



Kristen Leahy <zoning.administrator@hardwickvt.gov>

Feedback re:draft Economic Development chapter for the 2027 Municipal Plan

2 messages

Shari Cornish <shari@hardwickdowntown.org>
To: Kristen Leahy <zoning.administrator@hardwickvt.gov>
Cc: Dave Gross <dave@hardwickvt.gov>

Sat, Aug 22, 2026 at 2:29 PM

Here is what I found and suggestions for updating/revision in the Economic Development section of the Municipal Plan DRAFT that Heidi passed to HDP board members. She wasn't sure if she had sent them along so please pardon any repetition.

Page 1 - capitalize the D in • strengthening Downtown Hardwick and East Hardwick Village

Page 2 - correct ...we need to figure out a way to bring ~~more~~ larger scale career jobs...

Last paragraph line 5 should include the HDP more clearly...is the 501(c)(3) non profit organization with a mission is to provide leadership to support the economic, social, recreational, and cultural vitality of Downtown Hardwick.

Page 6 - **Wrong Map** and Identified as "Village Center" rather than "Downtown"

Add under Recreation and Tourism...after Buffalo Mountain Town Forest, Historic Downtown, river access, community events and the area's historic and scenic resources attract visitors...

Page 7 - GOAL ... could be revised to:

For Hardwick to have a diverse and resilient economy based on small businesses, agriculture, recreation, and innovation that provides employment and economic opportunity, supports the Designated Downtown, E. Hardwick Village Center and housing opportunities, and preserves the community's natural resources and quality of life.

Add to Policies:

- The Town collaborates with the Hardwick Downtown Partnership to enhance the parties' collective ability to develop a comprehensive downtown strategy that fosters vibrancy and community pride and encourages the growth of small businesses, employment, and income opportunities, tax revenues, property values and general quality of life for all.

ACTIONS...revise #2 to:

- Increase the number of local businesses utilizing the Town's Revolving Loan Fund to assist in economic development, job creation, retention, and to assist in downtown façade improvements and ADA compliance in the Designated Downtown.

revise #6 to:

Partner with the Hardwick Downtown Partnership to support downtown revitalization, *historic preservation*, business recruitment, façade improvements, *downtown placemaking* events, and implementation of Downtown Designation initiatives.

ADD:

- Implement recommendations of the Pedestrian Safety Task Force measures that were accepted by the Select Board to improve conditions for pedestrians and cyclists in cConnector Loop with the LVRT.

:)Shari

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kristen Leahy** <zoning.administrator@hardwickvt.gov>

Date: Wed, Aug 12, 2026 at 12:00 PM

Subject:

To: Heidi Krantz <heidi@hardwickdowntown.org>, Kate O'Neill <kate@caevt.org>, Community Connections <communityconnections@caevt.org>, Hayley Williams <hayley@caevt.org>, Jon Ramsay <jon@caevt.org>, Allyson Howell <allyson@caevt.org>, Katt Tolman <katt@caevt.org>

Good Morning!

The Hardwick Planning Commission has completed its initial review of the draft Economic Development chapter for the 2027 Municipal Plan, and I am now circulating it to some of our local partners for review.

This is only one chapter of the larger Municipal Plan. Topics such as housing, transportation, natural resources, resilience, land use, and other community priorities will be addressed in greater detail in their respective chapters. We will also be formatting the Plan and addressing its overall design and visual elements at the end of this process, toward the end of 2027. For now, we are focused on getting the content right.

Since your organizations and work are referenced in the chapter, I would especially appreciate your thoughts on whether we have accurately described your role and the work happening in the community. I would also welcome any corrections or anything significant you think we may have missed.

In particular, please take a look at:

- Economic Strengths
- Downtown and Village Centers
- Agriculture, Food Systems and Working Lands
- Recreation and Tourism
- Policies and Actions & Recommendations for Implementation

The chapter has already been through Planning Commission review, so I am not looking for a complete rewrite, but I do want to make sure the information is accurate and that the policies and actions reasonably reflect the work happening in Hardwick.

I've attached the current draft. If possible, please send any comments or suggested changes by **August 28, 2026**.

Thank you for taking a look!

Best Wishes,

Kristen Leahy
Zoning and Floodplain Administrator
Resilience & Adaptation Coordinator
(802) 472-1686

Kristen Leahy <zoning.administrator@hardwickvt.gov>
To: Shari Cornish <shari@hardwickdowntown.org>
Cc: Dave Gross <dave@hardwickvt.gov>

Sun, Aug 23, 2026 at 5:49 AM

Good Morning,
The responses from the HDP have been received (thank you!) I will bring them to the Planning Commission at their next meeting.
Best Wishes,

Kristen Leahy
Zoning and Floodplain Administrator
Resilience & Adaptation Coordinator
(802) 472-1686

Summer 2026 Office Hours:

Monday: 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
Tuesday: 8:30 am – 2:00 pm
Wednesday: 9:30 am – 2:00 pm
Thursday: 8:30 am – 2:00 pm
Friday & Saturday: By appointment

I'm glad to meet by appointment outside these hours when I'm able.

Any decision or action of the Zoning Administrator may be appealed within 15 days pursuant to Section 7.3A of the Hardwick Unified Development Bylaws.

[Quoted text hidden]