

Heidi Tinker Simkins
1519 Hayden Hill Road West
Hinesburg, VT 05461
(802) 482-5215
simkins@mindspring.com

Re: Application for Appointment to the Hinesburg Sustainable Economic Development Commission (HSEDC)

1. Review the Mission Statement of the Commission you are applying to serve on and explain how you will aid the group achieve said Mission.

I am happy to submit my first application for a Town of Hinesburg volunteer position. As a resident of Hinesburg, my family and I are committed to our community, and to its economic health. My prior experience in finance and customer service would be an asset to the Commission, and I feel that the skills needed to help HSEDC achieve its mission are similar to those I have demonstrated in the past. My work at VSAC required me to research and understand frequently changing federal regulations, and to provide materials and training for employees to communicate effectively with the public.

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 on which you are applying to serve.

In my opinion, Hinesburg will gain by focusing on development that is primarily locally owned and operated. Additionally, we should work to support and retain our current businesses. I am hopeful that the Commission intends to focus on long-term planning and zoning for development that is fiscally responsible for our community. One way in which we can encourage sustainable growth while strengthening our tax base, is to promote a variety of smaller, local businesses within Hinesburg, instead of fewer, larger corporations. In the past, our town made accommodations in an attempt to retain Saputo, and when they chose to leave Hinesburg, we felt the loss of 80 jobs at once. If we can attract a vibrant mix of businesses and services for use by visitors and our community, Hinesburg will be in a less vulnerable position when one or more businesses close or move away.

I am also interested in Hinesburg's work to mitigate traffic congestion, while supporting public transportation, walking, and biking in the village. If Hinesburg is viewed as a "traffic jam area", it will be difficult to entice economic development, and encourage visitors. Marketing new, and current businesses to develop in the West Side Road area may help to support this goal.

3. Review the scheduled meeting day/time of the Commission along with the length of the term of the position. Will you be able to regularly make the meetings? Will you be able to serve for the term of the position?

If appointed to the Commission, I will make a commitment to attend meetings regularly, and serve the length of the position.

Thank you for this opportunity,

Heidi Tinker Simkins