



Happy New Year and welcome to our January E-newsletter! We have exciting changes to announce this month with our new Interim Executive Director, as well as a spotlight on Wallingford, what to watch for under the dome in Montpelier, and our great progress toward meeting our Membership Challenge.

Got ideas for our e-newsletter? [Let us know](#). Support this publication and help us meet our membership challenge. **Become a sustaining member.**

Looking for a new way to promote your business? Sponsor this e-newsletter and see your logo here! [Learn more.](#)

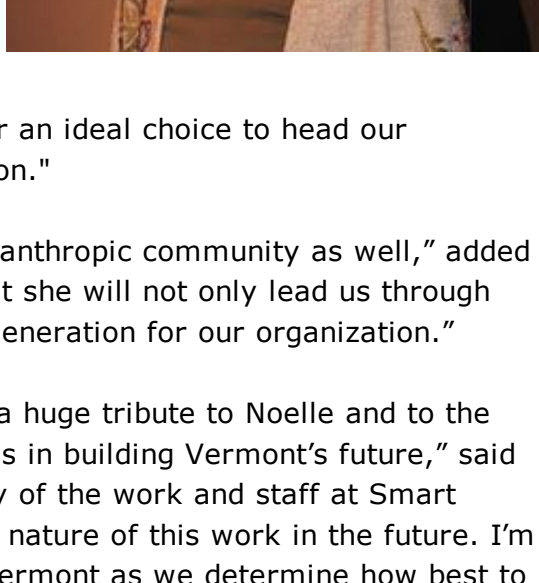
QUICK LINKS

- [Visit Our Site](#)
- [Learn About Smart Growth](#)
- [How We Can Help](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [Follow us on Twitter](#)
- [Follow us on Facebook](#)

[DONATE NOW](#)

Faith Brown Named Interim Executive Director

The Smart Growth Vermont Board of Directors has named Faith Brown of Underhill, Vermont, as Interim Executive Director. Noelle MacKay, who held the position for five years, accepted the post of Commissioner of Economic, Development and Community Affairs in the Shumlin administration.



"I'm delighted that Faith has agreed to be our interim Director," said Board Chair Robin Scheu. "Her background as chief financial officer and interim CEO at Vermont Community Foundation makes her an ideal choice to head our organization through this period of transition."

"Faith is highly respected in Vermont's philanthropic community as well," added Founder John Ewing. "We are confident that she will not only lead us through our transition but help us define the next generation for our organization."

"Noelle's appointment as commissioner is a huge tribute to Noelle and to the need to incorporate smart growth principles in building Vermont's future," said Faith. "It not only acknowledges the quality of the work and staff at Smart Growth Vermont, but speaks to the critical nature of this work in the future. I'm honored to lend a hand at Smart Growth Vermont as we determine how best to approach this new era in Vermont."

In her ten year tenure as the Vermont Community Foundation's Vice President for Finance and Operations, she redesigned the investment strategy at the Foundation, reorganized staff in response to a three-fold increase in the endowment, and supported the board transition to the policy governance model. She also served as Director of Planning and Program Evaluation for the Visiting Nurse Association of Chittenden and Grand Isle Counties.

Help Put Us Over the Top

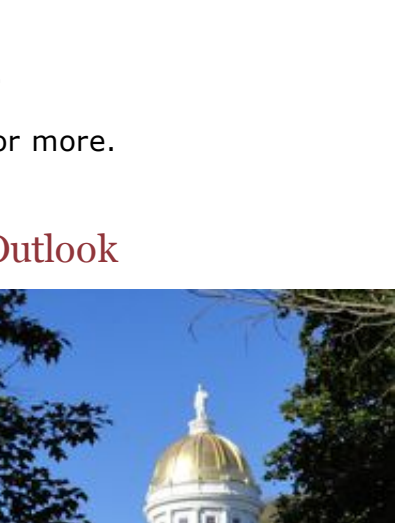
Thanks to many increased and new gifts during the holiday season, we're close to meeting our Membership Challenge well ahead of our absolute deadline of March 31, the end of our fiscal year. So far, we've raised over \$14,000! Please join our new and returning members with your investment in our work today. We'll put each dollar right to work at the community and state level ensuring that land use decisions help create a strong Vermont. Invest now!



Photo credit Paul Moody

Fall/Winter Newsletter in Your In-box

We've mailed our [Fall/Winter](#) newsletter to our current donors. This issue includes photos from our Art Gibb event in September as well as information about our community work, additions to our Toolbox and a guest view about growing your own energy! To make sure you don't miss out on this resource, we're including a link to the PDF version on our website for our e-news subscribers.



If you get the newsletter in the mail and prefer the online version, [let us know](#). This helps us put more of your membership investment directly to work in the community. Really like the look and feel of newsletters in print? [Become a member!](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

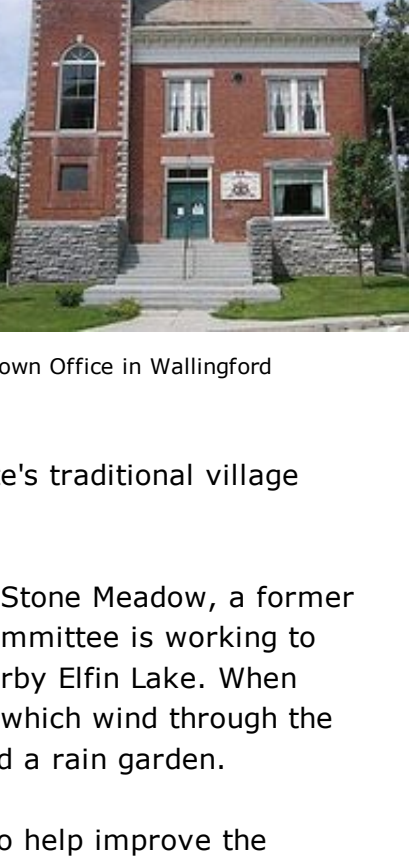
Transition Town Vermont, 350.org and the Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network present, "Vermont Climate Action Day," Thursday, February 3, in Montpelier. This all day event, starting at 9:30 am, will include a rally with special guest speakers, a climate community strategy session, and musical entertainment.

For more information, visit, www.vtclimateday.org.

Also, be sure to check out our [calendar of events](#) for more.

Smart Growth in Action: 2011 Legislative Outlook

Tough budgetary times and a new administration will make this an interesting year. Here are a few of the issues we will be following along with our legislative partner, Preservation Trust of Vermont:



- Economic stimulus through an improved designated downtowns and village centers redevelopment tax credit program. There is a waiting list for tax credits for projects that are ready for renovations. These restoration projects utilize more labor than new development by creating local jobs.
- Updates to the Vermont Neighborhood Program to include an option for developers to apply for designation for a project that meets the density, design and locational requirements.
- Monitoring any changes to funding for the Housing and Conservation Board.
- Eliminating strip development along our roadways via Act 250 updates.
- Complete Streets legislation to encourage communities to plan for pedestrians and other modes of transportation as well as cars.

Watch your inbox for periodic legislative alerts, and visit the [State Policy](#) section on our website.

Community Spotlight: Wallingford

Nestled in the Otter Creek Valley on Route 7 is the Town of Wallingford. It was founded in 1761, when Governor Wentworth of New Hampshire granted a charter to Captain Eliakim Hall and other settlers for a six square mile tract of land. This size area was chosen because a person could travel anywhere within it between morning and evening chores to get to church, the market, or a town meeting.



Town Office in Wallingford

Wallingford has three village centers: Wallingford Village, South Wallingford, and East Wallingford. All three have been designated as such by the State of Vermont, in a program which uses tax credits and other means to spur the revitalization of the state's traditional village centers.

Within walking distance of Wallingford Village is Stone Meadow, a former gravel pit which the Wallingford Conservation Committee is working to develop as a gateway to the public beach on nearby Elfin Lake. When complete, Stone Meadow will have birding trails which wind through the woods, informational kiosks to identify trees, and a rain garden.

In 2009 the town formed an Energy Committee to help improve the efficiency of the town. Members of the committee are working with the Rutland Regional Planning Commission to take an inventory of the energy usage of public buildings, and others are working with the Prudential Committee and the non-profit Efficiency Vermont to replace the town's 104 streetlights with LED's, which could save up to 75% in energy costs. The Energy Committee's other main goal is to add a section to the town plan on Energy.

Since Wallingford's beginnings, both the village center and the surrounding countryside have been carefully protected and developed. With so many strong programs in place, these traditional values look to continue.

VERMONT NEWS

Wind Project Proposed on Vermont Forest Land

Deerfield Wind, LLC, a Portland, Oregon Company, has proposed to install up to thirty wind turbines on National Forest land near Readsboro, VT. The Forest Service is in the process of reviewing the proposal, which, if approved would produce enough electricity to power 14,000 to 16,000 homes. [Read more.](#)

Newport City Becomes First in Vermont to Adopt Form-Based Code

In just eight months, thanks to a dedicated partnership between city officials and community organizations, Newport City has formally adopted Form-based code into their zoning bylaws. "Form-based code is a three-pronged approach to zoning," stated Paul Dreher, Newport City Zoning Administrator. "It benefits the city with increased tax base, business benefits from expedited predictable permitting and it benefits the community with better public realm."



NATIONAL NEWS

Walkable Neighborhoods Increase Quality of Life

According to a new report from the University of New Hampshire, people who live in walkable neighborhoods enjoy a high quality of life through improved health, socialization and economic conditions. The report, "Examining Walkability and Social Capital as Indicators of Quality of Life at the Municipal and Neighborhood Scales," is published in the latest issue of the Journal of Applied Research in Quality of Life. [Read more.](#)



Improve your Neighborhood with Seven Easy Steps

If you haven't set a New Year's resolution, consider making improvements in your neighborhood. Grist Magazine offers readers seven easy ways to make your neighborhood a better place to live. [Learn how!](#)