

## **“Planning Board Warrant Article Could Be Catalyst for More than \$2.1 Million Income to Windham Annually”**

Submitted by Windham Economic Development Committee

The Market Square Overlay District concept was conceived by the Windham Economic Development Committee (WEDC). For more than a year, the WEDC has worked in collaboration with Windham’s Planning Board and members of the public to draft the ordinance that the Planning Board will present to Windham voters as a Warrant Article at the March Town Meeting.

The Warrant Article proposes that an overlay district be created with regulations aimed at promoting multi-use development, including housing, retail, office, restaurant, open space and public amenities, all while controlling the aesthetic appeal of the development. The location of the overlay district is comprised of a 167 acre area, adjacent and just west of I93 and north of the new Rt 111 by Wall Street. The language for the proposed district, as well as a map of the proposed district, can be found on the Town web site <http://www.windhamnewhampshire.com/content/2016-town-meeting-proposed-zoning-amendments>

The vision is for a walkable downtown lifestyle center which meets numerous Windham Master Plan goals set out as far back as 2005. This development could contribute more than \$1.5m in net dollars to Windham’s tax base after expenses (cost of community services) are subtracted. Information on the “Cost of Community Services Study” can be found on the Town web site at <http://www.windhamnewhampshire.com/content/cost-community-services-study>

The mission of the Windham Economic Development Committee (WEDC) is to enhance the vitality of the local economy by supporting existing business and attracting new businesses to Windham, encouraging economic development consistent with the Windham Master Plan, and promoting the spirit of the Town Motto: Old Values, New Horizons. For more information on the WEDC, visit [www.windhamnewhampshire.com/committees/economic-development-committee](http://www.windhamnewhampshire.com/committees/economic-development-committee)