

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: James Donegan **Date:** 6-3-15

Mailing Address: PO BOX 460, Hinesburg, VT 05461

Phone Number: 802-488-0283 **E-mail Address:** doneganmaple@hotmail.com

Name of Commission, Board, or Committee: Planning Commission

Hinesburg Resident: Yes **Hinesburg Resident for how long?** 30 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 present and future functioning of our community of Hinesburg is important to me. I'm a good listener and can identify with a diversity of populations. I see the importance of planning and enjoy the planning aspects of my work. I can add my unique perspective, and task-oriented nature to work on The Town Plan, Zoning Bylaws, and Subdivision regulations.

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.

- a. *Develop permanent zoning for the 15.4 acre Saputo property (now under interim zoning) in order to encourage and allow for uses that will bring value to the community (particularly economic development and employment) and be consistent with the surrounding mix of residential, commercial, and civic uses. (3.2.5b, 3.3.1d)*

I'm pleased with the status of the former Saputo plant. I think the type of businesses that are now located there are ideal. They are small to medium sized and locally owned. Small businesses can adapt quickly to changing markets. Local owners are members of the community and I think they are more likely to include human and environmental factors along with economics when making business decisions. Several of the businesses are involved with value added agricultural products. Vermont has always had a strong history of agricultural businesses and currently enjoys a great reputation for its agricultural products. We should encourage more of this type of business in town.

- b. *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 supported the recent update to the rural area zoning. As mentioned above, I think we should encourage more agricultural and value added agricultural businesses. Expanding the allowed uses in the rural areas was a good way to do this. I support the limited development allowed in these rural areas. I'd like to see them remain as rural areas.

- c. *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.*

I believe the community of Hinesburg would benefit if future development included a greater percentage of small, locally owned businesses. As mentioned in the goal, growth in businesses broadens the tax base and, I believe, requires fewer municipal services than residential properties. Future residential development will add to local traffic congestion, while growth in local businesses has the potential to reduce traffic congestion, resource consumption, and pollution. We will be a more vibrant and sustainable community when more of the people who live in town, work in town.

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