

**TOWN OF EAST MONTPELIER PLANNING COMMISSION  
PUBLIC FACILITIES & INFRASTRUCTURE Q&A  
Discussion with Selectboard Members and Town Administrator  
September 1, 2016**

1. What are the Town's needs for the Town Office facility in the next 20 years? (More space, expansion of current building, new facility, location, etc)

*The vault is full, but land records are moving to a digital format. Offices are currently crowded. Meeting space is limited. There is no near-term plan to address Town Office needs.*

2. If the Town Office moves, is there a plan for the current building?

*There is no plan for the building. However, the Historical Society needs a place to store and display material and is interested in the building. It is not known whether this is the best use of the building.*

3. What is known about the Post Office's needs for their East Montpelier facility in the next 20 years?

*In the 1990s the Post Office was interested in upgrading their facility, however the landlord was not interested in updating the building. The Town's understanding is that the Post Office would be interested in being a tenant if a private developer constructed a new facility in the village.*

4. What is known about the Fire Department's needs for the Emergency Services Facility in the next 20 years?

*The Emergency Services Facility is one bay short, needed to accommodate ambulance services. The ambulance service continues to grow. The ESF building can be expanded forward, but not to the side. The ESF building has reserve septic capacity.*

5. When is the anticipated construction of the Park and Ride facility, and who will own and maintain it when completed?

*The Park and Ride facility will be constructed by VTrans, but will be owned and maintained by the Town when completed.*

6. Who owns and maintains the sidewalks and crosswalks in the village?

*The Town owns and has responsibility for maintaining the sidewalks. Sidewalks are not currently being plowed in the winter, but are cleaned in the spring. The new village sidewalk project requires more active sidewalk maintenance.*

7. Who sets speed limits on US 2 and US 14 in the village? Who sets speed limits on other public and private roads in the village?

*The State Traffic Board is responsible for setting speeds on US 2 and VT 14. The Traffic Board is not interested in reducing the speed limit in the village. However, more density in the village might be a more persuasive argument. The current speed limit is 35 mph; this is not the actual speed of traffic. When speed monitors were used, they were effective in slowing traffic. The Selectboard is responsible for setting speed limits on other town roads.*

8. Has the Town had any discussions with GMTA or other towns about future expansion of public bus service along US 2 or US 14?

*Calais, Woodbury and Hardwick have been talking with GMTA about possibly developing connector service on VT 14. If service is implemented, it might stop in East Montpelier.*

9. New development in the village may require new roads, preferably with connections between two existing streets. What is involved in developing new roads? Whose responsibility is it?

*The Town has a process for adopting new roads that has been in place for many years.*

*If new roads are to be constructed, the Selectboard wants them to be built by a private developer. The Town would assume ownership under existing ordinances. This process includes road standards that must be met for roads to be adopted by the Town.*

*The Selectboard doesn't want to lead the charge in developing new roads in the Village, but will be supportive for others helping develop the village.*

10. Please discuss the financial and political issues, opportunities and challenges with having the town make capital investments to support public roads, water and sewer in the village.

*The Selectboard recognizes that water and wastewater are the "elephant in the room" for developing the Village. An advocate who will stand up and push the issue is needed for the Town to address Village water and wastewater.*

11. What is the Selectboard's level of interest in investing town funds (including borrowing) for water/sewer facilities and improvements?

*A town bond would be needed for the Town to develop a wastewater system (of any kind) for the village.*

*The Selectboard has discussed the situation with the Crystal Springs water system. The Fire District, which was established to acquire the system, has been unsuccessful and has indicated that it wants to disband. The Selectboard would be interested in acquiring the system, however the ask/offer spread is too great. The finances need to work for the Town to agree to purchase the system.*

12. What is the Selectboard's level of interest in acquiring property for use as wastewater treatment areas, or should this be left to private developers to establish smaller shared wastewater systems?

*Given the high cost of a centralized system, a decentralized septic approach may be more realistic. Community septic, such as the system serving 7 homes on Towne Hill Rd or the system serving Sandy Pines, may serve as a model for the Village.*

13. Should the development of new roads in the village require the inclusion of additional infrastructure (such as water/sewer lines, sidewalks, etc) as part of the construction?

*See #9 above.*

14. What is the Selectboard's level of interest in developing and maintaining parks or recreation areas in the village?

*The Selectboard supports the idea of open space/parkland that is owned and maintained by a private developer, and support the idea of providing a density bonus for a planned*

*residential development willing to do so. The Selectboard also supports the idea of a Riverwalk, as proposed in the Village Study.*

15. What is the Selectboard's opinion on requiring a parkland dedication (or fee-in-lieu option) for developments of certain size? What would be an appropriate size development for requiring a parkland dedication/fee?

*See # 14 above.*