

Planning Review Newsletter



year one recap

In the fall of 2010, the Town of Bridgewater embarked on an ambitious two and a half year process called the Planning Review. The Planning Review gives the Town the opportunity to review and update our planning documents, which outline policies and regulations that guide local land use planning and community design. Once the Review is finished, the Town will have a new strategic vision to help shape Bridgewater for years to come!



In the last year, our team has successfully completed the first three stages of the Review on schedule, and we have achieved several major milestones along the way:

Advisory Committee: In October 2010, Town Council approved the creation of the Planning Review Advisory Committee (PRAC), which helps steer all phases of the Planning Review.

Community Inventory Report: The Planning Department conducted a significant amount of research to form an understanding of current conditions and emerging issues in the community. These findings were published in a detailed Community Inventory Report, which outlines important topics and issues that we must consider during the process.

Planning Principles: Town Council approved Smart Growth Principles to ensure that the Planning Review remains focused, and in line with best practices in the planning field.

Vision & Objectives Statements: The vision statement describe a desired future for the town, while 15 objectives articulate how the vision will be achieved in the new planning documents.



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stage 4 overview

In July 2011, the Planning Review entered *Stage 4: The Policy & Regulation Review*. Over the next 15 months, planning staff will analyze the content of the current planning documents. They will also examine topics that are presently missing from the documents, before exploring potential changes with the PRAC. After considering all of the information collected from the PRAC, previous stages of the Review, public consultation and research, planning staff will then create content for the new municipal planning documents.



The PRAC's primary goal at this time is to suggest ways that we can successfully achieve our 15 objective statements. Each PRAC meeting during Stage 4 is dedicated to the exploration of a specific objective. Planning staff provides the committee with a reading in advance of the meeting to stimulate discussion on the Town's relevant policies and potential ways to better implement the desired objective. Committee feedback is recorded so it can be considered during the development of new policies and regulations. The PRAC meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00am in the Council Chambers at Town Hall. The public is welcome to attend!

To date, the PRAC has discussed *Objective #13: Environment* and *Objective #11: Parks & Open Spaces*. Once the PRAC progresses further into Stage 4, and the Planning Department develops ideas into draft policy content, the public will be invited to provide additional feedback on the work. The consultation schedule has yet to be finalized, but there will be opportunities to participate in public events and/or surveys.



For updates on Stage 4 and future public consultation opportunities, please visit our website:

www.bridgewater.ca/planningreview

If you have specific questions about the Review, contact Jesse Morton at jmorton@bridgewater.ca or 541-4386