

Municipal Plan Review Tool Town of Richford – Final Review

This form addresses the statutory requirements of the State of Vermont for town plans, as cited in the Vermont Municipal and Regional Planning and Development Act, Title 24 V.S.A Chapter 117 (the Act). It includes the 12 required elements found in § 4382 of the Act; the four planning process goals found in § 4302(b), the 14 specific goals found in § 4302(c); and the standard of review found in § 4302(f), which covers consistency with goals and compatibility standards.

During the Regional approval and confirmation process, specified in § 4350 of the Act, the regional planning commission is required to assess town plans and the process whereby they are developed according to the criteria of the Act. Sections of relevant statute are quoted at each question.

| Required Elements § 4382 | | Met | Not Met |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Statement of Objectives, Policies, Programs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 | Land Use Plan and Map | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 | Transportation Plan and Map | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 | Utility and Facility Plan and Map | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 | Rare Natural Resources/Historic Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 | Educational Facilities Plan and Map | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 | Implementation Program | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 | Compatibility Statement | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9 | Energy Plan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10 | Housing Element | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 11 | Economic Development Element | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12 | Flood Resiliency Plan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| State Planning Goals § 4302 | | Met | Not Met |
| 1 | Compact village centers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 | Economy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 | Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 | Transportation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 | Natural and Historic Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 | Quality of air, water, wildlife, forests, and other land resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 | Efficient use of Energy and Renewable Energy Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 | Recreation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9 | Agriculture and Forest Industries | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 10 | Use of Resources and Earth Extraction | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11 | Safe and Affordable Housing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12 | Public Facilities and Services | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13 | Child Care | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 14 | Flood Resiliency | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 15 | Environmental Justice | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

TOWN PLAN REQUIRED ELEMENTS

Title 24 Chapter 117: Municipal and Regional Planning and Development

24 V.S.A. § 4382. The plan for a municipality

(a) A plan for a municipality may be consistent with the goals established in section 4302 of this title and compatible with approved plans of other municipalities in the region and with the regional plan and shall include the following:

(1) A statement of objectives, policies and programs of the municipality to guide the future growth and development of land, public services and facilities, and to protect the environment.

Met

Pages: Throughout plan

Comments: Goals and policies are listed at the end of each chapter. Implementation actions are listed in the Introduction. Implementation section is well formatted and breaks tasks into a series of specific projects with responsible parties.

(2) A land use plan, consisting of a map and statement of present and prospective land uses, that:

Met

Pages: 13-14, 69-70, 73-81

(A) Indicates those areas proposed for forests, recreation, agriculture (using the agricultural lands identification process established in 6 V.S.A. § 8), residence, commerce, industry, public and semi-public uses and open spaces, areas reserved for flood plain, and areas identified by the State, the regional planning commission, or the municipality that require special consideration for aquifer protection; for wetland protection, for the maintenance of forest blocks, wildlife habitat, and habitat connectors; or for other conservation purposes.

MAPS

Present Land Use Plan ✓

Prospective Land Use Plan ☒

(B) Sets forth the present and prospective location, amount, intensity and character of such land uses and the appropriate timing or sequence of land development activities in relation to the provision of necessary community facilities and service.

(C) Identifies those areas, if any, proposed for designation under chapter 76A of this title and for status under 10 V.S.A. §§ 6033 and 6034, together with, for each area proposed for designation, an explanation of how the designation would further the plan's goals and the goals of § 4302 of this title, and how the area meets the requirements for the type of designation to be sought.

(D) Indicates those areas that are important as forest blocks and habitat connectors and plans for land development in those areas to minimize forest fragmentation and promote the health, viability, and ecological function of forests.

Comments: The Land Use chapter discusses the current nature of Richford's land use, including residential areas, commercial and industrial uses and agriculture/forestry. The Proposed Land Use

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section is well organized, with an overall summary of land use goals and specific purpose statements for each district. **Note that the Proposed Land Use Map is labeled as a Zoning Map, this should be fixed.** The map and purpose statements include districts for floodplain protection, water supply protection, and environmentally fragile areas. Proposed designation areas under Act 181 are mapped and discussed in the Land Use chapter as well as the Economy chapter, which states that redevelopment of the village is a major priority for the town and the designation program can help address problems with buildings in disrepair and empty storefronts. Forest blocks and habitat connectors are mapped and discussed in the Natural and Historic Resources chapter.

(3) A transportation plan, consisting of a map and statement of present and prospective transportation and circulation facilities showing existing and proposed highways and streets by type and character of improvement, and where pertinent, parking facilities, transit routes, terminals, bicycle paths and trails, scenic roads, airports, railroads and port facilities, and other similar facilities or uses, with indications of priority of need;

Met

Pages: 31-37

MAP

Transportation

Comments: Good transportation chapter with a focus on complete streets and bike/pedestrian planning. Plans and maps of proposed infrastructure from the sidewalk scoping study are included. Public transportation serving Richford is discussed, and the plan is updated to reflect RCT taking over service from GMT. Nearby air and rail transportation is discussed. The plan includes specific state and town highway project opportunities listed by priority. The Transportation System map shows all town highways by surface type.

(4) A utility and facility plan, consisting of a map and statement of present and prospective community facilities and public utilities showing existing and proposed educational, recreational and other public sites, buildings and facilities, including hospitals, libraries, power generating plants and transmission lines, water supply, sewage disposal, refuse disposal, storm drainage and other similar facilities and activities, and recommendations to meet future needs for community facilities and services, with indications of priority of need, costs and method of financing;

Met

Pages: 18-30, 38-53

MAP

Utility and Facility

Comments: The Public Utilities, Facilities and Services chapter discusses water, wastewater, waste management, internet and cell service, post office, town hall, town garage, emergency services, education, childcare, recreation, and health services. Power generating plants and transmission lines are mapped and discussed in the Energy chapter. Recommendations to meet future needs are listed in goals and policies. A town-wide Facilities & Service map is included as well as a specific inset for the Village.

(5) A statement of policies on the preservation of rare and irreplaceable natural areas, scenic and historic features and resources;

Met

Pages: 9-17

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Comments: Natural and Historic Resources chapter contains policies to preserve Richford’s historic resources and natural environment. Specific resources are discussed in the chapter.

(6) An educational facilities plan consisting of a map and statement of present and projected uses and the local public school system;

Met
Pages: 22-23

Comments: Education section discusses the Richford Junior-Senior High School and Elementary School and states that facilities currently meet their needs and there are no projected capacity concerns for either school. Building a path from the Village to Elementary School is listed as a priority. Schools are shown on the Facilities & Services map.

MAP
Educational Facility

(7) A recommended program for the implementation of the objectives of the development plan;

Met
Pages: 3-7

Comments: Implementation actions are listed in the Implementation section of the Introduction. The section is well-organized and tasks are broken into several specific projects with a timeline, responsible party and explanation for each.

(8) A statement indicating how the plan relates to development trends and plans of adjacent municipalities, areas and the region developed under this title;

Met
Pages: 79

Comments: The Compatibility with Adjacent Municipalities and the Region section of the Land Use chapter addresses this requirement. Proposed land use maps of Berkshire, Jay, Montgomery, Enosburgh and Westfield are compared and the plan states that there are no anticipated compatibility issues. The Richford land use plan is also compared to NRPC Regional Plan future land use districts and is found to be compatible.

(9) An energy plan, including an analysis of energy resources, needs, scarcities, costs and problems within the municipality, a statement of policy on the conservation of energy, including programs, such as thermal integrity standards for buildings, to implement that policy, a statement of policy on the development of renewable energy resources, a statement of policy on patterns and densities of land use likely to result in conservation of energy;

Met
Pages: 38-53

Comments: All requirements are addressed in the Energy chapter, which is written to meet the municipal determination for enhanced energy planning.

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(10) A housing element that shall include a recommended program of public and private actions to address housing needs and targets as identified by the regional planning commission pursuant to subdivision 4348a(a)(9) of this title. The program shall use data on year-round and seasonal dwellings and include specific actions to address the housing needs of persons with low income and persons with moderate income and account for permitted residential development as described in section 4412 of this title.

Unmet
Pages: 62-67

Comments: Housing chapter includes data on existing housing stock, however **data on seasonal dwellings needs to be included.** Housing targets are included. Richford’s 2050 goal is 338-665 units, and the plan recognizes that this will require a major change in the amount of housing built in Richford. The plan supports locating most of this housing in Richford Village and prioritizes rehabilitation of vacant units. Existing housing assistance agencies and affordability needs are discussed.

(11) An economic development element that describes present economic conditions and the location, type, and scale of desired economic development, and identifies policies, projects, and programs necessary to foster economic growth.

Met
Pages: 68-72

Comments: The Economy chapter discusses the current nature of Richford’s economy including agriculture, manufacturing, government and retail/tourism. Economic development strategies include a strong emphasis on Village revitalization and strategies to address blighted buildings and vacant storefronts.

(12)(A) A flood resilience plan that:

(i) identifies flood hazard and fluvial erosion hazard areas, based on river corridor maps provided by the Secretary of Natural Resources pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 1428(a) or maps recommended by the Secretary, and designates those areas to be protected, including floodplains, river corridors, land adjacent to streams, wetlands, and upland forests, to reduce the risk of flood damage to infrastructure and improved property; and

Met
Pages: 14-17

(ii) recommends policies and strategies to protect the areas identified and designated under subdivision (12)(A)(i) of this subsection and to mitigate risks to public safety, critical infrastructure, historic structures, and municipal investments.

(B) A flood resilience plan may reference an existing local hazard mitigation plan approved under 44 C.F.R. § 201.6.

Comments: Flood resilience is addressed in the Natural and Historic Resources chapter, including inundation flooding and fluvial erosion. Flood hazard areas and river corridors are mapped and discussed. Policies discourage development in these areas. **Consider a adding reference to the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.**

GOALS AND STANDARDS OF REVIEW

24 VSA § 4302

(a) General purposes . . .

(b) It is also the intent of the legislature that municipalities, regional planning commissions and state agencies shall engage in a continuing planning process that will further the following goals:

- (1) To establish a coordinated, comprehensive planning process and policy framework to guide decisions by municipalities, regional planning commissions, and state agencies.
- (2) To encourage citizen participation at all levels of the planning process, and to assure that decisions shall be made at the most local level possible commensurate with their impact.
- (3) To consider the use of resources and the consequences of growth and development for the region and the state, as well as the community in which it takes place.
- (4) To encourage and assist municipalities to work creatively together to develop and implement plans.

(c) In addition, this chapter shall be used to further the following specific goals:

Goal 1: To plan development so as to maintain the historic settlement pattern of compact village and urban centers separated by rural countryside.

Consistent

Pages: 31-37, 62-81

(A) Intensive residential development should be encouraged primarily in areas related to downtown centers, village centers, planned growth areas, and village areas as described in section 4348a of this title, and strip development along highways should be avoided. These areas should be planned so as to accommodate a substantial majority of housing needed to reach the housing targets developed for each region pursuant to subdivision 4348a(a)(9) of this title.

(B) Economic growth should be encouraged in locally and regionally designated growth areas, or employed to revitalize existing village and urban centers, or both.

(C) Public investments, including construction or expansion of infrastructure, should reinforce the planned growth patterns of the area.

(D) Development should be undertaken in accordance with smart growth principles as defined in subdivision 2791(13) of this title.

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal:

The Land Use and Economy chapters encourage development and economic growth centered in the Village to support village revitalization. Proposed public investments support this goal, including plans proposed by the sidewalk scoping study to provide pedestrian routes from the village to surrounding areas. The plan makes specific reference to the Regional Future Land Use Map and includes maps of the Village Center and Planned Growth Areas. Policies support taking advantage of these designations

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to support redevelopment of the Village. Housing targets are included in the Housing chapter, and the plan proposes meeting these targets through growth centered around the Village. The plan discourages strip development along highways and the land use plan is consistent with smart growth principles.

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Goal 2: To provide a strong and diverse economy that provides satisfying and rewarding job opportunities and that maintains high environmental standards, and to expand economic opportunities in areas with high unemployment or low per capita incomes.

Consistent

Pages: 68-72

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal: The Economy chapter has an Earning a Livable Wage section that supports expanding economic opportunities for Richford residents. Unemployment, income and poverty data are included. Economy goals and policies support attracting new businesses that provide jobs at livable wages and utilize the skills of the local labor market.

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Goal 3: To broaden access to educational and vocational training opportunities sufficient to ensure the full realization of the abilities of all Vermonters.

Consistent

Pages: 22-30

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal: This goal is stated verbatim in the Public Utilities, Facilities and Services goals and policies. Education section discusses current educational facilities and plans for them to remain adequate for the needs of the community. Specific programs for the success of children developmentally at risk are discussed, including the Franklin County Early Childhood Programs. Vocational and higher education opportunities in the region that are available to Richford residents are discussed.

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Goal 4: To provide for safe, convenient, economic and energy efficient transportation systems that respect the integrity of the natural environment, including public transit options and paths for pedestrians and bicyclers.

Consistent

Pages: 31-37

(A) Highways, air, rail and other means of transportation should be mutually supportive, balanced and integrated.

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal: The plan has a strong Transportation chapter with a focus on complete streets and bike/pedestrian planning. Plans and maps of proposed infrastructure from the sidewalk scoping study are included. Public transportation serving Richford is discussed, and the plan is updated to reflect RCT taking over service from GMT and contains goals for the

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improvement of public transit service to Richford. Nearby air and rail transportation is discussed. The plan includes specific state and town highway project opportunities listed by priority.

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Goal 5: To identify, protect and preserve important natural and historic features of the Vermont landscape including:

- (A) significant natural and fragile areas;
- (B) outstanding water resources, including lakes, rivers, aquifers, shorelands and wetlands;
- (C) significant scenic roads, waterways and views;
- (D) important historic structures, sites, or districts, archaeological sites and archaeologically sensitive areas

Consistent
Pages: 9-17, 73-81

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal: The Natural and Historic Resources chapter identifies historic and archeological resources in Richford including the historic district and properties on the historic register, as well as natural resources including climate, topography, water resources, woodlands, wetlands, floodplains, and fish and wildlife resources. Goals and policies support preservation of these resources. The plan recognizes the Missisquoi River’s status as a National Scenic River, and the Land Use chapter’s Forest/Conservation District purpose statement states that the district is intended to protect the scenic and natural resource values of this land for forestry, wildlife habitat, wetlands, and outdoor recreation. No specific scenic roads are identified in the plan.

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Goal 6: To maintain and improve the quality of air, water, wildlife, forests and other land resources.

- (A) Vermont’s air, water, wildlife, mineral, and land resources should be planned for use and development according to the principles set forth in 10 V.S.A. § 6086(a).
- (B) Vermont’s water quality should be maintained and improved according to the policies and actions developed in the basin plans established by the Secretary of Natural Resources under 10 V.S.A. § 1253. No. 181 Page 60 of 171 2024 VT LEG #377893 v.1
- (C) Vermont’s forestlands should be managed so as to maintain and improve forest blocks and habitat connectors.

Consistent
Pages: 9-17, 73-81

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal: The Natural and Historic Resources chapter identifies natural resources in Richford including climate, topography, water resources, woodlands, wetlands, floodplains, and fish and wildlife resources. Habitat blocks are mapped and discussed. Goals and policies support maintaining and improving the quality of these resources by regulating development

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in sensitive areas and promoting land conservation. The Land Use chapter goals and policies also support this goal.

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Goal 7: To encourage the efficient use of energy and the development of renewable energy resources.

Consistent

Pages: 38-53

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal: This goal is thoroughly addressed in the Energy chapter, which is written to meet the municipal determination for enhanced energy planning.

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Goal 8: To maintain and enhance recreational opportunities for Vermont residents and visitors.

Consistent

Pages: 24-30, 73-81

(A) Growth should not significantly diminish the value and availability of outdoor recreational activities.

(B) Public access to noncommercial outdoor recreational opportunities, such as lakes and hiking trails, should be identified, provided, and protected wherever appropriate.

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal: The Land Use chapter includes a Recreation/Conservation District, which includes areas that offer unique environmental and public use opportunities. Residential development is prohibited in this district. The Public Utilities, Facilities and Services chapter lists current recreational assets and opportunities to improve recreation access, including the Richford Re-Connect plan to connect the Elementary School with the Village sidewalk network and connect existing trail networks to fishing access points. This goal is stated verbatim in the Public Utilities, Facilities and Services goals and policies. Policies and implementation actions are included that support this goal.

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Goal 9: To encourage and strengthen agricultural and forest industries.

Inconsistent

Pages: 71-81

(A) Strategies to protect long-term viability of agricultural and forest lands should be encouraged and should include maintaining low overall density.

(B) The manufacture and marketing of value added agricultural and forest products should be encouraged.

(C) The use of locally-grown food products should be encouraged.

(D) Sound forest and agricultural management practices should be encouraged.

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(E) Public investment should be planned so as to minimize development pressure on agricultural and forest land.

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal: The Land Use chapter includes a discussion of Richford's current agriculture and forest lands, and states that 50% of land in Richford is in the current use program for forestry and 15% is in the current use program for agriculture. The proposed land use plan states that low-density development in the Agricultural district may occur but should be monitored to ensure it does not conflict with agricultural and forestry uses. Densities are further limited in the Forest/Conservation district. Land Use goals and policies encourage the continuation of agriculture and the conservation of major forest lands through the current use program, conservation easements, and the purchase of development rights. Sound forest harvest practices are also encouraged. The Economy chapter includes a policy to focus municipal economic development efforts on tourism, technology, and forest industries, including efforts to expand value added manufacturing. While the plan is consistent with these goals with respect to forestry, sound agricultural management practices and value-added agricultural products could be mentioned. The plan has no mention of locally grown food products.

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Goal 10: To provide for the wise and efficient use of Vermont's natural resources and to facilitate the appropriate extraction of earth resources and the proper restoration and preservation of the aesthetic qualities of the area.

Consistent
Pages: 16

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal: The Natural and Historic Resources Soils Goal and policies address this. Mineral and earth resource extraction and processing facilities should be planned, constructed, and managed so as to not adversely impact: a) existing or planned uses within the vicinity of the project site; b) fish and wildlife habitat and surrounding land uses; c) waters leaving the site that will not undergo further off-site management; d) prime agricultural land; e) function and safety of existing road systems serving the project site and f) to provide direct access to Class 3 or better highways. The plan also requires restoration of recently abandoned earth resource extraction sites where appropriate.

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Goal 11: To ensure the availability of safe and affordable housing for all Vermonters.

Consistent
Pages: 62-67

(A) Housing should be encouraged to meet the needs of a diversity of social and income groups in each Vermont community, particularly for those citizens of low and moderate income, and consistent with housing targets provided for in subdivision 4348a(a)(9) of this title.

(B) New and rehabilitated housing should be safe, sanitary, located conveniently to employment and commercial centers, and coordinated with the provision of necessary public facilities and utilities.

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(C) Sites for multifamily and manufactured housing should readily available in locations similar to those generally used for single-family conventional dwellings.

(D) Accessory dwelling units within or attached to single family residences that provide affordable housing in close proximity to cost-effective care and supervision for relatives or disabled or elderly persons should be allowed.

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal: Housing chapter states that all Richford residents, present and future, should have safe and affordable housing. Supporting goals: 1) HAVE HOUSING AVAILABLE IN A VARIETY OF TYPES FOR ALL INCOMES AND AGES AND IS IN A CONVENIENT LOCATION FOR EMPLOYMENT, SERVICES, RETAIL CENTERS, AND EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES. 2) RICHFORD HOUSEHOLDS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIAL HOUSING NEEDS, INCLUDING SENIORS, PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY DISABLED RESIDENTS, AND LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSEHOLDS HAVE AFFORDABLE HOUSING. Housing targets are included. Richford’s 2050 goal is 338-665 units, and the plan recognizes that this will require a major change in the amount of housing built in Richford. Accessory dwelling units and manufactured housing are supported in the plan and mentioned as strategies to meet housing targets. The plan also prioritizes rehabilitation of vacant units in the Village.

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Goal 12: To plan for, finance and provide an efficient system of public facilities and services to meet future needs.

(A) Public facilities and services should include fire and police protection, emergency medical services, schools, water supply and sewage and solid waste disposal.

(B) The rate of growth should not exceed the ability of the community and the area to provide facilities and services.

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal: The Public Utilities, Facilities and Services chapter discusses water, wastewater, waste management, internet and cell service, post office, town hall, town garage, emergency services (including fire/police/ambulance), education, childcare, recreation, and health services. Power generating plants and transmission lines are mapped and discussed in the Energy chapter. Recommendations to meet future needs are listed in goals and policies. **The goal to develop and maintain a capital budget and plan is missing associated policies.**

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Goal 13: To ensure the availability of safe and affordable child care and to integrate child care issues into the planning process, including child care financing, infrastructure, business assistance for child care providers, and child care work force development.

Consistent
Pages: 18-30

Consistent
Pages: 24-29

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How has the Town Plan addressed this goal: Childcare section discusses current childcare options in Richford and unmet needs. There are 1.5 children under the age of 6 for each available registered childcare spot in Richford. The plan has a goal to encourage and support licensed childcare facilities that are safe, affordable and high quality, and a policy to support the availability of safe and affordable childcare. Child care financing, infrastructure, business assistance and work force development are not specifically mentioned.

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Goal 14: To encourage flood resilient communities.

(A) New development in identified flood hazard and river corridor protection areas should be avoided. If new development is to be built in such areas, it should not exacerbate flooding and fluvial erosion.

(B) The protection and restoration of floodplains and upland forested areas that attenuate and moderate flooding and fluvial erosion should be encouraged.

(C) Flood emergency preparedness and response planning should be encouraged.

Consistent

Pages: 6, 9-17

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal: Natural and Historic Resources chapter has a Flood Resilience section that discusses inundation flooding and fluvial erosion. Wetlands and soils are also discussed with respect to flood resiliency. Water resource policies discourage new development in flood hazard areas and river corridors, and encourage the protection and restoration of floodplains and upland forested areas that attenuate and moderate flooding a fluvial erosion. Policies also encourage adoption of flood emergency preparedness and response plans. The plan also has an implementation action to work on flood resiliency issues by applying for grants to complete projects that mitigate potential effects of flooding.

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Goal 15: To equitably distribute environmental benefits and burdens as described in 3 V.S.A. chapter 72.

How has the Town Plan addressed this goal: The equity section of the Energy chapter states that it is the policy of Richford that no segment of the population should, because of its racial, cultural, or economic makeup, bear a disproportionate share of environmental burdens or be denied an equitable share of environmental benefits. It is further the policy of the Richford to provide the opportunity for the meaningful participation of all individuals, with particular attention to environmental justice focus populations, in the development, implementation, or enforcement of any law, regulation, or policy. Richford's Declaration of Inclusion is also included in the plan, and the plan states that its themes and ideas have been incorporated into this plan and will be considered further in the implementation of this plan. Richford will continue to identify ways to implement the statement of inclusion and identify how to consider equity and inclusion within their work. Richford will continue to partner with local and regional organizations to ensure projects and programs support improved access to opportunity for all people in Richford.

Consistent

Pages: 54

If the goal is not relevant or attainable, how does the plan address why:

Regional Plan and Adjacent Community Plan Compatibility

Regional Plan

Does the municipal plan propose any changes to future land use districts when compared with the existing zoning map (or previous municipal plan if no zoning exists)?

Comments: No changes are proposed to future land use districts when compared with the existing zoning map.

Is the municipal plan compatible with its regional plan?

Comments: Yes. The areas planned for growth in the Regional Plan are also within the Village zoning districts for the Town Plan. The remainder of land in both the Town and the Region are largely planned for rural land uses.

Adjacent Municipalities

Is the municipal plan compatible with approved plans of other municipalities in the region?

Comments: Yes. The Compatibility with Adjacent Municipalities and the Region section of the Land Use chapter addresses this requirement. Proposed land use maps of Berkshire, Jay, Montgomery, Enosburgh and Westfield are compared, and there are no anticipated compatibility issues.

STANDARD OF REVIEW

24 V.S.A. § 4302(f)

(1) As used in this chapter, "consistent with the goals" requires substantial progress toward attainment of the goals established in this section, unless the planning body determines that a particular goal is not relevant or attainable. If such a determination is made, the planning body shall identify the goal in the plan and describe the situation, explain why the goal is not relevant or

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attainable, and indicate what measures should be taken to mitigate any adverse effects of not making substantial progress toward that goal. The determination of relevance or attainability shall be subject to review as part of a consistency determination under this chapter.

(2) As used in this chapter, for one plan to be "compatible with" another, the plan in question, as implemented, will not significantly reduce the desired effect of the implementation of the other plan. If a plan, as implemented, will significantly reduce the desired effect of the other plan, the plan may be considered compatible if it includes the following:

(A) a statement that identifies the ways that it will significantly reduce the desired effect of the other plan;

(B) an explanation of why any incompatible portion of the plan in question is essential to the desired effect of the plan as a whole;

(C) an explanation of why, with respect to any incompatible portion of the plan in question, there is no reasonable alternative way to achieve the desired effect of the plan, and

(D) an explanation of how any incompatible portion of the plan in question has been structured to mitigate its detrimental effects on the implementation of the other plan.

24 V.S.A. § 4350. Review and consultation regarding municipal planning effort

(a) A regional planning commission shall consult with its municipalities with respect to the municipalities' planning efforts, ascertaining the municipalities' needs as individual municipalities and as neighbors in a region, and identifying the assistance that ought to be provided by the regional planning commission. As a part of this consultation, the regional planning commission, after public notice, shall review the planning process of its member municipalities at least twice during an eight-year period, or more frequently on request of the municipality, and shall so confirm when a municipality:

(1) is engaged in a continuing planning process that, within a reasonable time, will result in a plan which is consistent with the goals contained in section 4302 of this title; and

(2) is maintaining its efforts to provide local funds for municipal and regional planning purposes.

(b)(1) As part of the consultation process, the commission shall consider whether a municipality has adopted a plan. In order to obtain or retain confirmation of the planning process after January 1, 1996, a municipality must have an approved plan. A regional planning commission shall review and approve plans of its member municipalities, when approval is requested and warranted. Each review shall include a public hearing which is noticed at least 15 days in advance by posting in the office of the municipal clerk and at least one public place within the municipality and by publication in a

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newspaper or newspapers of general publication in the region affected. The commission shall approve a plan if it finds that the plan:

- (A) is consistent with the goals established in section 4302 of this title;
- (B) is compatible with its regional plan;
- (C) is compatible with approved plans of other municipalities in the region; and
- (D) contains all the elements included in subdivisions 4382(a)(1)-(10) of this title.

