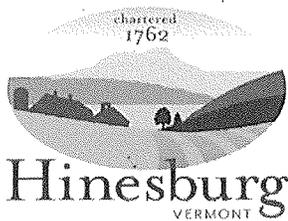


## Standard Application form for Town Commissions, Boards, and Committees



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: Anne Donegan Date: 3/25/13  
 Mailing Address: 742 Pond Brook Rd  
 Phone Number: 482-2017 E-mail Address: ardonegan@gmail.com  
 Name of Commission, Board, or Committee: Planning Commission

Hinesburg Resident:  Y  N (circle one)

Hinesburg Resident for how long? 61 yrs 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.
- 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.
- 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.



March 25, 2013

Dear Hinesburg Select Board Members,

I'd like to apply for the open position on the Planning Commission. I have lived in Hinesburg all my life, with the exception of several months in Newport RI when my husband, Roger, was in the Navy. Growing up, I felt that I had the best of both worlds: I lived on a farm with 100 acres of woods and fields and lots of freedom, but I also lived in the village, with many friends near at hand. I attended CVU and UVM, with a degree in Home Economics.

I am married with three adult sons who all live in the area, as well as three grandchildren. I appreciate living near Lake Iroquois on Pond Brook Rd, with its variety of plant and animal life. Along with my six brothers, I own the family farm and take pride in being a member of this community.

Once my sons were all attending school, I returned to school myself and became a certified Reading Teacher. I loved my work at Thatcher Brook Primary School in Waterbury, but am now retired and enjoying an increase in free time. I like working in the family sugarbush at this time of year, am a passionate gardener, and have a part-time job at Red Wagon Plants during the spring and summer.

I believe that I have a unique perspective as a life-long resident of Hinesburg who has seen 60+ years of growth and change. Please consider my application for the open Planning Commission position, however, should you receive an application of another well-qualified and interested candidate, I'd be very happy to have him/her take the position.

Sincerely,

Anne Donegan

## **1) Response to Mission Statement**

As a Planning Commission member, I would lend a dual perspective to the group, having lived in both the village and on a dirt road in the Lake Iroquois area. I appreciate the desirability of encouraging concentrated growth while keeping areas sparsely settled. My experience living near the lake will help the Commission as it reviews the Shoreline district zoning regulations. Owning a large piece of land in the village and having farmers in my family also gives me a varied outlook. I think I am a good listener and I learn from other people. I would have a lot to learn from other Commission members.

## **2) Top Priority Goals and Recommendations in the Town Plan**

### **GOAL 1 - To maintain and enhance the rural small town character and environment of Hinesburg.**

A small town has a town center with locally owned businesses and public gathering places that bring people together. Citizens vary in age, including young families and the elderly, who interact with each other in various places: church, library, town celebrations, stores, etc. It's important to encourage a variety of housing options within the village to allow for this variety in residents. I am pleased at the degree to which our sidewalks in the village are used to allow pedestrian access to town activities.

In order to keep agricultural land open and productive, we need to encourage diverse farming practices. We are no longer a dairy town, but with small fruit, vegetable, poultry, beef, maple enterprises, our neighbors can still provide some of the food we eat. Working open land is important in order to discourage the growth of non-native invasives. I've learned this the hard way as our farm, after 20 years of minimal grazing, is now a poster child for invasives!

### **GOAL 4 - To preserve and protect the natural resources and special features of Hinesburg.**

Hinesburg is rich in natural resources that all residents should be able to enjoy. Many residents allow access to their land for hiking, hunting, fishing, swimming. We should encourage this by obtaining trail easements whenever possible. The trails committee has been great in their maintenance of the trails on our farm. I'd like to encourage citizens to donate development rights on their property to keep open, undeveloped land for the future. In order to keep deer populations at a sustainable level, we need to have large tracts of wooded land to accommodate hunting in a safe way. How do our zoning guidelines address this?

Lake Iroquois is a wonderful recreational resource, but the water quality has deteriorated in the 32 years we've lived nearby. It is timely that the Commission is addressing the shoreline district zoning guidelines.

Hinesburg is growing, however, my preference is that growth remain at a slow pace. We can always build, but once we've built, we'll never have the open land back. My approach would be cautious.