August 30, 2023

To the Citizens of Weston,

One of the primary functions of the Planning Commission is to create and then update the town plan every 8 years. Our current town plan was created in 2016 and, under Vermont statue, we are required to update the town plan by 2024. Having recently received a Municipal Planning Grant from the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development to support us in that effort, the Planning Commission is now ready to begin that process.

I am sure some of you might ask “why is a town plan important?” Good question. In short:

1. The town plan will be central to helping Weston plan for the future and consider the kind of town we want to be. It establishes our vision and values as a community and provides the framework for our zoning regulations and bylaws. Taken together, these documents provide protection of our town resources and help us defend against development that is not aligned with our community.
2. It covers critical topics and lays out a future plan and goals for each including: land use; transportation; town government, community facilities, town services and recreation; natural, historic, and cultural resources; education; energy; housing; economic development; and flood resiliency.
3. Since the last town plan was last updated, many things have changed that certainly impact our thinking today that was not present in 2016, including:
   a. The growth in our year round resident population since the pandemic
   b. The ever increasing likelihood of significant weather events, like the July flood and its direct impact on our infrastructure, our village and our homes everywhere
   c. The need for a greater workforce and services
   d. Changes coming from Montpelier that are setting direction regarding affordable housing and what that means to us
   e. And there are many others . . .

To kick off the process of updating the town plan, our first step is to hear from you via this Town Plan Survey. Now more than ever, your voice is key as it will guide the process from the start. Be heard! https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C5C97FP

This will not be the only time we will need you, but the start of many opportunities for you to be present and to participate. And given the amazing volunteerism shown throughout this community this summer in the aftermath of the flood, we know this is a community that cares deeply and wants to participate in shaping the future of Weston.

Thank you in advance for your support,

The Weston Planning Commission
Lexi Young, Chair
Kim Price, Secretary
Geof Brown
Annie Fujii