas at both schools, and other building improvements (the roof at Stowe High School). Members also discussed the possible long-term impact of increasingly less economic diversity in the school system and local housing issues. Members discussed the physical capacity of Stowe schools and whether there is physical space to increase enrollment. R.Heraty felt existing space could support an increase in approximately one hundred students. Members discussed the challenges that new teachers and staff face in finding housing.

Members broadly discussed what is going well in Stowe schools. Academically in certain areas, Stowe schools are top in the State and have a high level of teacher retention. Families have shared that they feel their students are receiving a safe and quality education and the school system effectively communicates with families. Members briefly discussed the strategic plans for Stowe schools and agreed to review them together at an upcoming meeting.

Members reviewed their schedules and agreed to hold the next meeting entirely via Zoom on Friday November 8<sup>th</sup> from 8:15 AM – 9:15 AM. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah McShane, Planning & Zoning Director