



To: North Hero Planning Commission
From: Luke Slomba, Regional Planner
Date: March 24, 2026
Subject: Town Plan Project Kick-off

Project Goals

As the Town Plan expires in March 2028, it's important to review what's been done and plan ahead for North Hero. This project will update the Town Plan, focusing on housing, rural land use, climate resilience, and other priorities identified by residents. We'll ask the community for ideas through tabling events and public workshops to create a shared vision for the next 30 years. The main goal is to update the Town Plan, which hasn't had a major update in over 15 years.

Draft Project Schedule

Date	Activity
3/24/2026	Plan kick-off and themes
4/28/2026	Data updates, public outreach planning
5/26/2026	Review draft survey
	Distribute survey
?	Public outreach – tabling
?	Public outreach – tabling
8/11/2026	Survey closes
8/25/2026	Review public outreach results, plan outline
9/22/2026	Plan drafting – vision statement, goals and policies
10/27/2026	Plan drafting – chapter text
11/24/2026	Plan drafting – chapter text
12/22/2026	Plan drafting – chapter text
1/26/2027	Finalize plan draft & warn PC hearing
3/23/2027	PC hearing
5/3/2027	SB hearing
12/31/2027	MPG funds expire
3/3/2028	Old plan expires
3/7/2028	New plan adopted at Town Meeting Day

The Planning Process

(from the Vermont Planning Manual)



Vision Statement

The current North Hero Town Plan does not have a vision statement. Creating a shared statement helps capture what residents value, how they see the community's future, and the principles they want to guide that future. A vision statement will be written with community input to guide the Town Plan update.

Key Themes

Before public outreach starts, it's important to identify key themes that the Planning Commission wants to focus on to help direct the conversation. Below is a starting point that draws from NRPC's last consultation and the Municipal Planning Grant application. The list can be edited or expanded based on our discussion.

Key themes:

- 1. Support for aging population**
- 2. Reducing development pressure on rural lands**
- 3. Increasing housing options**
- 4. Climate resilience**

Additions or changes?

Public Outreach Planning

The following public outreach process is described in the MPG application for the Town Plan Update:

“To reach the broadest possible group of residents, the Planning Commission will table at community events throughout the project. These events are more likely to be attended by residents not otherwise involved in planning. Tabling will include visioning activities that are engaging, quick, and don’t require previous knowledge of local planning.

Information about the Town Plan update and survey will be sent to residents and property-owners via a postcard mailing using the property tax and registered voter lists. Additionally, information will be distributed using social media, a press release to the local newspaper, school newsletter and via word-of-mouth. A project website will be developed and updated regularly.”

Since public input will guide the plan update, outreach will need to occur before plan drafting starts. Holding these events sooner rather than later will ensure that we have plenty of time to draft the new plan. Ideally, we can come up with a list of events at this meeting and begin working to schedule them.

Public outreach:

1. Website

- a. Hosted by NRPC with link on town website

2. Tabling at community events

- a. Possible events and dates?
- b. Summer events to reach seasonal residents
- c. NRPC can attend 1-2 events, and we can provide materials if PC wants to do additional tabling

3. Survey

- a. Postcard mailing – town voter list, property owners
- b. Where else to advertise?

Next Meeting

1. Data updates presentation
 - a. Info on current population, economy, development trends to provide context for the plan update
2. Continue coordinating outreach