

Wheelock Town Plan 2019 – Excerpt - Actions and Who's Responsible

The Wheelock Town Plan was developed by the town's Planning Commission, according to guidelines from the State of Vermont, Agency of Commerce and Community Development <https://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/town-future/municipal-planning-manual>. As part of the process, the Commission sought and received feedback from staff at Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA), our regional planning commission. The Planning Commission's final charge was holding a public hearing and making any recommended changes before turning it over to the Selectboard. The Selectboard held a second public hearing, and then adopted the plan on December 9, 2019.

The Board then sought regional approval from NVDA. The NVDA Board is comprised of representatives from all towns in the region. NVDA staff put together an adoption review committee consisting of three of its board members. The group met on April 23, 2020 via video conference, with planning commission and Selectboard members present to answer questions. The committee unanimously recommended the Wheelock Town Plan for regional approval. The full plan is available on the NVDA website at <http://www.nvda.net/files/wheelock12919.pdf>.

Committee members commented that they liked the format which outlines who is responsible for the recommended actions, and suggested an excerpt be created to monitor progress on the goals and strategies outlined. This document is that excerpt.

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LAND USE p. 9

1. The Selectboard and Planning Commission are responsible for ensuring that Wheelock is represented at all Act 250 proceedings to ensure that the Town's objectives are understood and given consideration.
2. The Selectboard and Planning Commission are responsible for bringing a proposal to adopt flood regulations before the citizens.
3. The listers and town clerk are responsible for providing information to landowners about the Current Use Program.
4. The Selectboard, Planning Commission and Town Clerk should work together to develop and distribute information to property owners about best practices in maintaining forest land and best practices in logging.
5. The Selectboard, Planning Commission and clerk should work together to develop and distribute information to property owners about threats to forests and land from insects, disease and invasive species.

RARE IRREPLACEABLE NATURAL AREAS, SCENIC AND HISTORIC FEATURES AND RESOURCES p. 13

1. The Selectboard is responsible for acquiring and maintaining property.
2. The Selectboard and Planning Commission should work together to establish reserve accounts and annual financial appropriations for major repair and maintenance projects.
3. Applications for and information about the Historical Society should be distributed through the Town Clerk's Office.

4. The Selectboard, Planning Commission and Historical Society should work together with volunteers to identify sites of significance in the town.

TRANSPORTATION p. 17

1. The Planning Commission, Selectboard and Highway Supervisor are responsible for the development of 5-year plan for repairs to the highways and for a 5 year plan for equipment replacement.
2. The Selectboard and Highway Supervisor are responsible for the development and maintenance of an inventory of components of the highway network and of highway equipment.
3. The Planning Commission and Selectboard are responsible for the development of a long-term financial plan for major repairs of the highway network and equipment replacement.
4. The Selectboard is responsible for the adoption of and enforcement of ordinances.
5. The Selectboard is responsible for obtaining data on the amount of traffic using town roads.
6. Town officials and town citizens share the responsibility to contact legislators to encourage the development of public transportation options.
7. Town listers and the Selectboard are responsible for monitoring the number of year round residences on Class IV roads.

TOWN FACILITIES, SERVICES, UTILITIES P. 22

1. The Selectboard, Planning Commission and treasurer should work together on Capital Planning and developing a long-range financial plan.
2. The Selectboard, Planning Commission, the appointed Town Hall Project Coordinator and any other appointed project coordinator or committee member should work together to bring proposals that address facility needs before the voters.
3. The Selectboard is responsible for the development of the budget and the articles and appropriations on the annual town meeting warning. Historic District Green and Cemetery

TOWN SERVICES

Transfer Station/Solid Waste P. 24

1. The Selectboard is responsible for developing a facility use policy that encourages recycling in all town facilities and at all town sponsored events.
2. The Selectboard is responsible for appointing a representative to NEKWMD.
3. The Town Clerk and transfer station attendants are responsible for displaying and distributing information.
4. The Selectboard is responsible for developing a personnel policy and a job description that address requirements related to training for employees.

Cemeteries P. 25

1. The Selectboard is responsible for town cemeteries and the hiring of the sexton.
2. The Selectboard and sexton should work together to develop plans for needed repairs and the financing of those repairs.

HOUSING P. 27

1. The Planning Commission should take actions necessary to maintain Village Center Designation.
2. Information related to state building permits and requirements, weatherization and organizations that assist with funding for home grants such as Efficiency Vermont and Rural Edge will continue to be displayed at the Town Office.

ENERGY P. 28

1. The Town Clerk is responsible to display information about energy efficiency in new building construction and in renovation construction in the municipal office area.
2. The Selectboard is responsible to:
 - a. Conduct an energy efficiency audit of existing town buildings.
 - b. Assess the possibility of creating a park and ride area on the lot on Route 122 next to the Town Hall. Research hydropower and the potential for using the falls on Miller's Run as a source of energy, possibly for servicing electric vehicles.
 - c. Collaborate with NVDA in developing Wheelock's energy targets and goals.

ADJACENT COMMUNITIES P. 31

1. The Planning Commission is responsible to maintain Village Center Designation.
2. The Selectboard is responsible for annually appointing two representatives to NVDA.
3. The Selectboard is responsible for budget decisions.

FLOOD RESILIENCY P. 36

The Wheelock Selectboard and Planning Commission should work together to follow through on recommended actions:

1. Adopt flood hazard regulations sufficient to meet the qualifications for acceptance to the National Flood Insurance Program for the flood hazard area identified by the FEMA maps.
2. Apply for acceptance to the National Flood Insurance Program.
3. Hold a flood hazard education event to inform local residents of the hazards.
4. Distribute information to all property owners in areas identified as river corridors about laws related to streams and streambanks and suggested regulations related to construction and/or storage in the river corridors.
5. Distribute information to property owners and loggers about ecologically sound forest management practices, water quality and riparian buffers. Special attention should be paid to the detrimental effects of logging on hillsides with greater than 20% slope.
6. To avoid continued sedimentation due to fluvial erosion of steep gravel roads, assess Class IV roads for frequency and costliness of washouts. Consider reclassification if improvement to infrastructure is not viable.
7. Consider the planting of trees and shrubs in areas most prone to fluvial erosion.