

## **Waterville Planning Board**

On May 8, 2003 the Waterville Select Board appointed eight members to reconstitute the Waterville Planning Board. The Select Board charged the Planning Board with the responsibility of preparing a Town Plan for Waterville as a revision and update of the Town Plan originally written in 1989. Waterville benefits by having a Town Plan in order to establish a vision for our community and to be eligible for other federal and state grant funds that allow us the opportunity to meet our goals.

We have worked closely with the Lamoille County Planning Commission, the VT Division of Historic Preservation and the Department of Public Service in the development of projects.

2003 - We reconstituted the Waterville Planning Board and adopted a new Waterville Town Plan on September 23, 2003.

2004 - We were awarded \$1,500 in funding through the Vermont Municipal Planning Grant Program efforts to inventory and document the integrity of our public historic structures.

2004 to 2009 - We supported the development of the Waterville Historic Preservation Board as required in the guidelines for Waterville being a Certified Local Government.

2005 - We were awarded \$1,000 from Downs, Rachlin and Martin to create a Historical Photographic Record of the Waterville Town Hall and Village Center. Photographs are archived on CD and on display at the Town Office.

2005 - We were awarded \$4,000 in funding through the Vermont Municipal Planning Grant Program to explore and obtain Village Center Designation and Certified Local Government certification. In January 2006 we were approved with Village Center Designation and in April 2006 we were granted Certified Local Government status.

2006 - We were awarded \$3,200 in funding from the Vermont Municipal Planning Grant Program and \$4,800.00 in matching funds from VT Historic Preservation to work with the Preservation Board to prepare a National Register Nomination application for the Waterville Historic District. In September 2007 the application was approved by the National Park Service. Copies are available for review at the Town Office.

2007 - We were awarded a \$5,800 grant through the FY'08 Vermont Municipal Planning Grant program and worked with the Lamoille County Planning Commission to update the Waterville Town Plan.

2008 to 2009 - We were awarded \$4,995 from the Department of Public Service (DPS), Clean Energy Development Fund (CEDF), to support a small scale hydro assessment project. The goal is to generate electricity from the Kelly River (North Branch of the Lamoille) to meet local needs either by lower energy costs through renewable energy or sold to generate income to help offset property taxes. Phase I was completed in October 2009 and we began pursuing funding opportunities for Phase II including: permitting and legal issues, engineering and construction design, construction & turbine costs, and financial feasibility. The Phase I report is available at the Town Clerk's Office.

2009 - We researched and presented a proposal to the Select Board for *REGULATING THE BURNING AND DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTES* which was adopted and went into effect on September 25, 2009. The Ordinance is available for review at the Town Clerk's Office.

2009 - We worked with the Select Board and wrote a proposal to the Department of Public Service for an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant for energy efficiency renovations to the Town Hall and Town Clerk's Office. We based our proposal on a report

provided by Energy Smart of Vermont who conducted an energy audit of the buildings in October 2009 and estimated that if we implement their energy efficiency recommendations we could save as much as \$4,500.00 in fuel costs per year.

2010 – The Town of Waterville was awarded \$40,993.00 from the Department of Public Service for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant for energy efficiency renovations to the Town Hall and Town Clerk’s Office which were completed in 2011.

2010 - The Lamoille County Planning Commission held a public hearing on 9/28/10 and confirmed the municipal planning process for the Town of Waterville.

2010 – We applied and received renewal of Village Center Designation through the Vermont Downtown Program, Department of Economic, Housing and Community Development.

2010 – We were awarded \$9,333.00 from the Vermont Municipal Planning Grant Program, with support from the Lamoille Planning Commission, to conduct Phase II of our hydro assessment project to generate electricity from the Kelly River (North Branch of the Lamoille). Final reports are available upon request at the Town Clerk’s Office.

2011 – We were awarded \$3,390.00 from the Clean Energy Development Fund by the Lamoille County Planning Commission to investigate the feasibility of installing an Archimedes Screw turbine for comparison purposes to a more traditional Kaplan-type turbine. Final reports are available for review at the Town Clerk’s Office.

2012 – We applied and received approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to use the Traditional Licensing Process (TLP) for our Hydro project and to the VT Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) for a 401 Water Quality Certification which is pending. Both applications require further development of the project. In September, we applied for a VT Municipal Planning Grant (MPG) to revise the Waterville Town Plan. Even though our application was not accepted for funding, the Lamoille County Planning Commission has agreed to assist us with revisions to the Town Plan in 2013.

2013 – We have worked with the Lamoille County Planning Commission throughout the year to update the Town Plan for presentation, public comment and approval in 2014. On 5/1/13 we were “denied without prejudice” a 401 Water Quality Certificate by the Agency of Natural Resources. Our work on the development of the Hydro site continues as we seek support for technical aspects of the project.

Waterville has a rich history of community engagement and “can do” attitude that allows us to enjoy, promote and improve our community. The members of the Waterville Planning Board are pleased to be able to make our contribution.

Sincerely, Scott Johnson, Chairman