

1999 Middletown Springs Community Visit

Top Ten Issues

1. **Preserve Open Working Lands** - by promoting productive use and establishing creative tax policy or by other methods.
 2. **Protect Environment and Ridgelines** - by investigating ways to prevent noxious activities like irresponsible logging practices, illegal junkyards and light pollution as well as limiting development on ridgelines.
 3. **Preserve the Historic and Natural Character** - of Middletown Springs, and promote development patterns that are in keeping with these goals.
 4. **Balance Rights** - between the common good and respect for landowners' property rights.
 5. **Road Construction Standards** - need to be explored in an effort to keep roads passable in mud season, provide safe fire equipment access, preserve town character, and provide safe use of roads by pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists.
 6. **Building Permits** - explore use of building permits in an effort to insure fair taxation and control development.
 7. **Economic Development** - promote appropriate development, in an effort to lower taxes and increase job opportunities while maintaining town character.
 8. **Town Garage / Salt Shed / Transfer Station** - research the relocation of these functions to a more appropriate spot.
 9. **Youth Center** - explore the need for and use of a youth center in town.
 10. **Dry Hydrants** - build fire ponds and dry hydrants where needed for fire safety and insurance savings.
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Resource Team List

Vaughn Collins, Executive Director of the Vermont Council on Rural Development

Michael Dolce, Regional Circuit Rider for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development

Barry Driscoll, Director of Planning for the Vermont Department of Transportation

Jeffrey Francis, Executive Director of the Vermont Superintendents Association and Chair of the Vermont Council on Rural Development

Robert Justis, Director of Economic Development for Central Vermont Public Service Corporation and Board Member of the Vermont Council on Rural Development

Jolinda LaClair, Chief of Staff for the Vermont Office of U.S. Senator James Jeffords and Board Member of the Vermont Council on Rural Development

Fred Schmidt, Professor of Extension, and Director of the Center for Rural Studies at the University of Vermont and Board Member of the Vermont Council on Rural Development

John Winter, Community Builder for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development