



**Town of Brattleboro
Informational Booklet
for the
Representative Town Meeting
to be held on Zoom on
September 12, 2020, at 8:30am
(and September 13, 2020, if necessary)**

**RTM Members will join the meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone using this link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86448680971>**

- 1. Click on "Join"**
- 2. Enter the "Meeting ID" for this meeting: 864 4868 0971**
- 3. Enter the "Passcode" for this meeting: 12261753**

People who are not RTM Members can call in using a telephone by dialing any of these toll-free numbers in the United States:

833-548-0282
877-853-5247
888-788-0099
833-548-0276

or you can access a list of non-toll-free numbers for locations around the world using this link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/k2Hdbk6mA>

The meeting will be carried live on BCTV:
On Cable TV: Channel 1085 or Channel 10
Streaming Online: <https://www.brattleborotv.org/channel-10-stream>
Facebook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/brattleborotv/>

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Greetings to All Representative Town Meeting Members:

In this most unusual year of 2020, Representative Town Meeting (RTM) will be held on Saturday, September 12, on Zoom. The information you will need to enter that meeting is printed on the front cover of this booklet. There are other important actions that must be taken by the Town and by each individual RTM member prior to the meeting. We ask that every member read this brief booklet carefully so you will be well prepared to participate on September 12.

First a bit of context. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant changes in how we all live and work. The virus arrived in Vermont in early March and on March 13 the Governor issued his "Stay Home Stay Safe" restrictions on the type and size of public gatherings. This required the cancellation of the RTM that would have been held in-person in the normal manner at the BAMS multi-purpose room on March 21. For several weeks, the Selectboard, Town staff, and RTM Moderator Lawrin Crispe held out hope that the virus would subside sufficiently for an in-person RTM to be held during the summer months. By June, it was clear that would not be possible. After considering numerous alternative ways of convening an RTM during these extraordinary circumstances, the Selectboard decided to hold this year's RTM using the online platform Zoom. The Selectboard approved the warning for this meeting on August 11, in compliance with the Statutory requirement to warn the meeting not less than 30 nor more than 40 days prior to the date on which the meeting will be held.

All of the articles on the warning for the September 12 RTM are substantively the same as they would have been for the March 21 RTM with one important exception. The Town's fiscal year changeover from FY20 to FY21 had to occur on July 1 so the Town had to have an adopted budget by June 30. Recognizing that Brattleboro and several other municipalities had not yet held annual town meetings and did not yet have adopted FY21 budgets, the Vermont Legislature passed a special act in early June authorizing Selectboards to adopt municipal budgets for this year only. The Brattleboro Selectboard adopted the Town's FY21 budget on June 16. Therefore, Article 16 of the RTM warning includes the part of the usual budget article that addresses collection of taxes but does not ask RTM to take overall action on the budget this year. The several articles that address specific items within the adopted budget remain on the warning. The Selectboard and Town staff will implement those specific items only if (and as) they are approved by RTM.

This booklet has been prepared for use in conjunction with the 2019-2020 Annual Town Report that was produced and distributed back in February and March (and is posted on the Town's website). The booklet contains important information about how the conduct of this year's RTM will differ from our usual in-person procedures and, for easy reference, includes the brief article summaries for Articles 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, and 19 exactly as they first appeared in the Annual Town Report.

Peter B. Elwell

Peter B. Elwell
Town Manager

From: Patrick Moreland
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 5:13 PM
To: Peter Elwell; Jan Anderson; Hilary Francis
Attachments: RTM Information Packet.pdf; District Meetings and Caucus Warning 9 2 2020.pdf

Good Afternoon,

You are receiving this email because you are a member of Representative Town Meeting. Enclosed you will find two attachments.

- **RTM Information Packet** – Please review this right away. There are several important and time sensitive action items required for RTM members.
- **District Meetings and Caucus Warning** - The attached warning includes details regarding the District Meetings and Caucuses.

An Informational Booklet will be available prior to Representative Town Meeting in order to provide Town Meeting Members (and the public) information needed for Representative Town Meeting on September 12, and to provide access and technical information about using Zoom. The Booklet will contain separate messages from the Town Manager and Moderator, a contact list for technical support, the revised RTM Warning, and copies of some descriptive information about certain articles (excerpted from the Town Report) . We expect that the Booklet will be complete by the time that the caucuses take place on September 2. When available, the Booklet will be added to the Town’s website at www.brattleboro.org > Charter, Ordinances, Policies > Town Reports, or by clicking on the following link: https://www.brattleboro.org/index.asp?SEC=A3C10BFE-6C56-43A9-B316-6BDAB5E5563D&Type=B_BASIC

Informational Booklets will be available at the Brooks Memorial Library (after September 2). You may pick up your booklet in-person at the Library on Monday through Saturday, between 12:00noon and 5:00pm. If you prefer a curbside pick-up arrangement, you may bring a sign that says “RTM Booklet” and knock on the door at the Main Street entrance on Monday through Saturday, between 10:00am to 5:00pm. An employee will bring the Booklet out to you.

Please continue to closely monitor this email address as we will be sending additional information as it becomes available.

Patrick M. Moreland
Assistant Town Manager
Town of Brattleboro
230 Main Street
Brattleboro, VT 05301
802-251-8101

TOWN OF BRATTLEBORO

Town Manager's Office · 230 Main Street · Brattleboro, VT 05301
(802) 251-8151 Fax (802) 257-2322

Representative Town Meeting Checklist IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

- Confirm that your computer, tablet, or smartphone (device) has a working microphone and camera.
- One device per RTM member.
- Establish Zoom Account and notify the Town (by email to pmoreland@brattleboro.org) of the email address used for that account. **PLEASE DO SO BY AUGUST 30, 2020.** Please also include in the email any pronoun preferences that you would like added after your name. This will need to be the account that you use to log into RTM.
- Download Zoom Client - **YOU CANNOT VOTE AT RTM UNLESS YOU ARE USING THE ZOOM CLIENT SOFTWARE.**
 - Go to <https://zoom.us/>
 - Place your mouse cursor over Resources (upper right-hand side of the page). A drop-down list will appear and click on Download Zoom Client. Using Zoom via a web browser does not support the Polling function.

**How to Sign-in to
Representative Town Meeting
September 12, 2020 (and, if necessary, September 13, 2020)**

RTM Members will join the meeting from a computer, tablet or
smartphone, using the following link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86448680971>

1. Click on “Join”
2. Enter the “Meeting ID” for the meeting: 864 4868 0971
3. Enter the “Passcode” for this meeting: 12261753

Members of RTM must join the meeting via computer, tablet, or
smartphone. The public will only be allowed to join the meeting
via telephone. This will maintain the integrity of RTM voting
process.

Representative Town Meeting

September 12, 2020 (and, if necessary, September 13, 2020)

Representative Town Meeting (RTM) is a large and complicated gathering that is managed by the Moderator using Robert's Rules of Order. With nearly 150 equal voting members, Representative Town Meeting presents a challenge for any virtual meeting platform. The Town of Brattleboro has chosen Zoom for three reasons:

1. Zoom has a "Raise Hand" feature that allows for an orderly stacking of Representative Town Meeting Members (and the public) who wish to be recognized to speak.
2. Zoom provides a polling tool that can be used to support RTM's need for secure voting on each motion.
3. Zoom allows the meeting organizer to control activation of each participant's microphone and camera. This feature will help to keep the meeting organized and running smoothly at the direction of the Moderator, as required by State Statutes and the Town Charter.

To effectively use Zoom for this meeting, all RTM Members must follow the same set of instructions, which have been chosen to reduce disruptions (by keeping the number of open microphones to a minimum) and to ensure the integrity of every vote. All RTM members, and only RTM members, must be able to cast a vote. The challenge is that anyone who is not an RTM Member must also be allowed to participate in the meeting but in a way that prevents them from voting. To provide for public access and participation while preserving the integrity of the RTM votes, we have adopted the following plan:

- Each member of Representative Town Meeting must be logged into the meeting via a computer, tablet, or smartphone (device). Only one RTM member per device will work as you cannot cast two votes from a single device.
- Each member of Representative Town Meeting must set up a personal Zoom Account and must notify the Town, by no later than August 30, 2020, of the email address used to establish the account that will be used on September 12, 2020, and for the September 2, 2020 caucuses. Please notify the Town by emailing pmoreland@brattleboro.org and include your name and the email address that you used to establish your Zoom account. Please also identify any pronoun preferences that you would like to add after your name. If we do not receive this email from you, we will use the email address that we used to contact you. This step is important because the RTM Members will be added as official Zoom users

on the Town's account. Doing so will allow RTM Members (and only RTM Members) to bypass the waiting room and be granted immediate access to the meeting.

- Each member of Representative Town Meeting also must download the Zoom Client Software. This is critically important because only users who are logged into the Zoom Client Software can make use of the polling function (the RTM method of voting) in Zoom. Users who are merely logged in via the web will be unable to cast a vote.
- Please note the controls at the bottom of the Zoom meeting software. When you click on "Participants," a side screen will open on the right-hand side. Near the bottom of that side screen you will find the "Raise Hand" feature. RTM Members can raise or lower their hands to indicate to the Moderator their desire to be recognized. When the Moderator calls your name, your microphone will be unmuted, and you will be requested to activate your camera.
- When the Moderator calls for a vote, a poll will be launched. The poll will read, "Shall the Town of Brattleboro approve the motion, Yes or No?" The Moderator shall allow an appropriate amount of time for the vote and once closed the results of the poll will be displayed to the meeting members.
- Members of the public who are not RTM Members will be "in the meeting" and have the same ability to raise their hands as RTM Members. The Moderator will decide whom to recognize and when. The public's access to the meeting will be by telephone, instead of by computer, because callers are unable to cast votes in a poll. By having one RTM Member per device and having the public limited to phone-in participation, RTM can proceed with confidence that only RTM members are casting votes.

We understand from our experience with virtual meetings that individual technical difficulties can and will arise. Often, simply leaving the meeting and then immediately rejoining can resolve many connectivity issues. Individual technical malfunctions will not invalidate the meeting.

REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING
DISTRICT CAUCUSES
PUBLIC INVITED

NOTE: Per the “Stay Home – Stay Safe” order issued by Governor Scott, this meeting will be held with no physical location using Zoom.

District 3, 5:30-6:00pm
District 2, 6:15-6:45p
District 1, 7:00-7:30pm

All 3 district meetings will use the same link.

RTM Members will join the meeting from a computer, tablet or smartphone, using the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88039790430>

1. Click on “Join”
 2. Enter the “Meeting ID” for the meeting: 880 3979 0430
 3. Enter the “Passcode” for this meeting: 12261753
-

The public will only be allowed to join the meeting via telephone:

877 853 5247 US Toll-free

888 788 0099 US Toll-free

833 548 0276 US Toll-free

833 548 0282 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 880 3979 0430

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88039790430>

The meetings will be carried live on BCTV:

On Cable TV: Channel 1085 or Channel 10

Streaming Online: <https://www.brattleborotv.org/channel-10-stream>

Facebook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/brattleborotv/>

Brattleboro Districts 1, 2, & 3 will caucus hold district caucuses on September 2, 2020. District 3 will meet from 5:30-6:00pm and will be accepting nominations to fill and appoint two (2) town meeting member seats for this year. District 2 will meet from 6:15-6:45pm and will be accepting nominations to fill and appoint one (1) town meeting member seat for this year. And district 1 will meet from 7:00-7:30pm and will be accepting nominations to fill and appoint eight (8) town meeting member seats for this year. All district caucuses will be held via the Zoom meeting platform at the links listed above. Current Town Meeting members have received instructions for how to join using the app.

Any members of the public from districts 1, 2, or 3 that are interested in being considered for this position should be present at their district's caucus on September 2. The public is invited to attend their district's caucus. All members of the public, including those interested in a seat at Representative Town Meeting, must do so by calling in via phone.

Technical Hotline Assistance and Information

If you are having technical difficulties connecting with Zoom, you may call the following telephone number for assistance up to 30 minutes before, and during, the practice meeting and/or Representative Town Meeting:

Telephone Number

(802) 265-5958

Practice Meeting to be held on Zoom Saturday, September 5, at 8:30am

A “practice meeting” is scheduled to be held on Zoom on Saturday, September 5, at 8:30am to provide Town Meeting Members, Selectboard Members, Staff, and all other participants an opportunity to work out technical details for the actual Representative Town Meeting. **No RTM business will be conducted at the practice meeting.** The Zoom contact information for the practice meeting is the same Zoom contact information for the actual RTM (noted on the cover of this booklet).

Electronic Meeting Rules

Prepared by Town Moderator Lawrin Crispe
for Brattleboro's Representative Town Meeting on Zoom
on September 12, 2020 (and September 13, 2020, if necessary)

The meeting will be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order, the Town Charter, and Vermont State Law, modified as follows for this online meeting:

1. Quorum

The presence of a quorum shall be established by an online list of Representative Town Meeting members who have logged onto Zoom at the beginning of the meeting. Thereafter, the continued presence of a quorum shall be determined by the online list of participating members.

2. Audio/Video

The meeting shall include audio and video display of all Representative Town Meeting members when recognized to speak. Non-members wishing to speak who are qualified voters of the Town of Brattleboro may connect by designated telephone number and passcode.

3. Assignment of the Floor

To seek recognition by the Moderator, a member shall use the "raised hand" tool which can be accessed by clicking the "Participants" button on the control bar at the bottom of the screen.

4. Muting of Member's Connection

Given the number of participants and in order to minimize undue background noise and interference with the meeting, all members shall be muted until recognized by the Moderator.

5. Voting

All votes shall be taken utilizing the Zoom "polling" feature which will be launched as required to record each vote. The results will be announced by the Moderator at the conclusion of each vote.

6. Technical Requirements and Malfunctions

Each RTM member is responsible for their connection to the Internet or telephone. The meeting shall not be invalidated on the grounds that the loss of, or poor quality of, a member's individual connection prevented their participation in the meeting.

In any instance in which there is a conflict between these 6 enumerated "Electronic Meeting Rules" and any provisions of Robert's Rules of Order, the Town Charter, or Vermont State Law, then these "Electronic Meeting Rules" shall prevail for this meeting.

**ANNUAL REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING
SEPTEMBER 12, 2020 (and SEPTEMBER 13, 2020, if necessary)
(Rescheduled from March 21, 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic)**

The legal voters qualified to vote in Representative Town Meeting are hereby notified and warned to meet on Zoom on Saturday, the twelfth day of September, 2020, at 8:30am, to act on the Articles listed below. If not all Articles are acted upon on September 12, then the meeting will continue on September 13 at a time to be determined on September 12 by the assembled members of Representative Town Meeting.

Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone using this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/864448680971>

Passcode: 12261753

**You also can call in using your telephone
by dialing any of these toll-free numbers in the United States:**

833-548-0282

877-853-5247

888-788-0099

833-548-0276

**or you can access a list of non-toll-free numbers
for locations around the world using this link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/k2Hdbk6mA>

The "Meeting ID" for this meeting is:

864 4868 0971

The meeting will be carried live on BCTV:

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Streaming Online: <https://www.brattleborotv.org/channel-10-stream>

Facebook Live: <https://www.facebook.com/brattleborotv/>

ARTICLE 1: To act on the Town's Auditors' report.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will authorize its Selectboard to employ a certified public accountant or public accountants.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will ratify, approve and confirm the Selectboard's appointment of a Town Clerk for a term of one year (until the 2021 Representative Town Meeting).

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will ratify, approve and confirm the Selectboard's appointment of a Town Treasurer for a term of one year (until the 2021 Representative Town Meeting).

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will ratify, approve and confirm the Selectboard's appointment of a Town Attorney for a term of one year (until the 2021 Representative Town Meeting).

ARTICLE 6: To elect two representatives to the Capital Grant Review Board for a term of one year (until the 2021 Representative Town Meeting). Members to be nominated from the floor.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will elect members to the Town Finance Committee for a term of one year (until the 2021 Representative Town Meeting). Members to be nominated from the floor.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will elect members to the Human Services Review Committee for a term of one year (until the 2021 Representative Town Meeting). Members to be nominated from the floor.

ARTICLE 9: To elect three Trustees for the Brooks Memorial Library to serve three years, and one Trustee to fill a 1-year unexpired term. The names for consideration are: Jennifer Rowe, Karen Tyler, and John Woodward, each for a term to expire in 2023; and Gabriel Sistare for a term to expire in 2021.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will authorize its Selectboard to borrow money in anticipation of taxes, grants and other revenue.

ARTICLE 11: To see what salaries the Town will pay its Selectboard members.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will transfer from the Unassigned General Fund Balance to the Capital Fund the sum of \$223,000 to fund a portion of the cost of a new fire engine to replace a 1994 fire engine.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$43,748 for the Community Marketing Initiative promotion of Brattleboro performed jointly by the Brattleboro Area Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Brattleboro Alliance.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$80,000 through special assessments on properties within the Downtown Improvement District (as approved by Town Meeting March 19, 2005, and as delineated in the Town Ordinance entitled "Municipal Act to Establish and Regulate the Downtown Improvement District") to be used for capital and operating costs of projects of the Town's duly designated downtown organization as reflected in its work plan and budget.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$190,105 to support human service programs and facilities for the residents of Brattleboro to be allocated among service providers in the following manner: Aids Project of Southern Vermont - \$2,000; Big Brothers Big Sisters - \$6,375; Boys & Girls Club of Brattleboro - \$17,000; Brattleboro Area Hospice - \$2,550; Brattleboro Area Prevention Coalition (a/k/a Building a Positive Community) - \$11,250; Brattleboro Centre for Children - \$4,500; Brattleboro Community Justice Center - \$5,950; Brattleboro Senior Meals - \$5,250; Family Garden - \$2,500; Gathering Place - \$3,750; Green Mountain RSVP - \$700; Groundworks Collaborative - \$19,000; Health Care & Rehabilitation Services of Southeastern Vermont - \$7,500; KidsPLAYce - \$4,000; Meeting Waters YMCA - \$7,125; Out in the Open (f/k/a Green Mountain Crossroads) - \$8,500; The Root Social Justice Center - \$5,250; Senior Solutions - \$2,700; Southeastern Vermont Community Action, Inc. (SEVCA) - \$11,400; Turning Point - \$15,000; Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired - \$700; Vermont Center for Independent Living - \$1,600; Visiting Nurse and Hospice for VT and NH - \$10,980; Windham County Humane Society - \$1,000; Windham County Safe Place Child Advocacy Center and Southeastern Unit for Special Investigations - \$2,700; Women's Freedom Center - \$14,250; Windham Southeast Supervisory Union Summer Food Program - \$6,375; Youth Services - \$10,200.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town and School District taxes, assessed on the Grand List as of April 1, 2020, shall be due and payable in four (4) equal installments payable to the Town Treasurer until overdue, then to the Collector of Taxes; that such payment of the installments shall be received by the Town Treasurer's Office on or before 5:00pm on September 15, 2020, November 16, 2020, February 16, 2021, and May 17, 2021; and that interest at a rate of one percent (1%) per month be charged from the due date of payment on any overdue payment of the Town tax, installment, or portion thereof; and that a penalty of eight percent (8%) be charged on any overdue payment that remains due and owing on May 18, 2021.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will authorize the expenditure of \$36,147 from Program Income (a revolving loan fund that disperses proceeds which originated as Community Development Block Grants) as a contribution to the operation of Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies (SeVEDS).

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$223,276.47 through special assessments on property within the "Mountain Home Park Special Benefit Assessment Tax District" (as approved by Town Meeting, March 24, 2007, and as delineated in the Town Ordinance entitled "Municipal Act to Establish and Regulate the Mountain Home Park Special Benefit Assessment Tax District") for the purpose of paying debt service on the capital improvements to the water and sewer lines serving the Mountain Home and Deepwood Mobile Home Parks.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will adopt the following resolution and submit it to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) as comments to communicate the Towns' ongoing concerns and interests:

"Whereas, the peaking operations of Wilder, Bellows Falls and Vernon dams have been causing daily surface water elevation fluctuations of, on average 2-3 feet every day in the impoundments behind the dams for at least 70 years, resulting in loss of land for landowners in VT and NH and degradation of water quality and habitat of the river for decades;

"Whereas, in the late 1970s, during the last relicensing process, the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) conducted an erosion study on the project area; and FERC issued the last licenses in early 1979 just months before the ACOE completed their study in November of that year; and the ACOE study clearly states that pool level fluctuations are the *second most important causative factor* for erosion in the project areas.

"Whereas, the erosion study completed for the current relicensing by Great River Hydro, the current owner of these three projects did not look at the effect of pool level changes on erosion, instead, focusing only on potential erosion due to velocity along the bank edge that would be typical for a natural river system; and the Connecticut River in the project area does not function as a natural river, instead functioning as a series of lakes, with water flow controlled by the dams.

"Whereas, many towns and landowners up and down the river have used millions of dollars in public and private money to attempt to stabilize and restore their streambanks to protect property and infrastructure over the past 70 years;

"Therefore, be it resolved that the Town of Brattleboro, formally requests that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission require, via license article, the current and any subsequent owners of the Wilder, Bellows Falls and Vernon Dams to modify current dam operations to minimize peaking; provide for ongoing streambank monitoring; develop a shoreline adaptive management plan; and create a mitigation and enhancement fund to support riverbank restoration and/or property owner compensation to reimburse towns and landowners for any and all damages resulting from the deterioration of the riverbank."

ARTICLE 20: To transact any other business that may lawfully come before the meeting.

Dated at Brattleboro, Vermont this 11th day of August, 2020.

BRATTLEBORO SELECTBOARD

s/Tim Wessel, Chair
s/Ian Goodnow, Clerk
s/Daniel Quipp

s/Elizabeth McLoughlin, Vice Chair
s/Brandie Starr

Brattleboro, Vermont
August 12, 2020

Town Clerk's Office, Brattleboro, Vermont, August 12, 2020, at 12:30pm, received and recorded the foregoing Warning in Volume 21, of Town Records, at Page 290.

Attest: s/Hilary Francis, Town Clerk

DESCRIPTIVE ARTICLES

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will transfer from the Unassigned General Fund Balance to the Capital Fund the sum of \$223,000 to fund a portion of the cost of a new fire engine to replace a 1994 fire engine.

Whenever possible, accumulated fund balance should be used for non-recurring expenses such as a particular capital project or a piece of equipment with a high price tag and a long useful life. By limiting the use of fund balance to these purposes, we protect the Town from becoming dependent upon non-recurring revenues to fund recurring expenses. Why does this matter? Because a town using fund balance for operating expenses is like a household using its savings account for monthly living expenses. You do it occasionally, when necessary, but it is not a sustainable ongoing practice. For FY21, the Selectboard and Town staff recommend using \$223,000 of fund balance to pay approximately 41% of the cost of replacing a 1994 fire engine. Full funding of the expected price for the replacement fire engine (\$550,000) is included within the capital equipment request for FY21 and the balance of the funding will be drawn from the Town's general operating revenues (property taxes, local option taxes, etc.). The unassigned General Fund balance at June 30, 2019 (the end of FY19) was \$2,047,513. The Town has an adopted guideline that calls for an amount equivalent to 10% of the proposed operating budget (\$1,822,163 if there was no use of fund balance) to be kept available as a "rainy day fund," leaving \$225,350 of "excess fund balance" available for use in FY21. After the proposed \$223,000 "Use of Fund Balance" proposed in Article 12, the Town will remain in compliance with our 10% fund balance guideline.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$43,748 for the Community Marketing Initiative promotion of Brattleboro performed jointly by the Brattleboro Area Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Brattleboro Alliance.

BRATTLEBORO COMMUNITY MARKETING INITIATIVE

On March 23, 2019, Brattleboro Town Meeting Representatives appropriated the sum of \$42,119 (equal to 10% of the Meals and Rooms tax collected by the town) for the joint promotion of Brattleboro by the Brattleboro Area Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Brattleboro Alliance. Town meeting representatives allowed the release of the funds by the selectboard "upon review and acceptance of a satisfactory plan for the use of the funds and the evaluation of the results."

The Chamber and DBA sent out a Request for Proposals (RFP) looking for a marketing professional who could develop and execute a strategic and tactical marketing plan to attract visitors to Brattleboro to shop, dine, stay and enjoy our town. The result was the selection of Penniless Projects, a South Newfane, VT, marketing firm. Penniless Projects was chosen after an extensive review and interview process conducted by a project team made up of 10 members of the community that included Zon Eastes, Juno Orchestra; Lindsay Fahey, Retreat Farm; Sarah Lang, BDCC/Southern Vermont Young Professionals; Jon Megas-Russell, Brattleboro Food Co-op; Sujay Patel, In the Moment Records; Gina Pattison, Brattleboro Memorial Hospital; Curtiss Reed, Vermont Partnership for Fairness and Diversity; Kora Skeelee, Mocha Joe's Roasting Company; Stephanie Bonin, Downtown Brattleboro Alliance; and Kate O'Connor, Brattleboro Area Chamber of Commerce. The project team's recommendation was approved by the Boards of Directors of the Chamber and DBA.

In January, after selectboard review, the LOVE BRATTLEBORO VT marketing campaign was launched. Designed to reinforce the fundamental values of diversity, inclusion, and Brattleboro's quirky, artsy, welcoming spirit, LOVE BRATTLEBORO VT is a charge, a challenge, a statement, and a command. It's a love letter from the Town of Brattleboro itself to visitors, inviting them to fall in love again and again.

The campaign includes multimedia advertising targeting northern Vermont, Massachusetts, Upstate New York, New Hampshire, and Montreal. Marketing examples include press releases to regional media and online travel sites, and rack cards to support the campaign's messaging. Additionally, a content marketing social media campaign on Facebook and Instagram will increase engagement and drive traffic to the campaign webpage, www.LoveBrattleboroVT.com. There will also be a photo contest tagging images with #lovebrattleborovt where people are encouraged to post photos of things they love about Brattleboro, or photos of themselves with people they love, on Instagram or Facebook. The contest will run through July.

The marketing campaign is being overseen by the Chamber and DBA along with a steering committee made up of Curtiss Reed Jr., executive director of the Vermont Partnership for Fairness and Diversity; Lindsay Fahey, chief operating officer at Retreat Farm; and Zon Eastes, founder and director of Juno Orchestra.

Submitted by Kate O'Connor, Executive Director of Brattleboro Area Chamber of Commerce, and Stephanie Bonin, Executive Director of Downtown Brattleboro Alliance

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$80,000 through special assessments on properties within the Downtown Improvement District (as approved by Town Meeting March 19, 2005, and as delineated in the Town Ordinance entitled "Municipal Act to Establish and Regulate the Downtown Improvement District") to be used for capital and operating costs of projects of the Town's duly designated downtown organization as reflected in its work plan and budget.

DOWNTOWN BRATTLEBORO ALLIANCE

The Downtown Brattleboro Alliance (DBA) is the non-profit organization working to promote the vitality of downtown, the primary center of commerce, culture and community life for Brattleboro and the surrounding area. DBA is the official designated Downtown Organization for the Town of Brattleboro, and a National Main Street program, providing access to grants, technical assistance and networking opportunities.

Programming is funded in part through a special assessment on downtown properties. DBA works with members, including the downtown property owners to develop an annual work plan and budget. Before submitting these to the town, DBA members vote and approve the work plan and budget. In the last year DBA directly supported over 65 local businesses, has invested more than \$100,000 locally and worked in coalition with more than 30 local organizations. Our strategy of uplifting and bringing joy & community to our town has been seen in every program and project we have accomplished, making a huge difference.

We host annual DBA events:

- 1.) **4th Annual BrattleBoo.** Target Audience: Locals. More than 600 community members turned out to walk door-to-door downtown to trick-or-treat. The entire evening which included a Fueling Station with healthy goodies and spooky story time by our head librarian was one that reinforced why we live here. Also, the Teal Pumpkin Project was back, which included allergy safe treats. Our project team included Brattleboro Park & Rec, Brooks Memorial Library, Windham Movement Apparel, Elliot St. Fish & Chips, and DBA board members.
- 2.) **4th Annual Bratt LUV Crawl.** Target Audience: Locals & 50-mile radius. We had a phenomenal turn out of more than 200 participants, 15 pairings of local store owners and distillers, brewers or tastemakers. It is an event that introduces our town to many and fills our streets for one night.
- 3.) **1st Annual Short Term Rental Summit.** Target Audience: State of VT. Created and hosted the first statewide summit to have a conversation about regulation, ordinances, and policies around short term vacation rentals. Additionally the summit's goal was to talk about hospitality and how to showcase our state well to the thousands of visitors who travel via short term rentals.

Programs & Projects:

- 1.) **Community Building:**
 - a.) **Play.Date:** childcare by donation downtown. Children get to play while the parents have date night. Partnership with Kids PLAYce & Elliot St. Fish & Chips and DBA.
 - b.) **Elliot St. Block Parties:** Shining a spotlight on the fun that can be had in downtown the block parties serve to create a fun community event and bring light, music and the arts into the streets. Partnership with Elliot St. Fish & Chips.
 - c.) **Summer in the Streets:** infusing Downtown Brattleboro with creative, positive, energetic performances and activities throughout the summer. Partnership with Cara Wolff Jewelry, Brattleboro Food Co-op, Steve Heim Properties, Brattleboro Food Co-op, Boomerang, ArtRAGEus, and Superfresh.
 - d.) **What floats your boat?** A placemaking event that culminated in a pop-up event celebrating Alley Lane: the alley next to the Brattleboro Transportation Center at 77 Flat St. Our goal was to enliven this connector space between Flat and Elliot Streets and to celebrate the significance of the Connecticut River watershed to our community. This project included 2 community clean-ups of this public space and served as a conversation starter for the larger project of installing public art on and in the transportation center. We worked in coalition with Experienced Goods, Vermont Contemporary Photography, Ask the River artists, town of Brattleboro and Brattleboro Area Prevention Coalition.

- 2.) **Brattleboro Minute.** In partnership with both Brattleboro Savings & Loan and River Valley Credit Union we curate and record a radio spot that runs Thursday-Sunday every week on WRSI & BrattFM. The spot reinforces that day or night there is always something to do in Brattleboro. We highlight everything from auditions at NEYT, cooking classes at the Co-op, community Yoga classes or live music at any number of our venues.
- 3.) **Stay-to-Stay.** A coalition member in the State's recruitment project we worked with our local partner Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation to host four Stay-to-Stay weekends engaging many people with our community and tempting them to move here.
- 4.) **Planagogo.** The supreme events guide for Brattleboro and beyond is a project of the Brattleboro Area Chamber of Commerce and DBA. We pay the hosting program that automatically populates the calendar site that is on multiple websites in our community.
- 5.) **Community Marketing Initiative:** On March 23, 2019, Brattleboro Town Meeting Representatives appropriated the sum of \$42,119 (equal to 10% of the Meals and Rooms tax collected by the town) for the joint promotion of Brattleboro by the Brattleboro Area Chamber of Commerce and the Downtown Brattleboro Alliance. Town meeting representatives allowed the release of the funds by the selectboard "upon review and acceptance of a satisfactory plan for the use of the funds and the evaluation of the results." The Chamber and DBA sent out a Request for Proposals (RFP) looking for a marketing professional who could develop and execute a strategic and tactical marketing plan to attract visitors to Brattleboro to shop, dine, stay and enjoy our town. The result was the selection of Penniless Projects, a South Newfane, VT, marketing firm. Penniless Projects was chosen after an extensive review and interview process conducted by a project team made up of 10 members of the community. The LOVE BRATTLEBORO VT marketing campaign was launched in February 2020.

A team member working on Brattleboro:

- 1.) **Community Response Project:** The Community Response Project is an informal committee of community members representing local social services, town officials, law enforcement, the downtown businesses, residents, and visitors. We are dedicated to discussion, action, and solutions focusing on the intersection of downtown Brattleboro's diverse community members, safety, sustainability, and vibrancy.
- 2.) **Town Arts Fund:** DBA is in the Brattleboro Town Arts Fund (TAF) coalition. This fund is in its first year and will award up to \$5,000 to enable the development and presentation of creative projects that contribute positively to the greater community and to the vibrancy and diversity of Brattleboro's arts and cultural landscape.
- 3.) **Support to all in downtown:** Whether it is a merchant looking for advice on a conversation with a landlord, an entrepreneur looking for a space to start a business or a community group working on an event idea - DBA works to be an advocate for all.

Ongoing Programs:

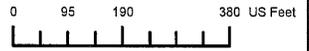
- 1.) **Flower Program:** We keep Brattleboro beautiful with our volunteer Design Committee working very hard! This past year we planted and maintained 82 flower planters, 25 hanging planters & 9 window boxes. We have 12 hayracks at Kyle Gilbert Bridge, Whetstone Station & Retreat sign welcoming you to Brattleboro, 4 planters on the big black control boxes and 3 huge planters on the wall of the museum. We displayed over 5,000 holiday lights.
- 2.) **Facade Grant Program:** We disseminated \$1,000 to downtown merchants through our matching grant Facade Program.
- 3.) **Website and Rack Cards:** We continue to distribute 3 rack cards at 5 Vermont Welcome Centers. They focus on food, family and general travel. We continue to update and design our website, www.brattleboro.com to ensure it is recruiting and user friendly. We are growing and thriving and excited about our future!

"The foundation of a strong, wise, resilient community is people knowing and actively engaging with each other and their place-- simply because it feels good or meaningful to them. Everything else rests on that...." - unknown.

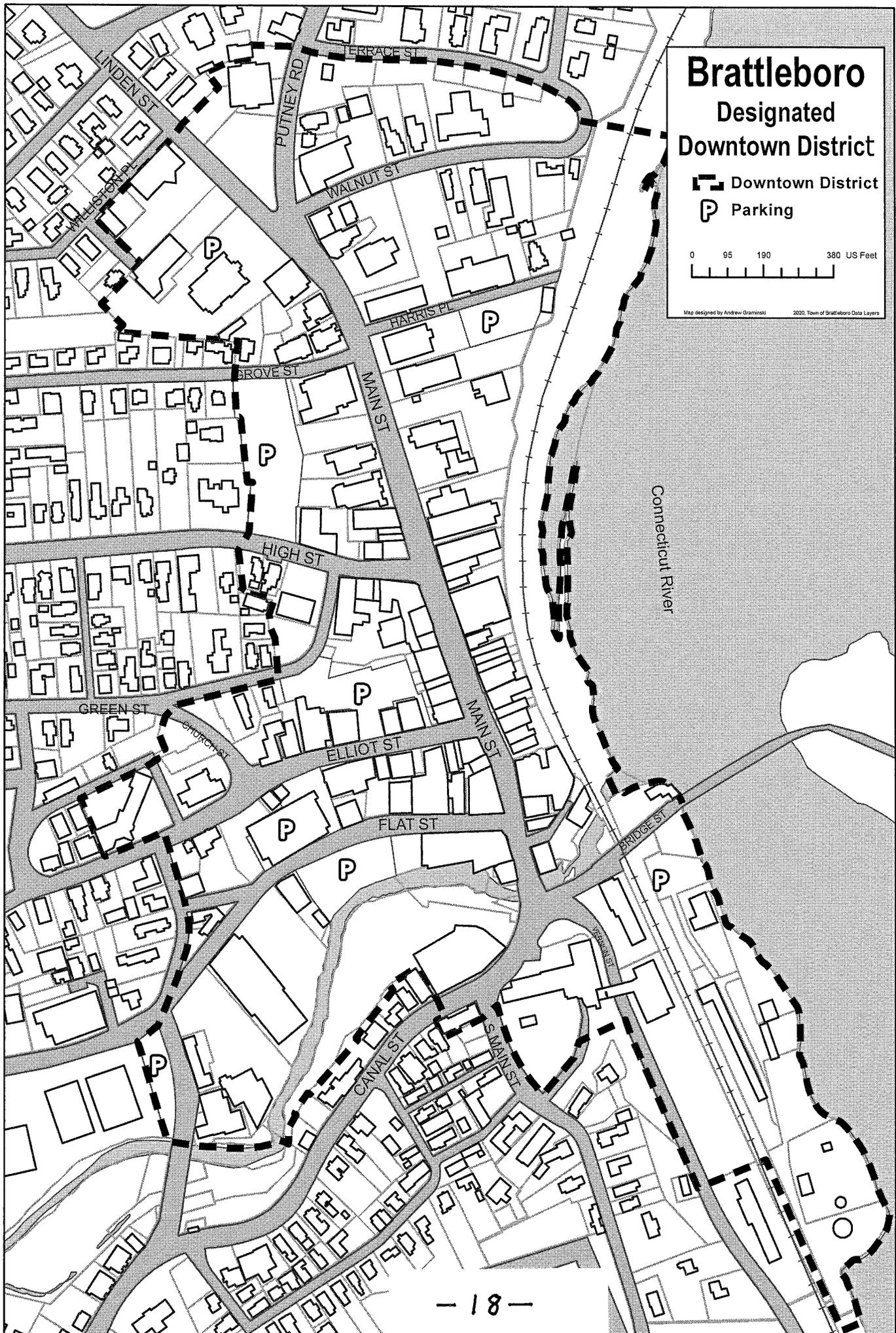
Submitted by Stephanie Bonin, Executive Director

Brattleboro Designated Downtown District

-  Downtown District
-  Parking



Map designed by Andrew Graminski 2000, Town of Brattleboro Data Layers



ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$190,105 to support human service programs and facilities for the residents of Brattleboro to be allocated among service providers in the following manner: Aids Project of Southern Vermont - \$2,000; Big Brothers Big Sisters - \$6,375; Boys & Girls Club of Brattleboro - \$17,000; Brattleboro Area Hospice - \$2,550; Brattleboro Area Prevention Coalition (a/k/a Building a Positive Community) - \$11,250; Brattleboro Centre for Children - \$4,500; Brattleboro Community Justice Center - \$5,950; Brattleboro Senior Meals - \$5,250; Family Garden - \$2,500; Gathering Place - \$3,750; Green Mountain RSVP - \$700; Groundworks Collaborative - \$19,000; Health Care & Rehabilitation Services of Southeastern Vermont- \$7,500; KidsPLAYce - \$4,000; Meeting Waters YMCA - \$7,125; Out in the Open (f/k/a Green Mountain Crossroads) - \$8,500; The Root Social Justice Center - \$5,250; Senior Solutions - \$2,700; Southeastern Vermont Community Action, Inc. (SEVCA) - \$11,400; Turning Point - \$15,000; Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired - \$700; Vermont Center for Independent Living - \$1,600; Visiting Nurse and Hospice for VT and NH - \$10,980; Windham County Humane Society - \$1,000; Windham County Safe Place Child Advocacy Center and Southeastern Unit for Special Investigations - \$2,700; Women's Freedom Center - \$14,250; Windham Southeast Supervisory Union Summer Food Program - \$6,375; Youth Services - \$10,200.

REPORT TO BRATTLEBORO REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING FROM THE HUMAN SERVICES FUNDING REVIEW COMMITTEE

Thank you to the 33 agencies that submitted requests for consideration. We appreciate the time and resources put into the applications. Your missions, accomplishments and plans for improving our community are inspiring. The agencies that we recommend for funding are vital to the well-being of many vulnerable residents and to our community as a whole. We request the support of the Town Meeting Representatives at the recommended levels.

Process

The committee met in September to review and update the application for Town funding. The application information was emailed to previous recipients and was posted on the Town website and sent to other media outlets. Prospective applicants were invited to an informational meeting on October 15 2019. We received 33 applications requesting a total of \$241,200. Committee members reviewed applicant agencies' financial documents and fiscal controls, as well as their descriptions of services provided to Brattleboro residents, anticipated programmatic changes, evaluation methods, and collaboration with other agencies.

Our goal as a Human Services Review committee is to ensure the quality of life of the people in the town so they can be successful. The Town's human services allocations are important to each agency's ability to serve the needs of local residents. To determine how Town funding would assist each agency, we considered the size of the agency's fund balance relative to their operational expenses, fundraising capacity, the flexibility and predictability of other sources of funding, and the agency's positive impact on Brattleboro residents.

Funding priorities and recommendation

The Committee prioritized agencies whose main function is to provide food, shelter or other urgent and basic needs, as well as emergency and social services. We also prioritized vulnerable populations, including but not limited to elders, children, people without stable housing, people living with HIV/AIDS, people in recovery, and people living with lower incomes.

The committee recommends \$190,105 funding. The committee used a rigorous and thorough process to review all applications and all five members of our committee read every application and

scored them individually. These scores were a starting point in the conversations about final funding recommendations.

It has been an honor to serve on this Committee. All of the current committee members would like to serve again next year. If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch with us via Jan Anderson in the Town Manager's office at tmsecretary@brattleboro.org.

Sincerely,
Ann Fielder
Sue Graff
John Kennedy
David Miner
Kip Tewksbury

December 5, 2019

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will authorize the expenditure of \$36,147 from Program Income (a revolving loan fund that disperses proceeds which originated as Community Development Block Grants) as a contribution to the operation of Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies (SeVEDS).

SeVEDS IMPACT STATEMENT FOR TOWN REPORTS – 2020

Thank you to the Selectboard and voters from the Town of Brattleboro for your ongoing support of Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies (SeVEDS). Since 2007, (SeVEDS) has taken on shared economic challenges we face as a region. SeVEDS, founded as an affiliate of the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC), takes a proactive, long-term approach to economic development. Improving wages, attracting and keeping people, and fostering a healthy regional jobs base are all critical. But it is beyond the capacity of any single community to substantially affect these things. SeVEDS creates strategies, attracts resources, and helps us act together regionally in order to build a vibrant economy.

Background & Request

SeVEDS requests funding from all 27 towns we serve. In 2019, thirteen communities funded SeVEDS, representing 74% of Windham residents. We leverage municipal investments alongside BDCC investment to secure new state, federal and foundation funds. Our work is guided by a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) regional plan funded with federal dollars and SeVEDS. Its goals are simple: Strengthen Business, Support People.

This 2019 Southern Vermont CEDS, which is available online, is the region's next step towards becoming an Economic Development District to better coordinate federal support. SeVEDS leads regional economic development with strategy and insight. Municipal dollars helped fund, and secure additional funding for these initiatives which directly result from the CEDS and SeVEDS research and planning:

- The Fall 2019 Brattleboro Report which provides an in depth overview of Brattleboro's economic and demographic data. This report is available online through the town and BDCC web site, or print upon request.
- The new Pipelines and Pathways Program in all 4 Windham high schools has since September conducted 10 field trips, dozens of classes, and engaged 350 students county-wide. Through the Sophomore Summit, workplace visits, speakers, and career-readiness trainings we connect local kids with real career pathways, including 404 Brattleboro students at BUHS. 20 Windham Career Center students are currently involved in a resume and professionalism training curriculum we are co-implementing with CTE faculty.
- Through our Workforce Center of Excellence we are building a regional workforce development system connecting people with opportunities, and employers with people. In FY'19 we helped 500 job-seekers and career-changers. We worked with 67 employers on everything from funding new workforce trainings to hosting the Career Expo, from welcoming new employees to welcoming students who will become future employees.
- We are home to Southern Vermont Young Professionals, the best YP program outside of Burlington. In the last 2 years we've hosted 20 networking events, 10 financial or homebuyer trainings, 2 galas with over 300 attendees, and engaged 500 young people building lives here.
- BDCC Paid Internships has placed 105 interns since 2014, visited over 20 campuses, and worked with 175 employers. We place regional college students of all ages, and students returning for summer or for good. 25% of interns are hired on to stay.
- INSTIG8 offers innovative services, lending and technical assistance for small businesses and startups. In 2019 we helped employers providing 25% of regional jobs. We serve local entrepreneurs with succession planning, business planning and financing, startups, "incubation" and growth.
- Capacity-building for communities - our Southern Vermont Economy Project & Community Facilities Assistance Program help towns and non-profits improve community vibrancy through local projects. Since 2017 we've provided 89 trainings on topics like financing working lands, grant-writing, broadband and housing, with 1,000+ participants getting technical assistance and training to achieve local goals. Brattleboro is a partner community.
- SeVEDS & BDCC visit every community, listen and learn, to keep evolving and adapting the work we do for you.

We have asked the Town of Brattleboro to include SeVEDS in your 2020 general fund budget. We ask every town in the Windham Region to contribute at the rate of \$3.00 per person. Therefore, we are asking the Town of Brattleboro to appropriate \$36,147.00 (based on a population of 12,049) to support SeVEDS.

We use municipal funding in three key ways:

- (1) As seed funding to bring more money to the region (in FY19 \$415,924 of federal and state funding);
- (2) For capacity to write grants, to create the programs and research and planning; and
- (3) To fund implementation of programs & projects.

History: Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies, or SeVEDS, started in 2007 as a small group of people, from across the region looking to improve broadband and cell service.

Organization: From its inception, SeVEDS was coordinated by BDCC, and today the SeVEDS organization is a 501c3 and legal affiliate of BDCC which provides partial program funding, board support and strategy implementation staffing support.

Mission: SeVEDS develops long-term strategies that generate growth and prosperity in our regional economy.

Vision: To be recognized as the model for rural economic development in the United States.

SeVEDS

Revenue	
ACCD	25,000
DED	25,000
BDCC	50,000
Other	94,236
Total Revenue	194,236
 Expenses	
Contracted Services	172,300
Other	18,098
Total Expenses	190,398
 Revenue Over Expenses	 3,838

SeVEDS develops strategic planning, and projects and programs to advance those strategies. The projects and programs are then implemented through BDCC. There are few organizations regionally that can successfully secure and administer funding to the level of compliance and expertise BDCC has developed. This special capacity also means that BDCC and SeVEDS each undergo an annual audit in preparation for the required IRS 990 submission. In the last several years, the level of federal funding we have leveraged requires an additional, Single Audit under Subpart F of the OMB Uniform Guidance, which is a rigorous, organization-wide audit or examination of an entity that expends certain levels of federal funds, federal grants, or federal awards. Recipients commonly include states, cities, universities, and non-profit organizations. The Single Audit ensures compliance with the federal program's requirements for how the money can be used.

As a non-profit our mission comes first. We must always conduct ourselves in an ethical and transparent manner to ensure ongoing confidence in the organization and our ability to effectively deliver on our mission. The capacity we have built has made possible innovative initiatives which are considered state or even national models, from the regional strategic plan to career pathways work in the high schools. The diverse range of work that we engage in, and the extraordinary partnerships that we build to accomplish that work, are indeed complex. But that is what it takes to make a difference in a rural economy, given the economic and demographic trends we fight against. There are no simple solutions or single answers to reversing decades of economic decline. That our work can be difficult to understand should not be mistaken for a lack of transparency or reporting.

Communication is the best way to ensure transparency. This work is never done. We place tremendous importance on speaking directly with town officials and local people that we serve. Over the last few years, BDCC staff attended over 100 select board meetings, many of which are televised and available for viewing from the comfort of residents' homes or in public libraries.

Last year Brattleboro Community Television (BCTV) awarded BDCC "Community Partner of the Year" for being the most active non-profit using their network to communicate. On the BDCC or BCTV web sites is a terrific "highlights reel" from SeVEDS Selectboard visits that BCTV helped us create to reach a broader audience, given the very low attendance and viewership for town public meetings.

We can always do more to help more people understand and engage with our work, and we will continue to try harder to communicate with more people about the work that we do. We always welcome your questions. Please feel free to contact BDCC Executive Director, Adam Grinold at 257-7731 ext 224.

Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies & Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation
76 Cotton Mill Hill, Brattleboro, Vermont 05301 www.brattleborodevelopment.com 802-257-7731

NOTE: The full report entitled "Brattleboro Economic Update" submitted by BDCC/SeVEDS is included in the Town's Annual Report under the "Other Narratives" section. The full color version is also posted on the Town's website at www.brattleboro.org > Doing Business Here > Economic Development > "Brattleboro Economic Update, November, 2019."

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will adopt the following resolution and submit it to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) as comments to communicate the Towns' ongoing concerns and interests:

"Whereas, the peaking operations of Wilder, Bellows Falls and Vernon dams have been causing daily surface water elevation fluctuations of, on average 2-3 feet every day in the impoundments behind the dams for at least 70 years, resulting in loss of land for landowners in VT and NH and degradation of water quality and habitat of the river for decades;

"Whereas, in the late 1970s, during the last relicensing process, the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) conducted an erosion study on the project area; and FERC issued the last licenses in early 1979 just months before the ACOE completed their study in November of that year; and the ACOE study clearly states that pool level fluctuations are the *second most important causative factor* for erosion in the project areas.

"Whereas, the erosion study completed for the current relicensing by Great River Hydro, the current owner of these three projects did not look at the effect of pool level changes on erosion, instead, focusing only on potential erosion due to velocity along the bank edge that would be typical for a natural river system; and the Connecticut River in the project area does not function as a natural river, instead functioning as a series of lakes, with water flow controlled by the dams.

"Whereas, many towns and landowners up and down the river have used millions of dollars in public and private money to attempt to stabilize and restore their streambanks to protect property and infrastructure over the past 70 years;

"Therefore, be it resolved that the Town of Brattleboro, formally requests that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission require, via license article, the current and any subsequent owners of the Wilder, Bellows Falls and Vernon Dams to modify current dam operations to minimize peaking; provide for ongoing streambank monitoring; develop a shoreline adaptive management plan; and create a mitigation and enhancement fund to support riverbank restoration and/or property owner compensation to reimburse towns and landowners for any and all damages resulting from the deterioration of the riverbank."

**REPORT FROM CONNECTICUT RIVER CONSERVANCY
JANUARY, 2020**

Hello river neighbors,

Towns along the Connecticut River have been losing land since the 40s!

In 2017, many of the Connecticut River towns that are affected by the operation of the Wilder, Bellows Falls, and Vernon dams passed town meeting resolutions that were subsequently submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) as comments regarding concerns about erosion issues along the river bank.

In the first quarter of 2020 we expect Great River Hydro to submit a final revised application for a new license. This year will be our last opportunity to comment on the application before FERC deems it complete.

CRC encourages all adjacent river towns to pass a resolution on Town Meeting Day and submit that resolution as comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to clearly communicate the towns' ongoing concerns and interest in making sure that project operations are changed to minimize erosion of the riverbanks, and that towns and property owners are compensated for loss of land, or needed streambank stabilization work to protect their land and municipal infrastructure.

CRC suggests the following language:

"Whereas, the peaking operations of Wilder, Bellows Falls and Vernon dams have been causing daily surface water elevation fluctuations of, on average 2-3 feet every day in the impoundments behind the dams for at least 70 years, resulting in loss of land for landowners in VT and NH and degradation of water quality and habitat of the river for decades;

"Whereas, in the late 1970s, during the last relicensing process, the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) conducted an erosion study on the project area; and FERC issued the last licenses in early 1979 just months before the ACOE completed their study in November of that year; and the ACOE study clearly states that pool level fluctuations are the *second most important causative factor* for erosion in the project areas.

"Whereas, the erosion study completed for the current relicensing by Great River Hydro, the current owner of these three projects did not look at the effect of pool level changes on erosion, instead, focusing only on potential erosion due to velocity along the bank edge that would be typical for a natural river system; and the Connecticut River in the project area does not function as a natural river, instead functioning as a series of lakes, with water flow controlled by the dams.

"Whereas, many towns and landowners up and down the river have used millions of dollars in public and private money to attempt to stabilize and restore their streambanks to protect property and infrastructure over the past 70 years;

"Therefore, be it resolved that the Town of Brattleboro, formally requests that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission require, via license article, the current and any subsequent owners of the Wilder, Bellows Falls and Vernon Dams to modify current dam operations to minimize peaking; provide for ongoing streambank monitoring; develop a shoreline adaptive management plan; and create a mitigation and enhancement fund to support riverbank restoration and/or property owner compensation to reimburse towns and landowners for any and all damages resulting from the deterioration of the riverbank."

We will only be able to protect our local property owner rights and the health of the river by commenting and making sure that FERC has heard the public's concerns. There is nothing binding in this resolution other than communication to FERC. If we do not affect change to protect the riverbanks in this relicensing process, we will not have another opportunity until 2060!

Please submit the resolution as comments to FERC after Town Meeting, which can be done here: <https://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/eregistration.asp>. Alternately, I am glad to help you do that.

Please try to move this resolution in your town this coming March!

Kathy Urffer

River Steward

Connecticut River Conservancy, formerly *Connecticut River Watershed Council*

PO Box 6219 | Brattleboro, VT 05302 | www.ctriver.org

802-258-0413 | kurffer@ctriver.org