

# **Groton Planning Commission Reporting Form for Municipal Bylaw Amendments**

This report is in accordance with 24 V.S.A. §4441(c).

The Groton Planning Commission (“the Commission”), acknowledging the passage of time since the last amendment of Groton’s Zoning Bylaw, undertook a thorough review of the bylaw to ascertain whether any updates or modifications should be made. These amendments were prepared in consultation with the Northeastern Vermont Development Association (“NVDA”), which studied the current bylaws and recommended changes. Over a series of months, the Commission reviewed the entirety of the bylaw, including the NVDA-proposed changes. The resulting amendments update statutory references where applicable; conform bylaws to current statutes by modification or deletion of language and, where applicable, cross-referencing pertinent statutes; clarify the zoning application process as it pertains to the subdivision of land; and correct spelling, grammatical and usage errors.

Consistent with Groton’s Town Plan, which includes a planning goal to “continue to review and update zoning bylaws to reflect the desired and planned development of Groton,” the Commission proposes the adoption of these amendments so that Groton’s Zoning Bylaw will continue to provide for orderly community growth and further the goals, objectives and purposes established in the Municipal Plan and 24 VSA § 4302. By assuring conformity with current applicable state law, the proposed amendments clarifying the process for subdividing land provide a process for pursuit of several planning goals: maintaining and enhancing the number of farms and farmland; ensuring adequate and safe sewage disposal; and maintaining a variety of housing options in Groton. Providing a clear roadmap enhances the possibility of providing safe and affordable housing, while maintaining compatibility with future land uses and densities set forth in the Groton Town Plan.

The proposed amendments do not specifically implement any planned community facilities.

The Commission approved the proposed amendments for public comment on August 23, 2022.

Submitted by the Planning Commission of Groton