

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT 2004

The primary activity of the Planning Commission during the year has been to prepare a new Town Plan (the "Plan"). The current Town Plan was adopted in 1999. The State of Vermont requires each town to update their Plan every five years. The Plan defines a long-term vision for the Town and a roadmap for achieving that vision. The Plan addresses historical and cultural resources, natural resources and fragile areas, population trends and projections, energy, housing, transportation, community services and facilities, education, local economy, land use and child care.

To gather feedback, the Planning Commission hosted four public forums in 2004 on April 8, May 19, August 5 and September 30 in which various aspects of the draft Plan were discussed. The draft Plan has now been completed and a public hearing is to be held on February 28, 2005 at 7 p.m. in Town Hall to solicit additional public comment. The Plan will then be submitted to the Selectboard, which will hold an additional public hearing prior to adopting the Plan. The preparation of a new Plan provides an opportunity for local residents to evaluate the general direction in which the community appears to be headed, and to debate whether Warren should stay on that course or diverge from it. It is hoped the new Plan process will stimulate such discussions. Copies of the draft Plan are available at the Town offices or on Warren's web site at <http://www.warrenvt.org/>.

In 2004 the Planning Commission finalized its work on a Warren Village Pedestrian Enhancement Plan that studied various potential traffic calming and lighting measures that could improve pedestrian safety. This plan was presented to the Selectboard for implementation consideration.

Major focus over the new year for the Planning Commission will be on: (1) managing the process for revision of the Town Plan to final adoption of the Plan; (2) revising the zoning regulations (called the "Land Use and Development Regulations"); and (3) developing plans for solving critical needs in the Municipal Building and the Town Garage. The Planning Commission applied for and received a Municipal Planning Grant of \$ 14,620 to update the zoning regulations and zoning maps.

Regretfully, Clayton Cormier has recently resigned from the Planning Commission after five years of service. On behalf of the Town we would like to thank him for his valuable service, especially for serving as Chair. A vacancy remains on the Planning Commission, which will hopefully be filled by an enthusiastic Warren resident who will volunteer in the near future.

The Planning Commission meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Monday of the month at the Municipal Building.

Planning Commission

Clayton Cormier, Past Chair (resigned)
John Donaldson, Chair
Donald La Haye
Jim Sanford

Laura Crandall, Vice Chair
John Goss
Lisa Miserandino