



Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission

MUNICIPAL PLAN REVIEW COMMITTEE

September 21, 2020 at 5:00pm

Remote Participation via GoToMeeting

Join via computer, tablet or smartphone: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/205347085>

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AGENDA

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
The meeting will be called to order and may include introductions.
2. **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**
The Committee may identify and discuss any changes to the agenda.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
Time will be provided for members of the public to speak about items not on the agenda.
- 3 4. **PUBLIC HEARING: APPROVAL OF THE *NORTHFIELD TOWN PLAN 2020-2028* AND
CONFIRMATION OF THE LOCAL PLANNING PROCESS**
As requested by the Town of Northfield, the Municipal Plan Review Committee will open a public hearing to receive public comments on the *Northfield Town Plan 2020-2028* and confirmation of the local planning process.
5. **PUBLIC HEARING: ISSUANCE OF A DETERMINATION OF ENERGY COMPLIANCE FOR
*NORTHFIELD TOWN PLAN 2020-2028***
As requested by the Town of Northfield, the Municipal Plan Review Committee will open a second public hearing to receive public comments on the *Northfield Town Plan 2020-2028*.
- 7 6. **PUBLIC HEARING: APPROVAL OF THE *2020 FAYSTON TOWN PLAN* AND CONFIRMATION OF
THE LOCAL PLANNING PROCESS**
As requested by the Town of Fayston, the Municipal Plan Review Committee will open a third public hearing to receive public comments on the *2020 Fayston Town Plan* and confirmation of the local planning process.
7. **RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CVRPC BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:**
 - a. **CONFIRMATION OF THE TOWN OF NORTHFIELD MUNICIPAL PLANNING PROCESS**
 - b. **APPROVAL OF THE TOWN OF *NORTHFIELD TOWN PLAN 2020-2028*.**

c. ISSUANCE OF A DETERMINATION OF ENERGY COMPLIANCE FOR NORTHFIELD TOWN PLAN 2020-2028.

d. CONFIRMATION OF THE TOWN OF FAYSTON MUNICIPAL PLANNING PROCESS

e. APPROVAL OF THE TOWN OF 2020 FAYSTON TOWN PLAN.

At the close of the public hearing, the Municipal Plan Review Committee will consider five recommendations to the Board of Commissioners: a) confirmation of the Town of Northfield's planning process under 24 VSA §4350(a); b) approval of the *Northfield Town Plan 2020-2028* per 24 V.S.A. § 4350(b); c) issuance of a determination of energy compliance for the *Northfield Town Plan 2020-2028* as per 24 V.S.A. §4352; d) confirmation of the Town of Fayston's planning process under 24 VSA §4350(a); and e) approval of the *2020 Fayston Town Plan* per 24 V.S.A. § 4350(b).

10 8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Draft minutes from the September 8, 2020 Municipal Plan Review Committee are included for consideration of approval.

9. ADJOURNMENT

If there is no additional business the Committee should consider a motion to adjourn.



MEMO

Date: September 21, 2020
To: Municipal Plan Review Committee
CC: Laura Hill-Eubanks, Northfield Planning Commission Chair
From: Zachary Maia, Assistant Planner
Re: Northfield Municipal Plan Review for Regional Approval, Confirmation of Planning Process, and Determination of Energy Compliance

- ☒ **ACTION REQUESTED:** At the meeting the Committee will hold two public hearings on the *Northfield Town Plan 2020-2028*. Following the hearing the Committee will be tasked with making **three** recommendations to the Board of Commissioners:
- a) confirmation of the planning process under 24 VSA §4350(a);
 - b) approval of the municipal plan per 24 V.S.A. § 4350(b); and
 - c) affirmative determination of energy compliance per 24 V.S.A §4352

CVRPC Board of Commissioners meeting will take place on September 24, 2020.

Meeting Location and Directions

Date: September 21, 2020
Time: 5:00pm
Location: Virtual Meeting via GoToMeeting

Background

September 9, 2014	The Town of Northfield Selectboard adopts the <i>2014 Northfield, Vermont Town Plan</i> .
November 11, 2014	CVRPC Board regionally approves <i>2014 Northfield, Vermont Town Plan</i> and confirms the local planning process.
October 1, 2017	The Town of Northfield submits a Municipal Planning Grant application to update the municipal plan.
January 1, 2018	The Town of Northfield receives a Municipal Planning Grant award to update the municipal plan and selects PlaceSense as the consultant to support the Town in this update.
September 9, 2019	The <i>2014 Northfield, Vermont Town Plan</i> expires.
October 21, 2019	Northfield Planning Commission holds public hearing on the Town Plan and approves and sends Plan to Selectboard.
January 14, 2020	Selectboard holds first public hearing on the <i>Northfield Town Plan 2020-2028</i> .
February 11, 2020	Selectboard holds second public hearing on the <i>Northfield Town Plan 2020-</i>

	2028.
August 11, 2020	Selectboard holds third and final public hearing on the <i>Northfield Town Plan 2020-2028</i> , and adopts the plan.
August 14, 2020	Northfield Planning Commission Chair Laura Hill-Eubanks requests regional approval, confirmation of the municipal planning process, and a determination of energy compliance for the adopted <i>Northfield Town Plan 2020-2028</i> .
August 27, 2020	CVRPC warns a public hearing on the <i>Northfield Town Plan 2020-2028</i> for September 11, 2020 at 4:30pm via GoToMeeting.
September 4, 2020	CVRPC re-warns public hearings on <i>Northfield Town Plan 2020-2028</i> to September 21, 2020 at 5:00pm via GoToMeeting in order to meet notice requirements.
September 11, 2020	Municipal Plan Review Committee is informed that the public hearing on the plan had been rescheduled.

Northfield Town Plan 2020-2028

To view the plan, please visit: <https://centralvtplanning.org/towns/northfield/>. If you would prefer hard copies of the Plan, please contact Nancy Chartrand or Zachary Maia at 229-0389.

The *Northfield Town Plan 2020-2028* is a complete update and new revision to the previous *2014 Northfield, Vermont Town Plan*. The plan has undergone a completely new format, with the inclusion of new maps, and a reformatting of the chapters. The plan has condensed in page-length, but has included new forest integrity and flood resilience elements, as well as an enhanced energy plan included in the place of the energy element.

Staff Review

CVRPC staff reviewed the Municipal Plan for following items:

a) confirmation of the planning process under 24 VSA §4350(a);

- ☒ is engaged in a continuing planning process that, within a reasonable time, will result in a plan which is consistent with the goals contained in section 4302 of this title; and
- ☒ is maintaining its efforts to provide local funds for municipal and regional planning purposes.

Staff findings and recommendations: Staff finds Northfield to be engaged in a continuing planning process and is maintaining its efforts to provided funds for planning purposes.

b) approval of the municipal plan per 24 V.S.A. § 4350(b);

- ☒ **consistency with the State goals established in section §4302**

Staff findings and recommendations: Staff finds the plan to be consistent with the State Goals, and provides the following recommendations for the next update:

- *State Goal 3: To broaden access to educational and vocational training opportunities sufficient to ensure the full realization of the abilities of all Vermonters.*
 - The Education section of Northfield's plan adequately lists public educational opportunities and enrollment numbers for the educational institutions in Town.

Staff would like to see further consideration of future uses for educational facilities and other needs for the facilities themselves, as well as a regional

workforce development context outside of public K-12 and Norwich university. The inclusion of these opportunities could bolster the Town's economic development goals as they pertain to attracting and training a more skilled workforce.

- *State Goal 13: To ensure the availability of safe and affordable child care and to integrate child care issues into the planning process, including child care financing, infrastructure, business assistance for child care providers, and child care work force development.*
 - Northfield's plan is consistent with the above childcare goal and while not obligated to provide child care – the Town has a university and thriving village economy within their borders and may have an opportunity to act as a leader in planning for child care, especially considering the Town's recent work in hiring an Economic Development Specialist.

Examples to address this need include: Maintaining a listing of providers in or near Northfield on the municipal website, encouraging local businesses to offer assistance to childcare businesses, and developing partnerships with large employers to identify workforce childcare needs and develop strategies to meet those needs. More information on meeting the State's Child Care goal may be found in [this document published by the Windham Regional Commission](#).

☒ **compatibly with its regional plan**

Staff findings: Staff finds the plan to be compatible with the regional plan.

☒ **compatibly with approved plans of other municipalities in the region**

Staff findings and recommendation: Staff finds the plan to be compatible with approved plans of other municipalities.

☒ **containing all the elements included in section § 4382**

Staff findings and recommendation: Staff finds the plan to contain all of the required elements.

c) Issuance of an affirmative determination of energy compliance per 24 V.S.A. § 4352;

- ☒ in the case of a municipal plan, include an energy element that has the same components as described in subdivision 4348a(a)(3) of this title for a regional plan and be confirmed under section 4350 of this title;

Staff findings and recommendation: Staff finds the *Northfield Town Plan 2020-2028* contains an energy element as described in subdivision 4348a(a)(3).

- ☒ be consistent with the following, with consistency determined in the manner described under subdivision 4302(f)(1) of this title:

- (A) Vermont's greenhouse gas reduction goals under 10 V.S.A. § 578(a);
- (B) Vermont's 25 by 25 goal for renewable energy under 10 V.S.A. § 580;
- (C) Vermont's building efficiency goals under 10 V.S.A. § 581;
- (D) State energy policy under 30 V.S.A. § 202a and the recommendations for regional and municipal energy planning pertaining to the efficient use of energy and the siting and development of renewable energy resources contained in the State energy plans adopted pursuant to 30 V.S.A. §§ 202 and 202b; and

(E) the distributed renewable generation and energy transformation categories of resources to meet the requirements of the Renewable Energy Standard under 30 V.S.A. §§ 8004 and 8005;

Staff findings and recommendations: Staff finds that the *Northfield Town Plan 2020-2028* is consistent with the goals and policies in subdivision 4302(f)(1)(A) through (E) above.

- ☑ meet the standards for issuing a determination of energy compliance included in the State energy plans.

Staff findings and recommendations: Staff finds that the *Northfield Town Plan 2020-2028* meets the standards for issuing a determination of energy compliance and offers the following suggestions in the next update:

- *Standard 9G: Does the plan demonstrate the municipality's leadership by example with respect to the deployment of renewable energy?*

Staff recognizes that commitment to using municipal funding for renewable energy generation requires significant community support. In future revisions, staff suggests that the Town of Northfield assess feasibility for municipal deployment of renewable energy in support of this standard beyond considering carbon footprint in municipal expenditures. Options may include municipal generation for an EV charging station, municipal generation at a park-and-ride, etc.

- *Standard 12: Does the plan identify potential areas for development and siting of renewable energy resources?*

Staff recognizes that the inclusion of CVRPC-provided data and maps by reference allows the Town to utilize the two included maps to satisfy this mapping requirement. For ease of reading in future updates, Staff recommends including a map of the known and possible constraints that are referenced in the mapping of solar and wind resources. This will better inform readers where the specific constraints are located within the Town in order to better plan for possible solar and wind generation facilities.

References:

To view the Central Vermont Regional Plan visit: <http://centralvtplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/2016-Central-Vermont-Regional-Plan-ADOPTED-06.12.2018-Reduced.pdf>

To view Title 24 Chapter 117: Municipal and Regional Planning and Development statutory requirements in their entirety please visit: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/title/24>

For a copy of the completed Municipal Plan Review Tool (checklist), completed 9/18/2020, please contact Nancy Chartrand (Chartrand@cvregion.com) or Zachary Maia (maia@cvregion.com).



MEMO

Date: September 18, 2020
To: Municipal Plan Review Committee
CC: John Weir, Planning and Zoning Administrator
From: Zachary Maia, Assistant Planner
Re: Fayston Municipal Plan Review for Regional Approval and Confirmation of Planning Process

☒ **ACTION REQUESTED:** At the meeting the Committee will hold a public hearing on the *Fayston, Vermont 2020 Town Plan*. Following the hearing the Committee will be tasked with making two recommendations to the Board of Commissioners:

- a) confirmation of the planning process under 24 VSA §4350(a); and
- b) approval of the municipal plan per 24 V.S.A. § 4350(b);

CVRPC Board of Commissioners meeting will take place on September 24, 2020.

Meeting Location and Directions

Date: September 24, 2020
Time: 6:30pm
Location: Virtual Meeting via GoToMeeting

Background

March 10, 2015	CVRPC Board regionally approves 2014 Fayston Town Plan and confirms Town planning process.
October 2019	Fayston Town Plan Expires
January 3, 2020	CVRPC sends Fayston comments on the draft plan to be incorporated at Planning Commission hearing.
March 9, 2020	Fayston Planning Commission holds public hearing on the Town Plan and approves and passes first draft to the Selectboard
July 29, 2020	Selectboard holds second public hearing on the <i>Fayston, Vermont 2020 Town Plan</i> and adopts the Plan.
September 2, 2020	Fayston requests approval by CVRPC and submits final plan adopted by Selectboard.
September 4, 2020	CVRPC issues a public notice of the September 21 MPRC hearing.

Fayston, Vermont 2020 Town Plan

To view the plan, please visit: <https://centralvtplanning.org/towns/fayston/>. If you would prefer hard copies of the Plan, please contact Nancy Chartrand or Zachary Maia at 229-0389.

The Town of Fayston, Vermont 2020 Town Plan is an update to the previous 2014 Fayston Town Municipal Plan. Much of the data has been updated to reflect current trends in the area, and new maps have been included.

Staff Review

CVRPC staff reviewed the Municipal Plan for following items:

a) confirmation of the planning process under 24 VSA §4350(a);

- ☒ is engaged in a continuing planning process that, within a reasonable time, will result in a plan which is consistent with the goals contained in section 4302 of this title; and
- ☒ is maintaining its efforts to provide local funds for municipal and regional planning purposes.

Staff findings and recommendations: Staff finds the Town of Fayston to be engaged in a continuing planning process and is maintaining its efforts to provided funds for planning purposes.

b) approval of the municipal plan per 24 V.S.A. § 4350(b);

☒ **consistency with the State goals established in section §4302**

Staff findings and recommendations: Staff finds the plan to be consistent with the State Goals, and provides the following recommendations for the next update:

- *State Goal 11: To ensure the availability of safe and affordable housing for all Vermonters.*
 - (C) *Sites for multi-family and manufactured housing should readily available in locations similar to those generally used for single-family conventional dwellings.*
 - Fayston's current zoning regulations permit multi-family housing through the Planned Residential Development (PRD) provision. It may interest the Town to consider the implications of revising the zoning bylaw in an attempt to allow for more types of housing across Town and reduce the review process for such housing developments.
- *State Goal 13: To ensure the availability of safe and affordable child care and to integrate child care issues into the planning process, including child care financing, infrastructure, business assistance for child care providers, and child care work force development.*
 - The most recent update to the Fayston Town Plan includes a satisfactory discussion on child care provision in Town and takes a stance on not preventing it from being built. However, the plan does not identify clear action items that the Town may implement to address the need that may be present. The Town may have an opportunity to utilize their location in proximity to Sugarush to explore childcare opportunities for seasonal workers.

Examples to address this need include: Maintaining a listing of providers in or near Fayston on the municipal website, encouraging local businesses to offer assistance to childcare businesses, and developing partnerships with large employers such as Sugarbush Resort to identify workforce childcare needs and

develop strategies to meet those needs. More information on meeting the State's Child Care goal may be found in [this document published by the Windham Regional Commission](#).

☒ **compatibly with its regional plan**

Staff findings: staff finds the plan to be compatible with the regional plan.

☒ **compatibly with approved plans of other municipalities in the region**

Staff findings and recommendation: staff finds the plan to be compatible with approved plans of other municipalities.

☒ **containing all the elements included in section § 4382**

Staff findings and recommendation: staff finds the plan to contain all of the required elements and provides the following recommendations for the next update:

- *(3) A utility and facility plan, consisting of a map and statement of present and prospective community facilities and public utilities showing existing and proposed educational, recreational and other public sites, buildings and facilities, ...*
 - Staff have reviewed the Community Facilities chapter and the Road Network map and understands that it has satisfied the plan element required by Statute. Staff recommends in a future update that a separate map including town-owned utilities and facilities is included.

Staff would also note that as a member municipality of CVRPC, the Town is entitled to 12 hours of GIS mapping at no cost, and CVRPC staff would be happy to assist in developing this for future updates.

References:

To view the Central Vermont Regional Plan visit: <http://centralvtplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/2016-Central-Vermont-Regional-Plan-ADOPTED-06.12.2018-Reduced.pdf>

To view Title 24 Chapter 117: Municipal and Regional Planning and Development statutory requirements in their entirety please visit: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/title/24>

For a copy of the completed Municipal Plan Review Tool (checklist), completed 9/18/2020, please contact Nancy Chartrand (Chartrand@cvregion.com) or Zachary Maia (maia@cvregion.com).

CENTRAL VERMONT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
Municipal Plan Review Committee
Draft Minutes

September 8, 2020 at 4:30pm
Via GoToMeeting Software

Committee Members:

X	Bill Arrand, Worcester
X	Lee Cattaneo, Orange Commissioner
X	Ron Krauth, Middlesex Commissioner
X	Joyce Manchester, Moretown Alternate Commissioner
X	Jan Ohlsson, Calais Alternate Commissioner

Municipal Representative: Chris Violette, Barre Town Planning and Zoning Administrator
Public: George Clain, Barre Town Planning Commission; Mike Gilbar, Barre Town Planning Commission;
Cedric Sanborn, Barre Town Planning Commission Chair; Byron Atwood, Barre Town Planning
Commission
Staff: Zach Maia, Clare Rock

CALL TO ORDER

B. Arrand called the meeting to order at 4:36pm. Everyone introduced themselves.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

No changes to agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

PUBLIC HEARING: APPROVAL OF THE NORTHFIELD TOWN PLAN 2020-2028 AND CONFIRMATION OF THE LOCAL PLANNING PROCESS

Z. Maia provided overview of action to be taken, and administrative oversight in meeting notice requirements. Staff recommendation was to re-warn the municipal hearing for Monday September 21, 2020 at 5:00pm via GoToMeeting Software. Due to inadequate notice, no action was taken at this time.

PUBLIC HEARING: ISSUANCE OF A DETERMINATION OF ENERGY COMPLIANCE FOR NORTHFIELD TOWN PLAN 2020-2028

Due to inadequate notice, no action was taken at this time.

PUBLIC HEARING: ISSUANCE OF A DETERMINATION OF ENERGY COMPLIANCE FOR TOWN OF BARRE, VERMONT 2020 TOWN PLAN

This hearing was continued from the original August 27 Municipal Plan Review Committee meeting. At 4:43pm, Z. Maia provided staff recommendation that hearing was continued to 5:00pm in previous motion. C. Rock adds that in order to maintain Open Meeting Law and notice requirements, best practice will be to defer hearing until 5:00pm. B. Arrand agrees, and instructs participants to review Barre town correspondence emailed before the meeting.

B. Arrand continues hearing at 5:00pm. All participants are present.

B. Arrand begins discussion by highlighting letter to CVRPC from Barre Town. C. Sanborn says it is noteworthy that the plan went through 3 hearings with no public comments or input. Regional planning personnel only commented on missing map – no comments re: content of plan. C. Sanborn says nobody on MPRC said negative things about plan or asked to make changes. Barre Town Selectboard believes the map is not applicable, not that it is missing. The request map has been created by CVRPC.

C. Violette says that the map is not in the adopted plan. It doesn't make sense to insert the map; but to allow the plan to move forward, the map should be deemed not applicable. Barre Town requests that the plan receive an affirmative determination of energy compliance, and states that the map is not applicable because "(1) The map is not relevant considering that there is always more up to date and accurate data available on the Community Energy Dashboard. Within a few clicks, a Planner, Developer, or Regulator can see current data, not data on a map that could be up to 8 years old. (2) Unlike all other maps, the electric generation map does not set policy or have any regulatory implication at all. The map is a snapshot in time and outdated almost as soon as it is printed. (3) From a historical standpoint, the standards do not require a map to be included to show historical data. (4) If there is a concern for precedent, the precedent would only be for the existing renewable energy generation map, and then only if the same case is made which may very well happen. It will not set precedent for any other part of the plan or any other maps." (Quote from attached Barre Town letter)

B. Atwood discusses relevancy of map; the outdated map that is already irrelevant is the basis for not being applicable. B. Arrand asks if the dashboard is referenced in the map. B. Atwood says no.

J. Manchester asks if it would be possible to add the map, which is important as a snapshot of the Town in 2020, to existing plan and add a note that the map was not part of the plan. C. Violette says the because it is not an option, it isn't what we should decide upon tonight. Z. Maia clarifies that the addition of the map through a process other than adoption would not satisfy the requirement and that the decision tonight should reflect the Town's request for the map to be deemed not applicable. G. Clain says that the only resolve for this is that the map is not applicable. Z. Maia reminds Committee of the staff recommended motions, and reiterates need to get relevancy issue.

B. Arrand asks if PUC can rescind board decision. C. Rock adds that it will be a resolution from the Board, since RPC has authority to issue determinations. C. Violette questions point of RPC approval if PUC can overturn? J. Manchester adds that it may just be a recommendation from the RPC to the PUC. C. Rock clarifies that CVRPC board has a duty to notify PUC of decision-making.

G. Clain says that from his experience, it would be the petitioners making the argument, not the PUC. C. Rock agrees that that could be a situation when the plan is used. B. Arrand says that the decision may come down to PUC level and turn over Barre's plan.

J. Ohlsson moves to close the public hearing, seconded by L. Cattaneo. All in favor. Motion carries.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CVRPC BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

a. CONFIRMATION OF THE TOWN OF NORTHFIELD MUNICIPAL PLANNING PROCESS

b. APPROVAL OF THE TOWN OF NORTHFIELD TOWN PLAN 2020-2028.

c. ISSUANCE OF A DETERMINATION OF ENERGY COMPLIANCE FOR NORTHFIELD TOWN PLAN 2020-2028.

d. ISSUANCE OF A DETERMINATION OF ENERGY COMPLIANCE FOR TOWN OF BARRE, VERMONT 2020 TOWN PLAN.

The Committee did not open hearings on the Northfield Municipal Plan, and did not consider recommendations on items (a) – (c).

Regarding the issuance of a determination of energy compliance, R. Krauth asks what the point of the map is. J. Manchester answers that it is a snapshot in time. R. Krauth says that state-legislation determines what is on the map. J. Manchester disagrees and says that it shows solar on the ground. J. Ohlsson disagrees with J. Manchester and says that the map is outdated, also we have a right to question why it is there and recalls debate over map requirement. J. Manchester reiterates that document is meant to show where renewable energy is at that time.

Z. Maia clarifies the reasoning for choosing Not Applicable. L. Cattaneo says that if the town has the information on their website, then it is fine. J. Manchester asks if you can find historic information on the Community Energy Dashboard, and J. Ohlsson says no. J. Manchester says she will disagree.

L. Cattaneo says CVRPC's regional enhanced energy plan does not comply with latest guidance issued in January 2020, and encourages CVRPC to revise plan as soon as possible.

L. Cattaneo makes a motion that the adopted Town of Barre, Vermont 2020 Town Plan does not contain the required Existing Generation map, and the reason presented by the Town of Barre is compelling; therefore, an affirmative determination of energy compliance shall be recommended at this time for the Town of Barre, Vermont 2020 Town Plan. J. Ohlsson seconds. 4 in favor, 1 not in favor. Motion carries.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

L. Cattaneo moves to approve the minutes from August 27, 2020 meeting, J. Ohlsson seconds. All in favor. Motion carries.

ADJOURNMENT

L. Cattaneo moves to adjourn, R. Krauth seconds. All in favor. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45pm.



TOWN OF BARRE

Municipal Bldg.
Lower Websterville, VT 05678
802/479-2595

To: Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission
Municipal Plan Review Committee
Board of Commissioners

From: Cedric Sanborn, Chair of the Barre Town Planning Commission
Byron Atwood, member of the Barre Town Planning Commission
Chris Violette, member of the Barre Town Planning Commission and
Planning Director

Date: September 8, 2020

Dear Committee and Commission members:

As you know you will review Barre Town's Municipal and Energy Plan tonight. Based on staff recommendation and discussion last week at the Municipal Plan Review Committee we are looking forward to approval of our Town Plan and confirmation of our Planning Process, thank you in advance.

As you are also aware, CVRPC staff has not recommended an affirmative Determination of Energy Compliance regarding Barre Town's Energy Plan. We are hopeful that after the Municipal Review Committee meeting there will be a recommendation to the full Commission of an affirmative determination.

The sticking point to receiving staff's affirmative determination recommendation is that a required map (existing renewable energy generation) was not included in the plan as it went through the adoption process. We understand and have no argument with that fact. The fact that the map is not in the final adopted plan is likely a shared responsibility between the CVRPC and the Town but regardless it was not included.

There was discussion during last week's Plan Review Committee meeting of inserting the map into the plan at this point in the process. We no longer feel that that is a good method, we do not want the integrity of our plan to be questioned later. Speaking of the map, it is important to note that an updated map was just generated by the CVRPC and we thank you for that.

We do want both the Review Committee and the Board of Commissioners be clear about a viable option to keep the process whole and to move our plan forward at the same time. When determining compliance, the checklist used allows for a determination to be

made that an item is not applicable. To decide that something is not applicable, a compelling reason must be made. If not applicable is used, the item can be omitted, and the plan can receive its Determination of Compliance.

The Barre Town Planning Commission and the Barre Town Selectboard respectfully request that a determination is made that the existing renewable energy generation map omitted from the Barre Town Energy Plan is not applicable. It is not applicable for the following compelling reasons:

1. The map is not relevant considering that there is always more up to date and accurate data available on the Community Energy Dashboard. Within a few clicks, a Planner, Developer, or Regulator can see current data, not data on a map that could be up to 8 years old.
2. Unlike all other maps, the electric generation map does not set policy or have any regulatory implication at all. The map is a snapshot in time and outdated almost as soon as it is printed.
3. From a historical standpoint, the standards do not require a map to be included to show historical data.
4. If there is a concern for precedent, the precedent would only be for the existing renewable energy generation map, and then only if the same case is made which may very well happen. It will not set precedent for any other part of the plan or any other maps.

Both Barre Town Planning Commission and Selectboard believe the above is compelling enough to make the existing renewable energy generation map N/A, Not Applicable. We request that the Barre Town Energy Plan be given a Determination of Energy Compliance.

We thank you for your consideration of both the Barre Town Municipal Plan and Energy Plan.