

## **Richmond Planning Commission**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Envisioning Richmond:

#### 2007 Town Plan Update Kick Off – May 17th at 7:00 – Richmond Free Library

Starting this spring, The Richmond Planning Commission will be updating the 2002 Richmond Town Plan. Planning affects everyone in Town, and while this update will not be as extensive as the 2002 update, the Planning Commission would like to get public input early in the process. A “Kick Off” meeting will be held on May 17th at 7:00 p.m. at the Richmond Free Library with additional meetings on specific topics to follow throughout the spring and summer. When discussing the Town Plan, the main question to consider is, “How do we envision Richmond five years from now and beyond, and how can we achieve this vision?”

State law requires towns to update their Town Plans every five years. Town Plans are the main policy statements for Towns in Vermont and cover a wide range of topics relating to public buildings, land use and development, town roads and trails, natural and historic resources, schools, and even energy and utilities. The Planning Commission must complete its work on the Town Plan by November so that the Selectboard can prepare it for the voters at Town Meeting Day in March 2007.

An overriding goal of the current Town Plan is to maintain Richmond Village as a vibrant civic, commercial, and residential center while maintaining the rural character of outlying areas of Town. The 2002 Town Plan also discusses encouraging local businesses and promotes agriculture, energy efficiency, and improving pedestrian pathways throughout Town. The process for the new Town Plan will begin with a review of how well the 2002 Plan has been implemented and then making any necessary changes or course corrections.

If you are interested in helping to shape a vision for Richmond, please attend the Town Plan Kick-Off on May 17th at 7:00 p.m. at the Richmond Free Library and the additional meetings to be scheduled this summer and fall.