



Shaping
Our Region
from the Ground Up

Summary of Harwood UHS Interview Responses

Harwood Union High School Creating Sustainable Communities students, with guidance from their teacher, Matt Henchen, prepared and conducted community interview projects that will be used to inform the planning process. Interviewees ranged in age from 28 to 43 and mostly lived in the communities of Waterbury, Duxbury, Moretown, Fayston, Warren, and Waitsfield. Not all were asked the same questions, but the following offers a snapshot of what residents value about living in Central Vermont.

1. Do you have any special connections to your community?
 - a. Living there
 - b. Working there
 - c. Raising a family there
 - d. Children attending public school
 - e. Owning a home there

2. What do you want your community in Central Vermont to look like in the next ten years?
 - a. Environmentally sustainable
 - b. Not becoming a bedroom community for Burlington
 - c. Keep the same sense of community/level of safety
 - d. Continue to rebuild in Waterbury
 - e. Increased access to mental health care
 - f. Increased access to public transportation
 - g. More job opportunities
 - h. More industry

3. What do you think is the largest draw to Central Vermont?
 - a. Ski resorts
 - b. Burlington as a commercial hub
 - c. Sense of community/friendliness
 - d. Safe
 - e. Lifestyle
 - f. Clean
 - g. Peaceful
 - h. Great place to raise a family

4. How do you think small communities have changed since you've lived in Central Vermont?
 - a. Dirt roads now paved (infrastructure)
 - b. Increased tourism
 - c. Increased poverty/harder to make ends meet

5. What is your favorite place in Central Vermont and what do you like about that place?
 - a. Mad River Glen (skiing, lodge, people)

- b. Sugarbush (skiing, people)
- c. Downtown Waitsfield (creative wares)
- d. Church Street (good for tourism, festive, all seasons)
- e. Cold Hollow Cider Mill (delicious cider/donuts)

6. Why do you think people leave Central Vermont?

- a. Experience new culture/diversity
- b. Vermont is sheltered/secluded
- c. Lack of employment/economic opportunity
- d. Lack of technology (expensive)
- e. Lack of culture
- f. Drawn to (bigger) cities

7. What is most important to you about living in Central Vermont and why did you move here?

- a. Mountains
- b. Interested in outdoor activities (hiking, etc.)

8. What is your favorite thing about Central Vermont and why?

- a. Close to mountains/outdoor activities
- b. Close to Burlington
- c. Close to Montpelier
- d. The people (great mix, know a lot of people, get involved)
- e. Location (easy access/close to Burlington, New Hampshire, Montreal, Montpelier)
- f. Rural character (dirt road, mountains, etc.)
- g. Weather (warmer than Northern Vermont)
- h. Scenery
- i. Hiking trails, reservoirs
- j. Sense of community

9. What do you like about the community?

- a. Small
- b. Rely on each other
- c. Caring/nice
- d. Wildlife
- e. Aesthetic beauty

10. What type of job do you have?

- a. Ice cream scooper
- b. Ticket checker
- c. Dish washer

11. What's your least favorite thing about Central Vermont?

- a. Boring

12. What changes have you seen since you've lived here?

- a. Fewer small businesses
- b. Fewer small farms
- c. More big box stores
- d. Growth
- e. Increased influence of federal government (education, other programs)
- f. Interstate system
- g. More residential/commercial development
- h. Increased population
- i. Decline of dairy industry
- j. Decrease in quality of education
- k. Increased taxes (education)