



# NORTHWEST REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

## Highgate Town Report - 2023

Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) is a multi-purpose governmental organization created by the municipalities of Franklin and Grand Isle Counties. NRPC implements a variety of projects and programs tailored to local, regional and statewide needs. All municipalities in the region are entitled to equal voting representation by two locally appointed members to the Board of Commissioners.

### 2023 HIGHGATE TOWN PROJECTS

- Updated the locally adopted Emergency Management Plan which will help the town respond to future disasters.
- Served as local liaison to the town's public safety officials for the State Emergency Operation Center during the July floods. Supported the town's efforts to achieve funding eligibility under the Federal Disaster Declaration for July.
- Provided support services for implementing phase 2 design of a Village Wastewater System to primarily serve the Village Core property.
- Provided a \$14,000 Clean Water Service Provider grant to Friends of Northern Lake Champlain for design of a shoreland repair project near the boat ramp and parking area at Shipyard Road in Highgate Springs.
- Provided technical assistance for the redevelopment of the former Young Landfill, including supplemental assessment and development of an Evaluation of Corrective Action Alternatives.
- Consulted with local officials, identified projects and provided technical assistance for Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid construction projects.
- Supported the Northwest Communications Union District, in which Highgate is a member.
- Provided zoning administrator services for part of the year.
- Provided technical assistance for Franklin County Airport expansion project, which includes water/wastewater extension.
- Provided updates for the Highgate Town Plan, the Plan was adopted in 2023.
- Collaborated with the Highgate Planning Commission to modernize Highgate's zoning bylaws to allow for increased housing choice and affordability; funded by a Bylaw Modernization consortium grant.

This year the Commission will assist our member municipalities with maximizing local, state and federal infrastructure funds, water quality project implementation, Municipal Roads General Permit compliance, local energy and climate planning, zoning bylaw modernization, emergency preparedness, brownfields redevelopment and other needed services. NRPC will help promote the Missisquoi and Lamoille Valley Rail Trails, support local farm and food businesses through its Healthy Roots Collaborative, assist the Northwest Communications Union District in expanding broadband access in the region, and coordinate Housing For All, a three-year housing development campaign. The Commission has no regulatory or taxing authority; however, each year we do request a per capita assessment in support of local and regional activities and to provide matching funds for state and federal programs.

Your continued support for NRPC is greatly appreciated. We are your resource - please call on us for assistance with planning, zoning, transportation, project management, mapping or other needs.

### NRPC Projects & Programs

Municipal plan and bylaw updates, technical assistance for local permitting

Brownfields site assessments, clean-ups and redevelopment plans

Transportation planning and project management

Bike and pedestrian planning and project management

Emergency preparedness, disaster recovery and resilience

Energy conservation, renewable energy plans and projects

Water quality planning and project management

Regional plans for growth and development

Geographic Information System maps and data

Downtown and village revitalization and community development

Grant writing and administration

### Associated Projects & Programs Managed by NRPC

Healthy Roots Collaborative

Northern Vermont Economic Development District

Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail

Northwest Vermont Regional Foundation, Inc.

Clean Water Service Provider: Missisquoi and Lamoille River Basins

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**Highgate Town Regional Commissioners** - Jack Pelkey & Sharon Bousquet

**Transportation Advisory Committee** - Sharon Bousquet