

State of Vermont
Department of Housing and Community Development
Deane C. Davis Building – 6th Floor
One National Life Drive
Montpelier, VT 05620-0501

Agency of Commerce and
Community Development

[phone] 802-828-3211

January 27, 2025

[Tracy Delphia](#), Selectboard Chair
Town of Essex
81 Main Street
Essex Jct, VT 05452

RE: **Village Center Designation for Essex Village Center**

Dear Tracy Delphia,

Congratulations! I am pleased to inform you that at its meeting on January 27, 2025, the Community Investment Board found that the Essex Village Center application met the statutory requirements ([24 VSA Chapter 76A](#)) and designated the village center to receive state [benefits](#). With the recent passage of Act 181 in the 2024 legislative session, village center designations no longer require renewals, and the designation remains perpetually.

Our team will check in with the municipality periodically to offer support and share updated information, tools, and resources related to the designation, and to ensure our local contact information is up-to-date.

Please find below a few useful links to support your village revitalization efforts:

- [Downtown and Village Center Funding Directory](#) – A comprehensive list of state, federal and nonprofit funding sources.
- [Strong Communities Newsletter](#) – A newsletter from the Department of Housing and Community Development with news on new programs and grant opportunities. [Subscribe here.](#)
- [Vermont Planning Atlas](#) – An easy-to-use tool that provides access to commonly requested data, the status of local planning and regulations, designation boundaries, and more.
- [Vermont Planning Manual](#) – The Planning Manual offers up-to-date guidance on preparing municipal plans, as well as an overview of the state designation programs, and their benefits.
- [Neighborhood Development Area Designation](#) – An add-on housing designation program that helps reduce the time and cost of state permitting in areas within a ¼ mile walking distance of a designated village center.

Please do not hesitate to call or email me if you have questions or need assistance.

Sincerely,

Alexander R. Farrell

[Alex Farrell](#), Vermont Community Investment Board Chair
Commissioner of the Department of Housing and Community Development



cc: [Katherine Sonnick](#), Community Development Director
[Nanette Rogers](#), Town Clerk/ Treasurer/ Tax Collector
manager@essex.org
[Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission](#)

Enclosures: Summary of the benefits for designated villages
Board-approved designated village center boundary map