

**Westfield Public Hearing
Agenda
Tuesday, October 22, 2024 6pm
Westfield Community Center, 59 North Hill Rd., Westfield, VT**

Pursuant to Title 24 VSA §4464 there is a Public Hearing before the Town of Westfield Development Review Board (DRB) Tuesday, October 22, 2024 at 6:00 pm at the Westfield Community Center to consider 2 items:

1

∞Application 2024-17 submitted by The Town of Westfield to construct a 4'X6' lighted informational sign on a 40" pedestal at 757 VT Route 100. The property is in the Village district. The construction of a community owned facility is subject to Site Plan Review and requires a hearing by the Development Review Board.

2

To discuss with the Zoning Administrator how to prepare for future applications for access by right-of-way along legal trails. No binding decision will be made as part of this discussion.

The application is available for inspection at the Westfield Town Offices, 38 School Street, or online at www.westfield.vt.gov. For more information contact the Zoning Administrator at westfieldzoning@gmail.com or (802) 715-3077.

Participation in this Hearing is a prerequisite for the right to file an appeal.

Hearing process:

- A. Welcome participants
- B. Define admissible evidence/germane comments.
- C. Disclosure of conflicts of interest and ex parte communications.
- D. Review the definition of interested persons in 24 V.S.A. § 4465(b).
- E. Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. § 4471(a), only an interested person who has participated in this proceeding may take an appeal of any decision issued in this proceeding.
- F. Interested persons identify themselves, demonstrate why they qualify for interested person status, and provide contact information.
- G. The board may grant or deny interested person status, subject to the definitions established by 24 V.S.A. § 4465(b). The board may hold a short deliberative session to

consider interested person status, and shall issue its decision immediately upon returning to open session.

- H. Direct the applicant or his/her representative and all interested persons to take the following oath: *I hereby swear that the evidence I give in the cause under consideration shall be the whole truth and nothing but the truth under the pains and penalties of perjury).*
- I. Accept written information presented to the board.
- J. Applicant or applicant's representative presents the application or proposal.
- K. Board members ask questions of the applicant or applicant's representative.
- L. Interested persons present information regarding the application or proposal.
- M. Applicant, applicant's representative, or interested persons may respond to information presented.
- N. Additional questions or comments from members of the board.
- O. The Chair shall allow members of the public who were denied interested person status and other members of the public to make comments or ask questions regarding the application or proposal. Such comments shall be limited to [three minutes] per person, unless by majority vote the board sets a different time limit.
- P. Allow final comments or questions from the applicant or applicant's representative.
- Q. Upon motion and majority approval, the Chair shall either adjourn the hearing to a time certain, or close the proceedings by stating that this is the final public hearing on the matter.
- R. Upon final adjournment, the board shall be deemed to be in deliberative session until a written decision is issued.

NOTE:

The following are **not** under DRB review:

- Highway Permit
- Act 250 Permit
- Wastewater Permit
- Water Supply
- Fire Marshall inspection

We can provide contact information for person/agency with applicable jurisdiction. There is a sign up sheet for contact information requests.

About DRB Hearings: The purpose of a warned Hearing is to collect evidence. It is not an informational meeting. It is not a Town Meeting.

There is a public right to a “reasonable opportunity” to comment and express “opinion” on any matter under consideration at an open meeting, **“as long as order is maintained”** and “subject to reasonable rules established by the chairperson.” 1 V.S.A. § 312(h).

How we maintain order:

- Wait to be recognized before speaking
- State your name
- Address your comment or suggestion to the DRB not the permit applicant
- Adhere to established speaking times
- No comments about permits not under DRB jurisdiction
- No side conversations
- Suggestions for permit conditions are welcome
- The Chair will stop the speaker if they raise issues not under DRB jurisdiction
- Failure to abide by these procedure guidelines may result in removal from the Hearing.

