

1. Is your primary residence in Waitsfield?

- _____ Yes (please answer questions A-J below)
 _____ No (please skip to questions K-M below)

Waitsfield Residents

- A. How many years have you lived in Waitsfield?** _____
- B. What state did you move to Waitsfield from?** _____
 (please leave blank if you've always lived in town and write VT if you've moved from somewhere else in the state)
- C. How many people live in your household?** _____
- D. How many are age 18 or younger?** _____
- E. How many are age 65 or older?** _____
- F. How many are currently employed full-time?** _____
- G. How many are currently employed part-time?** _____
- H. How many people in your household are...?**
- _____ a. Self-employed, working from your home
 _____ b. Self-employed, working outside your home
 _____ c. Working for someone else from your home
 _____ d. Working for someone else outside your home
 _____ e. Stay at home parent/caregiver/homemaker
 _____ f. Retired
 _____ g. In school
 _____ h. Unemployed
 _____ i. Other _____
- I. How many people in your household work in ...?**
- _____ a. Waitsfield
 _____ b. Warren
 _____ c. Montpelier/Berlin
 _____ d. Waterbury
 _____ e. Chittenden County
 _____ f. Other _____

J. What is the occupation(s) of household members?

Continue to Question 2

Non-Resident Property Owners

- K. Where is your primary residence?** _____
 city/town state
- L. Do you own...? (select all that apply)**
- _____ a. A second home in Waitsfield
 _____ b. Residential rental property in Waitsfield
 _____ c. Commercial property in Waitsfield
 _____ d. Undeveloped land in Waitsfield
 _____ e. Other _____
- M. How many years have you owned property in Waitsfield?** _____

2. Over the past 10 years, the number of jobs in Waitsfield has increased by 169 (to 1,367 jobs in 2008) according to the VT Dep't of Labor. Do you think the rate of economic development in Waitsfield is...? (select one)

- _____ a. Too slow
 _____ b. Just right
 _____ c. Too fast
 _____ d. No opinion

3. Since the 1970s, Waitsfield has planned for Irasville to be the town's commercial center. Do you support continued commercial development in Irasville? (select one)

- _____ a. Yes (please answer question A below)
 _____ b. No, town doesn't need any more commercial
 _____ c. No, commercial should go somewhere else
 Where? _____
 _____ d. No opinion

A. Would you rather see Irasville ...? (select one)

- _____ a. Continue to develop as it has in previous decades - a primarily commercial and light industrial area where most people drive from place-to-place, most buildings are single-story and few people live.
 _____ b. Develop more like a downtown, where people are likely to walk between destinations, there are multi-story buildings, and there is a mix of business and residential uses
 _____ c. Other _____
 _____ d. No opinion

4. What is your level of agreement with the following?

(1=strongly agree, 2=agree, 3=neutral, 4=disagree, 5=strongly disagree)

	1	2	3	4	5
a. New businesses should be located in Waitsfield Village and Irasville.					
b. New businesses should be located on Route 100 south of Irasville.					
c. New businesses should be located on Route 100 north of the village.					
d. Existing businesses on Route 100 south should be allowed to expand.					
e. Existing businesses on Route 100 north should be allowed to expand.					
f. New businesses should locate near existing businesses on Rt. 100 north.					
g. New businesses should locate near existing businesses on Rt. 100 south.					
h. Businesses should be allowed to locate anywhere in town.					

_____ **A. Of options a through h above, which most closely expresses your preference for where/how the majority of Waitsfield's commercial development should occur?**

5. Currently, Waitsfield allows home businesses to employ up to 4 people who don't live in the home and to occupy a space in the home or accessory building (garage, barn, etc.) that is up to 40% of the home's habitable floor space. Do you think the town should...? (select one)

- a. Continue with its current regulations
- b. Further limit the size or impacts of home businesses (employees, traffic, parking, storage, etc.)
- c. Allow for larger or more intensive home businesses (more space, more employees, etc.)
- d. No opinion

6. What specific actions do you think the town should take to promote Waitsfield's economy?

7. Since 2000, an average of 13 new homes have been built in town each year. Do you think the rate of residential development in Waitsfield is...? (select one)

- a. Too slow
- b. Just right
- c. Too fast
- d. No opinion

8. What is your level of agreement with the following?

(1=strongly agree, 2=agree, 3=neutral, 4=disagree, 5=strongly disagree)

	1	2	3	4	5
a. New homes should be built in the Waitsfield Village / Irasville area.					
b. New homes should be built along Route 100.					
c. New homes should be built in small clusters of homes scattered throughout Waitsfield's rural areas.					
d. New homes should be built in a limited number of new, higher-density settlements in Waitsfield's rural areas.					
e. New homes should not be concentrated in any one area, but should be spread around town.					
f. New homes should not be built close together.					
g. New homes should be built wherever the land is suitable.					

A. Of options a through g above, which most closely expresses your preference for where/how the majority of Waitsfield's residential development should occur?

9. Would you support Waitsfield doing the following to address the issue of affordable housing? (select all that apply)

- a. Reducing the minimum lot size below 1 acre
- b. Allowing higher-density development in exchange for creation of affordable units
- c. Providing municipal water to a larger area of town than currently planned
- d. Providing municipal wastewater to the Waitsfield Village/Irasville area
- e. Acquiring town land for affordable housing
- f. Using local taxes or fees to subsidize affordable housing
- g. Other _____

10. What specific actions do you think the town should take related to housing in Waitsfield?

11. Should the town contribute to its conservation fund for the purpose of purchasing or conserving open space and agricultural land?

- a. Yes (please answer question A below)
- b. No
- c. No opinion

A. How should money be raised for the conservation fund? (select all that apply)

- a. Through donations.
- b. Through an impact fee on new development.
- c. Through a transfer tax levied on property sales.
- d. Through a local sales tax.
- e. Through a local rooms & meals tax.
- f. Through an increase in the property tax.
- g. Other _____

12. Would you support Waitsfield doing the following to address the issue of water quality in the Mad River? (select all that apply)

- a. Offering education on pollution prevention
- b. Changing road maintenance practices in order to reduce stormwater run-off and erosion
- c. Requiring new development to manage stormwater on-site through retention and infiltration
- d. Planning for a coordinated stormwater management system for the Irasville/Waitsfield Village area
- e. Increasing the width of the buffers required along Waitsfield's streams
- f. Other _____

13. Do you agree that Waitsfield needs to do more to prevent impacts to the following resources from development?

(1=strongly agree, 2=agree, 3=neutral, 4=disagree, 5=strongly disagree)

	1	2	3	4	5
a. Large areas of contiguous forest					
b. Wildlife habitat					
c. Wildlife travel corridors					
d. Land being actively farmed					
e. Open land not actively farmed					
f. Mad River					
g. Small tributaries and streams					
h. Wetlands					
i. Flood and erosion hazard areas					
j. Visible ridgelines and hillsides					
k. Scenic vistas					
l. Scenic roads					
m. Historic buildings					

_____ **A. Of options a through m above, which resource do you think is most at risk due to development?**

14. What specific actions do you think the town should take to protect natural and/or historic resources?

15. Are you engaged in the following? (select all that apply)

- a. Farming as a primary income source
- b. Farming as a supplemental income source
- c. Raising dairy cows
- d. Raising cattle, pigs, sheep, other livestock
- e. Growing field crops
- f. Growing hay
- g. Keeping horses
- h. Keeping poultry
- i. Producing maple syrup
- j. Growing produce for sale
- k. Growing produce for home consumption
- l. Other

16. Farming, as defined in state law, is exempt from local zoning, but most value-added or agri-businesses are not. Would you support expanding opportunities for agriculturally-related businesses in the rural parts of Waitsfield?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- _____ c. No opinion

17. Statewide wind maps indicate that the ridgelines of the Northfield Range may be suitable locations for utility-scale wind turbines. What statement comes closest to your position regarding construction of a wind farm in Waitsfield?

- a. I would support any wind farm project in town.
- b. I probably would support such a project, but I would need to know the details.
- c. I doubt that I would support such a project, but I would not want to reject the idea without knowing the details.
- d. I would not support any such project in town.
- e. No opinion

18. Would you support Waitsfield doing the following to address energy issues? (select all that apply)

- _____ a. Requiring a higher standard of energy efficiency for newly constructed single-family homes than currently required by state law
- _____ b. Requiring a higher standard of energy efficiency for newly constructed buildings other than single-family homes than currently required by state law
- _____ c. Allowing higher-density development in exchange for more energy efficient buildings
- _____ d. Allowing higher-density development in exchange for on-site generation of renewable energy
- _____ e. Providing alternative transportation options
- _____ f. Harvesting wood for biomass energy use from the town forest
- _____ g. Promoting higher-density, mixed-use development in the Waitsfield Village/Irasville area
- _____ h. Increasing the maximum allowed height for off-grid wind turbines from 50 to 100 feet.
- _____ i. Generating renewable energy on town buildings or properties.
- _____ j. Other _____

19. The town could establish a "Clean Energy Assessment District" to provide a mechanism for property owners to finance major energy improvements to be paid off through a 20-year special tax on participants. Would you support efforts to establish such a district in Waitsfield?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- _____ c. No opinion

20. What specific actions do you think the town should take to address energy and sustainability issues?

21. What is your level of agreement with the following?

(1=strongly agree, 2=agree, 3=neutral, 4=disagree, 5=strongly disagree)

	1	2	3	4	5
a. The Mad River Path should be designed primarily for recreation					
b. The Mad River Path should be designed to allow people to commute from home to work/ school or to travel to destinations like shopping or services					
c. The town should be more actively involved in maintaining, designing and constructing the Mad River Path					

22. Do you support efforts to extend and connect the existing segments of the Mad River Path?

- a. Yes (please answer question A below)
- b. No
- c. No opinion

A. Would you support Waitsfield taking any of the following actions in support of the path? (select all that apply)

- _____ a. Using town employees and equipment to maintain the Mad River Path
- _____ b. Using funds raised from property taxes to acquire land or rights-of-way for the path
- _____ c. Using funds raised from fees or non-property taxes to acquire land or rights-of-way for the path
- _____ d. Offering landowners who donate land and/or rights-of-way for the Mad River Path a reduction or rebate on their property taxes
- _____ e. Using eminent domain to acquire land and/or rights-of-way for the Mad River Path if owners are unwilling to donate or sell
- _____ f. Other _____

23. Should the town work with partners to develop an interconnected system of off-road paths and trails to attract visitors to the valley year-round?

- a. Yes (please answer question A below)
- b. No
- c. No opinion

A. What type(s) of trail users should the valley try to attract? (select all that apply)

- _____ a. Non-motorized (hikers, bicyclists, skiers)
- _____ b. Snowmobilers
- _____ c. ATV riders
- _____ d. Horseback riders
- _____ e. Other _____

24. Should the town require new development to...?

(select all that apply)

- a. Provide sidewalks in Waitsfield Village / Irasville
- b. Provide paths/trails in Waitsfield Village/Irasville
- c. Provide sidewalks in rural subdivisions
- d. Provide paths/trails in rural subdivisions
- e. Maintain access to any existing trails on the property
- _____ f. Connect to trails on neighboring properties

25. Would you support the town doing the following to support alternative modes of transportation?

(select all that apply)

- _____ a. Creating one or more park-and-ride lots.
Where? _____
- _____ b. Paying around \$20,000 per year for GMTA bus service between Waitsfield and Montpelier.
- _____ c. Expanding service provided by the Mad Bus.
- _____ d. Building sidewalks.
Where? _____
- _____ e. Widening roads to provide bike lanes.
Where? _____
- _____ f. Building off-road multi-use paths.
Where? _____
- _____ g. Promoting higher-density, mixed-use development in the Waitsfield Village/Irasville area
- _____ h. Other _____

26. What specific actions do you think the town should take to address transportation issues?

27. What ways would you like the town to share information with you? (select all that apply)

- a. U.S. Postal Service
- b. Email
Would you provide us with your email so we could start a town email list? (email will not be linked to your survey responses)
- c. Town newsletter
- d. Town website
- e. Valley Reporter
- f. MRVTV cable access channel
- g. Public meetings
- _____ h. Other _____

X

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stamp
required

Town of Waitsfield
9 Bridge Street
Waitsfield, Vermont 05673

WAITSFIELD 09 town plan update

What type of community do you want Waitsfield to be?

This survey was created as part of the process of reviewing and updating the 2005 Waitsfield Town Plan - a road map used by citizens and officials to govern the town and guide future development. To help us craft the best plan for our community, we are inviting all Waitsfield residents and property owners to respond to the enclosed opinion survey. We encourage you, your spouse and your neighbors to give us your honest and thoughtful feedback.

An online version of the survey with additional room for comments can be found at the town website, www.waitsfieldvt.us. Those who fill out the paperless online version will be entered in a **raffle** for a free lunch for two at the Village Grocery where you can discuss your hopes for the town and have a tasty meal. You may also obtain additional printed copies for household members at the Town Office.

The **deadline** for responding to the survey is **October 12**. Please complete the online version or mail or drop off your completed survey at the Town office on Bridge Street.

The more people we hear from, the better the plan will be. Thank you for taking the time to help guide Waitsfield's future!

Town of Waitsfield
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