

Mission Statement

The Bellows Falls Downtown Development Alliance (BFDDA) is a non-profit organization formed in November 1999 with a mission “to promote and support revitalization efforts and economic development in the Bellows Falls Downtown Development District, to coordinate with other community groups and Town and Village governing bodies in regard to ongoing development efforts, and to aid and assist other efforts to that end.”

This Work Plan is an update and expansion of the first Plan created in 1999, and forms the basis for the organization’s priorities and activities. The Plan incorporates both long-term goals and the specific and sometimes small steps required to achieve those goals. The Plan also lists Capital Improvement Projects, which are targeted, large-scale investments vital to our community’s overall revitalization effort.

BFDDA activities are carried out by four committees, emulating the National Main Street Center’s “four-point approach” to downtown revitalization. The committees report to a board of nine directors who guide the organization in the fulfillment of its objectives.

The BFDDA was formed to help achieve Bellows Falls’ status as a “designated downtown” under the Vermont Downtown Program within the Agency of Commerce. That status means the municipality and property owners in the Downtown Development District are eligible for certain State grants and tax credits, and that the BFDDA may obtain information and technical services from the Vermont Downtown Program. On a statewide level, the BFDDA participates in the Vermont Downtown Network, which is made up of staff and board members of several dozen similar organizations.

On a local level, the BFDDA collaborates with the Town of Rockingham, The Village of Bellows Falls, and other non-profit organizations such as the Great Falls Regional Chamber of Commerce. For example, the BFDDA partners with all those entities to support the new Bellows Falls Waypoint Center, part of the Connecticut River Byway. In bricks-and-mortar projects, the BFDDA has helped to attract more than \$150,000 in grants, and was instrumental in the complete rehabilitation of the historic Howard Block, restoring valuable commercial and residential space to the downtown. To support downtown merchants, the BFDDA has conducted promotional events, offered special shopping carts, and published a guide to the downtown and a newsletter, “The Alliance.”

In all this – and through the projects and activities outlined in this Plan – the BFDDA seeks to make downtown Bellows Falls a better place to live, visit, work, shop, do business, and find information and entertainment. Downtown Bellows Falls is the commercial, civic, cultural, and social heart of the Town of Rockingham. It is the core of our community’s identity; and it is the reason for the existence of our organization.

We invite you to join us in these efforts, and to help us carry out our mission on behalf of this wonderful community.