

James Coons

James is a Master of Planning student at Dalhousie University with an undergraduate degree in Environmental Science. This summer James has focused on helping property owners envision future development on their land by showcasing what is possible within the existing land-use by-laws, accelerating the vision for the Village on Main community. James has a strong interest in community development and creating more inviting urban environments.

This summer he worked with a property owner from the district to explore the development potential of their property. This involved analyzing the Land Use By-Laws, modeling the development possibilities, and presenting his findings to the developer. This project allowed him to develop his computer modeling skills as well as extend his knowledge of zoning laws and policies. His goal for the summer was to understand what it's actually like to be a practicing planner beyond academic research. He feels that he has accomplished that and now has greater confidence heading into the final year of his program.

James was also involved in many projects that had involvement from the whole team. One of the team projects was [Dartmouth Connects](#) which is all about connecting people with other people, businesses and organizations with similar interests and skills or needs and wants; in general, having a more connected community.

The Summer James was with the Village on Main was also the first summer that we were dealing with the impacts of COVID 19. With this there were many projects that James worked on that normally we would not have been doing. Together with fellow student, Jacob Quinton, they researched the various funding opportunities available to small businesses during the initial lockdowns due to COVID 19. Once their research was concluded they gathered all the information regarding the funding programs and created a document that was easy to follow and made accessing programs easier.

He was involved in designing and building a 'pop up patio' to serve as an extra outdoor seating area while COVID 19 Health Restrictions were in place. This allowed for people to get take out from a Village On Main restaurant and eat it outside. James also assisted with other COVID protocols such as adding specially designed social distancing markers that were added at all the bus stops in the Village on Main.