



To the voters of Lyndon:

Since 1950 the Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA) has been the region's advocate for stronger communities and vibrant local economies. As the only combined regional planning commission and economic development corporation, we serve the largest geographic region in the state.

Each year, we request an appropriation from every member community. These appropriations are vital to us, because they help cover the costs of directly assisting the 50 municipalities in our region:

- Land use planning at the local and regional levels – including town plans, zoning bylaws, and on-call technical assistance for local officials;
- Transportation studies and project planning;
- Digital mapping and GIS data services;
- Grant writing and administrative support for community and regional projects;

NVDA is increasing its municipal appropriation for the first time since 2005. We've seen our service offering expand greatly since then, partly due to increased statutory demands on municipalities, but also in response to new opportunities for economic expansion. New services include:

- Emergency planning – including Local Emergency Operations Plans and All-Hazard Mitigation Plans; and assistance with flood hazard planning and regulation;
- Reporting activities for the region's USDA Rural Economic Area Partnership (REAP) Zone – enabling millions of dollars to come into the region;
- The regional Foreign Trade Zone designation to improve the competitiveness of companies in our region;
- Municipal education and training services for local officials.

How have we served Lyndon? In 2014, our staff:

- Assisted Lyndon to apply for and receive Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds and updated the Local Emergency Operations Plan
- Provided assistance with the Town Plan update and adoption, drafting a Flood Resilience element under the 604b grant.
- Facilitated Level Two Rivers and Roads Training for Road Foreman and conducted the NEK Transportation Infrastructure Study.
- Provided business outreach and assistance.
- Provided brownfields technical assistance for Joint Garage siting.

Municipal appropriations are based on a per capita amount, with a cap set at \$3,500. Since 2005, that amount was \$0.42, with a minimum of \$100. Our new rate of \$0.75 with a minimum of \$500 is still the lowest of all the other 10 regional planning commissions in the state, which range from \$0.96 to \$1.78 per person. We're the only regional entity that does "double-duty" as an economic development corporation, so this low rate is certainly a testament to our cost efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

As always, thank you for your community's support. We look forward to serving you in the coming year.

Sincerely,
David Snedeker
Executive Director