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The Select Board
C/o Joe Colangelo, Town Administrator
Hinesburg

To the Select Board:

I would like to apply for a term on the Trails Committee. I have been an enthusiastic “consumer” of town trails since we moved here twenty-five years ago. Having read the mission, I understand that the mission is to help maintain and develop the network of trails in our town. I am certainly happy to help out in that regard, both in terms of participation in committee meetings and in terms of volunteering on weekends to help repair, develop, or post trails. Now that I am finishing my last term on the Village Steering Committee after eight years, which is long enough on any committee, I would like to serve on another town committee.

The two priority goals from the Town Plan on which I would like to comment are the following (page 75, Town Plan):

Evaluate Town recreational needs, and create a strategic plan for the future that includes present and desired future programs. (5.4, 5.4.1b)

On the Trails Committee, I would certainly hope that my participation would help contribute to developing appropriate recreational opportunities in terms of hiking and walking as well as help develop or contribute to a strategic plan with regards to town trails.

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 townwide trail network. (5.4.1j, 6.4c, 6.5e, 6.6a)

As the first chair and a member of the Village Steering Committee, I was committed to helping improve walkability and pedestrian safety in the village. By wishing to serve on the Trails Committee, I am simply applying that same interest and concern to the rural areas of our town. However, I also see opportunities in the future for the Trails Committee to help the Development Review Board work with developers to establish appropriate walkways and trails as part of their developments (which could be in the village).

In conclusion, I would like to say that I have always in one capacity or another volunteered in the area of town governance, whether it was the Hinesburg Land Trust, the Village Steering Committee, or the original pedestrian path committee. A few people have asked if I would consider standing for appointment to the Planning Commission. I am certainly interested in that position (eventually), but at this time in my career I have too many professional obligations to allow me the time to serve on that particular body. Should you opt not to appoint me to the Trails Committee, I would be happy to stand for appointment to the Town Forest Committee or the Conservation Commission. My