

How was the Town Plan developed?

This Plan was developed by Wolcott Planning Commission. The Commission updated data, documented achievements, and expanded flood resiliency policies in order to bring plan to compliance with statutory requirements. The Planning Commission also rewrote the energy segment of the plan. The new energy element was drafted to meet the state Energy Planning Standards and with the goal to seek “substantial deference”, or a greater say, in state decisions regarding the siting of energy generation facilities.

Implementation actions for next eight years incorporate ideas developed during 2015 community visioning workshops as well as input from a 2017 survey regarding siting of energy generation facilities. The actions also reflect new priorities, as formulated by the Planning Commission and the Selectboard.

As required by Vermont Statute, all Planning Commission and Selectboard meetings at which the plan was discussed were publicly warned. Energy surveys were distributed at Town Meeting and via Front Porch Forum.

During the previous planning period of 2013-2017:

The Town developed a new municipal web page <http://www.wolcottvt.org> (2013)

Wolcott applied for and received “Village Center Designation Status” for Wolcott Village from the State of Vermont. The designation makes property owners within the designated district eligible for historic, code improvement and technology tax credits. (2014)

Residents engaged in nine community-wide workshops to re-envision Wolcott’s future (2015)

The Town constructed a trailhead kiosk to improve accessibility to the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail on Railroad Street. The trailhead includes parking, a picnic area, bicycle racks and an information booth. (2016)

The Town completed a feasibility study to develop a solar project at former landfill. (2016)

The Planning Commission revised Wolcott’s subdivision and zoning regulations, and unified the previously separate documents into a single unified bylaw. Changes to the bylaw were prompted by the 2015 re-envisioning workshops and include provisions that provide more flexibility to landowners and applicants, and more clearly describe unique purposes of each land use district. (2016)

The Town completed a bicycle and pedestrian study for North Wolcott Road. (2017)

Since the last adoption of the Wolcott Town Plan in 2013...

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Priority Implementation Actions for 2018-2026

With Selectboard's leadership:

Advance development of a ground mounted solar array at former landfill site and other potential sites.

Appoint Energy Coordinator to promote energy awareness and energy efficiency in usage of electricity, space heating fuels and transportation fuels.

Install a municipal system for wastewater treatment in Wolcott Village and North Wolcott.

Improve walkability and streetscape appeal in Wolcott Village, with priority for area between the Wolcott Store and School Street.

Implement priority culvert projects on East Hill and Brook Road, and priority bridge projects on School Street and North Wolcott Road (more information on page 30 of plan)

Relocate Fire Station out of the floodplain.

Evaluate possibility of hiring a Town Administrator.

Support efforts to augment broadband and cellular coverage.

Improve town web site to enable online submittal of municipal permit applications.

With Planning Commission's leadership:

Apply for Village Center Designation for North Wolcott.

Develop a comprehensive plan for Lamoille Valley Rail Trail. This includes amenities for Rail Trail users, improved connectivity between Rail Trail, Wolcott Village and Wolcott Elementary School, and improved recreational access to Lamoille River.

Develop a plan for flood hazard areas – especially along Lamoille River. This plan should be informed by findings of the Lamoille River Hydraulic Model that outlined alternatives for flood mitigation in the triangular area delineated by School Street, Flat Iron Road and Route 15, and the area along Elmore Pond Road Bridge.

Review recommendations in this plan for future updates to zoning and subdivision regulations (p. 86-87 of this plan) and update the regulations accordingly.

With leadership from entrepreneurs and local residents:

Open a café or an eatery where neighbors can socialize and get a bite to eat.

Improve Wolcott's town park on School Street per proposal developed in 2013.

Increase availability of locally produced foods, e.g. by establishing a community garden.