

Craftsbury, VT Town Plan

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Update and Readoption by Craftsbury Selectboard: May 10, 2011
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Craftsbury Old Home Day, 2010

This Town Plan was originally developed and adopted in May of 2006 with the assistance of a Municipal Planning Grant from the Department of Housing and Community Affairs, State of Vermont. It was updated and readopted in accordance with Chapter 117, §4387.

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Summary of Goals and Objectives

Land Use

Goal:

The purpose of the Town Plan is to emphasize the continued desire for local control while exploring the area of special need that will shape the development of the town over the next several years.

Objectives:

- To maintain and protect Craftsbury town character by encouraging and directing growth using local non-regulatory and incentive-based tools rather than zoning.
- Maintain village center designation and make sure that property owners are aware of the benefits of designation.
- Continue the development of the town Web site as a consistent and reliable source of information.
- Develop brochures for the town that are available in the Town Hall to assist people in achieving understanding the development desires and requirements. Examples could include information on tax credits for income-producing properties in the village centers, low-impact development standards, and the 2007 Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules.

Cultural Aspects

Goals:

- Community groups will communicate and coordinate activities and work together to develop grants to support each other.
- The town will continue to support and encourage opportunities for cultural and artistic experiences for all ages in the community.
- The town will recognize, support and encourage educational opportunities for all its citizens from birth to old age.

Objectives:

- Have the Common, school and public spaces available to the community for cultural activities.

- Continue to support the local libraries' effort to meet the information needs of the community as well as to have Adult Basic Educational programs and early education opportunities available to all.
- Study the possibility of a performance space with the community.
- Study the continuous availability of daycare facilities.

The Economy

Goals:

- Have more employment opportunities available for Craftsbury residents.
- Encourage small clean business development.

Objectives:

- Improve broadband internet service and cell service throughout the community.
- Foster creation of local jobs by building on the strong educational, agricultural, and outdoor recreation anchors in the community.

Agriculture

Goals:

- Support agriculture in the town and region.
- Protect agricultural and forest land.

Objectives:

- Encourage agricultural use of land despite land values skyrocketing.
- Encourage use of local land trusts.
- Encourage farmers to talk to Farm Bureau and explore options for keeping their land in agriculture.
- Study possibility of developing a community Land Trust to educate and encourage conservation of forest and agricultural land.
- Encourage the diversification of agriculture in the region so as to promote the viability of farming for the future.
- Protect forest and agricultural lands through tax incentives such as the Current Use Program.
- Provide educational materials and encourage owners of agricultural and forest land to enroll in the current use program.

Historic Craftsbury

Goals:

- Develop a partnership between the town and the Historical Society to educate the residents and property owners on the value of the town and the State of maintaining the historical aspects of the community.
- Preserve the historical features of the community.

Objectives:

- Encourage the Craftsbury Historical Society to continue to emphasize the historical heritage of Craftsbury, the uniqueness of the Common and the value to the community of preserving the historic architectural features of the homes and public buildings in the community.
- Explore the possibility of preparing a comprehensive history of the Town of Craftsbury.
- Explore the possibility of publishing a booklet illustrating the historic structures that have been preserved to date.
- Encourage the maintenance of both public and private buildings of historic significance.
- Update the information contained in the Register of Historic Places and encourage their maintenance and preservation.
- Explore various financial incentives including rehabilitation of historic buildings and seeking preservation grants.

Natural Heritage

Goal:

Protect and manage Craftsbury's natural heritage and biodiversity for the benefit of current and future generations.

Objectives:

- Create a "Town" vision for natural heritage protection.
- Identify and understand the natural resources within Craftsbury and their regional significance to the surrounding landscape.
- Encourage conservation of natural resources through local conservation planning and land stewardship.
- Encourage opportunities to raise community awareness about Craftsbury's natural heritage through education.

- Manage our town and school forests as models of land stewardship.
- Continue to collaborate with Sterling College, Craftsbury Academy, the Craftsbury Outdoor Center, and other town committees such as the Forestry Committee and the Energy Committee regarding education and conservation activities.
- Continue collaboration with organizations beyond Craftsbury, such as the Northern Rivers Land Trust, Staying Connected, Keeping Track, etc.
- Manage milfoil in lakes and ponds that are currently infested, and protect our bodies of water that are not currently afflicted.
- Collect and utilize maps of surface waters, wetlands and key watersheds and riparian habitats that should be protected or conserved to support habitat for fish, aquatic plants, aquatic invertebrates and other organisms important to our natural heritage.
- Collect and utilize maps and other data on land use patterns to understand current agricultural areas, contiguous forestland and residential/commercial development.
- Identify, map and provide long term stewardship of natural communities including deeryards, bear production areas, and vernal pools. Work with regional and state agencies and private organizations to support natural heritage protection, conservation and restoration of degraded sites.
- Provide long term stewardship of Craftsbury's bulls-eye granite, a rare and significant geologic feature.
- Encourage and provide education on Best Management Practices as defined by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources.
- Collect data to identify important wildlife corridors, connective habitats and linkages.
- Partner with businesses and other interested stakeholders to conduct public outreach and education regarding milfoil infestation.

Utilities & Facilities

Goals:

- The long-term protection of public drinking water supplies shall be ensured.
- The planning commission should keep informed on the regulatory environment pertaining to the siting and permitting of telecommunication towers and advise the Selectboard accordingly.

Objectives:

- The Town may consider conducting a study to identify space to build future wastewater treatment facilities for both the Village and the Common.
- Support the Craftsbury Groundwater Mapping project to better inform the residents who use well or spring water supplies about the quality and condition of the water sources.
- Town officials and interested citizens should work with the Waste District to educate residents about the harmful effects of illegal trash burning.
- Explore establishing a town collection site for reusable household items.
- Encourage establishing a food composting center in town or in collaboration with nearby facilities.
- The Town should adopt the proposed amended telecommunications ordinance.

Energy

Goals:

- The Select Board is encouraged to make energy efficiency and use of renewable fuels a priority for town operations.
- The Craftsbury Schools will continue demonstrating energy efficiency and use of renewable energy in their operations and encourage student knowledge in sustainability.
- In order to reduce the town's reliance on fossil fuels, the town of Craftsbury supports the development of renewable energy within its boundaries that is in compliance with state law and adheres to the town plan.
- Homeowners and business owners in Craftsbury are encouraged to reduce energy use, benefit from statewide energy efficiency programs and implement renewable alternatives such as methane digesters, geothermal, biodiesel, solar and wind energy.

Objectives:

- The Select Board will continue implementing the recommendations of the recent town hall energy audit. A percent reduction energy use goal will be established for all aspects of town operations and yearly progress in reducing energy use and the dollars saved will be included in the annual town report.
- The town will demonstrate its commitment to renewable energy by establishing benchmarks regarding percentage of renewable energy generated and used within the town.

- The Energy Committee will continue to collect data regarding the amount and cost of all energy used in Craftsbury.
- The Energy Committee, through surveys and other mechanisms, will gather information regarding alternative energy use in Craftsbury including the amount of energy produced.
- The Energy Committee will research and map renewable energy resources within the town's boundaries.
- The Craftsbury Energy Committee will partner with the Craftsbury Public Library, Sterling College, Craftsbury Schools, other institutions, and businesses to provide public outreach and education regarding energy conservation programs such as those offered through Efficiency Vermont and other efficiency and weatherization programs.
- The Energy Committee will undertake public outreach and education related to vehicle idling and "eco-driving".
- The Energy Committee will promote the State of Vermont's rideshare program, Go-Vermont and will explore creating a town wide rideshare program open to Craftsbury and adjoining towns' residents.
- The Energy Committee will encourage Craftsbury businesses to ask their employees to rideshare, bike and walk to work.
- The town asks that large event organizers encourage participants to rideshare and use other alternative modes of transportation to reduce traffic congestion, event parking demands and reduce energy consumption.

Education

Goal:

Craftsbury Schools are student-centered schools and the common thread throughout our schools is respect for all people and property. Our schools will enable individuals to achieve a high, measurable level of academic and social competence through a variety of learning experiences. Students will learn in an inclusive, accepting, safe environment that prepares them to live full, independent and participatory lives.

Objectives:

- Maintain the facilities.
- Reflect the State requirements.
- Continue to support the vision of the school system.

Housing

Goal:

Encourage housing for residents at all income levels.

Objectives:

- Explore the availability of affordable housing options in Craftsbury.
- Establish a “resource” contact in the municipality who can direct people to forms of affordable housing in town, or at the very least, direct them to agencies that can help.
- Encourage the maintenance of houses of historic significance using incentive-based strategies, such as grants, tax credits, etc.
- Support our “special needs” housing population, such as the Craftsbury Community Care Center.

Transportation

Goals:

- The Select Board will work to keep the Craftsbury roads safe for all users including pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Continue to evaluate and pursue the 2005 recommendations of the Pedestrian/Vehicle Safety Committee.
- Decrease the dependence of Craftsbury's residents on private automobile transportation whenever possible.
- Provide for the development and use of recreational transportation systems wherever feasible.
- Maintain a safe and passable network of roads at a cost affordable to the Town.

Objectives:

- Parking along the road between the Academy Building and the Industrial Arts Building should be discouraged during school hours.
- Consideration should be given to establishing a commuter parking area to encourage car-pooling.
- The Town should actively encourage the development of better bicycle-pedestrian pathways within the developed areas of Craftsbury, and the construction of bicycle-pedestrian lanes along paved town roads as they are improved or repaired.

- A sidewalk system should continue to be designed.
- Bikeways, walkways and scenic vistas, should such be identified through public hearings and open discussion.
- The Selectboard should continue to maintain the road system in town.

Recreation

Goal:

To maintain, enhance and promote recreation opportunities for all Craftsbury residents and visitors.

Objectives:

- Explore creation of biking paths throughout the community.
- Though available at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center, explore options for expanding mountain bike trails.
- Planning for future playgrounds should be coordinated by the Recreation Committee with cooperation from churches, school and libraries.
- Maintain the Eligo beach.
- The Craftsbury Outdoor Center has mapped its recreational trails and has shared them with regional planning commission for use. Encourage sharing of mapping data layers of recreational uses and work to keep the information current.
- Educate landowners on the potential uses of private land for public recreational access, and find solutions to the abuse of private and public property.
- Publicize the events that are currently planned by the Recreation Committee and encourage the Committee's leadership in improving and upgrading both the activities and the facilities.

Northeastern Vermont Development Association Regional Plan

The Regional Plan's development goals most likely to impact Craftsbury are as follows:

- Traditional development will be maintained, and new development will be encouraged to follow these patterns.
- New development should be compatible with existing land uses and agree with local plans.
- Historic structures, community facilities, and other buildings will be preserved and adapted for reuse as necessary.

- Craftsbury's development patterns and recommendations for future land use patterns are consistent with the region.

1: Introduction

Craftsbury is a complete community with many attributes that make it a special place to live. Residents have a strong sense of community and value their fellow residents along with the beauty of the Craftsbury landscape. Craftsbury has a traditional working community which fulfills most all the needs of its residents, including schools, recreation, business, hotels, forestry production, farming, general stores, post offices, funeral homes. In other words, one could be born and buried here with many needs being satisfied in between.

Craftsbury's visual beauty resides in its landscape and architecture. Craftsbury is strongly defined by the north-south chain of the Lowell Mountain range to the west. It has three lakes, Eligo, Little Hosmer and Big Hosmer along with many streams including the Black River, Hatch Brook, Weber Brook, Cass Brook, Wild Branch, and Whetstone Brook. The farming industry in town has created open land making wide vistas and rolling green fields another source of beauty.

The main street – North/South Craftsbury Road - has a village and one mile north, the Common. The Common is a large grass field surrounded by a white fence, white clapboard houses and is host to many community activities. The town is often represented in photographs of the Common framed by the traditional white church with steeple at the north/west corner. There are an unusual number of 19th century homes, barns, institutional and commercial buildings, which give the town a visual continuity and harmony. Many homes are of the early Vermont farmhouse style with clapboards.

Craftsbury is complete with an educational system that offers grades from kindergarten to senior in high school. There is a private preschool as well as a small college in town adding to the educational opportunities to all.

There are two general stores, two gas stations, a choice of mechanics, and a variety of dining opportunities mostly associated with the local inns and bed and breakfasts.

Craftsbury is also complete with an array of recreational opportunities including hunting, fishing, cross country skiing, biking, walking, canoeing, sculling and swimming. These activities occur predominantly on privately owned land as well as public lands on the town roads. The diverse landscape and the willing landowners are critical to the future of these multiple recreational activities throughout town.

The Craftsbury landscape is also a home to a variety of wildlife. The natural heritage throughout town offers many different types of ecosystems that are critical to a diversity of wildlife habitat and other ecological values. The extensive riverine system and associated floodplains as well as wetlands, provides habitat, flood water retention, water cleansing and aesthetics that are strongly valued by the residents. The undulating

topography along with the mixture of deciduous and coniferous forests, add to the stunning views throughout town.

About This Plan:

In May of 2006, Craftsbury adopted its first town plan. The plan was developed with assistance from a Municipal Planning Grant from the State of Vermont Department of Housing and Community Affairs, as well as extensive input from a 2004 community survey, which yielded 409 responses from both residents and nonresidents. In 2011, the Craftsbury Planning Commission made an exhaustive attempt to review and update the information on which the original plan was based, in accordance with the provisions of 24 V.S.A. §4387 (Readoption of Plans). Where relevant, the plan continues to reference data from the earlier community survey.

Small black and white copies of the maps updated and readopted with this Town Plan are appended to this Plan for the reader's convenience. The original, wall-sized color maps are available in the Craftsbury Town Clerk's Office for review. Maps are available on disk in ArcReader. Disks are available upon request. These maps highlight the details of the following Plan including the required features of: the present and prospective land uses, the present and prospective transportation and circulation facilities, the present and prospective community facilities and public utilities, and the present and projected educational facilities; as well as many other features.

2: Land Use

Craftsbury still has a working landscape with many farms and several managed forests. There are 1,382.82 acres of public and private conserved lands in Craftsbury, which represents just over 5% of the town's total land area.¹

In addition, over 53% of the farm and forest acreage in town is in the Current Use Program (Use Value appraisal Program, which is described in greater detail in the Natural Resources section)². This program insures that the land is actively managed and thus taxed as forest or farmland, not for the development potential. These land stewards in town are working to conserve this landscape through management.

Traditionally, Craftsbury residents have been leery of regulations. The plan is an advocacy document, upon which further actions should be based. This could include initiatives, projects, committees, partnerships, and provision of information, through which priorities can be addressed and solutions can be developed. Recognizing that there is a need to control development in certain areas, residents are split about how to do so. Zoning as a tool for land use control was only supported by 43% of the residents while 56% said no to zoning (2004 Craftsbury Town Survey). Others suggested that clustering housing and business development would be a way to address the land use concerns but this too would require the implementation of regulations.

The 2004 Craftsbury Community Survey polled the residents on a variety of land use issues. The respondents have provided a strong sense of how the land in Craftsbury can be best used while retaining our sense of community:

- 54% prefer a small residential community with limited business and industry.
- 68% prefer a residential community with most of the land in forest and agriculture.
- 64% prefer only small and clean development.
- 82% prefer protection of agriculture land with tax incentives, conservation easements and Current Use and the most frequent methods stated.
- 84% prefer protection of forest land with tax incentives, Current Use and conservation easements as the most frequent methods stated.

Many residents who responded to the Craftsbury Community Survey indicated a strong interest in retaining the agricultural and forested landscape. Over eighty percent of respondents flagged both forest and agricultural lands as candidates for protection.

¹ UVM, School of Natural Resources/Spatial Analysis Lab. This figure includes all land parcels that are expected to remain protected from land conversion or development. With the exception of stated-owned fishing access areas and a few other special designations, the minimum size for inclusion is 2 acres.

² Vermont Department of Taxes, Division of Property Valuation and Review, Published 1/06/2011.

They believe that the future of Craftsbury should be a residential community with most of the land in forest and agriculture. This type of land use can be maintained as clean and small development occurs in town.

The Craftsbury community has also attracted many new homes over the past five years. There were 43 new homes built since 2005 and 19 homes removed from the housing stock due to fires or removal of mobile homes. The prior ten years averaged 10 new homes per year, so the economic situation has resulted in a decrease in new home construction. Several questions from the 2004 Community Survey show mixed messages on housing issues, with 57% preferring no zoning and 66% preferring no restrictions on the number of homes that can be built in a given year. However 60% think it is reasonable to prohibit certain types of land use in some parts of town while permitting them in other parts, and 56% find it reasonable to specify minimum amounts of acreage on which to build homes in different parts of Craftsbury.

In 2007, the State of Vermont took delegation of all enforcement of local potable water and wastewater systems. Systems that were previously considered exempt from state regulation may now require a permit. (See Environmental Protection Rules, Chapter 1, Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules, Effective Sept. 29, 2007.) Some activities that may now require a permit include: construction of single-family residences; construction or modification of a wastewater system or potable water supply; making alterations to an existing structure that increases design flows or operational requirements, new connections to an existing wastewater system or potable water supply, subdivisions of land; and repair and replacement of a failed wastewater system or potable water supply. This regulation will essentially govern minimum lot size of new development.

Education can be a powerful tool when considering both current and future land use in our community. The 2010 Craftsbury map depicting housing development is very informative, as many residents are not aware of the growth that continues to take place. This type of information is useful as it provides a broader understanding of our land use over time. With this type of information we might be able to plan for our future land use.

An objective of Craftsbury's 2006 Town Plan was to seek Village Center Designation for the three historic districts in Craftsbury. Village Center Designation is granted through the State of Vermont Downtown Program. "Village Centers" are defined by statute as:

a traditional center of the community, typically comprised of a cohesive core of residential, civic, religious, and commercial buildings, arranged along a main street and intersecting streets. Industrial uses may be found within or immediately adjacent to these centers.

In 2009, Village Center designation was granted for Craftsbury Common and Craftsbury Village. This designation permits commercial properties to generate tax credits for

historically significant improvement and code compliance fit-up. The tax credits can be sold to a bank in exchange for a mortgage adjustment or cash. Income-producing properties constructed prior to 1983 are eligible for the tax credits. Government and religious buildings, as well as single-family residences, are not eligible. The Village Center Designation is valid for five years, so the municipality will have to apply for redesignation in 2014.

Goal:

The purpose of the Town Plan is to emphasize the continued desire for local control while exploring the area of special need that will shape the development of the town over the next several years.

Objectives:

- To maintain and protect Craftsbury town character by encouraging and directing growth using local non-regulatory and incentive-based tools rather than zoning.
- Maintain village center designation and make sure that property owners are aware of the benefits of designation.
- Continue the development of the town Web site as a consistent and reliable source of information.
- Develop brochures for the town that are available in the Town Hall to assist people in achieving understanding the development desires and requirements. Examples could include information on tax credits for income-producing properties in the village centers, low-impact development standards, and the 2007 Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules.

3: Cultural Aspects

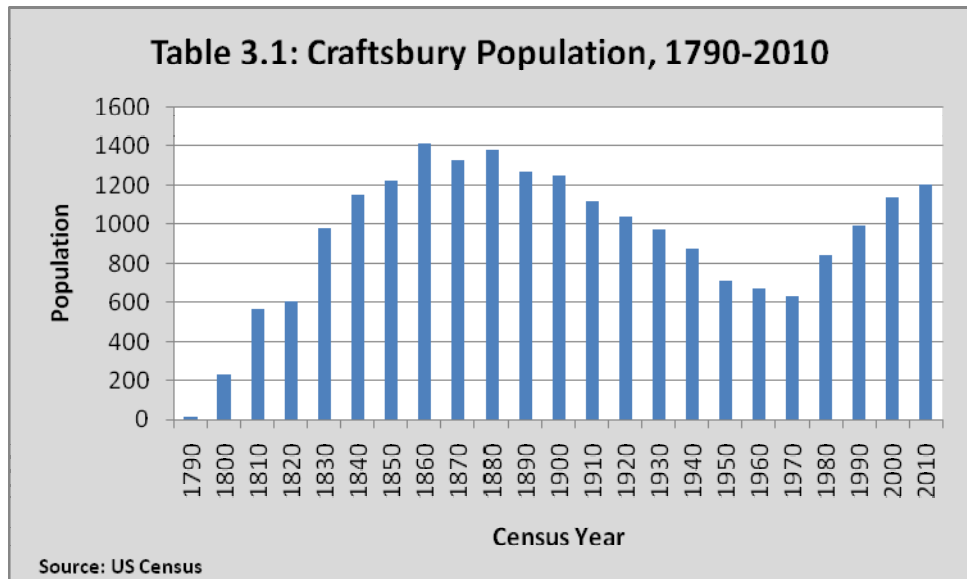
Craftsbury has a rich cultural past and continues to provide diverse cultural experiences for its community. It has one of the first schools in the Northeast kingdom and hosted students from all over the northern part of Vermont. This helped establish Craftsbury as an educational and cultural center. Many musicians and artists chose Craftsbury as their home, adding significant aspects of culture to the area.

In the early years, Craftsbury Academy provided programs, pageants and educational opportunities for Craftsbury residents. There were also many music and literary groups in town. Over the years as new people arrived in town, they brought with them their experiences and talents. There have been theater groups, camps, prep schools, music ensembles, choruses and art galleries. All these contributed to the rich cultural heritage of the Town of Craftsbury.

From 1790 to 2000 the population of the Town of Craftsbury has risen and fallen quite dramatically with a high of 1,413 in 1860 to a low of 632 in 1970. The town has seen an 80% growth in population since 1960 with the 2000 census showing a population of 1,136. This growth in recent decades can be seen in the many new businesses, social organizations and building of new homes. The 2010 Census count for Craftsbury is 1,206.

There are five libraries in town and many social organizations, giving the town resources for growth and education of its citizens. The Craftsbury Schools host two libraries, which are open to the public but generally serve the

school population. The Brown Library of Sterling College has a collection of materials geared to environmental and agricultural studies and is open to the public. There are two public libraries, J.W. Simpson Memorial Library and the Craftsbury Public Library. The J.W. Simpson Memorial Library located in East Craftsbury, is housed in an old general store and has many interesting artifacts as well as a varied collection of books. The Craftsbury Public Library located on Craftsbury Common was built in 2003 on the northwest side of the Common. Along with a large collection of materials it also serves



as a public community space available for groups for meeting and activities. The Craftsbury Public Library provides early literacy programs, including story hours, parent education classes, book discussion programs, and summer reading programs. For adults the library offers a variety of programming including book discussions, poetry workshops, movies, author visits and computer training classes. The Library provides high-speed public access to the Internet 24 hours a day.

There are three churches in Craftsbury, two of which are currently active -- the Craftsbury United Church on Craftsbury Common, The East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church in East Craftsbury, and Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Craftsbury Village. The churches provide spaces of worship as well as places for social gatherings. There are social organizations connected to the churches and the churches provide community space for weddings, dinners, meetings, concerts, playgroups, a preschool, and summer camps.

The Searchlight Club is an organization started in 1908 by several farm-women and teachers from Craftsbury Academy for the purpose of self-education. The group meets monthly and members present papers on chosen topics. They host speakers and raise funds for organizations in town. Although they mainly raise money to support the Craftsbury Public library, in the past they have raised money to support other organizations including the Historical Society and the schools.

The Horse and Buggy Club was started in 1960 as a social organization. They meet for fellowship at homes or at the United Church of Craftsbury on the Common. They share a meal and often have programs for games. They started the successful Fiddler's Contest, which continued into the 1980s and became a very large event involving the whole community and raising money for the schools. They continue to support activities in town like the Craftsbury Schools and recreation programs.

The Meridian-Sun Lodge home of the local Masons meets monthly as they have since the earliest years of Craftsbury. They sponsor dinners and a yearly chicken barbeque as well as offer help to needy families. Samuel Crafts was one of the founding members of the organization and the original charter was signed in 1800.

The Common Place is a non-profit organization, which includes Stardust Books and Cafe and The Art House, Studio & School. The Art House along with a fine arts gallery featuring local artists, offers classes, workshops, studios for students, and a variety of events taught by talented local artists. Stardust Books and Cafe offer programs for youth and adults, organizes youth activities and events such as poetry slams, provides a safe space for teens to socialize and do homework after school and some evenings.

Craftsbury is home to the Craftsbury Chamber Players, a non-profit organization founded in 1966, which provides concerts in Hardwick and Burlington during the summer. They also present free mini-concerts in Craftsbury, Greensboro, and Hardwick for all ages. Each summer they present a free outdoor concert on the Common.

Many summer camps have sprung up in Craftsbury over the past ten years. Some are - Craftsbury Soccer Camp, Craftsbury Outdoor Center Sculling Camp, Hiking Camp, Camp Kaizen, and Shakespeare Camp.

Located in East Craftsbury is the Craftsbury Community Care Center, an elderly care facility founded in 1995. It has apartments for 24 residents and is a source of many cultural activities. It hosts a variety of programming for the public as well as residents, such as book discussions series, music programs, art exhibits and movies. It also sponsors a weekly bone building class, a yearly Health Fair, and is the site for the Meals on Wheels program in Craftsbury and Albany.

From May through October there is a Farmer's Market on the Common on Saturday mornings from 9am to 1pm. The many vendors sell produce, homemade food, and crafts from their farms.

Old Home Day is still held on the second Saturday of August as it has been continually since early 1800's. Many former Craftsbury residents return to visit friends and relatives. The day begins with a pet show and children's activities on the Common. There is a crafts show in the Craftsbury Academy gymnasium, a parade at 1pm and a chicken barbeque at 4pm. The Town Recreation Committee sponsors Old Home Day, as well as a fishing derby, and swimming lessons. They have also been providing family entertainment summer evenings with biking and roller-skating.

There are 22 licensed/registered child-care programs within a 20 mile radius of Craftsbury, which includes Albany, East Hardwick, Hardwick, Wolcott and Greensboro. There are no active licensed day care providers in Craftsbury. There are 2 licensed preschools in the area for 3-5 year old children. The East Hill Preschool is located in East Craftsbury at the Presbyterian Church and the Albany Headstart is located in the Albany Elementary School.

Accomplishments

- Opening of the Art House on the Common
- Establishment of non-profit Common Place
- Establishment of two *Village Center Designations*— Craftsbury Common and Village
- Regular Art shows at Sterling College's Brown Library and the Art House
- Saturday Farmer's Market on the Common from May through October and occasionally during the winter months.

Goals

- Community groups will communicate and coordinate activities and work together to develop grants to support each other.

- The town will continue to support and encourage opportunities for cultural and artistic experiences for all ages in the community.
- The town will recognize, support and encourage educational opportunities for all its citizens from birth to old age.

Objectives

- Have the Common, school and public spaces available to the community for cultural activities.
- Continue to support the local libraries' effort to meet the information needs of the community as well as to have Adult Basic Educational programs and early education opportunities available to all.
- Study the possibility of a performance space with the community.
- Study the continuous availability of daycare facilities.

4: The Economy

Currently there are 2 general stores, 6 auto repair businesses, 2 inns, a funeral home, 2 bed and breakfasts, 10 dairy farms, 4 organic farms, a blueberry farm, a llama farm, a goat farm, 2 Christmas tree farms, several nurseries and landscape businesses, a wool shop, a pottery shop, and a real estate business. There is a weekly farmer’s market on the Common from May through October and a monthly farmer’s market in the winter. Many farms and individuals have maple sugar businesses and tree farms. Several residents are involved in construction, carpentry, and furniture making. Logging is an important source of employment, and one logger has a saw mill making baseball bats from local hardwoods.

There are a growing number of persons who work from home in diverse e-commerce fields. Internet access has been a challenge for these individuals, but the most recent data map from the Vermont Center for Geographic Information shows 73% coverage for Craftsbury via wireless internet service providers (WISPs). The most notable remaining “dead spots” in the town in the southeast corner of the community, along the South Craftsbury Road, and in the northwest corner of the community.

Craftsbury Employers 2008	
No. of establishments:.....	41
Paid employees for pay period, including March 12.....	187
Annual payroll (in thousands)	\$4,913
Source: County business patterns, combined data for zip codes 05826 and 05827	

Craftsbury’s “home-grown” economy has three important drivers, all of which maintain a tie to the land: Outdoor recreation and tourism, education, and agriculture.

Outdoor tourism and recreation

During July and August many people visit the town because of its beauty, fairs, and diverse cultural events. There are bicycle tours, sculling camps, soccer camps, and two lakes, which attract visitors. The Craftsbury Center has both long term and overnight accommodations and four season recreational activities. The sculling instruction in the summer and the cross country skiing in the winter are nationally recognized programs. In 2008, the Outdoor Center was sold, converted to a non profit organization, and expanded its four season recreational offerings.

Education

Sterling College has expanded its experiential educational courses and now offers three full semesters of instruction annually—truly a year-round academic institution. One of only seven federally funded work-learning programs in the country, students are attracted to its offerings in sustainable agricultural, conservation ecology, outdoor education and leadership, diverse internship opportunities, and global field study

programs. The students offer mentoring in the Craftsbury schools and have organized programs of service to a variety of area businesses and non profit organizations.

Agriculture

Half of the town's acreage is enrolled in the Current Use tax valuation program, most enrollees of which manage their land for agriculture or forestry. Nearly 25 establishments generating agricultural products are located in Craftsbury and many of them cooperate with each other to provide benefit to the entire community.

As an agriculturally established community, Craftsbury is positioned to benefit from the increased interest in the state and northeast region of Vermont in expanding the agricultural economy. In 2009, state legislation was passed to create a Farm to Plate Investment Program. Two of the primary goals of this program are to increase economic development in Vermont's food and farm sector and create jobs in the food and farm economy³.

Craftsbury is also included in the ongoing efforts of the Center for an Agricultural Economy, out of neighboring Hardwick. The Center has been working to strengthen and build ties between components of the food system in the greater Hardwick area. The outcome they foresee is a stronger local economy with new opportunities for agricultural entrepreneurs. A project is also underway to create a plan for the entire food system of northeastern Vermont. The Center has undertaken this project with the Northeastern Vermont Development Association. It is funded through the Vermont Department of Labor. This plan will also provide for economic expansion and job opportunities in the agricultural sector.

Major changes took place in Craftsbury during the national economic downturn of the past few years. The book store converted to a non profit book store and cafe, expanded its hours of operation, and combined with the newly established Art House in a non profit venture offering many programs for the community. The largest Inn closed, and one of its buildings was converted to a dormitory for Sterling College. Two bed and breakfast facilities and a restaurant ceased operation. One of the general stores closed, sold, and reopened under new management. Sterling College commenced growing into a year-round educational center.

In the 2004 Community Survey 67 percent of residents responding felt that there were not adequate job opportunities in the area. In the past ten years Orleans County has typically faced a greater unemployment rate than the surrounding counties and Vermont as a whole (Vermont Indicators Online). The 2008 unemployment rate in Craftsbury, according to the Vermont Department of Labor, was 4.7 percent. The unemployment rate for Orleans County that same year was 7 percent and for Vermont as a whole, 4.8 percent.

³ Farm to Plate Strategic Plan.

Goals:

- Have more employment opportunities available for Craftsbury residents.
- Encourage small clean business development.

Objectives:

- Improve broadband internet service and cell service throughout the community.
- Foster creation of local jobs by building on the strong educational, agricultural, and outdoor recreation anchors in the community.

5: Agriculture

Agriculture has historically helped to characterize the Town of Craftsbury and continues to today. According to the Use Value Appraisal Program 2011 Database, Craftsbury has 8,124 acres enrolled in non-residential uses, constituting roughly 32% of total acreage in the town. Over time changes in technology, government regulations, and plant and animal genetics that changed the nature of agricultural business in Vermont affected Craftsbury too.

The most obvious change that occurred about 1960 in Craftsbury was the requirement that farmers install bulk tanks. This change caused several farms to leave dairying. Those who remained generally increased in size in order to repay the cost of the investment in a tank. A 60 cow farm would have been considered a big dairy at that time.

The increase in size also involved more hired labor for many farms. One farmer mentioned that in the 1940's a man could be hired for \$5 a day, about the price of one hundred weight of milk. Since that time, larger farms have made it more difficult to get started in dairying, since the investment in land, equipment and livestock is so much greater. Larger farms also meant more specialized operations. Selling potatoes, eggs and forest products have become less common for commercial dairy farms. At one time, farmers could have their eggs picked up once a week for marketing.

Another management change is the introduction of artificial breeding, which allowed a rapid advance in genetics and milk yields. The same land farmed thirty years ago now produces much more milk for market, due to improved cow potential and new cropping practices. Government programs, such as those of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly Soil Conservation Service), have changed regarding wetlands, water quality, wildlife habitat all of which affect the viability of a farm.

Crops

As average farm size increased, most land from farms in Craftsbury that quit farming was taken on (either purchased or rented) by a neighboring farm. Many farms have gradually enlarged their fields by cutting hedgerows, and burying stone walls to fit the new larger equipment. Some smaller fields and land near the edges of larger fields have been abandoned because of this larger equipment. The introduction of herbicides in the 1950's (eliminating the need for repeated cultivation) as well as the development of now short-season corn varieties allowed farmers to expand their acreage in corn. For bay crops, one of the biggest changes has been the switch from hay to chopping, reducing the labor requirement and allowing farmers to handle larger acreage of forage crops and improving the overall feed quality

Buildings and Equipment

Although a few farms still milk in upstairs wood stables, most farms in town have built new downstairs stables during the past three decades. Others have built milking parlors, allowing one person to milk more cows more efficiently. Most farms have added heifer barns or equipment sheds, and some have built free stall barns to replace old stanchion barns. Manure management has advanced from “the wheelbarrow to the barn cleaner to the manure pump and pit”. Going from bag to bulk for both grains and fertilizers, with more equipment for handling has helped reduce manual labor. The chain saw and skidders or tractor-mounted winches have replaced crosscut saws and horses, allowing many farmers to cut their own firewood and sugarwood more quickly, and to sell more wood for extra cash. These equipment changes allowed fewer people to handle more acreage and more cows.

Markets

Until 1956, milk was processed right in town. A creamery owned by Hood operated in Mill Village; and Manchester Dairy Creamery was located in the lower village. Hood bought the Manchester Dairy site for use as a transfer station to ship milk to their Hardwick plant, and closed down the Mill Village plant. Bulk milk handling, as well as the construction of the interstate, led to greater long-distance shipping and the transfer station was sold to a local person to make cheese from local skim milk bought from Hood or from local farmers.

Some farmers mentioned that with more milk buyers, price competition resulted in better milk prices for farmers. Not all farmers agree though, that the marketing situation was better back then. Local roads have improved to ensure continued milk pickup at farms in town.

Sugaring

Sugaring is a traditional spring activity. Some producers have expanded their operations, building new sugar houses to handle the increased volume. Some have switched from wood to oil fired evaporators to reduce the amount of fuel handling. Others have left sugaring, due to the unavailability of family labor. More nonfarmers have begun sugaring operations in the past few decades. Most sugarmakers now use plastic tubing instead of buckets to collect the sap. In the Town of Craftsbury there are 13 sugar operations, with 24,000 taps.

Town Farm

The town farm vanished from the scene decades ago with the advent of the social security and welfare systems. The town owned the farm and hired people to run it, including the overseer of the poor who supervised the farm. Many old people who had no home and no funds went there to stay. The town bought their clothes and provided them with a home. If they were able, they worked in the home. Younger people who went there worked for their board. A family in town might need help with wood or food.

They got help and paid it back when they were able so that their names would not be in the town report, as having received help.

Current Agriculture in Craftsbury

Currently there are farms in nearly every section of Craftsbury. These widespread open spaces provide scenic beauty to the town. There are many active working farms including dairy, sheep, llamas, vegetables, dairy goat, and Christmas trees. In addition to farms, there are many who use their land to raise gardens or a few animals, thus contributing to a subsistence type of agriculture or as a hobby. There are also several former farms whose land is still kept open and productive (rented, leased or with agricultural rights owned by farmers).

The combination of working farms and productive land contributes to the open land in town.

Craftsbury residents value the influence of agriculture on the character of their town, and would like to see it maintained in the future. Eighty-two percent of respondents to the 2004 Community Survey feel that agricultural land should be protected. The following trends are likely to have an influence over the future of agriculture in Craftsbury.

Trends in Agriculture

- The 2006 Town Plan predicted an increase in average number of cows and in acreage per farm is likely to continue. Currently, there are approximately 1,500 cows in the town, a drop from 1,700 in 2006.
- Larger machinery will be required to reduce labor requirements.
- Open land will continue to decrease as larger machinery makes some fields impractical to work, and corners of fields are rounded off since larger equipment is harder to maneuver into tight comers.
- Farmers will continue to switch from manual forage handling (small hay bales) to silage or to large round hay bales
- Farms will buy good tillable land only, rather than entire farms including woodland, as the price and taxes are so high that investments in land cannot bring a positive economic return.
- Some farmers may diversify or find a second income to keep the farm going. Diversification can allow farmers to tap into markets for locally grown foods and or value added food agriculture, i.e. manufacturing processes that increase the economic value of a primary agricultural commodity.
- As the retail value of land continues to rise, farmers will face greater pressure to sell due to much higher development value compared with income from agricultural production and high taxes on their land.

- Farmers practicing agriculture in the manner traditional in Vermont for the past several decades may be able to find new opportunities as interest in supporting and expanding agriculture grows in Vermont, the Northeast Kingdom, and directly around Craftsbury. Those planning to meet this interest recognize that additional strategies (changes in regulation, training, network development, etc.) will be required to gain existing and new farmers access to affordable production inputs and expanding markets in value added and local foods.
- Planning organizations such as the Farm to Plate Initiative and Center for an Agricultural Economy also recognize that more land suited for agriculture will need to be protected in order to make way for agricultural expansion. Conservation programs, zoning changes, and improvement of the Current Use program have been suggested as ways to ensure protection of important agricultural lands.
- Craftsbury Academy and Sterling College participate in the Farm-to-School Program, which connects schools and local farms with the objectives of serving healthy meals in school cafeterias, improving student nutrition, providing agriculture, health and nutrition education opportunities, and supporting local and regional farmers. The school purchases fruits and vegetables from up to 5 local farmers. School gardens, in-class nutrition education, taste tests, as well as seed saving, selling seeds, growing seedlings and selling them and using them in the school garden are the key activities of the program.

Goals:

- Support agriculture in the town and region.
- Protect agricultural and forest land.

Objectives:

- Encourage agricultural use of land despite land values skyrocketing.
- Encourage use of local land trusts.
- Encourage farmers to talk to Farm Bureau and explore options for keeping their land in agriculture.
- Study possibility of developing a community Land Trust to educate and encourage conservation of forest and agricultural land.
- Encourage the diversification of agriculture in the region so as to promote the viability of farming for the future.
- Protect forest and agricultural lands through tax incentives such as the Current Use Program.
- Provide educational materials and encourage owners of agricultural and forest land to enroll in the current use program.

6: Historic Craftsbury

Craftsbury was the first settlement of Orleans County and an early center of commerce for the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont. The Common is one of the largest examples of New England common land. The picturesque quality of the Common, especially the view across the Common of the Church on the Common, is a favorite subject for photographers and one of the most published pictures of special Vermont scenes.

A survey conducted in 1983 for the Vermont State Register of Historic Places identified three separate areas of historic interest in Craftsbury: Craftsbury Common, Craftsbury Village, and East Craftsbury.

A copy of the Craftsbury information contained in the Register is kept in the Public Library. The entries for each district include a map of the structures, a description of the boundaries, and a statement of historical significance. In addition, each of the 77 individual structures of historical importance within the town is identified by a picture, a description of the architectural features and a statement of any historical significance.

The Craftsbury Historical Society has restored the Babcock House and uses this structure for historical research, displays of artifacts, and meetings of the Society. This building is located on the west side of the Common, next to the Church on the Common and the Public Library.

The preservation of the historical significance of Craftsbury is of concern to many of the residents and property owners.

Accomplishments:

- Village Center designation achieved for the Common and the Village.
- Collaboration with the schools on curriculum studies.
- Completed the initial renovation of Babcock House.
- A major renovation to Craftsbury Academy has been completed.

Goals:

- Develop a partnership between the town and the Historical Society to educate the residents and property owners on the value of the town and the State of maintaining the historical aspects of the community.
- Preserve the historical features of the community.

Objectives:

- Encourage the Craftsbury Historical Society to continue to emphasize the historical heritage of Craftsbury, the uniqueness of the Common and the value to

the community of preserving the historic architectural features of the homes and public buildings in the community.

- Explore the possibility of preparing a comprehensive history of the Town of Craftsbury.
- Explore the possibility of publishing a booklet illustrating the historic structures that have been preserved to date.
- Encourage the maintenance of both public and private buildings of historic significance.
- Update the information contained in the Register of Historic Places and encourage their maintenance and preservation.
- Explore various financial incentives including rehabilitation of historic buildings and seeking preservation grants.

7: Natural Heritage

Craftsbury is home to an abundance of natural resources. Located in the northern Vermont Piedmont, Craftsbury is an area of rich soils combined with a cool climate, which supports mixed forests, cedar swamps, wetlands and other interesting natural communities. Over 80% of Craftsbury residents who responded to a 2004 Craftsbury Community Survey would like to see this abundance of forestland and productive agricultural land protected either through incentives or regulations.

Craftsbury's "natural heritage" includes natural resources such as productive forests, clean waters, healthy wildlife populations, core and connective wildlife habitat, rare species, significant natural communities and a working landscape that provides opportunities for hunting, fishing, trapping, recreation, enjoying nature, and working the land. To sustain our natural heritage and protect the biodiversity of Craftsbury for present and future generations, it is important to conserve these natural resources which play a critical ecological role and are part of the fabric of our town. We need to use our landscape carefully in order to maintain excellent water quality, to keep wildlife habitat intact, and to ensure the future of our natural heritage.

It is important to approach town natural heritage planning from a variety of perspectives, recognizing that our natural resources provide ecological values and functions on many levels. A landscape-level inventory includes identification of contiguous and connecting habitat, and enduring features such as geology, topography, and elevation. These elements provide the foundation of our natural heritage and a better sense of the availability of necessary habitats for larger wildlife. Inventorying natural communities at the community level gives us a better understanding of critical features such as wetlands, riparian and aquatic habitat, and vernal pools. Consideration of elements at the species level includes critical habitat such as early-successional forest and shrub land, deer wintering areas, and mast stands. These elements provide habitat components for wildlife including rare, threatened, and endangered species.

For planning purposes, it is important to gather information available to us from state agencies such as the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's Water Quality Division. These state offices can provide information regarding natural areas and resources in our town and include information on wetlands, surface waters, wildlife habitat, and habitat for rare and endangered species. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has also prepared extensive information on the soils throughout Craftsbury.

It is also important for us to consider the information that we, as citizens, may gather. This can include surveying of our water resources in our local watershed, forest resources, open space, and local wildlife species and their core and connective habitat. Information gathered by trained citizen scientists and groups such as Keeping Track,

Inc., Sterling College, Vermont Center for Ecostudies, Staying Connected, Craftsbury Academy science classes, Craftsbury Forestry Committee, etc. has proven valuable in ascertaining and documenting Craftsbury's natural resources.

This Natural Heritage section of the Town Plan includes general information on the geology, groundwater, and soils; watersheds; wetlands and other water resources; forestland; wildlife habitat; significant natural communities and species; invasive species; and state lands within the town of Craftsbury.

The Craftsbury Conservation Commission

In 1977, Vermont passed the enabling legislation (24 V.S.A. Chapter 118) to establish municipal conservation commissions. The major goal of a conservation commission is to establish community responsibility or stewardship for its natural and cultural resources. There are now approximately 94 conservation commissions statewide.

At the 2007 Craftsbury Town Meeting, Craftsbury residents voted to establish a Craftsbury Conservation Commission. The proposal for a conservation commission came to the town after a subcommittee appointed by the Craftsbury Selectboard researched how useful the commission would be.

Specific tasks of the Craftsbury Conservation Commission include:

- To help to meet the goals and objectives of the natural heritage section in the 2006 Craftsbury Town Plan.
- To assist the selectboard and planning commission with natural resource issues
- To make an inventory of the town's natural, historic, and cultural resources
- To encourage the public's understanding of local natural resources

The Craftsbury Conservation Commission distributed a survey at Town Meeting 2008 to determine the conservation topics of interest and concern to Craftsbury residents, and how the Commission could best serve those interests. The following is the list of the Common conservation interests of residents who completed the survey. The results of the survey in its entirety are available in the Town Clerk's office and on the Town of Craftsbury website.

- Rivers, Streams and Lakes, wetlands – water quality
- Ground water protection
- Invasive Species – milfoil
- Forest Management and Productivity
- Good logging practices

- Agriculture – sustainable agriculture, working landscape, conservation and getting youth involved
- Wildlife habitat protection
- Preserving trout fishery
- Open lands undeveloped
- Protection of Scenic views
- Affordable housing
- Sprawl and parcelization
- Long-term values of land and capacity to live and work using the land and local resources
- Composting
- Erosion from dirt roads

Throughout 2006 through 2010 the Conservation Commission conducted multiple informational sessions on topics such as:

- Invasive Insects and Disease
- Agriculture and Forest Use Value Appraisal Programs (Current Use)
- Geology and Groundwater
- Watersheds – Stream Bank Restoration
- Co-sponsored a Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program field tour local woodlands.
- Wildlife Mapping and Habitat Conservation
- Vernal Pools Field Trip (co-sponsored with the Hosmer Ponds Watershed Initiative)
- Craftsbury Town Forest Field Trip (co-sponsored with the Craftsbury Forest Committee)

Geology, Groundwater, and Soils

Geology is the natural resource foundation of Craftsbury. Bedrock and surficial deposits help determine soil types, vegetation and water flow patterns.. The bedrock underlying Craftsbury is metamorphic and igneous, ranging in age from about 500 – 360 million years. Rock types include quartzite, phyllite, marble, greenstone and granite. The rocks originated from ocean bottom sediments and volcanic debris. Rocks of western and eastern Craftsbury were deposited in older and younger ocean basins respectively, separated in time by millions of years.

A significant bedrock contact, known as the Richardson Memorial Contact (RMC), runs north – south, through the middle of Craftsbury. Rocks west of the contact are about 500 - 458 million years old, while rocks to the east are younger, about 420 - 408 million years old. The RMC represents a period of erosion of the older western rocks (about 458 – 420 million years ago), before the younger eastern rocks were deposited. Rocks to the west have been deformed and metamorphosed twice, during two separate mountain-building episodes. The eastern rocks have undergone only one period of deformation and metamorphism, related to the later mountain-building episode. The RMC manifests as a fault in Craftsbury.

Small, localized areas of younger igneous rocks (about 380- 365 million years old) have also been identified in Craftsbury, including the “bulls-eye granite.” Samples of Craftsbury’s bulls-eye granite (scientific name: orbicular granodiorite) are found in geology departments worldwide; but in outcrop, this rock occurs in only three locations – Craftsbury and Bethel, Vermont, and Kangasniemi, Finland. The bulls-eye granite crops out along the bed of the Black River as it runs through Craftsbury Village. It has been mapped as approximately ¾ mile long and 1/8 mile wide, trending northeast – southwest through Craftsbury Village. Spectacular boulders can be found south of the Village bridge, and behind the Town Garage. These areas should be conserved. The significance of this unique and extremely rare geologic feature should be considered in future land use decisions.

Surficial deposits refer to sand and gravel, clay and silt deposited by water and ice. Surficial deposits range in thickness from a few inches to over 200 feet. Origins of these deposits include modern streams, post-glacial lake-bottom sediments, deposits from glacial meltwater running under or adjacent to the melting ice, and till deposited directly out of melting ice. Post-glacial lake deposits are widespread in the Black River and Wild Branch valleys, with thickest surficial deposits located in the Black River valley.

In 2010, Craftsbury received funding through the Vermont Geological Survey for groundwater resource and recharge area maps of the Town. These maps, currently in press, will provide the Town with an understanding of groundwater resources within Town boundaries. Potential aquifer and recharge areas will be identified on the maps, as well as general groundwater flow directions.

Since aquifers are located in sand and gravel deposits and interconnected bedrock fractures, surficial and bedrock mapping of the Town was necessary in order to produce the groundwater maps. Bedrock and surficial mapping was conducted in summer 2010 by geologists from the Vermont Geological Survey and Norwich University, with assistance from UVM, Middlebury College and Sterling College students. The new maps, along with information from existing water wells gathered at the time of drilling (gallons per minute, rock type, surficial materials), were used to derive the groundwater maps.

The groundwater maps will be valuable for long-term future planning and protection of groundwater resources. All of the maps will be available to the public. They will

provide useful information for locating new building and well sites, percolation rates, soils information and other land use capability.

Soil scientists have classified the many soils of Craftsbury into four groups according to their origins. The majority of Craftsbury soils originate from glacial till, a sand, silt and clay deposit dropped by melting ice. Lacustrine soils were deposited under glacial lakes in the Black River valley. Alluvial soils originate from deposits moved into place by running water. Muck soils are derived from deposits with very high organic matter, such as bogs.

Craftsbury soils have been surveyed by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service in Newport, an excellent source for soils information. The NRCS furnishes soil maps and interpretations needed to provide technical assistance. Farmers and other landowners may consult NRCS in decisions involving soil selection, use, and management. NRCS plans and disseminates soils research and provides educational programs on soil use and conservation.

The NRCS also provides assistance with soil erosion. They assist landowners in identifying highly erodible land, and provide technical advice, along with some funds, to help with soil stabilization. Many of the Town's farms have identified their highly erodible land. Several farmers have participated in NRCS programs to help stabilize streambanks, and volunteers have planted vegetation along the Black River. Streambank erosion continues to be an issue that will require future attention in Craftsbury.

Soil pollution may be another future concern. Currently, the town has no landfills or polluting industrial complexes. Government agencies should be consulted about existing laws concerning soil contamination.

Watersheds

Craftsbury sits in two watersheds, the Memphremagog and the Lamoille watersheds. Taking different paths, the waters of Craftsbury ultimately drain into the St. Lawrence Seaway in Canada and then into the Atlantic Ocean. Those waters draining into the Black River will travel through Lake Memphremagog, while the waters that flow into the Wildbranch or Alder Brook will travel into Lake Champlain. Each of the watersheds that our waters drain into has been affected by nonpoint source pollution. Nonpoint source pollution occurs when runoff, as rainfall or snowmelt, moves over the land surface picking up man-made or natural pollutants and then depositing them into lakes, rivers, wetlands and even groundwater. The main nonpoint source contaminants are sediment, bacteria, nutrients, toxic chemicals and metals. Land uses such as agriculture, forestry, construction, residential areas and septic systems are all potential nonpoint pollution sources. The Vermont Division of Water Quality is working through the Basin Planning Program to assess streams and rivers for such pollutants.

After seven years of development, the Lamoille River Basin Water Quality Management Plan was approved by the Agency of Natural Resources and is now available online at http://www.vtwaterquality.org/planning/htm/pl_lamoille.htm

The entire shorelines of Little Hosmer Pond, Duck Pond, and Mud Pond lie within the town. Portions of Big or Great Hosmer Pond and Eligo Pond lie outside Craftsbury. There is development of varying degrees along the shorelines of these bodies of water. Mud Pond's shorelines contain no structures, but the body of water is almost completely surrounded by agricultural land. The two Hosmer ponds offer some of the largest undisturbed stretches of shoreline in the state. In 2009 the Conservation Commission developed a flyer detailing the State of Vermont recommended best practices management for shoreline landowners. These flyers were distributed to current shoreline landowners and will be provided to the new owners on the event of a property transfer. They are also available at the Town Clerk's office.

The Hosmer Ponds Watershed Initiative is an informal group of Craftsbury and Albany residents who want to increase their appreciation and understanding of the community's natural resources through outings, workshops, and gatherings. They strive to engage community members to think about long-term conservation goals for the region and the tools available to reach such conservation goals. This effort began in 2007, supported by Vermont Land Trust through a small grant from the Vermont Community Foundation. The Hosmer Ponds Watershed Initiative recently joined forces with the Craftsbury Outdoor Center.

Portions of some streams, especially the Black River and the Wild Branch, suffer from severe stream bank erosion. Stream bank instability is a complex issue not usually resolved by short term solutions of narrow focus. Careful analysis of such erosion will reveal a number of contributing factors, among them soil type, volume of flow, gradient, stream bank vegetation, livestock damage, beaver population, and previous stream channel alteration. Solutions therefore, must if possible address each factor related to soil loss. Such soil loss is alone unfortunate; however the effects are compounded once it enters the stream. Soil deposition tends to reduce or change food supplies and spawning areas for native fish.

Riparian buffers and corridors, including streambanks and lakeshores, serve vital functions that have significant environmental, economic, and social value. Conserving riparian ecosystems allows them to carry out their many functions, which include: protecting water quality and aquatic habitats; providing habitats for terrestrial wildlife, including travel and dispersal corridors; supporting significant natural communities and adjacent wetlands; and protecting channel-forming processes and channel stability. Riparian vegetated buffer strips can contribute to addressing residents' concerns about

water quality and supply, pollution of water sources, disappearance of natural areas, and wildlife habitat.⁴

Craftsbury Academy students have been exploring river ecology and learning how to assess the biological health of the rivers throughout town. Sterling College students have also studied many of the local streams feeding into the Black River as well as into the lakes. Biological assessment has been conducted and has led to the decision by one landowner to take measures to protect the stream. A healthy fish population is now evident since these measures were taken.

The brooks, streams and rivers within Craftsbury are classified by the state as Class B waterways, indicating that they are suitable for boating, swimming and drinking with treatment. These waters also consistently exhibit good aesthetic value and high quality habitat for aquatic biota, fish and wildlife. They can also be used for irrigation and other agricultural uses.

In 2001, the town of Craftsbury adopted floodplain zoning. The floodplains throughout town have been mapped on the National Floodplain Maps. The zoning measures require that a permit be obtained from the Craftsbury Floodplain Administrator before any new development occurs in the floodplains. Renovations to preexisting buildings in the floodplain must also be approved.

Dirt roads are a significant source of soil erosion in Vermont. In order to maintain clean water and aquatic habitats, it is imperative to pay close attention to road maintenance practices, especially since 77% of Craftsbury's public roadways are unpaved. Such practices have changed over the years. Our roads are wider and straighter and deliver a higher volume of traffic traveling at higher speeds. Techniques now focus on road design that sheds water as soon as possible in order to avoid the mud season driving conditions we all have experienced. Such techniques require more manipulation of the road surface and the shoulders. The nature of this work requires more soil disturbance itself and is more expensive. Resources--education and money--are available via the Agency of Transportation and the Vermont League of Cities and Towns.

Wetlands

The wetlands of the state of Vermont are valuable natural resources. It is estimated that Vermont's existing wetlands comprise less than 5 percent of Vermont's surface area. In addition to being Vermont's most productive ecosystems, wetlands serve a wide variety of functions beneficial to the health, safety and welfare of the general public, including:

- Retaining stormwater runoff, reducing flood peaks, delaying flood crests and thereby reducing flooding;

⁴ VT ANR Riparian Buffers and Corridors: [Technical Papers, 2005](#) and Chase, V.L. Demming and F. Latawjec 1195. [Buffers for Wetlands and Surface Waters: A Guidebook for New Hampshire Municipalities.](#)

- Protecting the quality and quantity of ground water;
- Improving surface water quality by storing organic materials, chemically breaking down or removing pollutants, and by filtering eroded sediments and organic matter from the surface runoff;
- Stabilizing soils and dissipating wave and current energy;
- Providing spawning, feeding and general habitat for fish;
- Providing a wide diversity of habitat for wildlife, including waterfowl, birds, mammals, furbearers, amphibians and reptiles;
- Providing habitat critical for the survival of rare, threatened or endangered species of plants and animals;
- Providing both representative and rare examples of plant communities which make up the state's natural wetland heritage;
- Providing valuable resources for education and research in natural sciences;
- Providing a diversity of recreational and economic benefits;
- Contributing to the open space character and overall beauty of the landscape.

A substantial portion of Vermont's wetlands have already been lost or severely impaired by draining, dredging, filling, excavation, pollution and other activities. It is estimated that Vermont has already lost nearly 50 percent of its wetland resources and is continuing to lose additional wetland resources annually.

In 1986 the legislature adopted an act (10 V.S.A Chapter 37, Section 905(a) (7-9)) that established the statutory framework for identifying and protecting Vermont's wetlands in accordance with the rules adopted by the Water Resources Board. These rules only apply to those wetlands which are determined to be "so significant that they merit protection." The determination of whether any specific wetland merits protection under these rules is based on an evaluation of the extent to which it serves one or more of the functions listed above.

There are three classifications of wetlands. Class I wetlands are exceptional or irreplaceable in their contribution to Vermont's natural heritage and merit the highest level of protection under the rules. The majority of the wetlands in Craftsbury are classified as Class 2 wetlands on the Vermont Significant Wetland Inventory Map (see the Natural Resource Constraints map). These Class 2 wetlands are "significant wetlands" and therefore are protected under the Vermont Wetland Rules.

Forestland

The lands of the town of Craftsbury are over 75 percent forested. These forests have provided a utilitarian base for the local economy since times of early settlement. As

well, Craftsbury forests offer an aesthetic backdrop for the town's pastoral setting and for the distant vistas.

Forests are slow growers and change is subtle, but definite. It can be assumed that most of the town has either been cleared for agricultural purposes or logged during the past 200 years. Yet, forests have reseeded and grown back; it is not uncommon to find evidence of old fields where a 75+ year old forest now stands.

There have been four periods in the town history when open lands were abandoned and allowed to naturally reseed to trees: after the Civil War, after the Great Depression, after World War II and more recently, when bulk milk tanks were required in order to remain in the dairy business.

The forests can be categorized into seven forest types:

1. Northern Hardwoods (sugar maple, yellow birch, beech)
2. Spruce and balsam
3. White pine
4. White cedar
5. Pioneer hardwoods (grey birch, aspen and red maple)
6. Hemlock
7. Swamp and bog softwoods

The forests annually produce fuel wood, pulpwood for paper, and saw timber. Some of this resource is used in Vermont and adjacent states, and some timber is sold for use in the international market. There are many active sugar bushes with approximately 24,000 taps in town. There are also several active deer wintering areas in town that have been mapped. (See Natural Resource Constraints map.) These consist of softwood forests, which provide whitetail deer shelter and protection from deep snow.

The forests are often affected by insects and diseases: spruce budworm defoliated balsam fir and spruce trees and caused some mortality in 1978-1984; forest tent caterpillar defoliated hardwoods in large 50-150 acre "patches". Other insects and diseases, which are present, are sugar maple borers, white pine blister rust, Dutch elm disease and hypoxylon canker, which can kill aspen trees. A farther threat to our forests may be that of atmospheric deposition, the transfer of particulates and liquids, which may damage individual trees or the forest ecosystems.

The present ownership pattern is almost exclusively private with only one tract owned by the timber industry. The town and the Craftsbury Academy own four small tracts; these are the only publicly owned forests. Within the past thirty years, an increasing number of forestland owners in Craftsbury have sought to apply the principles of forestry in managing the lands. These principles and the resulting practice of forestry were borrowed and adapted from European forestry techniques. With this concern for

proper care for forests and the continued development of a local land ethic to guide the relationship between the people of Craftsbury and their forests, this valuable resource will continue to play an important role in the town's future. The very active Forestry Committee in town manages the municipally owned forest lands for the benefit of the community.

The Use Value Appraisal Program

The Vermont Use Value Appraisal Program, also known as the Current Use Program, is an alternative property tax valuation for those Craftsbury property owners, who either farm land or manage woodlands, to be taxed at the current use appraisal rather than a fair-market appraisal. Eligibility for agricultural enrollment requires that the landowner is a farmer as defined by the IRS or the land is leased to a farmer. Enrollment in the forestland program requires that the applicant owns 25 acres or more and has a forest management plan approved by the State. Within the Use Value management plan, the forest land is categorized into productive, nonproductive, environmentally sensitive, and special wildlife habitat areas. Carrying out these plans provides income for landowners and for local logging contractors and their employees.

Prior to Current Use in Craftsbury, annual property taxes often exceeded gross income from land. The Current Use alternative was offered in 1978 to adjust property taxation back to a basis that land-based enterprises could pay and still make income. Enrollment in the Current Use Program is a form of natural resource conservation. Those landowners who are enrolled are keeping the land open and productive within the town. Savings on taxes enables landowners to keep the land for future generations rather than succumb to the pressure of development. We all then benefit with open vistas, local food production, clean air and water, wildlife habitat, and potential recreational opportunities, as well as a quality timber asset in private ownership.

In 2010, there were 122 parcels in Craftsbury enrolled in the Current Use Program, which represents roughly 16% of the taxed parcels in town. The total number of acres in Craftsbury that are enrolled in the program equals 13,371.⁵

Significant Natural Communities and Species

The Vermont Nongame and Natural Heritage Program through the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife tracks and monitors sites that have state-significant natural communities or rare, threatened or endangered plant and animal species. This information is reviewed in permitting processes such as Act 250.

Fifteen Natural Heritage sites were cataloged and mapped in February 2009 throughout Craftsbury. These sites include plant communities such as northern white cedar swamp and sedge meadow. Significant plant species include Showy Lady's Slipper, Small Yellow

⁵ Vermont Department of Taxes. [2011 Annual Report](#).

Lady's Slipper, Straight-leaf Pondweed, Marsh Valerian, Swamp Honeysuckle, and Shining Rose. Animals include Common Loon, Black-backed Woodpecker and Long-eared Owl.

Bat populations are declining precipitously because of white-nose syndrome. Roosting areas for maternity and foraging colonies have not yet been identified in Craftsbury but should be located and conserved. Bat roosts are found in dead trees and tree crevices as well as in buildings. Bats are very important in controlling insects.

The species lists for the Natural Heritage sites are protected information because of the sensitivity of the various species. If residents find natural communities or animal species of high significance on their land, they may contact the Non-game Natural Heritage Program at: http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/wildlife_nongame.cfm or 802-241-3700 or 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-0501

To maintain and conserve these plants and animals (and also those that may be cataloged in the future), their habitats and significant plant communities, landowners are encouraged to utilize programs such as the Vermont Current Use program, Vermont Coverts: Woodlands for Wildlife, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and conservation easements. The Conservation Commission is available to assist landowners with these programs and other conservation techniques.

Wildlife Habitat

Critical wildlife habitat is defined under Act 250 as that habitat necessary for the survival of a species. This definition has been broadened through several court decisions over time to include populations within a particular area. Identification and mapping of critical habitat is crucial to the entire planning process.

Deer wintering areas are prime examples of critical wildlife habitat in town. Deer yards are areas of extensive conifer cover where snow accumulations in winter are not overly deep, allowing deer to move fairly freely from bedding areas to browsing areas nearby. Deer yards are considered critical habitat since large numbers of deer, which are spread out over much larger areas during other seasons, concentrate during the winter into these limited refuges. Fragmentation of the deer wintering area, from development or inappropriate logging, will lower the overall capacity of land to support deer.

Several deer wintering areas have been mapped by the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife. (See Natural Resource Constraints map.) These areas total approximately 1,629 acres in Craftsbury. Certainly there are other locations used by wintering deer and it is important to provide such information to the department.

In 1989, the Department of Fish and Wildlife mapped black bear habitat statewide, showing high-use, as well as low-use areas. This map indicates that Craftsbury is predominantly bear production habitat. These areas are regions supporting relatively high densities of cub-producing females. Generally contiguous and remote forestland,

these areas contain critical habitats necessary for bear survival. The long-term stability of Vermont's bear population depends upon these areas.

In addition to those habitats considered critical by the Act 250 process, there are other types of wildlife habitat that are important, such as beaver ponds. Beavers create important wildlife habitat for many species such as bear, moose, otter, mink, waterfowl, amphibians, pond insects such as dragon and damsel flies, and a great variety of birds. Beaver dams also supply flood protection, and maintain an even and regular water supply to the stream below the dam.

Moose.....	5
Turkey.....	43
Bear	3
Deer	73
Deer in 2010	87
Source: Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife. http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com/wildlife_biggame.cfm	

While beavers and their activities are often in conflict with land uses such as roads, it is important to find ways to maintain their ponds while moderating their conflicting impacts. Methods of beaver activity control should be considered, such as the construction of structures that manage the water level of beaver ponds, i.e. Beaver Deceivers. Such devices can help communities co-exist with beavers and their activity.

As ephemeral wetlands, vernal pools in Craftsbury provide breeding habitat for Jefferson salamanders, Blue Spotted Complex salamanders, and Spotted salamanders, Wood frogs, and fairy shrimp. Riparian areas are the critical habitat for Wood turtles, a species of special concern in Vermont. They have been identified in the floodplain of the Black River.

Craftsbury's diverse topography creates diversity of aquatic habitats which in turn means a variety of fish species. In our lakes and ponds, we have warm-water species such as bass, sunfish and pickerel. In our upland brooks, there are cold-water species such as trout—rainbow, brown and especially brook trout. Wild trout, those that spawn in streams and brooks, have been in decline for the past 30 years due primarily to increased silt loads in spawning areas. Assuring the long-term survival of any fish population demands that we protect all our aquatic habitats.

Hunting, fishing and trapping are outdoor traditions that are an important part of Craftsbury's rural heritage and have been practiced since the first settlers arrived. Most private lands in Craftsbury are not presently posted against these activities. The Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife manages the populations of game animals, furbearers and fish.

Over the years Craftsbury residents have seen many different additional wildlife species. Wildlife sightings include bobcats, fishers, bald eagles, coyotes, and many other mammals and birds. There have been unconfirmed sightings of catamount throughout town. Efforts to track these and other wildlife species have been established, such as a

wildlife mapping instituted by the Craftsbury Outdoor Center. Some Craftsbury residents participate in the statewide, Audubon annual bird count. Residents are encouraged to contact the Conservation Commission with any wildlife sightings so that we can better understand the potential wildlife habitat needs throughout town.

Invasive Species

One of the biggest threats to the natural heritage of the town is the potential devastation caused by invasive species. Invasive species are species that have been introduced to an area outside their native range and have no natural competitors or predators. Invasive species can be aquatic or terrestrial plants, or animals, and can be introduced through a variety of means.

Invasive plants can cause damage to the natural eco-system by out-competing native plants. Invasive plant species often do not offer the same characteristics as the native plants they replace. This can lead to increased erosion, clogging of streams and waterways, and providing less nutritious food and habitat for wildlife. Craftsbury is home to a number of invasive plant species, some having a very noticeable impact. Both Great Hosmer and Eligo Lakes are infested with Eurasian Milfoil, a plant that overpowers native plants and impacts habitat as well as recreational usage. Milfoil is usually spread by boaters moving craft from one body of water to another.

Terrestrial invasive plants such as Japanese knotweed and Purple loosestrife are abundant along the Craftsbury roads and in the [wetlands](#). Non-native Buckthorn, Bush honeysuckles, Japanese barberry, and Burning bush ([Euonymus](#)) have also taken hold throughout town.

Invasive insects pose a serious threat to forests as well. The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid attacks hemlock trees and has been found in the State of Vermont already. The Emerald Ash Borer has yet to be found in Vermont, but the insect is quickly spreading and decimating ash trees from the Great Lakes region to Quebec. The Asian Longhorn Beetle is another invasive insect that attacks hardwood trees and an infestation has been found covering over 18 square miles in Massachusetts. There are other invasive insects that could pose a threat to the current natural heritage if an outbreak were to occur. More information is available at <http://www.vtfpr.org/protection/idfrontpage.cfm>

The introduction of non-native animal species to the ecosystem can create a detrimental situation as well. Whether inadvertent escape of an exotic species or improper disposal of baitfish, bilge water, or aquarium inhabitants, non-native species can become invasive. Through consumption of food sources, spread of disease, and predatory action, invasive species can result in decreased biodiversity and have an impact on the food chain.

In order to protect the natural heritage of the town, invasive species should be watched closely. Many communities throughout Vermont are wrestling with approaches for the control of invasive species. Some Craftsbury residents have begun to recognize these species on their properties and question how to control them. The Nature Conservancy provides an excellent web page with a list of invasive plants in Vermont as well as tips for identifying and controlling them, which can be found at: <http://www.nature.org/wherework/northamerica/states/vermont/> Once established, many species are difficult to control and the impacts they have on the ecosystem pose devastating consequences for the town's natural resources

State Lands

Residents can enjoy public access to the rivers and lakes in Craftsbury. The state owns two streambank parcels along the Black River. One includes several rods north of the Cemetery Road bridge. The other parcel lies along the east bank of the Black River near the Albany line. The state also owns the fishing access at Little Hosmer.

Goal:

Protect and manage Craftsbury's natural heritage and biodiversity for the benefit of current and future generations.

Objectives:

- Create a "Town" vision for natural heritage protection.
- Identify and understand the natural resources within Craftsbury and their regional significance to the surrounding landscape.
- Encourage conservation of natural resources through local conservation planning and land stewardship.
- Encourage opportunities to raise community awareness about Craftsbury's natural heritage through education.
- Manage our town and school forests as models of land stewardship.
- Continue to collaborate with Sterling College, Craftsbury Academy, the Craftsbury Outdoor Center, and other town committees such as the Forestry Committee and the Energy Committee regarding education and conservation activities.
- Continue collaboration with organizations beyond Craftsbury such as the Northern Rivers Land Trust, Staying Connected, Keeping Track, etc.
- Manage milfoil in lakes and ponds that are currently infested, and protect our bodies of water that are not currently afflicted.
- Collect and utilize maps of surface waters, wetlands and key watersheds and riparian habitats that should be protected or conserved to support habitat for

fish, aquatic plants, aquatic invertebrates and other organisms important to our natural heritage.

- Collect and utilize maps and other data on land use patterns to understand current agricultural areas, contiguous forestland and residential/commercial development.
- Identify, map and provide long term stewardship of natural communities including deeryards, bear production areas, and vernal pools. Work with regional and state agencies and private organizations to support natural heritage protection, conservation and restoration of degraded sites.
- Provide long term stewardship of Craftsbury's bulls-eye granite, a rare and significant geologic feature.
- Encourage and provide education on Best Management Practices as defined by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources.
- Collect data to identify important wildlife corridors, connective habitats and linkages.
- Partner with businesses and other interested stakeholders to conduct public outreach and education regarding milfoil infestation.

8: Utilities and Facilities

Electricity

Craftsbury is served by two utility companies, Hardwick Electric Department and Vermont Electric Cooperative. Both utility companies are discussed at length in the Energy Section of the Craftsbury Town Plan.

Water & Sewer

Water in Craftsbury is supplied by drilled wells and springs. About 55 customers in Craftsbury Common are supplied with water by Craftsbury Fire District #2. There are four 600 foot deep drilled wells with two alternating as supply and two serving as standby. The water is pumped to a 25,000 gallon storage tank which feeds two 1000 gallon pressurization tanks that alternate in operation. This assures reliable delivery in that either one can operate continuously while the other is being serviced. There is no back up generator to maintain service during a power outage.

The water quality is good as confirmed by samples sent to the state monthly. A small amount of chlorine is added to control bacteria. A trace amount of volatile organic compounds are present.

All of Craftsbury's wastewater is handled by private on-site septic systems. This is dependent on the type of soil present and sufficient area to accomplish satisfactory operation of the system. One-third to one-half acre is required in most cases. These systems typically consist of a 1,000 gallon septic tank followed by a leach field, and are generally satisfactory when properly maintained. If this is not done, the solids will pass into the leach field causing the flow to back up and the leach field to not operate properly. There are technologies available such as effluent pumps and filters to enhance the performance of these systems. These features require regular inspection and maintenance.

After November 1, 2004, new house construction sites must meet Vermont State Standards for septic system construction. Existing exemption from Vermont State Standards expired on July 1, 2007. The new regulations are triggered when land is subdivided, or when new construction takes place. They can also apply when an existing building or structure is modified in manner that increases the design flows or changes the operating requirements of a wastewater or potable water system.

The neighboring communities of Johnson, Morrisville, and Hardwick have sewer systems and wastewater treatment plants, whereas Greensboro and Wolcott do not have wastewater treatment facilities. However, some towns of a similar size have started to study the issue of wastewater treatment. Wolcott is currently studying the wastewater disposal. Glover has a 25% share in Barton's wastewater system. West Glover has sewage capacity issues and has been working to resolve this.

Craftsbury’s Flood Plain Ordinance is based on the existing Flood Insurance Rate Map dated September 27, 1985. If a question arises concerning a proposed house location relative to the flood plain, an official from the State of Vermont visits the site and renders an opinion.

Source Protection Plans

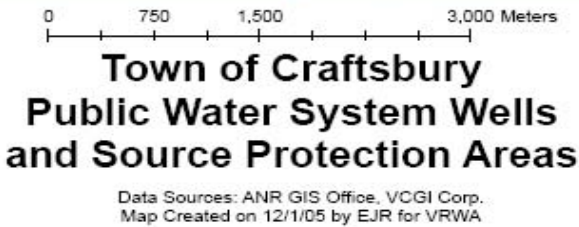
Existing residential and commercial/industrial uses, as well as future development depends on the availability of adequate and clean groundwater supplies. Many homes and businesses in Craftsbury obtain their water from the four active public water systems shown in Table 8.1. Combined, these systems have seven wells and serve approximately 650 people. Maps of Source Protection Plans are depicted on the following page.

System Name	System Type	SPA Area	Source Protection Delineation	Sources	Population Served (estimated)
Craftsbury Fire District #2	Public Community Water System	122.6 acres 0.19 sq mi	Hydrologically determined	4 bedrock wells	420
Craftsbury Elementary School	Non-transient, non-community	18.0 acres 0.03 sq mi	Fixed radius: 500 ft	1 artesian well	75
Craftsbury Outdoor Center	Non-transient, non-community	18.0 acres 0.03 sq mi	Fixed radius: 500 ft	1 rock well	90
Craftsbury Inn	Non-transient, non-community	6.49 acres 0.01 sq mi	Fixed radius: 300 ft	1 rock well	65

The total public source protection area for the town of Craftsbury is approximately 165 acres (0.26 sq miles). Most of the land within the source protection areas is residential or forested, with some agricultural activities and both paved and unpaved roads. Based on these land uses, the biggest threats to groundwater quality in Craftsbury are failing septic tanks, leaking underground storage tanks, spills to above ground fuel oil tanks, and potential spills on the roadways.

Currently, plans are being considered in the event of these water systems encountering water quantity or quality issues. Protection of existing and potential groundwater supplies, including important aquifers and aquifer recharge areas, is of great importance

to the Town. No development should be allowed which would impact the water supplies provided for by the above Source Protection Areas.



Solid Waste

Craftsbury is a member of the Lamoille Regional Solid Waste Management District (LRSWMD), which was formed by the voters of its member towns on November 8, 1988. LRSWMD operates a collection station located on the Creek Road in Craftsbury Village which accepts recyclables and trash. Craftsbury residents who desire curbside service for trash disposal must use private haulers working in the area.

Emergency Services

The Craftsbury Fire Department

The town's volunteer fire department first appeared in the town reports in 1938. It has grown from a one-horse pump company to a large department with 24 volunteer firefighters. It now has four vehicles, including pumpers, a tanker, and a rescue vehicle. The fire department responds to fire and rescue requests from Craftsbury and supports the surrounding area as well.

Craftsbury's volunteer firefighters receive roughly 50 calls a year. About half are for medical assistance, and the other half for fires. Their annual budget in 2010 was \$38,200.

Police

Police protection is provided by the State Police Department in Derby. Crime rates in Craftsbury (based on 1 per thousand in population) have been consistently and considerably lower than overall crime rates in Orleans County. In 2009, the crime rate in Craftsbury was 25.29 per thousand, compared to 37.03 for all of Orleans County.⁶

Rescue

Hardwick Emergency Rescue Squad Inc., a nonprofit volunteer ambulance service provides service to Craftsbury. Annual requests for appropriations are based on the annual average number of calls placed from the town over a five-year period (which, according to Hardwick Rescue is about 10% -- 11%).

Emergency Planning

Craftsbury belongs to the Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC) #10, which serves Orleans County, as well as the northern communities of Essex County. It shares borders with New Hampshire and contains seven international crossings into Canada. Composed of emergency management officials, local first responders, and members of the public, the original intent of the LEPC was to evaluate and plan for accidental chemical releases. In recent years, its scope has been broadened to include additional hazards: floods, wildfires, and even acts of terrorism. Local industries are required by law to provide the LEPCs with information about any hazardous materials they may store on site. In turn, the LEPCs are required to make this information available to any citizen who requests it.

LEPC #10 has its own website with information regarding emergency management (<http://www.lepc10.org>) and Craftsbury's Rapid Response Plan is available from this website. The Basic Emergency Operations Plan, (latest version 2009) is a plan adopted by the Selectboard to designate the people, organizations, and locations most appropriate for responding to emergencies should they arise. This document includes the contact for the two open emergencies shelters in Town: Craftsbury Academy and

⁶ Vermont Crime Online. Vermont Department of Public Safety.

Craftsbury Community Care Center. The regional All-Hazards Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan is also available from this website which plans for a multitude of hazards and disasters for the area.

In 2004, NVDA received grant funds to help each town develop a comprehensive disaster mitigation plan. As a result, Craftsbury now has a draft of its own All-Hazards Mitigation Plan. Since the town participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, this plan will make the town eligible to receive future disaster mitigation funds from FEMA, once it is approved by FEMA and adopted by the town. Additionally, LEPC 10 was recently awarded a grant from Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness and FEMA. The purpose of this grant will be to help all the communities in LEPC 10 (including Craftsbury) develop HAZMAT plans. FEMA recently approved the Craftsbury All-Hazards Mitigation Plan which will increase the ability for the town to receive pre-disaster mitigation funds.

Town Government

Craftsbury has a three member Selectboard who meet twice a month to discuss town business and keep the town running smoothly. There is a Town Clerk and an Assistant Town Clerk. Town officers are elected at the annual Town Meeting, which takes place the first Tuesday in March. At this event, the town elects its Moderator, Collector of Taxes, Listers, School Directors, Auditors, Town Agent, Town Grand Juror, Cemetery Commissioners, Trustees of Public Funds, World War II Memorial Fund Trustees, Supervisor to Solid Waste District, and Library Trustee. The Selectboard then appoints many additional officers as representatives and to committees. The community members then proceed to vote on all issues that represent spending of tax dollars.

Town Clerk's Office

Located at 85 South Craftsbury Road, the Office is open Tuesday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday and Saturdays by appointment. The town is outgrowing the present municipal office space. There is a need for better parking and a fireproof walk-in vault for safe record storage. If moved, the current building should remain a public space. Ceasing public use would cause ownership of the building to revert to its original heirs, per the deed.

Post Offices

Craftsbury has two Post Offices. They are located on South Craftsbury Road and on Craftsbury Common.

Cemeteries

There are four cemeteries in town: East Craftsbury, North Craftsbury, Branch, and Craftsbury Village. They are maintained by a Town Cemetery Committee.

Medical facilities

Hardwick Area Health Center is a regional medical facility serving Craftsbury. According to the Craftsbury Community Survey, most Craftsbury residents travel to Hardwick and Morrisville for their health care.

Craftsbury Community Care Center is a residence facility that employs 19 full and part-time staff and provides a variety of services to senior citizens in Craftsbury and surrounding communities. In 2004, the facility served more than 1,600 meals to homebound seniors.

Communications

There is no cable television service in Craftsbury.

Television is available through satellite dish, broadband is available through DSL, wireless internet service providers (WISPs), or satellite. A 2008 Public Service Board map of coverage for WISPs shows that radio signals can be received in nearly all the community – roughly 73% of the land area. This map has stripped out attribute information, so no information on service provider or strength of signal is available. Nevertheless, Craftsbury continues to be underserved in that high-speed Internet access is still not affordable for many of its residents. The Vermont Telecommunications Plan 2010 acknowledges that “...on the demand side, sparse population and slow adoption in newly served areas provide lower incentive for private investment. On the supply side, Vermont’s topography and the high costs of backhaul and tower construction are impediments to deployment.”⁷

GIS maps from NVDA, the regional planning commission, indicate that there are three antennas in Craftsbury: FM Booster for Rondeau's Plumbing & Heating; Experimental Contract for Signatron Technology Corp.; and Fire Station for the Town of Craftsbury.

Residents without a computer can get Internet access at the Craftsbury Public Library. Use of these public computers to get health information, search job listings, do school research, and send and receive email has increased dramatically in recent years.

The town is actively seeking affordable broadband for the community with access to public broadband facilities for those residents who do not have high speed Internet access in their homes.

Telecommunication Towers

From the 2004 Craftsbury Community Survey, 137 respondents stated that they were concerned enough about “Cell Tower” to have the town adopt an ordinance for the issue. Towers and related infrastructure require careful consideration. These structures

⁷ Vermont Department of Public Service. [Vermont Telecommunications Plan 2010](#) page vii.

tend to be located on highly visible locations on mountaintops, ridgelines and in residential areas. The need for additional facilities is projected to increase dramatically.

The Craftsbury Planning Commission drafted a proposed telecommunication ordinance, which was adopted by the Selectboard in 2006. In 2010, the Planning Commission proposed an ordinance that would bring the Town into compliance with regulations regarding de minimus impacts.

Goals:

- The long-term protection of public drinking water supplies shall be ensured.
- The planning commission should keep informed on the regulatory environment pertaining to the siting and permitting of telecommunication towers and advise the Selectboard accordingly.

Objectives:

- The Town may consider conducting a study to identify space to build future wastewater treatment facilities for both the Village and the Common.
- Support the Craftsbury Groundwater Mapping project to better inform the residents who use well or spring water supplies about the quality and condition of the water sources.
- Town officials and interested citizens should work with the Waste District to educate residents about the harmful effects of illegal trash burning.
- Explore establishing a town collection site for reusable household items.
- Encourage establishing a food composting center in town or in collaboration with nearby facilities.
- The Town should adopt the proposed amended telecommunications ordinance.

9: Energy

Electricity

Craftsbury is served by two utility companies, Hardwick Electric Department and Vermont Electric Cooperative (VEC). Hardwick Electric currently serves about 440 customers. Hardwick’s coverage area includes the southern two thirds of the town, including Craftsbury Village, East Craftsbury, and Craftsbury Common. Vermont Electric Cooperative (VEC) serves the remaining portion of the town representing 165 customers.

Hardwick Electric Monthly Avg Kilowatt Hour (KwH) Electricity Use/ Demand (2010)

Residential: 272,431 KwH
 Commercial: 68,908 KwH
 Industrial:..... 1,080 KwH
 TOTAL: **342,419 KWH**

Vermont Electric Co-Op
Total KwH (2009):1,092,109
 Source: Craftsbury Energy Committee

Heating

Home Heating in Craftsbury is provided by several sources although petroleum is the most common heating source.

Table 9.1: Housing Units by Heat Source, 2000

Heated with Utility Gas	0
Heated with Bottled / Tank / LP Gas	0
Heated with Electricity	3
Heated with Fuel Oil / Kerosene	226
Heated with Coal / Coke	3
Heated with Wood	138
Heated with Solar Energy	4
Heated with Other Type of Fuel	0
That are not Heated	0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau - Census of Population & Housing, 2000
 Summary File 3 Table H40

Renewable Energy

There are a growing number of solar photovoltaic, solar hot water and small scale wind installations in Craftsbury. The Craftsbury Outdoor Center has installed an eight panel photovoltaic array in 2010. It is designed to offset one third of the Outdoor Center’s electricity demand. Of note is the addition of one small scale wind turbine, a

residential geothermal heating system, and several residential solar panel installations in Craftsbury. Wood, including biomass, continues to meet a significant portion of Craftsbury’s energy demand. It has the added benefit of contributing to the local economy through the sustainable harvest of firewood within the town’s boundaries.

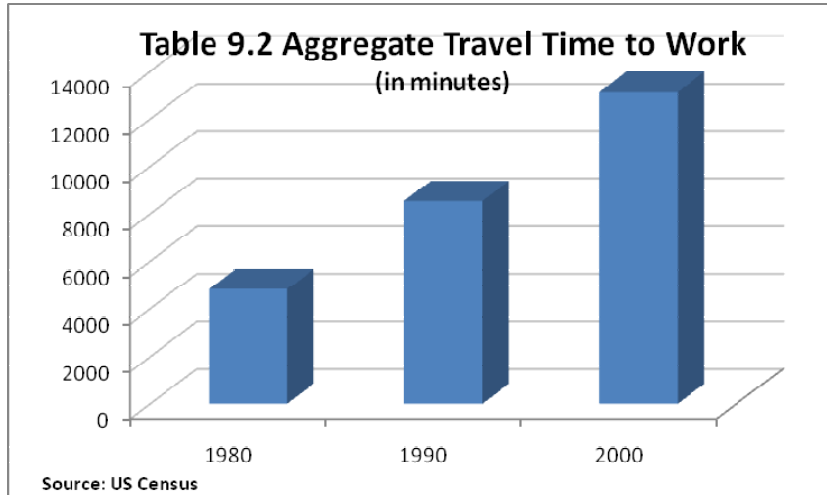
Transportation

Transportation in Craftsbury, like all of the US, is almost wholly reliant on petroleum - gasoline for cars and some light duty trucks, and diesel for light and heavy duty trucks. There are an increasing number of gas hybrid cars registered by people who indicate

Craftsbury as their residence. In addition, some Craftsbury farmers have experimented with the use of biodiesel and waste oil for off-road use.

Craftsbury's rural character dictates that residents must drive long distances to access places within the town and to get to work, health care, and most commercial services. There are few transportation alternatives. Informal ridesharing occurs from Craftsbury to job centers in Newport, Hardwick, Morrisville, Stowe and

Montpelier. The 2000 census indicates that Craftsbury has a workforce of 585 individuals, aged 16 and older. More than 65% of its workforce drive to work alone, and, about 55% work out of town.



Dependence on fossil fuel is non-sustainable, threatens national security, and poses short and long term economic effects to the country, the state of Vermont, the town of Craftsbury, and its citizens. The price of electricity and fuel for home heating and transportation has economic implications for Craftsbury citizens now and this impact will only increase in the future as sources of energy become more scarce and thus more expensive. In addition, burning of fossil fuels is a significant contributor of green house gases, the cause of climate change. Energy conservation through energy efficiency efforts and the production of renewable energy is strongly encouraged in Craftsbury.

Craftsbury residents face significant energy challenges. Besides the transportation demands of rural living, winter fuel is an absolute necessity. The price of home heating is increasing and the older building stock makes weatherization and fuel switching expensive and more complex than new construction. In addition, many residents cannot afford the initial capital investment necessary to reap energy conservation benefits in the future.

The Select Board through the Planning Commission and Town Energy Committee will set energy efficiency and renewable energy goals for the town as a whole as well as for town operations. This will require better understanding of energy use in Craftsbury through improved data collection and measuring the energy and cost savings benefits of the programs and strategies listed below.

Although Craftsbury has no zoning regulation, the Craftsbury Town Plan encourages concentrated mixed-use development in the town's village areas. This includes supporting the rehabilitation of existing buildings and new buildings that continue the

Town's traditional patterns of development – compact, densely settled villages, surrounded by open space. The Village Center designations in Craftsbury Village and the Common support this endeavor by encouraging adaptive reuse of historic buildings in the village centers through tax credit incentives.

Concentrated mixed-use development maximizes efficiency and renewable energy potential. Walking and biking are more viable as transportation options and overall trip lengths to services such as stores, post offices, or schools are reduced. In addition, village areas and clustered neighborhood increase the viability of community-based renewable projects.

New construction outside the village areas are encouraged in locations possessing features or qualities that maximize energy conservation such as southern orientation.

The Town Plan supports the delivery of services such as healthcare, education, commercial needs as locally as possible and supports job growth in Craftsbury.

Goals:

- The Select Board is encouraged to make energy efficiency and use of renewable fuels a priority for town operations.
- The Craftsbury Schools will continue demonstrating energy efficiency and use of renewable energy in their operations and encourage student knowledge in sustainability.
- In order to reduce the town's reliance on fossil fuels, the town of Craftsbury supports the development of renewable energy within its boundaries that is in compliance with state law and adheres to the town plan.
- Homeowners and business owners in Craftsbury are encouraged to reduce energy use, benefit from statewide energy efficiency programs and implement renewable alternatives such as methane digesters, geothermal, biodiesel, solar and wind energy.

Objectives:

- The Select Board will continue implementing the recommendations of the recent town hall energy audit. A percent reduction energy use goal will be established for all aspects of town operations and yearly progress in reducing energy use and the dollars saved will be included in the annual town report.
- The town will demonstrate its commitment to renewable energy by establishing benchmarks regarding percentage of renewable energy generated and used within the town.
- The Energy Committee will continue to collect data regarding the amount and cost of all energy used in Craftsbury.

- The Energy Committee, through surveys and other mechanisms, will gather information regarding alternative energy use in Craftsbury including the amount of energy produced.
- The Energy Committee will research and map renewable energy resources within the town's boundaries.
- The Craftsbury Energy Committee will partner with the Craftsbury Public Library, Sterling College, Craftsbury Schools, other institutions, and businesses to provide public outreach and education regarding energy conservation programs such as those offered through Efficiency Vermont and other efficiency and weatherization programs.
- The Energy Committee will undertake public outreach and education related to vehicle idling and "eco-driving".
- The Energy Committee will promote the State of Vermont's rideshare program, Go-Vermont and will explore creating a town wide rideshare program open to Craftsbury and adjoining towns' residents.
- The Energy Committee will encourage Craftsbury businesses to ask their employees to rideshare, bike and walk to work.
- The town asks that large event organizers encourage participants to rideshare and use other alternative modes of transportation to reduce traffic congestion, event parking demands and reduce energy consumption.

10: Education

According to the Beers Atlas, in 1878, there were 15 grammar school districts in the town of Craftsbury.

By the 1950's they had been consolidated with all students attending schools in Craftsbury Village and Craftsbury Common, grades 1-12. Craftsbury has one of the oldest continuous high schools in the State, established as a private academy in 1829 and converted to a public high school around 1920. If you consider the achievements of alumni, the community has offered a very rich educational experience for its children over the years.

From the 1960's through the current years, it seems a battle to see if the high school will survive. The Department of Education feels it is time to consolidate or close small schools due to the cost of education and the statewide decline in student numbers. The town of Craftsbury has been persistent in keeping its children in the local schools by consolidating the elementary schools in the early 1980's, building an addition to the campus on the Common, Minden Hall, in the late 1980's and now, in 2010, with a \$3,000,000 bond approved to restore the Academy building (built in 1869) to bring it up to code compliance.

Meanwhile, a Craftsbury Schools Community Collaboration committee, a sub-committee of the School Board, has assembled a group of Craftsbury residents, referred to as stakeholders, to participate in a collaborative process, with the intention of ensuring that all demographics and viewpoints about Craftsbury Schools are represented. The emphasis is on bringing diverse people with many different points of view into the same room to create proposals for the School Board to consider regarding the future path of Craftsbury Schools. The job of the Stakeholders is not to promote pet projects or lobby for personal agendas, but to listen carefully, share ideas, consider new information, ask questions and ultimately co-create a path forward.

Throughout the life of the school, the community, school boards, alumni and trustees have strongly supported the school to promote the proper learning environment for its students and the motto of our school has become:

--All students belong and all students will learn--

The Craftsbury Public Schools Vision statement reads:

The Craftsbury Schools will strive to:

- Use our size to maximize learning opportunities
- Hold our students to high academic and social standards
- Improve student learning through creative and best-teaching practices
- Address the individual learning needs of all students.
- Communicate with community members and foster community partnerships

Through generous financial support and work of the Craftsbury Academy Trustees, the alumni, the Booster Club, community members and a strong community school support network, the institution continues to offer exemplary educational opportunities to its students, along with availability of the Lamoille Area Technical Center, courses available at Sterling College, as well as Community College and some at Johnson State College.

In order to meet educational standards, the Academy Trustees have donated monies for matching funds to complement the curriculum and facilities in many areas. Most recently funds for the Academy restoration project have been designated to receive matching funds from the Freeman Foundation for replacement of windows. There is a continuing grant from the Byington Fund for the Library and others for books for graduates and scholarship awards.

The Craftsbury Schools serves 160 students, in grades K-12, per the 2010 school census. Numbers of tuition students vary year to year as opposed to when the towns of Irasburg and Albany sent their 7 -8 grades to attend and Wolcott students were plentiful. Irasburg and Albany built new K-8 schools removing their students in the 1990's and now the school has fewer students from Wolcott and some from Stannard as well as a few School Choice in but also a few School Choice out. Along with the reduction in tuition students there is the reduction due to the student decline and some home schooled and a few who pay tuition to attend other schools.

Year	Town Population	School Enrollment			Choice	
		Craftsbury	Tuition	Total	In	Out
1940	875	185	22	207	--	--
1950	709	155	18	173	--	--
1960	674	151	39	196	--	--
1970	632	154	70	224	--	--
1980	844	150	84	224	--	--
1990	994	191	53	244	--	--
2000	1,136	153	32	185	--	--
2010	1,206	145	13	160	2	3

Source: Craftsbury Town Annual Report at ten-year intervals; US Census

Goal:

Craftsbury Schools are student-centered schools and the common thread throughout our schools is respect for all people and property. Our schools will enable individuals to achieve a high, measurable level of academic and social competence through a variety of learning experiences. Students will learn in an inclusive, accepting, safe environment that prepares them to live full, independent and participatory lives.

Objectives:

- Maintain the facilities.
- Reflect the State requirements.
- Continue to support the vision of the school system.

11: Housing

Current Housing Demographics

According to the American Community Survey, single-family detached units account for 81.8% of the housing units in Craftsbury. The breakdown is as follows:

	Total Housing Units	Occupied	Vacant*	Percent Occupied
2000	572	427	145	74.7
2010	648	502	146	77.5

Source: 2010 Census *Vacant includes seasonal

Residential 1	Residential 2	Mobile Home/ No Landed	Mobile Home Land	Vacation 1	Vacation 2	Commercial Apartment
157	200	12	36	57	62	0

Source: Selected data from Municipal Listed Values and Equalized Values by Category, Vermont Department of Taxes, 1/6/2011

The population of Craftsbury has been steadily growing for the past 30 years with the addition of approximately 140 per decade. This growth spurt has been greater than the percentages seen in the rest of the county and state, which shows that Craftsbury has been a particularly desirable place to live.

	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
Craftsbury	674 -4.9%	632 -6.2%	844 33.5%	994 17.8%	1,136 14.3%	1,206 6.2%
Orleans County	20,143 -4.9%	20,153 .05%	23,440 16.3%	24,053 2.6%	26,277 9.3%	27,231 3.6%
Vermont	389,881 3.2%	444,330 14.1%	511,456 15%	562,758 10%	608,827 8.2%	625,741 2.8%

Source: US Census

Even more interesting, as shown in Table 11.3, there has been a jump in the first half of the decade in the number of occupants who have moved into town. This is apparent not only in town, but also throughout the county and state. A unique factor to Craftsbury may be the increased demand for apartment housing among Sterling College students, who rent apartments in town and in neighboring areas.

Table 11.3. Year Householder Moved Into Unit			
	Craftsbury	Orleans Cty	Vermont
2005 or later	34	2,043	55,984
2000-2004	126	2,364	63,233
1990 to 1999	89	2,797	60,389
1980-1989	88	1,574	34,498
1970-1979	50	983	19,749
1969 or earlier	39	771	16,522

Source: American Community Survey 2005-2009

Average sale prices

Like many towns in the Northeast Kingdom, Craftsbury has a sizeable share of second homes and vacation properties. There is a prevalent notion (not unique to Craftsbury) that sales of second homes and vacation properties – often considered to be “luxury” purchases – tend to drive up the cost of housing in general. A look at ten years of cumulative property transfer tax data (Table 11.4) does not bear this out. The table below reflects actual sale prices of property in Craftsbury over the past decade.

Table 11.4: Average Craftsbury Property Sale Price (# of valid sales in that year)

	Residential under 6 acres	Residential ≥6 acres	Vacation under 6 acres	Vacation ≥6 acres	Open Land
2000	\$62,600.00	\$169,200.00	83,750.00	\$33,333.33	\$50,100.00
2001	\$132,833.33	\$210,000.00	\$30,952.11	\$137,780.00	\$18,863.75
2002	\$102,250.00	\$115,500.00	\$132,250.00	\$365,000.00	\$54,163.75
2003	\$93,116.67	\$150,819.09	\$19,500.00	\$24,000.00	\$50,457.17
2004	\$145,823.08	\$185,194.29	\$102,000.00	\$117,500.00	\$445,000.00
2005	\$145,688.75	\$161,125.00	\$204,625.00	\$55,500.00	\$38,771.43
2006	\$129,633.33	\$258,066.67	\$85,500.00	\$108,850.00	\$60,868.87
2007	\$176,350.00	\$191,642.86	\$96,333.33	\$132,000.00	\$111,800.00
2008	\$81,666.67	\$385,000.00	\$23,269.31	\$86,750.00	\$44,000.00
2009	\$101,600.00	\$178,750.00	N/A	N/A	\$22,000.00
2010	\$91,750.00	\$265,171.00	N/A	N/A	\$34,000.00

Source: VT Department of Taxes

Affordability

The VT Department of Housing and Community Affairs housing policy states that housing is deemed “affordable” when the total cost of housing⁸ accounts for no more than 30% of the income of a household earning no more than 80% of the median county income. The affordability figure for Orleans County is \$812 per month (\$40,605 median household income; \$32,484 is the 80% figure; \$9,745.20 is 30% of the 80% figure, \$812.10 is this figure divided by 12 months).

Median housing costs in Craftsbury were \$1,259 per month for those with a mortgage, and \$583 for those without a mortgage.⁹

Using the statutory definition above, the home ownership for those with mortgages is not considered “affordable.” In fact, the American Community Survey 2005-2009, shows that 47.5% of Craftsbury homeowners with a mortgage paid 30% or more of their monthly income on housing. Similarly 45% of Craftsbury renters paid 30% or more of their household income for their housing. Many Sterling College students live in off-campus

Renters who pay at least 30% of their household income for gross rent:

Wolcott:	56.4%
Hardwick:	58.8%
Greensboro:	47.7%
Glover:	60.9%
Craftsbury:.....	45.0%
Elmore:	57.9%
Orleans County:	56.5%
Lamoille County:	52.4%

American Community Survey

⁸ “Total” by statutory definition, includes insurance, principal, interest, taxes, and condominium association fees (homeowners); rent, utilities, association fees (for renters).

⁹ American Community Survey, 2005-2009

housing, leaving some to wonder if the demand for apartments is driving up rents in Craftsbury. A look at the Census statistics on neighboring towns does not appear to bear this out.

Goal:

Encourage housing for residents at all income levels.

Objectives:

- Explore the availability of affordable housing options in Craftsbury.
- Establish a “resource” contact in the municipality who can direct people to forms of affordable housing in town, or at the very least, direct them to agencies that can help.
- Encourage the maintenance of houses of historic significance using incentive-based strategies, such as grants, tax credits, etc.
- Support our “special needs” housing population, such as the Craftsbury Community Care Center.

12: Transportation

Any history of Craftsbury is also a history of local transportation. From the 18th Century origins of the Bayley-Hazen Road, to the present time, Craftsbury's people have built and used a complicated system of roads.

This highway system reached its zenith in the late 19th century, when family farms had spread out to the far reaches of the township, and the villages were at their most populous. The road system went into decline during the second quarter of this century as an immediate result of the flood of 1927. Subsequent decline in farming was brought about, at least partly, by the increase in mechanization, decrease in available labor and remoteness of some of the small holdings when bulk carriers were introduced.

Class 1 Town Roads	0.00
Class 2 Town Roads	18.24
Class 3 Town Roads	4.71
State Highway 14:	7.96
Total Road System:	74.52

Source: VT AOT 2004

Today, the evidence of these lost roads are the several dead end lanes including Farrar's Auld Lang Syne, the Lee Harvey Road, Coburn Hill, Binghamton's Addy Lane, the Common Hill Road, Robert Anderson's pent road and the North Coburn Hill Road. Most of the town's ancient roads will not be added to the Town Highway map unless the landowner requests it. There is an outstanding issue regarding the public rights of the old road past Mission New England in northwest corner of town.

There is strong sentiment in the town for keeping the status quo on both new construction and current road surfaces. An inventory of uses of Craftsbury's town roads revealed that most, if not all of the Class 3 and 4 roads have year round multiple uses. A list, by no means exhaustive, of such uses, in addition to private autos, includes farm vehicles, snowmobiles, cross-country skiing, running, walking, birding, horseback riding, sledding and bicycling. The recreational aspects of our roads cannot be overstated. These roads convey travelers to our inns and resources and recreate both local residents and transient visitors. The maintenance of the surface of existing roads needs to be a continuing priority. It is recommended that as many roads as possible be maintained in their current gravel state.

This maintenance is contingent, in the long term, on the acquisition of adequate and affordable sources of quality gravel or contractual agreement with other towns. The town is currently dependent on private gravel holdings and the leasing of a stone crusher which makes usable the low quality gravel. The town has recently reserved the right to take gravel from the pit on South Craftsbury Road.

NVDA has performed periodic traffic counts in Craftsbury as a service to help gauge traffic flow patterns for transportation planning purposes. The following table represents the data collected from the past five years.¹⁰

Location	Year	Annual Average Daily Traffic	Avg. Peak Vol. AM	Avg. Peak in PM
Creek Rd. 0.15 miles north of Craftsbury Rd.	2005	747 vehicles	55 vehicles	63 vehicles
Wild Branch Rd. 0.21 miles west of Rte 14	2005	1,676 vehicles	132 vehicles	152 vehicles
S Craftsbury Rd, East of Vt Rte 16	2006	590 vehicles	52 vehicles	56 vehicles
S Craftsbury Rd, North of E Craftsbury Rd	2006	1,049 vehicles	95 vehicles	90 vehicles
Vt Rte 14 1000 ft. north of Wild Branch Rd	2007	1,736 vehicles	133 vehicles	156 vehicles
Wild Branch Rd 700 ft north of Vt Rte 14	2007	1,692 vehicles	124 vehicles	163 vehicles
Creek Rd 650 ft north of S Craftsbury Rd	2008	624 vehicles	49 vehicles	63 vehicles
S Craftsbury Rd 650 east of Vt Rte 14	2008	706 vehicles	49 vehicles	55 vehicles
Wild Branch Rd 850 west of Vt Rte 14	2008	1,670 vehicles	111 vehicles	150 vehicles
Creek Rd at Albany line	2009	187 vehicles	11 vehicles	16 vehicles
E Craftsbury Rd 500 ft east of Ketchum Hill Rd	2009	832 vehicles	66 vehicles	80 vehicles
S Craftsbury Rd 500 ft north of E Craftsbury Rd	2009	1,309 vehicles	92 vehicles	115 vehicles
Collinsville Rd 600 ft west of Coburn Hill Rd	2010	700 vehicles	48 vehicle	55 vehicles
N Craftsbury Rd 650 ft south of Vt Rte 14	2010	405 vehicles	32 vehicles	31 vehicles
Wild Branch Rd 800 ft south of Hatch Brook Rd	2010	1,410 vehicles	106 vehicles	129 vehicles

Also, the 2004 Craftsbury Community Survey revealed that the majority of residents (59.9%) either worked out of their homes or in the Craftsbury area. Nearly a quarter, however, indicated some significant commute time to disparate locations, including St. Johnsbury, Burlington, Newport, etc. This percentage is not entirely exact because of some very imprecise answers, such as “all over.” Another 10.6% commute to Hardwick

¹⁰ NVDA, Craftsbury’s regional planning commission, regularly performs traffic counts for its member towns. These counts are not an exact science and are only conducted one week out of the year (in this case, July of 2010). They therefore provide only a very general idea of traffic volumes in Craftsbury.

or Morrisville. The American Community Survey shows a mean travel time to work of 22.2 minutes (among those 16 years of age or more).

Bridges and Culverts

The town, because of its abundant streams and rivers, has many bridges to maintain. An inventory of bridges is shown in the adjacent box.

There are approximately 550 culverts in the 54 roads and loops in town. The Creek Road with 30, and the Collinsville Road with 36 having the most. Six roads have no culverts in the portions that are located in Craftsbury. There has been an effort to update many of the old culverts, with new and often larger ones installed every year. Nearly all of the culverts have been replaced.

The bridge at the bottom of Ketchum Hill by Ed Hodgdon's is closed, and that section of road has been downgraded to a legal trail.

The town's bridges and culverts were devastated during the 1927 flood. Most of the wooden and virtually all of the cement bridges date from that time. It is inevitable that as these structures age; they will need to be replaced. In 2005, a bridge and culvert inventory was completed, which will

be updated periodically to keep a complete record for maintaining these structures. This valuable information enables state agencies to formulate more effective long-term plans for infrastructure maintenance and improvements. The state passes this benefit along to participating communities by lowering the match requirement for state highway funding programs from 80/20 to 90/10 – which can amount to considerable savings for the community. Finally, bridge and culvert inventory data gives towns the information needed to comply with GASBE 34 (Government Accounting Standards Boards), which will require municipalities to report the value of their infrastructure assets, including bridges and culverts, in their annual financial reports on an accrual accounting basis.

Parking/Pedestrian Safety

Parking space in the town is a periodic concern. Current parking problems center around the Inn on the Common, Craftsbury Academy and the Town Hall.

Parking needs to accommodate an envisioned multi-use recreation area on the Common would best be addressed in the Recreation Plan.

Craftsbury's Bridges

Branch Rd near West Hill (Paul Brojous)
Ed Hodgdon's by the Creek Rd
Seaver Bridge
Whitney Brook (Creek Road)
Tanner Farm
Atwood
Don Darling
East Craftsbury Stone Bridge
Lawrence Griggs
Ray Reil
Jim Moffatt
Dill Mill Bridge (Village)
Calderwood Hill
Cemetery Road
Post Road
Whetstone Brook
Town Garage Road
Boutwell Hill (Diane Young)
Town Line (Tom Wells)
Daniels
Black River Road (recently replaced)

Regarding pressing transportation concerns, analysis of the 2004 Craftsbury Community Survey revealed a fairly strong interest in improved safety regulation and enforcement measures to address speeding (186 respondents) and parking (43 respondents). Additionally, 50 respondents expressed concern over overall traffic in town.

In 2005, a Pedestrian/Vehicle Safety Committee presented a number of recommendations to the School Board. These recommendations, which are an appendix to the Town Plan, provided a starting point for addressing safety concerns at the Academy. Since then, daytime parking in front of the school is now limited to north of the crosswalk. Handicap parking is being relocated to the north end also. This has freed the south end for deliveries and loading/unloading busses during the day. It is anticipated that this will be an ongoing process and regular evaluation of existing measures will be needed. Additionally, a similar process has been started with the Elementary students, staff, and parents.

Pedestrian and Cycling Access

The roads in Craftsbury offer a variety of on-road and backroad cycling adventures. The Town recognizes the importance of biking in the area. The Town has resources for bike rentals and tours. In fact, a bicycle loop trail has been mapped by the “Cycling in the Kingdom” pamphlet which includes a 10.9 mile loop called the “Craftsbury Classic.” A much longer on-road loop, starting from Hardwick, passes through Craftsbury along Route 14. Additionally a trail published in the Backroads Cycling Guide covers East Craftsbury Road, Ketchum Hill, Creek, and King Farm Roads, crosses the intersection of Town Highway 7 and Mill Village Road, near the Outdoor Center on Big Hosmer, and continues up Wylie Hill Road and finally leaves Craftsbury from Route 14 into Albany,

Other Infrastructure

Public Boat Launches: Dam on Little Hosmer Pond

Public Transit: Rural Community Transportation, Inc. (RCT) is the only public transit provider in the Northeast Kingdom. It also serves Lamoille County. RCT provides transportation for a fee on its fixed bus routes.

Railroad Service: Craftsbury has no rail line in the town, but is situated between the Lamoille Valley Railroad to the south and the Washington County Railroad to the northeast. The Lamoille Valley Railroad is no longer used as a working rail line and the entire length of the 96 mile railbed (between St. Johnsbury and Swanton) is currently being converted to a four-season recreational trail to be managed by the VAST (snowmobile) trail system.

Airports: The Morrisville-Stowe state airport serves the region's general aviation and charter needs (as well as being a center for glider rides and instruction). This is a small airport supporting charter and private aircraft only. Also the Caledonia Airport in Lyndonville and the Newport Airport are available for small-scale aviation services. For

national and international flights, this area is generally serviced by Burlington, VT, Manchester, NH and Montreal, Canada.

Goals:

- The Select Board will work to keep the Craftsbury roads safe for all users including pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Continue to evaluate and pursue the 2005 recommendations of the Pedestrian/Vehicle Safety Committee.
- Decrease the dependence of Craftsbury's residents on private automobile transportation whenever possible.
- Provide for the development and use of recreational transportation systems wherever feasible.
- Maintain a safe and passable network of roads at a cost affordable to the Town.

Objectives:

- Parking along the road between the Academy Building and the Industrial Arts Building should be discouraged during school hours.
- Consideration should be given to establishing a commuter parking area to encourage car-pooling.
- The Town should actively encourage the development of better bicycle-pedestrian pathways within the developed areas of Craftsbury, and the construction of bicycle-pedestrian lanes along paved town roads as they are improved or repaired.
- A sidewalk system should continue to be designed.
- Bikeways, walkways and scenic vistas, should such be identified through public hearings and open discussion.
- The Selectboard should continue to maintain the road system in town.

13: Recreation

Craftsbury is well known beyond town borders as a special place for year round recreation. While the town does have commercial recreational enterprises, there are also many informal, community organized and unorganized activities, creating a unique diversity of recreational opportunities. The beautiful landscape of Craftsbury, our natural resources and historic land use, add to the recreational attraction of the town.

The residents of Craftsbury value the recreation activities that are present, yet look forward to additional and improved activities in the future. Many residents benefit from these activities both as users as well as recipients of income from recreation. Along with job opportunities at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center, the revenue from non residents who visit and participate is beneficial for the general stores, inns, bed and breakfasts, restaurants and the local bookstore/cafe.

Close to three quarters of those residents responding to the 2004 Community Survey find that we have adequate facilities for recreation in town. The most popular additional public facilities desired are biking, hiking, playgrounds and swimming. The Survey respondents indicated that 61.7% are willing to use their own land for recreation and 55.6% are willing to have the public cross their land to access public areas.

Though still a rural town, Craftsbury has been experiencing growth, and development trends are indicating a continual conversion of land use. It is important that these trends do not significantly diminish the values and availability of outdoor recreational activities. Steps need to be taken to ensure that the town's current and future recreational resources are protected.

Craftsbury is fortunate to have two lakes/ponds completely within its boundaries, a third shared with Greensboro, and a fourth shared with Albany. There are several brooks and streams, as well as the Black River, for fishing, swimming, boating, etc.

The Craftsbury Outdoor Center maintains 85 kilometers of cross country ski trails, sculling camps, running camps and a fleet of rental mountain bikes. As noted in The Economy section of this plan, the Center was purchased in 2008 and reorganized as a nonprofit organization. The mission of the Craftsbury Outdoor Center is to support and promote participation and excellence in lifelong sports with a special focus on rowing, nordic skiing, and running; to use and teach sustainable practices; and to protect and manage the surrounding land, lake and trails.

Beyond the town borders there are multiple recreational opportunities such as the cross country ski trails of the Highland Lodge in Greensboro and boating and fishing lakes and rivers. Many of these recreational activities are connected to those in Craftsbury, creating a network beyond our town.

There is a town beach for public use on the east side of Lake Eligo. This facility is well used by both residents and nonresidents. There exists a need to upgrade the town beach. Volunteers on the Recreation Committee have been working to maintain the beach area, but more help is needed to ensure that the beach is kept clean and safe. Swimming lessons take place on Caspian Beach in neighboring Greensboro and are open to a limited number of Craftsbury children.

In winter, those same ponds and lakes make great places for cross-country skiing, ice fishing and snowmobiling. Thanks to the landowners in town who permit cross country and snowmobile trails on their land, there are many miles for a variety of winter sports. The Craftsbury Outdoor Center usually has plenty of snow for snowshoeing and cross country skiing and hosts a Nordic Ski Club that serves the town and neighboring communities. The VAST trails that traverse the town are maintained by the statewide snowmobile club, providing snowmobilers with hours of riding on maintained trails. These winter trails are a tremendous benefit to the residents and are highly valued.

As for organized activities, Craftsbury Academy has ongoing sports throughout the year. Since Craftsbury has a small school with community support, kids of all ages, sizes and abilities are able to participate in many activities. These include soccer, basketball, baseball and softball. An outdoor club has also recently been established that provides our youth with multiple outdoor activities.

Though several playgrounds exist throughout the community—elementary school, Presbyterian Church, Church on the Common and Community Care Center—none are truly sufficient for a variety of reasons. The Elementary School playground is somewhat limited for preschool children since it is designed for those children in school. The equipment is the very basic – slide, monkey bars, and a few swings. The best aspect of this playground is the environment which includes access to the woods, a great hill for sledding and an open field. The playgrounds at the churches are also very limited in equipment. The Presbyterian Church playground is geared to the children in the preschool program. While the Church on the Common playground has limited equipment, it is in proximity to the Craftsbury Public Library and is heavily used.

The Craftsbury Recreation Committee has been sponsoring a series of events on the Common in summer. The Town also sponsors the “Antiques and Uniques” Fair and musical events during the summer. The bands are paid for by the Village Improvement Society. There is Old Home Day, a Halloween Party, and a New Year’s Movie Night for all young people in town.

Although the recreation fields are fabulous for spring and fall sports, the town needs to update the Craftsbury Academy school gym, a resource that all residents utilize. The Academy also has outdoor tennis courts that need to be upgraded. Outdoor tennis courts, basketball hoops, and playgrounds need priority consideration.

Overall, it would be helpful to have more social activities, like dances and other types of gatherings with new ways for our teens and adults to interact outside of school. This is especially relevant for those who do not participate in school sports and would serve many in the community, including those who are homeschooled.

Goal:

To maintain, enhance and promote recreation opportunities for all Craftsbury residents and visitors.

Objectives:

- Explore creation of biking paths throughout the community.
- Though available at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center, explore options for expanding mountain bike trails.
- Planning for future playgrounds should be coordinated by the Recreation Committee with cooperation from churches, school and libraries.
- Maintain the Eligo beach.
- The Craftsbury Outdoor Center has mapped its recreational trails and has shared them with regional planning commission for use. Encourage sharing of mapping data layers of recreational uses and work to keep the information current.
- Educate landowners on the potential uses of private land for public recreational access, and find solutions to the abuse of private and public property.
- Publicize the events that are currently planned by the Recreation Committee and encourage the Committee's leadership in improving and upgrading both the activities and the facilities.

14: Adjacent Towns & the Region

Craftsbury (2010 Census population: 1,206)

Craftsbury has its own unique and attractive characteristics as a town adding to the high quality of life for the residents. Several key features set it apart from the area, such as the historic Craftsbury Common, but the rural nature of the town also allows it to blend seamlessly into the surrounding area. In fact, beyond the signs identifying town lines, it is barely noticeable when one enters or exits the borders of the town. The geography of the area plays a part in this, as the Lowell Mountains to the west of Craftsbury form a slight valley rich with beautiful waterways, wooded hillsides and hidden nooks for houses. There are many dirt roads connecting Craftsbury with the surrounding towns and this plays a part in keeping development patterns rural. In addition, the village of Hardwick serves as one of the main hubs for the area and provides the towns with essential services. The close proximity of Hardwick thus allows the surrounding towns to retain their rural character.

Although Craftsbury lies at the convergence of three counties (Lamoille, Caledonia, and itself in Orleans), the development trends for these adjacent municipalities and regions seem to blend agreeably with the development patterns in the town. In fact, the Craftsbury town survey seems to suggest an equal sense of reliance and interconnectedness with neighboring communities in Lamoille and Caledonia. Morrisville (288 responses) and Hardwick (137 responses) were the primary destinations for grocery shopping. Similarly, Hardwick (207 responses) and Morrisville (175 responses) were primary destinations for healthcare. While the vast majority of respondents indicated that they worked out of their homes, these two towns collectively provided employment opportunities for more than 10% of respondents.

Craftsbury also maintains ties to neighboring communities in other indirect ways: Of all nonresidents in the survey, nearly a third (almost all of whom lived in Vermont) considered their Craftsbury homes to be their investments. In fact, 12 non-resident respondents were living in nearby towns: Albany, Glover, Hardwick, Johnson, and Hyde Park.

Orleans County:

Albany (2010 Census population: 941)

Albany shares much in common with Craftsbury. A major point of entry into Craftsbury is Route 14 thru Albany. The two village centers lay within five miles of each other and therefore both towns rely upon each other's services for day to day activities. Great Hosmer Pond is shared by the two towns. Albany has no Town Plan or Zoning Bylaws to describe the land use patterns and recommendations for the town.

Glover (2010 Census population: 1,122)

Glover and Craftsbury only touch on the northeastern corner of Craftsbury and they share just two “back” roads: Andersonville Road and Mud Island Road. This area is very rural with residential homes and quite a few farms. Glover adopted its very first Town Plan in 2006, and its development patterns are consistent with those of Craftsbury. Glover has no Zoning Bylaws, but it does have freestanding Flood Hazard Regulations.

Greensboro (2010 Census population: 762)

Greensboro shares much in common with Craftsbury. The village of East Craftsbury is essentially located at the border of Greensboro on one of Greensboro’s main roads called the Craftsbury Road. Most of East Craftsbury has been conserved by the Vermont Land Trust which will limit any future development in this area. In addition, Route 14 runs through the corner of Greensboro alongside Lake Eligo, connecting both towns to Hardwick. There is very limited development potential along this lake in either town. The objectives stated in the Greensboro Town Plan are consistent with those of Craftsbury: to retain the rural qualities, to preserve the waters, to expand the tax base, to encourage affordable housing, and to develop services for residents. The Greensboro Town Plan indicates the willingness of the town to work cooperatively with Craftsbury on cross-border issues. In addition, Greensboro states that the town would like to encourage growth in the existing two villages, which do not directly border Craftsbury and therefore do not pose any burden on Craftsbury. Greensboro has also enacted policies to preserve its lakes, including Lake Eligo, which is shared by the two towns. Specifically, Greensboro has enacted zoning bylaws around their lake using a lakeshore district designed to regulate the area for the protection of surface water resources and recreational uses. Also, Greensboro has encouraged the Eligo Lake Association to install and monitor a Milfoil wash point which should assist both towns with fighting off this invasive aquatic species which has rooted itself in the lake.

Caledonia County:

Hardwick (2010 Census population: 3,010)

Although Craftsbury does not actually touch Hardwick’s town line, the close proximity (within a mile south on Route 14) and the services provided by Hardwick greatly influence the town of Craftsbury. Hardwick acts as a hub for the surrounding towns due to its location where major state routes join both north-south and east-west. Hardwick’s industrial and commercial infrastructure are being developed. However, due to its distance from major interstate routes and airports, the town does not expect to attract large corporations, but rather to expand and attract local and regional businesses, primarily those in the value-added agricultural processing sector. The town has two industrial parks, and one is already at capacity. Both the Town Plan and Zoning Bylaws are set up to encourage growth in the existing centers and to maintain the traditional patterns of rural settlement on the outlying areas of town. Should Hardwick grow economically, there could be results seen in additional residential development in Craftsbury.

Lamoille County:

Eden (2010 Census population: 1,323)

Eden lies to the west of Craftsbury and as the Eden Town Plan explains, both of these towns are rural and conflicts in land use are not expected. In addition, the travel is easier moving north-south than east-west over the East Hill Road/Collinsville Road. However, this western route out of Craftsbury does connect the Town to Route 100, a major north-south regional truck route carrying goods from Canada and the Northeast Kingdom south to Interstate 89. Eden has no Zoning Bylaws.

Hyde Park (2010 Census population: 2,954)

Hyde Park touches on Craftsbury's southwestern corner. Only Hatch Brook Road connects the two towns which will not amount to much development pressure. This corner of Hyde Park holds the Green River Reservoir which assures that there will not be much development here. Hyde Park's zoning map shows this as a rural residential district which has 5 acre minimum lot sizes which "intends to decrease the possibility of residential development conflicting with traditional working landscapes."

Wolcott (2010 Census population: 1,676)

The town of Wolcott is located along the southern border of Craftsbury. Along with a few other roads, these two towns share the North Wolcott Road which follows the Wild Branch River of the Lamoille Watershed and connects Craftsbury to Route 15, the major east-west corridor of northern Vermont. As the Wolcott Town Plan states, many commuters from Craftsbury use the North Wolcott Road to reach employment opportunities in the south. Wolcott Zoning Bylaws and Subdivision Regulations, which were amended in 2006, specify a zoning district that, with the exception of village areas, includes all land within 1,000 feet of the edge of the Route 15 right-of-way. Most uses are conditionally approved in this district, and design and siting of accesses are monitored to ensure that any development will not create an impediment or danger for the traveling public. Wolcott's Zoning Bylaws and Subdivision Regulations are consistent with the development patterns of Craftsbury.

Regional Plan (Northeast Vermont Development Association, Adopted 2006)

(NVDA serves the three counties of Caledonia, Essex & Orleans with a 2010 Census population of 66,469)

NVDA's Regional Plan cites Craftsbury as a classic example of a traditional Vermont "Village Center," which is typically characterized by:

- Denser residential patterns than its surrounding area

- Businesses that mainly serve the local population (small stores, dining and some services), as well as visitors from outside of the region (inns, bed and breakfasts, and recreation)
- Emergency services
- Community buildings, such as libraries, schools, town halls, churches, and clubs.

The development pattern of compact village centers surrounded by less populated rural areas is certainly considered to be a hallmark of Vermont's approach toward land use. The Regional Plan's development goals most likely to impact Craftsbury are as follows:

- Traditional development patterns will be maintained, and new development will be encouraged to follow these patterns.
- New development should be compatible with existing land uses and agree with local plans.
- Historic structures, community facilities, and other buildings will be preserved and adapted for reuse as necessary.
- Craftsbury's development patterns and recommendations for future land use patterns are consistent with the region.

Appendix A: Pedestrian Safety/Vehicle Committee Report

Recommendations to the Craftsbury School Board

February 23, 2005

Short Term Recommendations

1. Daytime parking in front of the school is now limited to north of the crosswalk. Handicap parking is being relocated to the north end also. This has freed the south end for deliveries and loading/unloading busses during the day. Additionally, parking along the road between the Academy Building and the Industrial Arts Building has been discouraged with some success. These practices should be continued.
2. Cars are frequently parked in the fire lane leading to the rear of the school. It is recommended that signage be posted to identify this space as "No Parking, Fire Lane." The fire department may be able to assist with this signage. Additional deterrents such as cones may be necessary. The fire lane at the north end of the Common is also frequently blocked. Additional measures at this space are also recommended.
3. Parking along the Common will remain available to students, faculty, staff and visitors for the near future. It is recommended that parking at the intersection corners be prevented. This parking is a visual obstruction to cars traveling through these intersections and to pedestrians crossing the road. A recommendation should be made to the Select Board to post signage such as "No Parking Here to Corner" at these intersections.
4. Parking during nighttime activities at the school is recognized as a particularly hazardous situation. It is recommended that during nighttime activities parking immediately in front of the school, north of the crosswalk be limited to handicap parking and south of the crosswalk kept vacant. During basketball games, the space north of the crosswalk should be reserved for the visiting team's bus. Posting of the area immediately in front of the school with signs limiting parking (e.g., "No parking after 4:00 pm today") early on the day of a game or other event along with cones placed in the vacated spots will hopefully help.
5. It is recommended that steps be taken to educate students, staff, faculty and community members of the parking and pedestrian restrictions (e.g., use of the crosswalk) through Monday morning assembly, the school newsletter, and possibly informational tickets on car windows. Student Council may be able to assist with this effort. Announcements could also be made at public events.

Long Term Recommendations

6. Current capacity to park vehicles in front of the school and around the Common is limited and will be further reduced by the short term measures recommended and potentially by the relocation of grades K through 4 to the Academy campus. It is recommended that the Dustan parking area be improved to accommodate all students, faculty and staff during the school day and at nighttime events. These improvements would include the addition of lighting at the lot and along the existing path. This lighting will be turned on and off manually as needed. The existing path varies in width and is approximately 6'5" at its narrowest. Widening of the path to allow clearing of snow with a tractor during the winter months may not be necessary if a snow blower attachment is purchased for the school's small snow blower. The existing concrete appears to be in good condition. The distance from the parking area to the school is 215'. Once this lot is functional parking in front of the school would be limited to visitors, handicap parking, as well as faculty and staff that must use their vehicle during the school day. The impact of moving the majority of parking to the Dustan lot will have to be considered in the planned school renovation.

7. Recommend to the Select Board that additional signage and warning lights be installed. Signage identifying reduced speed ahead, school zone signs with timed, blinking yellow lights should be installed in a suitable place before the sports fields when approaching from the north and before the Inn on the Common when approaching from the south. Additionally, a blinking yellow light at the crosswalk in front of the school is a possibility. This light would be timed to flash at the beginning and end of the school day. All of these lights may be equipped with a manual override button for other times of the day, as appropriate.
8. Parking along the north end of the Common presents a hazard to pedestrians who must walk behind these vehicles, while they are attempting to back out, to reach their own vehicles. The northwest corner of the Common might be filled to road level to provide additional parking as a future option. It is recommended that a walk way be provided between the Common and the parked cars to allow safer access to this area.
9. Recommend to the Select Board that a sidewalk be built along the east side of the road between the Academy Building and the Post Office. It is anticipated that this sidewalk would continue, at some point in time, along the west side of the road and Sterling College as far as the Inn on the Common. This more extensive view of the sidewalks goes beyond the scope of this committee. The Planning Committee and Select Board have been provided an overview of our efforts in this area. There is a possibility of funding from the State of Vermont for this work.

Additional Considerations: The following ideas were also considered by the committee and not recommended at this time.

1. Diagonal parking adjacent to the Common on one or both sides of the North end of the Common was considered to allow easier accessibility of these parking spots and increased capacity for parking. Maintaining two way traffic in this road makes any narrowing of the available space restrictive. Consideration was also given to making travel around the Common one way only.
2. Consideration was given to reducing speed in front of the school and throughout the Common area with the use of speed bumps narrowing curbs, reduced posted speed, and increased police presence.
3. Use of a crossing guard during busy periods such as the beginning and end of the school day or during evening events was considered. This remains an option for the future.

Future Work: These recommendations provide a starting point for addressing safety concerns at the Academy. It is anticipated that this will be an ongoing process and regular evaluation of existing measures will be needed. Additionally, a similar process has been started with the Elementary students, staff, and parents.