

# Greensboro Community Visit Resource Day, 10/2/19

## Action Plan

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### ✓ Improve Broadband and Cell Service

Community Chair: **John Stone**

Facilitator: **Jenna Koloski**, *Community and Policy Manager, VCRD*

Resource Team Members: **Corey Chase**, *Telecommunications Analyst, VT Dept of Public Service*

**Dave Snedeker**, *Executive Director, Northeastern VT Development Association*

A task force could form to improve cell and broadband service in Greensboro by collecting data on existing coverage, connecting with resources and providers to explore possibilities, and accessing funding and support to improve connection. The group could connect with and learn from other communities that have improved services such as Craftsbury and avail state and federal services and supports to expand coverage for the community.

### Committee Workbook

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1RqVcbxQNZgHrQndagr7KAsyNsd4f5mPoQxLtT6CBMD8/edit?usp=sharing>

### Action Steps:

#### Broadband

1. GET EDUCATED. Task force education and vocabulary lesson: familiarize the task force and community members around what “broadband” and “high speed” mean. Who are the providers in the area? What do they provide? What are the resources and tools out there to support the work? Develop the “lay of the land.”
2. EXPLORE OPTIONS. Discuss and understand the options available to improve connectivity. Alternatives may include working as a town to take the lead on bringing Broadband to the community, joining the Consolidated Union District forming in support of connectivity (approving to join at Town Meeting), or other alternatives to be identified through meetings with providers. Work with resource experts to develop a protocol to determine the best alternative for the town. Based on the alternative chosen, develop a series of next steps to work towards success. Connect with NVDA and DPS for support identifying and implementing next steps. Explore the feasibility of a

local “mesh” network, much like the work going on in Newport, that could improve access to Wifi at least in a critical section of the Village center.

3. ENGAGE COMMUNITY. Conduct a survey to determine the existing perception around connectivity in the community, interest in improvements to both cell and broadband connection, and willingness to pay for improved services.

## Cell

1. GET EDUCATED. Assess and understand current coverage. Is there a provider better for the area? Are there ways to leverage purchasing power to bring better connection to the community? DPS can help connect to area providers.
2. EXPLORE OPTIONS. Identify feasible and allowable locations for cell towers. What does zoning allow? What is needed for providers to locate there? Work with the Planning Commission and NVDA. Michael Birnbaum of Kingdom Fiber may have more information as well. And connect with Peter Gebbie to understand and background around a potential tower on his property and how to proceed.
3. ENGAGE COMMUNITY. Share coverage maps with the community to develop interest and engagement. Survey the public to understand challenges and needs (see broadband survey above).

## Resources

- Dave Snedeker at NVDA is a key partner to support understanding options to proceed, mapping and reviewing zoning restrictions/allowances, and navigating key next steps. Contact Dave at 748-8303 x303 or [dsnedeker@nvda.net](mailto:dsnedeker@nvda.net)
- The Department of Public Service can support community work around broadband with technical assistance and perhaps with funding. Contact Clay Purvis at [clay.purvis@vermont.gov](mailto:clay.purvis@vermont.gov) or [corey.chase@vermont.gov](mailto:corey.chase@vermont.gov).
- Contact the Craftsbury group who worked to bring Broadband to their community to learn what worked. Contact Dave Stoner at [davestoner@gmail.com](mailto:davestoner@gmail.com) or 586-6913.
- Michael Birnbaum of Kingdom Fiber can support the group’s education efforts and can help to understand the pros and cons of different alternatives. Contact him at [mb@kfiber.net](mailto:mb@kfiber.net) or 272-1027.
- USDA Rural Development could be a funding source. Contact Ben Doyle at [benjamin.doyle@vt.usda.gov](mailto:benjamin.doyle@vt.usda.gov) or 828-6042.
- EDA could be a funding source. Learn more here <https://www.eda.gov/funding-opportunities/> or work with Dave Snedeker at NVDA to identify potential funding opportunities.

- EC Fiber is an example of a successful regional collaboration to bring Broadband to the area. Chris Recchia, the Director of EC Fiber, could offer insight into how they achieved success. Contact him at [chris.recchia@valley.net](mailto:chris.recchia@valley.net).
- The Northern Borders Regional Commission could also be a funding source. To learn more contact Tim Tierney at [tim.tierney@vermont.gov](mailto:tim.tierney@vermont.gov) or 505-5496.
- The Newport wireless mesh project could be a model to learn from. Learn more here: <https://newportmesh.org/>

#### IV. Next Meeting Date, Place and Time: October 15<sup>th</sup> 7-8:30pm at Spark Space

#### Task Force Signups

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Judy	Dales	<a href="mailto:judy@judydales.com">judy@judydales.com</a>	533-7733
Heidi Lauren	Duke	<a href="mailto:heidi.lauren.duke@gmail.com">heidi.lauren.duke@gmail.com</a>	322-4456
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Joan	Feffer	<a href="mailto:jkfeffer@aol.com">jkfeffer@aol.com</a>	586-9633
Peter	Gebbie		533-2984
BJ	Gray	<a href="mailto:bjwgray@gmail.com">bjwgray@gmail.com</a>	533-2019
Michael	Hoffman	<a href="mailto:mch@studiox-smp.net">mch@studiox-smp.net</a>	249-9743
Ken	Johnston	<a href="mailto:johnstonkg@myfairpoint.net">johnstonkg@myfairpoint.net</a>	533-7100
Fred	Mann	<a href="mailto:fgmann@gmail.com">fgmann@gmail.com</a>	533-7490; 548-5480
Mary	Metcalf	<a href="mailto:metcalfmary@hotmail.com">metcalfmary@hotmail.com</a> ; <a href="mailto:greensborofree@gmail.com">greensborofree@gmail.com</a>	533-2531
John	Stone	<a href="mailto:jcstone@gmail.com">jcstone@gmail.com</a>	617-686-7305
Dave	Stoner	<a href="mailto:davestoner@gmail.com">davestoner@gmail.com</a>	586-6913
Sam	Young	<a href="mailto:samyoung@thinkorsink.net">samyoung@thinkorsink.net</a>	321-0356

# Greensboro Community Visit Resource Day, 10/2/19

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## ✓ Address Water Quality and Lake Protection

Community Chair: **Joann Hanowski (chair) June Bascom (Deputy Chair)**

Facilitator: **Paul Costello**, *Executive Director*, VCRD

Resource Team Members: **Emily Irwin**, *Land Treatment Planner and Nutrient Management*, Orleans County Natural Resources Conservation District  
**Danielle Owczarski**, *Basin Planner*, VT Department of Environmental Conservation

Many residents believe that Greensboro could become a model community for water and lake quality. To do this, Greensboro residents could form a committee that would focus on education, monitoring, enforcement, and innovation to encourage best practices by property owners and ensure the current and future water quality in Caspian Lake and other bodies of water in town.

### Action Already Happening

- Good work is already happening around Lake Caspian. Stew Arnold and the Greensboro Lake Association do 12 monitorings a year to evaluate water clarity and chlorophyll. Volunteers monitor for invasives at the beach and boats access. Tributary monitoring and monitoring of lake levels is ongoing.
- The Planning commission is working to improve protections in a Lakeshore District Zone that would be within the circumnavigation road.
- Meanwhile, residents are concerned about increased mucky sediments, storm related washes into the lake, increases in algae. The community is fortunate to have a history of positive management and a caring culture, but many worry that short term rentals and B & B users may not understand best practices. There are also concerns around the lack of consistent communications between groups and landowners.

### Action Steps:

1. The Task Force can lead a communications strategy around lake quality issues and to share the work going forward with the larger community.
2. A “Lake Watershed Action Plan” can evaluate all stresses, roads, properties, farms to baseline current conditions and develop remediative action plans for each issue.
3. One of the efforts which can be part of the Action Plan is to flatten phosphorus with shoreline protection and buffer zones through the “Lakewise Program.” Some of this effort will also connect by the leadership efforts made for the new town plan.
4. The Task Force will frame ways it can deepen communications with property owners and renters, with door to door, owner to owner campaigns, and “Septic Socials”—parties with a very down home theme!
5. The Team respects and appreciates the town road crew and plans to meet with the crew to think about their best practices and ideas to manage the roads with minimal water quality impacts.
6. The Team will also reach out to and communicate with farmers and landowners within the watershed to learn and support their best practices for manure management; supports could be encouragements or incentives to encourage these practices.

7. The group also plans to write grants (or work with partners who can write them), lead sessions for mutual education in water quality issues, and name themselves.

## Resources

- The Clean Water Initiative at the Agency of Natural Resources can help lead the Lake Watershed Action Plan process. Danielle Owczarski, *Basin Planner*, VT Department of Environmental Conservation can act as point of contact.
- The Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA) can help lead a Road Inventory (after the team has talked to the road crew), and the Better Roads Program at VTrans could be a good source of grant funding to improve the roads.
- The Orleans Conservation District could also help with a Roadworks Analysis. Emily Irwin could be the first contact for the team.
- The Lakewise Program at the Department of Environmental Conservation could also provide support. Commissioner Emily Boedeker could be a point of contact.
- Watersheds United VT is another resource which has grant information and training.
- NVDA might be able to help with grant writing assistance. Contact David Snedeker.
- The VT Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Program and Lake Champlain Basin Program could also lend advice or technical assistance.
- The Greensboro Association is an incredible resource for people, support and potentially funding for small projects or matches to leverage larger grants when needed.

## Next Meeting Date, Place and Time: TBD

## Task Force Signup

Christine	Armstrong	<a href="mailto:cfa115@comcast.net">cfa115@comcast.net</a>	363-8500
Lise	Armstrong	<a href="mailto:norge2957@gmail.com">norge2957@gmail.com</a>	533-9004
Stew	Arnold	<a href="mailto:stewarnold@hotmail.com">stewarnold@hotmail.com</a>	533-2356
June	Bascom	<a href="mailto:june.bascom@gmail.com">june.bascom@gmail.com</a>	917-2514
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John	Stone	<a href="mailto:jcstone@gmail.com">jcstone@gmail.com</a>	617-686-7305

# Greensboro Community Visit Resource Day, 10/2/19

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## ✓ Improve Community Walkability and Bike-ability

Community Chair: **TBD – Naomi Ranz-Schleifer will organize first meeting**

Facilitator: **Richard Amore**, *Planning and Project Manager*, VT Department of Housing and Community Development

Resource Team Members: **Ollie Burruss**, *Mountain Bike Program and Nordic Race Director*, Craftsbury Outdoor Center

**Jon Kaplan**, *Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager*, VT Agency of Transportation

**Doug Morton**, *Senior Transportation Planner*, NVDA

A task force could form to develop community paths and walkways in Greensboro. The group could identify, plan, and build a network of walking and biking paths throughout the community and build a connecting trail between the Bend and the Village as well as around the Lake and along rivers and brooks in town. The group could also work with the Town to build and improve sidewalks, install bike lanes on key roads, and improve traffic flow and safety to make the Village and Bend more walkable, safe, and inviting for residents and visitors. The task force could also work with regional and state organizations to complete the section of the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail that could bring visitors to the Bend and provide recreation opportunities for local residents.

### Action Steps:

1. Develop a bicycle and pedestrian master plan to identify existing infrastructure, gaps, destinations, and priorities. This planning should be townwide.
2. Develop a parking plan for the Village and the Bend.
3. Strategize for town meeting day to seek funding from the Selectboard to focus on improving walkability and bikeability. Identify outside grant funding as well to support the work and leverage outside investment.
4. Reapply for the Better Connections Grant Program. A proposal in collaboration with East Hardwick failed, but was at the top of the list.
5. Build out and explore new opportunities for off-road non-motorized recreation. Explore class 4 roads for 4-season trails.
6. Review the Localmotion plan and determine areas for implementation. Build a plan to pilot and test ideas through demonstration and popup projects that could calm traffic and improve safety. Work with Localmotion to partner or solicit guidance.
7. Coordinate transportation investments and planning with wastewater and road pavement schedule. Ensure this is considered when developing the bicycle and pedestrian master plan.

### Other Potential Action Steps:

- Map a path around the Lake
- Improve wayfinding with signs and maps
- Evaluate parking lot and crosswalk at Willey's and a handicap parking spot
- Identify private landowners to expand and connect the trail network
- Explore other routes from Willey's to the Lake

- Explore parallel parking on Beach Road
- Explore the “old road” behind Willey’s stores
- Develop bike lanes on roads
- Investigate improvements to the 4-way intersection by the ball field
- Improve winter maintenance to improve walking in the Villages year-round

## Resources

- NVDA could help with technical assistance including grant writing, traffic counts, corridor studies, mapping, etc. Contact Doug Morton at [dmorton@nvda.net](mailto:dmorton@nvda.net) or 748-1224
- NBRC is a potential funding source to learn more contact Tim Tierney at [tim.tierney@vermont.gov](mailto:tim.tierney@vermont.gov) or 505-5496
- VTrans has bike and pedestrian grants. They are smaller scale with a 20% match that could support signage, wayfinding, trail building, etc. Transportation Alternative grants are due in November. Jon Kaplan is the contact there at [jon.kaplan@vermont.gov](mailto:jon.kaplan@vermont.gov) or 828-0059
- Localmotion could be a key resource. They have shared the plan they worked on with Greensboro and the region which Jenna Koloski will share with the group. The contact there is Allegra Williams [allegra@localmotion.org](mailto:allegra@localmotion.org)
- ACCD could support with municipal planning grants or the Better Connections Grant program. Contact Richard Amore at [richard.amore@vermont.gov](mailto:richard.amore@vermont.gov) or 828-5229. The Village Designation Program can provide technical support.
- AARP-VT has done some work around placemaking and streetscape redevelopment. Kelly Stoddard Poor could be a key resource. Contact her at [kstoddardpoor@aarp.org](mailto:kstoddardpoor@aarp.org) or 951-1313.
- Craftsbury Outdoor Center can be a key partner around land owner support, trail design and development, and orienteering maps. Contact Ollie Burruss at [ollie.burruss@craftsbury.com](mailto:ollie.burruss@craftsbury.com).

## Next Meeting Date, Place and Time: TBD

## Task Force Signup

Becky	Arnold	Erika	Karp
Devin	Burgess	Anna	Kehler
Ollie	Burruss	Peggy	Lipscomb
Ellen	Celnik	Bobbie	Nisbet
Lynette	Courtney	Ezra	Ranz-Schleifer
Jim	Fredericks	Naomi	Ranz-Schleifer
Adam	Froehlig	Sara	Slater
Clive	Gray	Wilhelmina	Smith
Hal	Gray	Emily	Stone
Nancy	Hill	Jerilyn	Virden
		Sister Gail	Worcelo

# Greensboro Community Visit Resource Day, 10/2/19

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## ✓ Build Community Wastewater Infrastructure

Community Chair: **Peter Romans (to facilitate kick off meeting until Chair is identified)**

Facilitator: **Ben Doyle**, *Community and Economic Development Specialist*, USDA Rural Development

Resource Team Members: **Rebecca Schrader**, *Community Programs Specialist*, USDA Rural Development  
**Lynnette Whitney Claudon**, *Chief Pollution Control Design Engineer*

Greensboro lacks the wastewater infrastructure needed for new businesses and homes in the village centers, and many residents believe that developing this infrastructure will be essential to a sustainable economic future. A group could come together to develop a plan for a new wastewater treatment system for the villages of Greensboro, potentially including at least part of the lake. The task force could work with regional, state, and federal partners to survey current needs, evaluate what is needed water quality for desired growth in village centers, identify funding sources, and work with the Selectboard to design and implement Greensboro wastewater solutions.

### Action Steps:

1. Engage a community conversation about wastewater. Host meetings in different venues and settings (“septic socials”) and conduct a community wide survey to determine interest and need.
2. Develop examples to illustrate possibilities. Look at what other communities have done. Connect to resources/experts to help understand what is possible.
3. Get a clear picture of the money and resources available and the technical tool box to support the work.
4. Identify funding to conduct a feasibility/preliminary engineering report (PER) to identify the best option for the community and anticipated costs.
5. Now that an option has been identified, go back to step 1 – now engage the community in order to “sell” the option for Greensboro. Walk through the steps to engage the community, connect to experts and resources, and work towards implementation.

### Resources

#### Experts/Technical Support

- Mark Johnson at RCAP Solutions Contact: 802-505-1037 [mjohnson@rcapsolutions.org](mailto:mjohnson@rcapsolutions.org)
- Northeastern Vermont Development Association Contact: Dave Snedeker at [dsnedeker@nvda.org](mailto:dsnedeker@nvda.org) or
- Jon Harries and Eric Law, USDA Rural Development 802-828-6035 or
- Lynnette Claudon at Department of Environmental Conservation. Contact: [Lynnette.claudon@vermont.gov](mailto:Lynnette.claudon@vermont.gov) or 802-490-6226
- Danielle Owczarski, Basin Planner, VT Department of Environmental Conservation [danielle.owczarski@vermont.gov](mailto:danielle.owczarski@vermont.gov)



## Planning Funds

- USDA Rural Development Search Grants. \$30,000 for feasibility/needs assessment
- Agency of Commerce and Community Development Municipal Planning Grant
- Department of Environmental Conservation Planning Advance
- Clean Water State Revolving Fund – Repay ½ at 0%.

## Design and Construction (following completion of the PER/feasibility) Funds

- A bond vote could be a potential source of funds
- USDA RD
- Clean Water State Revolving Fund
- Northern Borders Regional Commission
- Community Development Block Grants
- Philanthropy?

## Partners/Stakeholders

- Greensboro Association
- Willey's Store
- Highland Lodge
- Miller Stone
- School
- Nursing Home
- Library
- Theater
- Preschool at the Bend
- Churches
- Smith's Store
- Other communities that have or are working on developing systems

**Next Meeting Date, Place and Time: October 30<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm at the Town Hall Collier Room**

## Task Force Signups

Stew	Arnold	<a href="mailto:stewarnold@hotmail.com">stewarnold@hotmail.com</a>	533-2356
Emmett	Avery	<a href="mailto:emmettagavery@gmail.com">emmettagavery@gmail.com</a>	
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