



# NORTHWEST REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

## HIGHGATE TOWN REPORT - 2024

Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) is a multi-purpose governmental organization created by the municipalities of Franklin and Grand Isle Counties. NRPC implements a variety of projects and programs tailored to local, regional and statewide needs. All municipalities in the region are entitled to equal voting representation by two locally appointed members to the Board of Commissioners.

### CONTACT

- ☎ (802) 524-5958
- ✉ [cdimitruk@nrpcvt.com](mailto:cdimitruk@nrpcvt.com)
- 📍 75 Fairfield Street  
St. Albans, VT 05478
- 🌐 [www.nrpcvt.com](http://www.nrpcvt.com)

### NRPC PROJECTS & PROGRAMS

- Municipal plan and bylaw updates, technical assistance for local permitting
- Brownfields site assessments, cleanups and redevelopment plans
- Transportation planning and project management
- Bike and pedestrian planning and project management
- Emergency preparedness, disaster recovery and resilience
- Energy conservation, renewable energy plans and projects
- Water quality planning, grants and project management
- Regional plans for growth and development
- Geographic Information System maps and data
- Downtown and village revitalization and community development

### ASSOCIATED PROJECTS MANAGED BY NRPC

- Northern Vermont Economic Development District
- Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail
- Northwest Vermont Regional Foundation, Inc.
- Clean Water Service Provider: Missisquoi & Lamoille River Basins

### REGIONAL COMMISSIONERS

Jack Pelkey & vacant seat

### TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

vacant seat

### 2024 HIGHGATE TOWN PROJECTS

- Updated the locally adopted Emergency Management Plan which will help the town respond to future disasters.
- Served as local liaison to town officials for the State Emergency Operation Center during the January severe wind and July severe weather events.
- Supported the town's efforts to achieve funding eligibility under the Federal Disaster Declaration for July 2023 storm.
- Provided a \$14,000 Clean Water Service Provider grant to Friends of Northern Lake Champlain for design of a shoreland repair project near the boat ramp and parking area at Shipyard Road in Highgate Springs.
- Provided technical assistance for the redevelopment of the former Young Landfill, including development of an Evaluation of Corrective Action Alternatives.
- Consulted with local officials, identified projects and provided technical assistance for Municipal Roads Grants-in-Aid construction projects.
- Supported the Northwest Communications Union District, in which Highgate is a member.
- Provided technical assistance for Franklin County Airport expansion project, which includes water/wastewater extension.
- Assisted with the 2024 adoption of the Highgate Town Plan and granted regional approval.
- Collaborated with the Highgate Planning Commission to modernize Highgate's zoning bylaws to allow for increased housing choice and affordability; funded by a Bylaw Modernization consortium grant.
- Supported the town with an application for a Neighborhood Designation Area, included specific bylaw updates.
- Supported the town with the Village Core redevelopment, including coordinating with the site developer and funding \$25,112 in brownfields assessment, cleanup planning and historic preservation compliance.
- Provided project management support to the town for the ARPA funded community wastewater project which is in the final design phase.
- Assisted with applications for mini grant funds, energy assessments for the Sports Arena, and construction funds through the Municipal Energy Resilience Program.
- Supported 2024 VTrans Bike/Ped Large Scale Grant application for village sidewalks – grant was awarded.
- Completed a sidewalk inventory.
- Healthy Roots created a Franklin County Guide to Farms & Foods that featured 2 Highgate farms and food producers.

This year the Commission will assist our member municipalities with maximizing local, state and federal infrastructure funds, water quality project implementation, Municipal Roads General Permit compliance, local energy and climate planning, zoning bylaw modernization, emergency preparedness, brownfields redevelopment and other needed services. NRPC will help promote the Missisquoi and Lamoille Valley Rail Trails, assist the Northwest Communications Union District in expanding broadband access in the region, update its Land Use Plan to support housing development and coordinate Housing For All, a three-year housing development campaign. The Commission has no regulatory or taxing authority; however, each year we do request a per capita assessment in support of local and regional activities and to provide matching funds for state and federal programs.

Your continued support for NRPC is greatly appreciated. We are your resource - please call on us for assistance with planning, zoning, transportation, project management, mapping or other needs.