

Agenda Summary July 24, 2024

Agenda Item No. B-3

Stowe Town Plan Update & Community Engagement Process

Summary: Members of the Planning Commission and Planning & Zoning Director Sarah McShane will be present to update the Selectboard on the [Stowe Town Plan](#) process, anticipated community engagement activities, and to discuss Selectboard priorities for the plan.

Last adopted on November 13, 2018, the Stowe Town Plan sets forth Stowe's Community Vision and provides an overview of Stowe's demographics, natural/physical environment, municipal services and infrastructure, and includes the required statutory elements and maps. Most importantly, the Stowe Town Plan sets forth shared community goals, policies, and implementation strategies that are used as a basis for decision-making and prioritizing municipal investments, programs, and actions. Preparing and updating the Stowe Town Plan is the responsibility of the Planning Commission, subject to final approval and adoption by the Selectboard, and is often a multi-year process. In Vermont, municipal plans must be updated and readopted every eight years to remain in effect.

Utilizing capital funding approved by the voters during Town Meeting Day 2023, the Town recently contracted with community engagement consultant Rebecca Stone of [Community Workshop LLC](#) to design and facilitate community input to inform the next Stowe Town Plan. Engagement activities have been designed for the purposes of identifying Stowe's core community values and shared vision for how the town will grow and invest in its future. The Planning Commission has decided on 'Stowe 2050' as the project name and theme to encourage the community to look ahead at its future and decide as a community how Stowe wants to grow and develop. Stowe 2050 engagement activities are set to kick-off beginning with community comment cards distributed widely throughout town. Comment cards will include questions such as 'My #1 wish for Stowe is _____' and 'My best idea for making Stowe better is _____'. Additional activities and events are being planned throughout the summer and fall months. Following community input, the Planning Commission will work closely with the Department of Planning and Zoning to develop the written plan for ultimate consideration by the Selectboard. Although a specific adoption timeframe has not yet been established, the Planning Commission intends to advance an updated Stowe Town Plan to the Selectboard towards the beginning of 2026.

This time has been set aside for a brief presentation, followed by conversation with the Selectboard on the board's collective and individual hopes for the town plan and community vision for the future. Members of the Planning Commission and Planning & Zoning staff will be present and hope to discuss with the Selectboard, the board's priorities for the plan and areas of the plan the Selectboard would like the Commission to focus on.

Town Plan Impact: The purpose of the Stowe Town Plan is to reflect the community's vision and goals for the future and to serve as a guide for growth and development.

Fiscal Impact: The community engagement project is being funded by approved capital funding and Planning & Zoning Department staff time.

Recommendation: Nothing at this time. This time has been set aside for discussion and informational purposes.



What do you love about Stowe?

What's your #1 wish for the future?

Share your story. Shape our vision. Help write Stowe's next town plan.

Affordable housing. Great jobs. Trails and recreation. Strong schools. Close neighbors. Sustainable land use. Transportation options.

Imagine Stowe in 2050. What do you see? How will we get there? Join the Stowe 2050 community conversation and help decide.

Flip card or see Stowe2050.org to start.

Stowe 2050 is a community planning project to inform Stowe's next Town Plan. Contact Sarah McShane, Town of Stowe Planning & Zoning Dept, PandZ@stowevt.gov, 802-253-6141.

The graphic features a central circular logo with the text 'Stowe 2050' and an illustration of a town with a church steeple. Two speech bubbles on the left contain the questions 'What do you love about Stowe?' and 'What's your #1 wish for the future?'. To the right, bold text encourages sharing stories and shaping the vision. Below this, a list of community goals is provided, followed by a call to action to join the conversation. A large orange arrow points to the right, containing the text 'Flip card or see Stowe2050.org to start.'. At the bottom, contact information for Sarah McShane is provided.

**Imagine Stowe in 2050.
What do you see?**

Share! Drop card at Town Office or snap a pic and submit at stowe2050.org or PandZ@stowevt.gov.



SCAN ME



Stowe Town Plan

10 STEP PLANNING PROCESS



01. Review Existing Plan

Consider what information/aspects of the plan need to be updated? Does the plan contain information that is no longer needed? Are there new community issues that should be included? Are important events/information, etc. missing?

Who are the important people/groups that should be specifically targeted to participate in the update process?



03. Host Project Partners Meeting-Assign and Delegate

PC should decide who will be responsible for preparing updates to different elements of the plan. In cases where there is an appropriate municipal body, the PC may decide to delegate some elements to be updated by others. For all other plan elements, the PC will lead the update process.

Once initial review of the existing plan is complete and Project Partners and associated tasks are identified, present the anticipated planning process to the Selectboard; discuss municipal priorities and areas of the plan the Selectboard would like the Commission to focus on.

02. Identify Project Partners



04. Identify Municipal Priorities



05. Engage with Project Partners

PC to work on its elements throughout the spring, summer, and fall months. Invite specific departments/boards/groups to a PC meeting. Also consider non-traditional means of engaging the community and seeking public input.



07. Project Partner Check-In's.

Municipal departments/staff to report back to PC in late summer/fall; Other project partners to report back to the PC in fall/early winter.



09. Develop the Plan Together [2025]

Finalize Plan, Public Hearings, and Adoption.

05.

- Staff to meet directly with municipal departments/ boards to gather information and prepare recommended updates for PC consideration.
- PC to invite specific identified groups/persons to PC meeting.
- Project partners to lead the update process of their respective elements.

06. PC Listening & Learning



Staff and PC to periodically check-in with Project Partners on delegated elements throughout the summer.

08. Findings and Recommended Updates



- Identify core community values.
- Develop shared goals.
- Prioritize action items.

10. Prepare Final Plan [2026]





What do you imagine for Stowe in 2050?

Share your stories. Shape our future. stowe2050.org

ENGAGEMENT

Inform

Consult

Involve

Collaborate

Empower





Planning Commission Focus Areas

- 1. Land Use & Settlement Patterns**
- 2. Housing**
- 3. Transportation**
- 4. Economic Development**



My hope for Stowe in 2050...

KNOWING MY NEIGHBORS

BLEND OF OUTDOOR CHAIRS FROM REC TO FARMING

Lower Property Taxes

New England Village Vibe

Retain a sense of Community

← What they said

The heritage and the mix of people

Thoughtful growth while maintaining community.

STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY IDENTITY.

"Smart Growth" + Thriving full time resident diverse community

Less traffic (somehow)

a thriving town playground!

Traffic



**My #1 wish for Stowe's
future is _____.**

**Weigh in and enter to win! Drop card at _____ or
email pic to smcshane@stowevt.gov.**



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