

Description of the Planning Process

The Coventry Economic & Community Development Strategic Plan began in April 2019, by beginning the data analysis that eventually culminated in the “Existing Conditions” report elsewhere in this appendix. At the same time, efforts were begun to assess the potential for re-use of the Coventry Church building. This involved the following steps:

Exploration of the Re-use of Coventry Church:

- Attendance by Peter Fairweather and Town Administrator Amanda Carlson at a “Sacred Places” workshop held by the Preservation Trust of Vermont on approaches to reviving and revitalizing church buildings and other faith-related community gathering spaces, May 20-21, 2019.
- Arrangement of a grant from the Preservation Trust for a preliminary assessment of the condition of the church, July, 2019. This report is included in the appendix on the Church
- A community outreach session through a Church Open House and Main Street BBQ and survey to solicit residents’ opinions on the re-use of the Church. The open house was held on June 26, 2019. The community survey ran concurrently.

The results of this effort are found in the appendix “Results of Community Outreach Regarding the Re-Use of the Coventry Church.”

Stakeholder Outreach:

From June, 2019 to November, 2019, was a time of extensive consultation with residents and other stakeholders about Coventry and its potential for economic and community development. Interviews and small group meetings were held involving over 40 Coventry residents and stakeholders. A partial listing of some of the participants is provided below in alphabetical order.

David Barlow	Treasurer, Zoning Administrator, Trustee of Cemetery Funds
Scott Briere	Select Board Member and Business owner – Al’s Snowmobile
Jim Cobb	Village Property owner
Rene Desrochers	Village Property owner
Jeanne Desrochers	Prudential Committee Chair of the Coventry Fire District
Alan Feltmarch	Coventry Church Congregation
Kate Fletcher	Assessing Clerk, Delinquent Tax Collector, SWIP Committee, Recreation Committee
David Gallup	Select Board Member and Road Commissioner
Joe Gay & Jeremy Labbe	Casella Landfill
Skip Gosselin	Resident
Josh Griffes	Planning Commission and SWIP Committee
Kathy Holbrook	Owner/operator of Martha’s Diner
Amanda Jensen	School Board Director
Moe Jacobs	Planning Commission Chair
Amanda McKormick	Coventry Town Foundation Board Member, involved parent, farmer
Michael Marcotte	Select Board Chair; House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development Chairman.
Phil Marquette	911 Coordinator; Emergency Management Director; Planning Commission Member, Newport City Firefighter
Brad Maxwell	Former Select Board Member and Owner of Maxwell Farms

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Jean Maxwell	Coventry Town Foundation
Matt Maxwell	Coventry Village School Board Chair
John Miller	Village Property owner
John Morley	Orleans Village Manager
Dale Perron	Coventry Town Foundation
Leo Piette	Coventry Town Foundation
Lisa Ryan	Preservation Trust of Vermont
Martha Sylvester	Former Recreation Director
Steve Taylor	Village Property owner
Deb Tanguay	Town Clerk & School Treasurer
Fred Webster	Collector of Rural Vermont artifacts
Don Whipple	Coventry Town Foundation Board Member and Newport City Business Owner
Representing Agencies/Organizations	
Richard Amore	Agency for Commerce and Community Development
Dan Delabruere	Rail & Aviation Bureau Director, Vermont Agency of Transportation
Laura Dolgin	Newport City Manager
Daniel Gauvin	Lakeview Aviation, NEK International Airport
Todd Rohlen	Coventry Village School Principal
Michael Schirling,	Secretary of Commerce & Community Development
David Snedeker	Northeastern Vermont Development Association

In addition, there was a community meeting on November 13, 2019 to present and discuss the preliminary findings of the Economic and Community Development Strategy. Approximately 40 people were in attendance.

Following this outreach, the draft plan was assembled in its current form. It will be presented to the voters of the Town of Coventry on Town Meeting Day, March 2, 2019.

Description of the Draft Village Improvement Program

Description of the Draft Town-wide Improvement Program

Sample Job Description, Community Development Coordinator

Results of Community Outreach Regarding the Re-Use of the Coventry Church

Existing Conditions Analysis