



Town of Hinesburg, Vermont  
Application form for Town Commission, Board, and Committee Appointments

Please supply answers to the following. The Town will provide access to a computer and printer for any applicant for the purpose of completing this form.

Name of Applicant: JOSEPH "JEFF" FRENCH Date: 9/26/2012  
Mailing Address: 90 MULBERRY LANE, HINESBURG, VT 05461  
Phone Number: 802-551-9091 E-mail Address: JEFF.F.FRENCH@GMAIL.COM  
Name of Commission, Board, or Committee: VILLAGE STEERING COMMITTEE

Hinesburg Resident:  Y  N (circle one)

Hinesburg Resident for how long? 1y / NA

- 1) Review the Mission Statement of the Commission, Board, or Committee you are applying to serve on and explain how you will aid the group achieve said Mission.  
SEE ATTACHMENT
- 2) Please share your thoughts about implementation of at least two of the Top Priority Goals and Recommendations in the latest Town Plan (Section 9, page 75), as it relates to the Commission, Board, or Commission on which you are applying to serve.  
SEE ATTACHMENT
- 3) Review the scheduled meeting day/time of the Commission, Board, or Committee along with the length of the term of the position. Will you be able to regularly make the meetings?:  Y  N Will you be able to serve for the term of the position?  Y  N
- 4) Please introduce yourself to the Selectboard by providing a short cover letter and/or a resume.  
SEE ATTACHMENT

**Attachment for Joseph 'Jeff' French application to Village Steering Committee.**

1) *Review the Mission Statement of the Commission, Board, or Committee you are applying to serve on and explain how you will aid the group achieve said Mission.*

- My background in process improvements and management lends itself to coming up with creative solutions to complex problems. Also, I have a degree in History and enjoy historic preservation. Being a resident of the village with two small children ensures I have a personal stake in ensuring the future of our downtown area is safe, family friendly and maintains our historical character while keeping the reality of economic opportunity and viability in mind. I see the growth and future sustainability of Hinesburg is to make the village core livable, walkable with needed office and retail done in way to maintain "sense of place".

I believe having a livable, walkable downtown village core, in conjunction with the excellent school system, will encourage demand for residence in the town, increasing home values and the property tax base overall. This doesn't mean we need to allow unchecked home development, but actually the opposite, limiting it in our current smart way. Housing stock will stay where we want it, but demand would rise, increasing the overall values.

2) *Please share your thoughts about implementation of at least two of the Top Priority Goals and Recommendations in the latest Town Plan (Section 9, page 75), as it relates to the Commission, Board, or Commission on which you are applying to serve.*

- A. *Develop permanent zoning for the 15.4-acre Saputo property (now under interim zoning) in order to encourage and allow for uses that will bring value to the community (particularly economic development and employment) and be consistent with the surrounding mix of residential, commercial, and civic uses. (3.2.5b, 3.3.1d)*
- I would like to see more visualization of zoning definitions. By that I mean, once options of permanent zoning is finalized have renderings drawn up of showing the "Ideal Use" of those various zoning areas to give planners, developers and residents and ideas of the regulation. Put legalese of zoning laws into graphic images for better interpretation of the "spirit" of the zoning regulations.
- B. *Improve existing and future transportation network connectivity for pedestrians and vehicles. Develop policies and incentives, which encourage developers to plan for and create interconnected transportation networks as part of future development. Evaluate improvements to selected Class IV roads to function better as recreation and alternate transportation paths as components of the town wide trail network. (5.4.1j, 6.4c, 6.5e, 6.6a)*

- I feel it would be interesting to see mappings of walking trails, linked to sidewalks. Same with bike paths. I think overall strategy of “walkable, livable, downtown” would incorporate the ability to not only walk or bike safely within the village area, but link recreation fields, etc.
- C. *Encourage sustainable economic development in Hinesburg that embodies the values expressed in this Plan, benefits of which include job creation, broadening of the tax base, and a local & sustainable economy. Although mentioned in various sections (e.g., 1.5 – Goals 2.3 & 2.4; 3.2; 3.3), economic development deserves more attention in the next Town Plan – perhaps as a new standalone section with more specific goals and recommendations.*
- Focus on developing the Commercially Zoned areas for better usability and ensuring architecture of new builds meets the “sense of place” in the village. Use the graphic zoning idea I mentioned in item A. Also, maybe review not only retail but corporate. Smaller local office areas, which would in turn, attract more retail for the lunch/working crowd. If we can zone appropriately so it stays in control, it could be a great benefit if the retailers in the area during the day.
- D. *Evaluate Town recreational needs, and create a strategic plan for the future that includes present and desired future programs. (5.4, 5.4.1b)*
- Similar to item B above. Would like to see greater walkable links between our recreational facilities so you can go (for example) from the playground at the Community school to the soccer fields behind Town hall to CVU without the need to drive and park, drive and park, drive and park.
- 3) *Please introduce yourself to the Selectboard by providing a short cover letter and/or a resume.*
- My name is Joseph “Jeff” French and I am an IT Systems Architect and Manager with C2 Competitive Computing in Colchester. I have a BA in History and an MBA in Technology Management and have a passion for Historic Preservation. My family; Wife of 10 years, 3 year old daughter, 6 month old son and 2 dogs, and I moved to Hinesburg a year ago. We chose to move to Hinesburg because of the Town Plan / Official Map and specifically how forward thinking the Town is to maintain and grow our village core in a smart way. I’d love to be able to help shape that future vision and work with all of you to protect it and implement it. I think we have a unique opportunity in Hinesburg to model our village’s future growth to be attractive to both business and residents (both present and future).