

What is planning?

Planning is a collaborative process where residents, business people, political leaders, professionals, and individual interest groups work together to define the community's vision for the future. Planning helps us to recognize, preserve, and enhance the qualities that make our town the place we want to live in, and allows us to shape the future based on the resources available to us in order to fulfill our needs and desires.

Each community's power to plan comes from the State.

We need to encourage wise land use planning.

~ Mount Holly resident, Mount Holly Town-Wide Survey

Planning is an ongoing process of formulating goals for the future of a community, and agreeing on the manner in which those goals are to be met. The Municipal and Regional Planning Development Act, commonly known as Chapter 117 or the Act, is the Vermont law governing local planning. It addresses a number of basic elements and requirements for land use planning and controls.

The Act authorizes such things as:

- The appointment, authority, and powers of zoning administrators, planning commissions, boards of adjustment, and development review boards.
- The content of town plans and regional plans.
- Municipal land use regulations.
- Town plan and bylaw adoption.
- Permitting and appeals.
- Public notice and hearing requirements.

Planning brings people together.

The preparation of a town plan, land use regulation, or bylaw under Chapter 117 is the responsibility of the Planning Commission. Citizen involvement is required under state law and is especially important in the development of a plan or regulation so that it adequately and appropriately represents the constituency it serves.



What is planning? (continued)

Planning is important because it establishes a town's priorities, helps guide development, and helps property owners, public officials, and developments know exactly how to review, permit and implement a project. Planning brings people together to discuss and make decisions about a town's future; it creates a forum where all community members can be actively involved in the decision-making process.

Specific goals for community plans are intended to:

- Guide development so that it respects the desires of the community and is compatible with the surrounding environment.
- Sustain a healthy environment and preserve important resources.
- Establish a capital budget in order to plan for, finance, and provide suitable public facilities and resources.
- Provide an adequate transportation system.
- Ensure the availability of safe and affordable housing.
- Implement the vision of the community.

How can I get more information?

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PO Box 248

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Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30am - 4:00pm

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