




PC Annual Report

The Planning Commission welcomed two new members, Nik Khosla and Erica Zimmerman, while Scott Hess did not seek reelection after many years of service. The commission would like to thank Richard Hall, Mark Lane, and Gianna Petito for their service; these three commissioners are not seeking reelection. A special thank you to Mark, who has served on the PC for many, many years (we think 18, but it's been so long that none of us, including Mark, is entirely sure).

2023 was a capacity building year for the Planning Commission. We helped recruit and screen a new Energy Committee for the town, recognizing that creating a robust energy plan (and building the capacity to run the projects that the plan would produce) was likely beyond the Planning Commission's current expertise and capacity, and that a dedicated Energy Committee would bring that expertise. We also conducted a comprehensive review of the town plan in advance of work needed to complete updates to the plan. Updating the full town plan is typically an 18 month to 2 year process, so while the plan is not due until June 2026, we want to build in enough time to engage the public, make updates to the plan itself, and take the new plan through hearings before the existing plan lapses.

This was also the first year that we began to see the impacts of the zoning updates completed in summer 2022. The changes in setbacks intended to reduce the regulatory burden on construction of buildings appears to have been successful – the Development Review Board reports seeing far fewer requests for waivers and variances for these kinds of buildings.

In 2024 the Planning Commission expects to begin public engagement work for the new town plan, and to potentially to study how to better address housing needs both for the town and the region.

Individual Planning Commission members serve on other related committees, including the Development Review Board, the Capital Improvement Committee, the Resilient Roads Committee, and the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission holds its regular meetings on the first and third Thursday of each month, starting at 7:00 PM. Meetings will be held in a hybrid in person/online format for the foreseeable future. The PC encourages interested citizens to attend any of its meetings; meetings begin with an opportunity for public comment. Persons may also contact any of the PC members (as of January 2024) below:

ZACH SULLIVAN, *Chair*

CLARICE CUTLER, *Vice Chair*

KIM WATSON, *Corr. Secretary*

RICHARD HALL

NIK KHOSLA

MARK LANE

GIANNA PETITO

MAIA STONE

ERICA ZIMMERMAN