

Press Release

City Project to Develop New Design Standards

The City of Sopchoppy is developing design standards to overlay the downtown and the highway commercial corridor. Beginning Tuesday, September 14, a series of public workshops, stakeholder interviews and online meetings will be held to get public input.

The city has hired Sand County Studios, which is led by James Sipes, an award-winning urban designer, environmental planner, landscape architect, and writer with more than thirty years of experience encompassing a wide range of planning, design, research, and communication projects. Partnering on the project is KEITH, a multi-disciplinary firm that offers comprehensive development services. From assisting with entitlements, due diligence and rezoning to site planning, permitting and final certification, KEITH's in-house suite of services allows for an efficient development process.

A public workshop is scheduled 6:30-8:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 14, at City Hall in downtown Sopchoppy, where consultants will present the project approach, ask for feedback about the current development practices and gather input on what guidelines should address.

The presentation will be interactive and will include collaborative exercises to identify current opportunities and challenges. Participants are encouraged to bring photos of design features in Sopchoppy and other cities that they would like to see more of in Sopchoppy.

The overall project's scope includes reviewing existing ordinances, land use maps and the comprehensive plan. The resulting design standards will work in conjunction with these documents.

The goal is to create guidelines that preserve and enhance Sopchoppy's character while supporting growth.

The design guidelines will look at items such as building materials, design elements, building setback, parking and how to ensure all developments are pedestrian friendly.