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Town of Hinesburg  
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## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Alex Weinhagen, Town Planner  
Peter Erb, Zoning Administrator  
Renae Marshall, Planning & Zoning Assistant

**From:** Joe Colangelo, Town Administrator

**Date:** February 3, 2014

**Re:** Haystack Development – Town Administrator Staff Comments

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I was asked to provide the Planning & Zoning Department written comments on the proposed Haystack Crossing; this feedback is to be considered by the Development Review Board as they discuss the submitted master plan.

Listed below are some of my thoughts:

- **Shelburne Falls/Rte 116 Intersection** – Construction of any part of Haystack Crossing should be contingent on the State of Vermont properly improving the Rte 116/Shelburne Falls Road intersection.
- **Sidewalks?** – The Town of Hinesburg needs to balance the desire to ensure a highly walkable community with an appreciation of the maintenance costs associated with such an extensive sidewalk network. Sidewalks on both sides of all the roadways within this development may be excessive.
- **Overall Municipal Operations** – The Haystack Crossing project, along with other forthcoming and previously submitted development projects, will trigger the need for additional Town staff and capital equipment. Hinesburg's Town staff is currently operating at maximum levels of production and these added development projects will require that property tax payers support a larger municipal team. New staff could include, but may not be limited to, highway maintainers, water/wastewater operators, additional administrative help, more police and/or 24hr police coverage, and, potentially, a full-time fire chief, paramedic, or other like public safety official. Along with additional staff members, the Town of Hinesburg will need equipment such as another dump/plow truck, another police cruiser, new fire apparatuses, new computers and work stations for additional administrative help, etc.
- **Recreation Fields** – Mr. Wayne Bissonette and the entire Bissonette Family are generously gifting land abutting the Haystack Crossing development to the Town of Hinesburg. There is a clear understanding that this land will provide public recreational facilities for the entire community. Hinesburg has displayed strong support for these fields through a number of community-wide fundraising activities and social events. If everything continues to go well these fields will be constructed sooner rather than later and enjoyed by the community before the Haystack Crossing project breaks ground. The swift construction of these fields should remain a top priority for this community.