



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** East Montpelier Planning Commission

**FROM:** Eric Vorwald, AICP

**DATE:** June 20, 2017

**RE:** **Summary Report on June 15, 2017 Public Open House**

The following is a summary report of the activities conducted at a public meeting to discuss the draft East Montpelier Village Master Plan. This public meeting was held in conjunction with a regular meeting of the East Montpelier Planning Commission and intended to provide background on the project and solicit input from the public on the draft plan.

On June 15, 2017 a public meeting was held at the East Montpelier Emergency Services Facility. Approximately twelve citizens, seven Planning Commissioners, and several staff members attending this meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to provide the community with an overview of the planning process including:

1. Purpose for the Master Plan
2. Overview of the process to develop the plan
3. Components of the Master Plan
4. Public engagement activities
5. Next steps for moving forward with implementation

The meeting began with a brief overview on the process and the particular components of the plan. This helped provide members of the public that were in attendance with a general idea of the plan's contents (drafts of the East Montpelier Village Master Plan were available for those interested in following along with the presentation). After the overview presentation, the attendees were asked to provide any comments or feedback regarding what was in the plan or what was presented. Specific comments included:

- I like the spirit of the process and the energy moving forward with the planning
- Creating a sense of place in East Montpelier was encouraging
- Ensuring that walking and bicycling are a priority is a positive step
- Developing reasons or incentives to come into town other than to pay taxes will be a benefit to the community
- Concern regarding a possible increase in taxes due to the ability to create smaller lots

Additionally, several questions were asked including:

- How will water and wastewater be addressed regarding public or private systems?
- Is a village green being considered as an amenity for the Village?

The public meeting lasted approximately one hour and provided an opportunity for citizens to learn about the planning efforts regarding the Village Master Plan. In general, the group that was in attendance seemed to react positively to the work being done by the Planning Commission and seemed to support the ideas and vision that is outlined in the plan. Additionally, the Planning Commission noted that this was just the first step and that additional work would need to occur to implement the vision outlined in the Master Plan. Following the meeting, the Planning Commission met to discuss other business and debrief on the public meeting.

There were two main take-a-ways that were discussed. The first was that no one was opposed to the work done including the vision for the future and supported this effort to create a vibrant village for East Montpelier. The second was that there were many new and interested residents in the audience which could indicate that outreach efforts have been successful.