

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: Matt Sayre

Date: 12/27/2012

Mailing Address: 82 Honey Hill Road, Hinesburg, VT 05461

Phone Number: 802-482-2299

E-mail Address: matt.sayre@uvm.edu

Name of Commission, Board, or Committee: Economic Development Committee

Hinesburg Resident: Yes

Hinesburg Resident for how long? 2 years

- 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.

The mission of the Economic Development Committee is to develop a 5-year Strategic Economic Development Plan for adoption by the Select Board; and help recruit, vet, promote, and aid Hinesburg business owners and developers to work amicably and efficiently with the Town and its local governing body.

The current Town Plan indicates a need to “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.”

To establish more specific goals and recommendations and develop a plan that has widespread community support, our town must develop a shared vision of the future economy we are seeking to build in our community. As a member of this Committee I will seek input from diverse stakeholders in our community and really try to understand their interests and vision for the growth and development they desire. As an educator and administrator who works on sustainability issues, I have planned and facilitated envisioning processes and numerous educational programs on sustainability issues, so I will help the Committee with any community engagement processes that might be necessary.

I’m a generalist who is not an expert in anything, so I don’t really know what I know until I start working on a project, but I always find ways to contribute meaningfully. I do know a lot of current information about best practices and/or innovations, especially in areas like sustainable food systems, and I have professional relationships with many experts in various fields who

could help our Committee determine the best approaches to achieve our goals, so I will draw upon my own knowledge and other resources to advance our Committee's work.

- 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.

The plan clearly indicates that there needs to be greater focus on economic development in the next plan or a new standalone addendum section with more specific economic development goals and recommendations, so the Committee must have a short-term goal of preparing that much-needed section.

The plan also indicates a desire to support the development of open space enterprises such as, but not limited to: community farms, farm-based bed & breakfasts and event-hosting facilities, cross-country ski facilities, game preserves or similar businesses, so the Committee must work to support that strategy and should do so by convening an open-space enterprise forum where complimentary enterprise plans can be hatched and resources can be identified to support these start-ups. This initiative would also nicely support the desire to have more recreational opportunities in Hinesburg as stated in the plan.

- 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?: Yes Will you be able to serve for the term of the position? Yes

- 4) Please introduce yourself to the Selectboard by providing a short cover letter and/or a resume. See attached.