

## **Northfield Awarded \$14,000 State Planning Grant**

For Immediate Release

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Northfield Vt. – The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) awarded \$14,000 in state Municipal Planning Grant funds to Northfield to be used for consultation support for the 2019 Northfield town plan update. The consultant will work with the Northfield Planning Commission to update the town plan and facilitate broad public participation, focusing on revitalization of the historic village centers and meeting the state goals of reduction in fossil fuel use and prevention of forest fragmentation. Northfield successfully competed against 50 municipalities and was one of 37 funded.

“The town of Northfield enjoys two state-designated village centers—Northfield Village and Northfield Falls—surrounded by a rural landscape that includes working farms and significant tracts of forested mountains and hillsides,” said Planning Commission Chair Laura Hill-Eubanks. “An important town planning challenge will be to focus development effectively in the village areas so they can grow into vibrant centers of social, economic, and cultural activity that offer a diversity of housing and transportation options. At the same time, it’s important that we protect the rural and natural areas outside the villages that contribute so much to the beauty and character of Northfield. One approach would be to improve infrastructure in places where growth is desired. Installing new sewer lines in the Falls village, for example, would allow for higher building density and make that area more attractive for development.

“The Planning Commission is seeking public input and feedback as it drafts the new plan. The planning process will help determine what the people of Northfield envision for the future of their town and how the town can most successfully achieve that vision.” Northfield will have a year and a half to complete this project.

“As Vermont continues to grow its economy, maintain a high quality of life and attract new people and business to the state, Municipal Planning Grants help communities accelerate local solutions, energize downtowns, [and] remove barriers to much-needed housing,” said Vermont DHCD Commissioner Katie Buckley.

Awarded annually and administered by the DHCD, the Municipal Planning Grant program supports local community revitalization and planning initiatives. Since 1998, the program has provided over \$12 million to 234 cities and towns across

Vermont, bringing people together to adopt useful and relevant municipal plans and implementing those plans through downtown revitalization, updated regulations, improved capital budgeting and innovative projects that help towns prepare for the challenges they face.

Follow the link below to learn more.

<http://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/funding-incentives/municipal-planning-grant>

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