

Town Plan Survey - Community Vision - February 2024

**Question #31 What does Hinesburg do well?** Answered = 231; Skipped = 292

[Full survey results available at www.hinesburg.org](http://www.hinesburg.org)

- 1 Manage the town. The police force has always been very responsive.
- 2 Love the Town Forest and Trails.
- 3 Local government, communication with citizens.
- 4 I love the hiking trails and forest areas.
- 5 road maintenance and recreation opportunities
- 6 The stores and community is close together
- 7 Taking care of lower income families
- 8 Plan and work to create an open government and open meetings
- 9 Hinesbug continues to maintain its character and grit in a way that many other towns in chittenden County have lost due to development. I think we have a strong community where people care for their town and their neighbors.
- 10 Public library
- 11 Hinesburg has a nice sense of community
- 12 Optimizing a sense of community
- 13 Community identity
- 14 Hinesburg tries, really hard, to carefully promote growth. I'm so happy for this and for the hard work that the DRB, etc does!
- 15 Recreation
- 16 The people do well but the people from out of town running the town needs to change.  
Used to be a great quiet place to live but it is now overdeveloped in the village and our tax money is going to useless things like bud service! Come on - LISTEN to community members other than your preferred few.
- 17 Town offices are accessible and helpful
- 18 I like having denser development in the village center and that Hinesburg is building different \*types\* of housing, e.g., multi-unit buildings, townhouses, single family units.

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- 20 At the moment, not much. This town is headed in the wrong direction on many fronts from the Town Managers office, to attempting to over develop when you can't handle anymore development right now, to high taxes, less services and safety measures etc. The list is large and instead of finding resolutions while keeping the character Hinesburg, many in positions of decision making for this town keep trying to further their own views and agendas while trying to make themselves look good by playing both sides and then doing what they want anyway vs. what the towns people want. Maybe try listening first to the people of this town and fix the problems first. Disappointed at best at what this town has become. My parents have lived here for over 50 years and I was sure they would stay here until the day they died but now they are moving because they are sick of it here. I don't think they are the only ones. It's not financial but the direction the town is taking. It's just not the same anymore. Everything changes in life and that is to be expected but this town is just going to become a sad statistic like so many other small towns. which are the backbone of Vermont. Very sad actually. You can do better. Look at the foundation of Hinesburg and why it was a stellar place to live until now. Stop trying to make it something it is not. Stick to your roots. My wife and I will probably be moving as well before it gets any worse.
- 
- 21 I moved here for the local (in-town) trail systems, but they could use better access from town.
- 
- 22 Community resources: recreation, library, HCRC/Food Shelf;  
Some great businesses and great preschools, K-12 schools and daycare options  
active town committees;  
thoughtful community
- 
- 23 Involves community members on committees and commissions.
- 
- 24 Hinesburg provides multiple points and places to access and experience the outdoors.
- 
- 25 Hinesburg has a great sense of community and I hope we can maintain that throughout growth.
- 
- 26 For the most part, the Local government listens and works with people.
- 
- 27 Provide recreational activities
- 
- 28 Using FPF, Facebook, online meetings etc to communicate updates, invitations rtc
- 
- 29 communicate to it's citizens about current issues and looks for feedback.
- 
- 30 Road maintenance
- 
- 31 Hinesburg is intentional about its planning. The town leadership attempts to incorporate many views into decisions.
- 
- 32 Bring people together during emergencies (like major weather events) to help one another out. Just thinking of the last major event (windstorm) that knocked power out for days & how neighbors came together to rally for one another.
- 
- 33 offers many things to do, tries to keep its "ruralness"
-

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- 34 Thoughtful growth, a variety of local businesses available, well-served school system. I love and really appreciate the sidewalk expansion that happened last year, bringing sidewalks down farther south on 116! Also appreciated changing the funky traffic pattern on North Rd & Texas Hill intersection in the last year or so.
- 
- 35 The low key, friendly attitude businesses and the town office has for each other.
- 
- 36 Very community oriented. Operates on a human scale
- 
- 37 Not much except for the Town Clerk positions over the years has been excellent. Present included!
- 
- 38 I think Hinesburg has done a good job of getting feedback from community and really thinking about how they want to grow.
- 
- 39 Create a sense of community
- 
- 40 Recreation for hiking and lake Iroquois  
Community event
- 
- 41 inclusive descisions
- 
- 42 Raise taxes
- 
- 43 Helping each other plus other towns
- 
- 44 Concerts; churches; library; grocery store; schools; clerk
- 
- 45 I always have loved how friendly and welcoming the Town Clerk's office has been. It's the first place I stop when I have a question and I'm unsure where I should go for an answer.
- 
- 46 Provide a sense of community and take care of one another as neighbors
- 
- 47 Love that Hinesburg has many acres of conserved land...It's wonderful to have a house next to one forest..!
- 
- 48 Not much at this point
- 
- 49 Almost nothing-
- 
- 50 Maintain a sense of community
- 
- 51 The teachers at the school! They are amazing!
- 
- 52 struggle
- 
- 53 Trying to plan! Stake holder engagement, thank you! At least getting the conversations out there, and being a little more civil than Charlotte...
- 
- 54 Rely on people not from Hinesburg to tell us what we should be doing
- 
- 55 Provide outdoor recreation activities for children.
- 
- 56 Conserving agricultural, forest and recreational land. Public access to natural resources. Town government is well-run and responsive.
- 
- 57 Great schools. Nice community. Great grocery store.
-

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- 
- 58 Social capital, community involvement
- 
- 59 Catering to extreme wealth.
- 
- 60 Wonderful sense of community, small town feel, friendly people.
- 
- 61 Hinesburg has a strong sense of community. We treat our neighbors well, for the most part. The zoning laid down in the past seems to be working to contain growth to the designated village area, and I am glad to see the Town Plan being paid attention to and updated.
- 
- 62 Keeping a town center
- 
- 63 Sense of community and trails.
- 
- 64 I am so happy here. My children love their school, and the town has a (fantastic) recreation director. I love the few town events and town forests and the miles of dirt roads and nature trails. It has preserved a rural forest character quite well.
- 
- 65 road crew does and awesome job
- 
- 66 The Hinesburg Town Forest is such a great resource for us. Thank you to everyone who works so hard so that the community can enjoy this beautiful space.
- 
- 67 Tries hard to conserve and plan growth. This is largely due to the efforts of a few.
- 
- 68 Good info posted on FPF regularly from different town committees and the SB
- 
- 69 Police, fire and rescue
- 
- 70 Beautiful recreational spaces
- 
- 71 Approachable. Caring. Friendly town. Clean. Safe.
- 
- 72 We are providing more housing in the Village, part of a foresighted Town Plan that has been of great benefit as we grow. There are all the basic services families need here and easy access to alternatives in the surrounding towns.
- 
- 73 Publicize meetings, ongoing, etc
- 
- 74 Community involvement
- 
- 75 Great community spirit. Kudos to Fire and Rescue. Nice village area. Great schools. Welcoming of diversity.
- 
- 76 It's hard to put a finger on it, but we have managed some balance in our conflicting priorities.
- 
- 77 4th of July, Pietter Rd care, HCS, staying small is good, Lantman's is wonderful
- 
- 78 attracts good people
- 
- 79 It is still a pleasant community that has not developed into a South Burlington or Williston surge. Control development with wisdom.
- 
- 80 Nothing at from what we see.
- 
- 81 Community
-

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- 82 Road maintenance

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- 83 Highway department does a good job on the roads

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- 84 Supports affordable housing.

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- 85 Conserve land, a walkable village, small town feel

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- 86 Residents readily come to the aid of those who have needs or in emergencies

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- 87 Police, fire, food shelf, library, DRB

---

- 88 Great place to raise a family.

---

- 89 good high school

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- 90 Income and class diversity

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- 91 Community, services, and small town field. The problem here is That we have tremendous projected development in the next 10 years and this is what's forcing us to outgrow most of our services.

---

- 92 Sense of community!

---

- 93 Recreational department

---

- 94 sense of community

---

- 95 Sense of community and keeping residents in the loop.

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- 96 HTF and trails

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- 97 Listen to input from the community, allow multiple platforms for citizen involvement. Neighbors help neighbors.

---

- 98 Provides opportunities for young families and kids via community resources (HCRC).

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- 99 Sense of community, especially Halloween, Christmas, 4th of July, Green Up Day

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- 100 snow plowing and ice  
cleaning out the catch basins  
emergency services

---

- 101 Recreation (Jen is a rock star), community activities, supporting our youth

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- 102 Hinesburg gives community members opportunities to voice their opinions (like this survey!)

---

- 103 Great sense of community.

---

- 104 Under this town manager- nothing.

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- 105 Nothing as far as the town management goes.

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- 106 Hinesburg did not initiate this but they should have - accessory dwelling is a good thing

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- 107 Our roads are graded and plowed well year round.. Our police and fire seem to be doing well. Our preserved land and trails are great.

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- 
- 108 sense of community
- 
- 109 we have good service stations, a liquor store, good schools, a gun shop, hardware store, grocery store, gravel pit, a lumber yard and crappy post office 8 of 9 not bad
- 
- 110 Community
- 
- Town government.
- 111 Various committees, especially the energy committee, the Conservation Committee and the Planning Commission.
- 
- 112 Good town clerk
- 
- 113 Wide variety of outdoor recreation.
- 
- 114 Great police and fire departments!
- 
- 115 Maintaining small town Vermont
- 
- 116 Maintain the essence of small town Vermont.
- 
- 117 Recreation considerations - trails, fields, hunting, etc.
- 
- 118 Rec dept does well with resources available
- 
- Basic town services (roads, fire, police). Good mix of needed businesses including restaurants (although we would like a more high end restaurant!), Lantman's (which is consistently better than Hannafords), pharmacy, liquor store, doctors, dentist.
- 
- 119
- 
- 120 great school system
- 
- 121 Civil discourse among people, road maintenance, schools.
- 
- 122 CONFLICT
- 
- 123 Hinesburg communicates and debates, but doesn't always follow through
- 
- 124 Sense of community
- 
- 125 Increase taxes on its residents
- 
- 126 The rec department--that's how I've met a lot of people in town. Also, the school is great.
- 
- 127 Town events, provides means, i.e. food for folks in need. There is a sense of community which is nice in a small town.
- 
- 128 Really frustrated with the unwillingness to grow this community. There basic amenities, bare minimum.....no reasons to live here.
- 
- 129 Keeps a level head...folks in Ch'lotte are nuts
- 
- 130 Great community and services for size of community
- 
- 131 Keeping the village ...a village! We are not Williston! I love that we have Lantmans... and not a big store! Keep it this way. This is the charm on this town.
- 
- 132 Very walkable downtown area, easy access to groceries, post office, pharmacy, etc.
-

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- 
- 133 Recreation dept. Town clerk office. Local government Is better than many.
- 
- 134 Perfect sized town with the right mix of amenities. Access to outdoor recreation.
- 
- 135 Roads are maintained well
- 
- 136 wonderful friendly community, walkable town
- 
- 137 A lot of things. Town forest is great.
- 
- 138 Access to recreational trails. Road maintenance.
- 
- 139 Commercial growth is slow but appears to attract the right businesses.
- 
- 140 Town Clerk's office is great. Hiking trails. Community pride.
- 
- 141 Schools, sense of community, high school property, keep development to a minimum.
- 
- 142 sense of community  
blending and maintaining agricultural land with the expansion of housing
- 
- 143 Nothing
- 
- 144 Create a small community with a great balance of various businesses to support the community
- 
- 145 Plowing, maintaining roads
- 
- 146 Government runs well.
- 
- 147 Walkability to a variety of businesses (grocery store, pharmacy, vet, library, post office, bank, hardware store, laundromat, restaurants, schools, town offices, hair dresser, town recreational trails, organic farm stand, PT, gym, doctors office, & more) - this is truly incredible that we can walk to each of these places in the Village!
- 
- Strong sense of community & generally wonderful people
- 
- 148 Sense of community
- 
- 149 The people work through conflicts and work to be kind. I love the thrift store. I love the small community feel at Lantman's. I love being able to walk places- just wish sidewalks were better and wish there were more places to walk off of Rt. 116. There is a wide variety of small businesses here and I could meet many of my needs without having to leave town.
- 
- 150 Trails!
- 
- 151 The restoration and maintenance of the private homes on 116 between Mechanics. road and Silver street is wonderful. The Pub is great. CVU is great. The sidewalks are wonderful.
- 
- 152 Community and we have just enough retail to keep from having to drive out of town in a regular basis.
- 
- 153 its quiet
- 
- 154 Community concerns. Library. Churches.
-

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155 We have conserved a large amount of land as town forest.

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156 Create a sense of community

---

157 Blessed by good neighbors

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158 Volunteerism - community

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Maintain small town feel

159 Sense of community

School system

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160 There is an amazing sense of community here, and I love how people get involved to make the town a better place and to help neighbors. It's a wonderful place to raise kids.

---

161 Come together as community for people in need. Ie: food shelf, community resource center, little free pantry, church free dinners, care about the environment.

---

162 Invite participation in town activities.

---

163 procrastinate

---

164 Hinesburg has maintained its sense of community and engagement. Keeping the majority of growth in the village center is a worthy goal as well. We have done a good job of preserving lands as well.

---

165 Great sense of community and belonging

---

166 School System/Education

---

167 Add to tax burden and don't do what was actually voted in- ambulance.

---

168 Community

---

169 Strong volunteer community.

---

170 Summer cultural events and community. Recreation trails.

---

171 Roads are well maintained

---

172 Hinesburg has a great sense of community

---

173 School atmosphere. Highway department still pretty great, but a little less so since Rocky is gone.

---

174 CVU is a treasure. The mix of agricultural land and the village is wonderful.

---

175 Over complicate things to not move initiatives forward.

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176 Police, Fire, Library, Food Shelf. Select board has become better at listening to any / all who will speak up. Was not like that few years back. Town office is friendlier now. No idea about town manager.....never met him :-)

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177 Listen to a few people that have time to attend meetings

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178 4th of July, community engagement,

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- 
- 179 Positively impact the town utilizing the limited resources and funds that we have as a small town
- 
- 180 Well meaning government, good public participation
- 
- 181 Fourth of July.  
Meetings Posted and in the Paper (required? Done well)
- 
- 182 Offer a small town feel that is safe, inviting, friendly, and yet accessible with all the amenities one would need.
- 
- 183 Small town feels
- 
- 184 Plan for future growth and maintain a rural small town character that is accessible in a way that Charlotte and Shelburne are not
- 
- 185 Keep fire hydrants shoveled out.
- 
- 186 Fire, EMS
- 
- 187 Capture a sense of community, look out for each other
- 
- 188 Village growth. Bakery and restaurants. Hardware. Quality Schools. Village is walkable. Halloween at Creekside.
- 
- 189 There's a strong sense of community
- 
- 190 Fire, EMS, Police
- 
- 191 Community feels
- 
- 192 Sense of community. Good schools
- 
- 193 Hinesburg does well at working to create a relatively big town working together towards goals that help everyone in town.
- 
- 194 This, engagement.
- 
- 195 Plenty of community engagement and committees to address issues and strive towards continual improvement of the Town
- 
- 196 Being friendly
- 
- 197 Not too much in the last years.
- 
- 198 Offers plenty of outdoor recreation as well as vibrant village services
- 
- 199 Community involvement
- 
- 200 Community police. But I'd like to see more presence on the Hollow rd. We have a lot of regular dumping and high dangerous speeders on the weekends, Saturday nights late and at 6am week days.
- 
- 201 Maintain roads
- 
- 202 Listens to its residents at committee open meetings.  
Good trail networks.
-

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- 
- 203 neighbors help neighbors
- 
- 204 A bed room comunity, small town
- 
- 205 Communication and meetings about planning & zoning
- 
- 206 Carpenter-Carse Library. Community outreach. Schools. Planning.
- 
- 207 Offers many opportunities to get involved and contribute to the community.
- 
- 208 I think Hinesburg does an excellent job of most things.
- 
- 209 Walking opportunities
- 
- 210 Far enough away from the city to feel rural although that is changing with all the unfortunate focus on adding more housing. Fleecing someone's pockets with all the building meanwhile adding congestion and burden to the rest of the town!
- 
- 211 Community
- 
- 212 Schools
- 
- 213 Preserving an historic Vermont community in our tradition
- 
- 214 Management has the best intentions, but we have too many irons in the fire at one time. It is okay to push back against something that adds little value and say, "not now, there is only so much money without raising taxes."
- 
- 215 Work together
- 
- 216 Happy Hinesburg is moving forward with building new housing. Happy with the schools and new road crew.
- 
- 217 Todd Odit is responsive to citizens concerns. The police dept is excellen. The fire dept is excellent. The road crew does a great job. The town maintains the sidewalks well.
- 
- 218 Wonderful sense of community, excellent schools, beloved Lantman's!
- 
- 219 Praise for Town Manager- facilitated change of speed signs on Rt. 116 in record time. Municipal government zoom meetings and summaries on FPF by Selectboard. Village clerk very efficient. Village farmstand, farm shares and meat club. very good municipal website, responsive police and fire and rescue work, convenient doctor, dentist, bank and grocery, good restaurants.
- 
- 220 Selectboard, Town Manager, Police, Fire, Roads are currently excellent. That has not always been the case.
- 
- 221 I can go weeks without needing to leave Hinesburg. It has most of the basic necessities.
- 
- 222 Creates volunteer opportunities throughout town functions and nonprofits.
- 
- 223 Sense of community. Welcoming new people.
- 
- 224 No, property tax and water bills are terrible
- 
- 225 Town leadership works hard and seeks ways to engage residents. Tod and Joy are doing good work toward making our town run well and to modernize our policies and practices.
-

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226 Lately, nothing.

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227 Small town, with lots of great options.

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228 Sense of community

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229 Makes a real effort to balance the various pressures on the town by being as transparent as possible, and very dedicated paid and volunteer personnel.

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230 Volunteers do a lot

---

231 community involvement

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