

TO: Richmond Selectboard

FROM: Ravi Venkataraman, Town Planner

DATE: January 14, 2022

SUBJECT: Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC) Small Grants for Smart Growth

The Small Grants for Smart Growth program from VNRC supports land use planning projects that would foster smart growth development. This year, the program is offering one grant of up to \$5,000 for projects involving affordable housing, sustainable transportation or climate resilience. The grant application for this particular award is due January 17, 2022. No match is required for this grant.

I would like to pursue this grant to assist the Planning Commission in its rezoning work for the Gateway District. Alongside the extension of water and sewer lines, the Planning Commission has started its work plan to rezone the Gateway Zoning District to possibly accommodate further development. The commission is primarily undertaking this work in order for the project to be in compliance with Act 250. The Planning Commission has not developed any draft zoning bylaws or ideas as of yet. However, the commission is focused on the feasibility of developing affordable housing and market-rate housing in the district.

This grant would help fund the development of visualizations for the Gateway Zoning District. These visualizations on how the Gateway Zoning District could look at full buildout would help the commission and the public come to consensus on particular facets in the zoning regulations for the Gateway Zoning District, such as building form requirements, setbacks, and landscaping and screening requirements.

To facilitate action, I have prepared the following draft motion:

I, _____, move to approve pursuing a \$5,000 VNRC Small Grants for Smart Growth to support creating buildout visualizations for the Gateway Zoning District, and appoint Town Planner Ravi Venkataraman as the grant manager.