

Sarah Murphy
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Hinesburg, VT 05461
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Members of the Select Board:

I am applying for the open position on the Development Review Board (DRB). I have been an alternate on the board for almost two years now, and have sat as an active participant on several decisions. I have really enjoyed my time on the board, and feel that I have begun to learn some of the intense scrutiny of our town's zoning and planning that the DRB requires of its participants. It is clear our Town benefits from the many residents who volunteer their time to help support our community. I feel my background, a Hinesburg resident for 10 years and a healthcare professional who has served on various committees and boards within my profession and in the community where I work, makes me an excellent candidate for this position. I also have a strong commitment to the future of our Town as I am raising my two small children here.

As part of this application process I have been asked to respond to two of our newly adopted Top Priority Goals and Recommendations.

- 1. Create a clearer system for determining allowed development density for the rural areas that gives everyone more predictability in the review process, while helping retain natural resources and important farm and forest lands. Refine and fine tune this system as natural resource assessments improve, priority resource areas are identified, and as a Town Greenspace Plan is developed. (3.4.1b, 3.4.3b, 3.4.4b, 4.9.1)*

I am particularly interested in this goal as I am an adjacent landowner to two major subdivisions in our town that employed a density bonus. Throughout the review process for these applications many questions and concerns were not clearly addressed by the zoning regulations. Providing predictability would not only help streamline the process for developers, but it would also provide the community with a clearer review process which, ultimately, would lead to peace of mind during the experience. Having clear expectations creates a culture of understanding – something any community should strive to achieve.

- 2. 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)*

This is an important goal to create the town we see ourselves becoming. Walkability should be a priority of any community looking to grow in a positive way. I have been

very pleased with our recent bike path, and have already enjoyed its ability to both connect my development to the town, and the town to me. It is wonderful to see people walk by my home and have them stop for a visit. This was a perfect opportunity to support a Top Priority Goal and create a more connected Town which can only enhance Hinesburg's unique sense of self. Hinesburg has benefited from projects undertaken by developers, especially as it relates to recreation infrastructure. It would further benefit the Town to create a clear path for staging incentives for developers. A list of priorities for each area of potential development would be an appropriate first step.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,
Sarah Murphy