

Town Plan Survey - Community Vision - February 2024

Question #33 Other comments, feedback, suggestions. Answered = 165; Skipped = 358

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

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- 1 Wetlands, wetlands, wetlands are a critical concern since that is tantamount to flood control.
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- 2 It seems to be the water and sewer prices need to be compared to others in the area, they seem really out of whack to me and I would have like to see some survey questions about these services.
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- 3 remove the town managers position and go back to town administrator and selectboard. public does not have a voice under the current system.
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- 4 Hinesburg needs to stop wasting money on things that turn out to be liabilities and not assets.
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- 5 I worry that the significant proposed housing ddevelopment doesn't account for school system and town infrastructure is already operating beyond capacity. Seems as though we should resolve some of the issues already present in our town before we significantly increase the village population. I would also add that the number of new highway department and fire service vehicles seems higher than it should. There are plenty of towns in our taste with far more challenging road maintenance that make due with far less. If the purchases are absolutely necessary maybe we should consider repurposing some the million dollar highway garage space as municipal offices and cut funds on that front.
- For the most part it feels like hineaburg residents are doing their best to live within their means, it only feels appropriate that our town governance should strive to do the same.
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- 6 The chart about #of dwelling units permitted seems misleading- what about the development across from Jiffy Mart/ adjacent to Bissonnette fields? Thought that was approved? Simply adding more housing is not going to solve the town's financial problems. We need more business growth. The trick is keeping it controlled. There are some basic, fundamental errors when we (not just Hinesburg residents) consider how to fund education. Just like health insurance SHOULD NOT be tied to employment. Education funding SHOULD NOT be tied to property values. It should be tied to income
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- 7 Need regional ambulance services with state supports. Not local. Fix the water issues near the dump by putting folks on town water. Too late to fix wells.
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- 8 Thanks!!!
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- 9 We need housing, and with that housing, we will also need to think about expanding our schools.
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- 10 Hope this makes a difference, a significant change in town government is needed.
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- 11 What's being considered about the new 4-way stop at Richmond Rd/North Rd/Texas Hill? Will the old pavement be removed?
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- 12 I believe we need more affordable housing to offer alternatives to some of our substandard existing housing. The objective should not be exclusively growth but rather improvement of housing stock. We should not build "Tafts Corner South."
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- 13 The thing that would make me happiest to stay here would be increasing the connectivity of our trails and public lands, especially between the center of town and the hills. Please acquire land rights or work with property owners to get more trail accesses so people can run/bike/ski up to the hills instead of having to get in a car for this short trip. This is what I want my money spent on and I'd be happy to sign up and volunteer to do the labor.
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14 Worried about traffic congestion as Hinesburg grows and impact growth will have on current level of services and infrastructure.

15 The Town should invest in and engage in more research and data collection to come to important decisions and support Town priorities...bring in expertise, look to examples, case studies, policies, etc. to help inform decisions (especially the Selectboard).

16 Spending on something like the town green seems, again, shortsighted considering the potential property tax ramifications this year.

17 On a side note, I have four grade school age kids and the local schools were so bad we had to take them out of the public school. It is insane that we keep increasing the tax allotment and the schools are worse.

18 Water and sewer - can be improved, some weird connections and offshoots do not get paid much attention and some re-routing could be beneficial.

19 A lot of people in town feel that the town can not handle more housing. Adding that many more vehicles into the town will make traffic horrible!

20 Universally
Always have the feeling of town government attitude is Hinsberg is for the well educated and affluent. Rarely Going Out of there way for the common working person who wants to make a good life and home. Only too often a decidedly difficult and hostile environment.

21 Thanks for taking the time to ask for resident opinions.

22 Even though I have been here for 15 years, I will say that I hate living in this town. I have never felt more unwelcomed by certain people in Town Hall & on the Selectboard for not only being Asian American, but being female. Whenever I see that "All is welcomed" sign, I feel sick to my stomach since I know it doesn't apply to me & to certain others in this town who I have spoken to, all of whom also happen to be female minorities. To be spoken down to by both the Assistant TM & the TM is uncalled for and outrageous in this day and age. And to think my tax dollars go to pay their salaries.

23 I've been lightly following the issues of town office facilities and fire department facilities for a little bit. I understand that these functions are important, and I would love to better understand how facility recommendations are made, and what they're based on. I think this would help me to more clearly understand how to prioritize building maintenance for these functions against other needs. For example, are there certain roles or functions that the town hasn't been able to add because there isn't appropriate working space available in the town office building? What are we missing out on by not having adequate office space? Have there been requests or initiatives we've been unable to consider or accept due to building constraints?

In general I do think the town does a good job with managing growth with intentionality and caution, and I'd like to better understand the trade-offs that would come with not investing in this infrastructure. Full disclosure - I'm aware it's very possible that this context is already published and available and just not something I've engaged with yet.

24 Overall more village growth, local restaurants and businesses that support the tax base and make Hinesburg a town people want to stop in and not just drive through. This will also cut down on pollution because people will stay in Hinesburg and not drive to other neighboring towns for their shopping needs.

25 We are lucky to have Lantmans in town. Concerned if it goes away in future it would be a loss for town and difficult to replace.

26 Survey design is flawed. Each question should have an opportunity for a comment.

27 I've answered that housing affordability is one the top issues on this survey. But I want to be clear that I very much disagree with the standard way a lot of municipalities as well as the state often tries to resolve this; by trying to bribe private companies to build more housing. If Hinesburg truly wants affordable housing the town will need to own its own land and housing stock. Just build the houses yourself, run it ourselves and housing/land co-op, that's the only real solution. Otherwise the price of housing will NEVER come down. Any plan that involves simply building more market rate houses and putting it on the market is delusional and doesn't understand capitalism.

28 Be careful with housing growth because each new house built adds 1-2 cars on our roads and sucks up water, which is a finite resource.

29 I know creating a survey is tricky, but I am not sure I was able to express myself in the confines of the provided options for answers. How about some mud forums?

30 Less housing development in town. More recreation and trails

31 Worry about water running down Pond Road when it rains.

32 Hinesburg seems to be pretty dog unfriendly, compared to other towns that have dog parks and land where dogs are allowed off leash. Given how many dogs there are around, it might be good to incorporate some more dog friendly areas.

33 I would really love to see the town replace the water line north of the CVU road light on 116.

34 Our property taxes are too high. Hopefully the school budget does not pass .

35 Take control and listen to what actual Hinesburg residents want!

36 The town manager and assistant manager were the worst idea ever! Get rid of both impossible to include the nuances that are the nitty gritty of most of the issues - unfortunately so many issues are pressing right now

37 we need development in the village that will encourage its residents to want to live there and not eventually try and move into rural areas that are currently not slated for intense residential growth. All growth should be clustered ie accessory apartments should be very near the primary residences and not spread out on our larger lots - village aesthetics, greenery, open spaces street trees, and streetscapes are very important and not being achieved with the cookie cutter development that is being proposed.

38 Just thanks for doing this. Lots to resolve, but I'm hopeful

39 Block south bound traffic on Mechanicsville Rd from the post office to route 116. Reroute to Road that passes post office to the traffic light. It would ease congestion at the rush hour.

40 Taxes are out of control. We would have been better off staying where we used to live. We moved here when we were raising a family, as empty nesters we do not see the value anymore. We are merely stuck here until interest rates go down.

41 Better prioritization of community needs like infrastructure and staffing to support community growth

42 More than anything I believe Hinesburg needs a bike path (possibly partially or fully fenced in like Burlington has on busy roads). All summer I watch thousands of kids and cyclists and dog walkers brave Pond Rd. going towards Lake Iroquois or CVU. It's a dangerous road and not just because of speeding. A safe path for people to walk to school or to the Lake would benefit Hinesburg the most. It solves some transportation concerns, it develops and enhanced an area that is in need of it and it brings business to a recreational are in Hinesburg that is not as accessible as it could be.

- 43 Bringing in more residents will help relieve our tax burden, but at some point more people = needing to upgrade town water, septic systems, larger schools, etc. to sustain this new increase in residents. I wonder if the tax benefit really outweighs the impact on town infrastructure and our small town community by creating multiple new neighborhoods.
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- 44 Move the library closer to town and make it a more welcoming place and a gathering place. Right now it feels like it is tucked away in between such main roads and is only accessible by car.
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- 45 Thanks for doing this!
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- 46 New housing and all the planned housing has never helped out taxes. With more growth comes more needs for infrastructure road maintenance, police, schools. Where does it end. What is wrong with small town> Does the sprawl continue and look like the outskirts or williston eventually. I do think there is a need for senior housig(affordable).
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- 47 I appreciate the opportunity to participate and hope that you are able to use the feedback from this survey. I have completed surveys for Hinesburg in the past and there are not always follow up actions or even information posted about the survey.
Thank You
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- 48 We could use a theatre for plays and movies with a greenhouse cafe and library/ book store.
Would love to be able to walk or bike from near Lake Iroquois into the village (distance is very doable) but there is not even a shoulder on those roads - bike path or sidewalk would be ideal.
Please!
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- 49
-
- 50 Thank you.
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- 51 We vote for an ambulance and then some yahoo decided nope you don't need it. The people have spoken start listening
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- 52 I really want to congratulate and thank those who devised the current Town Plan that focused growth in the Village and the foresightedness, in a time when affordable housing is so vital, of easing the process for adding an Additional Dwelling Unit.
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- 53 Hire more police.
Encourage everyone to be more respectful of everyone.
Less political sensitivity (politics, race/ethnicity, etc.) and more we are in this game of life together so let's find a way to get along with each other and make this town better for all of us.
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- 54 Lived in Hinesburg for almost 40 years ... kids and now grandchildren are living here too.
Affordability to stay ...in housing and taxes is important
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- 55 Hinesburg will not solve climate change. We are 4500 people. Stop the focus on climate policy.
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- 56 More housing needed, yes. Big focus needs to be on affordable housing. And housing development needs to avoid prime ag soils.
The questions about housing seem to ignore the backlog of 300-500 units in the village area waiting for sewage capacity. Makes it hard to answer the general questions when such a large amount of new housing is ignored!
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- 57 Also I would say affordable housing is market rate affordable for people. We need more of it. Subsidized housing keeps stealing attention from this under-served segment by being mis-named "affordable"!
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- 58 i have an ADU on my property and without the income from short term rental I could never afford to remain in my home. Glad that Hinesburg allows STRs
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- 59 Everyone has wonderful plans, wishes, and desires to improve this or start that. We are living above our capacity to pay yet town planners commit tax payers to annual rates of 6%-15-20% This is unattainable going forward.
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60 I don't feel my opinion is as important as it would be if I was involved in service. What is important to me is personal ie tax rate seems too high for services provided, I think we should spend money on improving infrastructure and present services before creating new projects.

61 Please stop spending time and money on energy and conservation of land and focus on the basic services, roads, fire, police. The level of taxes and regulations are making it unaffordable and more and more difficult to live in Hinesburg. I believe programs to conserve land just benefit to wealthier land owners and are a big reason for why housing has become so unaffordable. We need to focus on economic development opportunities which create jobs and support the tax base in order for young people to be able to afford to live here.

62 I'm concerned that as the much needed housing gets developed we have no plan for increased traffic. I don't have any great ideas of what that plan might be.

63 Thank you for giving us the opportunity to be listened to.

64 I worry so much about the planned developments for hinesburg changing the rural character of the town and changing the sense of community that is here. I'm not sure how to find a balance between the need for affordable housing, conservation of land, and maintaining rural character. I fear we are doomed to become another Williston simply because we think additional housing will solve all of our problems.

65 Yes we need more housing but we also need to think to the future and how best to serve the needs of more houses and residents. Water is a huge issue as is sewer. Then school support. As our open lands vanish to never be returned, we need to think about how best to support farmers who are struggling to feed us and their own families. Wetlands and floodplains need to be valued more intensely. With all the weather changes, protecting what we have here is vital.

66 If someone wants a community center, park, pool, then let them pay for it as I consider that a luxury. We can barely afford food, rent, utilities.

67 Stop trying to make Hinesburg anything other than what it was that attracted us here, i.e. it's a simple farm town situated near a crazy Progressive and eangerous city.

68 Please do not turn us into what Williston & S. Burlington look like with those hideous 4 story hotel-mimicking housing structures. Please do not build in what are now floodplains based upon global warming. Suggest another "green-up" or "clean-up" day besides the one in May, as the volume of garbage (mostly alcoholic beverage cans) that are littering our roadways is disgusting. Appreciate the expansion of ADUs to the housing inventory - but lots of my neighbors are going the AIR BNB route for extra income and that doesn't help the dearth of affordable housing. Please support the police department, and fire/rescue services (although I think the fire department does not need a new building). Huge shout out to the Road Crew that keeps our Hills safe for travel (grading/plowing & sanding/removing downed trees).

Really looking forward to the town common and its potential as an outdoor gathering space.

69 Need a bakery, a bike shop, farmers market, and a food truck lot.

Roundabouts are the way. Safer, controls speed, more beautiful, potential for local art and landscaping, opens up the sky when you take down the traffic lights, less light pollution, you never have to stop driving, traffic never gets backed up. Sidewalks could be redone during construction.

70 create the town common soon for events that would draw visitors to town to spend \$\$

71 Appreciate the opportunity to share our thoughts i a private forum.

72 Town is going downhill

we need water sewer up the richmond corridor which was discussed at great length in the rezoning meetings last winter. Now is see and hear all the new structures in and around the village will likely use facilities which the rural community needs. Also I hear we are not charging appropriate impact fees for village development which is also at the expense of the tax payers and at the expense of those wishing to connect to future facility developmet up the richmond corridor. Why not charge the actual costs ? This type of over development will kill the town and all those other questions you asked earlier in the survey: traffic issues, increase taxes, increase infrastructure, school expansion, police, fire, ...will all become realtiy - and who pays for those ?

74 We moved here from So. Burlington to get. out of the mess of houses, traffic, craziness...for quiet, privacy and room...If we'd have known about all the building that was coming, we'd have moved farther out from the city area..
The taxes here are ridiculous..

75 The town needs to understand with no industry or light commercial we have no tax base. With large housing projects comes many negative consequences, and using land with services: water and sewer, for condos is a bad equation - bad for traffic, bad for schools, and leads to tax hikes. Remember the movie line, " if you build it they will come " ? That is one of the major problems. The growth rate is not natural it's artifical. If you build 500 units could they be filled ? Yes - with all the problems included. Then what - build another 500 ?
Yes to accessory units and yes to dispersing the population, my family included, into the mountain community.

76 Too much planned new housing will strain existing infrastructure (schools, traffic, wastewater, etc.)

- 1) It seems important to keep residential and commercial growth out of flood plain areas. The town has not been doing a good job in this regard. Hopefully Act 250 will do better.
 - 2) There is this belief that added growth will increase the tax base, and so there is this full steam ahead mentality. As was demonstrated in the Lot 15 struggle, a large box retail business would do little to increase the tax base. Witness the growth in Williston. They still had to raise the sales tax a point to break even. With increased rapid growth, municipal services are needed which throw an added burden on the tax payers. There are studies to prove this. I believe that growth needs to slow down. We are moving way too fast.
 - 3) Maintaining the village character is very important.
 - 4) All future residential and commercial building should be required to strive for energy standards higher than required by the state.
 - 5) Why not keep the plans for the Town Commons very simple: a few walkways, trees, a few benches, a small well placed gazebo, and enough open space to hold small bazaars with booths.
 - 6) I am very concerned about taxes going up year after year.
 - 7) It's great that Chittenden Solid Waste has a facility again in Hinesburg.
 - 8) The police budget is way too high. We may need to compromise somewhere in this.
 - 9) Why not locate a farmers market in the open field to the left of the mall across from Lot 15 on Mechanicsville Rd.
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78 Thank you for doing this.

79 The survey was far too long. You need to cut down on how long it takes to complete. People do not have the attention span to complete a multi-page survey.

80 Until Hinesburg has fixed the water and sewage I believe it is irresponsible to build more housing especially in wetlands with climate change ramping up.

81 Extremely poor enforcement of stop signs, traffic lights, speed limits, dog leash law and lack of dog waste cleanup by inconsiderate owners. Might help to have a full time police chief around rather than one who splits his time, presumably, between two towns.

82 As I said above... most of what you are asking what we want will cause more taxes, more needed employment/more expectations of what residents expect the town to "do for them". This town can stay rural. It doesn't have to become a larger bedroom community/look like Williston/S Burlington with poorly build housing projects

Again, Hinesburg seems intent on offering costly services and resources like wealthier nearby towns do without first developing the tax base to support those - as other nearby towns have done. The results have been town budgets increasing beyond the rates of inflation and residents' wage growth for almost all of the past ten years.

83 Like too many of our neighbors, we now feel forced to subdivide and sell our lovely forest land and will likely leave Hinesburg next year because of the growing tax burden of rapidly growing town services and resources. That subdivision will degrade the rural character and beauty of our town but we have no viable choice. As noted above Hinesburg must learn to live within the means of the residents who pay the taxes. Thank you for considering the above.

84 The services offered for rate of property tax is disproportionate. 4th highest in the country, and they're going up by 18%? I smell a mutiny.
Don't even think of asking those on well and septic to pay for the new water system.
Thanks for listening.

85 The problem with more housing means more students attending school which will lead to having to add onto the schools which in turn means more taxes which we are already taxed higher for.

86 Over the years I have felt more and more that the Town Manager/Admin does not want feedback or contact with the community at large. Decisions seem to be made in spite of the will of taxpayers/users/voters.

87 The zoning regulations have places a huge burden on rural residents. There is no break in property taxes, not allowed to sell small partials of land for home to preserve the beauty for others to enjoy. Well, you can't eat beauty!

88 I appreciate the time and energy that the committee does to help Hinesburg to be the special town that it is.

89 Stop raising our taxes, you are pushing people out of the town and the state as a whole.

90 The new designated crosswalk light on 116 is always a big muddy mess, the sidewalk for seniors walking to Lantman's from Kelley's Field Rd is awful. The crosswalk light should have been put at Kelley's Field Rd for seniors to access the good sidewalk....or better yet, fix the sidewalk. Also, the only way to visit the library is to drive, terrible town planning. This town center NEEDS AN EV CHARGING STATION, several of them!!

91 Interesting survey. One thing that comes to mind, I live in a 3 bedroom house with my partner. Based on size and location of house, it should really have a family with school aged kids in it. To make that happen, I would be leaving Hinesburg.

92 We need to add business with good tax base to help out with growth.

More restaurants, coffee shops... we would love to support those types of businesses. How about retirement housing/community?

A sidewalk on Richmond Road should be a priority before a kid gets killed!

93 We are against affordable income housing as this will kill the village, increase crime, and our schools can't handle more. Williston continues to grow and this will be a problem at CVU.

Let Charlotte focus on affordable houses! They have the space, the school and their population is decreasing.

94 Many seniors need an affordable handy person to fix small items around the house. A day of volunteer repair would be greatly appreciated.

95 Thank you for asking the questions. These are challenging times our community. I hope I can afford to live here into the future.

96 We want hinesburg to stay a rural Vermont town. Don't make it the next Williston!

97 Thank you for asking for our input

I am worried about the water and sewer with all the new developments planned. We have had our well monitored when the town drills new wells. It has had an effect both times, although not enough to stop the town from continuing on with the wells .Can you address to the town if the current wells will support all the new developments? Or will they require more wells? I am concerned that our well will continue to be impacted and unusable when the current wells support all the new developments. And I'm likewise concerned that if new wells are needed, they would also impact our well.

99 Property taxes are ridiculously burdensome and only getting worse. State agencies are constantly expected to do more with the same, which equates to more with less, and yet the municipal education budgets continue to grow exponentially. As a childless (by intent) couple, we understand the need for quality education - it is a contributor to a healthy society for all. However, it is a hard pill to swallow to keep absorbing unchecked increases to educational spending without seeing concurrent benefits. What about a tiered system that takes into account direct use of and benefit from the educational infrastructure and spending?

100 Hinesburg as a whole needs to be more walkable, not just in the village. The Richmond Rd sidewalk is badly needed and would serve 3 lower income areas. It's interesting to me that a new sidewalk was put in to accomodate the new townhouses on rt 116 that go for \$400K, and that it seems the idea of a sidewalk that could help out students walking to/from CVU and people who live in the mobile home parks off of Richmond Rd has been killed. Rich people get sidewalks that they don't need and low income areas are ignored. Or at least their occupants are put at risk as they walk a busy road with no shoulders. The town could at least mow on a regular basis so people don't have to walk through brambles as they make their way on Richmond Rd.

101 I think a plan for "selling" recreation would benefit our town. Something that wraps in mountain biking, disc golf, semi rural hiking- maybe a town trail that went up over NRG and connected all the other hiking areas in town - that would be amazing- a hiking town that would bring you to some of our local restaurants etc. Create more of a "Waterbury, feel". Waterbury has all the things we have but we're very disjointed in selling what Hinesburg has to offer.

102 well done survey

103 Thanks for all you do!!

104 Need more cultural events, social events.

105 It would be great to make Hinesburg Village more of a destination for recreational trail users (hikers, bikers, skiers, etc.), so people would come to spend money at more local restaurants and other businesses, not just a town to drive through on your way to recreate nearby.

106 It was too hard to rank certain lists and I listed my priorities in the "other" category so that I would not have to leave out things that are important to me, and I think that not giving people the chance to select more items skews the survey results away from important conservation priorities.

107 There is a serious need for more commercial & industrial space!

108 The truck depot off Stella is noisy at night, especially in summer. No marijuana stores please. I have no idea what additional services and retail are needed - we have pharmacy, banking, post office, beauty salons, thrift store, grocery, gift shop, gas stations, dentist, medical, restaurants and fast food, liquor store, coffee shop, library, public lake.

109 I know Hinesburg needs more housing, but it needs to be kept in the scale of the town and school. Large developments will significantly Change our community

110 Hard to afford housing with one salary only (widows)

111 There are a lot of projects in the works and our current level of emergency services, infrastructure, grocery store, and the elementary school are inadequate for the influx of new people, especially families, on the way.

112 Keep Hinesburgh friendly, rural, and safe.

Do not encourage constant building and drawing more people putting pressure on all services and infrastructure. Concerns also about the increase of nefarious behavior that follows unrestrained growth. Please do not let Hinesburgh become another Williston!

113 I basically stopped years ago trying to make a difference in Hinesburg. I attended SB meetings religiously for 2 years while keeping statistics on issues. The Board simply did not listen to the public.

I arranged a private meeting with a senior official to present my case, observations and data. I was told that these meetings "Are hearings ... not listenings" At that point i stopped attending. I So I must ask, is this survey simply another form of a hearing that is State mandated and check the box??

114 I am very concerned about the housing developments which are currently planned - and particularly their likely effect on traffic congestion.

115 I agree with denser growth in the village but worry that current plans go to fast and are too big. I don't think developers care about our town or about the quality of workmanship that we have to see year after year at the gateway to our village. The apartments next to Kinney are awful inside, and they aren't that old! Also, building new housing is not going to lower taxes. Pretty soon we are asked to fund more police, more fire services, a new town hall, etc. It's not going to balance out.

Hinesburg is a great place to live and raise kids. We love the size of the town and the community feel.

I think we need to take a hard look at the Chief of Police and his shady behavior.

116 We need to encourage businesses to come here in one way or another.

We need to clean up the Main Street (116), year down the abandoned houses and create a nicer downtown.

117 Work on needs before wants.

Work on the best ways for continued growth.

118 I would like Hinesburg to have a discussion about the amount of salt use on our roads in the winter and the level of impact it must have on the environment and premature aging of our vehicles.

119 I selected 3 for the number living in my household because my daughter and son-in-law will be living with me starting in June 2024. My daughter and I are white and her husband is a native Hawaiian.

120 Dirt road maintenance quality has declined in recent years.

121 Great Survey. Thank you

122 Thank you for all of your work.

123 Allow more building,

I have lived in Hinesburg for over 35 years. I do not think we should have our own full time police department. I believe that the VT State Police should provide services to all 650k Vermonters.
124 Another possible model is to have COUNTY wide law enforcement. WE CANNOT AFFORD IT and quality, expertise would be better with one larger group serving a wider area.

125 Traffic on 116 keeps getting worse. Silver St needs a light and other areas need a crosswalk.

More surveys, even though this one looks very familiar. Feedback:

I do not recommend. HB to people due to extremely high ED taxes and the intrusion of State gov't. Do we really know what the challenges are in the next 5-10 yrs? It won't be what you are planning on. Covid was not planned.

Yes, please limit new rules, laws, sticking ones nose in other's business...I know it rolls down hill from the State...they really need a reality check.

126 Conserve 30% of land...are you nuts? Eminent domain? So 3 out of 10 people will have their land taken from them? Thought we wanted a less intrusive gov't?? Let alone what it will do to the tax rolls.

Storm water problem is there because swamp land was developed. Now whose fault was that?
Housing: Hinesburg is a bedroom community - get use to it. We moved here because of it. Our taxes are high because of it. We don't want to be Williston, BTV, etc. So why try to cram more people into a small space just to appease gov'ts idea of how the little people should live. All we will accomplish is more unhappy people thus more crime. Just like BTV. Please think twice about it. We don't have the infrastructure or desire to live on top of one another.

127 I love the diversity of Hinesburg. I consider it to be eclectic and welcoming.

C: Nice and easily filled in - Good form-developer!

128

S: Extend the sewer lines up Richmond Road past Iroquois Mfg. to North Rd.

129 How can we make use of our flood plains and natural resources to provide resiliency to storm events, but also provide recreation, and the ability for farm and agriculture.

130 The state needs to designate growth towns. Instead of forcing rural towns to grow. The growth should happen in areas that can support it without cutting into our natural resources.

I hope to move to Hinesburg from Shelburne in the coming year :) I love the development that's
131 been done in the Kinney drugs and park side cafe area. I worry about congestion, especially on 116 as more housing is developed

132 Don't over grow the town

133 Don't "Williston" or "Essex" our town!

134 Thank you!

Please let's not let Hinesburg do what Williston is doing. We need affordable housing. We do not need extremely overpriced, ugly neighborhoods going in. Please focus growth in the village area, please focus on preserving wooded areas and put neighborhoods in open land areas. We need to focus on keeping taxes lower so we don't push Vermonters out of town.

136 Nice job! I hope the town plan gets a lot of feedback!

137 Keep up the great work!!

138 It's important to keep encouraging concentrated development and businesses in the Village to both improve quality of life and increase town revenue / reduce property tax burden on currently limited population.

139 Add more details and info on town website.

Hinesburg should have a town motto or slogan. Like: Hinesburg- Like No Other Place on Earth

140 Too much government spending, some private funding could be spent on many projects that are used by fewer people

141 Select board needs to remove older members from DRB board that sit in meetings and don't participate month after month. Mr Lyman needs to retire his seat. Hollow brook is full of tires, miscellaneous junk from some residents shoreline properties. The banks are scattered with junk that ends up in the brook during high water. The zoning has been helpful but the selectboard need to tighten up the laws. If this was happening on the banks of lake Iroquois something would be done. It shouldn't matter.

142 You rarely listen. You make these surveys then do what you want anyway , which is to ruin the village I moved to

143 Pay close attention to master trail plan for the town so that they can be incorporated into any new development plans, to gradually connect them up when possible.

144 The town needs to reel back spending. A 20 yr bond program to cover projected repairs should be a ongoing things. Curb your spending like households have to. More houses do not =more tax dollars. Plowing, police,water,sewer,traffic,schools eat any tax dollars produced by more housing. Now you need mose classrooms and teachers and road crew . Do all the math not just part of it.

145 Thank You!

Seek to be a place people live and visit to recreate ie: Richmond, specifically by adding MTB trail access from village center, ideally via a green network of flow trails and a pump track/jump/skills park, disc golf course, and/or a skate park. Accessible outdoor recreation is the future of thriving towns. Especially as snow sports see a decline with climate change in the next several decades. Doubles as a great way to improve transportation, safety, and reduce traffic (less people need to drive). Our greatest strength is all the unused open land space everywhere. Use it to let people exercise and get around without having to contend with motorists. Preserve swaths of land with low-impact recreation (trails, disc golf, etc.).

146 Roundabouts are far more cost-effective for speed control and safety than police, and they are always 'on-duty'. Adds character to the town. Reduces congestion and improve walkability. Remarkably safer than traffic lights/stop signs and totally passive. Even one roundabout through town would ensure NOBODY can go 70 mph through town at any hour of the day or night. Bonus if it's by the police station so perps have to ditch their guns & drugs there instead of at the elementary school.

The planned Haystack/116/Riggs rd right turn in/out ONLY intersection is the least safe option, most people will want to head NORTH ie: illegal left onto 116. CVU/Shelburne Falls/116 intersection will become incredibly congested post-Haystack Crossing. Already traffic issues turning left onto 116 from shelburne falls rd when CVUHS lets out.

The new intersection where Haystack Crossing and Riggs meet 116 NEEDS TO BE A ROUNDABOUT!!!! Don't get this one wrong! That right in/out only is an absolute disaster waiting to happen.

- 147 Be sure to keep (and increase) park areas in the Village so that it will be a desirable place to live even as we add more housing.
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- 148 Thank you
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- 149 Stop pushing for all the housing in the village! Step back and see that you are ruining what used to be a nice quaint town.
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- 150 Hinesburg is an excellent place to live.
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- 151 Conduct more community discussions during normal business hours
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- 152 I do appreciate being asked my opinion. Need a open comment section after each topic. There were items I wanted to comment on, but most have been forgotten other than I do not want more homes in Hinesburg. Putting homes in wetlands is a huge mistake.
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- 153 Don't use our most valuable resource...the rich bottomland (that was the reason Hinesburg exists where it does) to put up housing . We need our farmland for future generations.
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- 154 The water and sewer costs are ridiculous
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- 155 Town management & employess & highway department are greatly appreciated for their dedication & good work!
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- 156 Excellent survey, thank you.
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- 157 This is an excellent survey and I think you should work creatively to get as many reponses as you can. It is civic engagement 101.
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- I moved to Hinesburg for the small town feel, at the time, reasonable real estate pricing, and proximity to employment and culture (Burlington). Large, multifamily housing and large retail development is out of character with village life. The current area of newer housing downtown feels out of place in a village setting, and I fear it has set a precedent.
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- 158 We need more development like the Bristol Village Cohousing. Places like Bristol or Vergennes should be a reference on how the village downtown should feel. For instance, if you Google Hinesburg the first picture that comes up is of the homes on Farmall Drive, which look like they could be in Atlanta, the DC Beltway, or really anywhere in America where sprawl has become a problem. It's like someone put a typical American suburb in the middle of a village.
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- 159 Thank you for asking. Many complex issues, for sure.
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- 160 Property taxes are stupidly high as well as water prices. Something has to be done about these things.
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- 161 The size and scale of the proposed Wastewater Treatment Facility freaks me out. It absolutely feels like overkill to make up for the State's reluctance to get big dairy to stop polluting our waterways.
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- 162 Hi! The images on this survey are completely inaccessible. Setting your alt-text to "Image" is not an acceptable level of accessibility. As you know the population is aging, accessible communications (outreach, surveys, and meetings) needs to be improved, especially because Hinesburg is a publicly funded civic infrastructure, so legally required to meet WCAG 2.2 AA-level accessibility requirements.
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- 163 Thanks for offering us the chance to think about all of this and to fill out this survey.
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- 164 We will no longer be residents of Hinesburg after next year. Moving to a better run town that limits everything that Hinesburg is going towards. Good Luck!
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- 165 Excellent survey.
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