

## PLANNING COMMISSION 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Planning Commission Members: Steve Shea (Chair), Todd White (Vice Chair), Duncan Brines, Jordan Gonda, Ted Laskaris, and Brian Voigt.

Outgoing & New Members. Long-serving member Kari Dolan resigned her membership on the commission after being elected to the Selectboard at last year's town meeting. Kari brought great contributions to the Planning Commission meetings and will be missed. Thank you, Kari, for your service on the commission and continued service to the town in your new capacity as Selectboard member.

The Commission is happy to welcome its new member, Duncan Brines, who filled Kari's vacancy. He is a former Chief Financial Officer with over 35 years of experience in health care, and will offer a unique perspective to the other members.

There remains a vacancy on the Commission. We encourage you to inquire about the Planning Commission's work with the Planning & Zoning Administrator, Susan Senning, at the Town Office if you are interested in participating.

Wastewater Committee. The Planning Commission established a wastewater committee in 2011 to investigate the possible options with respect to decentralized wastewater systems in Waitsfield Village and Irasville. A wastewater loan fund plan was created that enables the town to loan funds to individuals and associations of property owners and access funds from the State of Vermont and a grant from the EPA to fund the loans.

Construction on the first shared wastewater system involving the Winter Park Association members began in 2014 and will be finalized and running in 2016. Six other private systems will be constructed in 2016 as part of the program.

### Stormwater Management Initiative

In April 2015, the Selectboards of all five Mad River Valley (MRV) towns voted to support an application to High Meadows Fund to develop a long-term approach for building flood resilience and water quality in the MRV by improved and coordinated stormwater management. The

grant was awarded in July. Since then, a taskforce of interested citizens and municipal representatives – coordinated by Friends of the Mad River and including at least one Selectboard and Planning Commission member from each town – have been engaged in monthly meetings to identify readily achievable strategies for reducing community vulnerability to stormwater runoff, develop information and resource-sharing strategies for municipalities, and prepare for impending state regulations related to cleaning up the waters of the Lake Champlain Basin.

The taskforce will recommend innovative regulatory and non-regulatory management solutions for municipalities, homeowners, developers, farmers, businesses, and road crews. The taskforce meets each month. Anyone interested in strengthening flood resilience and water quality is welcome to participate. Contact Waitsfield Planning Commission representative Brian Voigt ([brian.voigt@uvm.edu](mailto:brian.voigt@uvm.edu)) for more information.

2016 Work Plan Priorities. The Planning Commission had prioritized its work plan for the year from the revised Town Plan’s Goals, Tasks, and Policies. They have considered technical and substantive revisions to the Zoning Bylaws for the last two years, and plan to refer a revised draft to the Selectboard following a public hearing early in 2016. The Commission is planning to work on revising the Irasville zoning regulations in 2016.

Meetings & Information. The Planning Commission holds regular meetings the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7 p.m. at the Waitsfield Town Offices. The public is welcome at all meetings and time is available to voice comments, concerns, or suggestions. Please contact the Waitsfield Planning & Zoning Administrator for more information about meetings, records, or issues regarding the Planning Commission. Information on agendas, meeting minutes, and documents related to town planning can be found on the town's website at [www.waitsfieldvt.us/planning](http://www.waitsfieldvt.us/planning), or at the Town Office at 9 Bridge Street.