DRAFT East Montpelier Survey: for all residents of the town – presented by the Planning Commission

**Part A** [OPEN_ENDED]

1. What three things do you most like about living in East Montpelier?

2. What do you wish for East Montpelier? What is your vision of the town in the future?

3. What are the biggest challenges facing East Montpelier? or
   What are your biggest concerns about the town's future?

4. What could the town do to increase a sense of community?

**Part B: How concerned** are you about the following topics? How much should they be a focus (of town committees') work?

Satisfied with current status Highest priority for future action

Climate impacts -- planning for climate change?
Climate resiliency – developing strategies to withstand climate change (wordsmith)?
Drinking water?
Emergency response?
Flood response? (Wordsmith)
Fragmentation of forest land ?
Fragmentation of open land?
Preservation of historic buildings?
Preservation of open space?
Preservation of scenic views/historic landscapes?
Recognizing Abenaki history and culture in our town?
Road maintenance and improvement?
Traffic control? [narrowing of class 3 roads for traffic control]
Village development?

Please say more about your responses above:

**Part C:** The Town Plan outlines the assets, issues and goals (action items) for the use of land and development of resources in the town. LINK

1. How well does the East Montpelier Town Plan reflect your priorities?

2. What action items (as listed in the town plan - LINK?) should be the highest priorities?

3. How can we engage the public in the topics up for discussion in the town plan?

4. What has been your experience with land use in East Montpelier? Has it been possible to use or access land the way you want?

**Part D** Housing and development

Not much/minimally/a little very well/completely/a lot

1. How satisfied are you with housing options and opportunities in our town?
2. How well are our zoning regulations working?
3. How well does the Town Plan reflect your goals for the town?
4. How well does East Montpelier's zoning approach achieve our town's goals as expressed in the town plan?
5. To what extent does East Montpelier's zoning prevent housing development?
6. To what extent do we need to promote more housing development in EM?
   How much do we need to promote more economic growth in EM itself (as opposed to looking to the region for economic activity)?

**Part E**

To what extent are the following topics important priorities for town policy/planning?

Low priority highest priority

1. housing for elderly populations - should we try to incentivize its construction?
2. housing density - should we allow smaller lots?
3. population change/population decline - should we try to promote EM for families?
   growth areas? should they be developed/designated?
4. accessory dwellings - should more be allowed?
5. affordable housing – should it be incentivized?
6. permitted density – should it be increased?

*Note the question of whether we should state these as goals or as topics. Should we go ahead and state these all as verbs, as was done in 2011 (see next page) by adding a verb to each or should we take this verb off?*

*Goals could be: incentivize, promote, increase, do more to… etc…*

Please say more about these concerns:

Thank you for your participation! We want to hear more from you! On which topics might you be willing to share more about your insights/experiences/interests? Please give your contact info:

Comparing with Survey from 2011

- FOCUS - Survey questions addressed a wider range of topics
- SCALE - Used a scale of “importance’ - high, med, low, no
- I’m proposing use a more specific scale – satisfaction/priority for future work – so that the survey informs us about the priority for ACTION, rather than inherent value.
- The idea is that measuring “importance” could reflect a high value on the current state, not just a high priority as an action item.

2011 Priorities – ie specific questions:

- Scenic features
- Type of housing
- Amount of land in conservation
- Importance of farming
- Walking trails
- Internet technology
- East Village
- Reduce Energy Use
- Extraction of Ground Water
- Recreation activities
- Renovation of EMES

Open Ended

- What do you like most about living in EM?
- What do you like least about living in EM?
- In the next five years, what would you like to see changed about EM?
- In the next five years, what would you like to see preserved about EM?

Zoning related:
How important is it that our zoning regulations do the following:

a) Remain as they are now
b) Be revised to better accomplish the following goals:
    i) Increase density in certain areas like villages and growth centers
    ii) Do more to prevent strip development
    iii) Do more to protect existing open space
    iv) Reduce restrictions on how landowners can develop
    v) Revise zoning districts
    vi) Create incentives to encourage certain densities or types of development
    vii) Other
    viii)