PUBLIC MEETING BELMONT VILLAGE PLAN

The Mount Holly MPG (Municipal Planning Grant) Working Group will be hosting a **Public Meeting** to present and discuss the **Draft Belmont Village Plan**.

A copy of the draft plan will be made available online for review approximately one week before the meeting at:

www.mounthollyvt.org/planning-commission/municipal-planning-grant/

Where: Belmont Community Center Mount Holly Town Library 26 Maple Hill Road, Belmont, VT

When: August 16th, 2023 @ 5:00pm

This project is funded by a Municipal Planning Grant awarded by the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development

Belmont Village Plan Draft Presentation - August 16, 2023



AUGUST 16, 2023

Welcome Everyone!

Thank you for joining us, and thank you to the **Belmont Community Center** for hosting us today!





Introduction

Michael Allen Regrowth Planning

I am working with the Town of Mount Holly to develop a Plan for the Village of Belmont, documenting a long-term vision for the community.





VILLAGE CENTER DESIGNATION

Funded by a Municipal Planning Grant awarded by the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development. Working Group

Jeff Chase Jon McCann Anna Hanson **Russ Garrow** Andy Bolalek Lisa Kelly Kevin Hollebeek David Martin Faith Tempest Jessica Metcalfe



MOUNT HOLLY, VERMONT WWW.MOUNThollyvt.org

Announcements 🗸 Town Calendar Town Government 🗸 Town Services 🗸 Community Organizations 🗸 Chit Chat 🔱

WELCOME

Mount Holly

Mount Holly is a town in Rutland County, Vermont, with a population of 1,385 (2020 census). Our town has a total area of 49.6 square miles, of which 0.4 square miles is water. We are know for our long-lasting snow, and for Okemo Mountain, which straddles Mount Holly and our nearby neighbor to the east, Ludlow. There are four hamlets in Mount Holly, of which one is Belmont, a designated Village Center. We are a small town with deep roots in community.

Town Office

The Town Office is open to the public Monday-Thursday, 8:30 am - 4 pm, and the Town Clerk keeps the same hours. The Town Treasurer, Select Board Clerk, and Administrative Officer also keep public hours for assisting the public; specific hours are below.

50 School Street PO Box 248 Mount Holly, Vermont 05758 M-Th 8:30 AM-4:00 PM Closed Fridays (802) 259-2391 www.mounthollyvt.org

Town Clerk

Carol A Garrow-Woolley <u>mthollytc@yahoo.com</u> Mondays - Thursdays, 8:30 am - 4 pm

Town Treasurer

Elizabeth Karle <u>treasurermthollyvt@gmail.com</u> Mondays 10 am -3 pm; Wednesdays 10 am -4 pm

Select Board Clerk

Caitlin Boyle mounthollyselectboard@gmail.com Mondays 10 am – 1 pm



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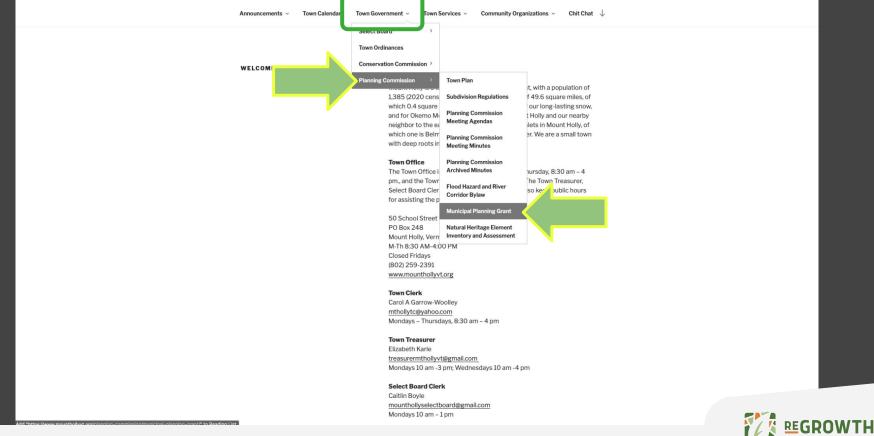
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MOUNT HOLLY, VERMONT

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MUNICIPAL PLANNING GRANT

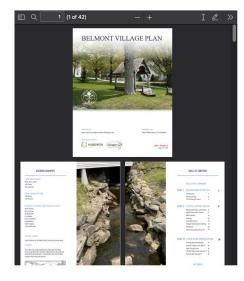
Latest News

Use our new feedback form to tell us what you think

The initial draft of the Belmont Village Plan is now available.

Posted Here:

Draft Plan & Maps Copy of this presentation Video of meeting Community Vision Survey Project updates Project materials



Belmont-Village-Plan_Draft-v1.0r-2 Download

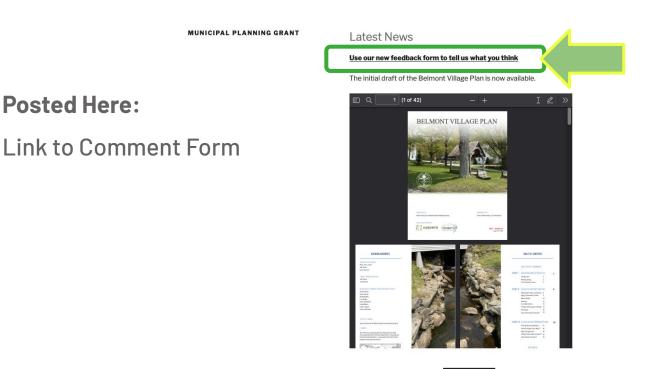


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BELMONT VILLAGE PLAN

Posted Here:



Belmont Village Plan - Comment Form

This ONLINE COMMENT FORM is provided to collect any additional public comments or questions regarding the Draft Village of Belmont Plan. Thank you for your participation.

Sign in to Google to save your progress. Learn more

Please use the space below to provide any comments or suggestions you may have for the **Village of Belmont Plan**. The available space to write will get larger as you type.

Your answer

(OPTIONAL) Did you attend one of the recent public meetings for the Belmont Village Plan, or participate in the Community Survey? (Select any that apply)

I provided responses in the Community Survey last Fall.

I attended the Public Meeting on May 24th.

I attended the Draft Presentation August 16th.

None of the above

(OPTIONAL) If you would like to be notified about future meetings, events or announcements regarding the Village of Belmont Plan, please provide your email in the space below. Thank you!

Clear form

Your answer

5



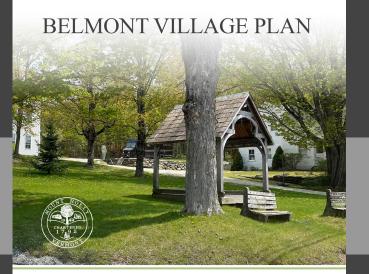
Today's Meeting:

Overview of Plan

Review Draft Recommendations

Open Discussion Period





Document Overview

PREPARED BY: Mount Holly Grant Administration Working Group



PREPARED FOR: Town of Mount Holly, VT Selectboard

DRAFT - VERSION 1.0 August 10, 2023



Belmont Village Plan

TOWN OF MOUNT HOLLY

future of Mount Holly. Overall, there was very strong support for the protection of the rural and working agricultural landscape and the small town character which defines Mount Holly. Likewise, protection of the natural environment–Star Lake and water quality in particular—and how these relate and support outdoor, nature-based recreation. The community noted a desire for more residential diversity, particularly as it related to availability and affordability for younger families and senior residents.

At the time of this survey, the future of the Belmont Store was uncertain, and many residents voiced interest in keeping this local amenity, as well as some limited village-focused small businesses. There was also a need identified for improved infrastructure, with village water and sever necessary to support some additional growth, as well as improved broadband, cell service, and renewable energy support. The strengthening of community spirit, through local events and opportunities for social interactions, were also valued as very important considerations in maintaining the identity of Mount Holly. A strong sense of community was particularly important to retain with a high percentage of second homeowners and many new residents locating in the area. Lastly, it was noted that an inclusive and transparent local government was desired by residents, with updated local emergency services and facilities.

The full results of the survey have been documented in the Mount Holly 2022 Community Vision Survey Summary Report, a copy of which is provided in the Appendix of this document for reference.

Public Workshop. A public workshop was held on May 24, 2023 at the Belmont Community Room to present some of the results of the Community



Document Organization

PART I - Background & Process





Recreation

Parks and public recreation facility improvements were noted in the Community Survey as one of the top issues to be addressed by the town in, the next few years. With this in mind, the Village of Belmont would greatly benefit from several accessibility and amenity enhancements at the Star Lake Recreation Area, as well as a system of recreational walking paths connecting various points of interest within the village.

The Star Lake Recreation area is a one-acre parcel of town-owned land on the southwestern shore of Star Lake. Currently, the full enjoyment and potential of this park is being impeded by several factors. Pedestrian access into the park is through an informal parking area adjacent to the Oddfellows Hall around a steep raised berm created by the existing dam structure underneath. This arrangement is not currently ADA accessible, makes the park difficult to find, and gives visitors the incorrect impression that they must cross through someone's private property and over a berm to enter the site. The result is an avkward and unwelcoming entry to what should be a friendly and inviting public space. Changes should be made to make this entry more readily visible, accessible and welcoming as an obvious park entry. This issue is compounded somewhat by limited parking availability. A pull-off area on the north side of Lake Street—which at first appears to be a logical parking area—is in fact strictly reserved for the Fire Department to have emergency access to the two dry hydrants. Additional parking space and clearer parking area-genenest should be made.

Once inside the park, a large open lawn area is provided with wonderful views of the lake, however amenities within the park are currently limited to some picnic tables and benches. Available space for other desired public amenities (such as playground equipment or a picnic pavilion) is constrained by overhead power lines and utility poles which cut through the property. In order to free up space for



SUES & OPPORTUNITIES REVIEW DRAFT - Version 1.0 - AUGUST 10, 2023

Document Organization

PART I - Background & Process PART II - Issues & Opportunities





PART III VISION & RECOMMENDATIONS

General Policy & Vision

The Belmont Village Center would benefit from sensitive enhancements and growth which reflects its historic development pattern, creates a more active and inviting destination, and is in keeping with the scale of a traditional Vermont village. As part of this effort, the village should seek to accommodate additional housing options within and immediately adjacent to the center which support a more diverse range of needs for younger family members and local seniors, geared toward year-round residency. This growth should be supported by infrastructure upgrades which can provide additional sever, water and stormwater capacity and protect local water quality. To further enhance the village, these improvements should be augmented by recreational walking paths, parking and park improvements which will encourage a more vibrant and active village center.

The details of these policy and vision recommendations are illustrated in Map C - Village Vision Plan, Map D - Village Streetscape Concept, and Map E - Park Improvements and keyed to their corresponding number where appropriate. These are described further in the following pages.

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Document Organization

PART I - Background & Process PART II - Issues & Opportunities **PART III - Vision & Recommendations**

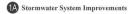


PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Priority Recommendations



In the aftermath of the July 9, 2023 rainstorm event which caused severe damage to areas within the Belmont Village, some immediate short-term repairs and mitigations are a priority. These include the repair and replacement of the Star Lake outflow as it travels west across Belmont Street, particularly through the existing box culvert beneath the roadway which suffered significant damage. Repairs here will likely require redesign, upsizing and replacement of the entire culvert spanning the town right-of-way. Additional mitigations which may also be necessary to protect existing structures in the village could include waterway design enhancements on adjacent properties, relocation of existing private structures und and potential voluntary private structures buyouts.



In the longer term, recognizing the age and deficiencies of the local stormwater infrastructure after the recent storm events, it is recommended that the town pursue a parallel engineering effort to assess a redesign of the stormwater system. This effort could be coordinated in a parallel fashion with the wastewater system improvements described below. The heavy storms experienced in July 2023 were a recent example that the local stormwater infrastructure is ineffective and should be replaced. This parallel assessment should be made with an eye toward how both a municipal sever and stormwater system could be installed at the same time, minimizing road disruption and taking advantage of cost sharing in construction. This approach, if timed effectively, could avoid the need to excavate and tear up the same roadways twice.

Design goals for this assessment should include:

- Reconfiguration of the outflow stream from Star Lake where it passes beneath Belmont Road and adjacent properties;
- Identifying additional catch basins necessary to correct areas of significant runoff and roadway erosion;
- Increased capacity to handle anticipated storm events;
- Elimination of open culverts and catch basins which are obstacles to on-street parking and pedestrians;
- » Necessary compliance upgrades to meet Act 64 Municipal Roads General Permit (MRGP) requirements; and,
- » Potential design/construction coordination with a parallel sewer system.

Note that this reconstruction effort within the town right-of-way is also an opportunity to improve fire suppression access within the village. As described later under Village Streetscape Improvements, the relocation of the Fire Department dry hydrants adjacent to Star Lake can be coordinated with an expansion of this system which provides a gravityfed fire suppression water supply to other areas of

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PART III - VISION & RECOM



Document Organization

PART I - Background & Process PART II - Issues & Opportunities PART III - Vision & Recommendations

Priority Recommendations



OTHER VILLAGE GOALS

Village Streetscape Improvements 4

After the completion of any stormwater or community sewer upgrades are completed, the town should pursue incremental streetscape improvements. The following conceptual ideas are recommended to expand on-street parking capacity, improve intersection safety, slow thru-traffic, improve walkability and beautify the village with additional landscaping features. Refer to Map C - Village Vision Plan and Map D - Village Streetscape Concept.

5 Remove existing open stormwater inlets which are obstacles to on-street parking and pedestrians.

6 Relocate or underground existing utility poles and overhead service lines to reduce visual clutter and obstacles to plowing and parking.

7 Provide new on-street parking spaces on east side of Belmont Road.

8 Provide new southbound stop sign on Belmont Ave.

9 Consider reconfiguration of parking in front of Belmont Store which is more suitable to accessing gas pumps, improved line-of-sight.

10 Reconfigure Lake Street intersection into standard 'T' configuration.

Address drainage and flooding issues at Star Lake outlet under Belmont Road and adjacent residences.

but removed in winter

16 Create new access drive

on south side of Historical

area reconfigured behind

Museum to a shared parking

for community event parking.

paths.

drive.

walking paths to and around 12 New crosswalks future housing. 13 Removable speed bumps

19 Potential alternative installed during warmer months side route for walking paths along stream with landowner easement

14 New recreational walking

provided along walking paths as 15 Coordinate with Church to may be needed to strategically expand Village Green capacity clarify property boundaries and for hosting community events by discourage trespass. relocating Perkins Lane access

21 Shaded seating area with benches on town-owned triangle lot.

20 Decorative landscaping

17 Future housing accomodated

on west side of village.

18 Connect recreational

(22) "Belmont Village" welcome sign with decorative landscaping. Church and Fire Department

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Document Organization

PART I - Background & Process PART II - Issues & Opportunities PART III - Vision & Recommendations

Priority Recommendations igodol**Other Village Goals**



A - RESOURCES

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RESOURCES:

Village Wastewater Solutions Initiative (VWIC)

State of Vermont - Agency of Natural Resources - Department of Environmental Conservation Inter-agency working group established to assist Vermont municipalities with tools, resources, technical assistance and coordination in navigating the process of funding and development of community severe systems. Link: https://dec.vermont.gov/ullage-wastewater

HOMEOWNER/BUSINESS FUNDING:

On-Site Loan Program

State of Vermont - Agency of Natural Resources - Department of Environmental Conservation Provides low-cost funding for income-eligible-Vermont homeowners of single-family homes for the repair or replacement of failed on-site wastewater and water supply systems.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE RESOURCES:

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)

State of Vermont - Agency of Natural Resources - Department of Environmental Conservation

Provides low-interest (0%-2.75%) financing for the planning and capital improvements of public water systems that improve public health and facilitate compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act for municipal or private **community water systems.** Link: https://dec.vermont.gov/water-investment/water-financing/ dwsrf

Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)

State of Vermont - Agency of Natural Resources - Department of Environmental Conservation

Provides funding for Vermont's Clean Water projects in the form of low interest loans (0%-2%) to municipalities and private entities for planning, design, or construction of community decentralized **wastewater disposal** systems, municipal **wastewater collection** systems, treatment facility construction, stormwater conveyance and other projects.

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Document Organization

PART I - Background & Process PART II - Issues & Opportunities PART III - Vision & Recommendations

- Priority Recommendations
- Other Village Goals

APPENDIX

Funding Sources, Survey, Meeting Notes



Overall Vision

"The Belmont Village Center would benefit from sensitive enhancements and growth which reflects its historic development pattern, creates a more active and inviting destination, and is in keeping with the scale of a traditional Vermont village. As part of this effort, the village should seek to accommodate additional housing options within and immediately adjacent to the center which support a more diverse range of needs for younger family members and local seniors, geared toward year-round residency. This growth should be supported by infrastructure upgrades which can provide additional sewer, water and stormwater capacity and protect local water quality. To further enhance the village, these improvements should be augmented by recreational walking paths, parking and park improvements which will encourage a more vibrant and active village center."



PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Priority Recommendations

Storm Damage Repair

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1A Stormwater System Improvements

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Recommendations





Priority 1

Storm Damage Repair

- Fix Star Lake outflow
- Replace damaged box culvert under Belmont Road with increased flow capacity





Priority 1

Storm Damage Repair

- Requires engineering and design
- May require private property work, structure relocation
- Needs immediate fix



Funding Methods

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

Funding round following the July 2023 flooding. Funded through FEMA, covers replacement of undersized culverts.

Flood Resilient Communities Fund (FRCF)

Funding round following the July 2023 flooding. Covers home buyouts, property purchases, green infrastructure.

Building Resilient Infrastructure (BRIC)

Funding and technical assistance for analysis, design, construction, culvert upsizing, home buyouts.



Culvert Replacement













- Requires engineering and design
- Additional catch basins
- Increased flow capacity
- Star Lake outflow stream improvements
- Eliminate open culverts







- Eliminate open culverts
- Opportunity to extend dry hydrants down hill from Star Lake into village center



Funding Methods

Vermont Community Development Program

Funding and technical assistance for **feasibility studies**, **engineering**, **design**, and **infrastructure construction**.

Clean Water Initiative Program (CWIP)

Funding for municipal **stormwater management** and green infrastructure.

VT Pollution Control Grants

Funding for municipal **management of stormwater**, wastewater and flood resiliency.



- Engineering
- Design
- ✤ Construction





Priority 2

Wastewater Feasibility Study

 Conduct study for shared community septic system



Funding Method

Engineering Planning Advance

Provides funding for Feasibility Studies and preliminary Engineering for **community wastewater systems**. Repayment only required if project is constructed.

Community Recovery and Revitalization (CRRP)

Funding for capital improvements in Vermont communities which support economic recovery, including **wastewater disposal systems**.

American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA)

\$30 million in funding available to create 10 **community wastewater disposal systems** in designated villages. Can be mixed with other funding sources.



Wastewater Feasibility Study

- ✤ Engineering
- Design
- Construction



Funding Method

Vermont Community Development Program

Grant funding and technical assistance for feasibility studies, engineering plans and construction related to public facilities, **infrastructure** and services.

Special Evaluation Assistance - USDA

Provides funding to local municipalities for feasibility, design and engineering for **wastewater disposal systems** in rural areas below 2,500 population.

Village Wastewater Solutions Initiative (VWIC)

Technical assistance for municipalities developing **community wastewater systems**.



Wastewater Feasibility Study

- Engineering
- Design
- Construction



Parallel Strategy

It is recommended to conduct stormwater & wastewater studies in parallel to identify potential cost savings and coordination;



Stormwater & Wastewater Work Done at Same Time



Parallel Strategy

It is recommended to conduct stormwater & wastewater studies in parallel to identify potential cost savings and coordination;

- Potentially lower construction costs because mobilization and excavation are done once;
- Reduced disruption to local roads because work is done as one project, not two;
- Timing of funding is a challenge



Stormwater & Wastewater Work Done at Same Time



Funding Methods

Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)

Provides funding in the form of low-interest loans (0%-2%) to municipalities for planning, design and construction of **community wastewater** and **stormwater systems**.

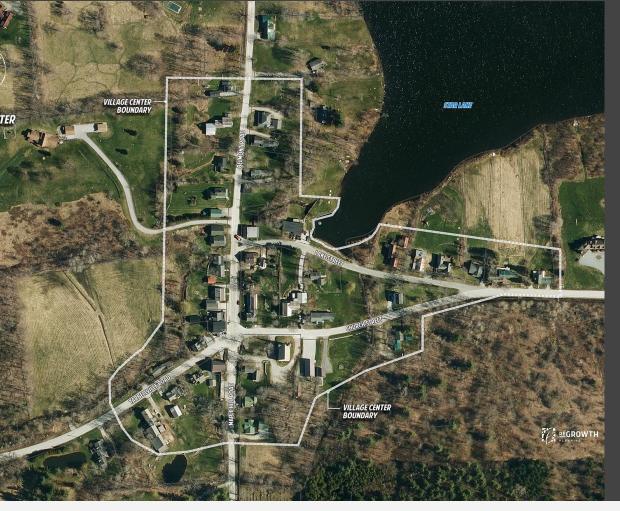
Municipal Planning Grant Program (MPG)

Provides annual funding for studies and infrastructure improvements which support statewide planning goals.

Priority 1 & 2

Stormwater & Wastewater Work Done at Same Time







Renew Village Center Designation

- Up for renewal next
 Spring
- Opportunity to revise village boundary
- Include full Park
- Follow property lines



Priority Projects



Storm Damage Repair



Stormwater System Design



Wastewater Feasibility



Renew Village Center Designation

Timeframe

These are short-term priorities which should be addressed sooner.

Pursue grant applications late 2023 early 2024.





Other Village Goals

PLANNING

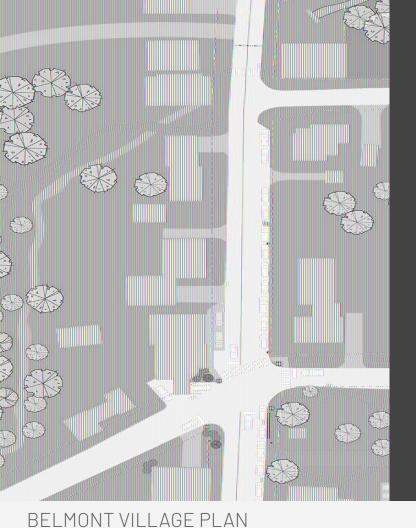




Village Streetscape

MAP "D"





Village Streetscape

- On street parking from Church to Lake
- Sidewalk / path along west side of Belmont Road
- Removable speed bumps at north and south
- Reconfigure Lake Street intersection into a standard "T" configuration
- Add crosswalks





Village Streetscape

- Crosswalks help to slow down vehicles and encourage stopping at corner
- Reconfigure corner to add new stop sign in front of Belmont Store
- Potential for new landscaping at store
- Potential re-aligned parking for gas pump access and better line-of-sight

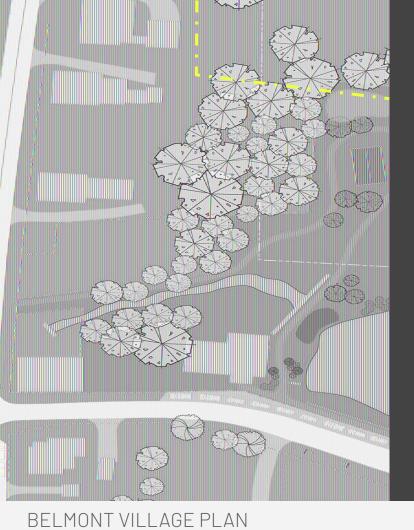




Park Design Concept

MAP "E"

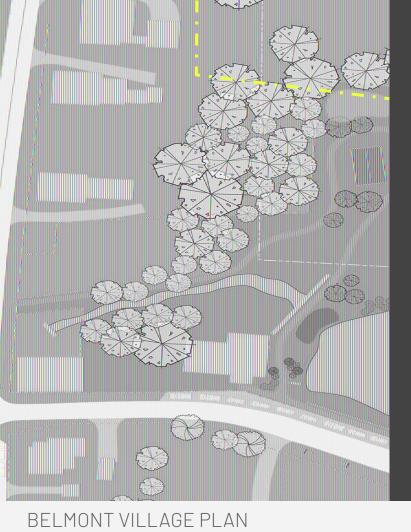




Park Design Concept

- Remap Village Boundary to include Park.
- Relocate dry hydrants across street.
- Create new on-street parking in front of Park.
- New park signage and landscaping to highlight entry.
- Add shade trees, picnic pavilion and playground area.
- Native vegetation planting along shore with more limited access/dock area.





Park Design Concept

- This design included path along town property from Belmont, which may not be feasible, and adjacent property owner is not in favor of.
- Would likely instead connect path from Belmont up along Lake Street.





Star Lake

Water Quality

- Conduct Bacterial Source Tracking (BST) to determine if pollutants are from households.
- If septic contamination is confirmed, can work with individual homeowners to remedy.







MAP "C"

Infill Housing:

Residential Expansions Accessory Dwelling Units Long-term Rentals

New Housing:

Small scale, cottage lots Walkable Geared toward meeting needs of local seniors, and long-term renters





PLANNING



Next Steps

- Comments collected here and via the online comment form will be reviewed with the Working Group.
- Will decide on additions and edits to the document for a final draft.
- Final Plan can be adopted as part of the updated Town Plan later this year.





Recommended First Steps

Apply for funding to design and replace Belmont Street culvert;

Coordinate with Village Wastewater Solutions Initiative (VWIC) for technical assistance and advice;

Apply for Engineering Planning Advance and/or Vermont Community Development Program CDBG funds for Wastewater feasibility study and Stormwater engineering. Note: CDBG Application Date: Sept 12

Issue RFP(s) for studies.



Flooding	Streetscape, Walking Paths & Sidewalks	Village Green and Park Improvements
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Flood Resilient Communities Fund (FRCF) Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund (ERAF) Property Buyouts (100%)	Municipal Planning Grant (MPG) VTrans Municipal Assistance (MA) Downtown Transportation Fund Vermont Better Places Grant Vermont Community Development Program (IG) VT Forests Parks & Recreation Recreational Trails Program	Municipal Planning Grant (MPG) Vermont Better Places Grant Vermont Community Development Program (AM) Downtown Transportation Fund

Stormwater	Wastewater	Drinking Water & Water Quality
Vermont Community Development Program (PG) Clean Water Initiative Program (CWIP) VT Pollution Control Grants VT Pollution Control State Revolving Fund Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) <i>On-site Loan Program (Private Residences)</i>	Engineering Planning Advance Vermont Community Development Program (PG) American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Community Recovery and Revitalization Program (CRRP) Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities and Households Grant (USDA)* On-site Loan Program (Private Residences)	American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) CWIP Design/Implementation Block Grant Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) VT Only Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund Community Recovery and Revitalization Program (CRRP) Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities and Households Grant (USDA)*



I support stormwater remediation as a 1st priority because it is a risk to health and property. Also support the idea of shared septic.

Additional parking solutions should be considered, since it is not workable with snow storage. Could church parking area be used for event parking?

Like the idea of walking paths. There is no existing easement available to the Village to use our property, but would be happy to discuss a future easement and related conditions.



We are unable to attend the August 16th meeting in person, but wanted to commend the steering committee and their consultants on the fine work.

We support the initiatives described, especially an engineering feasibility study for wastewater options. Let us know if you need our show of support, or involvement, as "Community Project Participants".



The highest priority needs to be the infrastructure, e.g. a long term plan for a sustainable septic design with ongoing maintenance, because if that system doesn't exist, or the current individual sites fail..the rest of the plans don't really matter.

Getting a septic system implemented will take time. Would the town consider requiring all houses in the village maintain their septics by having them pumped/inspected once a year, as an interim solution? Is there financial help for this if it is a financial burden?

Walkways are nice but wouldn't really connect to anything right now (walking to nowhere). I would prioritize restoration of the Lake, and then redesigning the park to be a nice gathering spot, and collaborating with the new owners of the General Store to make it fully functioning.



When pathways are built, I recommend stone dust, with the path on the north side of Church Street. I don't think there should be a cut-thru path along the stream. There used to be a path/easement from the Church to Oddfellows Hall which could be an alternative.

The septic would be a huge priority for the General Store and would help it out. Also think it is important to have a stop sign in front of the store.

I will not be able to make the meeting in person, but I am opposed to any plans to use the field between Peg's house and the Wilson House for a path from Belmont Road to the Lake, or use that area for parking. It is unnecessary and would disrupt the small town feel.



Discussion



Have additional Thoughts?

Planning webpage & Comment Form: www.mounthollyvt.org/planning-commission/municipal-planning-grant/



Thank you everyone!

