

Bennington Selectboard Meeting  
Monday, December 11, 2023

# Town Plan Update: DEI-Informed Re(vision) Phase 1: Community Engagement



Bennington  
Vermont's First Town





- Phase 1: Town Plan Update DEI-informed Re(vision).  
FY23 MPG funded for public engagement effort.
- Phase 2: Town Plan Update DEI-informed Re(vision).  
FY24 MPG application submitted on November 1.

Adoption by January 2026

# Phase 1 Tasks

July – August 2023	Task 1. Assess Current Town Plan	✓
July – August 2023	Task 2. DEI Consultant Review of Town Plan	✓
August 2023	Task 3. Project Kickoff Meeting	✓
August – October 2023	Task 4. Draft Outreach Plan	✓
November 2023	Task 5. Finalize Outreach Plan	✓
November 2023 – February 2024	Task 6. Implement Outreach Plan	✱
November 2023 – February 2024	Task 7. Outreach Facilitation	✱
February – March 2024	Task 8. Summarize Outreach Findings	
March – April 2024	Task 9. Prepare Thematic Outline of New Town Plan	
May 2024	Task 10. Presentation of Findings and Outline	
May 31, 2024	Task 11. Finalize Phase 1 Deliverables	



**Town Plan  
Update Page  
on the Town  
of Bennington  
website**

- **What** are Bennington's strengths and challenges, and what do people want for Bennington's future?
- **Why?** Input from all of Bennington's communities will result in a plan that is reflective of everybody
- **How?** A combination of general outreach activities and focused outreach to previously underrepresented communities

# Group Discussions

Small facilitated group discussions with outreach to:

- Disabled community
- Seniors
- Parents of young children
- Refugee community
- BIPOC community
- LGBTQ+ community
- People experiencing homelessness



# Survey

## Concise questionnaire:

- 5- and 10-minute versions
- What do you love about Bennington?
- What do you want to see change about Bennington?
- What do you think Bennington's priorities should be?





# Postcards from 2050

- Engage community members to envision Bennington in the future
- Especially through outreach to students at local schools



# Tabling

Quick, interactive opportunities for engagement:

- Bus station
- VFW & CCV
- Meals on Wheels
- Rec center
- Healthcare facilities
- Major retailers
- Bennington Community Market





# Public Meetings

Community-wide roundtable conversations that do a deep dive into plan topic areas:

- Land Use & Natural Resources
- Transportation
- Housing
- Climate and Energy
- Utilities & Services





## Community Roundtable Conversations

Join us to talk with fellow community members about what we want our town to be improved. Your input will guide an update to the town plan of Bennington, and it should reflect everyone in our community.

\* Required

Which event do you plan to attend?

- ☐ Saturday, January 20 at 10:30 AM-12:00 PM, Bennington Regional Library
- ☐ Wednesday, January 24 at 5:00-6:30 PM, Zoom (online only)
- ☐ Thursday, February 15 at 5:30-7:00 PM, Mt. Anthony Union Church
- ☐ Wednesday, February 21 at 12:00-1:30 PM, Bennington Fire Department
- ☐ Saturday, March 2 at 2:00-3:30 PM, Bennington Free Library

Do you need childcare during the event?

\*

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

Do you need interpretation or translation services during the event?

\*

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

Do you need transportation to or from the event?

\*

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

Please share your contact information so we can follow up with event details.

# Public Meetings: Registration Form



# Phase 1 Tasks : After Public Outreach

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Come share your ideas on the challenges a  
living, working, and learning in Bennington  
community members: residents, workers, busi-  
ness, and visitors. Your input will guide town policy in

**Saturday, January 10**  
10:30 AM-12:00 PM  
Bennington Recreation Center

**Wednesday, January 14**  
5:00-6:30 PM  
Zoom (online meeting)

**Thursday, February 5**  
5:30-7:00 PM  
Mt. Anthony Union Middle School

**Wednesday, February 12**  
12:00-1:30 PM  
Bennington Firehouse

**Saturday, March 2**  
2:00-3:30 PM  
Bennington Free Library

To register:  
[tinyurl.com/bton2050](https://tinyurl.com/bton2050)



## Join Community Roundtable Conversations on the Bennington Town Plan

Your input will guide  
town policy into the  
future!

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10:30 AM-12:00 PM  
Bennington Rec Center

**Wednesday, January 24**  
5:00-6:30 PM  
Zoom (online meeting)

**Thursday, February 15**  
5:30-7:00 PM  
Mt. Anthony Union Middle  
School

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