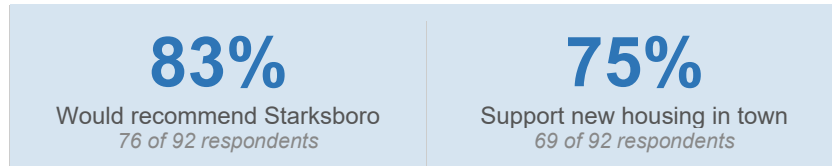


# Starksboro Municipal Planning Survey 2026

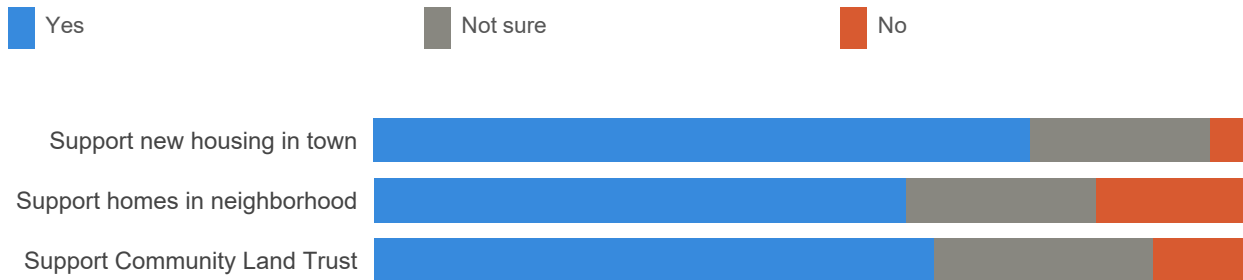
Survey Results Summary — 92 Respondents

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS



## HOUSING OPINIONS

Residents are broadly supportive of new housing, though support is somewhat lower when asked specifically about new homes in their immediate neighborhood. Community Land Trust support is also strong.



## TOWN PLAN FOCUS PRIORITIES

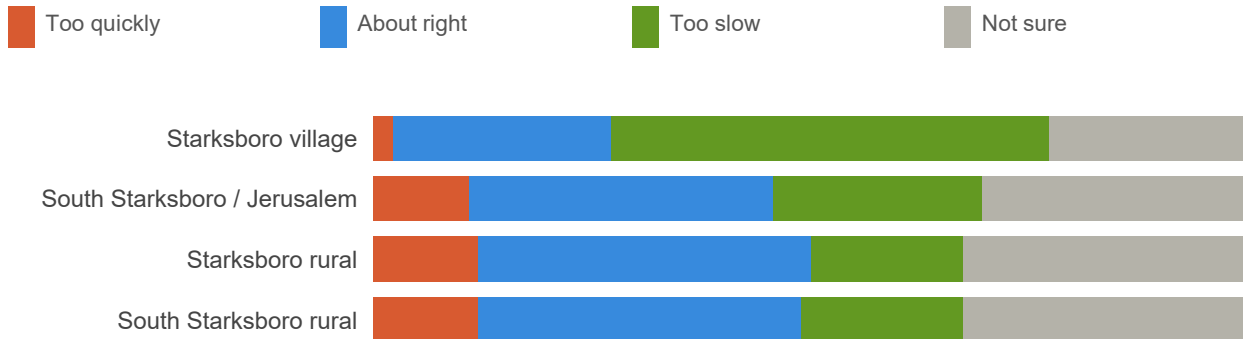
Respondents ranked which sections of the Town Plan are most important to update. Lower average score = higher priority.

Area	Avg. Priority Score	Priority Rank
Housing	1.24	#1 (Highest)
Land Use	1.32	#2
Natural Resources	1.43	#3
Community Facilities & Services	1.53	#4
Economic Development	1.64	#5
Recreation	1.84	#6
Energy	1.90	#7
Transportation	2.00	#8

Cultural Resources	2.11	#9 (Lowest)
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## RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PACE

Residents were asked whether residential development is progressing too quickly, too slowly, or at about the right pace in different areas.



*Notable: 50% of respondents believe the Starksboro village area is developing too slowly, compared to just 2% who say too quickly.*

## COMMERCIAL & CIVIC NEEDS

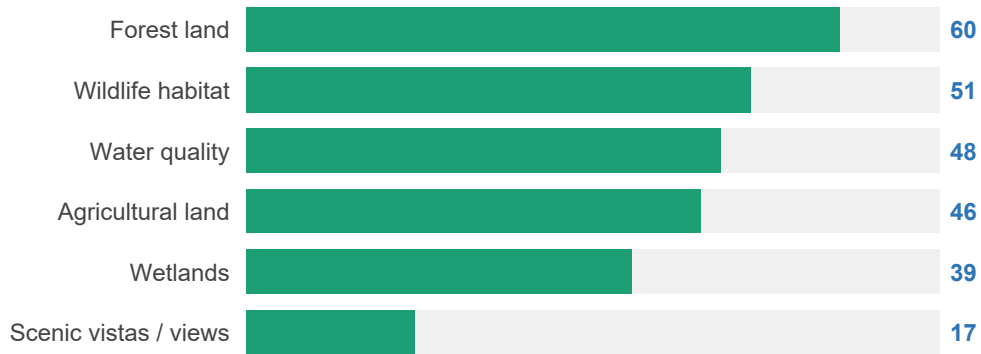
Respondents indicated whether Starksboro needs more, less, or is fine with current levels of various commercial and civic uses.

Use Type	More	Ok as is	Too much	Not sure
Recreation trails	49	37	0	3
Retail stores	46	37	0	6
Restaurants	38	35	2	14
Agriculture / Forestry	36	46	3	4
Outdoor community spaces	26	56	2	2
Entertainment	23	51	1	12
Industry / Manufacturing	23	47	4	12
Recreation fields	21	58	3	5
Office space	16	48	1	21
Short-term rentals	11	39	21	17

*Short-term rentals stand out as the only category where a notable share (21 respondents) say there is already too much.*

## NATURAL RESOURCE PRIORITIES

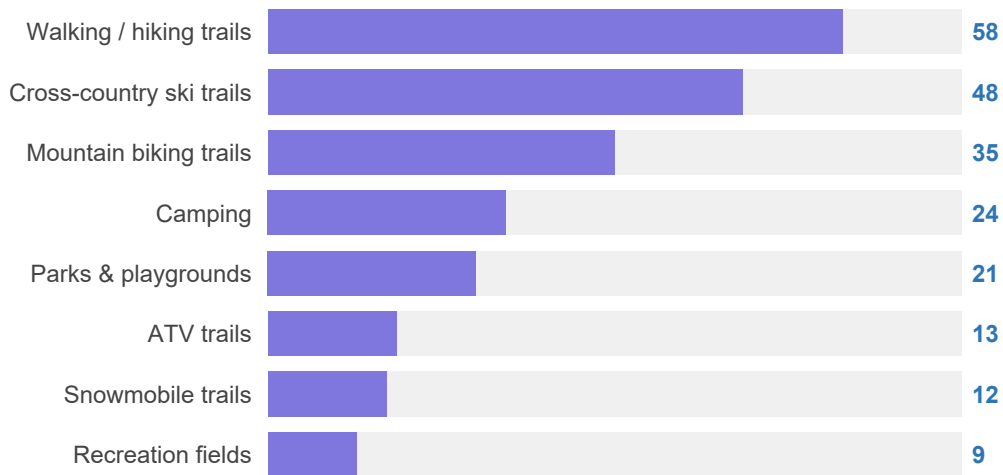
Respondents selected up to three natural resources they want the town to focus on over the next 5–10 years.



## RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

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Respondents selected all recreation types they would like to see more of in Starksboro.



## WRITTEN RESPONSES

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Answers and context provided in short and long open-text questions.

### What kinds of policies or resources could help address challenges Starksboro faces?

- Conflict of interest. \*NOTES NEXT TO OTHER CHECKED ANSWERS ABOVE: need to allow growth; less building hurdles/expenses; no more land trusts!; balancing affordability with smart growth = more growth; Think local, exit from district; give me an incentive and I will reopen`
- Less zoning bylaws on land owners

- relax zoning requirements to encourage growth and affordability
- Affordable housing is not necessarily tied to economic growth in town. People can work remotely, and Starksboro is close enough to more substantial employment centers that I think it makes more sense to focus on the housing problem separately. This is not to say that traditional local employment and economic development would not be a good thing. It certainly should be encouraged, but, like everywhere in Vermont (and many other rural areas, it is difficult to do on a small scale. Farming, for example, requires significant land resources, which have become expensive, requires hard work and reliable weather, and doesn't pay well or add to the tax base. I do not think commercial recreational opportunities, unless they were scaled up significantly in a way that would certainly change the character of the town will do much to increase the school age population or reduce property taxes. It would be great to have a store/cafe/gathering place in town along with senior housing. A small but substantial senior housing development in the village might well free up quite a bit of existing housing for younger folks since elders could stay in the community they love, but give up their traditional homesteads for the younger generation. Focusing directly on strategies to generate affordable housing is the best way to bring people to town and help with keeping the school viable, and would help some with the tax base.
- My fourth challenge is providing affordable housing. That is key to helping Robinson School stay open.

I think careful, thoughtful comprehensive town land use planning and zoning should look at areas in Starksboro where we could increase housing that also preserves our other goals and values. Areas for additional housing that have access to existing infrastructure, are on areas unsuitable for agriculture and that don't fragment large forest blocks should be identified through both analysis (for example Land Evaluation and Site Assessment or other GIS analysis. That GIS analysis should be combined with social engagement around that process to help identify priority areas for housing development. Current and future zoning proposals should also go through a build-out analysis to assess the potential for development. Population growth should be at a rate that our municipal budget can manage, with a priority of encouraging young families to settle in town. Additional long-term rental units could help here, including the potential to create duplexes in existing houses.

Limiting development in uplands, managing traffic volumes on Class 3 roads, preventing development on Class 4 roads, increasing culvert sizes can all reduce flood risk. Preventing the loss of agricultural land, including agricultural soils not currently farmed, supports long-term food security and rural economies.

To preserve natural resources and reduce impact on neighbors, lighting should be minimized following best practices for a dark night skies, with any security lighting for parking lights or businesses on timers or motion detectors so they don't remain on when not needed.

- Considering the Lewis Creek Watershed, and the multiple streams and water shedding in the town forest and steep sections of land in Starksboro when planning recreational opportunities. Work to cluster housing close to the village centers to minimize need for related infrastructure. When building housing outside of village centers, work to cluster houses and preserve open land, forest, wildlife crossing areas and watershed areas.
- I would like to see a mixed elder and new-family housing development in the village, where resources are walkable and people can build and maintain a strong sense of community as their needs change.
- Build senior housing in the village for our aging population/ share educational resources to cut school spending/ let's keep our large town forest area intact to continue to support wildlife-- to preserve the quality of our agricultural lands, have rules for pesticide use
- Update zoning to allow more housing !

- Close the school, repurpose the building as office space. Consolidate the Fire Department into a County Model. Start taxing non-full time residents at a full time rate.
- Don't relax zoning, especially in the Forest & Conservation district, where any new overlays are not appropriate. The housing issue is not driven by lack of adequate places to build, but rather the high costs of construction.
- Growth without sprawl. I understand the need to widen our tax base to relieve some of our tax burden but I don't want us to become Hinesburg. The sense of community is in part due to our small town feel. I also love our landscape and want to be sure we are preserving woods and green space for us to enjoy.
- Do not let corporations or the wealthy buy up our lands for stores/warehouses etc.
- Keep the school open to attract a younger generation.
- no strip development
- pooling education resources seems to be a sensible way to control education costs to keep property taxes more stable, becoming part of a housing trust could bring affordable housing to Starksboro, keeping major development within the village area & opening forest lands for more recreation like hiking & x-c skiing
- The vast majority of us in Starksboro are incredibly lucky to have access to clean drinking water sourced on our own properties. This should not be taken for granted, as there are many areas across the state where groundwater and surface water quality has been compromised for the long term. Continued thoughtful protection of forests and wetlands is essential to ensure that this remains the case into the future. I think that, given the suburbanization of nearby towns closer to Burlington, that Starksboro's rural character and natural resources are a strong draw for more young families to settle in Starksboro. I think that growth just for the sake of growth/more people is not the panacea to Starksboro's housing and school population concerns.
- A broader representation of individual viewpoints and genders, and term limits on the Starksboro Planning Commission.
- Housing - Give property tax breaks for five years to folks that add an ADU to their property and rent it for <\$1000 per month  
Robinson - Seems like the citizenry is already being proactive about saving Robinson...
- Village Store - Perhaps the food shelf building could be converted into a cooperatively managed store that serves as the food shelf on certain days of the week or month?
- Keeping key personnel interested in the community
- Equitable zoning (realistically determining where growth will be and where it should be). Community, particularly parents, involvement in school planning. Too often too few people decide what to do, not out of malice, but because they don't know what people want.
- I think the community needs to be better informed about the impact of the climate crisis and the need to protect natural resources while encouraging sustainable development. Policies need to be based on sound science.
- Administration in this rural state should not have this much income coming in. It's starting to feel like the problem in California where there's billions of dollars going toward the homeless issue in the state but the problem persists but people are employed so that's where the money goes. Employment. And I get it, I don't want my neighbor to lose their school administration job just because it's deemed "not in the budget", but maybe we should step back and look at Massachusetts or other states spending and funding and administrative structure that works so

well? Something has got to give before me and my family get booted from town because of affordability has changed since we arrived 😞

- Supporting development for housing that is affordable & accessible to both families and seniors (so seniors can move out of their too big houses and open them up for families) but not small-box retail (like Dollar General) or airstrips; encouraging more development closer to infrastructure and limiting development at the end of dirt roads that are poorly maintained; investing in infrastructure that can withstand higher volume of rain (e.g. bigger culverts)
- Sponsoring more programs to education the local citizens about climate change, conservation, taxation.
- I appreciate zoning policies which separate the town into regions based on how different regions can withstand growth and development, ie the village can withstand more growth than South Starksboro can. I also appreciate making plans for seceding from MAUSD and keeping Robinson school open so that young people like myself can raise families in Starksboro in the future and have access to that great school for years to come.
- Require the superintendent of our schools to cutback on the waste in his own office. Of course it's not going to happen now because the budget got voted in, so now we get to pay more taxes. The taxes are linked to housing affordability. As a community we need to think outside the districts box, doing what we need to do for us not the dictates of the district.
- Controlling growth and not allowing developers, as they have in Williston and Hinesburg to take over from the local residents.
- Affordable housing built in Starksboro, this would include the village along with rural parts of town. Development in regards to larger houses that focus on the wealthy do not help our town grow in healthy ways. Making sure working class Vermonters can continue to live here, along with bringing in young families and individuals should be very present in our town plans. We need people who will be part of our community, not use it as home base or ways to make a killing off of our towns resources.
- Honor the seniors who want to stay in the Starboard community. After all they spend most of there youth here.
- I think these are all interconnected: we have an aging population, not a lot of housing, and not a lot of young families moving in. As a new starksboro homeowner under 35, I think the town should prioritize policies that make it easier and more affordable for young families to put down roots here: streamlining ADU permitting, reducing fees or admin processes for landowners who want to subdivide, and actively partnering with organizations to develop affordable housing. I also support Act 250 reform at the state level to reduce barriers to modest rural development, while respecting our farmland and rural character. More households means a broader tax base, more kids in our school, and a community that's more enticing to young families.
- Focused economic and residential development in village centers, which require wastewater infrastructure and potentially seeking resources to study and develop opportunities for community wastewater systems.
- Creating 'third-places' for community gatherings and events.
- It makes sense to make improvements rather than repairs (i.e., add a bigger culvert rather than continue to repair the road storm after storm) so as to be efficient with expenditures.
- developing community infrastructure (water, sewer, storm) to support grouped affordable housing and business in village centers

- Creating more housing, or making housing easier to establish; creates more tax payers and more sustainable revenue. Instead of raising taxes on existing homeowners forcing them to leave the state is not sustainable.
- Consider incentives for landowners of large parcels to subdivide their lands in areas (HDRC district) where the town plan targets residential growth and development
- Creating smart and affordable housing is essential for supporting Robinsons viability as well as helping our community
- 1. Housing: most of the barriers are at the State level, but we should look again at ways to reduce local barriers, and to access State assistance. 2. Robinson: the threat is mostly from the State and school district, but the more we can encourage housingm especially for young families, there better off we will be. 3. Store: Perhaps a group of volunteers, working with the Planning Commission aand the Selectboard, can make a store in Starksboro Village a project.
- What can we do to cluster homes AND maintain/support mixed use (farm/sugar/solar/timber/crafts)?
- Could we do some kind of craft/food co-op? Entail? How could that be a thing that was easy for people to hear about and get to and park at? Open air craft fair on Robinson grounds? Hmmm"
- I think we need to concentrate development and growth in traditional and existing population centers (Starksboro Village, Jerusalem Rd) and try to limit development of steep, forested, headwater areas.
- I'm not sure - it's a difficult situation with such a sparse population, small tax bracket, high property taxes, and low economic stimulus. Vermont in a nut shell.
- Need to add more affordable housing. Condos, or apartments, not just single family homes. Need famies with kids moving to the area.
- The key to maintaining Starksboro as a desirable place to live is keeping Robinson School open for grades K-6. This requires affordable housing, appropriate and attractive to young families. Any zoning changes should support new housing. Is there town land anywhere that could be donated to a developer to build/install a manufactured home community or other low cost housing alternatives? Every effort should be made to increase school-age population.
- Let's work towards focusing on increased housing in Starksboro Village/prioritizing figuring out water limitations due to co-op so new builds can drill their own wells. This would allow for access to community transportation, schools, library, town offices, community garden, post office, and potentially make it possible for a general store to open
- Paying attention to people who are actively causing pollution with spilling paint cans, broken microwaves, burned cars, and massive trash heaps in their lawns, fining them for polluting / making them clean up. Enforcing the law on people who are being unsafe with firearms and explosives, keeping dogs in cages outside year round, letting dangerous dogs off leash to cars and people walking on the roads, letting children live in burned down trailers that barely have a roof on them. I would love to see things get cleaned up for the safety of the people who are actually paying taxes and adding to the value of the town.
- Completing the WCVT/Maple Broadband build, that will provide affordable access to high speed, reliable internet (fortunately this is in progress!!).  
Clarity ASAP about where housing for working families can be built in Starksboro
- Encourage local entrepreneurs to start locally minded businesses: cafes; restaurants; bookshops; garden stores, etc. Create a trails committee and work with landowners to build trail

networks for hikers, bikers, and skiers like Richmond has done. Shore up the culverts and ditches to help accommodate the more intense storms.

- More housing in the village.
- Because forests act as carbon sinks and soak up excess water their value as our climate changes needs to be respected. The community is served when it is well informed and is genuinely respected and consulted about issues. More community engagement when endeavors are begun would serve us all well.
- Two of my choices are at odds with each other. Bringing infrastructure to the point where it can handle heavy rains, etc. costs money but is worth the investment (but raises taxes) - likely cheaper long term to make infrastructure resilient as FEMA money will be harder to come by in the future. Anything that can be done to ensure the school remains open should be investigated.
- Concentrate growth in or near the town center/busses etc. consider tiny houses or duplexes , something that seniors and young people could afford. Don't give up our rich agricultural land or working forests just to split it into 5 or 10 acre lots. Right now we have a lot of open land and forest with amazing wild creatures that call it home  
Like to see it stay that way. If we had a couple small housing developments not too far out of the village it would hopefully bring in young people with kids which would boost the school
- Maintaining current zoning restrictions instead of rezoning every few years, which just allows for more subdivisions.
- I'm tired, I can't think straight.
- Inviting the right kind of light industry could help with taxes. Making the town more desirable to families could guarantee a future for Robinson. I think if the school closes the town will dry up. Young people won't settle here if their kids are going to be bused elsewhere and if they have several kids they'll be bused to several different schools and that's not ideal.
- Charge or impose more taxes on second homes and Airbnb rental homes. Please stop raising taxes on homestead (permanent residents) and small businesses. Retirees and year round homeowners are struggling!

**If you would not support the creation of a Community Land Trust (CLT) please explain why.**

- no no no no to expensive. There is plenty of open space. Gives land owners an advantage.
- I feel as if this takes power away from landowners and gives too much power to Town officials, special interest groups, (Land Conservationist)
- It offers a framework to reduce the cost of buying a housing because the land will have been purchased by the Trust
- Such an organization could support housing, economic and community growth while also planning and managing natural resources sustainably and matching the home pricing to the needs of community members.
- Private housing and development of family owned properties to allow generations to continue to build and live in Starksboro is most important to me. Small business and home based industries are 2nd on my list.
- Where is the money coming from? My property taxes have increased from less than \$1500 to almost \$8000 a year as I approach retirement. I support people building their own houses. I do not support community housing at this time. Bristol and Hinesburg are better suited with existing infrastructure and commerce. Once there is commerce in Starksboro and a walkable village, that would be the time. Now is premature.

- Don't know enough about it.
- Natural resources are strained already and the type of "affordable housing" that would excavate and ruin the land. Would be a huge strain on water and other natural resources everyone, including the wild animals, rely on.
- I lived under a land trust community here . for 29 years and the land and run off are not being respected by the Land trust owners.
- This would all depend on where any new housing is proposed.
- I live under a land trust over 30 years and they do not up keep the land and you rent from them . Your home gets destroyed by there lack of care and concern for the ever changing land .
- would preserve land
- Are you saying housing would be built within the CLT?
- I'd have to do more research about CLTs and their benefits/disadvantages.
- Usually don't support offroad trails
- More information (pros/cons) needed to answer
- Need more information about what this would entail and how it would work. Would also need to understand what is meant by "create permanently affordable housing and prevent displacement"
- I'm in favor of affordable housing, but many of the developments we've seen in South Burlington, Williston, etc. are cheaply built and aren't necessarily affordable. I'd prefer single unit houses spread out throughout the town, not major developments that ruin the town's character while enriching developers.
- I wrote not sure for all because I can't say yes or no to blanket statements without context. Do I support more housing in Starksboro? For sure, do I also think said housing should aim not to change the current lifestyle by segmenting access to patches of woods? Also yes. I don't know enough about what the CLT would do to say if I would support or not.
- United States
- Don't fully understand it
- I'm on Big Hollow and I don't see any possibility for many new homes in my immediate area, but I do welcome some new housing that would appeal to young families to keep the school open.

### Are there any other commercial or civic uses that you think Starksboro needs more of?

- Agriculture is a welfare situation. Too much government support. \*HANDWRITTEN NOTES NEXT TO ABOVE SELECTIONS:\* Entertainment - need a bar/I don't drink; Recreation trails - class 4 roads
- We as a community need franchises allowed in the Town of Starksboro, village or otherwise
- a convenience store, gas station, creamy stand, something like the former Harvest Moon eatery.... we also need the school for the community
- There is no way to control the market economy in this country except through tax policy and monetary policy -- generally at the Federal level. At the local level, we must create new structures and mechanisms that can manage land values outside of the -- mostly upwardly accelerating -- real estate market . This is what a land trust can do. I think it is really important to explore this option fully. I also think senior housing in either of the village areas would be a great development that might also free up existing homesteads for the next generation. It could also help to generate clientele that might support small commercial enterprises in these villages.

- While the economics are challenging in a rural community, we'd be open to gathering opportunities like a restaurant or other gathering places, along with recreation.
- Recreation trails should be primarily for low-impact activities.
- Many people in town enjoy higher impact activities, such as snow-mobiling and ATV use. For those activities there should be analysis on where that is wanted in town to allow that activity while minimizing impacts."
- Retail stores: just one store in village that is a general or convenience store
- Starksboro is perfectly positioned as a home base for nature and recreation lovers, for professionals and tradespeople, and for families who want to be a part of a community that shows care.
- I am always looking for ways to engage people more in civic participation. Having mentorship in taking on leadership roles is something we might want to encourage more of in town. Folks may be hesitant to run against someone but want to offer skills/services. Is there a way to build more mentorship/participation to ready the next generation for community action and service?"
- We have sports fields, playgrounds, pavilions, etc. We need co-working spaces, a coffee shop, a general store, a local auto repair with gas station. More creative shared commercial working spaces - food prep or commercial kitchen, co working office space with high speed internet (space for rent)
- Make Cota Field better, so it doesn't keep flooding
- Would be great if we could have trails open up south for horses and mt bikes
- I would LOVE an indoor space to gather. A coffee shop, a child-focused something or other... somewhere a book club could gather or birthday party could happen. The upstairs of the library maybe, but I think the whole area is lacking in coffee shops. I would start one of there was a place for it!
- Short term rentals - Back to that multiple properties ownership thing. Any shelter is better than living outside. Tax the crap outta these people. They have the money. And it will help the grand list be reflective of actual value.
- Having a General Store like Lincoln General Store would be beneficial.
- I think short term rentals need to be regulated since they cut into available long-term housing options. I don't know how many short term rentals Starksboro currently has, so I don't know whether it's already too many or not.
- WHat would increase the tax revenue and not be a big burden to neighbors?
- we need the return of a town store so people who have no car can get goods. If the store ends up with goods that need to move out for reasons of up date they can donate them to the food shelf.
- Any activities that damage natural areas or threaten wildlife and their habitat should be discouraged.
- We need to make better use of the Starksboro Meeting House. It could be a great venue for music, book readings, etc. Last summer, the librarian at the SPL did a great job organizing music to the pavillion and this will continue in 2026; and we'll eventually be able to use the upstairs of the library and it's stage once some additional renovations are finalized to the building. In the meantime, I thought there was intention to use the meeting house as a more robust gathering space -- not just for the candlelight service once a year.
- I don't want short-term rentals to take away housing stock from families who could live here year-round
- What about a public town forest with mountain bike trails?

- Would love to see a town hall building up and running. If businesses arrived I would love for them to be family owned businesses.
- It comes down to opening up areas and then see who applies. As far as retail and restaurants are concerned there may be enough traffic to warrant opening up such a business.
- Starksboro really doesn't need any of these developments.
- May be . but i am not aware of them.
- I would love a gravel bike path and Nordic skiing trail - it's great we have the VAST network, but it would be awesome to have trails beyond snowmobiling/ATV
- We should be exploring long term options to move the rec fields out of the floodplain and river corridor.
- I think having a place to work that isn't the library is a cool idea. There are a lot of people who work from home who may want or need a place to work.
- Continued development of a town center in the village. Perhaps find a new location for Cota Field, due to constant flooding.
- a couple of midsize manufacturing shops with jobs with low to mid-range labor skill requirements would help with the tax base and give low wage folks jobs with short commutes. might generate the need for a local store.
- We have quite a few outdoor rec areas that don't get much use. I don't feel that building more will draw people in.
- As for the hospitality/entertainment sector, we are so close to other places that have such things that it would be hard to start a new business here and be successful. I'm not against people trying, if they have a passion for it, but I wouldn't force the issue, either.
- it would be nice to have a store in the village - though may be unfeasible with the current economy. It seems there might be opportunity for small amounts of growth in office space for small co-working type spaces. Recreation fields seem adequate in space and quantity, but i wonder about the long term sustainability of Cota field potential increase flooding. It would be nice to extend the trail from the fields all the way to the school and maybe beyond to the trailer park.
- Could we do some outdoor concerts in the summer? Also see above about craft fairs or maybe a monthly little market in the summer? I don't know if this would work but it might be fun to try one time? Learn from and maybe complement Bristol Core?
- We would benefit from more retail stores (e.g., general store) and restaurants in Starksboro Village. The Town Forest in Hillsboro would be a great opportunity for outdoor community space/recreation trails. If the Starksboro Village was thriving and there were nearby recreation trails in Hillsboro, this could attract visitors which may increase the opportunity for a general store in the Village again.
- Opportunities to bring in small, locally owned businesses would be great
- I would rather that short term rentals become permanent housing for folks looking to settle here.
- More off road trails or unmaintained roads for summer use.
- Hard to say anything specifically is lacking, but I am not against any of the above happening at the proper scale and in the proper place.
- More recreational trails and opportunities. Mtb trails would be great
- Give folks a reason to stop and spend money in Starksboro... If there are things to do, they'll spend even more money.
- More walking trails. A market for essentials. More hours for the Library.

## Land Use and Economic Development Explanation or Further Comments

- How many new commercial businesses have even tried.
- again, there is little development occurring, or at least it seems that way....
- Starksboro, like other towns used to consist of many small community centers made up of neighbors who supported each other in a small local economy. It would be nice to imagine small community centers springing up again in various parts of town with different types of economic activity occurring in them. Some of these, like an automobile repair shop, or a farmstand can sometimes thrive in these locations, but even a small general store really struggles as a viable enterprise in any small town. Mixing residential and commercial uses sometimes works; sometimes not. Noise is a big factor when choosing what can be accommodated
- We support the expansion of maple sugaring if that is considered "commercial development", or other agriculturally-related activities, provided there is not excessive noise. We would be concerned about any gravel extraction businesses if they were to be proposed due to anticipated noise. We'd be open to event venues (e.g., weddings, frisbee golf, camps, etc.) as appropriate to help with local economic development. We'd support non-motorized recreation trails and businesses.
- Commercial development doesn't belong on Class 3 roads except for small businesses with very little impact on the roads. Our dirt roads cannot support extensive traffic and deliveries. That would require a lot more in taxes to support the roads and infrastructure needed for bridges, culverts, etc.
- I would like to have a pharmacy in Starksboro
- Keep the growth in town so up south can keep the rural areas
- I live near the village, so I'm not sure about other places. Again, I haven't seen or heard of much commercial development.
- A commercial area would have vested interests. A bedroom community does not.
- I believe that commercial development is best placed in the Village Area. My concern with commercial development elsewhere is that Starksboro lacks the resources to monitor and enforce zoning requirements as has been stated by the Planning Commission in recent forums. There is at least one example of a large commercial, industrial operation which is operating without any oversight despite having a conditional use permit and creating health and quality of life challenges for adjacent properties and substantially impacting sensitive ecosystems. I support commercial development and agree it is part of a healthy community, however, oversight is necessary to ensure commercial and residential priorities are balanced and the character and rural nature of our communities remains intact.
- As with the above, I am not aware of commercial development happening in Starksboro so I can't answer this question about its pace. Clearly I need to become apprised about both residential and commercial development in Starksboro because I am unaware.
- I think that the existing character of any neighborhood in Starksboro should be a very strong consideration when commercial development is proposed that would alter that character in a definitive and negative manner over the long term.
- this is a misleading question since there is currently no commercial development in Starksboro. as with the last question, it makes sense to have commercial development along the 116 corridor in the village, not so much on 17 in south Starksboro. It depends on the type of commercial development though. The store on 17 makes sense, so would other smaller scale

commercial projects like a home based storefront etc. but larger commercial projects should be limited to the village.

- What commercial development? (haha)
- I believe development should focus on the Village and creating a better town center that would attract small business and families.
- I don't really see any commercial development in any of these areas --
- I think there's room for a bit more retail/commercial development in the village center. But please no tattoo parlors or cannabis dispensaries since we have enough of those in the state already.
- Whatever commercial developments arise I hope they are slow and they must be affordable.
- This would all depend on what is being proposed and where it would be located.
- Roads in the Brook side trailer park once paved before the Land trust broke them up and promised residents that they would replace them paved also the drive ways of many have sunken away with the land trust not again doing up keep to the property they own. Many people bought there own stone for drive way and it sinks away after a year or 2 winters.
- There is a lot of potential in the village center along 116 that isn't utilized.
- Do we even have commercial development in Starksboro? I'm not mad about it, I'm legitimately asking.
- Again, I am not sure. I'm not sure I'm even aware of commercial development in the area beyond farms and timber-framing.
- Haven't really seen any commercial development happening. The question is to what scale will we accept it in our town? Most businesses in town are personal businesses run from homes and some people have run into resistance, both with proposed businesses and with how existing businesses are being run. It seems that it is hard to have a business in town. I do not see a need for businesses that need large footprints (box stores, etc) as most people commute for work to places that have such things, making them accessible. I think having those services here are less likely to benefit us in the form of employment or tax revenue due to a saturation of services in a small geographical area. And with so many way people shop online, existing businesses are struggling. No need to bring that here.
- More economic development will spur more housing, which will bring in young families, which will protect Robinson School.
- A couple more businesses and a store in the town would be nice, but i think housing is more important than commercial growth
- I don't know much about any commercial development. While commercial development may help with municipal taxes, residential development will help with increasing the Grand List as well as increasing the Robinson School population.
- Let's focus on Starksboro Village. Again, this is set-up as a Village and would benefit from increased opportunities (e.g., housing, business) in this area. By building up other parts of town, we will lose why people live here and visit here--our natural resources. If people wanted to live in Williston, we'd live there already. :)
- I don't have a clear picture about what commercial development is planned or progressing. I have doubts about whether Starksboro need commercial development, but I could be wrong about that.
- We need an active village. Not dollar stores and large commercial facilities. We need places people actually want to go and spend time out of a desire to, not out of a necessity.

- I have real concerns about run off entering the Baldwin creek from heavy equipment on Jerusalem road feet from a wetland.  
He should be operating farther from population centers.
- Commercial development would also seem most appropriate located near main roads
- The village needs some businesses
- See above...
- Should the town establish a "business park" for small/med commercial development?
- I have no idea what developments are happening. With no newspaper how would we know?  
I'm not seeing any new commercial developments.

## What does Starksboro Do Well?

- Stay small, manage Town programs well, Fire dept especially.
- roads, some town gatherings, like the chili contest
- We're small enough to care and know others
- So far, remain agriculture based
- Conveys a sense of self sufficiency
- It is a lovely close-knit and caring community that, mostly, quite effectively balances personal privacy and property rights with community interests and needs. This is always challenging, and there is always some tension around this balance. I think, as long as people are open-minded, respect and listen to each other carefully, and make a reasonable effort to accommodate each other as neighbors, a mixed community with many different values and interests like Starksboro can thrive.
- Community engagement. Keep it up and keep us all posted and engaged. Thanks!
- Robinson school support is outstanding. We should strive to have that kind of collaborative, encouraging, diverse engagement throughout town government and town activities.  
Currently, conserving forested areas. Protection of ag land has been weakened but is still fairly good and should be re-strengthened.  
Community gatherings, like the Chili Cook-Off, sugar on snow, the Eclipse gathering.  
I think we use Front Porch Forum well. We can use that even more to encourage in person meetings and community discussion  
Starksboro is a beautiful place, with farm and forest viewsheds, dark and quiet night skies.
- Nice town meetings, elected and appointed officials that take their responsibilities seriously and serve the community well
- manage roads, excellent public school
- Starksboro has a treasure trove of community members who show up with dedication and care.  
The landscape is beautiful and perfectly positioned to welcome community members and visitors alike to explore and enjoy the heart of Vermont.
- I like the quietness and not a lot of heavy traffic
- Open land
- Community
- NIMBY and high taxes.
- Preserves a rural lifestyle while still fostering a strong, close-knit community.
- Our community gatherings are great from Town Meeting to Holiday Gatherings, we have such a great community. I also think our Library is "top drawer".
- works well as a community
- I come from a land of unchecked development that drove my family to Starksboro. I have seen first hand what happens to the environment when money means more than people and

community. I think Starksboro, so far, has done a good job of finding that balance between growth and identity.

- We mix homes with nature, tradition & history with new ideas & ways, we support families & our school as a centerpoint of our community & I love our library & that I can walk to it easily.
- I think the Starksboro Road Crew does an excellent job on our roads.
- In general, we do pretty well at respecting each others opinions and viewpoints. We are never all going to agree on the specific mechanisms to address what we see as problems, but we are open to discussing options in a respectful manner.
- Starksboro has thus far been able to avoid the sprawl seen in our neighboring town to the north.
- Starksboro has an amazing community for those who chose to participate in it. The town (or a few folks in town) do a great job of having events and gatherings throughout the year. Unfortunately its usually the same group of folks that show up for the events.
- Care, communicate, help.
- Maintain on a low budget and has many citizen trying to keep it active.
- Treats each other with respect, tolerance and a genuine camaraderie - for the most part.
- Good community of friendly, new/young, and tenured/older neighbors
- Starksboro is s tight nit community.
- 1) neighbors helping neighbors 2) those individuals who do participate/volunteer/serve as elected officials are very committed to the work 3) love the staff at the town offices -- ALWAYS so speedy to respond and friendly 4) great public library for a small rural community and 5) dedicated road crews who are always on top of the latest weather events.
- People rally when a neighbor's in need, the community is incredibly supportive of the elementary school
- The longer-term residents I have met in Starksboro are warm, welcoming, and helpful. I like being a part of that kind of community. I also like the fact that the town has maintained its rural, rustic character.
- Great opportunities for community to gather
- Starksboro is a relatively quiet place to live. For me, it's a challenge to see Starksboro as anything other than a bedroom town.
- The community does come together when there are proposals that go against the grain, such as opening Ireland Rd to snowmobilers.
- Fosters a community that cares about its neighbors and residents.
- not sure
- The library! It's the best thing about our town.
- Doing well with the resources we have. Investing strategically and sensibly where we can.
- I love our community. I love our woods and dirt roads. I think our road crews do well with a hard job, our librarians are incredible, and anytime I have needed to speak to town representatives I have gotten immediate and personable responses. By saying this, I know it might seem like I am arguing to keep Starksboro small, but I'm not. Our location offers a decent commute to several more populated places. With the sentiments of rural Vermonters, any land development will have to be done very cautiously and I don't envy those trying to make it happen and keep everyone happy (impossible.) Still, I think the future of our town and the state itself is hinging on affordable housing.
- Starksboro has committed elected leaders who work to promote community and respect the frugality necessary to allow people of varying socio-economic levels to thrive here.
- Community cohesiveness

- Generally people are respectful of each other regardless of their views and backgrounds
- Friendly community
- Seclusion and Peace, access to utilities.
- Great community and civic culture.
- Welcomes inhabitants; it'd be nice to have at least a semiannually newsletter about current things like available form shares, and what neighbors are up to and opportunities/businesses lashes ways to be engaged with different elements of the community.
- Community care for our kids and each other.
- Great little community
- Our community has so many amazing people who volunteer across a variety of spaces (fire dept, coaches, invasive plant management, etc.). The people are the heart of this town. We clearly love where we live and want to continue to see our town thrive. We do well when we work together.
- I do appreciate your efforts, it's just hard paying a lot in taxes and feeling unsafe and like there is no support from the town or police.
- Starksboro school educates all the children and introduces kids to adult roles and responsibilities.
- Starksboro is a true community. People here tend to know and care for each other.
- Despite setbacks, I think there is a strong sense of pride. The road crew works hard. Library is great.
- Community values
- Starksboro cares very much about its children.
- Its citizens are engaged. People pitch in to make the community better with their time and talent. It is frugal with the money it has.
- We have a nice little town with good community support and I feel that if at all possible we should keep Robinson school open
- Community spirit, school spirit, helping others
- Residents advocate for what they believe in
- Staving off Chittendon county economic planning "sensibilities".... We're not going to sell out.
- Natural beauty, small town feel. I have to admit I sometimes have Huntington and Lincoln "envy" as those towns seem to have a larger critical mass of folks committed to making things happen for their towns. They go the extra mile (which is sometimes a financial extra mile) towards an event or cause.
- Keeps over development under control .
- It's a safe, friendly community with caring, helpful people.
- It's a beautiful place to live
- Almost everything except maintain civility during the town plan and zoning by-law process.

### What is one thing you would change about Starksboro?

- Stop the protesters to development. That group of individuals that make growth impossible, They are responsible for the school being in jeopardy.
- Less Zoning Regulations.  
Franchises allowed in starksboro (lets create some infrastructure).

mail out these survey's (not everyone uses online applications)."

- keep taking input from all individuals but limit the amount of time for everyone, making sure that a few don't monopolize town meetings/committee meetings or hinder progress Encourage in-person attendance, limit zoom participation
- Get more young families in Robinson!
- Return of the local informational newspaper
- More density and multiple uses in the village
- I'd like to see the community more engaged in processes like this, and in the really hard work of seriously thinking about the future of this town. Thank you for asking these questions and bringing this questionnaire to everyone in town. I hope the response is productive and useful.
- Be proactive in developing an Energy Plan that addresses "substantial deference" so that we are proactive in planning for our energy future and ensure we have a "seat at the table" in making any future energy planning decisions.
- Absolutely improve the atmosphere around planning and the Planning Commission. Make it more welcoming, interesting and enjoyable. Do that for all of town government. Volunteering is time consuming and challenging but it does not have to have a negative vibe.  
I would encourage research into the use of best practices for reducing off site impacts. For example, monitoring noise and traffic is done by other small towns. What are the best ideas out there that support housing and business growth while reducing impacts? I don't think we do enough research about best practices and I would encourage us to do more.  
Encourage the use of our historic buildings for community activities, entertainment and events  
I would increase appreciation and opportunity for low-impact recreation opportunities.  
I'd move Town Meeting back to Tues with a sit-down lunch ;)"
- Have a store in the village that sells gas, has a good selection of groceries, sells beer, and whatever else is needed to attract customers and keep the store thriving
- More young families with children having the capacity to move in, therefore affordable housing.
- If you don't have children in the school, it can be an isolating place. I'd like to see us increase capacity for community building, in spaces that are coming on-line soon, like the Town Hall and the Jerusalem Schoolhouse.
- Make the village into something!! We need a gas station, a local store, a place to see one another and buy milk and eggs. Turn our sleepy town into the gem it could be.
- I wish all big trucks could be re-routed to Route 7
- Promote growth.. less limitations on building and zoning. More small to mid size businesses. Maintain agriculture promote tree farms, maple industry, family home based business.
- Road maintenance on 116 Rt 17
- Housing
- The Road Crew is horrible compared to the previous 2 Road Foremen, Tom and Tony. I would replace the entire Road Crew in a heartbeat. Hey, at least the wheels stayed on the trucks this year and nobody backed over the bank. But the roads continue to suck more than they have in 35 years.
- The risk of Robinson school closing because it will make it more challenging for young families to thrive here.
- Greater community involvement. Happy to see this survey, but it was not clear if it was open to the whole community or just land owners. I had not filled it out previously to today, because of that. More information out to the community as a whole is needed. Not just FPF. Calls maybe? Annoying, perhaps, but perhaps welcomed by many in the community. Those of us who want more knowledge of why so much is changing in our small towns.

- I would add sidewalks to our village area to make it more walkable & user-friendly ---& have a cafe to walk to too--
- Well, it can't be changed. I think that Starksboro's scattered geography with no real central, natural meeting point (e.g., town roads leading to a central village) detracts from what could be a stronger sense of community. At the same time, the primarily undeveloped central area of Starksboro is a real gem.
- As alluded to in an above answer, I'm not sure that the recent iterations of the Starksboro Planning Commission have focused on preserving the rural character and natural beauty of Starksboro and proceeded with actions suggesting an understanding that this is the reason many folks have chosen to live here.
- I would like to see far more development in the village. Models such as the Bristol Co-Housing village should be explored to see if they can be reimaged here. Increased densities should be extended right down to the Starksboro/Bristol town line. Get rid of the ag/scenic district within a few hundred feet of 116. Some sort of village with senior housing / affordable housing / small grocery or convenience store would be nice right in Starksboro village on 116. But not industrial feeling like most other development taking place in VT. I'm not opposed to development in south starksboro, just not the development that is currently taking place like that awful proposal on 17.
- Hard to grow old and stay in home especially in the woods. Moving is too expensive and where to go? Can seniors stay here?
- I would like to see a change that gives the folks a way to report and document hazardous waste that gets running into Lewis creek. over 29 years her i seen a lot of forest die off. I seen gasoline . Oils. Transmission fluids. Hydraulic fluids seep into the land even run off into the creek. It almost like no one cares and or realizes that the creek feeds well water and is part of a larger water way system. most people believe the land can Handel all this as it may naturally filer it out. This be car waste products and heavy equipment leaking out into the grounds.
- Fix Rte 17.
- I would emphasise the need to protect wildlife and habiat. I would pass atown law to prohibit trapping, removalof beaver dams, and all forms of hounding.
- A bigger, more affordable gas station in Jerusalem area would be great. (Friendly Local owned)
- Just adding some housing for elders and young adults, maybe a store near the village
- Get more young people involved in making decisions and taking part in community discussions; typically, it's the same people that get involved over and over again and if we hope to grow as a community and develop responsibly, we need the input of those seeking to buy a first house or sending their kids to Robinson, etc.
- I would create more appropriate housing for seniors so they could live with support and open their larger homes to families
- Better cell phone service and fiber-optic cable would be really helpful.
- Keep housing affordable.
- There is a state initiative moving through the legislature that would allow landowners to use purple paint on trees, to mark that their land is closed to hunting/trapping etc. The current rules making it much more difficult for landowners to control their land use by outsiders.
- The draw of younger people who can help move Starksboro in its next direction.
- Senior citizen awareness.
- I hope we figure out a way to attract more young people here - through affordable housing, a trail network, recreation opportunities, etc. A big reason my wife and I moved here is because of the elementary school being so close, and I hope more families come here so it remains open.

- Would like a community gathering space like a coffee shop
- I want more lower income, young families, and young people in general to have opportunities to own here.
- I am concerned that we might end up looking like Hinesburg in our efforts to "grow the town." I like living here because it isn't Hinesburg. The rural feel, forests, agriculture, and smaller community are what makes Starksboro appealing to me. Any development should be smart. Further, there are MANY short-term (Airbnb) rentals in town. If we're concerned about reduced housing, let's incentivize property owners to create places for people to live in town. Let's make ADU opportunities something people might start to consider.
- Create incentives for greater density in both villages
- Banning gunfire between sundown and sunrise.
- a store in the village
- More housing, more businesses, find a way to keep young people in the town instead of leaving the state.
- I would encourage the existing organizations and town committees to explore further pathways of working together toward a common causes that help build a support community spirit in ways that honor our legacy residents and encourage engagement of new residents in ways that work for them.
- Need more housing.
- I think we still need paper communications; Facebook is unreliable into full of advertisements and not everybody has or wants to have Front Porch Forum
- Availability of housing that does not come at the cost of productive agricultural land or our ability to withstand rainfall events of increasing severity
- Housing options, a nice dense new neighborhood with apartments, single family homes, duplexes and possibly retail mixed in would be an amazing opportunity for the town
- Increase school-age population.
- Not focusing enough on supporting Starksboro Village so it can be a thriving place and destination for locals and visitors.
- Clean it up, enforce things that actually matter
- I would add a swimming hole somewhere around Cota's field
- I would hope more people could move here to increase our school enrollment.
- Encourage thoughtful economic development and more recreation opportunities.
- An increase in understanding about the benefits of intelligent and well organized community engagement. Respect for people who come to committees to offer feedback.
- Reroute VAST trails that currently go over class 4 roads that have people living on them full time (for example Brown Hill East and Rounds Road). The snowmobiles prefer to ride in the woods anyway. In the forest conservation area where people live full time, allow new full time houses - but keep minimum lot size at 25 acres and have any buildings close to the road like they are all now.
- What would help keep the school open is more families with kids moving to town and for that we need some affordable housing. Not McMansions on 20 acres of land. Don't want to see all the open land taken up. A couple small developments with housing that real working people could actually afford. Maybe some light commercial to help the tax base
- Better cell service
- Remember that once a new house is added, it never goes away. We keep adding houses to the most beautiful and rural spots, and they're losing their beauty as a result

- Get more aggressive about planning its future, who we want to be, not copying what our neighbors to the north are doing to increase economic activity.
- We need more people, especially youngish people to bring kids into school, join fire and rescue, serve on boards etc, etc
- Allow/encourage some kind of limited commercial development on 116, such as a small store and service station, a small medical clinic, encourage public services types of small businesses in the central Down town area maybe with tax incentives.
- Bring in a market for essentials and keep Robinson open.
- Taxes are too high
- The NIMBY mentality with regards to change.

### Any further comments, suggestions, feedback, or explanation for specific answers.

- Stop listening to that group of people that have caused so much damage all really you know the names.  
\*NOTES HANDWRITTEN NEXT TO NATURAL RESOURCES & RECREATION SECTION:\*
- Forest land - tax maple trees
- Agricultural land - stop government handouts
- Wetlands - make state + local manage beaver damage
- Water quality - monitor
- Walking, hiking, and running trails - mountain biking class 4
- Those who serve on our town boards and committees deserve thanks and appreciation for all they do and the time they give. Their time should be "protected"
- \*Related to New Homes in Immediate Neighborhood\* don't think it's allowed currently.
- \*Related to Housing Support Question\* - prefer to offer no interest loans to current home owners to maintain current homes and provide housing for help.
- In the natural resources and recreation sections above, since we were allowed to choose only three natural resources, I chose the ones that I thought needed to be protected that perhaps we could protect. I'd love to protect scenic vistas, but I am not sure how to do that through the town plan or through zoning, unless we just say outright, ""This is a listed scenic view; you can't put your house here."" It seems doubtful that we could raise the money to purchase whole view sheds, or even the points from which you could view them, and it seems unlikely that people would seriously entertain having their land listed as ""vista sensitive"" and their use of it limited by that. I have tried (unsuccessfully) to talk people out of building a house in a specific location, and I don't think there is anything wrong with asking people to consider and possibly accommodate community values (or neighbors' interests) in how they use their land, even if it isn't zoned in a specific way. This has been done successfully in our neighborhood -- mostly without being asked, and just by being sensitive to neighbors' preferences.  
With regard to recreational opportunities, I believe that the relative silence of Starksboro's backcountry is a significant natural resource, and a significant part of why people choose to live here. I therefore don't support motorized recreation of any kind. I would also be concerned about its impact on wildlife, on habitat, plant species, soil erosion, etc. I think this is something that needs to be brought to townspeople much more vigorously than it has been, and that it must be debated fully and voted on before it is included in the Town Plan or in any zoning document.
- Avoid large scale housing developments in favor of smaller clusters of housing.
- Highlight the importance of growth that does not impact neighbors, rural landscape or increase impacts (for example flooding, high road speeds, night lighting and noise). Utilize best practices

to reduce these impacts on neighbors and the town, which will also increase support for this growth.

- Encourage growth of smaller homes that are affordable for young families and that provide an opportunity for existing, aging homeowners to downsize and stay in Starksboro (opening up their homes to new families).
- Thank you for your time and care!
- Enforce the bylaws you have before you ask the community to consider changes. Violations, small and very big, are in our community and nothing happens. Focus there and show that the bylaws and Town Plan mean something other than a lot of meetings.
- Starksboro needs more housing ! New zoning rules should allow smaller lot sizes, promote home based businesses, while balancing common sense rules. Keeping young families in town and keeping Robinson School open.
- As a young family we regularly travel at least 30 min to get to stores, friends, playgrounds, and other child resources. There are recently a few more families in Starksboro, but for the most part we travel because there is nothing here that our out of town friends will come to us for. As a mom of young kids especially I can feel stuck and isolated. I would do just about anything to have a nearby indoor place to meet up with other moms to have a warm beverage. We also employ up to ten or twelve agricultural employees each year, and housing is the main reason I'm worried about our farm's long term viability. We have only had one employee find housing in Starksboro of our twelve years of employing folks, and farm wages are having a tough time keeping up with Burlington rental prices. Similarly, I have an elderly parent who needs more care and I can't find nearby housing for her.
- I'm also cool with people landing electric aircraft on their property. Its their right as they own the airspace as well.  
There are landing strips in Starksboro already. Those should be 'grandfathered' for when the NIMBY's start crying.
- I am a younger person (30) living in Starksboro, and I think it is a very special place that I feel protective of conserving. While I understand there is a housing crisis in this state, I am wary of promoting more residential development in areas of natural beauty. I would prefer to keep new housing focused to the existing densely populated areas of the town. Additionally, I do not desire more commercial development since we have access to that in surrounding towns. The rurality of Starksboro is what makes me want to live here for the long-term - not the possibility of commercial development. If I were to suggest an area of focus for the planning commission, it would be responding to climate change and the increasing risk of natural disasters so that the people who live here are not pushed out by losing their homes and livelihood. Additionally, it would be prudent to address the town's vulnerability to climate change-related disasters before adding more development, if that is the ultimate goal.
- Thank you!!
- For the 2nd question I left "sense of community" unchecked because given my location I am more a part of the Huntington community. And left "quality of school" unchecked because I don't know from my own experience, not having had kids in the school. But by all reports Robinson Elementary is excellent and I am in favor of keeping it open.
  - o I feel like we have a lot of challenges to face over the next 5-10 years; choosing 3 is too few. I would add:
  - o preserving water quality and natural resources
  - o adapting to climate change

- conserving forest and ag land
  - controlling property taxes
- I am of the opinion that increasing the housing stock in Starksboro to have the desired effect of drawing young families with elementary school aged children to keep Robinson School from closure will not be a successful strategy.
- Thank you for doing this. On the one hand i think landowners should have flexibility to do what they want with their land, but on the other i think the town needs to somehow encourage specific development - the type that may not be the most lucrative for developers, but the most beneficial for the town. It's a difficult needle to thread and i dont envy your jobs.
- Do not want to lose the night sky beauty, the wildlife and nature while developing and growing.
- My reason for my comments is hope it helps hope there are agencies and other forms of awareness that i have not yet discovered.
- Starksboro is a part of a larger community, namely the Five Towns. We should not try and duplicate things for the sake of having it (whatever IT is) in Town.
- Please help young new families like mine stay in town. We are doing OKAY right now, but if these tax increases keep up, we won't have the means to stay here. My kids (2.5&4yrs) love it here and I'd be devastated to have to move us elsewhere after all the hard work and time we put into our home.
- Thank you for the survey -- it gave me an opportunity to think about several issues and provide input.
- I feel SUPER excited about the possibility of a CLT and would be really interested in learning more/helping make this happen.
- Thanks for soliciting this input from residents like me. I feel lucky to be able to live in Starksboro.
- I am a young person renting in Starksboro, and while I haven't been here for long I would like the opportunity to stick around and have a family here. It is hard to see such an age gap/so few young people settling in Starksboro due to a lack of housing and job opportunities, but at the same time I love how rural our town is and I hope it does not get developed quickly or overdeveloped.
- I would do well to go to a few planning meetings maybe I'd have more of a vision to what our little town could be.
- I would like to see Starksboro consider adopting river corridor protections to receive a higher Emergency Relief Assistance Fund rate from the state. It is a relatively small change, especially with forthcoming state corridor regulation, that would allow the community to receive an extra 5% (from 12.5% to 17.5%) reimbursement on public costs following disasters.  
[https://floodready.vermont.gov/find\\_funding/emergency\\_relief\\_assistance](https://floodready.vermont.gov/find_funding/emergency_relief_assistance)
- I moved here initially because of affordability, though if I were looking now I'm not sure I would have ended up here.  
Also please note, I'm sure if I had kids, my answers to this survey would be very different, and my top priority here would be figuring out our school system. Even as an outsider I can see how much stress, strife and frustration is involved with this situation right now. I don't see how we can convince people to live here if their kids won't have a well-run and dependable school district. The lack of faith many people seem to have in choices by administration is troubling."
- Thank you for asking for feedback. I do know that I was concerned when I heard about a possible airstrip. I think that this would be noisy, and would certainly have a negative impact on the general "rural feel."
- Thanks for doing this

- I think we should be open to closing/repurposing Robinson. I know a lot of people feel it would be a loss, but I can see the potential opportunities (senior/low income housing, for one). Property taxes can't keep going up...especially since the number of students and the education quality are going down.
- Starksboro is a gem of a town in a great state but following state trends is on the decline. This is mainly due to young folks not staying or new young people coming in and starting families, I believe according to statistics this is because the cost of living in Vermont is considerably higher than many states while maintaining lower than average incomes and job availability other than remote jobs, combined with the extremely high costs of houses, or renting. The American dream is to buy a home and start a family and leave a legacy and I'm afraid that we as a state have lost sight of that and it's up to the townships across the state to problem solve this.
- the recreation opportunities checklist above I have the following thoughts: 1. it would be great to continue to expand infrastructure in the village core. a playground set, more public hang-out space, and maybe continued development of the pavilion area into a summer time performance space 2. creating a comprehensive plan for pedestrian use trails around town would be a good idea 3. cross-country ski trails could tie into the above and would be valuable to explore along the high elevation east side of town 4. ATV trails can be a hot button topic, but done right they could be a significant opportunity as publicly available ATV trails are few and far between. 5. hunting opportunities in town could serve as future seasonal economic booster and land-use policy should encourage habitat development in forest blocks.
- Keep up the good work, folks!
- There is no mention of the proposed "landing strip" possibility. Such a possibility should be absolutely prohibited - not a conditional use since such use is ultimately governed by federal guidelines. I understand the need to address the issue in the Town Plan and Zoning regulations and am opposed to any possibility of a landing strip anywhere in Starksboro.
- I know we need more affordable housing. This would allow for families to move here which would benefit Robinson Elementary School and our sports program. We need to think about what makes our town special and build on that. In my opinion this includes our natural resources, open land (i.e., forest, ag land, rivers, views) and the potential our Starksboro Village holds (housing, store). If we keep our town rural with a thriving Village with more housing and nearby recreational opportunities (i.e., Town Forest in Hillsboro offering trails for mountain biking, fat biking, x-c skiing, hiking/walking), I think people will continue to want to come here. Nearby Hinesburg is becoming more and more populated and because of this, the open land is diminishing. I think people want to have a place to retreat to where they can access large, wooded areas and experience a small town/Village. With the increase of people in Hinesburg and other nearby Chittenden Co. towns, some people will want to visit places to recreate in the woods, away from the noise. We are so close and so accessible to those living across the county line. We could be the destination for people to escape the noise of their own towns while we benefit as well. More people living in the Village and more visitors could increase opportunities for retail store revenue. Our Starksboro Village could thrive while we maintain our natural resources and our rural way of life.  
Let's focus on building our Starksboro Village and Hillsboro recreational opportunities!  
Thank you for all your hard work. You are appreciated!!
- Though there are parts of living here I love deeply, I think the general energy of the town right now isn't particularly positive. Part of this is simply economic, but there seems to be a rather conservative resistance to anything that isn't aligned with the way things have always been. This is a clear turnoff to the younger population and visitors the town sorely needs. There are no restaurants, coffee shops, or central places to gather. There is no sense that the police will

actually show up when you call them, despite the town generally looking the other way on certain violations (zoning) of certain people (you probably know who I mean) that festers unwelcome behavior. Trash and junk cars pile up, and the town does nothing to encourage problematic properties to play by the same rules the rest of us do, at great expense.

- I think there are plenty of self guided recreation opportunities in town and no expansion is needed (not sure how good that new recreation overlay is). I picked rec fields and parks/playgrounds as a good addition though. Thank you for putting out this survey!
- Make the village a village - more housing, small businesses for shopping and meeting. Rec trails and places for new families to meet. There needs to be things that draw people to the area, especially if Robinson closes
- Everyone representing and working for the town does a great job and there's nothing we can't do together... It may take a long time but we can be whatever we want to be. If we don't define it and don't execute we'll be vulnerable to greedy cut and run developers...
- I may have been inconsistent in my answers- there are so many competing factors. Issues have to be looked at from all angles. However, I feel certain that Robinson School must be kept open or it's a death knell to wanting to move here. So maybe I should open up my "not sure" responses in favor of promoting more growth in various sectors. But I'm so dang tired of always having to keep on top of every topic from local issues to preserving our democracy!
- Living on Big Hollow I'm appreciative of the road crew. They seem to be working diligently on maintaining the road.