

# Vermont Planners Association

## Five Year Strategic Plan

Adopted October 16, 2009

### 1. Education and Training: Citizens, Politicians, and VPA Members

- A. Provide the fall and spring workshops for planners and other related professionals on planning issues; invite local and state legislators to workshops. Suggested workshop topics in the coming years include, but are not limited to:
  - How economic analyses are used in the growth center process;
  - Planning for renewable energy;
  - Legal issues in planning;
  - Biodiversity;
  - Energy efficiency; and
  - Economic development for small communities with fewer than 3,000 residents.
- B. Explore ways to make AICP training available to interested Vermonter planners, by (1) encouraging NNECAPA to organize workshops for northern New England planners, (2) providing AICP credit-eligible workshops and information about training available in other states, (3) keeping exam preparation materials available for loan, and (4) work to promote AICP members with significant contributions to planning in Vermont to the status of AICP Fellow.
- C. Explore other training ideas that might be developed later on, possibly including: ways to use the VPA web site for professional development, the increased provision of American Planning Association Webinars and other means of training.
- D. When opportunities arise, organize or co-sponsor with other organizations training or networking opportunities around the State; consider seasonal/quarterly and regional sessions.
- E. As a member of the Education and Training Collaborative, continue to provide education and training for citizen planners and zoning administrators.

### 2. Promotion of good planning in Vermont through policy influence.

- A. Recognize excellence in planners and planning through the Annual Awards Program.
- B. Work with the state legislature to promote good planning in Vermont at all levels.

- strive to achieve better coordination in planning statewide;
  - identify legislative issues important for planning and take positions that are objective and balanced;
  - identify emerging issues and decide which ones are covered, which ones VPA needs to promote and which ones VPA should work on with others.
- C. Continue to represent the VPA on regional and statewide advisory and review boards, including the expanded Vermont Downtown Development Board, the Planning Coordination Group, the Education and Training Collaborative and legislative committees as appropriate.
- Bylaws shall be amended to provide that VPA representatives to the above-listed committees and organizations, and alternate representatives on the expanded Vermont Downtown Development Board and the Planning Coordination Group, are nominated by the nominating committee and elected by the membership at the Annual Meeting.;
  - The Executive Committee structure shall change so that the expanded Vermont Downtown Development Board Liaison will no longer be a permanent member of the Executive Committee, allowing for the addition of one at-large Director, increasing the total number to six at-large Directors;
  - VPA representatives on all committees, including the expanded Vermont Downtown Development Board and Planning Coordination Group Liaisons, shall report to the Executive Committee at least quarterly; and
  - The Executive Committee may make interim appointments to study and other committees until the membership elects a representative to a committee, board or study committee.

### **3. Communication, Coordination and Collaboration**

- A. The Communications Committee shall oversee and enhance communications within the organization and encourage more involvement of the members. The Communications Committee shall oversee the operations of the web site, assist in legislative tracking, and monitor the listserve to encourage members to share ideas and debate issues. The Secretary is responsible for distributing a “quick hits” summary of the monthly Executive Committee meetings, as well as the minutes of Executive Committee meetings. The Communications Committee may conduct regular on-line polls or mailings to give the Executive Committee better direction and make it more accountable to full membership.
- B. Continue to provide regional opportunities for small group interaction/problem solving/idea sharing/socializing for VPA members throughout the state.
- C. Promote coordination with the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies (VAPDA) and the Vermont Council on Rural Development on key policy issues.
- D. Work with other appropriate agencies/organizations, particularly the Land Use Education and Training Collaborative, the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies (VAPDA), the Vermont Society of Landscape Architects (VSLA), the Vermont Council on Rural Development, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, the Vermont Natural Resources Council, the Vermont Law School Land Use Institute, Smart Growth

Vermont and other organizations to promote and improve planning throughout Vermont as the opportunity arises.

- E. Put colleges and other educational institutions on our mailing list managed by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns for events; foster internships, by providing an internship clearinghouse; provide scholarships to students for VPA conferences and workshops.
- F. Develop and maintain a member directory.
- G. Provide a year-end summary report of legislative activities to send to membership and legislators. The President will report to membership at the VPA's annual meeting on the status or activities of the organization.

#### **4. Organization, Capacity Building and Expansion**

- A. Assess the membership dues structure to potentially include new categories and upon registration ask members about their specific areas of interest to encourage greater participation.
- B. Assess VPA membership benefits and look for opportunities for service expansion, possibly to include citizen planners.
- C. Obtain grants and/or funding of special projects, if necessary, to fulfill the strategic plan tasks.