

1 August 2020 Signpost Submission

2  
3 **Planning Commission Starts Over on Zoning Update**

4  
5 After much discussion about how best to address public feedback on the draft comprehensive  
6 zoning update presented last year, the Planning Commission (PC) has decided to start over.

7  
8 Some of the proposed changes were generally well received, such as creating zoning for East  
9 Montpelier Village to align with the Village Master Plan and the 2018 Town Plan. Significant  
10 changes proposed for the more rural parts of town were not as well received.

11  
12 The PC ultimately concluded that there were too many concerns raised about the proposal to  
13 resolve by editing the consultant's draft. So the PC is changing approach: instead of  
14 comprehensively rewriting the town's zoning, the PC will develop specific amendments to our  
15 existing regulations.

16  
17 The Town Plan identifies 19 zoning-related actions for the town to take. The PC will review and  
18 prioritize these specific actions and draft amendments to our current zoning. The grant paying  
19 for the consultant has expired, so the PC will be doing this work ourselves. We do not have a  
20 schedule for this new approach, but it will likely take more than a year.

21  
22 When the PC has prepared proposed amendments that it is ready to advance, it will present the  
23 changes to the public prior to holding the required formal public hearings. By statute, the PC  
24 then forwards the final proposed amendments to the Selectboard. The Selectboard is also  
25 required to hold public hearings before deciding to adopt or reject the proposal.

26  
27 The PC meets on the first and third Thursday at 7 pm. Whether the meetings are remote or in  
28 person, the public is welcome to attend.

29  
30 --Julie Potter

31 *Julie is the Chair of the Planning Commission*

32