

MILTON -- The Milton Planning Commission will host a public workshop on the future of the downtown at **6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 5** in the Community Room at the town offices.

The Planning Commission will present some initial concepts for re-zoning the downtown business district to foster development of an identifiable and walkable center. Following the presentation, the workshop will open to discussion so residents and business owners can help refine what rules will govern future development in Milton's downtown.

"We hope the public will take advantage of this opportunity to shape the vision for a vital downtown," Planning Commission Chair Lori Donna said.

She said new zoning is needed to ensure that new development provides building, site, and neighborhood amenities that are built to last and that will attract job-creating businesses and high-quality housing.

The Town of Milton adopted interim zoning last year in order to provide the Planning Commission time to propose zoning to implement the town's goal and objectives. This effort is part of the town's overall effort to create a new image for Milton, which starts with development of a downtown that creates a sense of place and community.

Planning Commission member, Tony Micklus, said "We have heard from many residents that they want Milton to have a real downtown with inviting streetscapes and storefronts where people can walk and gather. If we want to make that happen, we need to update the zoning regulations."

The standards for new development in the downtown business district will also address traffic flow and access management, sidewalks and walkways, streetscaping and landscaping, and the form and placement of buildings.

Planning Director, Jacob Hemmerick, said "The Planning Commission is taking a holistic look at the town's permitting and approval process. The goal is to increase the clarity of the regulations, and to make the development review and approval process more predictable and consistent. The Town of Milton has available infrastructure and wants to attract quality development. This re-zoning project is key to many of the town's economic and community development goals."