



# Craftsbury Community Visit

**Report and Action Plan ~ December 2015**

**Vermont Council on Rural Development**

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# I. Introduction

Community life in Craftsbury is defined by connectedness and a shared sense of pride in the beauty of the rolling hills, the family farms that dot the landscape, and the unique character and quality of life in this Northeast Kingdom town. Residents and visitors alike enjoy the landscape year-round, skiing and biking on the trails of the Craftsbury Outdoor Center, boating and sculling on Great Hosmer Pond, and exploring the town's community forests. Numerous cultural and educational assets such as the Art House, Sterling College, and quality k-12 schools add to the town's vibrancy and appeal. Craftsbury Common, the Village, East Craftsbury, Collinsville, and Mill Village add to the diverse character of Craftsbury. This is a community that comes together to celebrate, share a meal, enjoy music on the Common, and work together for the long term good.

Craftsbury's biggest asset is its people. When the town worried their beloved school was at risk of closing, they rallied together to find the resources to breathe new life into the Academy and build a stunning new gym with a floor made of locally-donated wood. This is also a town where two local businesses, the Craftsbury General Store and the C Village Store collaborate and throw the town a block party each year attended by 1,000 residents. This is a community that celebrates local leadership and initiative and recognizes all they can accomplish together.

While Community Visits are designed to help communities come together, review major issues, develop priorities and line up for action, VCRD has a couple of other goals behind these efforts. We look to build new volunteerism and encourage more local folks to get involved in moving the community forward. We want to help build the connections of the community to human, technical, and funding resources from lead agencies and organizations in the state. And we want to help the Visiting Team that we build learn more about local needs and the dynamics in the diverse towns of rural Vermont so they can better serve these communities.

The Visiting Team was impressed with Craftsbury's strong turnout from beginning to end and the way the community embraced all residents input, young and old, new to town and folks who go back generations. With over 185 local people participating in the process and over 90 volunteers now engaged in active Task Forces to advance priorities, we know that there is great energy for real progress in Craftsbury today. At the end of the Community Visit, we see strong, practical work plans and some direct connections being engaged for key support from USDA Rural Development and the VT Department of Public Service on improving broadband and cell phone access; Northeastern Vermont Development Association on advancing land protection; and, locally, from the Craftsbury Outdoor Center, Sterling College, The Art House, and Craftsbury Academy on building connections between the schools and the community. The town has chosen to take on challenging initiatives, and the work ahead will not be easy, but Craftsbury is a dedicated, motivated, and strong community that is ready and willing to get to work to ensure future prosperity and quality of life for their town.



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It was not easy to choose priorities at the Community Meeting, and there are many other good ideas for action listed in the 'opportunities' section of this report that can inform the ongoing work of the Task Forces and a starting point for future efforts in town over time.

We look forward to working with the Craftsbury Task Forces as the priority projects identified in the process move forward efforts to:

- **Advance Craftsbury Land Protection**
- **Improve Cell Phone and Broadband Access**
- **Build Partnership between the Schools and the Community**

The Task Forces working to advance these issues are already hard at work—please support their efforts, or join them by reaching out to their chairs (listed in the work plan section of this report).

The Vermont Council on Rural Development is dedicated to helping Vermont communities develop their capacity to create a prosperous and sustainable future through coordination, collaboration, and the effective use of public and private resources. VCRD is prepared to support the efforts of Craftsbury as it moves forward and to provide follow up help to the Craftsbury Task Forces as called upon. VCRD will also serve as an advocate for Craftsbury projects with appropriate agencies and organizations in Vermont. Call on us, and on Visiting Resource Team members, when we can be of help.

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There are many people to thank for making this Community Visit effort possible.

We would like to thank the Craftsbury Selectboard and the Planning Commission who initially invited this process. We also deeply appreciate the work and leadership of the Steering Committee who helped guide the process from the beginning including; Judy Geer, Susan Houston, Emily Maclure, Linda Wells, Amelia Robinson-Fritz, Michelle Warren, Linda Ramsdell, Harry Miller, Mabel Houghton, Bruce Urie, Matthew Derr, David Rowell, Annie Rowell, Sharon Moffatt, Farley Brown, Steve Moffatt, Kristy Lamare, Merri Greenia, Jeremiah McCann, Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, Kent Young, Alan Parker, Joe Houston, Jim Jones, and Ned Houston.

We are very thankful for the dedication of Craftsbury Academy Principal Merri Greenia and the staff and students at Craftsbury Academy to the Craftsbury community and the Community Visit Process. The input of Academy faculty and students was invaluable to the process and to setting a direction for the future of the town.

Mike Moser and the UVM Center for Rural Studies are terrific allies in our efforts and we appreciate their help building a briefing profile for the VCRD Community Visit Team.

Thanks must also go to the generous financial supporters of the process: USDA Rural Development, the Community National Bank, The Northeast Kingdom Fund of the Vermont Community Foundation, the Green Mountain Fund of the Vermont Community Foundation, and the Craftsbury Community Fund of the Vermont Community Foundation.

VCRD calls state, federal and non-profit leaders at the top of their game to participate in Community Visit processes. We are proud of the partners we get to work with—and especially the Craftsbury Team—they are the best of Vermont's public servants.

Getting things done is all about leadership, and all of Craftsbury should be grateful to those who've stepped up to serve as chairs of the task forces: Annie Rowell, Farley Brown, and Carol Maroni: Advance Craftsbury Land Protection; Brian Machesney and Michael Heffernan: Improve Cell Phone and Broadband Access; and Sharon Moffatt and Ceilidh Galloway-Kane: Building Partnership between Schools and the Community.

VCRD especially wants to thank Emily Maclure for stepping up to lead this process as the Community Visit Chair. Emily is a natural leader and, as the owner of the Craftsbury General Store, a local institution, she is a center point in the community. We look forward to working with Emily over the months ahead as Craftsbury advances its priorities.

In the end, though, we are proud at VCRD that we work in a place where community is real and strong, and where local residents work together to get things done to make their communities the best they can possibly be. So we are grateful to all residents, young and old, who stand up for Craftsbury and who are lined up for the common good and best future for this wonderful place.



*The community put on a potluck dinner for 200 community and visiting team members on Community Visit Day...*



*Jenna Whitson, VCRD Community and Policy Manager, enjoying the sunshine.*



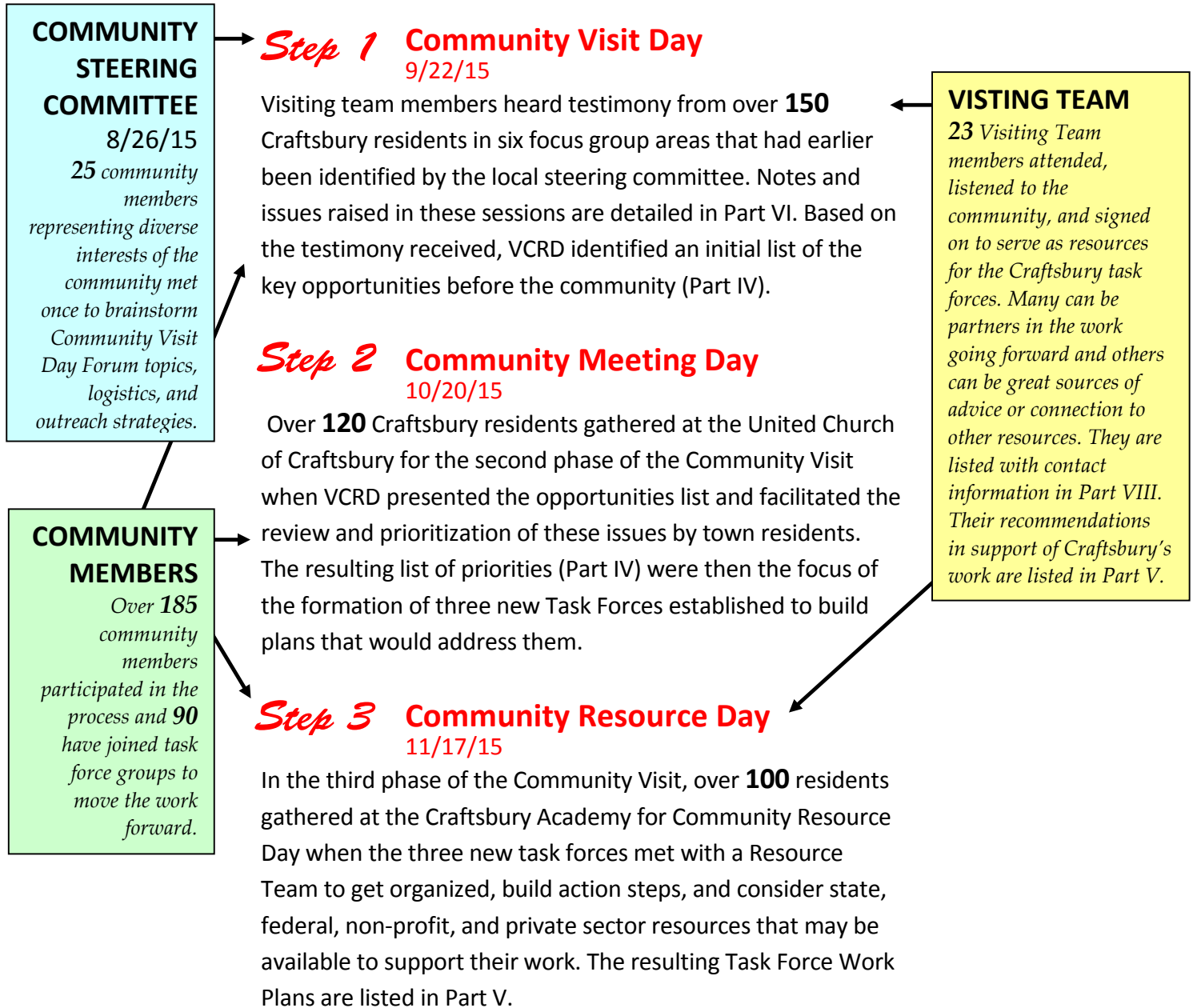
*...with entertainment thanks to Ned Houston and Don Houghton!!*



*Community members shared their ideas at forums with Visiting Team members.*

## II. The Craftsbury Community Visit Process

The Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD) Community Visit Program is a structured process that enables a community to identify and prioritize goals, fosters local leadership, and serves as a catalyst for the development and realization of concrete, achievable action plans. **The program in Craftsbury consisted of three phases depicted here:**



### III. Vision for Craftsbury's Future

*These points of vision were compiled from vision statements that were shared during the Community Meeting on October 20<sup>th</sup> and supported by participants at the November 17<sup>th</sup> Resource Meeting and an online survey. The statements represent broad hopes that community members have for the long term good of Craftsbury.*

#### **Craftsbury residents look to a future for the community where:**

- ❖ Craftsbury has a vibrant school that is the center of educational excellence and expertise. Preschool is available to every child. There is a positive connection between Sterling College, the Outdoor Center, and the Schools.
- ❖ Craftsbury has an active working landscape; farmland is preserved and farmers are given special emphasis for their role in maintaining and preserving open spaces.
- ❖ Craftsbury has beautiful and open landscapes. Its viewsheds and watersheds are protected. The lakes are protected from milfoil infestation as well as from development, and are maintained for recreation such as paddling, fishing, and hunting.
- ❖ As a community there is a sense of conservation of resources.
- ❖ Craftsbury is an inclusive community where people from all backgrounds and identities feel welcome and at home. It is a multi-generational community for residents of all ages.
- ❖ Craftsbury has economic vitality that makes it possible for our young people to stay in the community.
- ❖ Craftsbury is a safe place for our most vulnerable, the very young and very old. Nobody goes hungry or is food insecure, and affordable housing and emergency services are available to all.
- ❖ Craftsbury is a community of neighbors where residents are neighborly to those next door as well as those that live across town. Residents engage in respectful and civil dialogue and are well practiced in those skills.
- ❖ Craftsbury is a walkable, bike-able community that is not too dominated by cars. Road travel is safe and slow through town and roads are safe for horseback riders and bikers.
- ❖ Craftsbury embraces outdoor recreational opportunities, such as cycling and equestrian activities, that encourage a lifelong active lifestyle for community members.
- ❖ There is a gathering place, a restaurant, café, or tavern where community members connect and relax together. Local access to art, theater, and music is promoted.
- ❖ As a community, we encourage businesses to locate in town that are compatible with community values.
- ❖ High speed internet is available to everyone.
- ❖ We recognize, value, and highlight the good things we can do as a small rural place that wouldn't be possible in a larger place.



## IV. Craftsbury Priorities

Determined by Craftsbury residents at the VCRD Community Meeting, October 20, 2015

*Proving that those who live, work and raise their families in a community are best qualified to understand its needs and potential, Craftsbury community members whittled down a list of 20 issues through discussion, reasoned arguments and thoughtful reflection. In the end, voting with red and blue stickers, over 120 participants chose three issues that offer opportunities to enhance existing resources, and to strengthen the town through exciting new ventures. Residents concluded the October 20th meeting by signing up for one of three Task Forces in the selected areas.*

### Craftsbury residents selected three priorities for future action:

#### ✓ Advance Craftsbury Land Protection

Many residents are concerned about development pressures on Craftsbury's open landscape and village character. A Task Force could be formed to evaluate ways to protect and enhance community assets including the potential for really well designed land use tools to protect, sustain, and enhance beloved community assets.

#### ✓ Improve Cell Phone and Broadband Access

Craftsbury residents would like to have better access to cell coverage and broadband internet access. Craftsbury could convene a partnership of local residents to work with regional, state, and federal partners to bring improved cell and broadband coverage to the community.

#### ✓ Build Partnership between Schools and the Community

Craftsbury Academy students and community members expressed a desire to better connect the Craftsbury Schools, the community, the Outdoor Center, and Sterling College. A group could come together to better connect students with the community, the college, and the outdoor center by developing community-wide activities and programs, building internship and service opportunities in local businesses or the Craftsbury Community Care Center for students in the town, or create collaborative programming and learning opportunities with the Outdoor Center and College. The group could look into opportunities to raise funds for these activities and to establish a foundation to help support these efforts.



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## Other Key Opportunities identified by the community:

*Along with the three chosen priorities, the key opportunities listed below reflect other potential ideas for action that community members shared on Community Visit Day, and students at the Craftsbury Academy session. Though these opportunities weren't chosen as priority projects through this process, community members may find the list useful as they look to expand on current projects or take on new ones.*

- **Explore Transportation Alternatives**

Craftsbury residents value their Village and Common as well as their local businesses, farms, Sterling College, and the Outdoor Center, though many recognize a lack of safe and accessible transportation alternatives for residents to enjoy these community assets without relying on their cars. A Transportation Alternatives Task Force could form to identify possible alternative transportation for the town including a website or Facebook page for car sharing/carpooling, a public transportation or bussing system, and a local park and ride to facilitate ride sharing for commuters.

- **Improve Community Communications**

Residents of Craftsbury recognize and celebrate the plethora of community activities and cultural/economic assets in town. Many participate in Old Home Days, the Community Block Party, and concerts on the Common. Additionally, the Art House, Outdoor Center, and Sterling College offer many programs and activities. Residents feel that if these activities and learning opportunities were better advertised and shared, more would take part and utilize these resources. Many also feel that residents should be made aware of resources and services that are available to individuals and families that may need help. A group could come together to improve community communications with a community newsletter, calendar and other ways to share information. Students at the Academy are also interested in being more connected to community activities and could be an excellent resource for this group as they identify and implement effective communication strategies.

- **Develop an Emergency Food Shelf in Craftsbury**

Craftsbury residents are concerned that there is no emergency food for individuals and families in town. A group could come together to develop a community food shelf and include a clothing swap to serve those in need. Special attention could be paid to acquiring donations from local farms to improve access to fresh and local foods.

- **Improve Road Safety and Parking**

Craftsbury residents are concerned about safety and speed along town roadways. Increased truck traffic, excessive speed, and more pressure to share the road with bikers and pedestrians pose safety risks. A Road Safety Task Force could come together to identify and implement strategies to control speed and improve road safety including: increased and improved signage, speed bumps, radar speed signs, community policing, increased enforcement, or a town ordinance. Some residents also expressed interest in including students, seniors, and artists in finding creative and innovative solutions to the speeding and safety problem. This group could also explore the potential of a designated parking area in Craftsbury Village to improve safety, walkability, and accessibility.

- **Improve and Expand Community Trails, Paths, and Walkways**  
 Craftsbury is a beautiful and scenic town and residents would like to improve trails, paths, and walkways in order to make it easier to get out for recreation and to offer a safe route between the Village and the Common and to the Craftsbury Schools. A Task Force could focus on trails and paths, especially between the Village and the Common, and could explore the possibility of sidewalks in the Village and Common. Opportunities could also exist to connect the Sterling and Outdoor Center trails to town and connect Craftsbury to other NEK towns via trails. A Paths and Walkways Task Force could form to identify strategies and resources to improve and expand trails, map them, and expand access including within the three town forests.
- **Develop Affordable and Efficient Housing**  
 Craftsbury is a town that is growing and attracting young families to the community and the schools. However, lack of affordable housing opportunities is a barrier for many hoping to move to town. The community could form a task force to connect with developers in the region to design and build affordable and energy efficient housing to attract young families and individuals to town. It could also explore co-housing opportunities and the potential of a new senior housing development in town.
- **Open a Community Center for Craftsbury**  
 Craftsbury residents are interested in making more services available for youth, individuals, and families in town. The community could form a task force to develop a plan for a community center which would house a community food shelf, a youth activity center, a space for senior activities, a larger and more accessible preschool program, and potential community medical services. The group would identify a potential site for the community center, which may include exploring vacant buildings in the Village. The group would also identify state, federal, regional, and local grant and funding opportunities to support the effort and the steps to move forward.
- **Develop a Craftsbury Agriculture and Land Use Network**  
 Craftsbury residents value their working landscape and local farm and forest businesses. In order to better connect these businesses with the community, a Task Force could form to develop a network between working landscape enterprises to their mutual benefit and to increase access to local products in the community. Many residents would like to see a stronger connection between the Craftsbury Schools and local farms to provide students local food and access to farm businesses in the town. Craftsbury Schools could become a leader regionally and statewide in Farm to School programming and in including local products in the school cafeteria. The group could also develop community workshops and forums to develop a shared understanding of the issues and opportunities facing working landscape enterprises in the region and consider ways to support each other, build new markets, and help new farmers and entrepreneurs succeed.
- **Advance Community Energy Efficiency Initiatives**  
 The Craftsbury Energy Committee has worked hard to help guide the community towards a more sustainable energy future by offering energy efficiency workshops, developing a Craftsbury solar tracker, and participating in statewide energy planning. Many residents expressed a desire to continue and expand upon this work by strengthening the committee to offer more educational workshops and opportunities to improve the efficiency of older homes and buildings in the community. Others see opportunities for wood pellet system development in town. Craftsbury can position itself as a state-wide leader in community energy efficiency efforts.

- **Develop a Craftsbury Community Child Care Center**  
 Working families in Craftsbury are stressed by the need to travel long distances to find appropriate and affordable child care opportunities. A town child care center could be encouraged by a task force that could identify potential space and provide support to attract someone to lead and own a community child care center for Craftsbury residents.
- **Establish a Community Cooperative, Café, or Restaurant**  
 Craftsbury community members and students expressed interest in a community co-op or café where residents can go to purchase affordable local food, access Wi-Fi, and spend time together with their friends and neighbors. Some believe that the café could be community owned or could also be a student-led effort bringing together community members, college and Academy students to plan and develop a cooperative or café in town.
- **Create a Local Chamber or Business Network**  
 Craftsbury could consider forming a local chamber of commerce or business network to provide for group marketing and advertising of local businesses and amenities, and could build a package of events, places to see, dining, and lodging in the area.
- **Develop a Shared Co-Working Space**  
 To encourage and attract entrepreneurs, young people, and families, and to seed its economic future, Craftsbury could build a co-working space that would include shared resources and utilities, mutual support, office space, high speed internet and networking opportunities. A task force could come together to identify an appropriate building, plan for key facility needs, and connect to potential funding sources to bring this model to Craftsbury.
- **Expand Recreational Opportunities and Offerings**  
 Craftsbury residents celebrate the town's recreational assets including the Craftsbury Outdoor Center, three town forests, trails and paths for walking and skiing, and a recreation committee that puts on Old Home Days, a very popular annual event. Residents recognize the significant role that recreation opportunities play in community building and youth engagement and would like to see expanded offerings, especially for youth. A Recreation Task Force could work together with the Recreation Committee to increase community volunteerism in recreation, identify new opportunities to coordinate with the outdoor center and the college, work with the school to offer open gym time for residents, and perhaps improve upon public play spaces in the community. Craftsbury youth are particularly interested in potential activities that engage the Outdoor Center and Sterling College such as a paintball club, mountain biking programs, or ropes course activities.
- **Offer Community Workshops and Learning Opportunities**  
 Craftsbury residents see the town as a learning community and would like to see more opportunities to learn from each other. Craftsbury residents of all ages expressed an interest in more workshops, programs, and activities that offer opportunities to learn new skills, and opportunities to engage in art, theater, and the outdoors. A Learning Community Task Force could come together to plan and implement community workshops and activities in collaboration with Craftsbury Academy, Sterling College, the Outdoor Center, the Art House, and others.
- **Improve Tourism Resources and Marketing**  
 Craftsbury has an opportunity to expand tourism and make the town more attractive for visitors to the region. A Craftsbury Tourism Task Force could develop a map that would highlight local

businesses, walking and skiing paths, cultural assets, historical highlights, and dining and lodging in the region. The group could also develop signage that would direct visitors to key community assets and local businesses. Better welcome signs and a kiosk could be built to welcome visitors to the town and provide important information. By developing itineraries, maps, and information, multiple businesses can benefit and tourists can have a path to follow to explore the assets of the town and the region.

- **Build a Task Force to Enrich Learning Opportunities and Promote the Craftsbury Schools**

Craftsbury residents are concerned about the increasing pressure to consolidate small local schools. Many residents value their schools and recognize the important role they play for the community and the economy. Much work has already been done to explore the future of the Craftsbury Schools and to gather community input on the town’s vision for their education system. A Task Force could come together to strengthen this dialogue and identify action steps to move the community vision forward. Residents are interested in discussing opportunities such as specialized activities and educational programs, especially in languages, arts, and building connections to international educational opportunities, all of which would draw students to the school, and in exploring alternative educational models. A group could strengthen the School Board’s extensive work on these topics and engage the broader community in the conversation of promoting a strong and successful future for Craftsbury Schools.



*Community members reviewed opportunities and selected 3 priorities for action through a dot-voting exercise on Community Meeting Day.*

# V. Task Force Action Plans

Resource Meeting, November 17 2015

*Craftsbury Task Forces are comprised of community members and an appointed chairperson. On Resource Day committee members worked closely with a facilitator and small visiting resource teams to develop step-by-step action plans and a list of human and financial resources to help achieve their goals. This final phase of the program marks the time when residents truly take ownership of the work, and begin the exciting process of turning ideas into action.*

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## ✓ Task Force: Advance Craftsbury Land Protection

Chairperson: **Annie Rowell, Farley Brown, Carol Maroni**

Facilitator: **Paul Costello, VCRD**

Resource Leaders: **Richard Amore, VT Dept of Housing and Community Development;**  
**Alison Low, NVDA; Tracy Zschau, VT Land Trust**

**Many residents are concerned about development pressures on Craftsbury's open and forested landscape and village character. A Task Force could evaluate ways to protect and enhance community assets including the potential for really well designed land use tools to protect, sustain, and enhance beloved community assets.**

### Priority Action Steps:

1. Develop a list of questions for the full community to gather information about the community's desires for the future of land protection in the town.
2. Talk to the older generations of landowners. Conduct a series of living room conversations.
3. Create a subcommittee to explore the planning tools we currently have and evaluate other tools for land use.
4. Hold sessions on options and tools for land protection to educate the community.
5. Inventory the skills and interests of task force members.

### Other Potential Action Steps:

1. Host an educational session on risks to the land.
2. Define what we mean by "land protection."
3. Real estate folks could be speaking about agricultural and forest resources.
4. Help with the Planning Commissions efforts to map by offering support with energy siting standards.
5. Do some planning around affordable housing.
6. Develop visual tools and maps on land use and protection.
7. Build a subcommittee to look at expanding trails and walkways.
8. Plan for clustered housing in the existing Village centers and to avoid sprawled housing.
9. Build connection networks between all conservation efforts in town.
10. Convene the community with a dialogue on rights and resources around the land.

## Resources:

1. A municipal planning grant from the Agency of Commerce and Community Development could support this conversation.
2. There are training modules available from Forest Parks and Recreation.
3. NVDA could help with a training.
4. Explore other towns and connect with NVDA to learn what other towns have done.
5. Smart Growth consultation
6. There could be potential to create a conservation fund. Vermont Land Trust could help with that.
7. Association of Conservation Districts has online dialogue capacity that could get advice from other towns on work they have done successfully.
8. Tax credits could be available for work in the Village Center.

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## Task Force Sub-Committees:

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## Visiting Resource Team Recommendations for the “Advance Land Protection” Task Force

*Visiting Resource Team members represent a wide array of professionals from across the state. Their recommendations below encompass their experience, past success, and consideration of the community’s unique assets and needs. Resource Team members are eager to support the Task Forces as they begin their work.*

### POTENTIAL ACTION STEPS:

The Visiting Resource Team acknowledges and respects the past challenges and tension in Craftsbury around land use planning efforts, but also the dedication of so many Craftsbury residents to ensuring that the landscape, natural resources, and character of the town are preserved in the face of mounting development pressures. With that in mind, and recognizing existing local efforts and the leadership of the Task Forces and town leaders, the Team makes the following recommendations. These recommendations are not prescriptions for the community, as community members are in the best position to make decisions about effective strategies that work for Craftsbury, but are offered as suggestions for potential next steps and a potential resources that can help this Task Force move their priorities forward.

- Engaging the Community

It may be useful to explore what is meant by the “character of Craftsbury.” The group could conduct listening sessions and surveys to identify whether it’s the open land, the white buildings, the common, and other assets that folks want to protect. This could help to establish an agreed upon vision for what the community wants to preserve, then line up necessary action steps. The group may want to include housing needs in the conversation, as this topic came up frequently in community forum discussions.

The task force could host a broadly inclusive discussion of how land use and regulation work to protect natural resources, the working landscape and community character while addressing a range of community needs ranging from home-based occupations and business development to renewable energy development.

The task force could investigate the pros and cons of land protection options and provide this information with the community through newsletters, articles, public forums and town meeting. It could work with the Vermont League of Cities and Towns to brief stakeholders and what various types of regulations would mean for the town.

To advance these efforts the task force could create a local agriculture and forestry commission or local working lands network as a sub-committee. The most recent community survey reveals that a number of residents are at least partly employed in the land-based economy. The group could assemble a group of local producers who can identify their current and future challenges – access to capital and land, for example -- and have this group periodically report to the planning commission. Supporting the economic success of farm and forest businesses is one of the best ways to protect productive land for the future. Explore land use regulations in a way that educates and informs future decision making.

- Identifying Potential Conservation and Trails Strategies

The task force could explore expanded use of conservation and recreational easements on private land to increase access and ensure that the town’s comprehensive land clearly identifies land conservation and access priorities and how they will be achieved.

The town could create a local land trust to encourage conservation of priority agricultural lands and to partner with larger conservation groups who have access to other funds. They could connect with another local land trust to learn more about how to establish a local trust and how they partner with the Vermont land trust with conservation projects. The group could reach out to the South Hero Land Trust as a model; they can be found online at [www.shlt.org](http://www.shlt.org).

Craftsbury could develop a land protection or open space plan that will make the best use of non-regulatory strategies as well as regulations that are carefully research and implemented. This plan may possible incorporate a land evaluation and site assessment to develop a consensus-based vision for future conservation efforts, and should address the long-range implications on taxes. As it appears that the underlying cause for concern over future land use is the fragmentation of farm and forest lands, this task force should explore every opportunity to keep those land-based activities strong. If there is broad consensus for the plan in the greater community, it could become an addendum to the Town Plan in order to guide public and private conservation strategies.

The group could work with the Craftsbury Conservation Commission, a group that is very capable of following through on identifying priorities for conservation. The town is also lucky to have highly productive agricultural soils as well as large blocks of timberland which could position it well when competing for funding.

It may be useful and a great opportunity for connecting the school and the community to enlist Craftsbury Academy students in conservation and trails projects. Draw on local volunteers for trail and outdoor space clean up and maintenance.

- Exploring Potential Land Use Strategies

The town can incentivize reinvestment in the built environment through their Village Center Designation. The group can educate property owners in the currently designated village centers about the benefits of designation. The task force could also explore the appropriateness of such a designation in East Craftsbury.

As zoning is a controversial topic in Craftsbury, perhaps other strategies could be explored such as subdivision regulations. The traditional approach to zoning that is based on separation of uses and minimum lot sizes can be an administrative burden that favors large lot rural residential sprawl. Subdivision regulations that promote overall densities, rather than minimum lot sizes may be more effective in preserving the character of the community into the future.

While zoning is an effective tool for land protection in many Vermont communities, zoning that does not adhere to a well thought out comprehensive plan, or that does not have broad community support can become random and unfair. If the town should choose to move forward with exploring land use regulations, it would be important to ensure frequent and meaningful community conversation and participation, and hire or contract with a part time professional staff person to develop and implement effective bylaws that are in line with community needs and values.

## **RESOURCES TO SUPPORT THE LAND PROTECTION TASK FORCE:**

- The Vermont Farm to Plate Network has Agricultural Land Use Planning Modules that can provide some background and information on various types of regulations and tools for land use planning. [http://www.vtfarmtoplate.com/stories/sustaining-agriculture-land-use-planning-modules#.Vi\\_cfiv08gU](http://www.vtfarmtoplate.com/stories/sustaining-agriculture-land-use-planning-modules#.Vi_cfiv08gU)
- Work with NVDA to support this process. Contact Alison Low, Senior Planner at NVDA, for more information and the final report at [alow@nvda.net](mailto:alow@nvda.net).

- Municipal Planning Grants are a possibility for this. For information on this contact Grants Administrator Annina Seiler at 802-828-1948 or [annina.seiler@vermont.gov](mailto:annina.seiler@vermont.gov).
- The Town of Newark did a land use investigation project some years back. This consisted of a series of workshops to explore the appropriateness of zoning and/or subdivision. Maybe a similar approach would work here. Contact Alison Low, Senior Planner at NVDA, for more information and the final report at [alow@nvda.net](mailto:alow@nvda.net).
- Richard Amore could be a great resource for the group. Richard Amore is a planning coordinator at the VT Department of Housing and Community Development and coordinates the Village Centers Program. He has a wealth of experience in helping communities develop and maintain an aesthetic to support a vibrant community. He can be reached at [Richard.amore@vermont.gov](mailto:Richard.amore@vermont.gov) or at 802-828-5229.
- Noelle Mackay is the Commissioner of the Department of Housing and Community Development. She would be a great resource for the community as they evaluate the pros and cons of regulations and how they potentially could protect and enhance community assets. She can be reached at [Noelle.mackay@vermont.gov](mailto:Noelle.mackay@vermont.gov) or at 802-828-5216
- The Northern Rivers Land Trust and the Vermont Land Trust could be key resources to aid in land conservation initiatives. Contact the Northern Rivers Land Trust at [info@northernriverslandtrust.org](mailto:info@northernriverslandtrust.org). To reach the VT Land Trust contact Carl Powden, the Northeast Regional Director, at 802-635-7611 or at [carl@vlt.org](mailto:carl@vlt.org). Tracy Zschau, the Conservation Director, can be reached at 802-745-6301 or at [tracy@vlt.org](mailto:tracy@vlt.org).
- The Vermont League of Cities and Towns could be helpful in sharing information about what other towns are doing, and regulatory options and could provide support or models for planning and bylaw development. Contact them at 802-229-9111 or online at [www.vlct.org](http://www.vlct.org).
- Conservation funding is available for fee purchase and/or easement acquisition for a variety of end uses. Potential funding sources may include:
  - The VT Department of Forest, Parks, and Recreation offers several grant opportunities including; the Recreational Trails Program, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program, the Forest Legacy Program, Communities Caring for Canopy, and the Working Lands Initiative. Contact the Department at 802-522-0730 or visit [fpr.vermont.gov](http://fpr.vermont.gov).
  - Federal Town Forest funding. For questions on town forest funding contact Danielle Fitzko of the VT Urban and Community Forestry program. She can be reached at [Danielle.fitzko@vermont.gov](mailto:Danielle.fitzko@vermont.gov) or at 802-598-9992.
  - Vermont Housing and Conservation Board's Farmland Conservation Program and Public Access to Conserved Land. Call 802-828-3250 or visit [www.vhcb.org](http://www.vhcb.org).
- Vermont Trust for Public Land is a good resource for land conservation projects and support in identifying funding opportunities. Contact 802-223-1373 or [vermont@tpl.org](mailto:vermont@tpl.org).
- Private sector businesses, local organizations, and schools can be a key resource for planning and funding the land conservation work as the success of many of these entities relies on the aesthetics of and access to the Craftsbury landscape.



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## ✓ Task Force: Improve Cell and Broadband Access

Chairperson: **Michael Heffernan** and **Brian Machesney**

Facilitator: **Ted Brady**, *USDA Rural Development*

Resource Leaders: **Fred Schmidt**, *UVM Center for Rural Studies*

**Jim Porter**, *VT Department of Public Service*

**Craftsbury residents would like to have better access to cell coverage and broadband internet access. Craftsbury could convene a partnership of local residents to work with regional, state, and federal partners to bring improved cell and broadband coverage to the community.**

### Priority Action Steps

1. Study models and options as well as financing opportunities. Conduct a feasibility study of options.
2. Plan a “Broadband and Cell School” educational opportunity for the community to share various options and models as well as relationship between broadband and cell service.
3. Conduct a survey of residents to determine demand and needs in the community. Collect responses by posting on Front Porch Forum as well as paper copies in town.
4. Become cell phone and broadband advocates. Identify appropriate targets to reach out to in order to ensure the process moves forward including both state departments and providers.
5. Follow up with Jim Porter at the Department of Public Service to acquire their report on cell phone and broadband availability from current providers (Fairpoint, GAN, VTEL, North Enterprise)

### Resources

1. Connect America Fund - \$4.8 million to Fairpoint to expand connectivity.
2. Department of Public Service Vermont Connectivity Fund
3. USDA Rural Development
4. NCIC/NVDA
5. EDA
6. SEC Crowdfunding
7. Grafton Cell Model – connect with other communities that have been successful in moving this forward
8. East Central Vermont Fiber Model
9. Existing Providers

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## Visiting Resource Team Recommendations for the “Improve Cell and Broadband Access” Task Force

*Visiting Resource Team members represent a wide array of professionals from across the state. Their recommendations encompass their experience, past success, and consideration of the community’s unique assets and needs. Resource Team members are eager to support the Task Forces as they begin their work.*

### POTENTIAL ACTION STEPS:

- This is a tough issue to resolve, but one that many towns and states across the country are grappling with. The task force will need to gather information to frame its plan to move forward. One way to start would be to conduct a survey of what other rural areas in the country have done who are in similar situations and have been successful.
- The team could invite Fairpoint to town to share where services are and where there is potential for improvements. Contact Beth Fastiggi at 802-951-8006.
- The VT Department of Public Service can meet with the committee to share their map of local services and help the committee organize to connect areas without current offerings.
- The task force could look into community built and owned cell and broadband infrastructure.
- Ultimately the task force may need to quantify the costs of developing cell and broadband access and assess the town’s interest in bonding for the build out or other fund development strategies to expand local or regional services.
- Bring together the community to determine appropriate siting for a cell tower in the town. Engage the entire community in working toward a solution to the lack of cell service..
- Lobby the state to put more pressure on cell network providers to expand cell service.
- Consider creating a free WiFi zone in the village or at the common.
- Talk with Northern Community Investment Corp to see if Craftsbury can be added to their broadband initiative.

### RESOURCES TO SUPPORT THE CELL PHONE AND BROADBAND TASK FORCE:

- Jim Porter from the Department of Public Service Connectivity Division is an important resources. Contact him at [james.porter@vermont.gov](mailto:james.porter@vermont.gov) or at 802-828-4003.
- USDA grant or loan funds may be available to support this work. Contact Ted Brady at USDA Rural Development at [ted.brady@vt.usda.gov](mailto:ted.brady@vt.usda.gov) or at 802-828-6066.
- Northern Border regional commission grants may be available. Contact Mark Scarano Federal Co-Chair at [mscarano@nbrc.gov](mailto:mscarano@nbrc.gov) or 202-590-6650. Also contact Jared Duval at the State of Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development at [jared.duval@vermont.gov](mailto:jared.duval@vermont.gov) or 802-272-4899.
- Vermont Community Development Program planning grants could support feasibility and site assessment. Contact Cindy Blondin at the VT Agency of Commerce and Community Development at 802-828-5219 or [cindy.blondin@vermont.gov](mailto:cindy.blondin@vermont.gov).

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## ✓ Task Force: Build Partnership between the Schools and the Community

Chairperson: **Ceilidh Galloway-Kane** and **Sharon Moffatt**

Facilitator: **Jenna Whitson**, *VCRD*

Resource Leaders: **Heather Bouchey**, *VT Agency of Education*

**Ben Doyle**, *USDA Rural Development*; **Thomas Hark**, *formerly VYCC*

**Craftsbury Academy students and community members expressed a desire to better connect the Craftsbury Schools, the community, the Outdoor Center, Sterling College, the Community Care Center, the Art House, and other businesses and organizations in the community. A group could come together to better connect students with the community, the college, and the outdoor center by developing community-wide activities and programs, building internship and service opportunities in local businesses or the Craftsbury Community Care Center for students in the town, or create collaborative programming and learning opportunities with the Outdoor Center, the College, and other resources in the community. The group could look into opportunities to raise funds for these activities and to establish a foundation to help support these efforts.**

### Priority Action Steps

1. Pull together a meeting with representatives from the student population, the Craftsbury Outdoor Center, Sterling College, and the Schools to coordinate around a single community activity calendar and identify a strategy to create an online shared space to house the activity calendar. Work with students at the Academy to coordinate and maintain the calendar and information sharing.
2. Focus on a strategy to expand and grow internship opportunities for youth in the community and identify ways to integrate service learning more deeply into the curriculum and the community. Explore strategies to increase incentives for service learning, expand service learning requirements, or develop longer term service opportunities with local businesses and organizations.
3. Collaborate with the Outdoor Center on the development of activities that are open and inviting to all in the community including a bike club and other family-friendly activities.
4. Coordinate with the schools to identify a schedule for an open gym and other school-based community activities such as a community play space.
5. Ensure that Sterling College and Craftsbury Academy move forward with coordinating academic schedules and accessing funding for shared spaces.

### Other Potential Action Steps

1. Identify funding to expand community and school initiatives.
2. Map where families live and survey needs in town.
3. Ensure to include whole system thinking that looks at activities and building connections for people of all ages from infancy through adulthood.
4. Community continuing learning opportunities.
5. Offer freelance/job skills/entrepreneurial training for youth in the community.
6. Create a structure to move forward that is inclusive.
7. Offer more activities for families.
8. Develop a community space where folks of all ages can come together.
9. Improve the playground space and make it more accessible during and after school hours.
10. Work with GMTCC on a satellite program to develop career skills for youth.

## Initial Task Force Goals

1. It's all about the kids. Expanding opportunities and making sure that we raise our youth to be authentic contributors to the community.
2. Rooting ourselves and our children in a healthy community.
3. Resource sharing and collaboration.

## Resources

1. Local businesses and organizations including; the Craftsbury Community Care Center, the Art House, Sterling College, Craftsbury Schools, the Library, the Historical Society, area businesses, the Outdoor Center, etc.
2. USDA Rural Development's Community Facilities program could offer funding for local infrastructure – has been used before for playground spaces in VT communities.
3. Vermont Community Foundation's Innovations and Collaborations grants.
4. Magnet School coordinator in Burlington – connect with them to learn about what models have worked elsewhere.
5. Agency of Education – personal learning plans.
6. Green Mountain Technology and Career Center.
7. Students.

## Task Force Contacts

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## Visiting Resource Team Recommendations for the “Build Partnership between the Schools and the Community” Task Force

*Visiting Resource Team members represent a wide array of professionals from across the state. Their recommendations encompass their experience, past success, and consideration of the community’s unique assets and needs. Resource Team members are eager to support the Task Forces as they begin their work.*

### POTENTIAL ACTION STEPS:

- Connecting the Schools and the Community

The task force has great energy for helping to advance the partnership of the schools, Outdoor Center and College. It might want to formalize a structure that systematically connects key each of the representative institutions to coordinate work and to identify the outcomes that all of the partners can agree to. Official representatives from the school, student population, Sterling College, local businesses, Selectboard, Outdoor Center, Art House, etc. could gather for a monthly conversation. Simply coming together and building stronger relationships at this level would likely make a big difference.

In addition to this formal structure the task force could consider key actions that will benefit the schools and the whole community. These could include:

- Exploring successful models of extracurricular programming, including afterschool enrichment activities. One great example is the 21st Century program out of the Caledonia Central Supervisory: <http://www.ccsu21c.org/>.
- Developing a shared community calendar so that community events are coordinated and publicized.
- Involving the superintendent and folks from the Agency of Education in thinking about how Personalized Learning Plans might play a role in achieving the group’s goals. The Agency of Education has expertise on making these partnerships, additionally, including AOE helps to put the school on their radar as a positive, proactive, and excellent school, possibly insulating



the school from future pressures. It is better to be an example of excellence than a school perceived as too small or isolated.

- Creating a Craftsbury Cultural Center, a group of interested citizens, organizations and institutions coming together to develop programs and possibilities for the community. The more everyone knows what the others are doing, the more connections and opportunities will present themselves to people. Sub committees could form to pursue the development of specific projects.
- Hosting public event to reintroduce and involve all parties.
- Identifying more opportunities for extracurricular and after school activities for youth. Involve the private sector and volunteers for support. Create opportunities for learning that support school efforts and bring the community's diverse assets together.
- Hosting a weekly speaker's program at the Academy or the Elementary School to link the schools, students, community-service, and community leadership together.

- Building Internship, Service and Mentorship Opportunities

The town could coordinate a program where each community leader (Sterling College, Craftsbury Academy, Craftsbury Outdoor Center, local businesses, etc.) is paired with a high school student as a mentor. These teams would then come together once a month to focus on a list of priorities. This would create continuing momentum for a long list of initiatives, involves young people in a dynamic way, and keeps community leaders engaged. The Task Force could organize a monthly gathering/potluck where pairs would report out on their work. The gathering would include parents, other students, and community members.

Craftsbury could fund work in the community that includes students on an ongoing basis, or work with the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps to fund work crews to complete local trail, forestry, historic restoration, or other projects. Set up an annual program where youth have jobs and do critical local work every year.

Craftsbury could integrate community recreation and student internships with Sterling College and its students. This could include program leadership and mentoring relationships with college students.

The Task Force could engage with the schools to see if students and/or teachers could help meet community these needs either with internships or for credit programming.

Partner with Craftsbury Academy to identify community service projects to work together on and then publicize the projects. This encourages student participation and helps to develop the narrative of positive community collaboration, support, and service.

The community could identify trail work projects at the Outdoor Center or in the town forests and other recreational areas and work on them together as a community on an annual basis.

- Other Action Ideas

Promote Craftsbury as a community concerned with education and wellness. Identify state and federal programs that could support this work.

Talk with the Vermont Community Foundation to create a donor advised fund or use the existing donor advised funds dedicated to Craftsbury to fund raise.

Develop a community center or gathering space to host events and house community services.

## RESOURCES TO SUPPORT THE SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY TASK FORCE:

- The Agency of Education is a great resource. Contact Heather Bouchey at [heather.bouchey@vermont.gov](mailto:heather.bouchey@vermont.gov) or call 802-479-1030.
- VT Youth Conservation Corps has the pulse of a number of funding sources and a partnership with VYCC could potentially find funding for 8-16 conservation project jobs in the community. Contact the VYCC at [info@vycc.org](mailto:info@vycc.org) or by calling 1-800-639-8922.
- Amy Fowler, Deputy Secretary at the VT Agency of Education, is an excellent person to consult with, particularly about the effects of Act 46. She can be reached at [Amy.fowler@vermont.gov](mailto:Amy.fowler@vermont.gov).
- Victor Prussack from the Burlington School District would be a great contact for some advice on connecting schools and the community (864-8475). Victor is the Coordinator of Magnet Schools for the district and in that capacity has helped form partnerships with the BCA and the Flynn (Integrated Arts Academy) as well as Shelburne Farms (Sustainability Academy), and countless other local organizations.
- The Vermont Arts Council has small grants that could potentially fund community arts projects. Call Alex Aldrich at 828-3293.
- Look into grant programs at the Vermont Community Foundation, [www.vermontcf.org](http://www.vermontcf.org), especially the Northeast Kingdom Fund program and the community fund grant rounds including Small and Inspiring Grants up to \$2500 for building social capital, and the Innovations and Collaborations program up to \$20,000. Contact Christopher Kaufmann-Ilstrup at 388-3355.



*The “Build Partnership between the Schools and the Community” task force met on Resource Day with a Visiting Resource Team to begin to build a workplan for their work ahead.*

# VIII. The Town Forum Notes

Compiled from focus group discussions held with over 150 Craftsbury residents and the VCRD Visiting Team on September 22 2015

*Although the prioritization work of the Community Visit Program requires a town to decide what is most important as it moves forward with Task Forces, nothing is lost in the process from the long list of concerns and ideas expressed in early community focus sessions. Many interesting and diverse thoughts are represented here, and are presented as a reminder of issues explored, and a possible foundation for future projects.*

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## Transportation, Roads & Paths

Visiting Team: Ted Brady, Chris Cole, Paul Costello (facilitator), Margaret Gibson McCoy, Joan Goldstein, Jenny Nelson, Carl Powden, Fred Schmidt (scribe), Dave Snedeker, Ali Ziparro

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### What are the Assets in this Area?

- Craftsbury has a great road maintenance team and they are all here today. Craftsbury is known state wide for this.
- The town has good gravel access. This local gravel resource helps maintain the roads.
- There is now more traffic than ever. Maybe from the fact that there is more going on. We have the outdoor center, Sterling College Events – a lot going on. Some roads have more agricultural traffic with an increasing mix of faster and slower vehicles where the agricultural vehicles are in the mix. Given the larger scale of some of the farms, the vehicles are actually going further than they used to go. In addition to good roads, there are lots of potential for off road trails. Land owners are generous and often there are informal agreements. Horses may not be universally accepted or appreciated.
- State route 14 is an asset. Fortunately, Rt 14 goes west of town and it has lots of traffic so the Commons and the village are really on the by-lanes so are protected, somewhat from the faster, through traffic.
- However, biking doesn't feel very safe on the road. There is a lot of competition with dogs, horses, runners, autos, walkers, bikers, etc.
- The outdoor center works on trails. Could it be a community effort? Both the three Craftsbury town forests and Sterling College have trails and some signs. Walking on the commons and connections to the village is poor. Coming down the hill, safety is an issue, especially for the kids that walk on the road. We need a by-pass road. The bigger trucks coming through contribute to the safety challenge.
- 15 years ago a bike/hiking group was proposed by a community member. There is a plan somewhere.
- In the winter, the roads are awesome. They are taken care of and are dry, safe, beautiful roads.
- There is a nascent network between the outdoor center and the existing trails. Both the schools are located near one another so they provide a destination core for school kids.
- Care has been taken to nurture trees along the roads. On the other hand everyone uses the road and in the winter, which is more of an issue. We could do some intentional plantings to break snowdrifts, improve scenery, etc.

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### What are the Challenges?

- People walking in the road. If there is a plan, it is unknown and certainly doesn't appear to be implemented anywhere.
- Ski trails give a cross community network in the winter, but not in the summer. We can't walk the fields. The Outdoor Center could explore permanent use of these trails.
- Speed. Good roads lead to faster driving and with competing interests on the surface it leads to trouble.
- There is more talk about "edges" (road side lanes, and lane demarcation) for pedestrians, but it is even more of an issue for the bikers but also for those out walking on the road and kids trying to walk between town and the school.
- There is competition for the middle of the road. There is a different set of maintenance issues and challenges for black top roads, especially around the ditches and issues of road widening.
- The absence of sidewalks a serious safety problem, especially with students and the areas they walk on.
- Another issue to maintain the good road service is ever deeper ditches. There are challenges around responding to climate change. There are also a lot of issues coming up around storms. Also with respecting roadside property owners.
- We really need something, like speed bumps, to call attention to the challenges presented by ball games and a myriad of other activities. There are safety issues.
- In the village parking an issue. When cars are parked on both sides of the road, there is no space for cars to pass each other on the road.
- Historically, the roads had lower ditches. Over the years the roads have built up/"crowned."
- Does the road department have adequate resources as the roads get more traffic leading to black top?
- Agriculture is changing in the town toward larger farms cropping further out, further out. Land from 30 farms is being

- used by fewer farmers. Fairmont is the largest – milking 500. Heavier vehicles leads to more traffic.
- Need warning signs at problem/challenging intersections.
- There is a lack of accessibility for disabled residents and visitors in the village.
- We need some way to get MapQuest to update. A bridge that closed in 1927 is still on the map.

- Everyone is car dependent. There is no alternative – even in the village.
- We need to advertise and make public all the access to trails, walkways etc. We need better mapping and better publicity. Is there a town map of trails?
- The cost of building and maintaining sidewalks is significant.

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## Opportunities: What Should Be Done?

- Lower the speed limits.
- Put up a sign that says “welcome to Craftsbuy and the limit is 30 mph”.
- Educate the public. This would address the fact that we have multi-users including horses, bikes, hikers, dogwalkers etc.
- The cultural change is difficult, but what people enjoy about Craftsbury is the happenings here in this Community from fitness, to celebrations, agriculture, school, etc. There is a wide desire to keep the roads open and the byways interactive. How do we incorporate visitors without sidewalks?
- An Arts council in another community had their kids involved in a safety via a signage effort. How do we creatively connect our community? They got the kids involved in the arts to express the safety and speed message.
- Try a radar sign to improve compliance. It’s very affective.
- For visitors to the outdoor center, it isn’t the first or second time visitors who approach very slowly, but after several visits they are in much more of a hurry and go too fast.
- A working committee to address the speeding issues. Use the kids, arts, radar, etc. to solve the problem with a committee.
- Let’s review the sidewalk history and look at strategies to improve. Sidewalks do not have to be macadam or cement. We should network the trails and the walkways.
- We could take the english approach and have pathways along property lines. This would be a more rural model to connect villages by pathways. This comes from the Countryside Council, in the UK.
- There may be resources through the back roads program.
- We should work with roadside landowners.
- There are issues of expense – traffic, shared use, run-off, surface water issues. We need an integrated approach.
- We should build neighborhood trails to link to lower village and upper village. Maybe this was already designed but not implemented. Not the ski trails. However, it could be. The Ski trail would need to be re-routed.
- We could develop some trail or connector that helps unify bikers and walkers to get back and forth.
- Make the road one-way.
- More publicity about trail opportunities like the three town forests. Publicize them. Make a map, maybe on the town website. Neighborhood trails need more visibility.
- A lot of people come down from Craftsbury Common to Young road on to King Farm road loop. This is a nice loop, and could be promoted for use by horses, bikes, motorcycles, or snow-mobile. A car can’t go over the bridge.
- Do other towns integrate their vehicles? e.g. horses, people, bike, runner, dirt bikes? All-terrain vehicles? No one mentioned snow-mobiles and ATVs.
- Focus on some limited “links” serving to get smaller clusters of people out and about for recreational walking or just to get from place to place rather than drive.
- Has the Planning Commission looked at these issues? It has come up in the town survey.
- It is on the table for the Planning Commission but not in committee either.
- Issuance of a couple of 100 to 200 dollar tickets a year might have an impact.
- Address the issue of ditches which is now a threat. If you are off the road in a ditch you are really in trouble. Is there an alternative? Perhaps a greater slope to the ditches?
- Broaden the roads.
- Some kind of speed control during school hours, such as speed bumps or the radar neon signs. Danville has a slowdown sign at town limits.
- On the dirt roads, we should use smaller stones. The gravel they use is rough to tires or especially the bikes.
- You need to use what you have such as less expensive local materials and the complaints come from the stone they use that is mined locally.
- We need to go back to using police protection. We have an attitude of taking care of one another, but others will take advantage of whatever they can get away with. We could consider some partial policing.
- Some places use different textures to slow traffic.
- Is there a limited special need for a sidewalk on the commons – maybe for the kids and for events?
- In Mexico they use a nylon 3-inch rope and pin it on both sides so they have to slow down. Traffic calming at the end of a rope.
- We don’t talk enough about the zoning issue. Given population growth, zoning may well be an issue whose time has come.
- Many different types of decoys are used around the country to slow traffic such as a dummy cop. There are many ideas on traffic calming technologies,
- Build a public lot or simply identifying where parking might be available in the Village to avoid traffic and issues during community events or around the stores.
- Internet reception is very poor here. Collective action might lead to building municipal wireless improvement.
- Encourage people to get on bikes or on foot, leading to fewer cars. In a rural community, not everyone can walk or run to the other end of town. We have to help neighbors get to the store. Maybe we could create a neighborhood driver/delivery service.

- Address issues of driver visibility on narrow roads. Is there an official process or is there available information on how to place driveways for safety?
- Some other issues suggest that there is a need for community policing, but these haven't been addressed yet.
- Coordinate carpooling to help with isolated seniors and other rural folks who cannot get to market.
- Think of town as a unified whole and not just the commons or the village.
- We consider ourselves environmentally attuned. We can put a charging station on the green – or another prominent location.
- There is an issue with town wide idling of car and truck engines.

## Reflections of the Community Visit Team

- You could encapsulate safety and shared use of roads and perhaps with cohesive connectivity. The connection from the village to the Common is a problem faced by towns small and big alike. In Burlington, a town of 40,000 you see north end vs, south end, parking, biking, etc. Growth of the use of the town has generated unique issues but none are insurmountable. If this is the most important thing to you, show up on the 20th and speak up to make it a priority.
- This town is full of exceptional that people showed up in such great numbers.
- Speed is a factor and it is a great idea to have a sign that says something like, "Welcome to C, slow down and enjoy our town." Talk about signs, people need to know your respect of community and willingness to share it. But please please go slowly. It is also important to address the sidewalk. It may be a cultural shift. It may also be smart to do a historic review of all of the efforts to bring sidewalks in. The idea is also great to include kids in developing the signage. There is also a lot of artistic talent here – elders, school kids, artists. Maybe a page in the town report to show the town forests.
- The issues you have discussed are similar to other issues in the NEK. It may be important to connect with VTrans as they may have some solutions. Park and ride establishment with a charging station could be great but funding would be an issue. Maybe there is a source in the "better back roads" money. You will need to look at drainage. NVDA has an advisory committee. It is important to learn about these resources.
- ADA accessibility grants may be helpful or a request for public transportation. You could look into incentives for carpooling. Trails and town forest promotion is a great idea as well as an ordinance for driveway access with standards for safety.
- It sounds like there are some communication issues. There is a rural Vermont "characteristic" that folks don't like to be told what to do - actually there are many things we don't like to be told. People in Craftsbury know they live in a beautiful, scenic area. They don't need signs up saying "this is a trail." "this is a view corridor." This is scenic" and yet... maybe we've reached a point where we actually need a little "sign" guidance, just to get folks sorted out on what's what and where's where.
- There is clearly such a strong sense of community here that doesn't exist everywhere in VT. The question is how to retain the independence of this place where you take care of one another while at the same time addressing issues of safety in a uniform and strategic way. It's great that you've got young people engaged. They are a resource – and they are the future. Your transportation related issues are statewide issues. We face them everywhere. Consider, in this year alone we have lost 10 on motorcycles and four bicyclists. It is difficult to change the behavior of drivers/motorists especially without police. Speed feedback stations would be an effective way of communicating to the community regarding appropriate vehicular behavior. A municipal Park and ride would improve efficiency. VTrans can help with community maps. A town trail map. – A town booklet with a map of every trail, etc. is an easy thing to do. The traffic calming Mexican rope trick would be wonderful....
- It is a cultural value to be able to connect in the community without a car. Because of the success of college and outdoor center you are on your way. There is momentum. You can see from the turn out today and the intelligence and civility of the discussion that you have the resources to do this if you line up with common purpose and prioritize.

## Housing, Health & Safety

Visiting Team: Will Belongia, Shaun Donahue, Ben Doyle (facilitator), Tom Hark, Christopher Kaufman-Ilstrup, Ariane Kissam, Allison Low, Joe Patrissi, Jill Remick, Chris Saunders, Jenna Whitson (scribe)

### What are the Assets in this Area?

- Housing isn't a problem.
- We are a town of primary residences and second homes, a few apartments here and there.
- Some affordable housing needs have been met by adding apartments to garages etc. Probably not fully taken care of.
- We have an active housing market.
- Craftsbury Community Care Center is an asset for those that are not able to live alone anymore.
- Housing is complicated. Other issues tie in such as transportation.
- Craftsbury feels safe.
- There may be some room for some more apartments. Not everyone wants apartments though. Many want more single family homes.
- Craftsbury is doing well attracting students. Young families are having a hard time finding housing and that is a big need. Affordable housing is also affordable financing.
- Historically, the town has worked on the housing challenge. It has taken 20 some years to finally implement a policy at the school so that people are parking in the new lot. It's as good now as it has been on the common in many years.

- Our Fire department and first responders are great. We have a fabulous fire department and we don't know what we would do without them. That goes a long way to making us all feel safe. We have a group of young kids coming up that are being trained.
- This community is a generous community. Neighbors watch over each other here. We are all here because we want to be not because we have to be.
- It's like living in paradise living here.
- There are a lot of community events, arts, entertainment with Music Box, good employers in town, school, outdoor center, Pete's Greens.

### What are the Challenges?

- Affordable housing deserves some attention.
- There are a lot of younger people and families that wanted to locate here but the housing is too expensive. They end up in the outskirts. This is an issue both for lower income and middle income folks as well.
- The Craftsbury Community Care Center is full. It only has 24 beds. The town is aging.
- People drive too fast through this town. People drive like they are going to a race.
- The cell phone issue is a challenge for emergency situations and 911 access. Residents have done work with the Public Service Board about this. People signed a petition that we all want cell phone service during power outages and weather emergencies. There is no way to make a call during a power outage.
- There are two missing public pay phones. We used to have them and Fairpoint pulled them out. In the event of an emergency we are not safe at all.
- Fairpoint is a challenge. Multiple times this summer, the internet has been down for three weeks at a time. Even when it is not down, it is so slow you might as well not have it. Fairpoint is our only option.
- It is difficult for a business when there is no internet.
- The town can't pursue renewable energy goals because the caps have already been met.
- It is hard to find newer, affordable housing for young families that want to join the school system. The school is attractive and enrollment is going up, which is unusual, so it is imperative that we do something about some form of housing that is affordable. There are possibilities that could be explored.
- Hardwick and Greensboro have senior living right in the village. Craftsbury does not. We don't have that 6-unit/8-unit senior housing where they can access cultural assets that we have.
- Accessibility is an issue. The community is not easily accessible for people that are not as mobile and can't get around independently.
- Historically, there have been some sidewalks, but as roads widened and they fell into disrepair, those went away.
- The Community Care Center is really not affordable for people on Medicare or Medicaid.
- Parking is an issue. There are more people coming to Craftsbury to visit and with new additions down in the village, parking seems to be more at a premium. There are accidents in the village. It is hard to get around safely in the Village and there are no designated parking areas.
- Sterling College has more students than it used to. It's dangerous because people walk in the streets.
- Food access is an issue. We don't have a food shelf here. I don't know if there is a place in town where people could access food.
- Clothing too. It would be nice to have somewhere to swap clothing.
- Fresh produce is available here but the access is an issue. It is expensive. How much of the donations from local farms come back to Craftsbury residents?
- East Craftsbury has private street lights. The Common lighting is paid for by the Village Improvement Society. There used to be street lights in the village and now there are not. Streetlights are there but some are not on because they were privately paid for.
- Health in the wintertime. There are concerns for people trying to stay warm. That is a safety issue.
- The Fire Department is 100% volunteer driven. Finding young people today is difficult. As a farming community, we used to be able to pull volunteers off the farm, but today between 6am and 6pm it is much harder to get those numbers. There are so many demands on young peoples' time and they can't afford to make the commitment.
- We have no ordinance about things like speeding on the roads. On our road there is no speed sign. We need an ordinance.

### Opportunities: What Should Be Done?

- We need an ordinance around speeding in this town. The speed limit needs to be posted. It is a project the Selectboard is working on. They want more feedback from the community and need help from state agencies because it is a new challenge they are taking on. We need help with the Common as well as other parts of the town.
- Enforce speed laws. Introduce a resolution that everyone who is an elected official in town has the ability to issue fines for speeding.
- Install photo speed traps to capture folks speeding in town. Probably cheaper than hiring someone to enforce.
- The common to the village is a narrow road. If there were a place for people to walk other than the shoulder of the road, that may help. Look at walkability and bikeability on the side of the road. We share the road with a lot of things. We need to make it safer.
- Every gravel road in the town should have one speed limit and every paved road has another limit. It would take the

guess work out of it. Make a general, blanket speed limit statement.

- We should do something about drugs. We don't have as big a problem as other towns, but there have been some break-ins in the area that I believe are drug related.
- There is a large vacant building in the Village. It used to be an Inn. It has transferred back to owners and they have formed a private operating foundation. There are a lot of questions around what might become of that. It would seem that a dialogue around that would be important.
- Does the town have AA meetings? Yes – it takes place in the church.
- Help people understand what resources are available.
- Have a co-housing community that is energy efficient so there are shared walls, shared common space, and shared buildings.
- It would be useful to know and share the data around housing needs and availability.
- The state of CT has adopted a policy to bring fiber to every residence in the state in the next 5 years. Our small towns in Vermont need to find a way to do that. We need to do that work in coalition with others.
- Continue programming and training around hands on resources. Continue work that is already underway (by the energy committee) around improving housing stock and energy efficiency.
- We have a fiber optic cable that runs right through the Common. Money has been spent to hang that there with nothing attached to it and no one using it.
- There there is potential for a housing community of some sort that is energy efficient. There are many examples of that going on and Craftsbury could be ready for that. Bring in the resources to create a community like in Heartbeat Life sharing in Hardwick. We could create a vision, access resources and permitting, for a place in town that is supported by the community.
- Affordable housing is different for everyone. We need to identify opportunities that are affordable especially for a young family. That is key.
- DOH, DPS, PSB – none of them have responded. What can we do if nobody answers?
- The biggest concern is that there are no food security resources. We don't have a food drive and that is something I would like to see. We don't have a food pantry. We need to improve access to affordable and healthy foods.
- Finding housing that works in a budget of a young family is a challenge. The idea of co-housing with shared responsibilities sounds wonderful. Have to keep in mind the costs of land and property.
- There is a portion of this community that isn't involved. We are talking about people that need support and not talking to them. People that enjoy committees and meetings tend to go and those that don't tend not to.
- People can't afford to go to meetings during the week. Meetings like this should happen on a weekend and when others can attend.
- If somebody needs help they might not ask for it, but if it is available, they will use it if they know about it.
- There are seniors in Craftsbury that are shut-ins. It would be great to have a small senior center attached to a food pantry where people can go to mix with others and access resources.
- There should be a youth center. There isn't a lot for kids to do.
- Ideas take someone like a VISTA (who is at the meeting) to grab a hold of that and move it forward. Hardwick does a weekly community lunch that is well attended. If there is extra produce people take it. We have a community dinner here, maybe there could be, with extra help, tables of produce laid out for people to take home. Could even be seconds quality.

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## Reflections of the Community Visit Team

- Work around food security is a doable and impactful initiative you could take on. It is always the case that there are people not here. There are always people that don't participate. In some ways, change is driven by those that do participate. At the end of the day, you rely on people with vision and drive to move things forward. Keep those communities in mind who are unable to participate and engage as them you can but realize driving change is going to happen with folks that have energy and will to participate.
- I am very impressed by the positivity. The fact that you have this kind of turnout in the afternoon is impressive. Walkability and accessibility are both topics that really stood out to me. Your single biggest increase in population was older ages. There is a need to balance that older population with accessibility or you might run into even more problems further down the road. I heard so many positive things around housing. That is a challenge around the state. One challenge we don't often talk about is the age of the housing stock around the Kingdom. Efforts around improving efficiency of buildings could be important.
- I have seen a range over the towns I've been to between towns stuck in a deep depression and towns ready to move forward. Craftsbury has a lot of very positive momentum and what you need to do is go through this process and really focus. This was a broad topic that could cover many issues and I think you only touched on a few of the very top level concerns. Walkability and safety in the village is one of the bigger ones. That goes hand in hand with accessibility and there are a lot of resources out there to help you think about accessibility and walkability here. I would really focus on the road between the village and common. Food security is huge and you can learn a lot from the town around you, especially Hardwick.
- I was hearing a need for different housing types for different life stages. I don't think the community needs to create this on its own or in a vacuum. Some of these could be regional or statewide efforts such as the use of the speed cameras. Could be an opportunity for shared municipal services and speeding awareness/campaigns to understand what speeding does to a community. Maybe it's time to look at those examples.

- It's great that the community has identified that some aren't here and listed some solutions that could help everyone in Craftsbury. I love the idea of a food shelf and donation center.
- It seems like there are a lot of assets at organizations around VT that can help achieve your goals. Efficiency VT, strengthening the food system (CAE), HFVT, there is a lot of expertise around how to strengthen food systems and public safety. Some communities have put out signs that start to flash at you if you're speeding. There are a number of solutions that can help folks get to where they need to go.
- Food shelf need, the need for a vision, need for shared space, co-sharing, senior center. You could really say that an idea that could bring people together is something called a community center. It could be a place in town where all of these things are happening. One of your major assets here is Sterling College. Maybe that could be a place to host the community center. You may be able to create a place to come for these activities and services. This could be a space to have these conversations and invite folks to come in and support the work.
- My biggest take away from this conversation was that there are a lot of different issues that are imminently solvable. In my mind, there could be unique ways to connect folks and when they look at it differently, a solution could appear. There are a bunch of issues but there are so many that are so solvable with a greater degree of sharing and some creative problem solving.

## Economic Development and Infrastructure

Visiting Team: Tom Berry, Ted Brady (facilitator), Chris Cole, Paul Costello (scribe), Margaret Gibson McCoy, Joan Goldstein, Jenny Nelson, Carl Powden, Gus Seelig, Fred Schmidt, Dave Snedeker, Ali Ziparro

### What are the Assets in this Area?

- We don't have zoning.
- Our forests.
- Aesthetics.
- The Craftsbury Outdoor Center.
- Our library.
- We have an unusual number of entrepreneurs.
- We have a growing number of farms.
- We have an excellent school.
- Young families are moving in.
- There are a lot of artist and craftspeople.
- Pete's Greens.
- Strong connection between history of town and farm revitalizations.
- Lots of new farms. It is our fastest growing sector.
- We are in an environment VT labeled and progressed.
- We are a year-round destination...schools, skiing, etc.
- Tourism.
- We have two post offices.
- No water or sewer.
- Great fire department.
- Great road crews.
- Village designation which is significant for our economic development and was built by two volunteers.
- Community involvement at large with over 100 people on committees and boards.
- Pace of life here lets us think more deliberately. An asset that is hard to measure.
- Sterling College is a huge asset. They allow folks to use common sites for workshops, training, and other opportunities, and they draw tourists and other visitors.
- We have the backbone of a fiber optic network...dark fiber.
- The community has the Community Care Center assisted living facility.
- We have strong support for arts—chamber players, new arts center.
- Lots of folks work and live in town.
- We benefit from Hardwick economic activity.
- Great events.
- The Common itself is an asset.
- Some students from Sterling stay here and build a way of life here.
- We have three lakes and summer camps.
- We have a beautiful town hall, though it needs a bit of work.
- We are a welcoming community for folks who move here.
- This church and meeting spaces. The 3 churches work together for the good.
- The Village Improvement Society and Historical Society provide so much good and attractive work.
- Craftsbury Outdoor Center is a huge draw.
- Summer concerts.
- Mill Village Pottery.
- We have Bed and Breakfasts though not enough beds to meet the need.
- Brainpower—farmers, writers, smart people!
- Our two stores.
- Cooperativeness of the town.
- Summer Block Party.
- We have the potential of the old Craftsbury Inn.
- The Milk House Beauty Salon.
- Pete's Greens lets local farmers sell through his store.
- "Keep it Local" is really strong here and helps businesses.

### What are the Challenges?

- Internet service is limited.
- Our only options are either Fairpoint or satellite.
- Cell coverage is also bad.
- People working outside of town makes for speeding and a lot of travel to work far from home.
- We have very high energy costs. There are lots of old buildings. We have either Hardwick Electric or VEC.



- It is harder to get volunteers to join the fire department.
- Too many things require volunteers and those who do, get over-worked.
- Whether we want to grow and if so, how do we manage growth?
- We don't have much cultural diversity.
- There is a lot of regulation and training needed to be a firefighter.
- We have high property tax. This is a real problem given the aging of the place.
- Growth and housing are issues. We choose to live here but it's difficult to find a place, and to create places for folks to live.
- Wages are also low and make it really challenging to make it here.
- There is competition for a successful farmers market.
- There is no day care in town so it is a challenge for working parents.
- We don't have a family center.
- It is hard for small food producer to get into bigger farmers markets.
- We need to get more young family members involved in leading community efforts.
- Sometimes there is a lack of confidence to get things done for entrepreneurs.
- Traveling for basic goods and services make for a lot of driving.
- There used to be a hardware store but now that's the village store.
- There are no medical services in town. Could we collectively support a nurse?
- We have no restaurant or gathering place.

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### Opportunities: What Should Be Done?

- We worked for a year to try to build GreyDock but there was poor service. Fairpoint is letting folks down.
- Whispernet is trying to tap into the fiber line—Kingdom Fiber. But it's pretty quiet and he's looking for money.
- We could build shared workspace. Develop a co-working space for the town.
- The library serves as an internet center.
- The terms for leasing the dark fiber are really onerous and the state could lower the price to allow a provider to do it.
- Cell service, may be on its way.
- We could build a designated parking area in the lower village for the stores, Art House, Town Offices
- The academy and college could use spaces together more collaboratively. The school's success is hugely important to the college and we could share some coursework.
- Enrollment in schools is up and budget down.
- We need housing. We could model an efficiency housing initiative for some affordable housing.
- We could do a housing project to scale with a solar array in the middle that is really efficient—this is something that would look forward to the future.
- We need to build housing.
- Young families want to live here but can't afford it but housing must be mindful of character and village scale so we don't sprawl. We need planned, mindful growth.
- Town electrical supplier, Hardwick Electric doesn't want the power. We've hit our cap already but there's huge potential for local renewals. They hit 15% and so did VEC.
- The tourist we get are here by accident and don't know where anything is. We could build a map to share what we have as assets.
- We could build a welcome kiosk with information.
- We lack signage about stores and welcome signs could be freshened up.
- Continued work on energy efficiency is critical.
- The Outdoor Center and community have a lot of interest in trails. Could we connect our trails to other towns—for example to Hardwick, so people could ski to inns or restaurants?
- A pub would be great. Maybe in the old inn (this is an idea in the works).
- One of our assets are the forests. We could try to attract a pellet plant.
- There is bad zoning and there is good zoning. We need to discuss the difference. Good zoning could bring good results. A discussion of zoning would be good.
- Think about a combined heat and power place in the village. Hot water to every home in the village, using school and college as anchors.
- Town plan is in process for beginning of next year. Planning commission will then be thinking about implementation tools including potential proposals around zoning.
- Lack of any wastewater treatment here on the common limits any new development up here.
- Everyone has their own septic.
- Lack of cell service is a real safety issue.
- Build municipal internet.
- Because we don't have cell service we aren't always checking our phones.
- Planning commission needs to review its telecom ordinance on siting.
- We could join with other communities to lobby legislature to divert some funds for an ISP.
- We should court software developers, but can't because of internet.
- There is a push back on growth and development here.
- A day care would be a great business to help the economy.
- An Inn would also be a terrific economic benefit.
- A nurse or physician's assistant business in town would be great.
- We have a lot of cheesemakers.
- A student run coop with bulk foods, produce at low costs, maybe a café. Something student run and student generated.
- We could develop a map and targeted marketing plan to attract visitors here.
- We need a chamber of commerce. We don't have one. There is the Heart of VT Chamber.

- We need to improve communication and collaboration between business owners. We could have a business network with quarterly meetings on helping each other succeed, build on what we already have.
- We have a website and good work progressing.
- There used to be a map in the 80s. A community map that could be redrafted out of the Outdoor Center.
- We need more community communication. Maybe a community newsletter.

### Reflections of the Community Visit Team

- Lots of assets—many town's would kill for what you have. Good problems to solve.
- Tremendous assets.
- If affordable housing is a priority, you have big barriers without water and sewer.
- There are so many barriers to home ownership.
- Need to connect on trails. VHCBC would be happy to help.
- The conversation of businesses in towns is important. Do townsfolk know of them all so they can support them...do businesses know each other and can support each other?
- Lack of zoning may make it easier for affordable housing.
- Housing can be approached step by step.
- Day care sounds like an important need.
- You need to pick the items you are going to do of all the list here.
- Cell coverage and internet: what are the resources? Cell phone is the more doable. How could you make it worth it to cell company to come out here? Can you do some pre-approved cell tower sites.
- Food economy has great assets and could fill gaps. Communities could work together to fill needs such as a buy in club or a student led coop. Leverage from what you have rather than build competition.
- Low hanging fruit would be a brochure or map of the town to help visitors find their way. This would be easy and could be done. New welcome signs are also easy.
- Zoning could be of importance long term if you are going to bring in new housing you need to look at planning for them.
- This is a cool place to live. Be happy to live here! Call on us for support.
- Community has lots of agriculture, recreation and tourism assets. Managing growth may not be as bad as some think and NVDA will help as needed.
- Lamoille county housing is building net zero units in Hardwick. Students could run a restaurant with the high school.
- Court people with fiber. Would town put bonded debt for attracting broadband? That is the thing that might happen...we could help piece together funding.

### Youth & Families

Visiting Team: Will Belongia, Shaun Donahue, Ben Doyle (scribe), Tom Hark, Christopher Kaufman-Ilstrup, Allison Low, Joe Patrissi, Jill Remick (facilitator), Jenna Whitson

#### What are the Assets in this Area?

- The Outdoor Center is a great asset.
- There is a collection of really strong families.
- Old home day is a wonderful event that both youth and families enjoy.
- The school is excellent.
- The library has lots of quality programing for kids.
- Front Porch Forum is widely utilized.
- The Common is a wonderful community space.
- The annual summer Shakespeare Camp.
- Circus Smirkus is close by.
- Lots of after school activities available for young people.
- The Art House offers lots of programing for kids.
- Coyote Kids at Sterling College is an excellent program.
- Sterling College: they do some programing with kids and middle school (mentoring, tutoring, ropes course). It helps a lot with recreational infrastructure as well. Supports the farm to school program. Puts Craftsbury on the map.
- Lots of churches that provide services. Monthly dinners, for example.
- Great new preschool system and the fact that the school is now PreK-12.
- The community itself—it's very supportive of each other and the school system. "There is always someone ready to step up and help"
- It's a very safe town. "I always know my kids will be taken care of."
- Craftsbury Chamber Center gives lots of concerts to kids.

#### What are the Challenges?

- Lack of affordable quality daycare.
- There are limited resources—only one basketball gym available.
- It's still a small town. We have to drive really far to meet all of our kids' needs.
- There are great programs at the library, but it's hard to make it in the winter, we often drive to Morrisville."
- Lack of cell service.
- There are lots families who are struggling that aren't represented in community meetings like this one.
- There is lots of great outdoors programing available, but not all parents can afford to drive to it and outdoor equipment/clothing is challenging for some people to afford.
- Lack of housing for young families.
- Economic stress prevents parents from taking advantage of all the resources that are available.

- There is no place for adolescents to go. It would be great if there was a place, like a teen center, where they could hang out.
- We might be at 50% free and reduced lunch, but 75% might be struggling financially.
- The small size of the community is an asset, but it also makes it impossible for resources like the library to meet everyone's needs all the time.
- There is a public safety issue around transportation (bicycling/walking can be challenging).
- The Outdoor Center is a great resource, but most users are from other towns. Only about 10 kids from Craftsbury regularly use it.
- There isn't a bus (other than during ski season) for kids to take to the Outdoor Center.
- Young people need to feel more welcome at both Sterling College and the Outdoor Center.
- There isn't enough programming for PreK. The current program is capped at 12, but there are about 20 students eligible. It's difficult for many people to work fulltime and take advantage of the services that are available.
- There are some mental health and addiction issues.
- Youth retention is an issue (especially 20-30 year-olds).
- The state has too much influence on daycare and it makes it hard to meet community needs.
- The library isn't open two days a week. Kids always go there after school on other days - Where are those kids supposed to go after school when it is closed?
- There are a lot of young families moving to town and as a result the need for resources is becoming more acute.
- Once basketball starts, scheduling gym time is very challenging.
- Having a great school means that kids go to college out of state and too often stay out of state.

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### Opportunities: What Should Be Done?

- A well-coordinated gym schedule so seniors, kids, and younger people can take advantage of it at the appropriate times.
- Expand the role or the town recreation committee. (There aren't enough volunteers for things like Old Home Day).
- Identify specific needs so volunteers can step up.
- Exiting spaces should be better utilized (not just bigger events, but regular smaller events that build community).
- There should be some kind of bussing system to help connect programs.
- Sterling College should be engaged more successfully to help coordinate youth activities.
- AmeriCorps volunteer could help coordinate community activities/volunteer opportunities.
- Do a survey for more information from youth (What are they doing? What can't they do it? What are doing by default?). It could be guided by a steering committee of youth.
- Conduct a needs assessment of outdoor spaces (do we need a playpark?)
- Look into ways to utilize vacant space (old Art House building for daycare? Church? Library during days that it's closed).
- Expand the playground /playground equipment so that it can become a more public space.
- Better utilize the Art House programming for young people.
- Build a town Calendar (an aggregated calendar).
- Utilize Outdoor Center athletes and Sterling College students for volunteer help.
- Build a co-working space to build a sense of community.
- Find ways to bridge the communities of young and old.

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### Reflections of the Community Visit Team

- There are a lot of assets here.
- The youth survey is a great idea—don't just make assumptions about what kids need.
- It does seem like there is a need for housing and a central meeting center. Co-working center would help with building micro-business community.
- The young people share many of the same concerns/aspirations. There are a lot of doable ideas. Wouldn't be great if you can work with the young people to make it happen?
- The size of the community is both a blessing and a curse. It's small enough that kids are safe, but too small to meet all the needs.
- There are so many assets and yet so few of them are coordinated. Need to map community assets.
- Nice to have babies in the room! That says a lot about the community.
- The 50% free and reduced lunch is a big deal. There must be enormous needs that are not being met. Broaden definition of young to include 14-30; they want the internet, a cup of coffee, a really cool café.
- What if there was a way to include young people in local government—what if they really helped run the town? Kids want to do "real" things. We need to change the paradigm of youth involvement.
- Heard a lot in this meeting and the last about lack of volunteers. Need to engage young people more successfully. A paid staffer to help coordinate volunteers.
- Remember the people who are not here.

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## Working Landscape & the Environment

Visiting Team: Tom Berry, Ted Brady, Chris Cole, Paul Costello (facilitator), Margaret Gibson McCoy, Jenny Nelson, Carl Powden, Gus Seelig, Fred Schmidt (scribe), Dave Snedeker, Ali Ziparro

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### What are the Assets in this Area

- Craftsbury is currently engaged in a rigorous rewrite of the town plan. The Planning Commission is committed to retain the beauty of the area and recognizes that the working landscape is a critical part of the picture.
- I am the 3rd generation on an 11-acre farm, and moved back to the area to revive the farmland. I want to honor the generations who have worked the landscape.
- Could we define the Working Landscape? Its land in production, as opposed to wilderness, farm, forest and forage – the idea is a working, productive landscape.
- The beauty of a working farm managed in harmony with ecological principles may well be a beautiful sight. In addition, certainly Craftsbury major assets are reflected in the beautiful surroundings.
- Another asset is a local group working to build a Land Trust with the idea of conserving land and telling people about the utility of the working landscape.
- There is still a lot of available land in Craftsbury, but how much? How many farms?
- Two super farms in Craftsbury milking 300 to 500. 4-5 more dairy farms with good solid dairy milking from 100 to 300 head.
- Craftsbury's farm land is indeed an asset but farmland is vulnerable to fragmentation and, especially development. As soon as this generation goes, there will be an increase in the pressure to subdivide.
- How much protected land do we have? Specifically, how much in current use?
- We have a tree farm that is certainly part of the working landscape. Those who manage forest land using sustainable methods are making a long term investment. these forest lands are a very viable long term a way to make a living off the landscape.
- We have small producers. Niche agriculture includes Maple syrup makers.
- Pete's operation is a great asset.
- The Outdoor Center and Sterling College both manage land on adjacent properties which is a great resource for the town. Evidence of the management of land to enhance the natural environment is used.
- Craftsbury is not JUST a bedroom community. People live here, work here. Woods and fields part of the recreation environment.
- People out of state who rent land here to farmers are an important component of the open environment in Craftsbury. Probably a larger total of available acreage by out of staters. This too is a resource.
- Compatibility and sustained existence of different occupational skills are clear resources. One homesteader employs a butcher, trades goods. Etc. The barter economy is an organizational capacity that is a resource for the community. Trade in kind, sweat equity input, sustains the specific skills needed to add value to local produce (including woodworking, land management, etc.).
- The waterways (ponds, streams, rivers) etc. are a real resource and part of the working landscape. Act 245 does not go far enough.
- Hunting and fishing a huge part of the community resource base. These tangible assets are often overlooked. Simply the capacity to hunt and fish here greatly appreciated.
- The biggest asset is high quality soil, relatively scattered in rich pockets around town. Agriculture is pretty much scattered around the area.

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### What are the Challenges?

- Sprawl. Over the last 24 years, it is amazing how many homes were built in the middle of fields. We need cluster development for lots of reasons. In addition to the visual aesthetics of well-managed development, clustering our dwellings can promote the re-emergence of wildlife, establishing and honoring the wildlife corridors.
- Rising property taxes are now and will continue to be a challenge in Craftsbury, especially for aging farmers who must pull the value of their land out as they move off the land.
- Energy sources are a challenge. When one local landowner called VT Electric to put in power, he was charged for a transformer, something the landowner could take away with him when he moved. Then the final bill was twice what was quoted. Another resident had a similar billing complaint regarding a transformer price. Electric rates are outrageous, and constitute a cost factor that may discourage farmers from expanding or even continuing.
- Taking care of waterways an ongoing challenge as there are many dimensions; milfoil and other invasives, simply proper management; erosion, run-off, etc. With climate change invasives are expanding their base and their presence here in Craftsbury has been noted.
- Access to markets is a challenge. It's hard to sell off a single wood lot and we're delivering a long ways away. We need more collective approaches to aggregating local produce from wood chips to veggies.
- There is a lot of potential for improved wood land management here. Some farmers own lots of forest land. Well managed forests have potential to generate marketable products and to be profitable.

- A working landscape includes the land soaking up Carbon Dioxide.
- How do we establish the value of this incredible local landscape; it has a scenic value?
- Access to land for beginning farmers is a challenge due to high property values. Lots of outside Ownership of the land that keeps the land from being used or accessed by younger farm oriented families.
- Are landowners willing to allow folks to ski across, hike to access their land? Currently more land is closed off than used to be. Informal pathways might be opened and made more formally part of the open land. We need to have the conversation about access to land.
- We need to educate folks on a long held New England tradition of open land. How do we educate more folks on the importance of respecting lands open to public access?
- There are more organizational assets to help with opening the land around VT, but we need informal education with kids and interest groups like kids, guns, etc.
- The land use is changing – how do we project into the future the landscape we would like to see?
- We have an issue with soil erosion, heavy cutting of timber lands.
- Entrepreneurs using the working landscape do not have access to internet. Not only is this a problem for organizing around business interests, but for accessing basic how to information and for networking.
- The change in the eco-system through killing off many of the predators.
- Gravel pits are a challenge. Where to get gravel?
- We have to think about the issues of scale – how big a wind farm, a gravel pit, a confine animal farm? How can we establish appropriate design on a scale that does not outstrip the resource base? Then how do we communicate what those appropriate limits to growth really are? We need appropriately scaled enterprises and activities.
- We need to Identify and keep wildlife corridors in mind and put them in the town plan.
- Need to identify possible location for a cell tower.
- The impact of agriculture on water quality is an issue for people working the land and a BIG issue with logging too.
- Need to make sure we are protecting bees and beekeepers.

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### Opportunities: What Should Be Done?

- The outside impact beyond our control. The Town Plan is trying to strengthen our position to ward off outside forces but we want to go beyond the town plan to find protection from an outside force. Hoping we can come through with some good proposals and solutions aside from the town plan – but not the “z word”. The Town plan can include a mission statement.
- A key action is to protect current use here and across the whole state.
- Get more people to talk and to talk with one another about some of the issues dealt with in the town plan
- More forums and public education. Figure out how Craftsbury can coordinate more with other communities. Here in town, Sterling is a great resource in community sustainable activity and the components can be drawn from their curriculum. Can we use Outdoor Center and Sterling College as a vehicle to bring in speakers/other information to help the whole community develop knowledge based approach to managing change?
- We need to be aware of the grand list and of our tax base. An influx of people have come to Craftsbury because of its landscape and flavor and building new homes has been the base of our tax structure here.
- Center for and Agricultural Economy in Hardwick is a resource to help emerging farmers.
- The Agricultural Loan Fund makes small loans to farmers of all types all over the state. It is a tiny piece of the resource package in Vermont.
- A way to facilitate environmentally appropriate new building and retrofitting older home and barns, to improve them and make the more energy efficient.
- Have a discussion about available land. Include access to land for hunting and fishing. Build some kind of committee to pull people together around these topics to discuss farm access and proper treatment, including invasive species identification. Mapping leads to action.
- In 2005 the lands group met monthly for a year and looked at different speakers leading to the formation of the Craftsbury Conservation Group and a regional land trust. Maybe we can establish a working lands group to look at these issues and land treatment.
- Little Hosmer and big Hosmer are harder to use now. There are a lot of disagreement over sculling as it is a narrow pond. Need lake side land owners to get organized so there is a homeowners association to work with.
- What is the center of the village and how would we move to protect the image of the village. An example is the white houses. Why and how have home owners stuck to a common design issue? Maybe it is due to good luck AND good taste.
- We need to be more politically astute and need to be in touch with the legislature regarding these critical local issues, especially the issues impacted by policy and program change.
- There are burgeoning forces of development that will inundate Craftsbury without us being able to stop it. Now anyone can come and build anything they want to. Craftsbury is a wonderful place and people with lots of money can come in here to ruin “the look.” We need some preventative measures.
- Craftsbury has the municipal forest. We need to Convince taxpayers to keep it and protect it as an asset.
- We have a car and truck culture and need to look for other ways to support getting people out on the pathways to enjoy this environment. Pathways and ski ways. To connect to Mill village, etc.
- We could work together on marketing issues to help the ag committee and collaborate around farm to institution arrangements and markets for good farmers in town.
- Expand the farm to school program.

- There is no way to get ahold of lakeside landowners on Little Hosmer and no mechanism to talk to lakeside owners about the milfoil issue.
- In our educational efforts, remember farmers take a rough rap because of statewide water issue. We need to cut them some

slack. They are working hard to take measures to stay away from mishandling our water resources.

- We need to rework the wildlife corridors with citizen sightings.

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## Reflections of the Community Visit Team

- There are major asset is the working landscape here. It is a beautiful place with many opportunities, but lots of risk due to lack of control. There are few places like this left where you cannot count on unplanned development. It may be necessary to have the mechanisms of planned growth.
- In South Hero, older farmers were selling lots of land. The land trust worked to make sure that land was preserved in South Hero. You can't save everything, but can pull out a few top priorities. There is a lot of potential here and human capital as well as people making partnerships.
- The regional commission hears many of these concerns. In the renewal of your town plan, you'll want to get these policies right. Without zoning, there are some obvious limits to what you can do in terms of halting or controlling sprawl. However, an Act 250 hearing would listen to concerns about control of sprawl.
- There is human capital here. I would recommend you focus on a few projects. Perhaps look at a working lands enterprise grant through state agricultural agency as a fund source for working land development. Another resource from the Agency ties into Ag literacy theme, as the Secretary wants us all more literate about ag issues. As water quality policy and programs come down the pike, it will be important to learn about them and understand them. Nine new employees at the Agency focused on water quality have been hired to help share information and work with communities. On the Farm to school theme, check in with Orleans South Supervisory district who are working with the Center for Ag Economy.
- There seems to be mixed feelings here. Folks appreciate Agriculture and the working landscape, but somehow there is a lack of knowledge about the day in and day out struggle of the farming community. You may need to drill down and figure out what agriculture really does contribute to the town. Get the dairy people, Pete's Greens, etc. to talk a bit more to you, maybe through a committee. It is a tremendous responsibility to keep a farm contributing to the environment and working. Maybe make a community wide concerted effort to learn about agriculture and work on helping to form a lake homeowner's organization. These organizations can do amazing things working on loons to zebra mussels.
- There are pillars of the agricultural economy, the production of agricultural, local foods movement, conservation and recreation, and the bio economy – wood plots, renewables, forestry, fiber. All four pillars are here in Craftsbury. What is missing is a collective idea and movement to go forward. You are ahead of the other agricultural economies in Vermont.
- VHCB has funds to help communities to buy land. For example, West Windsor just bought Mt. Ascutney. We have developed a

Farm and Forest viability program to help young farmers. Here, we see a love for the working landscape, and a fear of the threat of development, which can be a rallying cry. VHCB can help with transfer of development rights. Bolton added two portions of forest land over 1,000 acres where a local group got those resources together to protect that land.

- Maybe a focused talk about how to support private land would be beneficial. With Sterling and the Outdoor Center, you have private organizations using lots of land. Maybe there is a way to build out from there. Maybe look for more outside forces coming in to be channeled in a way that feeds your vision, which could be the product of a common agreement about private land.
- Maybe it is time for a paid planner. There are many tools you can employ but they need to be in place, now before development challenges become more specific. Put into place protective measures. In Shelburne we used a village overlay district code to regulate the kinds of things people could do with their homes. Overlay districts become a planning tool. There is a lot of good energy here and on the planning commission, but you'll need to get your teeth into measures that can direct growth. The guidelines need to be in place before the development occurs so you can channel energy and design in directions you want to see them go. Foresight is fair, coming up with regulations once the development has begun isn't fair to the developers. We also used photos of the view corridors we wanted to maintain in Shelburne. Many tools are available if you need some help and expertise to bring them to Craftsbury.
- Some land will not be developed. There was not much discussion here tonight on profitability. For most landowners, the land is the asset and the landowner who decides whether to conserve has the value of his land and his land management in mind when making decisions. John Ramsey with the VT Land Trust in Greensboro, is a resource. The reality is that though the resources are available, obtaining them takes careful planning and the ability to go through a screening process.
- There are big things on the horizon, but also small steps. Working lands present a polarizing dilemma. There are situations where the community control can build by exercising oversight on water management and employing neighborliness to affect what people do with their land, while on the other hand, changes in the private sector economy may influence the financial situation and determine unanticipated outcomes. Here in Craftsbury, specific small steps appear in order. You could identify 10 people willing to take over farming here and work with them.

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## Craftsbury Schools

Visiting Team: Will Belongia, Shaun Donahue, Ben Doyle (scribe), Tom Hark, Allison Low, Jill Remick, Jenna Whitson (facilitator)

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### What are the Assets in this Area?

- The small class size benefits students through personal attention.
  - The school is graduating students who are really well prepared.
  - The community is really involved in the school. People support the sports teams even if their own kids aren't there.
  - The buildings/school facilities are fantastic.
  - There is lots of integration with the local community and a value placed on collaboration.
  - There are lots of resources to tap into (the college, the senior center, etc.).
  - The history of the school—people care about the school and there is a long tradition of community support.
  - The fact that the school is PreK-12 is an added advantage.
  - The climate is really healthy (it's a comfortable place to be; there isn't much bullying).
  - Because of the small size, strong relationships are important and possible. It feels like a family.
  - There is excellent instruction.
  - Seems like students succeed here.
  - The philosophy of the school. The school values are aligned with the larger community's.
  - The teachers and students have strong, positive relationships.
  - The school has strong administrative leadership.
  - The school is bringing new kids and families to Craftsbury.
  - The school is a safe place.
  - There isn't much of a chance for kids to fly under the radar. There is lots of personalized attention and students help each other do well.
  - The school is flexible—they try to accommodate kids' interests.
  - The school is the biggest employer in the community and is an important economic driver.
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### What are the Challenges?

- People who don't have kids in the school aren't as invested. They just care about the tax rate.
  - There are a lot concerns about losing local control (particularly because of Act 46).
  - We could be doing more to capitalize on the opportunities for collaboration with Sterling.
  - The college depends on the success of the school (people want to move here because of the schools). The two institutions are linked.
  - The tax rate is high.
  - The lack of diversity is a challenge particularly since students will need to be global citizens in the 21st Century.
  - More people would like to access the PreK program. There is a waiting list.
  - Too many ideas from outside (i.e. Montpelier) that overburden the school. Our wheels are spinning to make bureaucrats happy.
  - Mandatory standardized testing. It's an unbelievable amount of time wasted.
  - There are assets, but the challenge is to foster the connections between assets. There is a need to connect the dots.
  - Mental illness and addiction does have an impact on the community and the school.
  - The free and reduced lunch numbers show that there is a high level of poverty in the community.
  - The families that are involved in the school might be an exception—there are others that don't have the same opportunity to give time and energy. Is there a way for them to contribute too?
  - What happens when cell phone coverage is here? How will that change the school? This might be a future challenge.
  - Some students feel that the community over-emphasizes sports. Kids want to focus on the arts more.
  - Transportation to extra-curricular activities is limited.
  - Gym access is limited.
  - "Act 46 would be devastating to the community. This is the biggest issue facing the town."
  - The cost of education seems prohibitive.
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### Opportunities: What Should Be Done?

- The community should start writing letters to and meeting with legislators to share their concerns about Act 46.
- The community should develop a plan to demonstrate the value of its school.
- Create a resource discussion group to help connect the dots between community assets and the school.
- Establish a financial institution/foundation that encourages and supports collaboration between community partners.
- Increase opportunity for Craftsbury students to attend Sterling College classes.
- Create internships for students around town so that their education is more integrated into the life of the town.
- Build community through play (what about a community kick ball tournament?).
- Develop or use an existing online platform to coordinate carpooling opportunities.
- Look into potential public transportation options.
- Investigate opportunities for becoming an independent school to prevent being burdened by mandates from the State.
- Encourage the school to increase/foster connections between the community and the classroom.
- Although opportunities already exist, the high school should increase its support for service-based educational opportunities.
- Students should be given time/encouraged to volunteer at the senior center.
- Conduct a study on the economic impact of the school on the community.

- Increase housing for young families through shared/cohousing models to allow the school to remain vibrant and grow.
- The Outdoor Center should expand their current programming for young people who live in the area fulltime.
- The school should aspire to be a leader in the farm to school movement.
- Find new ways for kids to connect to the working landscape (i.e. know and be active in where their food comes from).
- Develop an environmental program for students in partnership with Sterling College.
- Increase diversity at the school through boarding/exchange programs.
- Stand out from other schools by offering exceptional programming, for example, offering languages at a much earlier age (1st or 2nd grade).
- Extend the notion of a learning community from a school to the entire community through skill-swap opportunities.
- Have parents/adults participate in some of the learning opportunities at the school. Or parents could replace their kids in a class for one day to connect more successfully to the school (North Country has done this).
- Work with local organizations to help supplement existing instruction (Art House, Sterling College, Outdoor Center).
- Make sure that people who have historically been involved in making the school excellent continue to be engaged.
- The community should learn more about Flexible Pathways so it can support the school's work in this area.
- A group should do some asset mapping around community space that could be available for a childhood/community center.
- Residents should vote and participate in the political process to ensure their concerns about Act 46 are addressed.
- Have another special community forum for youth so that their concerns can be heard.

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### Reflections of the Community Visit Team

- It's clear that the town loves its school. "I'm ready to move here!"
- It was wonderful to hear the voice of young people (both young parents and their children).
- Many of the challenges that we heard about could be addressed through some rapid change models—particularly to increase collaboration.
- It's important to understand the ways in which the school is an economic driver in the community.
- Look to and connect with other small schools in the state to insulate yourself from state-wide mandates concerning governance.
- There are a couple of independent schools in the area the town could connect with to learn more about the challenges and opportunities for going down that road.
- The town could also connect with schools that have established boarding or exchange programs as a way to increase diversity.
- Housing is a concern connected to the school—people want to move here because of the great school, but can't afford to.
- There are solutions, which will be difficult, but that the assets in this topic are very strong and provide a "phenomenal opportunity."

## Youth Forum Notes

Compiled from a youth forum held with Craftsbury Academy students and VCRD staff on September 14<sup>th</sup> 2015

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### What is successful about the Craftsbury community and what do you worry about?

- Worry that a lot of the community is at retired age and there are fewer young people. And not many 35-40 year-olds here.
- Hard for kids our age to do things other than sports and academics. Not a lot of other options.
- The Craftsbury Outdoor Center is a great resource but it's distant from the community. It's thought of as the place hippies go to ski, rather than part of the community. The Center has been trying to be involved more with the town but it hasn't happened.
- Most of the town thinks of the Outdoor Center as in its own segment of town. There have been some tensions between neighboring landowners in the past.
- There's a lot of support for sports, the gym is packed for every basketball game. The community comes out to watch even if they don't have kids playing. Same with soccer.
- No connection between the school and Sterling; there's divide, tension and a little animosity. No one at the school likes the college. Either you're in it and for it, or you're out of it and don't like it.
- No one from Craftsbury Academy goes to Sterling. Some students from the college come help teach science classes or help in the kitchen. It's weird because we're so close in age.
- Some of the mindset toward Sterling is the way they present themselves when they teach. They don't present themselves professionally, the way they dress, the hippy feel. It feels like "the other" community we don't feel connected to. It's hard to respect them.
- One reason we don't have a younger population is because Sterling students are so culturally different.
- The College is all ag stuff and most of us grew up on farms and don't feel like we need help from them.
- The Common is nice, traditional. There is a concert every other Sunday.



- The Common area is more touristy, where the older and richer people live. People down the hill are somewhat separated. Some people don't hear about the events.
- Don't hear about events in Craftsbury. I don't know when the Farmer's Market is, what day and time. I go to Morrisville to do stuff. If there is a Craftsbury community events page on Facebook I'd be more likely to know about events and go.
- A sandwich board outside the school lists when the Farmer's Market is.
- There are bonfires on summer nights, but don't have a place to go for food or to hang out.
- The Art House was trying to be a café but they weren't getting enough business. It's really expensive, sell things like scones and stuff.
- Teens could meet at the church to have snacks.
- Craftsbury has a great sense of community, something special here. Community is there for you. i.e., when someone was raising money to go to Mexico, people wanted to help. Strong connection to community.
- It's a nice beautiful place, but it needs more communication to get more people in here to be able to have a prosperous business.
- A lot of Academy students live outside Craftsbury.
- There is Front Porch Forum that sends a daily summary of posts. Includes a lot of the events.
- The problem is that you get posts every day that don't apply to students.
- The Craftsbury website has a calendar of community events.

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### **What can Craftsbury do to be a dynamic, prosperous, and exciting place to live and learn?**

- A restaurant would be nice; a place teens could go hang out and socialize.
- A community Facebook page aimed at more tech savvy people would help reach more teens.
- A community space where people could go all the time. We have a great community gym that was presented as a community space when they were passing the budget. But it's always locked; can't just go in to shoot around, have to have someone with you. It should be open all the time. Some kids "broke in" to shoot hoops and they got in trouble – it was a big deal. All they wanted to do was play basketball.
- In the summer, the gym could be open a couple nights a week for kids to come in and play.
- More diversity. Have the Spiral Program – the Chinese exchange – in the summer. Awesome when exchange kids come from other countries. Would be great to have kids from other countries during the school year.
- Have more international trips for students.
- More extracurricular activities in the school besides sports. There's currently no drama club, or arts activities.
- Most classes at Art House are very expensive and aren't held at convenient times. More affordable classes would be great.
- Shakespeare Camp in the summer is great for those involved, but it's member exclusive if you're not part of it, and kids not involved have judgement toward those that are part of it. Also, it's expensive.
- They do a performance for the community on Old Home Day.
- There could be a paintball club. This is the perfect place for it; lots of woods. It would be a draw for people from other towns; a destination.
- Should have an after school bus for kids that don't have cars. Kids that do sports have to get rides which makes it hard. And, have to have note from parents to get rides, even the high school kids! Understand for middle school, but want more ability for high school kids to get rides without a note. Don't even see parents a lot because they both work so it's hard to get a note from them.
- Outdoor Center used to have a program for kids in elementary school where kids took bus there 2-3 days a week. But that program ended because it wasn't managed well. The program has kind of fallen apart.
- Ropes course at Sterling is really fun, it's the one time I realize the college isn't so bad. Wish they were more open about us using it.
- Can we go sit in classes at Sterling? Students here have taken Sterling classes but really hard to schedule because the times don't line up well.
- Also, high school students are looking at colleges and it would be cool to be able to sit in on a class at Sterling to see what a college class is like.

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### **What can students do to make Craftsbury an exciting place to live and learn?**

- Outdoor Center built a new building. We all want a place to go hang out that's not in the woods. Wonder if it could be open Fri and Sat evenings, where they sell food, etc. Could be used in the summer if open 8-midnight or something. It might serve to build connections between students of the high school and college maybe. Don't want something structured like a teen center. Just a place to go get food and hang out.
  - A late bus could get students out in the community more if they have transportation. They want to do stuff but they can't because no transportation.
  - Communication. The school has a robotic phone system. Maybe use it to announce events going on in the community.
  - The school newsletter is sent out monthly to everyone in town. Maybe students could work on that during the summer and make it more of a community-wide newspaper or newsletter. Could be all online. A place to announce events and happenings.
  - There is a school events calendar, but it's kind of buried. Also could include community events that allowed everyone to put an event on there.
- Having a FB page run by students outside of school. Teens are on it, so the page could send notifications out.

## VII. Craftsbury Community Visit Participants

Carolyn Aiossa	Aliena Gerhard	Brian Machesney	Cori Jean Sanders
Robert Alexander	Charles Gill	Emily Maclure	Lisa Santamore
Deborah Alford	Braelyn Gillespie	Steven Marckey	Peggy Sapphire
Matt Allen	Eloise Girard	Jane Marlin	Jen Schoen
John Ashworth	Merri Greenia	Carol Maroni	Anna Schulz
Nat Bacon	Kevin Gregoire	Jasmine Martin	Lark Shield
Kit Basom	Bob Griffiths	Ruth Martin	Julia Shipley
Reeve Basom	Suzanne Griffiths	Terry Martin	Kathy Stark
Bob Benson	Paul Gruhler	Vincent Martin	John Stoddard
Stark Biddle	Sally Guebara	Marcel Masse	Dave Stoner
Michael Birnbaum	Michelle Guenard	Jeremiah McCann	Jenny Stoner
Natanya Bittman	Walt Gutzmann	Nancy Merrill	Barb Strong
John Brodhead	Jean Haigh	Harry Miller	Robert Strong
Arnold Brown	Doug Hallam	Jackson Miller	Shirley Strong
Belinda Brown	Anne Hanson	Sheldon Miller	Leah Szafranski
Farley Brown	Eric Hanson	Jim Moffatt	Chad Tanner
Gwen Bueckendorf	Michael Heffernan	Sharon Moffatt	Wendy Tanner
Ollie Burruss	Jennifer Hersey Cleveland	Steve Moffatt	Rebecca Tatel
Louise Calderwood	Ethan Hibbard	Nancy Moran	Marie Turmel
Randi Calderwood	Don Houghton	Diane Morgan	Barbara Ulman
Gina Campoli	Mabel Houghton	Ross Morgan	Betty Urie
Victor Carrion	Joe Houston	Ethan Morrison	Bruce Urie
Ted Ceraldi	Ned Houston	Anne Morse	Allison Van Akkeren
Molly Ciecierski	Susan Houston	Tim Muddalena-Lucey	Elizabeth Vogt
Nicole Civita	Barbara Huntington-	Barb Mutrux	Anne Volmer
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*The Visiting Team gathered for a briefing luncheon at Sterling College on Community Visit Day.*



*Task force groups began to build their workplans on Resource Day with the help of a Visiting Resource Team.*



*Good work and goodnight!*



*The "Craftsbury ABC Project" mural was conceived by Julia Shipley, designed by Tara Goreau, and created by dozens of Craftsbury community members. The community painting project was facilitated by The Art House and is displayed there today.*

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