

For our first newsletter of 2026 we are sharing MACC's annual town report. We hope 2026 is a year of growth for everyone, it certainly will be for MACC!

Annual Town Report

Since the formation of the Morrisville Action Committee (MAC) in 1981—and its evolution into the Morrisville Alliance for Culture and Commerce (MACC) in 1999 following the Orton Family Foundation community forum—our mission has remained constant: **to help Morristown thrive.**

Every initiative, event, and partnership we undertake is guided by that goal—strengthening our local economy, fostering civic pride, and celebrating the culture that makes Morristown unique.

In 2025, MACC was proud to assist the Town of Morristown in rejoining Vermont's **Downtown Designation Program**, administered by the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development. This important milestone unlocks significant benefits, including access to grants and funding opportunities, historic preservation incentives, reduced fees, tax credits, and state and national training partnerships. Together, these tools will help sustain and enhance Morristown's economic vitality, cultural identity, and historic character for years to come.

Alongside this major accomplishment, MACC committees made meaningful progress across multiple focus areas in 2025.

Economic Development

Lamoille Valley Rail Trail (LVRT)

The Morristown LVRT kiosk continues to serve as both a recreational hub and an economic driver for residents and visitors. In 2025, MACC completed kiosk repairs, added updated informational materials, and participated in monthly VTrans and Lamoille County Planning Commission meetings as part of the statewide *Business Friendly* program. Beautification workdays helped keep the area welcoming, and in 2026 we plan to establish a volunteer group—**Friends of Morristown LVRT**—to guide future enhancements.

Tourism & Business Support

MACC collaborated with state and regional partners on tourism marketing initiatives and provided microgrants to downtown businesses for storefront beautification. We are also working with the Town to promote Downtown Designation tax credits and grant programs to support local business improvements.

Digital Presence

MACC will soon begin working with a social media contractor experienced in Vermont Downtown initiatives to expand marketing efforts and increase online engagement.

Beautification

The Daffodil Project

In October, volunteers planted more than 600 daffodil bulbs near the Morristown Police Station and Noyes House Museum. This annual project brings early spring color to town and creates opportunities for themed community events.

Trough Hill Project

Planning continues for the “Welcome to Morristown” sign and landscaping project along Jersey Heights to Lower Main Street. Installation is scheduled to begin in spring 2026.

Chair-Art-Able Fundraiser

Chair-Art-Able was once again a success, featuring creative local artists and enthusiastic bidders at Rocktoberfest.

Seasonal Displays

MACC maintained flower planters along Main, Portland, and Pleasant Streets throughout the growing season.

Holiday Decorations

With support from a grant from Morrisville Water & Light's Amy Wade Fund, MACC purchased new lighted garlands for village lamp posts—bringing added warmth and cheer to Main Street during the holidays.

Cultural Programs

Festival of Lights

The beloved Festival of Lights celebrated its **25th anniversary** in 2025. More than 300 community members attended in person, and over 2,200 viewers joined via Facebook Live to enjoy performances by the Peoples Academy Middle School Chorus and the Lamoille Community Choir.

Public Art Maintenance

MACC provided repairs and ongoing maintenance for several public artworks, helping preserve their beauty and cultural significance.

Looking Ahead

Planning is underway for an **Outdoor Sculpture Show** in 2026, which will invite artists to display engaging works in public spaces throughout Morristown.

Organizational Development

Building Capacity

With support from a Vermont Community Foundation Organizational Capacity Grant, MACC expanded fundraising efforts in preparation for hiring our first Executive Director in late 2026.

New Website Launch

MACC launched a redesigned website that highlights local businesses, promotes community events, and serves as a central hub for downtown news and project updates.

Community Connections

Civic Collaboration

MACC partnered with the Morristown Centennial Library on the ongoing **Morristown Civic Project**, which aims to foster civic engagement and strengthen community connections.

Welcome to Morristown Potluck

To help new residents meet neighbors and feel at home, MACC hosted its first Welcome to Morristown community potluck. The enthusiastic response has inspired plans to make this an annual event.

Gratitude and Acknowledgments

MACC extends heartfelt thanks to the Town of Morristown, our residents, and the many businesses, volunteers, and partner organizations who make this work possible. Your time, generosity, creativity, and collaborative spirit bring our mission to life. With your continued support, MACC looks forward to another year of progress, partnership, and pride in Morristown.