

Town of Vermont Comprehensive Planning Public Meeting

Community Visioning Exercise Responses

What unique qualities or features of the town and its landscape would you like to see preserved, through the planning process?

- ◆ limited population, stable
- ◆ slower pace of life
- ◆ mix of lifestyles
- ◆ lots of trees & hills, cows & deer, turkeys & ???

- ◆ stop building on hilltops visible to road
- ◆ allow building sites to be bunched
- ◆ protect streams and run off
- ◆ keep woodlands

- ◆ mature woods, clean streams, diversity of wildlife
- ◆ working farms & nurseries & gardens
- ◆ rural roads
- ◆ low density development
- ◆ tradesmen, farmers, crafts workers, retirees live here

- ◆ natural beauty
- ◆ rural nature
- ◆ low density
- ◆ air & water quality
- ◆ essential privacy area provides

- ◆ natural setting
- ◆ irregular topography & roads
- ◆ forested areas
- ◆ low density – rural feeling
- ◆ nature/wildlife habitats & history of the area

- ◆ keep community like the Vermont Valley farm Willy Lehner; the Bakers;
- ◆ Dream Valley Farm for eggs & cheese
- ◆ local organic meats
- ◆ Local-less impact on the planet
- ◆ Quercus-Prairie restoration
- ◆ protect the darkness (no yard lights)

- ◆ primarily woods, pastures & marsh – healthy, mostly natural ecosystems
- ◆ sense of community
- ◆ small population
- ◆ lack of development
- ◆ eclectic mix of people & perspectives. I love mix of farmer, academics, etc.

- ◆ its natural beauty
- ◆ rural landscape – agriculture
- ◆ small roads
- ◆ local government
- ◆ no sprawling real estate developments – pop. density control

- ◆ variety of range of people who live here
- ◆ building site “View” regulations
- ◆ light pollution – regulate
- ◆ protect water table systems

- ◆ hills & curved roads
- ◆ trees
- ◆ low traffic
- ◆ privacy & quiet
- ◆ close interaction of people in township

- ◆ natural landscape
- ◆ (??)
- ◆ more communicating with neighbors, social ??

- ◆ everything – especially current landscape

- ◆ natural beauty – spiritual connectedness to Earth
- ◆ habitat – bird & animal, plant diversity, fish
- ◆ community – members are sensitive to local issues societal & environmental
- ◆ accessibility – limit future road expansion (length & width)
- ◆ historical – commemorate significance
- ◆ agricultural business opportunity (small scale) never corporate (exclude)
- ◆ regulate or restrict use of genetic modified crops to maintain natural& cultivated diversity

- ◆ long views with few visible buildings
- ◆ large expanses of undeveloped land
- ◆ sense of community among neighbors
- ◆ economic diversity among residents

- ◆ woods, prairies, savannas, streams, cropland
- ◆ town government
- ◆ sense of community
- ◆ people living off the land
- ◆ good neighborliness

- ◆ “rural” character
- ◆ natural beauty
- ◆ preservation i.e. prairies, structures

- ◆ roadside flora
- ◆ hilltops without houses
- ◆ variety of people
- ◆ maintain pastoral views
- ◆ harmony

- ◆ low population density
- ◆ low crime rate due to people knowing their neighbors
- ◆ “clean” views uncluttered by suburbia
- ◆ long term residents committed to making homes and families here
- ◆ large tracts of single ownership, land with low less homes

- ◆ tree/state & county parks
- ◆ open fields
- ◆ lower taxes

- ◆ preserve the diversity that now exists
- ◆ higher quality of forests
- ◆ eliminate (at least ??gate) pests such as Asian beetles, box elder bugs
- ◆ public view from road looks very rural
- ◆ nil erosion
- ◆ township government
- ◆ low traffic

- ◆ not seeing building from all views – have space
- ◆ roads that are not fast highways – that discourage thru traffic
- ◆ no subdivisions or housing developments
- ◆ quiet – the general quietness
- ◆ good road service – reasonable and adequate but not expensive
- ◆ keep it so I can hunt
- ◆ keep the character of the town to reflect reasons why we all stayed here or moved here

- ◆ rural character, ag & forests
- ◆ housing blended into landscape
- ◆ family histories
- ◆ organic farming, food production
- ◆ neighborliness

- ◆ rolling hills
- ◆ preserve wetlands
- ◆ streams
- ◆ prairies that are restored
- ◆ openness and friendliness of residents towards each other

- ◆ rural landscape
- ◆ encourage wetlands & woodland
- ◆ encourage cultural preservation

- ◆ streams
- ◆ roads
- ◆ fields
- ◆ respect all residences
- ◆ try to preserve old barns

- ◆ rural character
- ◆ tranquility
- ◆ natural beauty
- ◆ population density
- ◆ agricultural roots

- ◆ the beauty & integrity of its natural landscape
- ◆ its history & its rural character in its buildings
- ◆ its strong sense of community & caring

- ◆ insure that development restrictions are not arbitrary and do not unduly restrict architectural and land use creativity. As now structured, they tend to favor “boxes on flat ground” rather than “design with nature”

- ◆ rolling hills
- ◆ woodlands
- ◆ deer

- ◆ protect the streams
- ◆ town roads with low speed limits
- ◆ scenic roads with vegetation close to road

- ◆ low development density
- ◆ class diversity/cultural diversity/age diversity
- ◆ agriculture
- ◆ woodlands
- ◆ simplicity
- ◆ darkness – no light pollution, even if that means regulations
- ◆ no cell phone/radio towers
- ◆ very limited logging & bulldozing

- ◆ rural setting
- ◆ natural resources

- ◆ housing dispersements?
- ◆ local control
- ◆ citizens' rights preserved
- ◆ strong local government
- ◆ sense of community pride

- ◆ limit number of driveways
- ◆ allow more than one house per
- ◆ allow farms to grant if possible

- ◆ the development under the 35 acre limit
- ◆ I would not like to see cluster development that is advocated in smart growth

- ◆ limited drive ways
- ◆ rural landscaping
- ◆ common sense growth

- ◆ the grasslands & forested areas & other beings that need these habitats
- ◆ water quality – including buffer areas at streams
- ◆ view shed & houses on hills must be set back so can't be seen
- ◆ community feeling-supporting each other by buying local goods & services
- ◆ keep low density of houses
- ◆ darkness, so we can see the stars

What about the Town of Vermont would you like to see changed?

- ◆ better communication amongst residents
- ◆ safer roads
- ◆ local employment opportunities

- ◆ lower taxes
- ◆ no tax on open land
- ◆ snowmobile trails – rec trails
- ◆ light pollution
- ◆ control exotic species & pests

- ◆ our town have more authority for self governance
- ◆ a few more township parties like town picnic
- ◆ nothing else

- ◆ nada
- ◆ litter collection on roads

- ◆ clean roadsides

- ◆ more of its “personal” resources shared perhaps like Ithaca, NY, trading perhaps
- ◆ no pesticides-no chemicals that are hormone disrupting
- ◆ more carpooling–perhaps work with Madison on a train to Madison from Black Earth-mass transit of sorts
- ◆ more green building methods
- ◆ education that teaches our children about their community and how to live here & take care of it

- ◆ divisiveness over planning, zoning
- ◆ lack of vision for future (so thanks for being here!)
- ◆ growth does not seem thoughtful
- ◆ too many new homes on hilltops
- ◆ increase in traffic by my home (especially speeders & loud music)

- ◆ respect individual owner rights but also respect rights & vision of community as a whole
- ◆ development of trust for town to purchase natural areas for public (i.e. parks, nature preserves)
- ◆ reduce property tax for farmers-legitimate farmers (main source of income)

- ◆ keep it from becoming too structured
- ◆ nothing
- ◆ lower real estate taxes
- ◆ allow individual land decisions-pending what can be done with the land
- ◆ let the land dictate the development
- ◆ zoning for senior citizens to build retirement home on existing property (2 story home not suitable for health reasons)

- ◆ law enforcement
- ◆ guideline for housing
- ◆ better roads

- ◆ nothing – any change needs careful thought and minimal impact on visual characteristics

- ◆ rate of tax increase on property
- ◆ ability to develop land detracting from natural beauty
- ◆ improve ability for local economic opportunity

- ◆ slower pace of subdividing land and building homes
- ◆ more welcoming to visitors, e.g. bicyclists

- ◆ subordinate personal goals to community goals
- ◆ improve road/highway safety
- ◆ lack of a clearly understood and agreed to plan for our future
- ◆ reduce the feeling of divisiveness
- ◆ everyone committed to protecting, preserving and restoring the environment

- ◆ more citizen involvement

- ◆ I like the views and physical atmosphere
- ◆ I would like to see a minimum building
- ◆ I would like to see more involvement from all the people not just a few

- ◆ the actions of developers that ignore zoning & land use plans
- ◆ the fear of the township to fight developers in court
- ◆ the belief that development will lower property taxes
- ◆ the notion that existing residents do not have a say in new home builders' sites

- ◆ I don't know much about the township to see changes
- ◆ zoning for younger people(?) can afford to live here

- ◆ "some" consistency with other adjacent townships (regulatory)
- ◆ fallen buildings removed
- ◆ herbicide control on flow over
- ◆ safe well water-no chemical fertilizer/insecticide contamination

- ◆ a way to allow us to keep our property (financially) after we retire
- ◆ limits on how much lighting brightens the sky – require downward or shaded lighting outdoors

- ◆ more opportunities for young, organic farmers
- ◆ low commitment to land use plan, or too easy to get exemptions

- ◆ good ole boys method of establishing public policy by small minded power cliques
- ◆ openness to diverse points of view
- ◆ increase separation of church & state

- ◆ get taxes under control
- ◆ avoid building on hilltops
- ◆ encourage environmental preservation

- ◆ encourage more participation in government
- ◆ inform residents of changes through mailings
- ◆ mail a copy of the L.U.P. to every property owner

- ◆ nothing

- ◆ its land use plan enforced with teeth
- ◆ housing that does not reflect its rural character in the location & style

- ◆ limit houses built – new construction site
- ◆ town board not following protocol
- ◆ lower speed limits on town/county roads
- ◆ enforce rules now have

- ◆ insure that development restrictions are not arbitrary and do not unduly restrict architectural and land use creativity.- as now structured, they tend to favor "boxes on flat ground" rather than "design with nature"

- ◆ limit size of dwellings
- ◆ cooperation between neighbors
- ◆ lower speed limits on county roads

- ◆ not much-most changes like to hurt rather than help
- ◆ a bit less friction between newcomers and the "old guard"
- ◆ no bicycle races/motorcycle & auto road rallies
- ◆ no Tyrol Basin ski area (even though they really are "good neighbors"-successors might not be)
- ◆ decrease deer population vigorously

- ◆ people being able to tell me where I can build on my land
- ◆ slow down traffic on "F"
- ◆ more comfortable chairs, town hall

- ◆ less arguing
- ◆ more cooperation

- ◆ clean up the landscape – new England went from rural to urban
- ◆ we need to define “rural character”
- ◆ the transition of small farms to rural/urban leaves/makes for a lot of eyesores

- ◆ growth – we must allow some growth. It’s inevitable
- ◆ no bike races on these narrow country roads

- ◆ some of the leadership needs to be changed to create government with more long-range planning,
- ◆ commitment to enforcement of laws, & more effectively & inclusively run meetings
- ◆ more commitment to protecting natural habitats & native diversity & beauty
- ◆ better liaison with other governments-end to rural/urban warfare – intergovernmental cooperation
- ◆ more commitment to preserving history
- ◆ commitment to preserve darkness – shield all outdoor lights to spray downward
- ◆ tolerance of diverse points of view
- ◆ less litter

Describe how you would like the Town of Vermont to look and/or feel in 20 years. You may use words, and/or may draw an image to communicate your thoughts.

- ◆ my children could come back and it would still seem familiar

- ◆ keep the town’s rural character

- ◆ that qualities in question 1 still prevail (mature woods, clean streams, diversity of wildlife, working farms & nurseries& gardens; rural roads; low density development; tradesmen, farmers, craftworkers, retirees live here)

- ◆ rural natural setting, open views w/out rural sprawl. any growth should fit into the setting including establishment of any commercial growth. farms still in operation. no sprawl.

- ◆ still here. clean water, air. a local, diverse (biologically & cultural)) community drawing from al the local talents and local wildlife

- ◆ would look very similar when driving around, because new structures would be blended in or behind trees, hills. Continues sense of “small town” community, still mix of people, many know one another. Continues (or increase) to be agricultural – many people have livestock or grow food (especially if organic.) Township has public paths and park that allows all citizens to enjoy the landscape. Towns around – Mt. Horeb, Black Earth, etc. continue to provide “urban” services, while Vermont stays less developed.

- ◆ much the way it looks now with more land preserved for its natural beauty

- ◆ keep it the same as now only have more service on keeping roads safe in bad weather – includes the country. affordable real estate taxes.

- ◆ no high rises & apt complex – no fast auto

- ◆ new development would be inconspicuous, (cottage-industry (definition needed?))-accessible but limited in physical growth (i.e. web growth encouraged)

- ◆ like a rural community reflecting forethought of sensitivity to natural surroundings in an era where development is often sprawling subdivision.

- ◆ many local businesses doing lots of business locally - extensive contiguous natural areas set aside from development - very few “skyline” structures, most building blend with their surroundings
substantial consensus regarding land use regulation
- ◆ rural pastoral, sensible, joyful, helpful, grateful, kind, considerate, caring, good for kids, working adults, older adults, rich, poor, ethnically varied, welcoming, environmentally conscious and successful
- ◆ [the] same
- ◆ I will probably not be here – but I would like to think it would not change too much
- ◆ friendly people who know & help each other and enjoy the simple pleasures on their land without fear of subdivisions & condos encouraging less caring people to move in
- ◆ still being a small town and not connected to the next township through land development
- ◆ all tillable land as cropland - all frontage (to public) lush green - no wild parsnip on roadsides, highway right of way, etc.
- ◆ rural; quiet; can see night sky; can still hunt; no population explosion; growth was gradual
- ◆ supportive of old people & use of local skills - reduced levels of land & water degradation, increased impact of pre-settled environments
- ◆ increase friendliness towards each other throughout the community - enhance physical beauty of public lands through community involvement - maintain the rural feel of the community
- ◆ want to keep the “old time” values, ex. knowing your neighbor, helping each other, work as a community not as an individual
- ◆ let the individual property owners build and maintain their property to reflect their wishes yet stay within the land use plan.
- ◆ I would like to see the township as a magical little pocket of sanity surrounded by overdeveloped, poorly planned, poorly run township who envy our foresight in our plans that we implemented 20 years before
- ◆ community; natural; a leading example of truly sustainable development that respects the needs of the generations to come.
- ◆ no developments – rental properties; apts; trailers; not urban
- ◆ I would like it to remain rural and scenic
- ◆ just like it is, but with more mature forests
- ◆ [the] same
- ◆ about the same, or better - a lot more houses & people, but well dispersed
- ◆ like to see it stay as close to the way that it is now. growth needs to be allowed but kept in the best interest of our people who live here
- ◆ we see the development under the 35 acre policy – no more density than that
- ◆ I would want it to stay pretty much the same way keeping in mind that times change and also the town will change also, but in a sensible way

- ♦ very much the same – few new houses & reinvestment in old open spaces – farms operating – dark at night, so stars can be seen - restored oak savannahs

Please feel free to share with us any additional comments you might have about the future of the Town of Vermont and/or the comprehensive planning process.

- ♦ this small corner of Dane Co. could be discovered and overwhelmed by the county's population growth
- ♦ I believe we will be taxed out of our homes within 10 years
- ♦ in some ways this planning process seems to invite us to change. I like things how they have been. I am not sure that making the planning process more sophisticated means better outcome
- ♦ many planning goals i.e. #s 2, 6, 9, 14, 10 (on overview) antithetical to goals of Vermont's residents
- ♦ some of the planning goals don't fit with this rural area like #14, #11.
- ♦ we all live downstream
- ♦ keeping land value & property tax under control is very important.
- ♦ keeping own local governing body & autonomy is very important.
- ♦ slowing development is very important.
- ♦ taxes affordable to land owner
- ♦ county must not impose unrealistic expectations on township – (as applied to towns w/ cities, villages, etc.)
- ♦ the people of this community will participate in the decision of land use and planning for our land.
- ♦ the process is necessary and should go forward w/o delay but time is not the most important driver of the process.
- ♦ I think this is an exercise in futility as long as it is mandated by the state and county. at least key issues are mandated. the town feels dictated to. we need to break down the we/they attitude ???
- ♦ there are many talented people living in this town - we need leadership to get more involved
- ♦ some control on excessive land/home assessments to prevent loss of homestead from excessive taxation, evaluation
- ♦ how can I participate? we want to be involved without being overwhelmed
- ♦ restrict use of chemicals and other pollutants
- ♦ preserve clean air
- ♦ population diversity should be encouraged
- ♦ encourage more people to attend meetings

- ◆ just this adage: move slowly from where we are now. There are some directions that might never let us find our way back to a place we like and there are certain courses of action that cannot be ~ undone
- ◆ assure that the Plan Commission & Board set the proper helpful support to create an effective plan & set of enabling ordinances
- ◆ I would like to avoid the bitter fighting between neighbors when adopting a new or changed plan
- ◆ how do you devise a plan to limit growth that can stand up to the “monied interests” e.g. developers, lawyers, yuppies, republicans ?
- ◆ freezing property taxes
- ◆ 10 yr. 1/2 reduction
- ◆ all state reps should be voted out of office for coming up with this mandated process!
- ◆ 30 years ago, town government was described as “non-viable” – town government should be maintained