

To the Voters of Lyndon:

Since 1950, the Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA) has been the regional advocate for stronger communities and vibrant local economies. We are the only combined regional planning and economic development organization in Vermont, and we serve the largest geographic region of the state – the beautiful Northeast Kingdom.

Each year we request dues from our member communities. These funds are vital to us as they help defray the costs of providing direct assistance to the 55 municipalities and scores of businesses in our region in areas such as:

- Land use planning at the local and regional level – including town plans, zoning bylaws, and on-call technical assistance for local officials;
- Transportation studies, infrastructure inventories, and project planning;
- Digital mapping and GIS data services;
- Grant writing and administration;
- Direct business support and referral services to the employers and entrepreneurs in our region.

As local governance becomes increasingly complex, we've expanded our service offerings over recent years to include:

- Emergency planning –Local Emergency Operations Plans, All-Hazard Mitigation Plans; and flood hazard planning;
- Economic development planning and business assistance to grow and retain businesses in our communities;
- Leadership in our region's USDA Rural Economic Area Partnership Zone, and the Northern VT Economic Development District (EDA) – important for steering funding to our communities;
- A federal Foreign Trade Zone program to improve the competitiveness of our region;
- Municipal education and training opportunities in land use & natural resources, transportation, emergency management, and economic development.

How is this relevant to the Town of Lyndon? In 2016, NVDA staff provided technical assistance to the Zoning Administrator and Planning Commission with regard to the zoning map and flood prone areas. Our transportation planner provided assistance on the Bike and Pedestrian Safety Plan, and we helped the Town secure FEMA approval of a multi-jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. NVDA also met with and assisted businesses in your community.

NVDA's municipal dues are based on \$0.75 per capita rate, with a maximum of \$3,500 and a minimum of \$500. We remain the most affordable of all regional commissions in Vermont and we take great pride in providing cost-effective professional services to the communities and businesses of the Northeast Kingdom.

At our annual meeting the Town of Lyndon was "confirmed" as a planning community by the NVDA board, which allows your community to benefit from a number of planning initiatives. We look forward to pursuing opportunities with you in the coming year.

Sincerely,  
David Snedeker  
Executive Director