

2011 EAST MONTPELIER TOWN SURVEY

(Compiled results June 2011)

	Degree of Importance			
	High	Med.	Low	No
1. How important is each of the following issues in town planning?				
a. Preservation of rural character	115	18	7	2
b. Affordable housing	71	57	17	2
• Unsure what you mean. Homes? Apts?				
c. Commercial and light industrial development	31	67	33	10
d. Employment opportunities	41	69	26	1
e. Quality of schools	105	30	10	1
f. Energy conservation	103	36	6	2
g. Protection of water quality	109	20	9	1
h. Road maintenance and improvement	58	66	15	5
i. High taxes • Fair Taxes, progressive taxes; • Depends on if you like what taxes are supporting; • Important that they are as low as possible; • All the above costs money!	52	62	22	2
j. Compact settlement patterns	55	56	18	6
k. Wildlife corridors (connected areas with no roads or development)	79	40	20	4
l. Recreational opportunities	49	65	21	7
m. A vibrant village center in East Village • In North Montpelier too	35	64	29	4
n. Other (please specify):				
• A vibrant village in N. Mpr, too. / Upgrades to N. Mpr village / How about vibrant village center in N. Montpelier.		illegal except in allowed hunting areas, in season.		take responsibility and pay / The point of view regarding taxes is not clear here.
• Affordable services.		• Encourage dense development in villages; keep outskirts rural.		• Less Planning Commission authority.
• Agriculture / Ag (small farms) / Sustainable agriculture.		• For commercial development—vibrant small businesses so the money and the business priorities stay local.		• More open working landscape.
• Develop and pass a noise ordinance—restrict the level of noise from target practicing militias, etc—discharging firearms should be		• Gathering places for elderly.		• Police patrols. / Traffic speed controls.
		• Given the services the town receives taxes no high. We need to		• Will our children be able to settle here and afford to raise their families?
2. How important are each of the following scenic features?				
a. Open meadows	106	30	4	3
b. Forest areas	102	32	8	3
c. Active farms	110	22	8	5
d. Village centers	59	62	21	5
e. Distant views	68	52	20	3
f. Distinction between village and countryside	54	56	23	6
• Unsure what this means				
• Think France and Italy- tight village core and ring of surrounding farmland				
g. Rivers and ponds	89	40	10	2
h. Rural roads • Please pave	68	50	16	1
i. Other (please specify)				
• Ag future lies in organic veggie farms / Dairy is dying veggie is next		• Centralized village rather than sprawled development. / The Center is scenic, the Village less so.		• Historic buildings/features.
• Big trees in Town center / Trees on roadside – protect them!! They matter!		• Don't keep widening our rural roads.		• I'd like to scrape off every house built since -00-1950 on the main roads for aesthetics.

3. Indicate the Importance of each type of housing:	High	Med.	Low	No
a. Duplex or multi-family houses	32	61	36	10
b. Condominiums • Why	10	42	61	23
c. Apartments	23	62	44	8
d. Housing for the elderly • Communes	68	53	17	5
e. Mobile home parks	9	45	61	24
f. Mother-in-law apartments (allowable now in all districts)	52	63	23	1
g. Single-family housing	81	43	6	0
h. Other (please specify)				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-housing like White Pine Co-Housing • Depends on how done • Designed to fit the local architectural vernacular • Doesn't this all depend on demographics, which you know better than individuals? 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage Cluster housing in all ways possible (5) / Energy-efficient rural co-operative "designs of the future" • Energy efficient attractive low income housing, which could include condominiums • International communities 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need a variety of housing types and costs • Population centers • Small affordable places to live (2) / Low income housing (2) 				

4. How important is it that our zoning regulations do the following? (See note at top of next page describing current regulations.)	High	Med.	Low	No
a. Remain as they are now • Haven't read the current plan lately	13	34	28	26
b. Be revised to better accomplish the following goals:				
1. Increase density in certain areas like villages and growth centers • [underlined this] and added sustainable ag districts	56	48	12	11
2. Do more to prevent strip development	85	28	13	8
3. Do more to protect existing open space	85	27	9	10
4. Reduce restrictions on how landowners can develop	19	37	36	30
5. Revise zoning districts (e. g. create a village district)	31	62	21	9
6. Create incentives to encourage certain densities or types of development • Depends • This would help share the tax burden	46	45	18	14
7. Other (please specify)				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be more flexible with landowners who want to develop with higher density and at the same time protecting farmland on their property / More focus on property owner's rights (3) • Encourage clustered housing in the 7-acre zone areas / to preserve open space (3) • Go back to the way they were before / revert to prior regulations (2) • I am very concerned about the 1,000+ acres of Lyle Haven farmland that is vulnerable to development • Keep 7 acre zoning requirement and consider broadening that area • Revise zoning in more areas so 1 acre lots are sufficient to build a single family home on 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remain rural; Montpelier and Berlin are minutes away and provide for commercial space • Town's future will shift to significant dependence on locally grown food • Encourage public transportation and access points wherever possible • Expand permitted uses of agricultural properties to allow use in hospitality arena (e.g. Sibley wedding business) • More businesses to reduce pressure on property tax. • Preserve ag and forest land • No to #4 if this will promote sprawl and Levittown housing developments with box chain stores. • Noise levels and yard junk. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'm always concerned that neighbors will open a garage or repair type business that is located in an agricultural part of town. • Too much commercial sprawled along Rte 2 and 14 focus in villages and other concentrated areas, industrial area / Do more to prevent both commercial and residential sprawl. Eating up land with inefficiently planned development on big lots; encourage shared driveways, development close to roads • Don't know enough to answer these (2) 				

5. There are now about 2,226 acres of privately owned land in town under permanent conservation easements. How important is it that current or future town funds be used for the following types of land conservation efforts ?	High	Med.	Low	No
a. No more conservation • Ridiculous • Too many restrictions • We want conservation (2) • Myopic beyond measure • Double negative	24	15	23	73
b. Focus conservation on trail corridors • Unclear, trail corridors?	53	57	25	8
c. Focus conservation of wildlife corridors and protection of unfragmented lands • Important	67	46	16	7
d. Focus conservation on protection of farmland • Important	90	39	11	6
e. Protect ground water quality	111	20	6	3
f. Other				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Montpelier is a leader in land conservation which should be continued, that is why we have a large amount of agriculture in town • ATV trails should be considered, also limited use on Class 4 roads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farms are important but shouldn't need town funds • A standing tree produces seven dollars worth of environmental service for every single dollar that might be gained by harvesting • Riparian buffers and easements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is always room for conservation • NO ATVs 		
6. How important is farming as part of East Montpelier's future?	82	16	6	0

Why?

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintains the character of the community • Local, sustainable agriculture will become more important in our future (4) • We already have 2226 acres of protected – we certainly don't want to go backwards. It is a drawing card being so close to the capital city of Montpelier • There are many younger farmers who presently farm in town or would like to farm here. Local food production is rapidly growing here. With increasing energy costs, local food will become more important • Because once farmland is developed it never goes back and development is ugly / It is crucial that existing farms remain in production. If this land were to be developed for housing the financial ramifications would be disastrous. Also, farms will be needed to produce food as we hit peak oil (2) • Real farming, yes; industrial farming, no • Because we all need to eat to live (2) • Small farms are failing so it will never be like it used to be; don't try to make it so; the costs are too high; encourage small footprint businesses to come to EM for jobs/taxes and | <p>protect rural landscape; if raise food OK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family farms provide quality dairy and other healthy locally grown foods • Extremely important. For local food production, economic development and employment, tourism and preservation of our farming heritage. • Keeps businesses local / Local employment and share the tax burden • Self-sufficiency and economic development through local food systems / Want to encourage sustainability and localization – need farms to do that (3) • Important but should not be subsidized by taxpayers • Keeps landscape open and in use; keeps local economy intact; we should do more to promote/encourage local farming / It is an incentive to keep land open, used, managed (4) • Without farms keeping big fields open, view amenities and attractiveness of our beautiful landscapes. However, I would like to see incentives to persuade our major farmers to become organic and not use round-up and planting round-up ready crops. It would be an interesting figure to determine how many fields are treated and how many gallons of herbicides are used each year. They may be a | <p>big business in town, but I believe that 'cides deaden the soil.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farming is a business, what can any entity do to keep "farming" as part of a community if it's not possible to make a profit; no profit = no business • Keeps land open, in use, good for wildlife, it is our heritage (4) • Working landscape • Very important – we need working farms to keep land open, provide livelihood and sustain local sources of food as transport costs continue to rise (4) • We mustn't become so urban- and human- focused we become isolated from our roots, our food sources, and our history. • People want locally produced food more and more and we want clean water – so farms need to be well regulated. • Locally grown food is more nutritious and helps reduce carbon footprint / Local food is safer, fresher and economically better (8) • Not necessarily high impact dairy farming, diversify for food security, localvore enhancement, more nut trees and fruits, veggies • Farming is important to the town's future because FOOD is fundamental |
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to our survival... and because energy scarcity will require us all to become localvores / Energy and climate change may create greater need for local growing/consuming (2)

- Escalating oil prices will drive out most VT dairies. Small organic farms, labor intensive offer a rational future option
- We need to feed ourselves and communities; sustainable models

include diversification of ag products w more clustered affordable housing included on conserved ag land – “holistic management” model

- I'm hoping that we will return to our local food sources, home gardens and farmers markets, thus the need to encourage our local farmers

- An integral part of our DNA. At this point farming is coming back to play a major part in future economic systems.
- Provide employment, allow people to buy local (produce, etc.)
- Future demand for locally grown food will be greater than now.

Character/open space:

- Extremely – character of our town is based on farming, we value this, we should encourage farming
- Preserve open land, rural character, local food
- When land is conserved it is for a reason. Farming is a great use of conserved land and farmers maintain and improve the land they use.
- Keep land open,
- Helps keep the land in use and open

- With country living you have farming and it should stay that way.
- It is a rural town and should remain so.
- Working farm is vital: regular, dairy, forest, etc.
- Maintain long views
- Look at what farms we have. Keep them
- Very important to maintaining the landscape and rural character we love.

- All town as bedroom community would not be desirable.
- preserves the environment and rural character, makes responsible community members
- Because of the history of East Montpelier

Farming as industry

- Farming is actually an industry now, not small family farms
- (marked importance of farms LOW) Family farms are no longer in existence
- I view E. Montpelier as primarily residential; dairy farming is high impact
- Land in conservation already that has to be kept active because of this – Brings people to area because there is open area that is farming – Should help promote this – Whatever kind of farming it may be.
- A tradition, quality foods, jobs and land use
- It is our town; economy, landscape; environmental protection
- I think that it most important to diversify farming so that more people can work the land. They cannot all be dairy farmers.
- It helps maintain the open lands in our neighborhoods.
- Sustainability is going to become more and more important. Also, we live here far wildlife, and the visual beauty recreation.
- Need farms of all types. Rather have than industry.

- Small farms, especially, will be needed to grow own food when it becomes too expensive to ship from out of state.
- So we have a local food infrastructure, as well as a working landscape. Farmers are also committed to the local area, rather than say an operation owned by someone who lives elsewhere.
- The ability to provide local food-dairy, meat, veggies, etc. to our families is very important to us.
- Space too limited to explain all of the reasons. Basically our global distribution system of food lacks quality and does not improve local economy.
- It is our history and past. We as a community we and a rural community should not try to be a Berlin or worst Williston.
- Employment, rural character, open land, food and fiber
- Our heritage, also supports tourism.
- It should be maintained or improved and encourage
- In keeping with our rural character.
- In the future, after peak oil, VT Villages will have to grow more people food.

- It's Vermont and we need farms even in our own backyards.
- Traditional farming and new farms of agriculture (organic, vegetable, specialty crops) are very important.
- The cows keeps the diverse country side from growing up to brush.
- Very-ideal for local food to be accessible.
- Very important- farming is an integral part of Vermont's culture, and for good reason. It provides sustainable livelihood for many citizens and allows residents of the area the opportunity to purchase and use local farm products.
- Important part of landscape character. Ag feeds people and EM has prime farmland.
- It's important to all of VT
- It is the landscape and our local food source.
- Local production of food should be encouraged. We have good soils and farm structures, let's take advantage of it.

7. How important is our current network of local walking trails?		High	Med.	Low	No
a.	How important is the completion of the Town Trail Loop (completing the trail through easements on land of willing landowners)?	69	45	22	7
b.	Would you be interested in having some of your land conserved for a trail easement? • We already do	Yes - 77		No – 55	
c.	Should the Town grant tax-free status to land conserved for trails? • Maybe reduced rate, tax free is too much (4) • Selfishly yes, but I'm not sure that's fair • Not sure about this one.	Yes - 69		No – 61	
Are there other trails you would like to see? Where?		Yes – 2		No – 3	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flat walking trail, possibly around the fields beyond Railroad Lane Summer walking trails between/crossing over from County Road to North Street ATV trails – connect to small stores – this will help keep money in small stores; it works very well in other states, why not ours Would be nice having trails on the south side of town Parallel to North Street, where the ski trail is now If the town grants tax free status, I would be interested in having some of my land conserved Long Meadow Hill Badger's Hill area Connecting North Village to East Village 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> East Montpelier Village walking trail Along the river Around perimeter of our farm and through woods – out of Seth's way [person indicated their land currently conserved] Around Adamant Ponds Cross VT Trail connector to U-32 Main trail from Benton [not sure if this is correct] to Route 14 trail head Loop through town Maintain our Town Forest trails And what about biking/skiing commuter trails?! Trail from EMES area to village – esp. if village develops. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reduce car traffic and encourage pedestrian commuters. A more direct route from Upper North Street/Cummings /Sparrow to downtown Montpelier. My land might make a good connection between the town trails and the EM trail (better than corn fields). Loop river walk in village, across southern end (North-County-XVT; Montpelier Rec Center North. Some tax breaks could encourage owner participation Depends on how it's done 	

		Level of Satisfaction:			
		High	Med.	Low	No
8.	What is your level of satisfaction with your access to internet technology?	26	37	17	7
a.	Should the Town be directly involved in promoting the availability of internet technology? How?	Yes - 74		No - 49	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay involved and active in discussions with Cloud Alliance, Vtel & Fairpoint, Comcast / Pressure on local/state vendors (5) Encourage IT business to move and grow in EM / Encourage our legislature to support IT development for our town (this tool will aid in the expansion of local and home based jobs) Coordinate with state and private company efforts – we are still limited to dial up! / I live seven miles from the state capitol and don't have access to broadband Use its bonding authority for enabling grants and loans Low level of satisfaction; town needs to work on infrastructure 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As advocate for under-served areas in the current state process Create wifi spaces State issue, not town. Pressure Comcast to bury cable to more locations / Only through urging existing providers to service all the town But with attention that preliminary research indicates wireless and cell towers emit carcinogenic radiation Without added towers Front porch forum [?] program in Middlesex – do we qualify for this? Provide incentives Don't know (2) Many of our citizens would like to telecommute to work, and more might move here, if available. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By putting towers, lines in remote areas on top of mountains (2) It is not up to the town to provide internet access (2) Restaurant / summer farmer's market Leave it to business folks Losing the PO would be major blow to vibrant village center Yes, all of the above, any realization will depend on economy. How about covered bike racks for folks coming into EM to ride the green MTN transit? Anyway it can be affordably (2) Just Ask Burlington! I have cable. There is too much internet. Need more access to high speed internet (I think it's coming). Perhaps a technology committee. 	

9. Please rate the importance of each of the following for the future of East Village on Route 2:	High	Med.	Low	No
a. Creating a more attractive village	54	48	24	7
b. Improving pedestrian safety and circulation	76	35	23	5
c. Expanding the water supply system (formerly Crystal Springs)	32	55	29	8
d. Investing in wastewater (sewer) facilities to ensure water quality and allow future development	44	54	31	9
e. Encouraging higher densities • In limited areas only	43	42	30	19
f. Encouraging a mixture of uses	55	46	25	5
g. Preserving the historic structures and character	82	34	18	4
h. Keeping the post office and municipal building in the village	93	18	16	6

i. Other (Please specify)

- That Route 2/14 abortion is a disaster waiting to happen! This is a safety improvement??? Fortunately its right near the ambulance station!
- [respondent wrote "don't know" for c – g]
- Keeping PO in town critical to developing a critical mass for amenities in "J".
- A viable wastewater system for E. Montpelier village essential for allowing density to evolve.
- Parking and safe crossing could support new use for abandoned garages on each side of Route 2 in village
- PO in former NC Savings building would be convenient, has easy parking and could kill hopes for village
- Yes to all of above, great ideas; not able to rate importance
- Sustainable ag within walk of village
- Those would all be nice but it's a major road intersection – restructuring might be required.
- Lower village speed limit (30mph)
- Is any of this possible? Our village is traffic – just a place on a [can't read two words] highway. A restaurant would be incredible but it's unrealistic.
- Yes to all. However a balance of rural and commercial. The beauty of E. Montpelier is its rusticness
- Senior living near village
- Integration of new green space with village – and I wonder in general what the plans are for this green space.
- Why not expand East village to include the school!?!?
- Stop trying to make it another Montpelier

i. Are there other amenities you would like to see in East Village (e.g. farmers market, park and ride, restaurants, lighting, sidewalks...)

- Farmer's market / a good location would be next to the Old Brick Church (12)
- I think the recently cutoff road end near WEC/church should be a small park
- Bike trail connecting to other towns
- These will be a natural byproduct/occurrence of a well executed Town Plan
- Housing for the elderly, without they will have to leave EM / Activities for local seniors (2)
- Park & ride, restaurants, sidewalks (2)
- Farmers market; restaurants (4)
- Restaurants; lighting; sidewalks – these would be great
- Parks, vibrant downtown with restaurants
- More maintenance = more tax
- Sidewalks through the village center are a necessity for public safety; a local café would be great / Sidewalk is important for safety /community. Control of traffic speed
- All of the above / these encourage growth and business development / alas, no by pass – we flubbed it! (12)
- All those except farmer's market – they are already Montpelier and Plainfield markets; I don't think an East Village market would succeed
- Restaurant/Café (12)
- Sidewalks (9)
- Sidewalks...only if the school becomes part of East Village
- Park and Ride (12)
- A park and ride makes sense, but on weekends I use the town clerk's lot.
- Bus / public transport (3)
- Riverwalk (2)
- Low energy lights if at all – preserve night skies
- No lighting (2)
- Expand food shelf
- Access to area where someone could garden for themselves - have small plots to be rented to grow their own food/veggies and such.
- It may be a long haul to create an attractive village center at this high traffic intersection. More commercial facilities and some housing (higher, density) would be a start. The town role may be to set up the infrastructure (sewer, water) and encourage some tasteful, integrated private development.
- No (2)

- Gazebo, music, farmers market, wifi, restaurants.
- Village green/park area would be nice / Open air concerts/family gatherings (5)
- If economically viable.
- Federal grants for energy efficiency.
- More walkable village, improve public transit

10. How important is it that the Town reduce energy use :	Degree of Importance			
	High	Med.	Low	No
a. In public buildings.....	99	36	7	3
b. Encourage energy conservation throughout town.....	96	39	9	3

c. How could this be done?

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade technology • Efficiency Vermont / Encourage energy efficiency / Encourage use of renewable energy (3) • Ask Energy Committee / Dave Grundy / energy experts(4) • Follow advice of Energy Committee, support heat conservation programs • Already being done, invest in solar (3) • Energy standards for new buildings in regulations, encourage walking and biking • Improve building energy losses/allow solar designs/zoning allowances/cluster housing • Encourage compact settlement in villages • Invest in buildings on a sound basis • Provide workshops for people with ideas, information and contacts (free assist and fee charge basis) (5) • Small steps each year to town buildings • Create a long vision and budget for improvements to the buildings • Net metering; subsidies for solar/microhydro • Pass; PACE / passage of PACE would help (2) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy districts, promote/support neighborhood-based renewable, support PACE financing • Tax incentives for home improvements / energy tax credits (7) • We have a wealth of creative & committed folks – larsh(?) tax incentives where rationally possible (can't read this well) • Conservation – change lights/consult with Andy Shapiro / Don't light at night, use CFL's in all (2) • Insulation; retrofit; efficient lighting, heating, energy use (3) • Good question; raise awareness of state and federal programs / Continue to work with state and other towns(3) • Continue with Energy Committee; feature this in the Signpost – regular column on individual initiatives; use public buildings as examples; sponsor speakers discussing the subject; remind people to use the buses; create bike paths (2) • Publicity / Brochures, signpost, open house tours, info sent home via EMES students (2) • Gatherings, committees, and neighborhoods getting together should make it a "special discussion". • Heating oil and gasoline at seven dollars a gallon and more loom in our | <p>future. Conservation and efficiency will repay up front costs ten fold. With town support, i.e. Rally Day type organizing, I see residents of the town mobilizing to help neighbors carry out ever tighter weatherization. Think barn raising.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leveraging low interest loans for homeowners (see Carl Etnier) (2) • Increased Wx [?] (CVAC & PACE), solar and mini wind where appropriate • Wind, water and making existing forests part of energy savings by help [ends here] (2) • Don't know (2) • Grants, partnerships, CF bulbs free at events (2) • Free energy audits, energy use mandatory systems [not sure I read correctly], more solar for Fairmont Farm, [??] grant [couldn't read this well] • A more proactive process of identifying homes in need of work • Turn off lights not in use; good windows • Education, increase gas tax. • Insulation, wool sweaters |
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11. How important are each of the following approaches in considering possible extraction of ground water for private sale:	High	Med.	Low	No
a. Keeping the current Town regulatory process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not sure what that is / Not sure of current process 	18	30	39	16
b. Strengthening East Montpelier's current regulatory process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't know what current regulation process is ; • If current regs restrict sale of local water, keep 'em. Regions water future HIGHLY uncertain. Soon our potable groundwater may be town's most precious asset 	61	18	16	11
c. Prohibiting any extraction of ground water for private sale <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [starred this] Sale of groundwater – not considering for ag use where H2O stays in watershed 	74	20	8	22

d. No restrictions on water extraction for commercial sale	13	8	13	75
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't know the current regulations (2) • If no restrictions reduce our tax burden, this makes sense to us • I don't know enough about this issue. Again, carefully. • Isn't this a state function? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business corporations should pay the public for extraction of a public resource! • One must be able to find middle ground. • Yes. Should not happen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water is an ever shrinking public good 		

12. Are there any **recreational activities** you would like to participate in but that are unavailable or inadequate in Town? Yes – 0 No - 5

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love the trail system, Morse Farm for skiing and biking • Flat walking trails / walking in the village • If they are not here, they are very close/driving distance / Nice goal but proximity to Montpelier reduces need (3) • More walking paths, ease in biking • Dancing • Bike trail to Montpelier, parallel to Towne Hill Road • Better support for bike commuters – safe routes on our busier roads (or alternative routes) • Covered bike racks where sensible. Encourage bikes in all future transportation plans • Better shoulders on County Road for safer bicycling Arts, board games, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bridge, Curling!! Transportation for elderly. • Make VAST trails easily accessible to skiers – for fee, ski memberships • Swimming – keep sand pit available – is only place in town where I go to swim (3) • Swimming • Indoor swimming pool, handicapped accessible • Reasonably priced health club • Access to Winooski for boating – Route 2 where new bridge went in? Or in Village? • It would be nice if the rec field had a tennis court or two. • Summer concert series • Beach volley ball [note: smiley face after] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We can do just about anything here / no, we have more than most / we have it all if you know where to find it (3) • No / None (11) • More senior citizen activities or place to go for such that EM Seniors could enjoy operating and setting up. • Keep the partnership (funding) of Montpelier facilities, senior center and Kellogg-Hubbard • Outdoor town skating rink? • Would like to see more kids baseball/soccer/etc. programs. • We are lucky to have access to walking trails, ski trails, snowmobile trails, hunting, wildlife viewing, canoeing and I value them all.
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13. If renovations were to be made to the **East Montpelier Elementary School**, please indicate the importance of each of the following:

	High	Med.	Low	No
a. Accessibility with regard to the ADA (handicapped accessibility).....	67	39	15	6
b. Meeting safety codes (electric, fire, health).....	105	23	4	2
• Of course				
c. School as a community center (community events).....	58	44	22	8
d. School as a community center for sports (gym, fields).....	48	48	30	8
d. Importance of the gym for sporting events.....	35	40	40	9
e. Energy efficiency (windows, doors, insulation).....	105	24	4	4
• Think pay back				
f. Technology infrastructure for classrooms (computers, etc.).....	68	44	15	5
g. Other				
• As cost effective as possible (2)				
• There is no money for improving school				
• Again, our taxes are too high, so keep this in mind when considering the cost of renovation				
• Need 'em all!				
• The School is falling apart! Major investments needed.				
• Thought a and b are mandated by federal regulations				
• Possible (likely) future economic conditions bode ill for bond approval for a new school. Do the best with existing facility / Make more use of existing space (2)				
• Why are our schools in dire need of renovation?				
• Gym space at U-32 is excellent; this should be accessible to town. No need to renovate EMES gym / The high school provides the opportunities for recreation; we don't need two in East Montpelier (2)				

- I'd like thorough consideration of consolidations some of these small before I'd support any capital improvements. Many of them are unsustainable at their current size.
- We now also have the fire station for smaller meetings, gym still useful for larger events and outdoors.

14. What do you like most about living in East Montpelier?

People/Community

- I like the small Vermont town where you know your neighbor's name and everyone pulls together to help in hard times
- The people – diversity / community spirit (8)
- Sense of community (12)
- Friendly neighbors who care about each other / help share information (9)
- Neighbors / neighborhood potlucks (6)
- Good neighbors; church availability; local post office; all those who do volunteer work to make EM a good place to live
- Acceptance and integration of newcomers
- The presence of wonderful people; working farms and its rural character
- Opportunities to gather: rally day, town meeting, potlucks
- Palpable pride that residents feel about living in E. Montpelier
- Some people, level of social awareness of some people, kindness among people, neighborliness
- We are a varied community with a nice range of economic backgrounds and lives (2)
- Friendly culture
- Engaged citizens / People value connectedness (2)
- The "can do" attitude of people
- Community values (e.g., signpost, rally day and landscape).

Character/Aesthetics

- Beautiful countryside (9)
- Views and Farms (2)
- Scenic vistas (4)
- Peace, quiet, privacy, rural, bucolic (2)
- The country living, close to resources
- Small town character (4)
- It's beautiful and peaceful and I'm surrounded by conserved land (2)
- It is quiet, not overdeveloped / peaceful(5)
- The rural character (23)
- Being surrounded by conserved,

- actively farmed land; (2)
- working farms (2)
- historic buildings
- community centers
- Ability to walk out back door to trails with our dogs
- Open spaces / trails (8)
- Low population despite proximity to Montpelier (a plus)
- Nature / rivers, waters / wildlife (8)
- Pristine nature of the environment
- Well maintained older homes, farms, barns
- Character of the neighborhoods (2)
- My house and lawn and quiet
- Private location (3)

Proximity to Montpelier/Barre

- Easy access to Montpelier, Williston (2)
- proximity to Montpelier/Barre (15)
- Proximity to Montpelier/Plainfield and more rural areas (3)
- Proximity to Montpelier and I-89 (2)
- Close to Montpelier yet not a city (2)
- We are close to jobs yet we have beautiful surroundings and quiet areas
- Proximity to shopping
- Close to other important services

Other

- Rural character but proximity to Montpelier / stores / work (14)
- Being so rural, so close to capital; very supportive and engaged community – caring community – willing to do things others will enjoy – trails, elderly housing
- Rural character – open land, accessibility of forests/trails, active farms (2)
- Space around us, rural lifestyle – can raise livestock, hike, it's quiet and dark at night; getting to know, visit neighbors from time to time; having good gardening soil; SignPost
- Friendly neighbors and community dinners with those neighbors; civility at town meetings; mix of open land, views, farmland, forest; closeness to Montpelier; care of back roads; quality

- of schools
- Forests, quiet dirt roads, organic vegetable farms, friendly people, coyotes
- Back roads for biking/walking/running (3)
- Winding back roads
- Trails (4)
- Public trails through "private" properties
- It's home. I feel I could make a difference if I tried (2)
- Active resident input on decision making
- Accessible town government / Good leadership on town committees (2)
- Our town office / Responsive town clerk and assistant! (2)
- Convenience of post office, store, town clerk's office
- Town meeting
- Good schools / Free preschool(7)
- High taxes (not!)
- Good road maintenance (2)
- The two local general stores
- Town isn't involved in my business
- For adults – No/low Kids-high
- Good people, active communities, town forest and trails, good schools
- The open forest working landscape (2)
- I love the people in my neighborhood, I love being on the fire department, I love the Jean Cate Community Fund and the work they do, and I love that I've been in town long enough to know most of the people who are active in town affairs.
- Many beautiful views in all directions. The atmosphere in the neighborhood areas is one of people being friendly, helpful to each other, and concerned with others wellbeing.
- Rural nature, proximity to Montpelier, good town roads and maintenance, proximity to good medical care. Great place to live.
- Quiet, little traffic, people leave alone
- Location, community, farm economy strengthening school, steady property values, beautiful landscape, fishing, hunting, foraging.

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- Open vistas, rural character, extra ordinary participation of so many citizens in town activities; EMFD, zoning, planning, schoolboard, selectboard, fall rally day lots of people who truly care about EM.
 - Slower pace, rural character and the fact it is not Montpelier. Our town forest is such a bonus.
 - Rural within easy striking distance of capital, I-89, Barre, Burlington but also far enough away. Also its residents. Also EM Signpost. Also its' trails.
 - I and most of my family have been born here for over 200 years. It is my heritage and has been good to us.
 - The rural beauty, the working farms, the Nordic ski trail system and hiking trails, the dirt roads.
 - Close to Adamant and #10 pond.
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15. What do you like least about living in East Montpelier?

- No local police, hunters are aggressive and don't always respect the rights of land owners
 - Over-reliance on vehicles/road maintenance
 - Pizza Joe moved away
 - We have no café in the center of town (2)
 - The elitest attitude of some residents in town
 - A sense of disconnection from community
 - Lack of infrastructure: transportation, internet, utilities (water/sewer); all artificially limit growth
 - Property taxes, teacher salaries
 - Winters
 - Noise pollution, daily explosions, guns, including automatic weapons, firing from 7:30am until dusk. We are on the ridge (Horn of the Moon area) and it sounds like we live on a military base
 - Barking dogs left outside for hours; people driving too fast, not slowing down for bikes/pedestrians/horse; snow plowed into my driveway from town plowing; guns repeatedly fired, sometimes for hours, adjacent to EM trails and roads
 - Wish there was commuter services on Route 14 South
 - No restaurants, stores, services (2)
 - Not an organized town, no organized government; spending is out of control, taxes out of control; we need elected body of government
 - It's more and more like town each year! We are getting too "fancy" and spend like drunken sailors!
 - Its spread out with no real center; school becomes meeting place; I want to do more with Four Corners Schoolhouse because it's a great resource
 - No real town center or functional town hall / meeting space / Wish we had a community center building like Calais does (4)
 - Constant analysis of the town
 - Lack of internet access (6)
 - Dial up internet was my only complaint but we now have moderate speed internet – so I'm content.
 - Suburbanization, growth of "trophy house" in past 15 years
 - Speeding traffic in the village; trucks using air brakes
 - Increasing fragmentation and increasing number of small parcels with single homes and/or developments
 - I worry that there aren't many younger people willing to take leadership roles.
 - It used to be a smallish. I don't know most of the folks here now. New houses everywhere – mini mansions, taxes high. Australian ballot-get rid of it.
 - Not following zoning rules of lot size
 - When once in a while, a person will talk or write about the way another person or persons do their work whether an employee or volunteer.
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- The name of the town (believe it or not).
 - The out of control school funding. The current gym at the elementary was good enough for my kids and should be good enough for the current kids.
 - Citizens unwelcoming (in general).
 - The large acreage requirements for building lots and excessive setback have been counterproductive resulting in houses in the middle of good farm land. (2)
 - Lack of police protection and drug use and trade on the dirt roads close to Montpelier.

Roads/Transportation/Traffic

- Limited public transportation (3)
- Mud Season (6)
- Mud season, black flies and deer flies
- Some of the roads, especially in mud season; danger at town center crossing (Route 2 & 14)
- Uncleared snow covered roads during winter that make driving hazardous
- No safe shoulders on County Road / Routes 2 & 14 – can't bike to work (3)
- Road conditions in general. I believe the State should move to a bare roads policy and find a revenue generating source to pay for that. I also think more of our dirt roads should be paved and that speed limits should be posted and enforced (35MPH) / hard to walk along paved roads (2)
- Unpaved / dusty roads (4)
- Speeding in town / North Street & County Road (3)
- Too much traffic
- Truck traffic
- Noisy traffic
- The farm trucks constantly on our road at the time of year when we most want to be outside enjoying our town. The noise is terrible and goes on all day till 10:00pm. Walking on the road is no longer enjoyable. / Family farms are now industries (2)

Taxes/Costs

- High taxes (21)
- High \$electricity
- The taxes are excessive and it is particularly difficult for older citizens on a fixed income
- High property taxes for school and now 24% increase of WEC
- Politics! Taxes are too high
- Few housing options as we age, high property tax, high cost of living for seniors (and everyone else). Population weighted toward the aged.
- High cost of living
- High taxes. The last assessment was a sham. I am in the process of selling both my home and business in East Montpelier and finding a more favorable town.
- High taxes – push for senior housing (paid with taxpayers funds I assume) – large fire station unnecessary
- How easily budgets and items that raise taxes pass in this town

Misc.

- No commercial services except Dudley's. The ugly nature of the road running by the post office and Dudley's – no human scale.
 - "Down in the mouth" appearance of E. village center / Unsafe and unattractive village (3)
 - Dilapidated North village
 - No / poor cell service (2)
 - Schools need to do more to draw in Community
 - The elementary school has had maintenance deferred for too long. The lack of ADA access is disgraceful and sets a bad message to the kids.
 - Long drive to airport at 5am
 - Yucky inconsiderate neighbors (only 2 or 3)
 - Mud boggers, ATVs and snowmobiles (2)
 - Limited activities for teens and elderly in town
 - Lack of cultural diversity
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- Growth, population pressure, the pressures on our farmers
 - Possibility of unneeded or unwanted "growth"
 - Mean-spirited or narrow thinking people (but it's everywhere) / Obstructionist residents (3)
 - That there aren't enough interesting jobs that pay well close to home
 - Crows from compost facility

Nothing

- Nothing / happy with it all (6)
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16. In the next five years, what would you like to see changed about East Montpelier?

- Reduction in crime, e.g. drug use and trafficking, more police patrols, improved hunter safety, respect for non-hunter's rights (2)
 - Promote walking and cycling / bike path (3)
 - Maybe a B&B to attract bikers, walkers
 - Reduce energy use
 - Rotten, abandoned or ugly buildings around the new intersection could be repaired or removed
 - Bridge over the Winooski River Vt Rte 14S. It is bad and getting worse all the time
 - Continue land conservation and trail easements in town. Maintain our scenic roads (2)
 - Less new development while we have so many existing homes / limit development in rural areas (3)
 - Stricter control on development / Slow deliberate growth (2)
 - Less zoning regulations for residences
 - Make clustered housing an easy possibility.
 - Renovation of EMES; preschool available to all kids (7)
 - In the tough economic times, less items that raise taxes, i.e. new elementary school, renovations, gym, fire station, and the like.
 - Control escalating school costs at EMES and U32 by mandating that teachers pay a realistic % of their health care costs that reflect what others pay in the marketplace
 - Protect groundwater from any private sales; allow and encourage clustered housing to preserve open fields
 - Make property owners clean up eyesores in town (I prayed every day the Daniels mess would be cleaned up so people approaching town would be spared that eyesore)
 - 14 Bridge intersection improvement; slower speed through Rte 2/14 roads through village; develop village area for visitors/tourists/residents to enjoy; shops, convenience stores, farmers market
 - Noise ordinance – discharge of weapons – ordinance regarding disturbance of peace – please restrict hunting and target practice in residential areas
 - More organic vegetable farms and orchards (2)
 - Incorporate some of the "Transition Town Montpelier" efforts and initiatives here – root cellars, shared crop harvesting, cooperative ventures (building, etc)
 - Lower taxes (7)
 - Less griping about taxes, more realistic valuation of old homes for sale / Lower appraisals (2)
 - Hold taxes to accommodate economy, older citizens, etc
 - More emphasis on housing tax base and village centers rather than farming
 - More thought about what is affordable in terms of taxes.
 - All boards work towards a common goal rather than separate goals which compete for our tax dollars. It pits the school against the town, has for years. It's time for both to work together.
 - Add some more paved roads, such as much used and important connections such as from County Road to Route 2 (via Templeton) / Pave County Road (2)
 - Village speed limit set at 25MPH; sidewalks and trees along the village Route 2; an outdoor public space for concerts, picnics (i.e. Village Green)
 - Slower traffic on dirt roads
 - Increased road care
 - Less of an elitist, suburban mentality
 - More connection between neighborhoods – have many neighborhood dinners – would like to get to know others in other neighborhoods – walking trails to different neighborhoods (3)
 - A sidewalk on the new bridge in No Montpelier and along the roadsides of the No Montpelier village
 - Affordable internet access (4)
 - More carpooling and connections to VT Transit buses into Burlington and Berlin Mall
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- More carpooling, bicycle commuting, and public transportation – decreased dependence on fossil fuel
 - Public transportation with many access points (2)
 - A bus to Montpelier that runs really often – not just to commute to a job but to go into and out of Montpelier on errands or for events.
 - Micro-bus
 - More encouragement of alternative energy/efficiency/public transport
 - Become more energy efficient in town buildings and activities (2)
 - More farm stands and farms selling products at farms
 - Sidewalks
 - Street lights
 - Increasing, spreading devotion to enhancing and building a sense of community (3)
 - Concrete steps toward affordable senior housing / Better elder care (2)
 - Stabilize spending in town so ordinary people can afford to live in E. Montpelier / fiscal restraint (2)
 - Better cell phone coverage (2)
 - Develop a village with shops, parking, and good stormwater infrastructure, access to the river and a rural town hall. Conservation commission (8)
 - East Village have a water system that allows expansion of customer base (4)
 - Town faces water disposal issues and develop a plan that enhances solutions.
 - I'd like to see our villages develop as vibrant community centers, each with a different character. I'd like to encourage compact mixed use development in EM village. This will require wastewater so we can have restaurants and other community facilities.
 - Village water and sewer, more trails, keep mobile homes in certain areas, not mixed in so much as they are now – it devalues other properties
 - Serious considerations for wastewater disposal in the East Village area.
 - We're new to the area so difficult to say
 - For E. Montpelier village: Perhaps parking in front of Old Brick church will help. Trees, sidewalks, vibrant businesses, signage. High gasoline prices will facilitate relocation efforts. Trees flower beds, blossoming trees. We will become much more bike/public transport dependent. Tax incentives for village businesses?
 - More neighborhood networks to deal with coming budget cuts and energy crisis
 - Changes to zoning regs in 4.7 [person recommended here changes to permit hospitality uses in ag areas and cluster housing]
 - EM and Calais to collaborate with CVCLT to upgrade NM village; carefully designed plan for E Village (but that's underway)
 - Increased commerce in Res/Ag District
 - More row crops/market gardens and greenhouses on or near main roads
 - That we encourage and seek out clean light industry that will be able to employ our town's people.
 - Creation of a recreational area with a playground for children
 - Some way to encourage more townspeople to serve the town
 - Increase the production of food for local consumption. (3)
 - Public swimming area at Coburn Road quarry
 - Maybe a restaurant, breakfast place, coffee shop (2)
 - Official library besides the one at school – some people cannot travel so far to get to the library in Montpelier or Barre.
 - A more friendly and open town office.
 - Less change over at Town Hall – hire and keep a local administrator.
 - Note: I do like 5 on the select board. Thanks, for this survey.
 - More education on taking care of our natural resources: soil, water, forest, farms and wildlife and battling invasive species (phragmites, knotweed, hogweed, honeysuckle, buckthorn)
 - Would like to see Mekkleson trailers disappear in a puff of smoke or perhaps some visual screening perhaps high oil prices will help them fade away visual blight of highest order.
 - Dog license renewal should be mailed to people.
 - Nothing – If it ain't broke then don't try to fix it. (7)

17. In the next five years what would you like to see preserved about East Montpelier?

- Rural beauty, farms, local food promotion
 - Scenic forests and fields
 - Its rural character (17)
 - Our rural heritage – we are not a suburb, don't make us into one
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- Farms and country side views
 - The speed limits
 - Views, fields, woods (2)
 - Rural character/agricultural identity
 - Barns, dirt roads, open fields
 - Working lands continue to be working; rural character; high quality education for kids
 - Farms, meadows, woods
 - Quiet, natural and rural atmosphere (2)
 - Trails, land (7)
 - More protected forests
 - Open fields, clean water, trails maintained and not subject to ATVs, community spirit, barns conserved
 - Farms (9)
 - Brazier and Lylehaven Farms (2)
 - Helping young people get into farming; list of people willing to lease their lands
 - More farms staying generational, the trail systems
 - Acreage restrictions for building houses. Increase that restriction, keep land open
 - Land, water, trees
 - Rural quality with cluster housing where have development; keeping sand pit open to community; more neighborhood energy net metering clusters (wind, solar in neighborhoods)
 - The pond and the Highway Dept swimming hole. The wetland they inadvertently created by allowing Mother Nature to take its course
 - Historical preservation
 - Open land and historic barns
 - It's historic buildings such as Four Corners Schoolhouse and it's farms, forests and hiking trails
 - Post Office and Dudley's Store as East Village Center, with repairs to P.O. parking lot
 - Civility and sense of community (5)
 - Our sense of community and its history, our values of mutual respect and support
 - Small Dirt roads, keep them small and narrow / they preserve our rural character (5)
 - The network of dirt roads is fantastic for all types of recreation. It would be nice to slow down the traffic and keep these roads as safe and useable as possible.
 - Much of rural character. It's inevitable that there will be growth but I want to preserve our connection to vistas, forest lands and dirt roads. No more pavement.
 - The Village (2)
 - Open land (6)
 - Open working landscape – support small agriculture / careful development (4)
 - Farm land! There is currently a very large farm that is in jeopardy of being sold off for development. This would have very serious ramifications on our town budget. The cost of providing services would be far greater than any tax income.
 - Rural landscape, farmland and open space. (5)
 - The open land, fields and forest. We have a special place and it's something you can never get back. I feel all water way should be protected from development. Farimont farms should provide biofuel to heat school due it's proximity. (2)
 - Rural character, farming, hiking/walking trails.
 - Maintain Quality Education (4)
 - Quality of our school – which means improving the structure
 - Strict zoning regulations
 - Low development;
 - Minimal light pollution
 - Town centers (2)
 - See #14 (rural nature, open spaces, low population despite proximity to Montpelier)
 - Close community involvement by citizens in all aspects of Town business / Profound commitment of dedicated concerned and committed citizens (2)
 - Small size
 - The environment: water, trails, farms
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- The ongoing enlightened commitment of caring talented citizens to plan for the coming societal changes and guide the E and N villages' renewal. Plus Dudley's, Riverbend, N Mont PO
 - Minimal traffic (2)
 - Coburn Pond
 - Protected waters
 - Singing bridge
 - That young and old can live here comfortably
 - The woods, the fields and the character (2)
 - Just the way it is
 - Local general stores
 - Meeting house chicken pie suppers
 - Rally Day
 - Town Meeting
 - Land conservation
 - Its pristine setting
 - Cross VT trail completion
 - Historical buildings/sites/farms (4)
 - Vermont lifestyle
 - All its wetlands and vernal pools
 - Certain views and public trail to highest point in town.
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18. Other Comments:

- Thank you for your hard work / Keep up the good work (9)
 - Thanks for asking about our planning dreams! I think more planning commissions need to ask the communities for input.
 - Vehicles go too fast on our county roads
 - The Route 2/14 intersection is still unsafe. I feel unsafe when making turns onto and off the highway. Speed is too fast.
 - Despite last year's difficulties, I think the Rte2/14 intersection came out very well.
 - I love living here! / We love our home, we love East Montpelier!! (2)
 - Don't let EM become this unaffordable – thank you for serving
 - Our taxes are too high! We need to find ways to ease the tax burden on residents, otherwise we'll have to sell our home and move
 - What happened to neighborhood groups?
 - I've no desire to see much commercial development; Berlin, Barre and Montpelier are close enough
 - Please bring Front Porch Forum to E. Montpelier (in addition to or in place of E. Montpelier Signpost)
 - Wastewater treatment facility in core E. Village inescapable cornerstone for future vibrant development
 - The school budget NEVER gets voted down and the school board knows this... it is padded with extra \$ and they know it. The school budget needs to be voted on by the whole town, not just those that can go to town meeting. It's a sad day when 100-150 people get to vote on a budget that everybody has to pay for...
 - Need to keep Coburn Road swimming hole. It would be a great asset if it were made accessible and developed as another recreation area in our town.
 - We are facing challenging years ahead. I expect we will experience significant paradigm shifts in the areas of food, transportation and energy. These will require imaginative approaches.
 - Leave it alone – things are fine without further regulations
 - Get rid of unsightly junkyard/car collections and messy farmers [should this go under question 16?]
 - Do everything possible to encourage farms.
 - Land prices are ridiculously high – buying 2 acres for \$60K or more put one in hock for a large part of life – no wonder there is little affordable housing! Fair market value assessment is ruining the town and country assessments should be based on actual use and not highest potential use!
 - Really support Bike use: covered racks, signs promoting motorist awareness of bike fights
 - Pushing for wide safe shoulders whenever possible.
 - We are extraordinarily lucky to live in such a beautiful rural area so close to a city with wonderful resources- let's try to protect the rural character, open space, views, trails and beautiful back roads of EM.
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