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MEMORANDUM

TO: Chair of Planning Commission
Milton
Burlington
Essex Town
Essex Junction
Winooski
Westford
South Hero
South Burlington
Charles Baker, Executive Director, CCRPC
VT Department of Community Development

FROM: Sarah Hadd, Director of Planning & Zoning

DATE: January 7, 2019

RE: Notice of Draft 2019 Town Plan Planning Commission Hearing

Pursuant to Title 24 VSA, Chapter 117, the Colchester Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at 7 P.M. on the third floor of the Colchester Town Hall at 781 Blakely Road for the purpose of considering the draft 2019 Town Plan. The draft plan can be found in its entirety on-line at tinyurl.com/2019TownPlan or at the Town Offices at 781 Blakely Road, Colchester, VT 05446. In accordance with 24 V.S.A. §4384(c), the 2019 Draft Town Plan does not alter the designation of any land area from the 2014 Town Plan last amended in 2017. This 2019 Draft Town Plan is consistent with the goals of 24 V.S.A. §4302 and plan elements of §4382:

§4382(a) – Required Elements	§4302(c) – Goals	Description and Locations
(1) – Objectives, Policies, Programs	N/A	Every section in the 2019 Town Plan begins with a vision statement reflecting the original goals of the 2012 Heritage Project Continuing; each section utilizes a goal statement and objective statement before discussing the section’s topic. Each chapter ends with a list of policies and actions for attainment of these goals and objectives for the duration of the plan.

§4382(a) – Required Elements	§4302(c) – Goals	Description and Locations
(2) – Land Use Plan	Goal 1 – Historical Development Goal 10 – Natural Resource Use	<p>The land use plan found in <i>The Lands of Colchester</i> Chapter contains future land use (under section <i>A Land Use Plan for Now and the Future</i>) and current land use descriptions (under section <i>Planning our Neighborhood Areas</i>). Development plans for these areas can also be found in this section. Maps 2, 3, 4 and 5 display relevant information for this section.</p> <p>Much of the language throughout the <i>Planning our Neighborhood Areas</i> section satisfies the Historical Development goal, especially the subsections about Fort Ethan Allen, Colchester Village, and the section titled <i>Our Rural Lands</i>.</p> <p>Land use descriptions in the <i>Our Rural Lands</i> and <i>The Lands Between</i> sections discuss the usage of natural lands for development and other transformative usage. With mention of the goals to maintain the rural character of these neighborhoods, these sections satisfy Goal 10.</p>
(3)- Transportation Plan	Goal 4 – Transportation Goal 6 – Land Resource Quality Goal 7 – Energy	<p>The transportation element can be found in the <i>Getting There</i> Chapter. This Chapter focuses on the Transportation goal as seen in sections <i>Maintaining the System</i> and <i>Planning for the Future of the System</i>.</p> <p>This chapter also touches on energy usage and emissions in the <i>Energy and Transportation</i> subsection.</p>
(4) – Utility and Facility Plan	Goal 12 – Public Facilities & Services Goal 8 – Recreation	<p>The <i>Systems and Connections</i> Chapter details utilities and telecommunications. The <i>Serving Colchester</i> Chapter also mentions the services provided by the Town’s Parks and Recreation Department such as programs and park maintenance.</p>



§4382(a) – Required Elements	§4302(c) – Goals	Description and Locations
		<p>These two chapters address the Public Facilities and Services goal. The section <i>Parks & Recreation in Serving Colchester: Governance</i> outlines the structure behind park management for recreation and conservation in Colchester.</p>
<p>(5) – Natural and Historical Preservation</p>	<p>Goal 5 – Historical and Natural Areas Goal 8 – Recreation Goal 10 – Natural Resource Use</p>	<p>The historical and natural elements can be found within the <i>Who We Are</i> Chapter and the <i>Natural Heritage</i> Chapter.</p> <p>While the <i>Natural Heritage</i> Chapter primarily discusses the natural resources present in Colchester, the section titled <i>Water Resources</i> mentions the recreational value of Lake Champlain and other waterways in the Town.</p> <p>The goal of Historical and Natural Areas is mentioned in the <i>Our Culture</i> section of the <i>Who We Are</i> Chapter. In the <i>Natural Heritage</i> Chapter, this goal can be found in the <i>Flora & Fauna</i> and <i>Natural Areas</i> sections.</p>
<p>(6) – Educational Facilities Plan</p>	<p>Goal 3 – Education and Training Access Goal 8 – Recreation</p>	<p>The <i>Cultivating Colchester</i> Chapter focuses on fulfilling the Education and Training Access goal, to provide access to public education (under subsections <i>Education – Colchester School District</i> and <i>Higher Education</i>) and continued education and training for all residents of Colchester.</p> <p>The recreation goal is addressed in the second half of this chapter, under the heading <i>Recreation and Wellbeing</i>. This section outlines Colchester’s structured and non-structured opportunities and their impact on creating a healthier community.</p>
<p>(7) – Program for plan implementation</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>These programs for implementation are found at the end of each chapter under</p>



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		<p>“policies” and “actions.” The full list: 1. The Lands of Colchester 2. Natural Heritage 3. Our Homes 4. Powering Colchester 5. Who We Are 6. Serving Colchester 7. Cultivating Colchester 8. Our Place in Vermont 9. Our Economy 10. Getting There 11. Systems & Connections Maps</p>
(8) – Regional Cooperation	N/A	<p>One of our goals is to plan mutually with our bordering municipalities. The <i>Our Place in Vermont</i> Chapter is dedicated to this. Each bordering municipality’s plan is discussed and possible conflict is explored in each relevant section.</p>
(9) – Energy Plan	<p>Goal 6 – Land Resource Quality Goal 7 – Energy Goal 11 – Housing</p>	<p>The energy element can be found in the <i>Powering Colchester Chapter</i>. As it provides background on and sets policies for energy use throughout the plan, this chapter seeks to satisfy the Energy Goal.</p> <p>Regarding Goal 6, Land Resource Quality, the <i>Powering Colchester Chapter</i> mentions population distribution and growth centers in the <i>Transportation Trends</i> subsection.</p> <p>In the subsection titled <i>Heating, Cooling, and Sealing the Cracks</i>, the topic of housing and weatherization is discussed. Housing energy efficiency is discussed as a way to provide safe and more affordable cost of living.</p>
(10) – Housing Element	<p>Goal 11 – Housing Goal 2 – Economy</p>	<p>The housing element can be found in the <i>Our Homes Chapter</i> and it primarily focuses on goal 11, of housing. Sections such as <i>Condition of Housing Stock</i>,</p>



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		<p><i>Home Values</i>, and <i>Housing Affordability</i> provide background on this part of Colchester, and the <i>Current Trends</i> and <i>Future Needs</i> discuss what the Town is planning for.</p> <p>The Economy Goal is addressed in the <i>Housing Affordability</i> and <i>Future Needs</i> section of the chapter.</p>
(11) – Economic Development Plan	Goal 2 – Economy Goal 9 – Agricultural and Forest Industries	<p>The Economic Development element can be found in the <i>Our Economy Chapter</i>. Present economic descriptions are described in the section titled <i>History of Our Economy</i> and <i>Present</i>. Future pathways are described in the <i>Future</i> section.</p> <p>Policies, projects and programs necessary to foster economic growth can be found at the end of the section under <i>Policies</i> and <i>Actions</i>. The Town’s Economic Development Plan is referenced and agricultural and forest industries are mentioned in the <i>Future</i> section.</p>
(12) – Flood Resiliency Plan	Goal 14 – Flood Resiliency	<p>Flood Resiliency is not a standalone chapter in the 2019 Town Plan, but rather is part of the Natural Heritage chapter. Flood resiliency is mentioned in the section titled <i>Floodplains</i>. This section outlines the standards Colchester has developed regarding new or rebuilt structures in the Floodplain and Shoreland Districts.</p>