

MUNICIPAL OFFICES



Town of Northfield, Vermont
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NORTHFIELD, VERMONT 05663

Re: Ensuring Quality Growth in Northfield

From: Jeff Schulz, Northfield Town Manager

As new growth in housing and economic development opportunities increase in the Town of Northfield, we are excited to announce a Northfield citizen visioning project, made possible through a grant that fully funds the initiative.

The project will be a citizen-driven planning process, building on the *Our Common Future* sessions of last April and the follow-up citizen work. The project will produce a proposed Community Masterplan for the future growth and overall character—building form, function, land-use, and transportation - of Northfield's two Village Centers and the Rte. 12 corridor in between them. To begin this project a citizen's design workshop, known as a charrette, will be held beginning January 10th.

We hope you will participate in 3 targeted sessions:

1. An introductory Kick-Off Meeting on Friday January 10th, 6:00 pm at the Northfield High School Auditorium.
2. A *Hands-On* citizen's design workshop the following Saturday January 11th, 9:00 am at the Northfield High School Cafeteria; and
3. A *Work-In-Progress* presentation Thursday the 16th, 6:00 pm at the Northfield High School Auditorium.

The charrette (which is a collaborative process of idea sharing) will be an intensive, six-day public planning process. The team will include designers, transportation planners, business owners, property owners, residents, town officials and staff, and YOU. The charrette process will produce a Community Vision Plan that clearly defines and *maps* the community desires for the future. That vision will provide suggestions for ensuring new development retains the quality standards of our community using a process known as Form-Based Code.

What will people be doing?

On Friday night people will learn the process ground rules and review the concepts for traditional communities (like Northfield), and the basics of Form-Based Codes. The following morning there will be a *hands-on* design exercise. Working in small groups, citizens will be asked to draw their specific vision for the future of Northfield onto an aerial photo, using pens, pencils and colored markers, guided by a facilitator from the design team. At the end of the day, each group will share their vision with the rest of the community.

These visions will be knitted together by the design team to create the Community Vision Plan, as described above. Following the hands-on session, the design team will run an open design studio at the Northfield Library Community Room, inviting the community to drop in on the work in progress, especially for those who missed the Saturday session, and share ideas.

At the end of the week, Thursday January 16th at 6:00 pm, the design team will give a *Work-In-Progress* presentation. This will include an early, in-progress, version of the Community Vision Plan, with:

- An Illustrative Masterplan drawing – showing potential infill development according to the Community Vision Plan.
- The core and foundation of a Form-Based Code, including an early version of a suggested regulating/character plan – and
- Three-dimensional and digital images illustrating potential concepts for future Northfield.

This is a planned opportunity for the community to let the design team know if they are on the right track.

When will it be?

- **Friday, January 10th, 6:00 p.m.** – Kickoff Event at the Northfield High School Auditorium.
- ***Saturday, January 11th, 9:00 am to Noon** – Citizens Hands Design Exercise at the Northfield High School Cafeteria.
- Open design studio at the Northfield Library Community Room, Sunday, January 12th through Thursday January 15th. The design studio will be open to the public Monday January 13th through Wednesday, January 15th 4 pm.
- **Thursday, January 16th, at 6:00 pm** – Work-In-Progress Presentation at the Northfield High School Auditorium.

For more information, please email Town Manager Jeff at jschulz@northfield.vt.us or call 802-485-9822. You will also be able to visit the project progress through our website, www.northfield-vt.gov.

We hope you will join us and provide your valuable input!