

Norwich Town Plan

Overview of Rewrite Process

June 30, 2019

What's the Purpose of a Town Plan

- Enabled by Vermont Statute (24 VSA)
- A Town Plan is a document which sets out a vision for how a community wishes to develop and the actions that are needed to achieve this vision.

Why We're Rewriting the Town Plan

- The Selectboard adopted a Town Plan on July 13, 2018.
- Two Rivers Ottaaquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) voted not to approve the Norwich Town Plan in Sept 2018.
- In December 2018, the Selectboard asked the Planning Commission to rewrite the Town Plan.
- Important: the Town Plan adopted in July 2018 is the plan in force until another plan is adopted by the Selectboard.

Scope of the Rewrite:

The Town Plan will include 9 chapters derived from VT statutory requirements and focused on actions under town control.

- Introduction
- Land Use
- Housing
- Economic Development
- Utilities, Facilities, and Services
- Transportation
- Energy
- Resilience
- Implementation

Guiding Principles

- Learn from **best practices** applied by other towns
 - A readable, accessible plan
- **Statutory requirements** are the basis for the plan
 - Focus on what the town can affect
 - Eliminate items beyond town control
- **Gather data** from a variety of stakeholders and Subject Matter Experts (SMEs),
 - e.g. Conservation Commission, Historic Preservation Commission, School Board, Town officials, Norwich Business Council
- Use **a variety of forums** to gather input from the public
 - e.g. Meetings, workshops, conference calls, survey
- Solicit **TRORC feedback** early and often
 - e.g. Draft Energy chapter submitted in May

2019 Project Timeline

- **Q1 (Jan-March) Project Launch**
 - Table of Contents developed
 - Chapters drafted
 - Work groups formed
- **Q2 (April-June) Stakeholder/SME Input and Data Gathering**
 - PC members interviewed town officials, town committees, and SMEs to discuss recommendations on rough draft of objectives and actions
- **Q3 (June-Sept) Public Input Phase**
 - Forums convened on key topics and questions discussed
 - Web page created with relevant documents
<http://norwich.vt.us/town-plan-2019/>
- **Q4 (Oct-Nov) 'Final' draft reviews and PC public hearing**
 - 'Final' draft distributed for comment
 - Forums convened to discuss and receive comments