



**City of Barre, Vermont**  
"Granite Center of the World"

## ***Agenda for the Planning Commission***

Meeting held on Thursday, August 12, 2021 ~ 6:30 PM

### **Hybrid Meeting (in-person and Virtual)**

**Council Chambers in City Hall and Zoom Virtual meeting**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87952984877?pwd=Um5LWW1WenRwTVAwSGZ3WXVIMTR0QT09>

**Meeting ID: 879 5298 4877**

**Passcode: 104043**

Phone: 1 (929) 205-6099 US (New York – Long distance rates will apply)

1. Call to Order
2. Adjustments to the Agenda
3. Public Comment (*for something that is not on the agenda*)
4. Old Business:
  - A. Review and approval of July 22, 2021 meeting minutes
  - B. Discussion of Housing Whitepaper with future steps
5. New Business
  - A. Signage Discussion
  - B. Municipal Planning Grant Application
  - C. All in for Barre Community Visit August 25, 2021
6. Staff Updates
7. Roundtable
8. Adjourn

***Planning Commission meetings are open to the public.***

*For questions about accessibility or to request accommodation, please call (802) 477-1465.*

# Barre City Planning Commission

## July 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes

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Present: David Sichel (Chair), Jackie Calder (Vice Chair), Michael Hellein (Secretary), Amanda Gustin, Thomas Lauzon, Rachel Rudi

Staff: Janet Shatney (Director of Planning, Permitting & Assessing)

1. Call to Order

6:32pm

2. Adjustments to the Agenda

No adjustments.

3. Public Comment

No public comment.

4. Old business

A. Approve meeting minutes of June 24, 2021

**Motion: Lauzon, Second Rudi, Approved**

B. Continue discussion of Housing Whitepaper with future steps

Sichel stated that the Mayor and City Manager wanted more direction from the whitepaper, with Gustin clarifying that they were looking for connections between funding and projects, though the funding isn't known yet. It was also clarified that the whitepaper is not concerned with ARPA funding made available to the City, but to the larger funding stream meant to support residential development.

Lauzon added it is not appropriate for the Planning Commission to say which projects should happen unless the City is taking on the role of developer. Sichel added that the City should find the appropriate groups to spearhead the pursuit of what is in the Municipal Plan.

Hellein suggested that the whitepaper does what the Planning Commission moved to create, a summary of housing in the Municipal Plan, and it would make sense to publish it in its current form and let

everyone work on ideas, and the Planning Commission can connect funds when we know where they come from.

Lauzon stated it made sense to publish the whitepaper in draft form, because the main goal is to get people thinking about it. Rudi concurred that getting community feedback is desirable and supported publishing the draft.

Calder and Gustin suggested adding a recommendation to the whitepaper for City Council to create a working group to plan for using funds, and the Commission assented to making that change.

**Gustin will make final edits to the whitepaper draft, and Shatney will provide data from 2018 and 2019. Gustin will provide final draft for review by 8/5 and Planning Commission will consider at the next meeting on 8/12.**

5. New business

No new business.

6. Staff Updates

Shatney presented staff update information from packet, with some conversation from Commission. **Shatney will provide Planning Grant information to Planning Commission to prepare for next meeting.**

7. Round Table

Gustin asked if the Planning Commission should consider removing recommendation for PACE from the Municipal Plan. Shatney suggested bringing the question to the Energy Committee. **Gustin will email PACE article link to Shatney to forward to the Planning Commission.**

Hellein recollected that the Municipal Plan suggests a quarterly meeting between the Planning Commission and the Transportation Advisory Committee and the Paths, Routes and Trails Committee. If that's indeed the case, he suggested that to be scheduled for a future meeting.

8. Adjourn

7:41pm, **Motion Lauzon, Second Gustin, Adjourned**

# **Additional Affordable Housing Development in Barre City: A Call to Action**

- I. Introduction
- II. General Summary Points & Takeaways
  - a. The American Rescue Plan of 2021 & the Vermont Budget
  - b. Housing in Barre City
- III. Specific Next Steps as Outlined in the City Plan
- IV. Background Notes on Affordable Housing Development in Barre City
  - a. Excerpts from the 2020 City Municipal Plan
  - b. Property Sale Data April 2020 – June 2021

## Introduction

In our meeting on May 13, 2021, the Barre City Planning Commission took up discussion of anticipated state and federal funding to support affordable housing, on the suggestion of Commissioner Lauzon. The Commission decided to prepare a short white paper summarizing both the key provisions of the ARP (American Rescue Plan) and Vermont budget as well as excerpts from the 2020 Municipal City Plan that directly related to the development of additional housing in Barre City.

This document is intended to provide the Barre City Council with straightforward summary recommendations for pursuing ARP funding from the state of Vermont, grounded in the existing recommendations of the city plan.

It contains short summary points on both the availability of funding as well as the city plan's action items related to housing, as well as longer contextual information on both affordable housing and future housing development in Barre City.

It is our intention to share this report with the City Council of Barre City, and to recommend that Council put together a working group to address the availability of housing funding in the near future. The working group can use this summary to guide plan-based actions, and can include constituents identified within the city plan as members.

## General Summary Points & Takeaways

### The American Rescue Plan of 2021 & the Vermont Budget

While the 2020/2021 COVID Pandemic presented incredible challenges, the resulting American Rescue Plan of 2021 (ARP21) has provided equally incredible opportunities in terms of the availability of funds to develop housing and infrastructure. The 2022 Vermont General Fund budget makes available an unprecedented \$99 million dollars dedicated to housing and homelessness investment.

Assuming that 5,000 housing units could be developed in Vermont over the next three years, it is not unreasonable for Barre city to advocate for 250 additional housing units. While this figure represents 5.0% of the proposed statewide housing units and Barre city represents approximately 1.40% of Vermont population, a case could easily be made for hosting a disproportionate number of the total new housing units.

The 2021 Vermont Budget, H. 439, passed by the House and Senate and signed by the Governor, includes the following provisions related to housing (Sec. G.400) that could be tapped to support an expansion of housing affordability and availability in Barre City:

(a) \$99,000,000 in fiscal year 2022 is appropriated from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) - Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds as follows:

(1) **\$94,000,000** to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) to provide housing and increase shelter capacity, with priority given to populations who may be displaced from the hotel/motel voucher problem or are currently without housing, including by providing permanent homes in

mixed-income settings. VHCB shall distribute the funds in consultation with the Secretary of Human Services and may subgrant a portion to other entities, including the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Vermont Housing Finance Agency, and regional nonprofit housing organizations, for one or more of the following purposes:

(A) if necessary, to help ensure that households and areas impacted by the pandemic are served;

(B) to undertake additional housing initiatives, such as home ownership, to the extent permitted by ARPA and related regulations and guidance; or

(C) to provide for the efficient use of the funds.

(2) **\$5,000,000** to the Agency of Commerce and Community Development for the Vermont Housing Incentive Program (VHIP).

(b) **\$91,000,000** is appropriated from other funds as follows:

(1) **\$40,000,000** in fiscal year 2021 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) for affordable housing initiatives. These funds shall

carryforward into fiscal year 2022 and are in addition to funding provided to VHCB in 2021 Acts and Resolves No. 9.

(2) **\$36,000,000** of funds reserved by motion passed on February 11,

2021 by the Joint Fiscal Committee accepting the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Pub. L. No. 116-260) Emergency Rental Assistance Program grant is appropriated in fiscal year 2022 to the Department for Children and Families to implement the Emergency Housing Assistance Program in fiscal year 2022.

(3) **\$15,000,000** in fiscal year 2022 is appropriated from funds received from the American Rescue Plan Act, 2021 (Pub. L. No. 117-2) Emergency Rental Assistance Program to the Department for Children and Families to supplement, continue, or extend, or any combination of the three, the Rental Assistance Program for Reach Up families as permissible by the Emergency Rental Assistance Program.

### **Housing in Barre City**

Affordable, quality housing can attract a workforce to Barre City that can drive economic development. Housing that is situated in, or in close proximity to, Barre's downtown will serve the dual purpose of capitalizing on existing underutilized building stock and providing an economic boost to downtown businesses. Reversing the recent trend of population decline by increasing the quality and affordability of housing stock will provide a better tax base for the city to pursue needed initiatives and improvements.

Barre City already has a higher concentration of subsidized housing than any other municipality in Washington County; 12% of all housing in the city is subsidized, which is the 5<sup>th</sup> highest percentage in all municipalities across the state. This level of subsidized housing creates a higher use of city infrastructure and services than in many comparable municipalities, which creates budget challenges.

To support and increase property tax rolls, the city also needs to increase its stock of moderate and upper-income housing, and balance that in tension with access to lower-cost housing. Affordability exists across a spectrum of possibility, encompassing both low-cost or subsidized housing as well as middle and higher-end housing that provides opportunities for movement within the housing market. When a homeowner scales up or down, their previous home becomes available, driving market movement and creating opportunity.

Affordability is not exclusively about new housing stock, but also about making existing housing stock accessible and available while making sure existing apartments are safe, healthy, and energy efficient. The most affordable housing in the City tends to be closest to downtown, and among the oldest buildings in the city; they are also the most likely to need improvements. Property improvements also increase neighborhood stability, which improves quality of life overall.

Several factors make Barre extremely well-positioned to accommodate an increase in its housing stock, including significant domestic water and wastewater processing capacity (currently at 60% of capacity), a robust electrical grid with excess capacity due to the consolidation of the granite manufacturing base,

and capacity for additional students within the elementary, middle, and high school systems after recent student population decreases.

There are an estimated fifty vacant and substandard housing units in Barre. The housing units are vacant for a variety of reasons, including stalled and lengthy lender foreclosure processes and investors who hold properties but don't have the desire and/or funds to rehabilitate them. There are undeveloped neighborhoods, streets, and lots within the city boundaries, capable of cumulatively accepting over one hundred additional housing units. Both categories represent potential low-hanging fruit for housing development.

Barre is also well-situated in central Vermont. Its easy access to multiple transportation systems (public transit as well as streets and highways) and proximity to multiple employers make it an appealing option for those looking for a better commute or a lifestyle with easier access to a quality downtown.

## **Specific Next Steps as Outlined in the City Plan**

1. Work to overcome hurdles in the way of residential development such as ownership of "paper streets" or the need for infrastructure upgrades to encourage infill development on vacant lots. (p. 25)
2. Support efforts and programs to improve the energy efficiency of homes in Barre City, particularly those focused on upgrades to rental and affordable housing. (p. 26)
3. Actively monitor vacancies, rental inspection results, and property maintenance/building code enforcement actions to direct revitalization efforts towards struggling neighborhoods. (p. 26)
4. Undertake a study to document the occupancy of downtown buildings and recommend strategies to encourage use of upper floors for housing. (p. 28)
5. Implement a pilot program that would assist with the purchase and management of owner-occupied rental programs in the city. (p. 28)
6. Amend the city's Minimum Housing Code to incorporate stronger and more effective standards. (p. 28)
7. Encourage home-sharing as a means of keeping larger single-family homes intact. (p. 28)
8. Consider implementing a Housing Preservation Loan Program to help with the repairs needed to homes in the City. (p. 29)
9. Identify and take appropriate action with regard to paper streets, particularly those that are limiting the use and development of otherwise suitable lots. (p. 36)
10. Implement the voter-approved Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program. (p. 50)
11. Adopt energy-efficiency standards for rental units, particularly those that do not include heat as part of the rent. (p. 51)
12. Encourage conservation development techniques, such as cluster residential developments, on the remaining large tracts of undeveloped land within the city. (p. 64)
13. Encourage infill development that will be harmonious with the scale, density, and character of the surrounding neighborhood. (p. 71)
14. Encourage the maintenance of the city's existing housing stock and the rehabilitation of deteriorating or substandard housing. (p. 71)

## Notes on Affordable Housing Development in Barre City

*Excerpted from "Community Profile: Housing" from the 2020 City Municipal Plan*

The state's definition of affordable housing is based on a household earning 80% of the county's median family income, which includes nearly 80% of Barre City residents. According to the Vermont Housing Data website, in 2017 for Barre City, nearly 41% of owners were paying 30% or more of their income toward housing costs, and 19% were paying 50% or more of their income on homeownership. Housing costs for renters include rent and utilities; housing costs for homeowners include principal on mortgage payments, interest, property taxes, and insurance. This remains a level that is typically considered unaffordable.

While homes in Barre City are more affordable as compared to homes in nearby municipalities, the city experienced a rapid inflation in housing prices during the mid2000's similar to most communities in Vermont. Between 2000 and 2007, the average sale price for a primary residence in Barre City increased by 50% above the rate of inflation. While house prices have declined since their peak in 2007, it is still more expensive to buy a home in Barre City today than it was in the early2000's. The median sale price of a home in 2010 was more than \$40,000 higher than it was in 2000 even after adjusting for inflation.

Between 2012 and 2018, there were 160 fair market sales of primary residences in Barre City and the median sale price was \$143,000. Approximately three-quarters of both home sales and home assessments were in the \$100,000 to \$200,000 range that would be affordable to households with an annual income in the \$30,000 to \$60,000 range.

In the 2017, most of the market-rate apartments being advertised for rent in Barre City were one bedroom units with a monthly rent ranging between \$700 and \$1,000; most did not include heat, but did include water, sewer, trash and snow removal. These apartments would be affordable for households with an annual income of \$30,000 or more. There were a small number of apartments being advertised for rents between \$550 and \$700, as well as some larger units with rents of \$1,200 or more.

...

Barre City must be an attractive place for people of all ages across economic and social groups. The displacement of people not being able to afford where they live anymore will lead to gentrification of neighborhoods. To meet the needs of today's residents and to attract future residents, diverse housing choices need to be available that reflect the lifestyles and needs of many different demographics. Providing a mixture of housing types results in an approach that is marketsensitive and flexible. Communities with a variety of housing types are more likely to retain residents even as their lifestyles change.

Barre City's housing stock is largely composed of detached homes including single-family homes, duplexes, and larger homes that have been split up into three or more units. There are detached, single-family homes at a range of price points, although there are more homes available in the lowto mid-range than on the high end. There is a large supply of affordable rental housing, but little higher-

cost/higher quality apartments. There are fewer choices for households, such as singles or older couples, who might want a smaller home with minimal maintenance requirements. Some of these segments of the housing market could be met through new housing in the upper floors of downtown buildings. Some of the remaining open land in the outlying portions of the city may be suitable for additional townhouse style development.

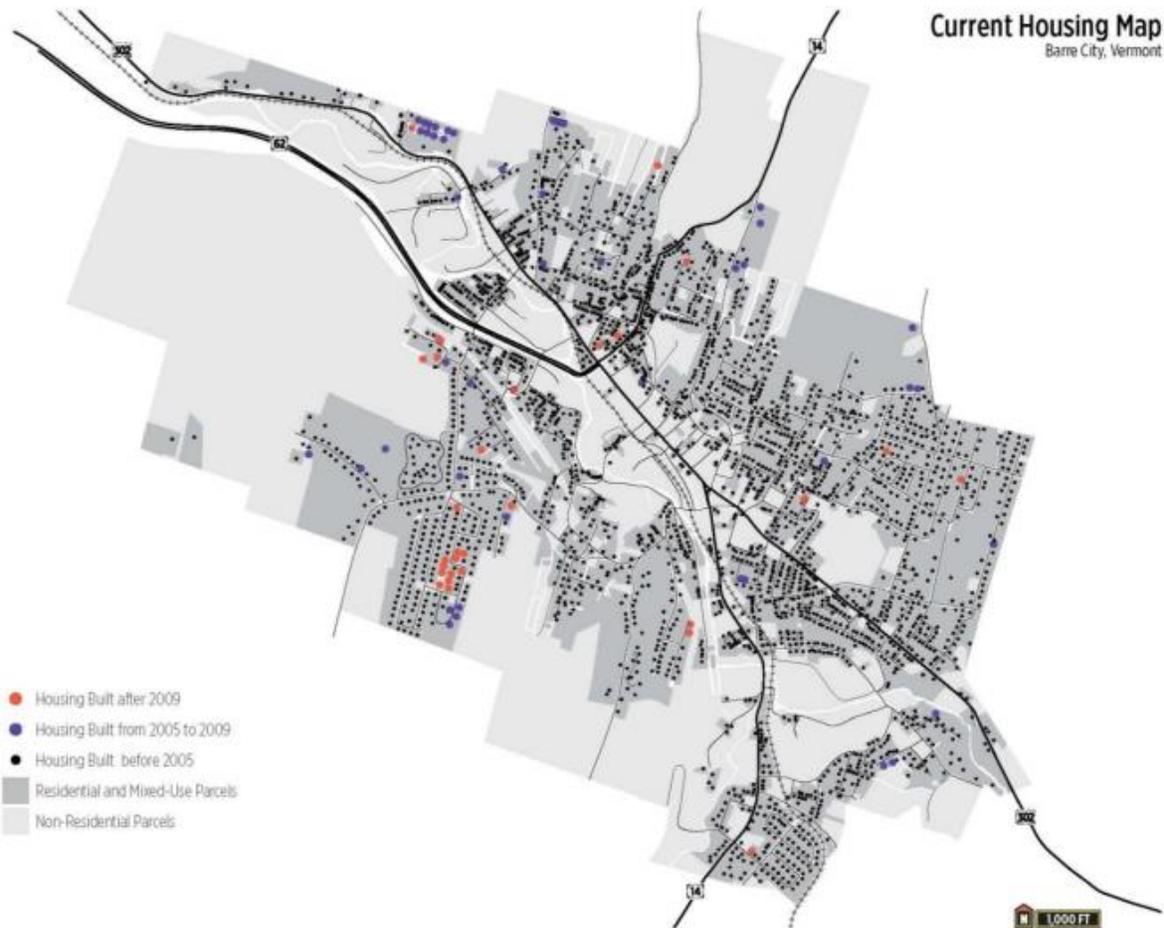


Figure 6: Current Housing Map

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In recognition that housing is a regional issue, the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission adopted a Housing Distribution Plan as part of its Regional Plan in 2008 and updated in 2018 to encourage the development of more meaningful and practical local housing plans and to promote the sustainable and efficient distribution of housing region-wide. CVRPC formulated the Distribution Plan with the aim of ensuring that all municipalities continue to contribute fairly to meeting the region's total housing need, and balancing the burdens and benefits of providing housing among Central Vermont communities.

Another goal of the Distribution Plan was to curtail sprawl and inefficient patterns of growth in Central Vermont. Therefore, regional centers like Barre City (where housing can be built in proximity to jobs,

services and transportation networks and can be served by existing infrastructure) are expected to provide a greater share of the region’s future housing than outlying rural communities.

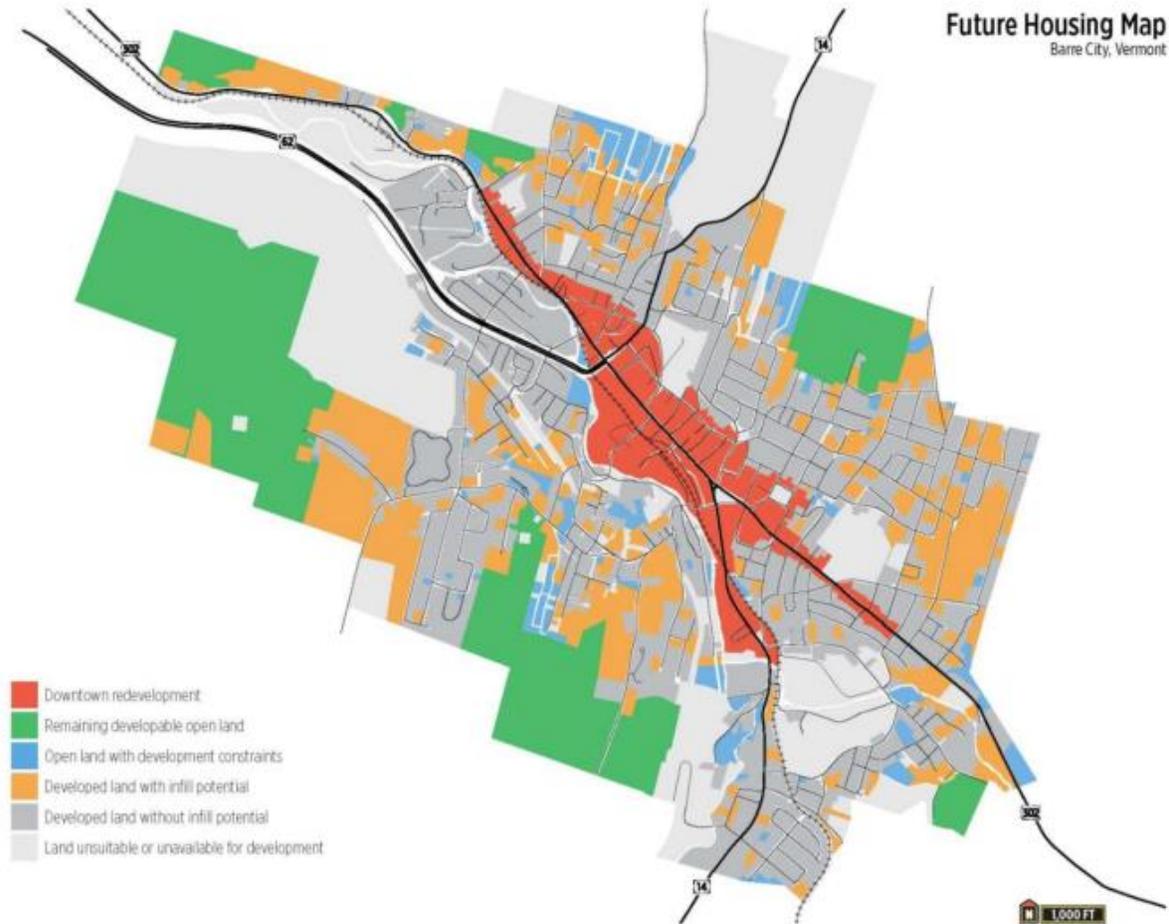


Figure 7: Future Housing Map

CVRPC specifically asked municipalities to include a detailed map identifying the location and number of housing units created since municipality last updated its plan, and a map showing preferred locations for 80% of their housing allocation consistent with current or proposed zoning. Barre City’s growth rate is very slow compared to other municipalities of the same size in different counties, therefore, the maps are shown on pages 3-12 and 3-13 have changed very little since 2012.

The Distribution Plan allocates 295 new housing units to Barre City to be built between 2015 and 2020. Residential growth at an average rate of nearly 50 new units per year would be significantly greater than the increase in housing that has occurred in recent years (an average of 3 units per year during the 2000’s, and only 1-2 units annually in 2017 and 2018) and would be similar to growth rates last experienced during the 1970’s. While the city is seeking to encourage growth in our population and housing stock, it should be noted that the Distribution Plan was developed at the peak of a housing boom and that the subsequent recession has reduced the regional demand for new housing.

# Barre City Property Transfers

Data covers from April 1, 2020 – June 8, 2021

## Single Family Homes

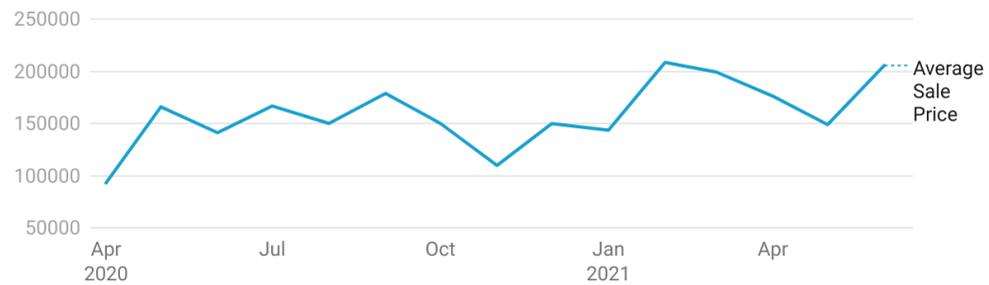
Total sales: 135

Average sales price: \$159,078

Average % of assessed value: 112%

### Single Family Homes

Average sales price by month of single family homes sold in Barre City



Source: City of Barre • Created with Datawrapper

## Multi-Unit Homes

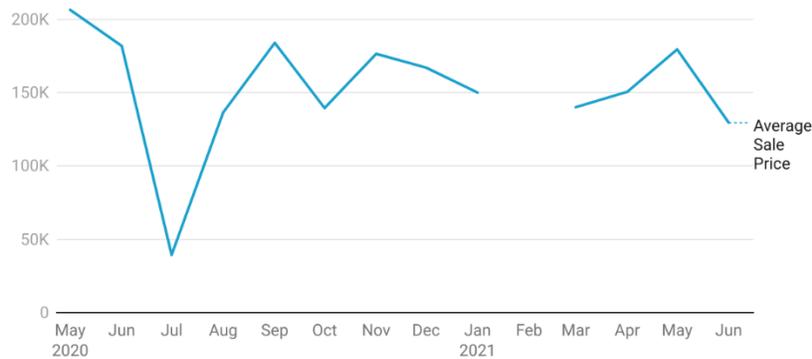
Total sales: 52

Average Sales Price: \$158,406

Average % of assessed value: 112%

### Multi-Unit Homes

Average sales price by month of multi-unit homes sold in Barre City



Created with Datawrapper

## Barre City Planning Director

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**From:** Lucas Herring  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 8, 2021 7:54 PM  
**To:** David Sichel  
**Cc:** Barre City Planning Director  
**Subject:** RE: FW: Aired Out podcast  
**Attachments:** 20210808\_184257.jpg; 20210808\_184443.jpg; 20210808\_184618.jpg; 20210808\_184832.jpg; 20210808\_185122.jpg; 20210808\_185134.jpg; 20210808\_185312.jpg; 20210808\_185437.jpg; 20210808\_185709.jpg; 20210808\_185800.jpg; 20210808\_185907.jpg; 20210808\_190025.jpg

Hi David,

I think we are on the same track and making sure that we are treating each business equally based on those examples. I just took a quick drive through the City tonight for some examples for consideration. I am not sure if the "Aired Out" sign in the attached picture is the one in question, but you will see some other examples where windows are 100% covered (Dominoes, Yipes, Tatros and L. Brown) and others that take up similar space to what the current Aired Out sign takes up.

Thank you,

Lucas Herring  
Mayor, City of Barre  
802-272-8222

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**From:** David Sichel <dsichel@charter.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 8, 2021 5:15 PM  
**To:** Lucas Herring <L.Herring@barrecity.org>  
**Cc:** Barre City Planning Director <PPADirector@barrecity.org>  
**Subject:** RE: FW: Aired Out podcast

Hi Lucas,

Thanks for your email. I will pass this information on to the Planning Commission for further discussion. It is important to consider signage rules and how they impact the entire downtown, not just a single business. For example, would it be ok if every downtown storefront window was 100% covered by window signs? The Planning Commission spent quite a bit of time discussing signage in the last zoning rewrite. Now that we have some time under our belt with the zoning ordinance in place it makes sense to review how it is working.

Thanks,  
David Sichel

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From: "Lucas Herring"  
To: "[dsichel@charter.net](mailto:dsichel@charter.net)"

Cc: "Barre City Planning Director"  
Sent: Sunday August 8 2021 1:59:37PM  
Subject: FW: Aired Out podcast

Hi David,

I am passing along the email from JD Green about the recent signage item that came before the DRB. This situation is one of the items that Council forwarded as a suggestion for review when you reached out earlier this year. Linda Shambo from the DRB also reached out to me after the outcome of the hearing and may be in contact to understand what the next steps are from the Planning Commission. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Lucas Herring

Mayor, City of Barre

802-272-8222

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**From:** JD Green <[beyondthedog97@gmail.com](mailto:beyondthedog97@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 6, 2021 7:36 PM  
**To:** Lucas Herring <[L.Herring@barrecity.org](mailto:L.Herring@barrecity.org)>  
**Subject:** Aired Out podcast

Lucas,

The DRB rejected it 4-3

We have to remove the window sign because it is "out of compliance"

Clearly there needs to be some serious policy change and overhauling of this ordinance of what is "allowable". The municipality is not aware of what we do here on this podcast day to day and what we do for the city. So unfortunate all around.

- JD

**AIRED OUT STATISTICS:**

YouTube: 516 subscribers/138 episodes

Facebook: 2,000 Followers/315 episodes  
Facebook weekly viewers: 12,000

## Barre City's local podcast, "Aired Out" with JD Green

**The Aired Out Podcast is both an *audio AND video* podcast, filmed and broadcast LIVE on Facebook from Fly On The Wall Productions. The studios are located at 185 North Main Street, Barre Vermont.**

### **THE STORY BEHIND "AIRED OUT":**

After thirty years in broadcasting, Fly On The Wall Productions LLC and the "AIRED OUT" podcast was created in November 2018 by Vermont radio personality JD Green. The local program was featured live on both YouTube and Central Vermont Television where it was filmed. In March 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic impacted America, JD created an in-home studio and continued the fast-growing program. In October 2020, JD relocated his studio to 185 North Main Street, Barre Vermont where it is featured LIVE on Facebook and also streamed on Spotify, iHeartRadio, Amazon Music, TuneIn Radio, Podchaser, Deezer, Podcast Addict and JioSaavn.

Content of the podcast is focused around the Vermont community while highlighting local happenings, weather, sports, State and National news. The show also spotlights various public affairs and guest interviews with well-known local artists, public figures and experts on a vast range of topics all over the country.

In March, 2021 artist Victor Candies brought a conceptual logo design of Fly On The Wall Productions to life by hand (drawing). The image was presented to JD Green as a surprise gift at the North Main Street studio. Prior to the printing of this artwork (February 2021) an attempt was made to review permitting window display restrictions online. It was our understanding at the time that because this was not a permanent "sign" affixed to the outside of the building, it would be allowed. An attempt was then made to call city hall to follow up on this but because city hall was shut down a response did not ensue. Later, in April, a letter was sent from Barre City requiring a permit fee that was paid. In the weeks later, a letter from permitting then explained with Covid restrictions lifted, further review would be needed and/or considered.

While we recognize, respect and appreciate the consideration of appropriate curb appeal in Barre City, we feel strongly that our window display promotes a positive and exciting new media outlet for our local community as well as promoting Barre to areas far outside of our Vermont border. The foot traffic has prompted continuous curiosity, encouragement and support of our mission - to bring a powerful, local "Main Street" media source promoting our great city as well as critical, time-sensitive news and information surrounding Central Vermont and beyond. Our presence is already well known and our platform well utilized by our community.

On behalf of Fly On The Wall Productions and the Aired Out podcast we are requesting a variance of the new ordinance which suggests the window art decal is out of compliance. Although slight modifications can be made (increasing the open view to 57" and 46" horizontally) there is no way to remove this window display entirely without destroying it altogether.

Here's some of what we've done:

**BUSINESSES/ORGANIZATIONS:**

Barre City Fire/EMS  
American Legion Post 10  
American Legion Auxiliary National President - Nicole Clapp  
Vermont American Legion Auxiliary President - Corrinna Colson  
Sons of The American Legion  
Riders of The American Legion  
Barre Elks Lodge 1535  
Lions Club - Mark Tatro  
Barre Rotary  
Barre Farmers Market  
Central Vermont Chamber of Commerce  
Imagination Station - Heather Slayton  
Great Vermont Corn Maze  
Barre Partnership - Tracie Lewis (Wednesday morning weekly feature)  
Times Argus - Steve Pappas (Wednesday morning weekly feature)  
Annual Ladies Ride for Breast Cancer  
We Are Hope Vermont - Sean Perry  
Barre Art Splash - Karl Rinker  
Turning Point of Central Vermont  
Vermont Agency of Transportation - Jeremy Reed  
Vermont Department of Health & Wellness Division of licensing and protection - Pam Cota  
Making Spirits Bright (983 Christmas Eve meals donated locally)  
Capstone Community Action  
Wheels For Warmth  
Barre Town Thunder Chickens  
Sip & Shop Vermont (VFW Post 790)  
K&W Tire  
Barslow Construction  
McCarthy's Family Maple Farm  
Goodrich Maple Farm  
Granite City MMA  
Counseling Associates of New England - Dottie Moffitt  
Vermont Association of Sportsman Association (VASA)  
Let's Grow Kids Vermont  
Freezing Fun For Families  
Working Fields - Mickey Wiles  
Orange County Sheriff's Dept  
Vermont State Police (Amy Nolan)  
Stuff-A-Truck

Vermont Food Shelf  
Central Vermont Night to Shine  
Travis Mercy Skate Park  
R&L Archery  
Project Independence  
Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice - Sandy Rouse  
Donny Brook Fight Promotions  
Faith Community Church  
Rehab Gym  
Vermont State Parks/Rec  
Camp Meade  
The Quarry  
802 Liquidators  
BRAVE  
Wood Doodles  
Papa G's  
Kitty Corner Cafe  
FGB Theaters  
4 Legs & Tail Magazine  
Best of Central Vermont Magazine  
Emslie The Florist  
Barre Area Veterans Council - Chuck Barney  
WORLD COW - DJ Barry  
Vermont Contractors  
Steven Tracy Ride  
Lonny Wade Memorial Fishing Derby  
Williamstown Historical Society  
Bikers For Beth (every year)  
Boots N Balls (every years)  
Front Porch Forum  
Bury The Needle  
Brew View Magazine  
Nutty Steph  
Rabble-Rouser  
Peak Entertainment  
Kinney Drugs - Steve Simpson

**LOCAL OFFICIALS:**

Governor Phil Scott  
Jean Marie Misek - Public Health Services District Director  
Green Mountain Council - Mark Saxon  
Vermont State Employee's Pension  
Michael Boutin  
Lucas Herring  
Cody Morrison - Barre Area Development  
Thom Lauzon  
Joe Aldsworth  
Rory Thibault - Washington County State's Attorney  
Sonya Spaulding

Mark Scott - Dir of wildlife  
Mark Schichtle - Game Warden  
Nate McKeen - Director of the Vermont State Parks  
Anson Tebbetts - Dept of Ag  
Karl Rinker - Barre Art Splash/Barre Rotary

**MUSICIANS/PERFORMANCE ENTERTAINMENT:**

Dave Keller  
Donna Thunder  
Rusty DeWees  
Chad Hollister  
Chris Dagnese  
Tim Brick  
Patrick Ross  
Jamie Lee Thurston  
Wayne Warner  
Colin McAffery  
Pitx Quattrone  
Tod Pronto  
Ali T  
Native Tongue  
Cooie  
Jacob Green  
Chris Martin  
The Bresetts  
Imagine That  
The Penny Band  
Michele Fay  
Chris Powers  
Jon Gailmor  
Patrick Ross

**LOCAL PEOPLE OF INTEREST:**

Williamstown Fire Department Chief William Graham  
Cooper Bouchard  
Matt Smith  
Juan Paco Marshall  
Stephen Donahue  
Brody Brown  
Walker Fitch  
John Lepage  
Tim Bolton  
Carl Parton  
Maise Lagan  
Dr. Susan Tullar - pet obesity  
Author Bob Kershaw  
L.H Stowell Christmas Tree Farm

Brittany Burt Memorial Scholarship  
Toys For Tots of Central Vermont  
Tony Campos  
Allen Roberts - Paramount Theater, Barre  
Capstone Chef Joey Buttendorf  
Corrina Thurston  
Paul Vallerand  
J.D Fondry  
Dr. Rick Barnett  
State Representative Ken Goslant  
The Racing Mailman - Patrick Tibbits  
Capstone Community Action - Eloise Reid  
Camp Meade - Mike Pelchar, Alan Newman, Russ Bennett  
Jimmy T  
Richard Wobby  
Corrina Colson - American Legion Aux New England Honor Flight  
Sue Minter  
Taydence Hood - Miss New England  
Marcel Gravel  
Jake Blauvelt  
Roger Hill  
Joe Carroll - WCAX Super Seniors  
Brandi Jagemann  
Devon Foux  
Jason Gould - Caps 4 Cops  
Bob Nelson  
Buzz Dodge - Barre Town Police  
Maddie Bayne  
Dan Casey - Barre Opera House  
Cops Who Care - Berlin Police  
Burr Morse  
Mark Breen  
Christian Sell  
Steve Pappas - Times Argus  
Bill Doyle  
Vermont Senator John Rodgers  
Mike Rama - Downstreet

**National:**

Sherri Perry  
Shelley Roxanne  
Jennifer Hargrace  
Dr. Jason West  
Donut Boy  
Call For Backup  
US Law Shield - Emily Taylor  
Humanizing The Badge - David Edwards  
Author David Johnson - Healthcare  
Dr. Scott Conrad - Covid vaccinations

Author Eric Gray - Bases to Bleachers  
Dr. Jennifer Watson  
Dr. Chalmers  
Vinnie Montez  
Bob Marley  
Reed Allmand - Bankruptcy  
Valerie Sokolosky - Mask Shaming  
Judy Gaman - Healthcare Workers Burnout  
Credit - Lee Kendrick  
Workplace culture - Joel Patterson

**TOPICS:**

Ralph Jean Marie  
Reopening of Amtrak in Vermont  
Covid Scams - Marichel Vaught  
Foster Care in Vermont - Executive Director Dave McAllister  
Vermont Suicide  
Covid - Infectious disease expert Patty Olinger  
Depression - Dr. Jennifer Watson  
Made In America - Randy Moore  
Social Distancing Fatigue

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Emslie The Florist & Gifts  
Granite City MMA  
K&W Tire

# FY2022 Municipal Planning Grant Program Description



Walkable Middlesex Village Study  
MPG-funded project and Vermont Planners Association 2021 Plan of the Year

## Program Basics

In fiscal year 2022 (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022)<sup>1</sup>, the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) will grant approximately \$450,000 to municipalities to promote planning, revitalization, and development activities that maintain Vermont's land use goal of compact settlements separated by rural lands. Vermont's communities continue to face tough challenges recovering from COVID-19 and these flexible grants are ready to boost resilience and support long-term recovery.

The Municipal Planning Grant (MPG) Program funds a wide range of municipal planning projects as allowed by [Title 24 of Vermont Statutes Annotated \(V.S.A.\) Section 4306 \(b\) and \(c\)](#). Projects that promote Vermont's historic pattern of compact settlements surrounded by working farms, forest, and open space are given priority.

Each municipality may submit one application per year. The maximum grant amount is \$22,000 for individual municipalities and \$35,000 for group (consortium) applications. All applications are required to provide a minimum cash match of 10%.

Grant funds are regionally apportioned based on the percentage of municipalities with confirmed planning processes within each of Vermont's [11 regional planning commission \(RPC\) regions](#). Eligible municipalities compete with their region for grant funding. Funding decisions are made by the DHCD Commissioner based on the competitive criteria listed under the *Grant Selection Process* later in this guide.

## Grant Timeline

MPG projects must be completed within 18 months of December 1st of the award year. No time extensions will be granted.

- September 1, 2021 – Online application opens
- September 30, 2021: deadline for RPC confirmation of municipal planning process
- **November 1, 2021: application deadline, 6 p.m.**
- December 2021: award decisions
- August 21, 2022: mid-project report due
- May 31, 2023: project completion and all funds spent
- June 30, 2023: final report and products submitted

### Purpose of MPGs: To Carry Out Statewide Planning Goals (24 V.S.A. § 4302)

*(b) It is also the intent of the legislature that municipalities... shall engage in a continuing planning process that will further the following goals:*

*(1) To establish a coordinated, comprehensive planning process and policy framework to guide decisions by municipalities, regional planning commissions, and state agencies.*

*(2) To encourage citizen participation at all levels of the planning process...*

*(3) To consider the use of resources and the consequences of growth and development...*

*(c) In addition, this chapter shall be used to further the following specific goals:*

*(1) To plan development so as to maintain the historic settlement pattern of compact village and urban centers separated by rural countryside...*

<sup>1</sup> Act 74 <https://legislature.vermont.gov/bill/acts/2022>

## Additional Funding for Bylaw Modernization

Local and statewide leaders increasingly recognize the need to grow housing opportunity, and Act 74 of 2021 makes \$500,000 available for bylaw modernization. This one-time State funding will be available to support municipal bylaw modernization amendments in FY22 to expand opportunities for housing, confront the State's housing crisis, and ready communities for historic investments in housing development. Details for the bylaw modernization funding will be announced this summer.

## Eligible Applicants

### Single Municipality

Individual municipalities with a local planning process confirmed by the RPC (including an unexpired plan) on or before September 30, 2021 are eligible to apply. To be confirmed, a locally adopted plan must be approved by the regional planning commission, and the

### Eligible Municipalities

For the purposes of the Municipal Planning Grant Program, a municipality is defined by [24 V.S.A. §4303\(12\)](#). Under this definition an incorporated village is not considered a separate municipality unless the village adopts its own plan one or more bylaws either before, concurrently with, or subsequent to such action by the town.

municipality must maintain efforts to provide local funds for municipal and regional planning purposes as required by [24 V.S.A. §4350](#).

Municipalities without a confirmed local planning process may apply for funding only to create a municipal plan approvable by the RPC and must have voted to provide local funds for municipal and regional planning purposes. Grant proposals from municipalities that have received RPC recommendations to bring their plan into compliance with statewide requirements must propose to address the changes identified by the RPC.

Municipal organizations other than the governing body and the planning commission (such as the conservation or economic development commission) may also apply for a grant, but only with prior approval of the municipal governing body and planning commission.

Municipalities may not receive funding if they are suspended or debarred by the Federal Government; delinquent in submitting their subrecipient annual reports; or delinquent in submitting their single audit reports (if required).

### Consortium

Two or more municipalities may apply jointly for a consortium application (up to \$35,000). The application must address a shared issue and identify a lead municipality for financial administration of the project. The RPC may serve as grant administrator for a consortium (see consultant selection below). All municipalities in the consortium must have a confirmed planning process by September 30, 2021 and each municipality must submit a separate resolution form in support of the project. The consortium may involve or benefit municipalities that are not identified as a consortium member in the application. No member of a consortium application may apply for an individual MPG the same year.

## Funding Amounts & Match

Single municipalities may apply for a grant of any amount between \$2,500 and \$22,000 with a minimum local cash match requirement of 10%, based on the grant award. For example: a maximum individual grant amount of \$22,000 would require a minimum 10% match of 2,200, for a total project cost of \$24,200.

A consortium of municipalities may apply for a grant of any amount between \$2,500 and \$35,000 with a minimum local cash match of 10%, based on the grant amount. For example: a maximum consortium application of \$35,000 would require a minimum 10% match of \$3,500 for a total project cost of \$38,500.

Any source of cash match funds may be used: federal, other state grants, municipal, private, or non-profit. Projects that demonstrate financial partnership with outside organizations or propose a local match that exceeds the minimum match amounts are considered to have higher levels of community support in the competitive criteria listed under the *Grant Selection Process* later in this guide.

In-kind contributions or contribution of staff or others' time cannot be offered as a match. Documentation of total expenditures (including grant and match funds) are required at the close out of the grant. If a project is completed with less than the total project cost expended, the match funds required will be reduced proportionately.

Application Type	Min. Grant	Max. Grant	Min. Match
Single Municipality	\$2,500	\$22,000	10% of grant amt.
Consortium	\$2,500	\$35,000	10% of grant amt.

Municipalities seeking funds for large, multi-year projects are encouraged to separate projects into related, stand-alone phases, each with a defined product upon completion and apply for a grant each year to complete the phases (See *Single Project Scope Requirement* below). Because funds are allocated competitively each year, MPG support for subsequent phases cannot be guaranteed.

DHCD reserves the right to award less than the amount requested, based on the availability of funds.

**Note:** Please keep in mind that municipalities that accept MPG funding are not eligible to apply for a [Better Connections Grant](#) for the same state fiscal year as the MPG award.

## Eligible Activities

The Municipal Planning Grant Program supports a wide range of projects relating to planning and land use, and promotes cooperation, collaboration and the exchange of ideas. Eligible projects must have a clear connection to planning and implementation of the municipal plan and will be reviewed for conformance with the regional plan, as well as statewide smart growth principles, planning goals, and land use policies.

### Funds *may* be used to:

- Underwrite expenses for public meetings and hearings, informational workshops citizen surveys, outreach, and notification costs

- Support research, data collection, capacity studies, inventories, and mapping
- Pay consultants, interns, regional planning commission staff, or legal fees associated with the project
- Purchase development rights, easements, and titles of properties for housing and conservation purposes identified in the municipal plan
- Purchase materials needed to produce a plan, bylaw, or implement or administer the project -- like writing supplies, maps and copies
- Conduct other non-prohibited activities

**Funds *may not* be used to:**

- Support political activities
- Support projects incompatible with the Regional Plan
- Pay regional planning commission dues
- Reimburse expenses incurred before the grant is awarded
- Subsidize tax mapping (see *Mapping Requirements* below)
- Pay municipal officials or municipal staff
- Capitalize a “reserve” fund for use beyond the grant period
- Purchase computer hardware, software licenses or subscriptions, or other equipment not related to a specific grant funded planning event
- Pay for the cost of administering the MPG grant such as municipal or regional staff time for documenting grant expenditures and submitting the progress report and close-out
- Support plans, bylaws and policies that violate the State or Federal Fair Housing Act. Fair housing training is available to all grantees and is encouraged for projects relating to housing and/or revisions to zoning bylaws. Please contact Shaun Gilpin, Housing Policy Specialist at [shaun.gilpin@vermont.gov](mailto:shaun.gilpin@vermont.gov) if you are interested in training opportunities.

**Mapping Requirement**

- All GIS mapping must follow applicable [VCGI data guidelines or standards](#).
- Parcel mapping projects may not be funded through MPGs.

**Single Project Scope Requirement**

MPG grants are limited to projects with a singular and well-defined focus – even if the proposal is part of a larger project (see example below). If multiple products or separate consultant projects are proposed for MPG funds, the application may not meet the single project scope requirement. This finding will result in a lower score and only one of the projects will be funded if a grant is awarded.

**Example:** work on both a municipal plan and bylaws in the same application will usually be considered two separate projects and typically both are not funded. However, a focused issue-oriented amendment of a plan section and the associated bylaws to implement that section of the plan, can be proposed as one project. For instance, a housing element of a plan and a bylaw amendment to adopt housing-ready regulations may be considered one project.

## Use of MPG as Part of a Larger Project

MPGs may be used as part of a larger or phased project. It may also be used in conjunction with grants from other programs. If you propose to use the MPG for a larger project, begin by assigning a discrete part of the larger project to the MPG. Choose a component that best meets the competitive criteria and can easily be completed within the 18-month MPG timeframe. Applicants may contact DHCD to ensure that the activity that will meet the grant requirements.

**Example 1:** A municipality could use an MPG for the community outreach component of a major public project. In this instance, include the workplan for just the MPG portion of the project in the online application and submit the overall work plan for the larger project as an attachment.

**Example 2:** A major overhaul of bylaws typically requires two phases, first to prepare proposed amendments and then for the adoption process. A municipality could use MPG funds to focus on the preparation of amendments in one grant cycle and propose consulting assistance for the adoption hearing process in a second cycle. A workplan that includes both phases may not be considered realistic.

## Coordination with State Agencies

Some local planning and regulatory projects require coordination with state agencies that have planning and regulatory authority over the project. For projects where state authority can be anticipated, applicants must identify the relevant agencies as project partners and include a task for coordinating with that agency in the work plan. Applicants are also encouraged to review the work plan with any such agency and include comments from the agency as an attachment to the application.

**Example 1:** Any project (streetscape, traffic calming, sidewalk, water, wastewater etc.) that proposes work within a state Highway right-of-way must coordinate with appropriate sections at the Agency of Transportation. At a minimum, the District Transportation Administrator and the Permitting Services section should be involved. Early coordination will increase the likelihood that the work product(s) can be implemented in the future.

**Example 2:** A project to consider village wastewater solutions must coordinate with the [Department of Environmental Conservation \(DEC\) Water Infrastructure Financing Program](#) before submitting an MPG application, to ensure the work plan will result in a product that can be used to obtain state and federal infrastructure funding. The best evidence of this coordination is an email from DEC indicating review of the work plan. This can be attached to the application.

## Grant Selection Process (Competitive Criteria)

DHCD uses competitive criteria to score and rank applications. The statewide priorities are updated annually to comply with policy initiatives, legislation, or current events – such as this year’s COVID-19 emergency. Grants are awarded based on the application score and its rank with the scores from the other applications in the region, as well as the amount of grant funds available. Applications scoring at or below 60 points will not be funded, and regional funds may be reallocated to high-scoring projects in other regions that otherwise would not be funded. The DHCD Commissioner reserves the sole right and responsibility to allocate grant funding.

Applications are scored as follows.

<b>Competitive Criteria Scoring Summary</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>Project Readiness &amp; Need</b>	<b>Section: 20</b>
Issue & Urgency	5
Funding Need	5
Project Readiness	5
Project Management	5
<b>Public Outreach &amp; Project Partnership</b>	<b>Section: 20</b>
Public Outreach	10
Project Partnership & Support	10
<b>Statewide Priorities</b>	<b>Section: 35</b>
Project Outcomes & Goal Consistency	5
Priority Projects	10
State Designated Area Projects	20
<b>Project Approach</b>	<b>Section: 35</b>
Work Plan	20
Budget & Cost Estimates	15
<b>Application Quality &amp; Past Performance</b>	<b>Section: 10</b>
	<b>TOTAL: 120</b>

### Project Readiness & Need

Projects that identify a specific and documented problem the community is trying to solve with a well-organized management team demonstrate project readiness. Projects that cannot be funded through other sources demonstrate need, as well as projects that address an urgent matter.

### Public Outreach & Project Partnership

Planning projects are more successful: 1) when there is sustained public outreach throughout a project, 2) when they begin with strong community support, and 3) when they are done in partnership with organizations outside the municipal government. Competitive applications will demonstrate how the project will outreach to the broader public and who supports and is part of the project from the outset. This includes necessary coordination with state agencies.

## Statewide Priorities: Priority Projects

Each year the program recognizes projects with outcomes that meet statewide priorities. Projects meeting more than one priority will score higher than those meeting only one, for a total of 10 points. New this year is a category on planning for economic recovery as a result of the COVID-19 virus. Because housing continues to be a concern statewide, projects that implement [Zoning for Great Neighborhoods](#) will receive highest priority. Refer to the [Application Guide](#) for examples of diverse projects that meet these categories:

- **COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plans and/or Investment**
- **Fair & Affordable Housing Plans and/or Regulations that Implement [Enabling Better Places: A Zoning Guide for Vermont Neighborhoods](#)**
- **Plans for a [NEW](#) Designated Area<sup>2</sup> or Specific-Area Visual/Physical Master Planning for a Designated Area**
- **Innovative Statewide Model Projects**

## Statewide Priorities: State Designated Area Projects

Projects that relate to state designated areas receive priority in accordance with 24 V.S.A. Chapter 76A. Refer to the [Application Guide](#) for scoring specifics.

## Application Guide

The [Application Guide](#) assists applicants in preparing a competitive application and allows applicants to prepare draft responses before submitting the application online.

Applicants can see each application question, read advice on answering the question, view how the response will be evaluated and scored by DHCD, and prepare a draft response -- all on one form. Because the online application at [GEARS](#) can be cumbersome to navigate, users are advised to complete their application in advance using the [Application Guide](#) (available in Microsoft Word). Applicants can later copy and paste their narrative responses into the online form.

## Grant Awards and Administration

Award notices are sent via email to successful applicants through the online [Grants Management System](#). In the event of partial funding, applicants are asked to submit a modified work plan and budget. Grant agreements and other required documents will be available online shortly thereafter. Completion and electronic submittal of these forms will be required for payment. All grants management forms and instructions will be available through the Grants Management System. Grant payments and reporting requirements are as follows:

- **First Payment** – Upon execution of the grant agreement, a requisition may be submitted for an advance payment of 40% of the award amount.
- **Second Payment** – Mid-project reports are due August 31, 2021. Requisition for 30% of the award may be submitted along with a progress report.
- **Final or Close Out Reimbursement** – Up to 30% of the award is made on a *reimbursement basis*. The reimbursement is made when the project and its deliverables, as detailed in Attachment A of the Grant Agreement, are complete, and

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<sup>2</sup> *Preparing an application for a new [village center designation](#) will not receive priority as a stand-alone project since this designation process is simple and requires no additional funds. Projects that implement a [neighborhood development area designation](#) are high priority.*

the expenditures are properly budgeted and documented (copies of invoices and canceled checks or a detailed transaction report) showing that the funds were spent for the purposes specified in the grant agreement. Invoices must show that grantees have spent or obligated all grant funds and match funds, if applicable, no later than May 31, 2023. Funds that are unused as of that date, as well as expenditures that are ineligible or are not documented, must be returned to DHCD.

While grant activities must be completed by May 31, 2023, grantees have up to one month after that date to assemble a final report. Final reports must be submitted online no later than June 30, 2023.

Purchase of goods and services through the grant must conform with the procurement requirements defined in [Attachment D to the Grant Agreement](#). In most cases, consultants must be selected through a competitive process.

All final products and public communication must acknowledge funding from the Municipal Planning Grant Program, administered by the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development, Agency of Commerce and Community Development.

### **Amendments**

Minor alterations to the work plan or the approved budget may be allowed but only upon request and approval from DHCD. Substantial alterations are not allowed, and the final product must remain the same.

No time extensions are offered. Projects that cannot be completed within the grant period under the terms of the grant agreement are closed out. The grant will cover eligible work completed for documented costs; however, ineligible or undocumented costs will not be funded, and associated funds must be returned.

## Consultant Selection

The rules for consultant selection are detailed in the grant agreement's procurement provisions (see [Attachment D of the MPG Grant Agreement](#)).

### Pre-Application Process

Consultants may be selected before the application is submitted. If a municipality engaged in a [competitive procurement process](#) while developing the grant application and selected a contractor at that time, there is no requirement to re-open the selection process if the grant is awarded, provided the scope of work remains substantially similar to what was in the contractor's proposal.

### Simplified Bid Process

For contracts up to and including \$10,000, the grantee is required to obtain price or rate quotations from a reasonable number of sources, but no less than two, and maintain a record of the same in its files.

### Competitive Bid Process

For contracts more than \$10,000, the grantee is required to use a competitive selection method, soliciting from an adequate number of sources. A Request for Proposals (RFP) or Request for Qualifications (RFQ) should be broadly publicized to permit reasonable competition. The grantee must maintain records in its files to document how the decision was made.

### Exceptions

If the grantee is a "[rural town](#)" or a multi-town consortium has identified the regional planning commission as its agent, the simplified bid and competitive processes for hiring the RPC are not required.

Consultants working on an earlier phase of a multi-phase project may be re-selected for the project phase funded by the MPG, to maintain continuity between phases.

## Information

**MPG Application Webpage** - instructions and resources:

<https://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/funding-incentives/municipal-planning-grant/applicant-guidance>

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For [rural towns](#) with a population of less than 2,500 as defined in [24 V.S.A. §4303\(25\)](#), the regional planning commission may serve as an agent of the town for the Municipal Planning Grant.

The agent is expected to prepare the application, support grant administration and will be exempt from competitive selection if serving as a project consultant, but the municipality must remain the financial administrator.

RPCs may also serve as the agent for any consortium project.

Staff Updates for August 12, 2021 meeting:

1. The DRB held a hearing on August 2, 2021 to hear and decide on 2 applications. The first was at 81 N. Main Street (former Project Independence) for a façade change – entails making the front ADA compliant, and reducing the number of doors along the sidewalk, etc. – this was passed. The second was a sign variance request for a business at 185 N. Main Street, which was denied.
2. Another sign variance request has been received in the office for a business at 105 N. Main Street for the September DRB meeting. This is a result from a letter sent from our office to many businesses along N. Main Street who may have signs out of compliance. The applicant has been made aware of the recent sign variance denial.
3. Heather assists the Code Enforcement office annually with the rental registrations, and since mailing out the initial forms in mid-May with a due date of June 30, she is at 84% collected on our landlords list, with approx. \$102,702 collected, which goes into the General Fund.
4. We continue discussions with a potential Assessor candidate. The only qualified individual that has applied throughout this entire process is someone who is willing to move from California to here. The City Manager is the hiring authority, and is continuing with discussions with this individual.
5. The Energy Committee is working on another landlord initiative, to see if their campaign goal of 200 heat pump installs could be realized, and how best to communicate with the landlords for their buildings.
6. Our Efficiency Vermont partner continues their work in the City, this time by offering free energy focused walkthroughs of rental properties. 520 flyers and will be sent this week to our landlords and property managers.
7. Councilor Stockwell, who is on a trash task force has requested a series of information about the property demographics so that they can evaluate whether or not it would be feasible for the city to contract with one trash/recycling hauler. The information is due by the 20<sup>th</sup> to her.
8. The City was recently awarded a grant for \$142,733 from the Northern Borders Regional Commission. Cody Morrison, Executive Director of BADC completed the application for the city. The grant is for replacement of a gravity-fed wastewater ejector station with a submersible wastewater pump station. Senator Sander's office released the award Monday afternoon. These funds will go toward a project with a value of >\$420,000.
9. Chris Russo-Fraysier, Chair of the Cow Pasture Committee is in the process of asking the city council for endorsement to apply for an ERSA (Enhancement of Recreational

Stewardship and Access) Trail Grant through the VT Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation. The Committee is looking to possibly expand the Cow Pasture by asking the city to purchase abutting private property to add to the trail network along with some maintenance features.

10. The City pool will be closing on August 20<sup>th</sup>.
11. Our payroll clerk Donna McNally retired last week after working for the city for 40 years. HR, Finance Director and the Manager will work on the recruitment for filling this position.
12. Police Chief Tim Bombardier announced his retiring by October 29, 2021, and a recruitment for that position has begun.
13. With the announcement late last week that Washington County is now a Covid delta variant hotspot, our Emergency Management Director and the City Manager are conferring often. They have started discussions about, and will keep us posted on their decisions about any reinstatement of precautionary measures (i.e., masks) and issue any guidance as necessary.
14. Michele Braun, Executive Director of the Friends of the Winooski released on July 23<sup>rd</sup> a Request for Proposals for a Dam Removal Feasibility Study and Preliminary Design for the 3 dams on the Stevens Branch of the Winooski River in Barre. Proposals are due August 27<sup>th</sup>, with a consultant selection on or about September 3, 2021.
15. The US Treasury has agreed that we do not have county government, and the ARPA funds we thought we all were going to miss out on have been redistributed. Note – we received our first installment of over \$445,000 for the city to utilize.
16. VCRD (Vermont Council on Rural Development) is hosting our Community Visit on August 25<sup>th</sup>, with multiple sessions to attend at your leisure and a free community dinner. Please see the attached flyer at the end of this summary for your use.
17. Barre City Community Picnic  
September 1, 3 pm to 6 pm in Currier Park



All in for Barre forums will happen on the same day, August 25th. There are three time slots (2:30, 4:15, and 7:00), and at each time slot, three different forums will be happening concurrently in three different locations.

At the 7:00pm time-slot, VCRD will also host a wide-open Zoom session, geared towards anyone unable or uncomfortable coming to the in-person forums. In that session, any of the nine topics are fair game—they will facilitate a broad conversation to capture assets, challenges and ideas for Barre's future related to anything participants want to discuss.

In an ideal world, they would love to have a hybrid or virtual option for each of the nine forums-- at the moment that just seems a bit beyond their staff and technological capacity, so this seemed like the next best thing. They are keeping a close eye on daily case counts, and if things take a turn for the worse between now and the 25th, we may have to rethink the overall strategy, but for now the plan is to push ahead with an in person visit and offer the Zoom option as a kind of back-up.

**All In for Barre**  
 Wednesday  
**Aug 25**  
 -----  
 step 1

Community Forums to Set Direction for the Future

<https://bit.ly/ForBarre> ▶

**Join forums with your friends and neighbors—in person (or online @7pm)—to share your ideas for the future of Barre!**

	Aldrich Public Library <i>6 Washington St, Barre</i>	Masonic Lodge <i>2 Academy St, Barre</i>	Church of the Good Shepherd <i>39 Washington St, Barre</i>
2:30-4pm	<b>Substance Use Disorder</b>	<b>Aging in Barre</b>	<b>Transportation</b>
4:15-5:45pm	<b>Housing &amp; Homelessness</b>	<b>Diversity, Equity &amp; Inclusion</b>	<b>Opportunities in the Face of Climate Change</b>
6-7pm	<b>FREE COMMUNITY DINNER</b> @ The Elks Lodge, 10 Jefferson St Pasta, salad, bread, & dessert provided by the Elks Lodge and the City of Barre		
7-8:30pm	<b>Supporting Barre Students &amp; Families</b>	<b>Recreation, Arts &amp; Culture</b>	<b>Addressing Empty Buildings &amp; Downtown Vitality</b>
7-8:30pm	<b>Virtual Zoom forum. Find the link to join here: <a href="https://bit.ly/ForBarre">https://bit.ly/ForBarre</a></b>		

**ALL ARE WELCOME! Attend the sessions most important to you !**

Transportation support available. Call or text Casey at 802-272-8418 or email [cenegels@capstonevt.org](mailto:cenegels@capstonevt.org).  
 Childcare offered at the Aldrich Public Library for library forum participants



The "All In for Barre" Community Visit process is a 3-month process that invites Barre community members to come together in a neutral and facilitated structure to examine issues, decide top priorities and develop action plans for the future of Barre. Find out more at [bit.ly/ForBarre](https://bit.ly/ForBarre) or contact VCRD at 802-223-6091 or [info@vtrural.org](mailto:info@vtrural.org).