



Abby Bourgeois <abby@stoweibrancy.org>

SV Quick LOT Poll - Please respond ASAP!

Lisa Hagerty <lisahagerty@me.com>

Mon, Apr 20, 2026 at 12:09 PM

To: Charles Safford <csafford@stowevt.gov>

Cc: Abby Bourgeois <abby@stoweibrancy.org>, Sophie Brechu-West <Sophie@571projects.com>, "service@ajssportinggoods.com" <service@ajssportinggoods.com>, Heidi Scheuermann <heidi@heidischeuermann.com>, Dana Davison <dana@alpinevt.com>, Lou Grove <lou.grove@avocadopit.com>, "Russ@barrlaw.com" <Russ@barrlaw.com>, Jennifer Hale <jcjhale@gmail.com>, "blackcapcoffeevt@gmail.com" <blackcapcoffeevt@gmail.com>, "salonsalon@stowe.nu" <salonsalon@stowe.nu>, "studio@brennabinteriors.com" <studio@brennabinteriors.com>, "info@stoweattorneys.com" <info@stoweattorneys.com>, Beatrice Lintner <beatrice@bryangallery.org>, Butler House Stowe <butlerhousestowe@gmail.com>, Neil Handwerger <cafeonmainstowe@gmail.com>, "altoarchitecture@office.com" <altoarchitecture@office.com>, "info@stowevertmontrealestate.com" <info@stowevertmontrealestate.com>, Danielle Nichols <danielle@corkvt.com>, Cristina Mink <csomvt@gmail.com>, Rachel Moore <rachel@thecurrentnow.org>, "inquiry@cushmandesign.com" <inquiry@cushmandesign.com>, "robyn@waterburystowelaw.com" <robyn@waterburystowelaw.com>, "hello@dayhaus.com" <hello@dayhaus.com>, Eric Warnstedt <eric@henofthewood.com>, "Erika@eldarchitecture.com" <Erika@eldarchitecture.com>, Kendra Knapik <info@eevwine.com>, "jessica@realestatevt.com" <jessica@realestatevt.com>, Lisa Mara Bry <lisa@farmhome.co>, Stephanie Ferro <stephanie@ferrojewelers.com>, "grand@grandslamtennistours.com" <grand@grandslamtennistours.com>, Patti Clark <patti@gminn.com>, "hlevine@hanoverfg.com" <hlevine@hanoverfg.com>, "akneale@pshift.com" <akneale@pshift.com>, "info@hobbleinn.com" <info@hobbleinn.com>, "incompany@stowevt.net" <incompany@stowevt.net>, Meghan Fitzpatrick <mfitzpatrick@lakechamplainchocolates.com>, "lowerbarstowe@gmail.com" <lowerbarstowe@gmail.com>, "Mike@nobullproject.com" <Mike@nobullproject.com>, Meghan Okolita <meg.northwoodgallery@gmail.com>, "info@olsonplc.net" <info@olsonplc.net>, "nancyteed@comcast.net" <nancyteed@comcast.net>, "pall.spera@paulspera.com" <pall.spera@paulspera.com>, Jennifer Martin <martinjennifer700@gmail.com>, "rajarestaurantstowe@gmail.com" <rajarestaurantstowe@gmail.com>, "info@ranchcampvt.com" <info@ranchcampvt.com>, Rachel Lewandowski <Rachel@rthingsvt.com>, "sam@samarcht.com" <sam@samarcht.com>, "American Express Secured" <shawsgeneralstore@gmail.com>, "info@sislerbuilders.com" <info@sislerbuilders.com>, Adrienne Johnson <adriennej@gostowe.com>, "info@stowechurch.org" <info@stowechurch.org>, "info@stowedentalassociates.com" <info@stowedentalassociates.com>, "Info (Shared)" <info@stowelandtrust.org>, Barbara Baraw <bbaraw@pshift.com>, "gcmstowe@aol.com" <gcmstowe@aol.com>, "theboutique@stowemercantile.com" <theboutique@stowemercantile.com>, Stowe Mountain Rentals <rentals@stowemountainrentals.com>, Stowe Public House <stowepublichouse@gmail.com>, The Stowe Village Inn <stay@stowevillageinn.com>, "mia@stowevillagemassage.com" <mia@stowevillagemassage.com>, "stowe2009@gmail.com" <stowe2009@gmail.com>, Kimberly DiNofrio <tangerineandolivevt@gmail.com>, Shaun M NMLS 416126 O'Leary <shaun.oleary@td.com>, Abby Blackburn <abby@vtssm.org>, Nicole Chemi <Nicole@vonbargens.com>, Paint & Create Stowe <paintandcreatestowe@gmail.com>, Tracey Davidow <tracey.davidow@simonpearce.com>, Elise Mckenna <emckenna@hpdpcconsulting.com>, Cristina Mink <crisrina@stoweibrancy.org>, Candace Elmquist <candace@stoweibrancy.org>, Candace Elmquist <candaceelmquist@gmail.com>, "gregf@gostowe.com" <gregf@gostowe.com>, Walter Frame <wf@vontrappresort.com>, Patrick Bilow <patrickbilow@stowereporter.com>, "Michael.P.Giorgio@vailresorts.com" <Michael.P.Giorgio@vailresorts.com>, McKee Macdonald <mckee@stowere.com>, Ethan Carlson <ecarlson@stowevt.gov>, Beth Gadbois <bgadbois@stowevt.gov>, Nick Donza <nickdonza@aol.com>, Jo Sabel Courtney <jcourtney@stowevt.gov>, Francis Aumand <paco.aumand@gmail.com>, Will Fricke <wfricke@stowevt.gov>

I am unable to testify.

But I am fully in support of the Charter change.

I support our ability to raise money based upon purchases - rather than property ownership and property taxes - and to spread the burden amongst all who enjoy what Stowe has to offer. There are no easy answers - but I believe this is a sound step at this juncture.

Thank you to all who do have the time to testify and for the work that has gone into getting us this far. Nice work Selectboard!

With gratitude,

Lisa Hagerty

On Apr 17, 2026, at 6:48 AM, Charles Safford <csafford@stowevt.gov> wrote:

Stowe Vibrancy,

I remember when I first became Stowe's Town Manager 19 years ago. The Downtown was struggling and there were empty storefronts. The municipal government partnered with downtown business owners and community members to see what could be done to restore tis rightful place as our primary community hub. The effort led to the formation of Stowe Vibrancy to continues the communities focus on Downtown Stowe. As a result, the storefronts are full and it is more vibrant than ever.

What was occurring at the same time was the Town decided to institute a 1% rooms, meals, and alcohol tax to invest in itself which has paid tremendous dividends. Projects funded with local option taxes includes \$6.5 million to underground the Main Street power lines, \$6.5 million to build the Stowe Arena, \$300,000 to help buy Cady Hill and build trails, and over \$1 million dollars to restore the Rec Path and help protect it from further erosion. The Town is currently developing plans to undertake streetscape and drainage on Depot Street & Park Place. This is estimated to cost over \$1million dollars and will also help with drainage at Stowe Elementary School and Memorial Park.

Together we can make a positive difference for our community. When we invest in ourselves as a community it pays dividends. Stowe municipal government needs fiscal capacity to continue to partner in these important investments.

The Town residents also need property tax relief due to the impact of State Ed Fund taxes. As Nick Donza stated, "A dollar raised in use taxes is a dollar that doesn't have to be raised in property taxes." A community should be able to reasonably choose how to tax itself. Also, while the mission of the State is important, municipalities need funding as well if we are going to be able to continue making Stowe an attractive place to live, work, play, and visit.

Thank you for your continuing work to keep Stowe vibrant and for your investment in our community. Charles

<image001.png>

From: Abby Bourgeois <abby@stowevibrancy.org>

Sent: Friday, April 17, 2026 5:50 AM

To: Sophie@571projects.com; service@ajssportinggoods.com; Heidi Scheuermann <heidi@heidischeuermann.com>; dana@alpinevt.com; Lou Grove <lou.grove@avocadopit.com>; Russ@barrlaw.com; Jennifer Hale <jcjhale@gmail.com>; blackcapcoffeevt@gmail.com; salonsalon@stowe.nu; studio@brennabininteriors.com; info@stoweattorneys.com; Beatrice Lintner <beatrice@bryangallery.org>; Butler House Stowe <butlerhousestowe@gmail.com>; Neil Handwerker <cafeonmainstowe@gmail.com>; altoarchitecture@office.com; info@stoweevermontrealestate.com; Danielle Nichols <danielle@corkvt.com>; Cristina Mink <csomvt@gmail.com>; Rachel Moore <rachel@thecurrentnow.org>; inquiry@cushmanandesign.com; robyn@waterburystowelaw.com; hello@dayhaus.com; Eric Warnstedt <eric@henofthewood.com>; Erika@eldarchitecture.com; Kendra Knapik <info@eevwine.com>; jessica@realestatevt.com; Lisa Mara Bry <lisa@farmhome.co>; Stephanie Ferro <stephanie@ferrojewelers.com>; grand@grandslamtennistours.com; Patti Clark <patti@gminn.com>; hlevine@hanoverfg.com; akneale@pshift.com; info@hobbleinn.com; incompany@stowevt.net; Meghan Fitzpatrick <mfitzpatrick@lakechamplainchocolates.com>; lowerbarstowe@gmail.com; Mike@nobullproject.com; Meghan Okolita <meg.northwoodgallery@gmail.com>; info@olsonplc.net; nancyteed@comcast.net; pall.spera@paulspera.com; Jennifer Martin <martinjennifer700@gmail.com>;

rajarestaurantstowe@gmail.com; info@ranchcampvt.com; Rachel Lewandowski <Rachel@rthingsvt.com>; sam@samarcht.com; American, Express Secured <shawsgeneralstore@gmail.com>; info@sislerbuilders.com; Adrienne Johnson <adriannej@gostowe.com>; info@stowechurch.org; info@stowedentalassociates.com; Info (Shared) <info@stowelandtrust.org>; bbaraw@pshift.com; gcmstowe@aol.com; theboutique@stowemercantile.com; Stowe Mountain Rentals <rentals@stowemountainrentals.com>; Stowe Public House <stowepublichouse@gmail.com>; The Stowe Village Inn <stay@stowevillageinn.com>; mia@stowevillagemassage.com; stowe2009@gmail.com; Kimberly DiNofrio <tangerineandolivevt@gmail.com>; Shaun M NMLS 416126 O'Leary <shaun.oleary@td.com>; Charles Safford <csafford@stowevt.gov>; Abby Blackburn <abby@vtssm.org>; Nicole Chemi <Nicole@vonbargens.com>; Paint & Create Stowe <paintandcreatestowe@gmail.com>; Tracey Davidow <tracey.davidow@simonpearce.com>; Elise McKenna <emckenna@hpdpcconsulting.com>; Cristina Mink <cristina@stowevibrancy.org>; Candace Elmquist <candace@stowevibrancy.org>; Candace Elmquist <candaceelmquist@gmail.com>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] SV Quick LOT Poll - Please respond ASAP!

Good Morning Downtown Businesses!

Stowe Vibrancy has been invited to testify before the Vermont House Government Operations Committee regarding [H.954](#) , the proposed charter change for the Town of Stowe to allow for an additional 1% Local Option Tax.

As an organization we want to represent the downtown businesses, so we would like to hear from you - do you support the increase in Local Option Tax? Do you have concerns or reasons that make you really support it? Please take a quick minute to respond and let me know your thoughts.

The Committee is also looking to hear from Stowe Businesses, If you are interested in testifying and are available on Tuesday April 21st at 2:00pm, please let me know and I can connect you to the committee assistant!

The hearing is next Tuesday but we do need to let them know our plans today, so please respond ASAP!

Thank you so much,
Abby

Abigail Bourgeois
Executive Director
Stowe Vibrancy, Inc
PO Box 482, Stowe, VT 05672
Abby@stowevibrancy.org
802-730-3573

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<FY26 Ed Taxes Invoices by Town 2m+.pdf><Stowe LOT Presentation - ed tax increases.pdf><Stowe LOT Presentation - housing costs.pdf>