

Rachel Ferris

Rachel is in her fourth and final year of the Bachelor of Community Design Program at Dalhousie University. She is passionate about urban planning due to its ability to create and execute visions for public spaces, in turn providing meaningful connections between people and their physical environments.

During her time with the Village on Main, Rachel undertook a project on suggested amendments to the current Dartmouth Land Use By-Laws. The overall goal of these suggestions is to eliminate barriers and obstacles to development to transform suburban communities and main streets in the HRM from large parking lot/strip mall communities to walkable urban villages. These suggestions will then be used as recommendations to the City for future plans.

Rachel created a [comprehensive document](#) that examined the Village on Main's suggested land use by-law amendments. For each suggested amendment, the report included a rationale for the suggestion, how it may relate to the recent Centre Plan's Land Use By-Laws, how it may relate to policies or plans from other jurisdictions, and insights and guidance on the suggestions obtained through discussions with various professionals.

The work Rachel did at the Village on Main greatly furthered her knowledge of land use by-laws, as well as offered her a valuable look into the processes of planning and policymaking. She is grateful for the opportunities she had to meet with and lead discussions with professionals, which allowed her to develop her oral communication and professional skills. In addition, Rachel's time at the Village on Main allowed her to strengthen her skills surrounding project management, information gathering and analysis, and written communication.