

# MEMORANDUM

From: ZPED  
To: Selectboard

Date: 8/12/2024

Re: Weekly Report

- I attended the VCRD Leadership Summit August 6<sup>th</sup>. Three workshops and a café style talk session, I have some takeaways:
  - Keynote was heavy on flood resilience and recovery as might be expected.
  - The first session on project management concentrated far more on citizen initiatives outside of town government. This was a grassroots up sort of management formula. This did get me thinking about the lack of training for the long campaign of interlocking multiple projects that revitalization efforts require and the lack of resources to put this sort of program together. I'm not sure the state has the capacity to think out community development over the 10-25 year time frame.
  - This led to a conversation in a working group in the café style workshop. Main points were a lack of long term program and policy making on the state level directed at communities outside the larger towns. The slow delivery of resources and funding is leaving many towns without the organizational and administrative heft needed to maintain community consensus over the decade and a half it often takes to begin showing tangible results. There was a touting of more European models of swifter evaluation and implementation of projects.
  - The final session discussed regional collaboration. There was much praise for our regional planning commissions but a recognition that it lacked the jurisdictional tools that counties have. It was noted that the state level governance culture seems to create yet another special district rather than using the county structure. Consortium models were discussed to provide an economy of scale for public safety and education. I believe the observation that the county boundaries may not have utility for public service provision can be answered by moving boundaries or possibly breaking counties up into smaller units.
- Planning Commission met Wednesday night. There was discussion of all hazards mitigation planning as how it would integrate into both the new flood hazard model language, the pending new flood map, and specific town plan language for both the EMS buildings, facilities and thresholds for increased budgeting. They agreed on a mission statement for the town and village plan project as follows:

## Planning Commission Mission Statement

Taking a 20-year outlook, help shape town policy via town plan, by-laws and community engagement to put Fairlee within reach of its goals while maintaining its core values.

### Core Values

- Health and well-being of residents
- Adaptation to the future through community consensus
- Commitment to Healthy Town Forest. Lakes and Watershed
- Environmental Sustainability

- Public Safety
- Respect for the Town's History and Traditions
- Access to Quality Public Education
- Economic Opportunity and Resiliency
- Inclusivity
- Community engagement

The intent is to refer back to this in order to keep the effort on track.

- The Development Review Board will hear 24-CU-05 Wednesday night, this is another short term rental application. It is my intention to enclose the application for annual registration in the package with the NOD and paper permit.
- Issued permit 24-Z-24, soil disturbance in the Lake Morey Area. Lakeshore chose not to assert jurisdiction and this was well documented in the email chain associated with the project. The intent of getting property owners to contact the state seems to be working well.