

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT 2003

The Planning Commission has had a busy year! The commission continues to work on affordable housing in Warren and the Valley as a whole by working with Central Vermont Community Land Trust to identify possible sites to create affordable housing opportunities. To date however, site and development costs have impeded potential affordable housing projects from moving forward.

Planning also continues on the Village Sidewalk & Pedestrian project, which would improve pedestrian accessibility and safety in the village. At the request of the Selectboard the Planning Commission has refocused their efforts from Sidewalk Planning to Traffic Calming Planning.

With assistance from Jeff Schoellkopf and the Edgcomb Design Group the Planning Commission finalized a design for expanding the Municipal Building and Library. This project was deferred from moving forward after a bond vote failed on July 1, 2003.

The commission has worked with the Selectboard throughout the year to finalize a list of roads in Warren to consider for scenic designation.

In addition to continuing planning for traffic calming in Warren Village, affordable housing and general planning projects, over the next year the Planning Commission will be concentrating on updating the Town Plan ("The Plan"). The State of Vermont statutes require that each town update their Plan every five years. The Plan outlines the town planning objectives and should guide the community toward smart growth. The Plan must address settlement patterns, local economy & jobs, educational opportunities, energy efficiency, public transportation, historic landmarks, the environment, recreational opportunities, agriculture & silviculture, housing availability & affordability, public services and child care. We would like to encourage all residents and tax payers to participate in the Plan revision process. **Public forums are scheduled for April 8, May 19, June 28 and August 3, 2004.**

The current version as well as the draft revisions of the plan can be found on the Town of Warren website at: <http://www.madrivervalley.com>. Minutes and agendas of the Planning Commission meetings, the Land Use and Development Regulations, the Town Plan, zoning applications, and other general information can also be found on the town webpage.

The Planning Commission applied for and received \$9,996 in grant money from the VT Department of Housing and Community Affairs to update the Warren Town Plan.

Regretfully, during 2003 Matt Sargent resigned from the board after years of service. A vacancy remains on the board and the Planning Commission is in search of an enthusiastic Warren Resident to join them.

Margo Wade resigned as the Planning Commission Assistant to take a position in the Sugarbush Resort Planning Department. On behalf of the town we would like to thank Margo for her years of diligent hard work. Shannon Hill was hired in February 2003 to replace Margo.

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, Chair
John Donaldson, Vice Chair
John Goss
Donald La Haye
Lisa Miserendino
Jim Sanford
Matt Sargent (resigned)