

Comments from the 2003 Hinesburg Town Survey
141 Comments in no Particular Order
Taxes way too high for no services
We really love Hinesburg and its small sense of community. However, we are unable to increase our property taxes any more. Therefore, this prevents us from being able to support anything that would increase our taxes.
Circle undecided often because it would be dependent on what specific plan is.
I feel that landowners should have the right to do what they want with their land. It is theirs, not the town's.
Doesn't like: lack of sports, lack of safe access to all parts of town via sidewalks, bike paths, cross walks Concerned about Route 116 safety
shift funds from lower priority programs to protect natural resources and provide additional recreational opportunities.
There were too many recent tax increases. The letter to the editor (Hinesburg Record) is right on target. A tax revolt is brewing.
Lack of sewer limits growth which is not all bad, however, it's forcing growth to occur on private roads and chopped up countryside which will be a big problem in the future. Town needs to decide which development pattern is in the best long term interest of taxpayers.
Running track - all weather surface, OK to be at CVU We support enhancing the village center We support improving the school
If we're not careful we'll be the next suburb. Save open land while we can.
focus on applying resources to BOTH preserve open spaces and encourage tourism in Hinesburg Invest in village infrastructure to promote foot traffic to small shops and restaurants Acquire and/or protect land for land stewardship and outdoor recreation purposes, especially near land-trust
Cut taxes by eliminating unnecessary expenses
Best bet is to emphasize village development while making poor traffic somewhat easier. If we increase our residents use of the village it will be a good thing for the community Too bad the post office isn't in village
Prefers to see mixed use development between mechanicsville rd and rt 116 around commerce street There has to be a very delicate balance creating new homes for family's to live in in Hinesburg. While an increasing enrollment would be great for HCS, it certainly would be the opposite case for CVU, which is what we consider to be the #1 problem in our area
Town should remain as rural as possible in character; there are enough retail stores in adjacent towns. Schools already offer many playing fields, etc. Some questions were not specific enough as to desired changes which would have to be considered on an individual basis.
Create a village park with stage for concert, outside restaurant seating, for meetings, and festivities
Education is killing us with the taxes that go to the 2 schools. When will it end?
Good survey - I need more info to answer a few. The role of a planner should be to advocate! Good luck Richard Watts
The DRB unresponsive to needs and desires of community. I favor policies to restrict growth everywhere in Hinesburg.
Protect only what the town owns. Do not allow the public to control private lands! Any type of business or tax sharing industry.
additional sewage additional commercial zoned land help with business plans, etc to start business similar to SBA Vt but local
I suggest low fee based recreational opportunities, ie. low price classes to offset cost of community center, fire field use, etc. invest in infrastructure on an as needed basis w/businesses

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paying part of upgrade as they enter Hinesburg. water/sewer, high speed internet or DSL, sidewalks to retail or service businesses
I believe Hinesburg needs to focus more on Community and things to do. Football is a great way to get together, and an exciting sport. Whatever happened to all of the money raised for a bike path that never happened? North Road may be a good location for a bike path, where there is placaes to park below Texas Hill. We need more businesses to lower taxes and places for teens to get together.
Encourage town to attract businesses that pay liveable wages I don't feel there is a "village". We have a state highway with buildings/businesses either side. There is no green. The post office and library are far away. There is no sidewalk to the library. The quality of the school education and buidlings is very poor for the amount of taxes we pay. I'm looking at moving to another town for better schools
Firehouse Plaza ugly population too big
Improve traffic at Lantmans
Recreation paid by users nothing slows traffic like a stop sign or traffic light In the next 5 to 10 years school taxes are going to eat taxpayer's alive. We run the risk of making the town, and even the state, unlivable be cause of high taxes. Only the wealthy need apply.
The taxes are outrageous for someone on a fixed income. Please don't let us become another Williston!
We can hardly afford the taxes as they are now!
provide recreational opportunities by reallocation of taxes and private rundraising are preferred
Hinesburg needs to preserve its village and rural character and stop developing all things for real estate and construction business to make more money
We do not need more playing fields
infrastructure roads, sidewalks, water, and sewer but not necessarily for business.
Need a hockey rink Thank you for doing a survey - I appreciate being able to voice opinions on these important issues
You should makBuckhill Road west safer with widening or a guard rail first. If yo provide services to someone a contract should be signed (for a buiness) that they will remain in place until any tax credits or infrastructure upgrades are paid off or they must pay a prorated amount.
Both schools need improvement and replacement of facilities Need bike paths & walkways to tie schools, library and village together. Continue restoation of rivers, streams and wetlands.
I think it is time for the towns of Hinesburg, Williston & Richmond (& St George) to become active in efforts to conrtol milfoil and overuse of Lake Iroquois - this is an important resource to these towns.
Densely populated village with recreational paths that extend outwards. Mixed use zoning in town. The town needs a center "Village green." completion of road behind cheese factory would draw off some traffic.
Thank you for providing a survey to slicit input.
I think that all school buses should be used for school purposes only, not for some of the bus drivers personal use and transportation purposes.
Provide opportunity to walk in town center and beyond I pay to upgrade my property businesses should pay to upgrade theirs.
New development shoud pay the cost for expanding the sysstem to increase capacity. A challenge is to accommodate growth in an environmentally sound manner.
Would like a toddler playground.
Does not like the Town telling what he/she can do with his/her property & forest conservation

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supports a traffic light at Lantmans wants economic development to evolve by need rather than trying to encourage or discourage tennis courts need to be upgraded suggests paving an area at CVU Rd and Rt. 116 intersection to allow a 2nd turning lane
The town lacks a real community center. Using Bristol as an example, there is a distinct center of town feeling - where one can walk around, shop, dine, meet people. Hinesburg lacks this, but does have the space for it - along the west side of 116 from the cheese factory to Ballards. With a good plan, this could be part of an attractive downtown.
Planning and Zoning law is justified for the general welfare if it provides for all the needs and uses of all the people in a appropriate and non discriminatory manner. Here hte objective is to rule against any use which is aesthetically displeasing to high income country commuter residents. State law says each town shall provide its fair share of low income housing. Does driving all low income out of town justify not building lown income housing?
how will you control growth outside of the village? I think question 4 is what you should strive for. For every building there is an amount of land which needs to be set aside to sustain it. Developers, business, and viallges need to incorporate this in their plans
answered no to question 9 because all streams are important
Would like a pool & health club need impact fees for development businesses should pay to install their own infrastructure Would prefer a bypass or alternative route to help kids get to CVU with cut across from charlotte rd to falls rd survey too detailed to answer w/o having a more info and knowledge, maybe better answers after forums
would support a roundabout at 116/silver st intersection Hinesburg is a Burlington suburb, and more residential development will make this worse we need to focus on making our community independent may need to focus on more jobs
question 9: all streams and rivers should have same level of protection LaPlatte in particular could benefit from increasing buffer zone; 200-300 feet would be a minimum start as well as looking into federal funding to restore parts of LaPlatte to its original course
room for residential expansion northeast of 116; west of silver st; mechanicsville north of falls rd one can build among trees and not disturb much
concerned about being able to afford property taxes thanks for getting our feedback
big yes to additional traffic lights retail services - it's OK the way we are. another williston or shelburne rd we do not need to become we're just right
taxes are too high for retirees on fixed incomes who have no children in school
only encourage growth if we control it elsewhere all streams/rivers need protection recreation systems that depend on continuouss connections should have highest priority as they are the most difficult to achieve - hiking trails, wildlife corridors, snowmobile trails, etc.
thank you!
all streams should be protected
growth anywhere but keep it concentrated
should strive to provide a Vermont village atmosphere (as in bristol or richmond) and to preserve the rural, undeveloped character to promote tourism and long-term residency focus on protecting open spaces, and ensure access to natural recreation areas, rather than using tax dollars to build new areas
taxes and water rates are too high, therefore I do not support any increase for either
ugliest town in VT thanks to firehouse plaza and mobil station re route 116 thru North road
would like a bike path through Gegrags Park would like mountain bike and cross-country ski trails
hope the survey data proves valuable hope the survey data helps shape decisions rather than just economic data

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does not like limitations on land that is not owned by the town town should not entertain more programs to increase property taxes, the tax rates are increasing exponentially live with what we have forget the greed and forcing our people to pay more money
village should be used more effectively; development should be in existing town center; there are too many empty lots and vacant buildings that could be utilized enjoys wildlife in fields behind police station, doesn't want to encroach on it
traffic light at lantmans
Hinesburg has changed from a rural town to a suburban town we are losing safe places for non-car travelers; need to preserve right of ways for rec trails - especially shelb falls rd, silver street, mechanicsville rd, richmond rd need land for VAST snowmobile trails and other trail types
don't "mall" Hinesburg maintain typical VT small town/village character
need to effectively create village and restrain from spreading out very important to maintain village/rural character all industry/retail should remain in Burlington housing can utilize urban infill in Burlington avoid Williston disaster at all costs
topics in questions 14 & 15 (traffic calming, traffic lights) will hinder traffic flow, not help it.
I encourage the development of the Village but it should be done with some sense of aesthetics. The Firehouse Plaza is one of the most unattractive malls I've ever seen. When I first saw it, I cried! Hinesburg has such a rich agricultural history - the building should respect that history.
I moved out of Williston to get away from development, and like the small town feel of Hinesburg. Let's keep it that way!
we have enough gas stations I would like to see a Town Green that is town centered and accessible by traffic and pedestrians.
I support increased taxes and realize their value but honestly can't afford much more and would sadly have to move if it keeps going up.
lower property taxes
Property taxes are already too high. We need to looka for other ways to raise funds for improvements. People make a town. Too many of our residents are leaving due to the tax problem.
supports town investment in infrastructure to attract business as long as it is a use tax
Thanks for asking!
the recycling center needs to be open an additional day or partial day taxpayers should not have to pick up infrastructure costs for new businesses
need traffic calming in front of united church
need more sidewalks
I wish the village had more of a town square - village center area
All development should be low-impact envrionmentally, and low impact on town infrastructure and services - i.e., sewage, schools, water, roads, police, etc.
any natural waterway deserves protection from us!
a road connecting police dept w/ charlotte rd (behind cheese factory) would be a good idea Our taxes are already too high, so though I'd like to see certain things added to our town, I feel the taxpayers are already too burdened. Things like conservation and planned growth can come from the private sector and careful town planning, and making people aware.
Very limited income. Could support tax increase to protect natural resources and recreational opportunities if I made more money. You designed a GREAT survey!
Its important to have a well balanced town plan. Fast growth is not desirable. Growth of town and implications to school system and town services must be considered. No growth or slow growth is preferred. All streams need protection.

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More money to fix dirt roads. Hold the line or reduce taxes.
Put more people who listen to residents on commissions.
Less asphalt and need roadside landscape features - e.g., fire station, Giroux's body shop, municipal bldg, corner of 116 and Mechanicsville Rd
Preserve farm land, while paying the farmers for doing so. Help the few farms we have left by lowering their taxes. Don't put any more restrictions on them. that way you will have aopen land for recreation, hunting, and snowmobiling.
No more taxes...
A bike path or sidewalk along the Richmond Rd north of the Triple L trailer park would ease sharing the road with cars and trucks going 50mph.
Thank you for your time.
The town is large enough! The schools are at or above capacity. Expanding residential areas is a mistake. The town's capabilities are taxed enough. I support light industry and some services to support it, and that's it. We're losing "Vermont"!
Move library back to Town Hall village area and then everything would be connected w/ existing sidewalks
We are so fed up with the education funding process that we have made plans to leave Hinesburg. Our town panders to the worst aspects of this flawed system. Tax payers are shamelessly abused by the self-serving year after year. We have decided the quality of life here is not commensurate with the cost.
The character of the Village needs improvement. It is unfortunate that Rt. 116 is the dominant feature of the village.
Downsize the police force. Do not need police protection during the day. Need it in the evening - 10pm - 6am.
I like everything about Hinesburg just the way it is. I don't think we should encourage growth at all; however, if it occurs anywhere it should be in the Village
We need a sidewalk or bike path along Mechanicsville rd. I see MANY children/teens riding bikes or walking here after dark - very dangerous.
Taxes too high, may have to move. One light at Lantman's only.
Some board members have too much power and lack the ability to contribute good sensible solutions for the betterment of the community. There is a lack of common sense.
Let's plan for smart growth. I don't want to live in another South Burlington or Williston. Let's keep Hinesburg rural.
Town employees get 100% health insurance, which isn't consistent with majority of residents. There is poorly used space in the Village. We should invest in bike/walking paths.
Maybe not additional space, just improvements to existing space. I think it's greate that you've asked Hinesburg residents all these questions. Thank You!
need bike paths, not roadside parking. need recreational facilities, not recreational land.
Need to connect CVU to the village. No safe way for kids at CVU to get to village without driving. Discourage driving, slow down Rt.116 through town.
need a bike path
need a hockey rink. green business is a business that minimizes its impact on the environment and local resources.
Keep town forest land open to hunters
need pharmacy village area not centralized enough
increase both sewer and water capacity to encourage more clustered development

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I resent the fact that each year I am taxed more and more for making my house and land look better!
Just moved to Hinesburg and sense of community, scenic & environmental quality, schools, and convenience to Burlington are the most important factors.
Thank you for putting this survey together. I hope you get a good response. need a skating rink.
As senior citizens, we've been taxed to death over the years with school taxes. We know schools need improvement but so do the roads and recreation areas. As seniors, we pay far too much in taxes for the school system. We have no one in school to benefit from this added burden. We wouldn't mind paying a percentage of teh school tax, but not the full amount. Until that time comes, we will continue to vote a resounding "No" to any bond issues for either CVU or Village School.
encourage recreational paths - Iroquois Pond Road?? down in village - biking, walking, skating safety paths
Village is getting too busy, Hinesburg is getting too busy
It seems to me the Lyman Meadows location has been a very good thing in reducing traffic - e.g., walk to school, walk to pick up a few groceries, walk to church, walk to recreation paths. The new homes scattered around town have had a tremendous cumulative effect on traffic and a loss of community connection. Any residential development in the village area should not look like Butler Farms - if teh open lands & vistas we are accustomed to seeing in village area are gobbled up, at least let them not be ugly behemoths.
Q1 - Dislikes local government only because of the police dept abuses the town with outrageous expenditures and requests for a bigger & bigger dept. and budget. Remember we pay taxes here for the State Police Services as well. Q7 - supports town-wide tax increase to increase sewage capacity only if developer bears some financial responsibility as well. Q15 - supports synchronized lights at Lantmans & 116/Silver St. Q16 - I think an indoor exercise facility (YMCA) type would be a great advantage given complications w/ B-Ton traffic
With taxes as high as they are in Hinesburg, we can't afford to do anything new.
Let's not turn Hinesburg into South Williston! Development will only increase congestion and ruin the character of our village and town.
We have to grow, but carefully, and welcome business here, but let them cover teh cost of any improvements they require. Taxes are high enough.
would like art classes to be offered.
Enlarging the cheese factory was a big mistake, new we need sewage system updated \$\$\$. We need better planning, so we don't have to pay for an updated sewage system.
If you must have development in Village, need to insure quality. Fireside Plaza is a perfect example of what not to do. Cheaply made, unattractive, ruins village feel and looks like New Jersey.
If VT law allows, I would like to see Town Houses developed in the Village between the Post Office and NRG. Town Homes that the owners own the land, no association fees, just the homes like the homes in Boston.
In many instances the items on a list from which we are to choose are interdependent. How can you say the Lewis Creek and the LaPlatte deserve more protection than the streams that flow into them? Just because I favor economic growth and accomoonodating development does not mean at the exclusion of preserving water quality and natural resources.
1. Do not count wetlands and steep topography toward one's developable acres. 2. Develop an open space plan.
No higher taxes!
The Town + State as a whole should change to accomodate (those seeking permits for growth

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responsibly) and enable all sitting boards so as existing law and rediculously rigid rules could be tweaked to small degrees as to allow for mor epositive rulings made possible by allowing common sense to prevail over rigid rules enacted by over zealous enviro freaks!!!
I am not interestedin seeing the town grow in population or businesses, I like our small town. There are plenty of businesses nearby. The more growth, the more trouble.
Dislike noise due to personal holdings (snowmobiles, ATV's, hunting in residential areas)
I spent 12 years working on Newark, N.Y. - a village which decided o open the area along both sides of the main route through town (Rte 31) to businesses, as there were few homes along this stretch. What they have now is an eyesore (it looks just awful) and a feeling that their once lovely village has lost its character. We must be careful about development!
When Mr. Weinhagen took over as the new Town Planner, he said in a newspaper interview (Hinesburg Record) that he's good at bringing different interests together, or bringing people to compromise ... something like that! This survey is encouraging evidence of that attitude/philosophy. Thank you.
Hinesburg has to come to terms with its taxes. I realize that the State needs to look at funding education differently and that we don't have much say in this matter but it is becoming almost prohibitive to live here! Very thought-provoking questions. Thank you.
Increase in populatoin has created many problems - not just in Hinesburg but in the state, in the nation, and in the world. To control the use of land, resources ect is only coping with the problem - not solving it - the increase in population is changing life styles also the electronic ageis using more enerty - since everything is changing we must change the town plan - what is wrong with the old one? Change just for the sake of change.
I willnot support an increase in taxes for anything - our taxes have increased 43% in the 8 years we have lived here - fixed income cannot afford it!
Remove existing snowmobile trails and do not allow ATV trails. These activities are noisy, cause pollution and waste natural resources.