

## Municipal Plan Approval Checklist

**Town:** Barre Town **Date:** 7/2/2014

**Reviewer:** Stephanie Smith

**Committee:** Bill Arrand (Worcester-absent), Tim Carver (East Montpelier-absent), George Malek (Orange), Janet Shatney (Barre City-absent), Ron Krauth (Middlesex), Julie Potter (East Montpelier)

**Town Representative(s):** Chris Violette (Barre Town Planner), Cedric Sanborn (Barre Town Planning Chair)

**Background:** The following is a review of the 2014 Barre Town Municipal Plan under the provisions and standards of Chapter 117, Section 4350, wherein it is stated “a regional planning commission shall review and approve plans of its member municipalities, when approval is requested and warranted.” Conditions warranting approval include findings that the plan:

- Contains each of the **elements** listed in section 4382 of Chapter 117;
- Is consistent with the **goals** established in Section 4302 of Chapter 117. (“Substantial progress toward attainment” of these goals is the standard by which consistency is evaluated); and
- Is **compatible** with the Regional Plan and the approved plans of other municipalities in the Region.

**General Comments/Notes:** The previous Barre Town Plan was adopted in 2008 and the 2014 Plan is a rewrite of the previous version, using the 2008 Plan as a base. The most significantly updated chapters include energy and housing. Throughout the document, there are both regulatory and non-regulatory recommendations and some stronger language, such as “should” instead of simply “encourage” is used throughout the Plan. The Transportation chapter is thorough and includes additional maps to address road deficiencies and bike and pedestrian paths, both proposed and existing. The chapter includes upcoming projects and pedestrian/bike infrastructure expansion. In future updates, the education element could be expanded upon to include goals and recommendations and in the Local Economy chapter, unemployment and employment trends could be included and discussed. The majority of the areas with natural significance are within the Low-Density Residential district, which has a minimum lot size of 2 acres. The Plan notes that Barre Town does not have any organized efforts to protect wildlife habitat, but considers educational and incentive based approaches. The Plan also notes that farmland preservation should be accomplished through positive inducements from farmers, rather than restrictions on growth. The Land Use chapter notes that development should be encouraged in areas with existing municipal services and encourages clustering to preserve open space. It would also be beneficial to adopt a standard format within each chapter for how goals and recommendations are presented. Overall, all of the required elements are included and this update has made progress since the 2008 Plan in attaining the statutory goals.

**Staff Conclusion(s):** The Barre Town Municipal Plan contains the essential elements of a municipal plan and makes progress towards attainment of the statutory goals. Staff encourages the Review Committee to recommend “approval” of the Barre Town Municipal Plan under the standards of Chapter 117 before the full Regional Commission.

On 7/2/2014 the Town Plan Review Committee voted to recommend approval of 2014 Barre Town Municipal Plan to the full Regional Commission. On 7/8/2014 the Regional Commission approved the Town Plan Review Committee’s recommendation for approval.

Summary of MUNICIPAL PLAN REQUIREMENTS (*under 24 V.S.A., Chapter 117, Subchapter 5*)

<b>A Required Plan Elements/Maps</b> [§4382(a)] Each of the elements are required in some form for all municipal plans:	<b>Map</b>	<b>Pages</b>	<b>Comments, notes, suggestions</b>
1. Statement of municipal <b>policies, objectives, programs</b> to guide growth and development		-	Most chapters of the Plan include a list of “Goals” pertaining to the topics covered therein. Some chapters in the Plan include objectives or recommendations, though this is not applied consistently throughout the Plan. The Introduction chapter includes a list of broad goals and some objectives. Future updates should consider adopting a more consistent format for each chapter.
2. <b>Land use plan (and map)</b> showing proposed land use areas/districts	y	7-11	This element is addressed in the Land Use Plan chapter, wherein existing land use and zoning are described and prospective land uses are discussed, including proposed changes to zoning.  The Land Use chapter includes goals for future land use. Two maps that are included show Land Use/Land Cover and Zoning Districts, including proposed districts for cemeteries and industrial.
3. <b>Transportation plan (and map)</b> showing needed/proposed improvements	y	12-19	This element is addressed in the Transportation chapter wherein the existing transportation infrastructure is discussed and future action is considered. The Transportation chapter includes overall goals and recommendations for future improvements within the sub-topics. Transportation proposals are included as well.  There are two maps included for transportation: 1) Bike and Pedestrian Paths map, including proposed and existing bike path sections along with proposed and existing sidewalk sections, class 4 roads and legal trails; and 2) Town Road Deficiencies map showing proposed improvements.
4. <b>Utilities, facilities, services plan (and map)</b> showing present/proposed facilities, including water, sewer, solid waste, libraries, medical facilities, storm water drainage	y	20-36	This element is addressed in the Facilities, Utilities and Public Safety chapter, wherein sewer and septic, water supply, town buildings, town land, library resources, cemeteries, recreational facilities, solid waste and emergency services are discussed.  The Facilities, Utilities and Public Safety chapter does not include related goals but does include recommendations within some of the sub-sections, including water supply recommendations. A Utilities and Facilities map is included at the end of the Plan.

5. <b>Educational facilities plan (and map)</b> ; often included with the utilities/facilities element	y	54-56	<p>This element is addressed in the Education Facilities chapter, wherein Spaulding High School, Barre Town Middle and Elementary School, Websterville Baptist Christian School, Central Vermont Catholic School and area colleges are discussed.</p> <p>This section does not include related goals or strategies. The school sites appear on the Utilities and Facilities map.</p>
6. Statement of municipal policies on preservation of rare and irreplaceable natural areas, scenic and historic features and resources	y	37-53	<p>This element is addressed in the Preservation chapter wherein scenic and historic resources; historic areas and sites; historic structures and districts; scenic preservation; natural resources, climate and earth resources; forest and agricultural lands; and water resources are discussed and planned. Goals and objectives are included at the end of the chapter. Recommendations are include throughout the chapter in various sub-sections.</p> <p>Relevant maps include an Agricultural Soils map and a Natural Resources map, showing wetlands, groundwater, ecologically sensitive areas, 100-year floodplain, rivers/streams, lakes/ponds, deer wintering areas and bear reproduction.</p>
7. <b>Energy element</b> , including analysis of resources, needs, scarcities, costs, problems, and opportunities for conservation		64-68	<p>This element is addressed in the Energy chapter, wherein conservation, transportation, lighting, buildings and renewable energy are discussed and planned. This section does not contain any goals, but recommendations are included at the end of the chapter.</p>
8. <b>Housing element</b> , including program for addressing affordable housing needs	y	69-75	<p>This element is addressed in the Housing chapter, wherein affordable housing, available housing and rehabilitation are discussed and planned. At the end of the chapter there are goals and recommendations. A map is included showing Housing Development growth from 2007-2013 and targeted areas for future housing growth.</p>
9. <b>Implementation program</b> for the plan's objectives		81	<p>Implementation is discussed at the very end of the Plan in the Implementation chapter. This section notes that the Town Plan can be used for Act 250 proceedings and section 248 to protect town interests.</p>
		57-63	<p>This element is addressed in the Region and Our Neighbors chapter which</p>

<p>10. Statement of how plan relates to development trends/plans for adjacent municipalities, areas and the region</p>			<p>goes through a discussion of each of the adjacent municipalities and their connections to Barre Town as well as shared services between Barre Town and Barre City.</p>
<p>11. <b>Economic development</b> element that describes present economic conditions and the location, type, and scale of desired economic development, and identifies policies, projects and programs necessary to foster economic growth. (effective date of July 1, 2012)</p>		<p><b>76-80</b></p>	<p>This element is addressed in the Economic Development chapter, wherein present and future initiatives, priority businesses, average wages, median income and child care are discussed. This section includes recommendations for ongoing promotion and marketing of an industrial park as well as for recreation and tourism.</p>

<b>B. Inventories, Studies, Analyses</b> [§4302 (d), 4382(c)]. Include as appropriate to survey existing conditions and probable future trends		<b>Pages</b>	<b>Comments, notes, suggestions</b>
1. Population characteristics and distribution, including income and employment		<b>62-63, 70, 78-79</b>	<p>Demographic characteristics are identified in the Region and our Neighbors chapter, including a historic population comparison with Barre City and Washington County as well as 2010 numbers for housing units and household income. This section could have benefited from including and discussing historic trends in household income.</p> <p>The Housing chapter includes a more extensive comparison of population change from 1990-2010 with surrounding towns. The Economic Development chapter includes annual average wages and information and median household income. Employment is not specifically discussed.</p>
2. Existing & projected housing needs by type, amount, loc.	<b>y</b>	<b>69-75</b>	<p>The Plan generally addresses the town’s growing elderly population, affordable housing, housing rehabilitation and planning for housing unit growth. The Plan identifies that there are 45 units of subsidized elderly housing but no other subsidized units and recommends investigating ways to partner and expand affordable units locally.</p> <p>The corresponding goal and recommendations identify support for housing that meets the needs of all income levels through encouraging cluster development, pursuing planning funds, funding the existing housing rehabilitation program and pursuing funds for affordable housing development.</p>
3. Existing and estimated patterns of growth in various land use classifications, and in relation to facilities & services			<p>This is addressed throughout the Plan. See facilities, services and land use comments in Section (D) below.</p>
<b>C. Consistency with Broad State Goals</b> [§4302] Plans must show consideration/evidence of a continuing planning process that includes:		<b>Pages</b>	<b>Comments, notes, suggestions</b>
1. Coordinated, comprehensive planning process		<b>1-4</b>	<p>The Introduction chapter somewhat addresses this goal by describing the statutory requirements for a town plan. This chapter also discusses engaging stakeholders going forward. The Planning Process section notes that planning is intended to establish ground rules for development in a community. While the broader benefits of planning are discussed, none</p>

			of the information in this section is particular to Barre Town.
2. Citizen participation at all levels of the planning process			Citizen participation in the creation of the Town Plan is not discussed.
3. Consideration of use of resources, consequences of growth to region and state			This is generally addressed throughout the Plan. Particular relevant corresponding section include: Introduction; Land Use; Facilities, Utilities and Public Safety; and Preservation.
4. Working creatively with other municipalities to develop, implement plans;		58-63	The Region and Our Neighbors chapter discusses services currently shared with Barre City, including municipal water, municipal sewage and education. This section also discusses Barre Town as a residential community, noting that many residents drive long distances for work outside of the community. Working to implement the plan with these relationships in mind is not discussed.
<b>D. Consistency with Specific State Goals</b> [§4302] Plans must make substantial progress towards attainment of the following goals: (*or explain why goal is not applicable):		<b>Pages</b>	<b>Comments, notes, suggestions</b>
1. Plan development to maintain historic settlement pattern of compact villages surrounded by open countryside, including:		8-11	<p>The Plan narrative identifies the following land use districts defined by the current zoning bylaws:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Very High Density Residential:</b> Lot size of 8,500 sf. or above, mixed uses are common and while all of the villages are zoned as such, other compact areas also share the density but without the mixed use.</li> <li>• <b>High Density Residential:</b> Lot size of 1/3 acre or above, non-residential uses would be limited.</li> <li>• <b>Medium Density Residential:</b> Lot sizes of 2 acres and above, transition between high and low density.</li> <li>• <b>Low Density Residential:</b> Lot size of 2 acres, semi-developed/semi-rural and natural areas. Primary area for higher density agricultural use.</li> <li>• <b>Commercial:</b> Lot size ½ to 2 acres depending.</li> <li>• <b>Industrial:</b> Lot size 2 acres or more.</li> <li>• <b>Village Centers:</b> Dense development, lot sizes as low as 8,500 sf. including: Lower Graniteville, Upper Graniteville, Lower Websterville, Upper Websterville, East Barre, South Barre.</li> <li>• <b>Conservation:</b> Lot size of 25 acres and above, most restricted to</li> </ul>

			<p>development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Earth Resource Extraction:</b> Lot size of 15 acres or above, location of quarrying and granite land masses.</li> </ul> <p>The Town is encouraged to consider review of the current Low Density Residential regulatory standards, particularly the 2 acre minimum lot size, to protect existing larger parcels. The Land Use goals note: low density residential land should continue to have less dense development for the preservation of open land and agricultural uses. The goals also note: development and growth should be encouraged in areas where municipal water, sewer and roads are available. The Low Density Residential zone is typically not served by municipal water and sewer.</p>
(i) Encouraging intensive residential development primarily in areas related to community centers and discouraging strip development along highways.			<p>In terms of appropriate areas for more dense residential development, zoning within the Very High Density Residential zone and the Village Centers zone have a lot size of 8,500 sf or greater. Although the Village Centers zone does not appear on the map.</p> <p>The Land Use goal notes that creative design and clustering is encouraged to minimize infrastructure costs and preserve open space; continuously review zoning bylaws, site plan criteria and density bonuses; development and growth should be encouraged in areas where municipal water, sewer and roads are available; growth should be done in ways that do not burden existing systems and cost of operating those systems on the taxpayer; and sewer pumping stations should be discouraged.</p>
(ii) Encouraging economic growth in growth centers and / or village and urban centers			The Economic Development chapter does not specifically address areas for economic growth.
(iii) Reinforcing the character and planned growth patterns of public investments, including infrastructure			The Facilities, Utilities and Services chapter narrative notes that growth is preferred where municipal services are available.
<b>Consistency with Specific State Goals</b> (continued from previous page)		<b>Pages</b>	<b>Comments, notes, suggestions</b>
2. Provide a strong and diverse economy (A) Does the plan have an economic development chapter? (B) Does the plan discuss its position in terms of regional employment? (i.e. is it an employment center, is it a		<b>76-80</b>	(A) Yes.  (B) The Plan narrative generally discussed its position in terms of regional

<p>bedroom community, etc.)</p> <p>(C) Does the plan discuss unemployment or lack thereof?</p> <p>(D) Does the plan discuss the balance of improving the economy and maintaining environmental standards?</p>			<p>employment, noting the symbiotic relationship with Barre City. The Plan does not make a clear connection to the other employment centers as the majority of the chapter focuses on economic development within the town and with Barre City—although the Region and Our Neighbors chapter notes that many residents commute long distances to work (page 57). The overarching goal in the introduction is to: “encourage economic development in a manner which keeps pace with the employment needs of Town residents and the Central Vermont labor market in order to reduce the Town’s reliance on its residential tax base and strengthen and diversify the local economy” (2).</p> <p>(C) Unemployment is not discussed and unemployment trends are not included.</p> <p>(D) While the balance between economic development and maintaining environmental standards is not specifically discussed in the Economic Development chapter, the recommendations include promotion of recreational and tourism related activities, through: work with Town committees to explore all options to promote recreational activities in the Town; and specifically promoting the Town Forest and its trail system for year round recreation.</p>
<p>3. Broaden access to educational and vocational training opportunities</p> <p>(A) Does the plan discuss adult education?</p> <p>(B) Does the plan discuss where educational opportunities are and might be found?</p> <p>(C) Is the town working with the local school district or the community to provide educational opportunities in schools and in other community settings</p>		<p>54-56</p>	<p>(A) Yes.</p> <p>(B) The narrative mentions the presence of several colleges and universities within commuting distance and lists Vermont College, Norwich University, Goddard College, Community Colleges of Vermont, Vermont Technical Center, Woodbury College and the New England Culinary Institute. The narrative then notes that “numerous opportunities for adult education and extension courses are also available locally” without discussion.</p> <p>(C) The narrative lists the area schools and goes into a bit of detail on Spaulding High School and Barre Town Middle and Elementary School, providing trends on student totals and cost per pupil. The narrative also notes that planning decisions have a significant impact on educational services but does not provide any discussion on how the Town will work</p>

			with the schools or community. There are no goals, objectives or recommendations within this section.
<p>4. Provide for safe, convenient, economic, and energy efficient transportation systems</p> <p>(A) Is the proposed land use plan coordinated with the transportation network? Does it discuss the connection between land use and transportation efficiency?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access management</li> <li>• Discouraging new roads in outlying areas</li> </ul> <p>(B) Does the Transportation chapter discuss and encourage multi-modal transportation?</p> <p>(C) Does the Transportation chapter discuss and encourage public transit?</p>		<p><b>8-9, 12-19</b></p>	<p>(A) The Land Use chapter includes a discussion on the transportation network, noting that much of the land use is centered around the road types, for example, residential uses are primarily located on class III roads and commercial and industrial land is primarily along Town paved roads, class II or III, along State and Federal highways. Discouraging new roads in outlying areas is not addressed in the Transportation chapter narrative.</p> <p>(B) The narrative includes discussions on bicycles, pedestrians and public transportation. A Bike and Pedestrian Paths map at the end of the plan also includes proposed and existing sidewalks and bike paths. Recommendations include: identification of roads that are conducive to bike travel to create an interconnected route; safety accommodation of bicycles in existing roadway projects; consideration for pedestrian needs in highway projects; accessible sidewalks; and sidewalk improvements. Recommendations also include specific bike path projects.</p> <p>(C) The Transportation chapter includes a section on Public Transportation that discusses air transportation, rail transportation, school and commercial bus transportation and commuter services. Transportation goals include: to encourage and support public transportation initiatives.</p>
<p>5. Identify, protect and preserve important natural and historic features of the Vermont landscape, including</p>		<p><b>37-53</b></p>	
<p>(i) Significant natural and fragile areas</p> <p>(A) Does the plan identify significant natural and fragile areas? Does the plan include criteria for what makes an area “significant”?</p> <p>(B) If identified, does the plan clearly (not vaguely) discuss how they should be preserved?</p> <p>(C) If identified, is land use proposed in such a fashion that these areas will be protected?</p> <p>(D) Does the plan discuss alternative (non-regulatory) ways to protect these areas (other than through land</p>			<p>(A) Within the Natural Resources map, one small ecologically sensitive area is identified along with deer wintering areas and bear reproduction areas. Other resources are mentioned within the Preservation chapter narrative, including: 22% of the forested land defined as natural and fragile; wildlife habitat including deer wintering and bear habitat as restricted by the State; and groundwater, wetlands and stormwater management. Goals specifically about surface water protection are included, such as stormwater management and erosion control should be considered for all development. An actual definition for “significant” is not included.</p>

<p>use regulations)?</p>		<p>(B, C) Many of the areas mentioned fall within the Low Density Residential zone with a minimum lot size of 2 acres, including the “ecologically sensitive area” as well as nearly the entire deer and bear habitat that is mapped. The Plan notes that Barre Town does not have any organized efforts to protect wildlife habitat and what the State currently regulates for bear and deer habitat areas is sufficient. In future Plan updates, strongly encouraged to modify the zoning in order to protect these areas.</p> <p>(D) Non-regulatory goals include: enlist the communities support in protecting and enhancing the natural resources; building information to be posted to the Town’s website; enlisting assistance of residents, landowners, schools, businesses and other entities to study, inventory, manage, preserve, protect and enhance natural assets; and enlist existing organizations and boards to propose and implement policies.</p>
<p>(ii) Outstanding water resources, including lakes, rivers, aquifers, shorelands, and wetlands</p> <p>(A) Does the plan identify outstanding water resources, including lakes, rivers, aquifers, shorelands and wetlands? Does the plan include criteria for what makes a resource “outstanding”?</p> <p>(B) If identified, does the plan clearly (not vaguely) discuss how they should be preserved?</p> <p>(C) If identified, is land use proposed in such a fashion that these areas will be protected?</p> <p>(D) Does the plan discuss alternative (non-regulatory) ways to protect these areas (other than through land use regulations)?</p>	<p>46-52</p>	<p>(A) Water resources are discussed, including ground water, surface water, flood hazard areas/floodways, wetlands and stormwater. The Natural Resources map shows wetlands, ground water source protection areas, the 100-year floodplain, rivers, streams, lakes and ponds. Criteria for which of these resources would qualify as “outstanding” is not included.</p> <p>(B, C) The narrative mentions the possible addition of an Aquifer Protection Area Overlay District to ensure all zoning and subdivision applications are checked for potential impact on ground water resources. The Plan also notes that an inventory of current land uses is essential to determine whether ground water resources are subject to existing dangers; however, the Plan also says that if they find that an aquifer is already contaminated, over protection may not be warranted (48). The Plan would benefit from greatly from strategies to protect these resources now instead of waiting to find out if the groundwater is sufficient for current needs. In the wetlands section, the Plan notes that zoning may need to be updated to include additional language regarding even non-mapped wetlands.</p> <p>(D) Within the narrative it is noted that the Town should take an active role in citizen education for protecting groundwater resources.</p>

<p>(iii) Significant scenic roads, waterways, and views</p> <p>(A) Does the plan identify scenic roads, waterways and views? Does the plan include criteria for what makes a scenic resource “significant”?</p> <p>(B) If identified, does the plan clearly (not vaguely) discuss how they should be preserved?</p> <p>(C) If identified, is land use proposed in such a fashion that these areas will be protected?</p> <p>(D) Does the plan discuss alternative (non-regulatory) ways to protect these areas (other than through land use regulations)?</p>	<p><b>37-42</b></p>	<p>(A) The narrative states the most notable scenic resources are the quarries. Views and vistas are discussed, including views of Camel’s Hump, Spruce Peak, the Worcester range and the Orange highlands. Specific roads and waterways are discussed for their scenic qualities as well, including upper Cassie Road, Sunset and Neddo Roads, Phelps Road, Jail Branch River and Windy Wood Pond.</p> <p>(B, C) The Plan states that development should not be restricted by aesthetics alone. Goals and recommendations state that industrial wind turbines should not be allowed and zoning regulations should continue to control the height of structures.</p> <p>(D) Goals and recommendations for scenic preservation include: mapping of ridgelines and exploring sources of funding for the development and acquisition of public scenic areas and to assist landowners with opportunities for funding sources and mediation measures.</p>
<p>(iv) Important historic structures, sites, or districts, archaeological sites and arch. sensitive areas</p> <p>(A) Does the plan identify historic structures, sites, or districts, archaeological sites and archaeologically sensitive areas? Does the plan include criteria for what makes a scenic resource “significant”?</p> <p>(B) If identified, does the plan clearly (not vaguely) discuss how they should be preserved?</p> <p>(C) If identified, is land use proposed in such a fashion that these areas will be protected?</p> <p>(D) Does the plan discuss alternative (non-regulatory) ways to protect these areas (other than through land use regulations)?</p>	<p><b>37-41</b></p>	<p>(A) The Plan lists and gives descriptions of several historic sites as well as historic structures. The four historic districts in the Town are noted as well with references to the Vermont Historic Sites and Structures list and the National list of Historic Structures.</p> <p>(B, C) Recommendations include the requirement of a local permit and public hearing for the demolition of a listed historic structure and consultation of the State Division for Historic Preservation.</p> <p>(D) Recommendations include the establishment of a Town Historical Society to create a master list of historic sites/structures; provide education programs to schools and the public; and encourage rehabilitation of historic sites and structures. Exploring State funding for restoration in noted as well.</p>
<p>6. Maintain and improve the quality of air, water, wildlife and land resources. Vermont’s air, water, wildlife, mineral and land resources should be planned for use and development</p>		<p>(A) The Natural Resources Map meets this requirement.</p> <p>(B) Yes, the Plan notes that may things could affect air quality, such as industrial uses, traffic, heating systems and some agricultural uses. The</p>

<p>according to the principles set forth in 10 V.S.A 6086(a)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Is there a complete inventory/map of existing water resources, wildlife habitat, mineral resources and other land resources?</li> <li>B. Does the plan discuss air quality? If so, does it describe measures to maintain and improve its quality?</li> <li>C. Does the plan discuss water quality? If so, does it describe measures to maintain and improve its quality?</li> <li>D. Does the plan discuss wildlife resources? If so, does the plan describe measures to maintain and improve its quality?</li> <li>E. Does the plan discuss floodplain protection? If so, does the plan describe measures to maintain and improve its quality?</li> <li>F. Does the proposed land use pattern maintain or improve the quality of the resources listed above?</li> </ul>			<p>Plan recommends that land uses being considered during the permitting process should be carefully reviewed for air quality concerns and if necessary be required to show how air quality standards are being met.</p> <p>(C) Yes, surface water protection goals include regulation of on-site septic systems, proper stormwater management and erosion control for all development and a minimum 50 foot buffer from significant streams. Within the Forest Lands section (45) it is also noted that conservation and proper management of the Barre Town Forest will also help ensure the water quality of two specific drinking water supplies.</p> <p>(D) Wildlife resources are briefly discussed; however, the Plan notes that “Barre Town supports wildlife habitat preservation but does not see the need for further restriction beyond what the state already has created” (46). There is no effort to maintain or improve wildlife resources, most of which fall within the Low Density Residential zone with a 2 acres minimum lot size.</p> <p>(E) Yes, the Preservation chapter includes sections on Flood Hazard Areas and Floodways as well as Storm Water Management. Recommendations include: having the Development Review Board review plans regarding stormwater management for new subdivision proposals to ensure that new development will not adversely affect the community; considering a no disturbance buffer/setback area around steep slopes of 20% or greater; buffer areas for streams and wetlands; and considering a fluvial erosion plan.</p> <p>(F) Some of the water features fall within the Conservation zone; however, the Plan could make substantial progress in this area.</p>
<p>7. Encourage the efficient use of energy and the development of renewable energy resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(A) Does the town recognize the connection between energy, transportation and land use?</li> <li>(B) Does the energy chapter of the plan discuss energy efficiency and renewable energy?</li> <li>(C) Does the plan contain policies and recommendations that encourage energy efficiency?</li> <li>(D) Does the plan contain policies and recommendations</li> </ul>		<p><b>64-68</b></p>	<p>(A-C) Yes, transportation, including public transportation and carpooling, is discussed within the Energy chapter under Energy Conservation. The Plan notes that opportunities for municipalities to improve energy efficiency through transportation and land use include: encouraging cluster housing and neighborhood commercial services along transportation routes; encouraging development of pedestrian and bike paths and park and ride facilities; promoting public transportation and ride-sharing; promoting the use of energy efficient street lights; and</p>

<p>that encourage the development of renewable energy resources?</p> <p>(E) Does the pattern of land use proposed in the community appear to encourage the efficient use of energy either through the proposed location of development in relation to community services, or in terms of lot layout and design?</p>			<p>purchasing the most energy efficient or alternative powered vehicles.</p> <p>Renewable energy is discussed as well, noting that industrial wind turbines should not be allowed; PV ground mounted systems would be compatible in most zones with the same setback requirements as other structures; and the PC should address commercial PV systems to determine allowable zones and restrictions.</p> <p>(D-E) Yes and no. The only relevant recommendation for the development of renewable is: encouraging developers to design subdivisions for appropriate solar orientation and the use of solar hot water systems and photo voltaics when appropriate.</p>
<p>8. Maintain and enhance recreational opportunities for residents and visitors, including identifying, providing, and protecting public access to noncommercial outdoor recreational opportunities, where applicable.</p> <p>(A) Does the plan discuss recreation and identify important recreational areas?</p> <p>(B) Does the land use plan encourage development that protects or harms access to or the availability of recreational activities?</p>		<p><b>27-30</b></p>	<p>(A) Yes, the Town Forest is discussed in detail and recreation facilities are listed. The extensive bike and pedestrian networks are discussed as well and links are being planned between key destination points within the Town, which are listed out and discussed.</p> <p>(B) The proposed extensions to the bike and pedestrian network are mapped within the Plan, although goals and recommendations are not included within this section or chapter. Land Use goals include: protection of recreation opportunities should always be considered when looking at land use; of particular interest is the protection of snowmobile trails and other paths that are important given the dependency of landowner's permission to use the land.</p>
<p>9. Encourage and strengthen agricultural and forest industries, including:</p>	<p><b>y</b></p>	<p><b>42-46</b></p>	<p>Agricultural Soils are mapped.</p>
<p>(i) protection of long-term viability of agricultural and forest lands and maintenance of low overall density</p>			<p>No regulatory strategies are encourages for the purposes of protection agricultural land, recommendation from the Plan include: encourage the preservation and continuation of economically viable agricultural uses including all of the farms which are currently active; encourage the creation of new agricultural uses which are economically viable; farm preservation should be accomplished through positive inducements from farmers, rather than restrictions on growth.</p> <p>Forest lands is discussed as being divided into: protective, productive, transition and urban lands. A conservation easement covering 355 acres</p>

			<p>is noted as well, managed by the Town.</p> <p>None of the Natural Resources Goals and Objectives at the end of the Preservation chapter are regulatory solutions to increase protection of these resources, with the exception of encouraging businesses through zoning bylaws to landscape with native vegetation.</p> <p>Land Use goals include: creative design and clustering is encouraged to minimize infrastructure costs and preserve open space; and low density residential land should continue to have less dense development for the preservation of open land and agricultural uses.</p>
(ii) encouraging the manufacture and marketing of value-added agricultural and forest products			Value-added products are not specifically discussed, though it is noted that the forests are used for wood products.
<b>Consistency with Specific State Goals</b> (continued from previous page)		<b>Pages</b>	<b>Comments, notes, suggestions</b>
(iii) encouraging sound forest and agricultural practices			Agricultural and forest practices are not specifically discussed.
(iv) planning public investment so as to minimize development pressure on agriculture and forest land			Public investment to reduce development pressures on agriculture and forest land is not specifically discussed.
10. Provide for the wise and efficient use of natural resources, facilitate the appropriate extraction of earth resources and proper restoration and preservation of aesthetic qualities		<b>44</b>	Recommendations regarding earth resources include: it is vital that care be taken in the setting and operation of future mining and extraction operations in order to avoid land use conflicts, environmental damage and habitat destruction; and in residential and conservation areas, standards should be established for the operation, maintenance and ultimate restoration of mineral extraction land.
11. Ensure the availability of safe and affordable housing, including:		<b>70-75</b>	
(i) Encouraging housing to meet the needs of a diversity of social and income groups in the community, particularly for citizens of low and moderate income.			The Housing chapter overarching goal is that the Town supports the responsible development of housing that meets the needs of persons in all income categories. Relevant recommendations include: encourage cluster housing to promote affordability; pursue funding to collect current data for affordable housing development; pursue housing funds to provide assistance in financing affordable housing development; and promote the development of housing for the elderly.

<p>(ii) Ensuring that new and rehabilitated housing is safe, sanitary, located conveniently to employment and commercial centers, and coordinated with the provision of necessary public facilities and utilities.</p>			<p>Recommendations within the Housing chapter include: fund the Town’s existing housing rehabilitation program with additional monies to assist low income families; create incentives for mixed use development that includes residential use.</p> <p>The overarching goals at the beginning of the plan include: growth should be managed so as not to burden the capacity of public utilities, facilities, services and infrastructure; capacity at the Barre City Sewer treatment plant and the Town’s system of sewer mains should be planned, improved and maintained to accommodate anticipated residential, commercial, industrial growth and development.</p>
<p>(iii) Identifying sites for multi-family and manufactured housing in locations similar to those generally used for single-family conventional dwellings.</p>			<p>Multi-family and manufactured housing is not specifically addressed.</p>
<p>(iv) Allowing accessory apartments within or attached to single family residences.</p>			<p>The Housing chapter narrative notes that Barre Town supports the creation of accessory dwellings anywhere residential uses are allowed and that zoning was recently changed to reflect this when no exterior alterations are being made.</p>
<p>12. Finance and provide an efficient system of public facilities and services to meet future needs, (eg fire, police, EMS, schools, water, sewage, &amp; solid waste)</p> <p>(A) Public facilities and services should include fire and police protection, emergency medical services, schools, water supply and sewage and solid waste disposal.</p> <p>(B) The rate of growth should not exceed the ability of the community and the area to provide facilities and services</p>		<p><b>20-36</b></p>	<p>(A) The Facilities, Utilities and Public Safety chapter discusses sewer, septage, water supply, solid waste, police, EMS and the fire department. While this chapter does not include goals, the current capacity of these services is discussed and some recommendations are included within the sections.</p> <p>(B) The Facilities, Utilities and Services chapter narrative notes that growth is preferred where municipal services are available.</p>
<p>13. Ensure the availability of safe and affordable child care</p>		<p><b>80</b></p>	<p>Child care is addressed in the Economic Development chapter. The numbers of existing commercial and in-home providers are listed; however, no specific analysis of existing services vs. need is presented. Recommendations include: zoning regulations should continue to support in-home care providers as an allowed use and zoning regulations should</p>

			not place undue burdens to providers; and public and privately operated after-school programs should be encouraged as an option.
<b>E. Compatibility with Municipal, Regional Plans</b> [§4350] Plans must be:		<b>Pages</b>	<b>Comments, notes, suggestions</b>
1. Compatible with other regionally approved town plans		<b>57-63</b>	This element is addressed in the Region and Our Neighbors chapter which goes through a discussion of each of the adjacent municipalities and their connections to Barre Town as well as shared services between Barre Town and Barre City.
2. Compatible with the Regional Plan		<b>57-63</b>	The Region and Our Neighbors chapter also discusses Barre Town in the context of the Region.

CVRPC Regional Housing Distribution Plan elements	Plan: Plainfield 2014
<p>The Regional Housing Distribution Plan is intended to be used by municipalities when updating their land use plans and regulations; AND Town Plans adopted after January 1, 2009 are expected to incorporate this Housing Distribution Plan onto their town plan housing element.</p>	<p>The Barre Town Municipal Plan narrative states: “The Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC) has devised a housing distribution plan, by Town, so that Towns can plan for how they can meet the expected demand and fulfill their contribution to the regions housing needs. Projections made by CVRPC show that Barre Town will be asked to create the most housing units of any other town in our region. This is probably due to many factors, many of which are detailed in this plan but also due to Barre Town’s quality of life, land availability and proximity to infrastructure” (72).</p> <p><b>The Housing Goal states:</b> The Town supports the responsible development of housing that meets the needs of persons in all income categories.</p> <p><b>Recommendations include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage clustered housing units as an economical way to reduce infrastructure and land costs, thereby promoting affordability;</li> <li>• Pursue state/federal planning funds to help the Town collect current data for affordable housing development to assess the impact of such a project upon the Town’s schools, infrastructure, and services;</li> <li>• Fund the Town’s existing housing rehabilitation program with additional monies to assist low income families;</li> <li>• Pursue housing funds, in conjunction with developers and local housing partners, to provide assistance in financing affordable housing development;</li> <li>• Promote the development of housing for the elderly;</li> <li>• Create incentives for mixed use development that includes residential uses.</li> </ul>
<p>Town Plans shall contain a detailed map or maps of the town showing the town’s preferred locations for future housing units – consistent with current or proposed zoning – for 80% of the anticipated 10 to 15 year housing demand.</p>	<p>The Housing Development Map displays recent housing growth and the locations of projected growth.</p>
<p>Town Plans shall also provide mapping updates that identify the locations and number of housing units created in the town since the previous town plan adoption.</p>	<p>The Housing Development Map displays housing units from 2007-2013.</p>
<p>Towns and cities are required to demonstrate the community’s intent to meet the proposed housing unit numbers laid out in the Housing Distribution Plan or to describe in detail the obstacles that make attainment impossible. CVRPC will consider the planning effort to encourage housing development in relation to the Housing Distribution plan when approving a municipal plan.</p>	<p>The Housing Distribution Plan in addressed in the narrative of the Housing chapter, as noted above.</p>