

Neil Gillespie poses a good question, “Save South Hero from what?”.  
Joan Falcao poses misleading information.

Here are some factual answers:

Falcao claims “Save South Hero from accelerated development, as promoted in the 2023 Town Plan.” Joan, where does the Town Plan promote this? This is scare tactics, misleading, and not helpful.

Falcao claims “Save South Hero from cyanobacteria algae blooms (more houses = more impervious surfaces = more runoff into the lake). Joan, I agree with you about the urgent need to stop polluting Lake Champlain. In the proposed Town Plan check Chapter 2 Natural Resources & Land Use on page 8; Goals & Objectives #9 states: Support efforts to reduce pollution and cleanup Lake Champlain, groundwater and air quality”. In fact, please read this whole Chapter as it presents a big picture scope of action, including storm-water, to create a balance between reasonable growth while preserving the South Hero we all love.

Falcao claims “Save South Hero from loss of habitat for wildlife”.  
Again, Chapter 2 Natural Resources & Land Use strives to save wildlife.  
Particularly look at Chapter 2 Page 9 Implementation # 16 and Page 14 Habitat Blacks, Wildlife Corridors & Forest Land.

Falcao claims “Save South Hero from an upward spiral of taxes that is forcing out low-income residents”. Joan, this statement is misleading and in no way relates to the Town Plan.

Joan, your implication that the Town Plan is causing any affect on low-income residents is misleading and illogical. The cost of housing is what is affecting low-income residents. There is no simple, quick-fix answer to this issue. Keep in mind the majority of taxes we all pay goes toward education. The Municipal portion of our taxes is modest in comparison. Also keep in mind that 40 years of deferred maintenance of Town facilities comes at a price. Look at the condition of our Town Office building (report on Town website).

Falcao says “Vote NO on the 2023 Town Plan on or before August 1. This may be your last chance to take a stand for the town you love”.

Joan, I suggest Voters be informed. Before you vote, however you vote, please read the proposed 2023-2031 Town Plan <https://southherovt.org/wp-content/>

<uploads/2023/06/South-Hero-Town-Plan-2023-2031-Ballot-Draft-1.pdf> **Do not let someone else make this important decision for you.**

Also, be aware of the CONSEQUENCES OF LAPSED TOWN PLAN - When a municipal plan expires, these are the impacts on the municipality:

- 1 The Town cannot amend or adopt zoning bylaws. (Existing zoning stays effective and does not expire, but no amendments can be made).
- 2 The Town is not eligible to apply for Municipal Planning Grants (MPG) or Vermont Community Development Program (VCDP) grants. The grant deadline for MPGs is in September, so South Hero would not be eligible in 2023.

If you are undecided, please attend the July 20th meeting from 6 to 8pm at the Worthen Library. Members of the Planning Commission will be present with factual information upon which you can make an informed voting decision.

Thank you South Hero for making the proposed 2023-2031 Town Plan a comprehensive vision of what the community wants for our Town.

Personal comments by Sandy Gregg