

CRAFTSBURY, VT



TOWN PLAN

Adoption Date: May 16, 2006

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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 Homer 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. A large percentage of Craftsbury residents who work are employed in the Craftsbury area (almost fifty percent).

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.

From 2004 Community Survey:

As a place to live I find Craftsbury is:

Excellent	212 (56.2%)
Good	135 (35.8%)
Fair	27 (7.2%)
Poor	1 (0.3%)
Good-Excellent	2 (0.5%)

WHY? (*Analysis of written responses*):

<u>Social Aspects:</u>	<u># times cited</u>
Sense of "Community"	45
"People"	41
"Friendly"	12
<u>Rural Aspects:</u>	
Physical beauty of environment	45
"Tranquility," "Peace," or "Quiet"	27
"Rural" Qualities	19
"Small Town"	10

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.

Maps for the Town Plan:

All of the maps adopted with this Town Plan are available in the Craftsbury Town Clerk's Office. 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.

Land Use

Craftsbury still has a working landscape with many working farms and several managed forests. Approximately 1500 acres of land is conserved in town through easements and other methods. In addition, over 49% of the farm and forest acreage in town is in the Current Use Program (Use Value Appraisal Program) which ensures 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. 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. 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 Craftsbury Community Survey polled the residents on a variety of land use issues. The respondents have provided a strong sense on how the landscape can be conserved and our sense of community be retained:

- 54.1% prefer a small residential community with limited business and industry.
- 68.4% prefer a residential community with most of the land in forest and agriculture.
- 63.9% prefer only small and clean development.
- 82.4% prefer protection of agriculture land with tax incentives, conservation easements and Current Use are the most frequent methods stated.
- 83.8% prefer protection of forest land with tax incentives, Current Use and conservation easements are 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. 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 complete community which is Craftsbury has also attracted many new homes over the past ten years. Approximately 20% of the current housing has been built since 1993. The new construction has occurred throughout the town. Several questions on housing show mixed messages with 56.5% preferring no zoning and 66.2% prefer no restrictions on the number of

From 2004 Community Survey:

What should Craftsbury be in the future?
A small residential community with limited business and industry 212 (54.1%)

What should Craftsbury be in the future?
A residential community with most of the land in forest and agriculture 268 (68.4%)

With regard to commercial/industrial development:
We need only small and clean development 232 (63.9%)

Should agricultural land be protected?
Yes 308 (82.4%)

Should forest land be protected?
Yes 311 (83.8%)

*Only the top answers per question shown here
 For further data look to Appendix D

homes that can be built in a given year. However, 59.8% think it is reasonable to prohibit certain types of land use in some parts of town while permitting them in other parts and 55.9% find it is reasonable to specify minimum amounts of acreage on which to build homes in different parts of Craftsbury¹.

Goal:

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

Objectives:

1. To encourage and direct desirable growth using local non-regulatory and incentive-based tools rather than zoning.
2. Consider village center designation for the three historic districts.
3. Other objectives are listed in each following section.

¹ Refer to Appendix A: Craftsbury Community Survey Results for more information.

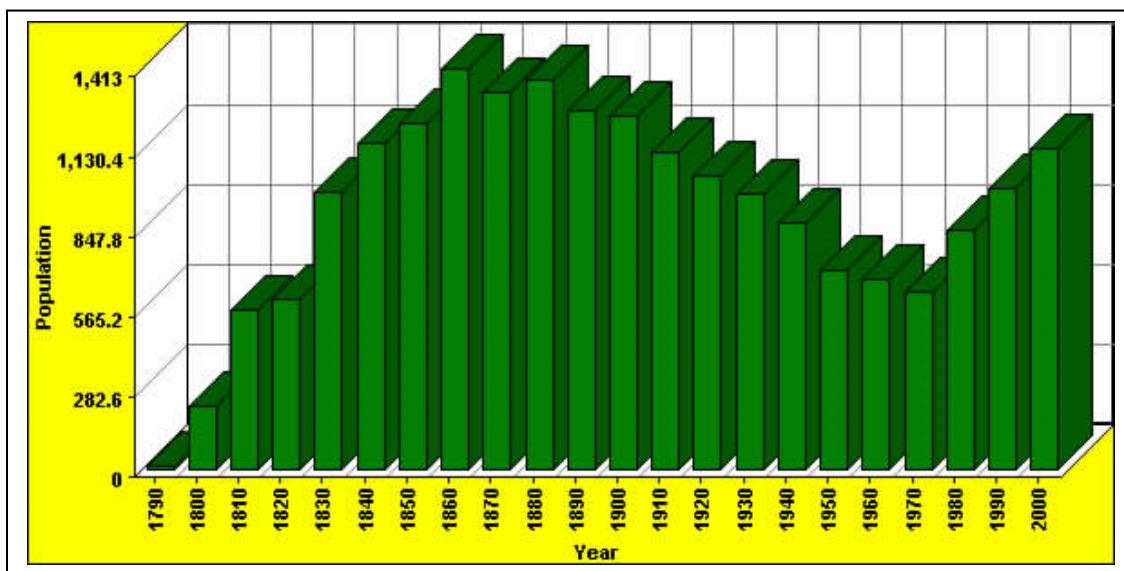
Cultural Aspects

Craftsbury has a rich cultural past and continues to provide many diverse cultural experiences for its community. It had 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 diverse groups of artists have chosen 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 groups and literary groups. Over many years people have moved to Craftsbury and brought with them experiences and talents. There have been theater groups, camps, prep schools, music ensembles and choruses. All of these lead the way to a rich cultural heritage for 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. Currently the town is seeing a growth in population with the 2000 census showing a population of 1,136. The town continues to grow and in 2004 many new families have moved into the community. This growth can be seen in new businesses, social organizations, growth in already existing businesses and the large classes entering Craftsbury Schools.

Table 1: Craftsbury Population Growth Chart 1790-2000



There are five libraries in town and many social organizations, giving the town resources for growth and the education of its citizens. The Craftsbury schools host two libraries, which are open to the public but generally serve the school community. The Brown Library of Sterling College has a collection geared to environmental and agricultural studies and is also open to the public. There are two public libraries, J.W. Simpson Memorial Library and the

Craftsbury Public Library. The Simpson Library in East Craftsbury, is housed in an old store and has many interesting artifacts as well as a varied collection of books. The Craftsbury Public Library, located on Craftsbury Common, has just moved from a small building on the east side of the common to a newly built library on the northwest side of the common. The library is now large enough to be a community space, with many using it for meetings or programs. The library provides early literacy programs including story hours, parent training, elementary age book discussion programs and summer reading programs. It also presents adult programming including, poetry workshops, slide shows, movies, computer and Internet training, public access computers, lectures and classes.

There are three churches in town: 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. There is also the Craftsbury Friends Quaker Worship Group, which meets in the Brown Library Reading Room of Sterling College. The churches have been providing places 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, and summer camps.

The Searchlight Club is an organization started in 1908 by several farmwomen and teachers at Craftsbury Academy for the purpose of self-education. The group meets monthly and members present papers on chosen subjects. They also 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 for other organizations such as the Historical Society and school programs.

The Horse and Buggy Club was started in the 1960's as a social organization. They met for fellowship at homes or at the United Church on the Common. They shared a meal and often had programs or games. They started the very successful Fiddler's Contest which began a huge town event, earning money for the schools. They continue to support activities in town like the school and the 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 barbecue 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 Recreation Committee of the town sponsors Old Home Day, a fishing derby, and swimming lessons. They have been providing family entertainment evenings with biking, roller-skating and ice-skating in the winter.

The school received a federal grant for children in the town called the 21st Century Learning Grant, which has been funding after-school activities and summer program for children and the community.

The Craftsbury Chamber Players is a non-profit organization organized in 1966, which provides concerts in Hardwick and Burlington during the summer. They also present mini-

concerts in the Craftsbury area free to all residents. They have recently offered music classes free of charge for children and adults in Craftsbury and the surrounding towns. 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, Shakespeare Camp, Circus Smirkus Camp and Craftsbury Music Day Camp.

Craftsbury Community Care Center is an elderly care facility in East Craftsbury, which houses approximately 18 residents. It is also a source of cultural activities. The center hosts a variety of programming for the public as well as its residents, such as book discussion series, music programs and art exhibits.

The Tamarack Gallery is an art space in East Craftsbury and hosts exhibits and events and is open to the public. The Brown Library of Sterling College also hosts art exhibits.

A query of Bright Futures Search Provider directory reveals that there are 4 *licensed programs* within 20 miles of Craftsbury: Care Bear Day Care Center in Hardwick; Creative Minds Preschool and Early Childhood Program (an A.M. program only), Newport Town; Appletree Learning Center, Stowe; and Play and Learn Daycare and Preschool Center, Lyndon. A *licensed program* is defined by the state as a childcare program that offers care to children in an approved location. Licensed programs include early childhood programs, school-age cares, and even some family homes. The program is inspected by the Department of Labor and Industry's Fire Safety Inspectors, and must obtain a Water and Wastewater Disposal Permit from the Agency of Environmental Conservation. Such a facility is considered to be a *public building*.

A query to the same online resource reveals that there are 15 *home daycares* registered with the State of Vermont located within 10 miles of Craftsbury. None of them, however, are actually in Craftsbury. A *registered family child care home* is defined by the state as a child care program approved only in the provider's residence, which is limited to a small number of children based on specific criteria, e.g. no more than six full-time children.

There are a fluctuating number of at-home daycare facilities in town as well as the East Hill Preschool in the East Craftsbury Presbyterian Church.

Goals:

1. Community groups will communicate and coordinate activities and work together to develop grants to support each other.
2. The town will continue to support and encourage opportunities for cultural and artistic experiences for all ages in the community.
3. The town will have educational opportunities available for all ages from birth to old age.

Objectives:

1. Have the common, school and public spaces available to community groups for cultural activities.
2. Continue to support the local libraries' efforts to meet the informational needs of the community as well as to have Adult Basic Educational programs and early education opportunities available to all.
3. Study the possibility of a performance space within the community.
4. Study the continuous availability of daycare facilities.

The Economy

Craftsbury is a bustling place now with enormous growth in commerce. Currently there are 2 general stores, 5 auto repair businesses, 3 inns, 4 bed and breakfasts, 14 dairy farms, 3 organic farms selling meat and produce, a blueberry farm, a llama farm, a goat farm, a slaughterhouse, 2 Christmas tree farms, several nurseries and landscape businesses, a book store, a wool shop, 2 pottery shops, several antique stores. There is a weekly farmer's market on Craftsbury Common, which takes place May through Oct. Many farms as well as individuals have maple sugaring businesses and tree farms. The town also has construction businesses, carpenters, furniture makers and a sawmill. Logging is still an important source of employment for many residents of Craftsbury. There are a growing number of people working in their homes with computer-based businesses. There are classes in dance, yoga, painting, music, and pottery available through local performers and artists.

From 2004 Community Survey:	
<u>I am:</u>	
Retired	110 (40.1%)
Farmer	21 (7.7%)
Self-employed	92 (33.6%)
Homemaker	11 (4.0%)
Unemployed	4 (1.5%)
Student	36 (13.1%)
<u>Employed in*:</u>	
Education	58
Business	54
Other	27
Government	13
Nonprofit work	12
Healthcare	9
Construction	6
Arts	4
Disabled	3
*Some gave multiple answers	

Tourism has become an economic addition to the community. 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, an inn on Big Hosmer, also provides cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, mountain-biking, canoeing, swimming and sculling for the community. The Center has been a resource for people in town and the schools have been able to enrich their athletic programs with the help of the Center.

Sterling College is an important business in the community. It was first a prep school but in 1969 it became a one-year college for experiential education. Over the past 35 years it has brought teachers and student and their families to the community. In addition, the school has brought business to our local merchants, given educational opportunities for the community and provided students for mentoring in the elementary and high school and for community service. The school is now a four-year college with an emphasis on agricultural and environmental education.

Goals:

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

From 2004 Community Survey:	
Are there adequate job opportunities in the area?	
No	195 (67%)
Yes	96 (33%)

Objectives:

1. Look into the possibility of a broadband Internet access for the town to encourage small business growth.
2. Meet with representatives of the surrounding towns to foster more jobs in Craftsbury and within the larger community.
3. Encourage the development of diversified agriculture and explore the role the community can have in the development of bio-fuels and other new agricultural products.

Agriculture

Management

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 Soil Conservation Service, are changing 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 hay 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. As average farm size increased, most land from farms in Craftsbury that went out was taken on (either purchased or rented) by neighboring farm.

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 12 sugar operations, with 18,000 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.

Trends in Agriculture

- The increase in average number of cows and in acreage per farm is likely to

continue. Currently, there are approximately 1,700 cows in the town.

- 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.
- 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.

Goals:

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

Objectives:

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

<u>From 2004 Community Survey:</u>	
Should agricultural land be protected?	
Yes	308 (82.4%)
No	66 (17.6%)
<u>If Yes, HOW? (Analysis of written responses):</u>	
<u>Through Incentives:</u>	<u># times cited</u>
Tax Incentives	41
VT Current Use Program	28
Conservation Easements (Land Trusts)	31
General Assistance to Farmers	9
<u>Through Regulations:</u>	
By not allowing land to be developed	16
With Zoning	10
Increased Regulations	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 Historical 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.

No attempt has been made since 1983 to update the information contained in the register.

The Craftsbury Historical Society has recently restored the Babcock House and uses this structure for 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. Several steps can be taken during the next few years to educate the public and to move towards assuring that the structures of historical significance are maintained.

Goal:

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

Objectives:

1. 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.
2. Explore the possibility of preparing a comprehensive history of the Town of Craftsbury.

3. Explore the possibility of publishing a booklet illustrating the historic structures that have been preserved to date.
4. Encourage the maintenance of both public and private buildings of historic significance.
5. Seek historic preservation grants to supplement private funds available for maintaining the uniqueness of Craftsbury.
6. Update the information contained in the register of historic places and provide for a formal review of the content of the Register at least once every decade.
7. Consider the appointment of a Historical Commission to work towards accomplishing the goal and objectives of the Town Plan.
8. Explore various financial incentives including rehabilitation of historic buildings.
9. Update the inventory of properties of historical significance and encourage their maintenance and preservation.
10. Consider village center designation for the three historic districts.

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, supports mixed forests, cedar swamps, wetlands and other interesting natural communities. Over 80% of Craftsbury residents who responded to the 2004 Craftsbury Community Survey would like to see this abundance of forestland and productive agricultural lands protected either through incentives or regulations.

From 2004 Community Survey:	
Should agricultural land be protected?	
Yes	308 (82.4%)
No	66 (17.6%)
Should forest land be protected?	
Yes	311 (83.8%)
No	60 (16.2%)

Craftsbury's "natural heritage" includes natural resources such as productive forests, clean waters, healthy wildlife populations, core and connective habitat, rare species, significant natural communities and a working landscape that provides the opportunities to hunt, fish, trap, bird watch and work 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. Consideration needs to be given to the use of our landscape so not to degrade water quality, fragment wildlife habitat or otherwise impair our appreciation of our natural heritage.

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 has also prepared extensive information on the soils throughout Craftsbury.

Other important information for us to consider is the information that we, as citizens, may gather on the ground. This can include ground surveying of our water resources in our local watershed, forest resources and open space. Information gathered by trained, citizen tracking groups, such as Keeping Track, Inc, may also prove valuable in ascertaining local wildlife species and their core and connective habitat. The collection of such primary information is very time consuming and maybe too large of a project for the Craftsbury Planning Commission to undertake at this time. An attempt to collect some of this information is available in the 1989 Report of the Natural Resources Sub-committee

From 2004 Community Survey:	
Are you concerned about the effect on the environment of further development?	
Yes	320 (81.6%)
No	72 (18.4%)
If yes, which concerns:	total responses*
Water quality and supply	237
Pollution of water sources	259
Disappearance of Natural & Open areas	276
Disappearance of Agricultural areas	259
Wildlife habitat protection	253
<i>*respondents gave multiple answers Only top concerns listed here</i>	

to the Craftsbury Planning Commission.

The following is a general overview of the natural resources information available for the town of Craftsbury from the state agencies. This information is also supplemented with data regarding the acreage in the Use Value Appraisal Program (Current Use Program). Finally, the 1989 report is available in the Town Clerk's Office to provide a further understanding of the natural resources that were inventoried over 15 years ago by local residents.

Natural Resources of Craftsbury that are covered in this plan include soils, water, forests, wildlife habitat and State lands.

Soils

Geology is the natural resource foundation of Craftsbury and determines what resources are present, what vegetation grows and how water flows. The immediate relationship to the geology of town is the soil resources.

The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service in the 2002 Orleans County Soil Survey cataloged Craftsbury soils. The NRCS soil surveys furnish soil maps and interpretations needed in giving technical assistance to farmers and ranchers; in guiding other decisions about soil selection, use, and management; and in planning research and disseminating the results of the research. They are also used in educational programs about soil use and conservation.

There are eighteen soils maps, covering the town of Craftsbury. There are several soil types found in the town. To list each and their characteristics would be too large of a task for this report. The 2002 Orleans County Soil Survey has been completed. A description of effect of soil on land use practices is provided in the survey. This information is a great resource in determining the best uses of the town's soil. Further information can be obtained through the USDA NRCS in Newport.

Erosion of soil can be a problem. The NRCS can help to identify highly erodible land and provides technical advice and some funds to help in soil stabilization. Many of the town's farms have identified their highly erodible land. There are some cases of streambank erosion, which may require future identification and attention.

Soil pollution might be a 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 sources. The Vermont Division of Water Quality is working through the Basin Planning Program to assess streams and rivers for such pollutants. The Lamoille River Watershed Plan is nearly complete. Appendix A shows some of the suggested strategies for addressing water quality within the Lamoille River Watershed and specifically issues to be addressed in Craftsbury.

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 are statewide increases in beaver flowages. The changing nature of these bodies of water, however, makes them difficult to map. Such difficulty should not detract from the importance of beaver dams and ponds to flood protection, water supply and wildlife.

The spread of non-native invasive species has become a concern in our watersheds. Specifically, Eurasian Water Milfoil has been detrimental to the health of our waterbodies. The Eligo Lake Association with a joint effort of Craftsbury and Greensboro has installed and continually monitors a Milfoil wash point which should assist both towns with fighting off this invasive aquatic species which has rooted itself in the lake.

Portions of some streams, especially the Black River and the Wild Branch, suffer from severe streambank erosion. Streambank 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, streambank vegetation, livestock damage, and previous strewn 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 protection².

² VT ANR Riparian Buffers and Corridors: Technical Papers, 2005 and Chase, V., L. Demming, and F. Latawiec. 1995. Buffers for Wetlands and Surface Waters: A Guidebook for New Hampshire Municipalities.

Craftsbury Academy students have been on the rivers and streams throughout town, exploring river ecology and learning how to assess the biological health of the river. Sterling College students have also studied many of the local streams feeding into the Black river as well as 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.

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. Most of this resource is used in Vermont and adjacent states, yet some timber is sold for use in the international market. There are many active sugar bushes with approximately 18,000 taps in town. There are also several active deer wintering areas in town that have been mapped (see Deer Wintering Area 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 Use Value Appraisal Program

The Vermont Use Value Appraisal Program, also known as the Current Use Program, is an opportunity for those Craftsbury residents who either farm land or manage woodlands to be taxed at the current use. Applicants must be eligible. Agricultural enrollment requires that the landowner is a farmer as defined by the IRS. Enrollment in the forestland program requires that the applicant owns 25 acres or more and has an approved forest management plan.

In 2004, there are 98 parcels, out of the 726, enrolled in the Current Use Program, 13% of the taxed parcels. The total number of acres in Craftsbury that are enrolled in the program equals 11,723.39, representing approximately 49% of the acreage in the town.

Enrollment in the Current Use Program is one form of natural resource conservation. Those landowners who are enrolled are keeping the land open and productive within the town. While the landowner may be realizing a tax benefit, we all are benefiting with open vistas, clean air and water, wildlife habitat, and potentially recreational opportunities on these private lands.

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 either as state-significant natural communities or rare, threatened or endangered plant or animal species. This information is reviewed in permitting processes such as Act 250.

Twenty-three Natural Heritage sites have been catalogued and mapped throughout Craftsbury. These sites include plant communities such as northern white cedar swamp and sedge meadow. Significant plant species include several types of lady's slipper (Showy Lady's Slipper and Small Yellow Lady's Slipper), Straight-leaf Pondweed, Swamp Valerium, Shining Rose and Swamp Valerian. Animals include Common Loon, Rusty Blackbird, Black-back Woodpecker and the Longed Ear Owl.

The Natural Heritage sites are protected information because of the sensitivity of the natural resource. If residents may think there are natural communities or animal species of great significance on their land, they can consult the Non-game Natural Heritage Program through the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Critical 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 a prime example 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 areas - 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 Deer Wintering Areas 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 both bear production and seasonal bear habitats, 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

State Lands

Three parcels of land are in state ownership. Two are streambank parcels associated with the Black River. One includes both sides of the river for several rods north of the cemetery bridge. The other parcel lies along the east bank of the Black River near the Albany line. The third is the fishing access at the South end of Little Hosmer Pond.

Wetlands

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 which 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. These class 2 wetlands are "significant wetlands" and therefore are protected under the Vermont Wetland Rules. Class 3 wetlands are those not identified in the National Wetlands Inventory Maps and have been determined by the VT Water Resources Board to not provide functions at a significant level.

Goal:

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

Objectives:

1. Identify and understand the natural resources with Craftsbury and their regional significance to the surrounding landscape.
2. Conserve the natural resources through local conservation planning and land stewardship.
3. Encourage opportunities to raise community awareness about Craftsbury's natural heritage through education.
4. Manage our municipal lands as models of land stewardship.
5. Continue to collaborate with Sterling College regarding monitoring and conservation activities.

Recommendations:

1. Create a "Town" vision and set of goals with conservation strategies and implementation plans for natural heritage protection.

2. Collect and utilize maps and other data to identify the bedrock, surface geology and topography to understand the make up of our soils and those areas that are valued for conservation and not suitable for development.
3. 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.
4. Collect and utilize maps and other data on land use patterns to understand current agricultural areas, contiguous forestland and residential/commercial development.
5. Identify, map and provide long term stewardship of known deeryards, bear production areas, natural communities and vernal pools. Work with regional and state agencies and private organizations to support natural heritage protection, conservation and restoration of degraded sites.
6. Create a Conservation Commission to focus management of natural heritage issues and act in an advisory capacity to the Planning Commission and Selectboard.
7. Encourage and provide education on best agricultural and forestry practices utilizing Best Management Practices as defined by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources.
8. Encourage the establishment of a land acquisition fund and accompanying land conservation plan for the purchase of lands or development rights within the Town when certain important parcels become available.
9. Collect and utilize maps and other data to identify important wildlife corridors, connective habitats and linkages.

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.

From 2004 Community Survey:

Are you in favor of construction of town sewage systems in areas of population concentration?

Yes	196 (59.4%)
No	134 (40.6%)

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 leech field causing the flow to back up and the leech 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 expire on July 1, 2007.

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, Wolcott is currently studying the wastewater disposal.

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.

Recommendations:

1. The Town may consider conducting a study to identify space to build future wastewater treatment facilities for both the Village and the Common.
2. Encourage the study of ground water aquifers in Craftsbury to better inform the residents who use well or spring water supplies about the quality and condition of the water sources.

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 2. Combined, these systems have seven wells and serve approximately 650 people. Maps of Source Protection Plans are depicted in Appendix C.

Table 2. Craftsbury Water Source Protection Areas					
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	Transient, Non Community	18.0 acres 0.03 sq mi	Fixed Radius: 500 ft	1 rock well	90
Craftsbury Inn	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.

Goal:

The long-term protection of public drinking water supplies shall be ensured.

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 only accepts recyclables. Craftsbury residents who desire curbside service for trash disposal must use private haulers working in the area. Otherwise, residents must bring the trash and mandatory recycling to the Waste District's transfer station on Route 100 in Hyde Park.

From 2004 Community Survey:

Some respondents were concerned about illegal trash burning. For example:
"Enforcement of illegal open burn barrels is a must. The toxic pollution these create affects all of us. Too many residents burn garbage, and too many just ignore it. This practice must be stopped today!!"

Recommendations:

1. Town officials and interested citizens should work with the Waste District to educate residents about the harmful effects of illegal trash burning.
2. Explore establishing a town collection site for reusable household items.
3. Encourage establishing a food composting center in town or in collaboration with nearby facilities.

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 five 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.

In 2004, Craftsbury's volunteer firefighters handled the highest volume of emergency calls in recent years: 26 fire calls and 20 requests for medical assistance. Their total budget in 2005 is \$32,600. In 2004, voters approved the allocation of \$100,000 to purchase the rescue vehicle (used), which is equipped with an air system for supplying breathing air at emergency calls.

From 2004 Community Survey:

I think the Craftsbury Volunteer Fire Dept:

Does an excellent job	211 (83.8%)
Should be paid	36 (9.9%)
Is inadequate for our town	22 (6.0%)
Other	47 (12.9%)

I think that Craftsbury should have some form of regular police protection:

No	234 (65.2%)
Yes	125 (34.8%)

In 2004, the Fire Department received two grants to purchase equipment: \$64,800 from Homeland Security, and \$54,492 from FEMA. The latter required a 10% local match. The department intends to pursue grants in future years.

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.

Table 3: Craftsbury Crime Statistics

<u>Part I Crime Rates</u>					
	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	0	1	0	1	0
Burglary	2	7	1	12	7
Larceny	7	11	10	5	7
Auto Theft	1	0	2	1	4
Arson	0	1	1	0	0
Craftsbury Rate	8.77	17.61	12.32	16.35	16.06
Orleans County Rate	18.87	21.65	22.53	22.48	30.59

Source: State of Vermont Dept of Public Safety Division of Criminal Justice Services

<u>Part II Crime Rates</u>					
	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
Fraud	1	1	1	1	2
Embezzlement	0	0	0	0	0
Stolen Property	0	0	0	0	0
Vandalism	3	1	1	0	2
Sex Offense	2	0	0	0	0
Drugs	1	1	0	2	1
Family/Child	7	3	3	3	4
Liquor Violations	2	3	1	2	2
Disorderly Conduct	1	2	3	0	2
Simple Assault	0	3	3	1	3
Weapons	0	0	0	0	1
Prostitution	0	0	0	0	0
Gambling	0	0	0	0	0
Vagrancy	0	0	0	0	0
DUI	3	1	0	0	1
Other	4	5	9	7	5
Craftsbury Rate	21.05	17.61	18.49	13.77	21.41
Orleans County	60.32	46.62	54.61	55.57	60.59

Rescue:

Hardwick Emergency Rescue Squad Inc., a non-profit 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%). Last year, the squad received 42 calls from Craftsbury.

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 Rapid Response Plan is a comprehensive 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 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 \$10,000 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 for cultural and community activities.

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.

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 and broadband are available through satellite dish only. The State Telecommunications Plan (September 2004) maps show no cable modem, DSL, or Wireless ISP broadband coverage.

From 2004 Community Survey:	
I travel for health care to:	
Hardwick	207
Morrisville	175
Burlington	55
Other locations	26
Hanover	24
Newport	23
Barre-Berlin area	19
St. Johnsbury	16
Montpelier	7
White River Junction	4
*Respondents gave multiple answers	

The State Telecommunications Plan contains the following infrastructure goals, which may have an impact on Craftsbury:

- Consumer-grade and small-business-grade broadband services, including DSL or cable modem services and comparable services available to 90% of homes and businesses that have access to a telephone by 2007.
- Access to a packet-based, mass-market broadband infrastructure for all homes and businesses that have access to a telephone by 2010;
- 100% handheld phone coverage along all numbered state highway routes on both the GSM/GPRS and CDMA digital standards (or their successors) by 2010;

From 2004 Community Survey:	
My home has Internet access by:	
Dial Up	211 (61.7%)
Satellite Dish	31 (9.1%)
No computer	100 (29.2%)
Are you interested in some type of broadband Internet access in the future?	
Yes	196 (56.8%)
No	149 (43.2%)

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. According to the 2004 Town Report, about 42 people each week use these public access computers to get health information, search job listings, do school research, and send and receive email.

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 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 Town Planning Commission has studied the telecommunication tower issues and drafted a proposed ordinance for the Selectboard.

Goal and Recommendation:

The town should act upon the proposed Ordinance.

Energy

Electricity

Craftsbury is served by two utility companies, Hardwick Electric Department and Vermont Electric Cooperative. Hardwick Electric currently serves about 4,100 customers. Hardwick’s coverage area includes the southern half of the municipality, encompassing Craftsbury Village, East Craftsbury, and Craftsbury Common. Vermont Electric Cooperative (VEC) serves the remaining portion of the town. VEC is a consumer-owned electric distribution cooperative headquartered in Johnson, Vermont. Following a series of mergers and acquisitions over the past six decades, VEC now serves about 37,000 member-customers in 90 towns throughout Vermont and three towns in Massachusetts, on the Vermont border.

CVPS	\$101.56
Enosburg	\$100.28
Citizens	\$97.84
GMP	\$96.84
Hardwick	\$94.33
Barton	\$91.71
Jacksonville	\$84.14
Hyde Park	\$75.26
Burlington	\$71.13
Johnson	\$56.54
Source: VT Department of Public Service	

The most recent comparative statistics from the Department of Public Service show Hardwick Electric Department’s average bill to be just that – about average among the 11 utility companies serving Vermont. By contrast, Citizen’s – VEC’s predecessor – was the third highest in the state.

Heating

The primary source of heating in Craftsbury is oil.

	Craftsbury	Orleans County	Vermont
Heated with Utility Gas	0	40	29,234
Heated with Bottled / Tank / LP Gas	53	991	34,715
Heated with Electricity	3	275	11,363
Heated with Fuel Oil / Kerosene	226	7,187	141,041
Heated with Coal / Coke	3	7	427
Heated with Wood	138	1,905	22,616
Heated with Solar Energy	4	4	90
Heated with Other Type of Fuel	0	29	817
That Are not Heated	0	8	331

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

Historical data shows a slight increase in use of renewable sources, primarily wood:

³ As of November 2002; Based on 750KWh, considered to be typical usage.

Table 6: Craftsbury Housing Units by Heat Source, Historical			
	1980	1990	2000
Heated with Utility Gas	0	0	0
Heated with Bottled / Tank / LP Gas	5	34	53
Heated with Electricity	12	5	3
Heated with Fuel Oil / Kerosene	138	154	226
Heated with Coal / Coke	4	0	3
Heated with Wood	116	151	138
Heated with Solar Energy	N/A	0	4
Heated with Other Type of Fuel	2	0	0

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

Conservation & Use of Renewable Resources

The conservation of energy is strongly encouraged by the planning commission. This plan recommends the use of energy saving products, such as insulation, efficient appliances, and, when necessary winter weatherization products. New construction and the replacement of old appliances, doors, and windows should always be done with energy efficient products. In addition, energy efficient behavior (shutting off lights when leaving the room, turning the thermostat down at night, etc.) should be taught and used at school, home, and in the workplace. The Planning Commission also recommends that energy audits be conducted in all public buildings, local businesses and farms.

The Planning Commission recognizes the importance of renewable energy resources and recommends their development and use within the town. These would include the use of wood heat, solar and small hydro. Wind resource maps created by Vermont Environmental Research Associates show no areas suitable for large wind towers in Craftsbury. Neighboring Eden does have one ridge a few miles from the Craftsbury border with classifications of 4 through 6. (Wind resources are classified from 1 through 7, with 7 being of the greatest potential. For comparison, the proposed site in Lowell is Class 6.)

Goal:

Encourage the conservation of energy and the use of renewable energy resources.

Objectives:

1. Provide education on energy efficiency and audits at the Town Clerk's Office.
2. Encourage burying electric and phone lines underground where appropriate.
3. Encourage orienting the placement of buildings so as to use passive solar or direct solar energy and heating.
4. Encourage the use methane digesters on farms for power generation.

Recommendation:

1. Urge, to the extent possible, new public structures to be built to conform to the Energy Goal and Objectives.

Education

According to Beers Atlas, in 1878, there were 15 grammar school districts in the town of Craftsbury. By the 1950s 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 1960s through 1980s, it seemed it was a battle to see if the high school would survive. The Department of Education felt it was time to close small schools and form union schools. Along with the adverse thinking of the Department was the condition of the buildings needed updating. The septic system was addressed as well as an addition to the elementary school. In the late 1980s, a new building was added to the complex at the Academy. Minden Hall was added to house a new library, a new computer science room and the 5th and 6th grades.

As years go on, more and more has to be done to keep an old building viable. Thus, the School Board has a building committee investigating an upgrade of the school facility. Among other issues, the committee is addressing a renovation of the gymnasium, which was built in the 1950s by volunteers as a World War II Memorial. State specifications also demand that the committee address the inadequacies of the building with relation to handicap accessibility, heating and ventilation.

Throughout the life of the schools, 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 schools has become:

— *All students belong and all students will learn* —

The Craftsbury Public Schools Vision statement reads:

“The Craftsbury Schools will strive to:

- *Take advantage of our small school status*
- *Hold our students to high academic standards*
- *Use innovative teaching strategies*
- *Address the learning needs of individual students*
- *Communicate with community members and foster community partnerships.”*

From 2004 Community Survey:

I think the Craftsbury Schools are:

Excellent	33 (10.6%)
Good	156 (50.3%)
Fair	99 (6.0%)
Poor	11 (3.5%)
Awful	7 (2.3%)
Good-Fair	3 (1.0%)
Good-Excellent	1 (0.3%)

WHY? (Analysis of written responses):

On the positive side: # times cited

Liked small class size & indiv. attention	22
Liked teaching quality – dedicated	13
Cited “community” spirit & local control	6
Cited parental involvement	2

On the negative side:

Felt that small size limited curriculum and opportunities for students	29
Said that facilities were lacking	10
Said that school was too costly	9
Cited inadequate preparation for college and/or student performance	7
Poor communication	2
Discipline problems	3

Through generous financial support of alumni, untiring volunteer work of community members, and a strong community school support network, the institution continues to thrive and offer exemplary educational opportunities to its students.

In order to meet the educational standards, the Academy Trustees have raised money with matching funds to purchase computer equipment to complement the curriculum in many areas. Staff development has continued to be a major undertaking of the administration, and the community continues to be available for support of programs as mentors and volunteers.

With the start of the second century of education in Craftsbury the town should look to a bi-centennial celebration of its Academy in 2029.

Our school currently serves 186 students in grades K-12. In the past, tuition students have attended from Wolcott, Albany and Irasburg. Now Irasburg and Albany have built newer schools to house their own 7th and 8th grades. In looking at the following table, there does not appear to be a correlation between town population and school enrollment. Instead, the number of students in the school system varies considerably on whether tuition students come to Craftsbury schools from neighboring towns.

Table 7. History of Craftsbury Student Population				
Year	Town Population	School Enrollment		
		Craftsbury	Tuition	Total
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
Source: Craftsbury Town Annual Report at ten-year intervals				

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:

1. Maintain the facilities.
2. Reflect the State requirements.
3. Continue to support the vision of the school system.

Housing

Current Housing Demographics

Single-family units are the predominant form of housing in Craftsbury. The breakdown is as follows:

Table 8: Craftsbury Housing Demographics

- 354 owner-occupied housing units**
- 303 in buildings with 1 unit
 - 6 in buildings with 2 units
 - 43 in mobile homes
 - 2 in boats, RV, vans or “other”
- 73 renter-occupied housing units**
- 54 in buildings with 1 unit
 - 5 in buildings with 2 units
 - 14 mobile homes
- 145 vacant housing units – the bulk of which (115) were considered to be for seasonal, recreational, and occasional use**
- 122 buildings with 1 units
 - 2 buildings with 2 units
 - 2 buildings with 3 units or more
 - 17 mobile homes
 - 2 boats, RVs, vans or “other”

Source: 2000 US Census, Vermont Housing Data
www.housingdata.org

The population of Craftsbury has been steadily growing for the past 30 years with the addition of approximately 150-200 people 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.

Table 9. Population Change					
	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Craftsbury	674 (-4.9%)	632 (-6.2%)	844 (33.5%)	994 (17.8%)	1,136 (14.3%)
Orleans County	20,143 (-4.9%)	20,153 (0.05%)	23,440 (16.3%)	24,053 (2.6%)	28,277 (9.3%)
Vermont	389,881 (3.2%)	444,330 (14.1%)	511,456 (15%)	562,758 (10%)	608,827 (8.2%)

Source: 2000 US Census

Even more interesting, as shown in Table 10, there has been an enormous jump in this past decade for the number of occupants who have moved into town, especially among renters. 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 10. Year Householder Moved Into Unit			
	Craftsbury	Orleans County	Vermont
For owner-occupied units			
1990 to March 2000	137	3,379	80,036
1980-1989	99	1,972	42,197
1970-1979	74	1,329	24,482
1969 or earlier	44	1,056	23,062
For renter-occupied units			
1990 to March 2000	55	2,313	61,665
1980-1989	9	228	5,777
1970-1979	5	94	1,708
1969 or earlier	4	75	1,707

Source: 2000 US Census

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 five years of cumulative property transfer tax data (Table 11) does not bear this out. The table below reflects actual sale prices of property in Craftsbury over a five-year period.

Table 11: Average Craftsbury Property Sale Prices (# of valid sales in that year)						
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005(to date)
Residential under 6 acres	\$62,600.00 (5)	\$132,833.33 (3)	\$102,250.00 (5)	\$93,116.67 (9)	\$145,823.08 (13)	\$127,558.33 (6)
Residential ≥ 6 acres	\$169,200.00 (5)	\$210,000.00 (1)	\$115,500.00 (4)	\$150,819.09 (11)	\$185,194.29 (7)	\$182,250.00 (2)
Vacation under 6 acres	\$83,750.00 (2)	\$30,952.11 (2)	\$132,250.00 (2)	\$19,500.00 (2)	\$102,000.00 (1)	---
Vacation ≥6 acres	\$33,333.33 (3)	\$137,780.00 (5)	\$365,000.00 (1)	\$24,000.00 (1)	\$117,500.00 (2)	---
Open Land	\$50,100.00 (4)	\$18,363.75 (12)	\$54,163.75 (16)	\$50,457.14 (14)	445,000.00 (13)	\$28,180.00 (5)

Source: VT Department of Taxes

Affordability

The VT Department of Housing and Community Affairs housing policy states that housing is deemed “affordable” when the total⁴ cost of housing 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 \$622 per month (\$31,084 median income; \$24,867 is the 80% figure; \$7,460 is 30% of the 80% figure, \$622 is this figure divided by 12 months). According to the 2000 Census, median housing costs in Craftsbury were \$733 per month for those with a mortgage, and \$331 for those without a mortgage.

Using the statutory definition above, the home ownership for those with mortgages is not considered “affordable.” In fact, the Census survey of Selected Monthly Owner Costs as Percentage of Income found that 29.9% of Craftsbury homeowners paid 30% or more of their monthly income on housing. Similarly 28.6% of Craftsbury renters paid 35% or more of their income for their housing. Many Sterling College students live in off-campus housing, driving up rents in Craftsbury. A look at the Census statistics on neighboring towns does not appear to bear this out. In fact, only neighboring Elmore and Glover have a lower percentage of the population that pays more than 30% of their income for rental housing.

Renters who pay more than 30% of their income for housing:

- Wolcott: 41.1%
- Hardwick: 36.2%
- Greensboro: 34.2%
- Glover: 29.6%
- Craftsbury: 28.6%
- Elmore: 7.1%
- *Orleans County*: 37.8%
- *Lamoille County*: 36.3%

Source: 2000 Census

From 2004 Community Survey:

Should the following types of housing developments be encouraged?

Large Lots	132
Town Centers	101
Cluster Housing	93
Apartments	47
None of these	43
Other, e.g. restoration	24
Mobile Homes	10
Let the market decide	8
Affordable Housing	7
No to some, i.e. mobile homes	4
All of above	2

*Respondents gave multiple answers

From 2004 Community Survey:

What areas of the community would you consider most appropriate for multiple family housing?

Village	129
Common	58
East Craftsbury	63
Mill Village	37
Collinsville	39
Everywhere	70
None of the above	107

*Respondents gave multiple answers

⁴ “Total” by statutory definition, includes insurance, principal, interest, taxes, and condominium association fees (homeowners); rent utilities, association fees (for renters).

Goal:

Encourage housing for residents at all income levels.

Objectives:

1. Explore the availability of affordable housing options in Craftsbury.
2. 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.
3. Encourage the maintenance of houses of historic significance using incentive-based strategies, such as grants, tax credits, etc.
4. Support our “special needs” housing population, such as the Craftsbury Community Care Center.

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.

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, Bingington's Addy Lane, the Common Hill Road, Robert Anderson's pent road and the North Coburn Hill Road.

<u>Craftsbury Road Mileage</u>	
Class 1 Town Roads	0.00
Class 2 Town Roads	18.24
Class 3 Town Roads	42.61
Class 4 Town Roads	4.70
State Highway 14	<u>7.962</u>
Total Road System	73.512

Source: VT AOT April 2005

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 securing of a town gravel pit would seem to be in the community's long-term best interests.

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 in 2005 on the Creek Road and the Wild Branch Road⁵.

⁵ 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, June of 2005). They therefore provide only a very general idea of traffic volumes in Craftsbury.

Location	Annual Average Daily Traffic	Avg. Peak in AM (Mon. thru. Fri.)	Avg. Peak Vol. in AM	Avg. Peak in PM (Mon. thru. Fri.)	Avg. Peak Vol. in PM
Creek Rd, 0.15 miles north of Craftsbury Rd.	747 vehicles	7:00 a.m.	55 vehicles	5:00 p.m.	63 vehicles
Wild Branch Rd, 0.21 miles west of Rte 14	1,676	7:00 a.m.	132 vehicles	4:00 p.m.	152 vehicles

Also, the Craftsbury Community Survey reveals that the majority of residents (59.9%) either work out of their homes or in the Craftsbury area. Nearly a quarter, however, have 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 or Morrisville.

The 2000 Census shows a mean travel time to work of 23.8 minutes (among those 16 years of age or more).

Bridges and Culverts

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

There are approximately 420 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. In the last 10 years over 130 culverts have been replaced.

The bridge at the bottom of Ketchum Hill by Ed Hodgdon's is closed now, and its future is uncertain as it is under litigation.

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

From 2004 Community Survey:

My work location is:

My home	84 (32.1%)
Craftsbury area	74 (29.4%)
Hardwick	14 (5.3%)
Morrisville	13 (5.0%)
Newport	5 (1.9%)
Montpelier	7 (2.7%)
Burlington	8 (3.1%)
Other – VT	32 (12.2%)
Other – US	18 (6.9%)
Other (non-specific)*	4 (1.5%)

*Includes answers such as “all over”

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

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.

Regarding pressing transportation concerns, analysis of the Craftsbury Community Survey reveals 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.

Recommendations:

1. Refer to Appendix B: Pedestrian Safety/Vehicle Committee Report

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,

Goals:

1. To decrease the dependence of Craftsbury's residents on private automobile transportation whenever possible.

Craftsbury's Bridges

Cement Bridges:

- Branch Rd near West Hill (Paul Brojous)
- Ed Hodgon'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

Wooden Bridges:

- Black River Road

2. Provide for the development and use of recreational transportation systems wherever feasible.

Objectives:

1. Consideration should be given to establishing a commuter parking area to encourage car-pooling.
2. 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.
3. Sidewalks provide viable pedestrian access. The Town supports maintenance and extension of the sidewalk system.
4. Bikeways, walkways and access to scenic vistas, should such be identified through public hearings and open discussion.

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.

Construction Projects planned by VTrans: Rehabilitation of BR4 on TH4 over Whitney brook. Work includes replacement of the existing superstructure using re-conditioned I89 steel beams. Also scheduled is the replacement of BR2 on TH59, over the Black River.

Goal:

To maintain a safe and passable network of roads at a cost affordable to the Town.

Objectives:

1. Selectboard continue to maintain the road system in town.

2. In anticipation of pending legislation regarding use of “ancient roads”, inventory all existing public rights of way (i.e. Class 4 roads and Legal Trails that are currently not depicted on the Town Highway map) and identify all those that are important to the community. Review historical documents and other sources to identify “ancient roads.”
3. Research options for sustainability of the town’s source of gravel.
4. The Select Board and the Road Commissioner should work together to develop a long term plan

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.

From 2004 Community Survey:	
Craftsbury has adequate facilities for recreation?	
Yes	269 (74.3%)
No	93 (25.7%)

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.

From 2004 Community Survey:	
Would you be willing to permit people to use your land for recreation?	
Yes	222 (61.7%)
No	138 (38.3%)
Would you be willing to permit people to cross your land to get to public areas?	
Yes	194 (55.6%)
No	155 (44.4%)

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 Outdoor Center maintains 82 kilometers of cross country ski trails, sculling camps, running camps and a fleet of rental mountain bikes. Beyond the town borders there are multiple recreational opportunities such as the Windridge Summer Tennis Camp in Albany and the cross country ski trails of the Highland Lodge in Greensboro, along with other popular 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. The Craftsbury Recreation Committee has organized two

weeks of swimming lessons every summer. 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.

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 Street Dances and roller skate events on the Common in summer. There is Old Home Day, a Halloween Party, and a New Year's Movie Night for all young people in town. The Committee is in the process of getting an ice-skating rink set up on the Common.

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 basketball hoops and the playground on the Academy school grounds will need to be upgraded and relocated if the school addition proceeds as planned.

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:

1. Biking Paths. Explore creation of biking paths throughout the community.
2. Mountain Biking. Though available at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center, explore options for expanding mountain bike trails.
3. Playgrounds. Planning for future playgrounds should be coordinated by the Recreation Committee with cooperation from churches, school and libraries.
4. Swimming. Encourage maintaining the Eligo public swimming facility and town beach and explore options for public swimming access on Big Hosmer.
5. Mapping. Explore the possibility of updating the recreation map that was developed several years ago by the Craftsbury Outdoor Center covering trails and facilities in Craftsbury and Greensboro.
6. Private Lands. Educate landowners on the potential uses of private land for public recreational access, and find solutions to the abuse of private and public property.
7. 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.

Adjacent Towns & the Region

Craftsbury (2000 Census population: 1,136)

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 non-residents 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 (2000 Census population: 840)

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 others 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 (2000 Census population: 966)

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 is currently working to adopt its first

Town Plan and its development patterns are consistent with those of Craftsbury. Glover has no Zoning Bylaws.

Greensboro (2000 Census population: 770)

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 (2000 Census population: 3,174)

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 is ready to be 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. 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 (2000 Census population: 1,152)

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 (2000 Census population: 2,847)

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 (2000 Census population: 1,456)

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 will be monitoring transportation trends to maintain this road. Wolcott's Zoning Bylaws and Subdivision Regulations are consistent with the development patterns of Craftsbury.

Regional Plan (Northeast Vermont Development Association, Draft 2005)

(NVDA serves the three counties of Caledonia, Essex & Orleans with a 2000 Census population of 62,438)

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: Lamoille Watershed Plan References

The Lamoille Watershed Plan describes the Wild Branch as one of the main tributaries to the major river basin. The Wild Branch and its smaller headwater tributaries originate in the Town of Craftsbury. The Watershed Plan describes the present conditions of the waters as well as any threats to water quality and suggested actions to bring the watershed into a more balanced state. The Plan notes that among other recreational aspects, the Wild Branch is distinguished for its whitewater boating. There are currently several studies being conducted on the Wild Branch. In Craftsbury, both geomorphic and habitat assessments are being completed, as well as a fluvial erosion hazard map which is being developed to proactively reduce property damage in future flash flood events.

In the section describing the “Wild Branch Watershed Assessment,” streambank erosion and channel instability threaten the Wild Branch and the mainstem of the Lamoille which in turn dumps huge sediment and phosphorus loads into Lake Champlain (which is currently listed as an impaired waterbody due to phosphorus). A streambank condition inventory and map of the Wild Branch completed by the VT Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) describes approximately 80% of the total stream length as suffering from headcutting and/or undercutting, sloughing, or mass wasting of streambanks. The Watershed Plan describes some of the causes for this instability:

“The present condition of the river is likely the result of regional stresses as well as more localized triggers for instability. Increased development and logging in the basin have likely contributed to increased runoff over the last several decades. Other human impacts in the river channel and the river corridor along the main stem have included: removal of woody riparian vegetation, floodplain encroachment development, channelization, and excessive bank armoring. Specific river corridor manipulations include a major re-location of the North Wolcott Road in the 1970s, the Tamarack Road flood plain encroachment along Tamarack Brook, failure of human and beaver constructed ponds, undersized bridges and culverts, and channelization of segments of the Wild Branch. Major floods in the 1990s have exasperated human-induced disturbances to the river corridor. Soils along the corridor of the Wild Branch main stem and Tamarack Brook are particularly susceptible to erosion.”

Transportation infrastructure that is improperly designed or installed, or that has become structurally unsound or functionally deficient over time, can lead to catastrophic failures during flood events. During the flood events of 1995, 1997, and 1998, numerous culverts and bridges failed catastrophically in the watershed. Enormous quantities of sediment entered the watershed in several towns including Craftsbury. Most of the damage occurred on private and municipality-owned infrastructure. Over 60% of infrastructure damage from the recent Vermont flood events was avoidable. Instead of spending the millions of federal, state, and private dollars on remediation of flood damage to transportation, the current preventative strategies suggest determining the appropriate remedy through studies and repairing and replacing insufficient infrastructure.

The Watershed Plan suggests many other actions for the municipalities in the watershed to consider. The Plan also designates potential partners, funding sources and timeline to

complete these actions. Please refer to the Lamoille Watershed Plan available from VT DEC for a more complete description of these action steps as well as any other information referenced above.

Some Suggested Strategies from the Lamoille River Watershed Plan:

1. Protect wetlands in towns through local zoning, stormwater regulations, and outreach.
2. Conduct lake watershed surveys to identify nonpoint sources of pollution and the actions needed to control them.
3. Assist communities with river corridor management plans and fluvial erosion hazard plans and mapping in pre-disaster mitigation efforts.
4. Protect stable reaches of streams.
5. Increase the establishment and enhancement of woody riparian corridors along watershed streams.
6. Create an outreach program for landowners, contractors, and municipalities that are about to embark on construction projects covering erosion and sediment control site plans, necessary permits, and technical assistance that may be available for such projects.
7. Assist municipalities with comprehensive town plans and zoning regulations that address erosion and sediment control.
8. Conduct bridge and culvert assessments at stream crossings using ANR's (ANR, 2004) methodology throughout the watershed.
9. Replace or retrofit 5 watershed stream crossing structures to improve fish and/or wildlife passage, sediment transport and/or stream stability.
10. Identify and remediate beaver-related road conflicts.
11. Hold additional Better Backroads Workshops throughout the watershed.
12. Increase watershed towns' participation in inventories and assessment of transportation infrastructure using a Capital Improvement Budget process.
13. Assist towns in the development of minimum standards for the design, construction, and maintenance of driveways and driveway structures within town plans and ordinances.
14. Establish Stream Teams at the sub-watershed level.
15. Install appropriately designed signage at selective high profile locations along the Lamoille River and major tributaries indicating waterbody names at road crossings.

Appendix B: 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.

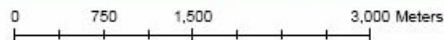
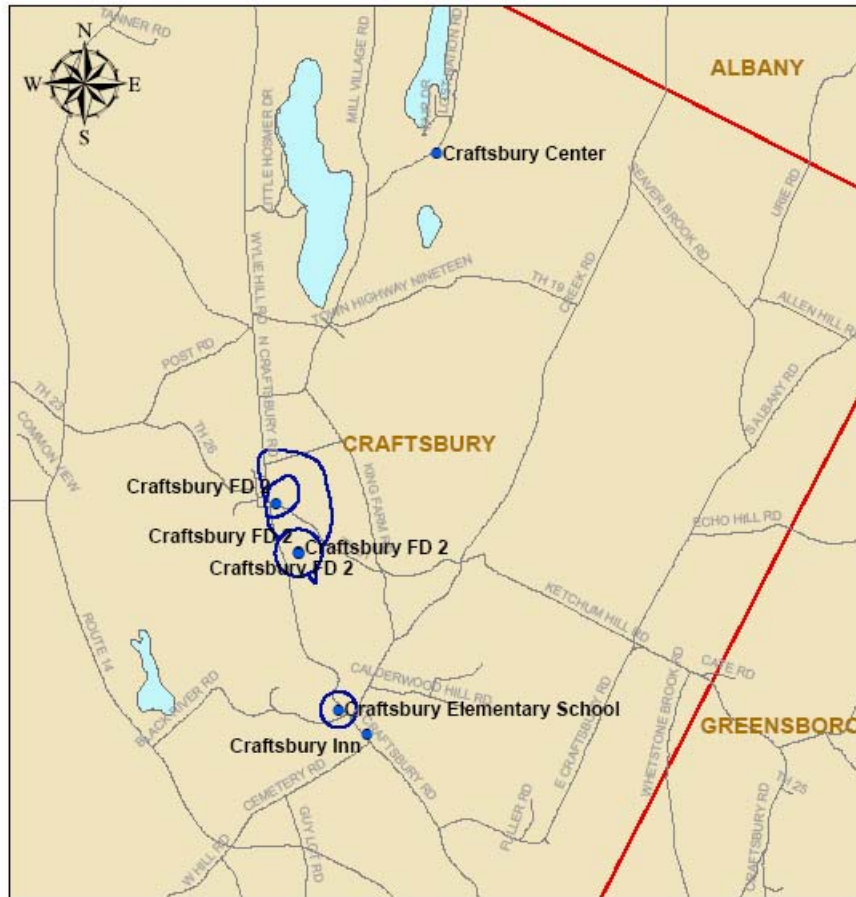
7. Recommend to the Select Board that additional signage and warning lights be installed. Signage identifying reduced speed ahead, school zone signs with timed, blinking yellow lights should be installed in a suitable place before the sports fields when approaching from the north and before the Inn on 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.

Appendix C: Maps of Source Protection Plans



Town of Craftsbury Public Water System Wells and Source Protection Areas

Data Sources: ANR GIS Office, VCGI Corp.
Map Created on 12/1/05 by EJR for VRWA

Appendix D: 2004 Craftsbury Community Survey Results

Please replace this page with the Xeroxed version of the survey. We couldn't import the survey results into this document, so it is necessary to print this page with the document so that it creates a filler for making the Table of Contents work. Just attach the survey results section to this document here and recycle this page. Thanks.