

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Town of Westfield Receives State Village Center Designation to Spark Revitalization Efforts

September 23, 2019/Town of Westfield –The Vermont Downtown Development Board has awarded village center designation to the Town of Westfield. This designation recognizes Westfield’s commitment to build a strong and healthy village center, and creates a new partnership with the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to support the community’s ongoing revitalization efforts.

“The Board is impressed with the Town of Westfield’s dedication to economic revitalization and we look forward to collaborating with the community to make this important commercial and civic center a more active and vibrant place,” said Richard Amore, Village Center Designation Program Manager with the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). “The designation program is a useful tool for communities, and helps pave the way for public and private investments that result in job creation, business development, and public improvements.”

To become a state designated village center, the Town of Westfield worked with staff from DHCD to identify the community’s historic commercial and civic center. “We received great support from the Northeastern Vermont Development Association Regional Planning Commission throughout this process, and the state made the application process clear and straightforward,” said Yves Daigle, Chair of the Westfield Selectboard. “Property owners and businesses located in the village center can now access resources available through village center designation.”

Designated communities receive priority consideration for state grants and access to technical assistance through the Department of Housing and Community Development. In addition, qualified commercial building owners and leaseholders within the designated village center are eligible for state tax credits to support exterior and interior building improvements. Over 200 downtowns and villages are designated across Vermont. To learn more about the program and its benefits, contact Richard Amore, (802) 828-5229 or visit <http://accd.vermont.gov/community-development/designation-programs/village-centers>

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