



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

SHELBURNE DESIGN REPORT ISSUED; CHANGES RECOMMENDED TO ENHANCE ROUTE 7 CORRIDOR AND BEYOND

Shelburne, VT – A much-anticipated report prepared by a team of design professionals assembled by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) has been released in Shelburne. The 82 page document expands upon recommendations presented by the team to residents and business owners at a public workshop held in mid- October.

The team was led by architect and planner Harris Steinberg, FAIA, founding director of the University of Pennsylvania’s “PennPraxis” community design program. The project was organized under the auspices of the AIA’s Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT) program. The SDAT program brings volunteer professionals together with community decision-makers and stakeholders.

Recommendations contained in the report are organized in five key areas: economic development opportunities, natural systems, placemaking, mobility, and character and form. Several of the key implementation actions identified by the project team seek to bolster local economic prospects, improve the appearance of development in the corridor, and increase housing opportunities.

According to Kate Lalley, a local landscape architect and Planning Commissioner who chaired the project Steering Committee, “The report outlines a new vision for the Route 7 corridor in Shelburne. This new vision would transform the corridor from what is now a commercial strip to an attractive and vibrant place that reflects community values and identity. A key tool to do this could be through the use of a Form Based Code.”

The report is titled *A Vision For 7*. It identifies Form Based Codes as particularly effective and appropriate in communities where the use of buildings is expected to change or, alternatively, where the community wants to carefully shape the character of future development. The report also recommends that the Town create an economic development plan, create strategic partnerships, and improve transportation connections for bicyclists, pedestrians, as well as vehicles.

Dean Pierce, Shelburne’s Planning Director and the person who wrote the applications that garnered funding for the project describes the report as “comprehensive and compelling.” Add Pierce: “It has a few rough spots. But, it will, I hope, inspire action—or at least very serious discussion—and encourage more people to get involved in local planning issues, particularly those related to economic development and rezoning.”

The Chair of the Shelburne Selectboard, Robert Roesler, believes the report will provide “much food for thought” and agrees with Pierce it should be a catalyst. “I’m looking forward to hearing the community’s ideas about how we translate the report into actions.”

Copies of the report may be downloaded from <http://db.tt/sGkIciDO> . According to Pierce, the report will be discussed by both the project Steering Committee and the Planning Commission at future meetings of those bodies.

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