

Braintree Town Plan Survey

932 VT Route 12A - Braintree, VT - 05060

tel: 802-728-9787

Dear Neighbor:

The Braintree Planning Commission is currently working on the update and revision of the Town Plan. This document has not been substantially altered in recent years. We feel that this is a good opportunity to take a good look at where our town is at this point in time, and what we'd like it to look like in years to come.

A town plan is required by state statute for any community that has land use regulations and is adopted every five years. It is intended to be a guide for future development, services and the protection of natural and scenic resources. It should reflect the community's vision for the future.

To this end, we have prepared a brief survey, which we hope will provide us with some information about our current population characteristics, as well as some of the issues we will be facing in the future which will affect the quality of life in Braintree.

It is our hope that you, whether your family has lived in town for generations or have recently made your home here, will take a few moments to complete the survey. Any additional comments would be welcome, and, of course, you are always welcome to join our ongoing discussions - the Planning Commission usually meets on the second Thursday evening each month, 7pm, at the Town Office, 932 VT Route 12A. For additional information, please feel free to contact the Town Clerk (802-728-9787) or Commission Chair Bob Moyer (802-233-5957).

We have mailed a copy of this survey to every home in Braintree. If you have more than one individual in your home who would like to fill the survey out, you can get additional copies by contacting Chris Sargent at 802-728-2045 ext 12 and providing him with a mailing address, or you can download a copy from http://www.trorc.org/docs_bt.html. Additional copies are also available at the Braintree Town Office.

This survey can also be taken online at: http://www.trorc.org/2011survey_bt.html

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. When you have filled it out, please use the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope and return it to:

**Please return this survey by:
Friday, July 1, 2011**

Braintree PC Survey
128 King Farm Rd.
Woodstock, VT 05091

For additional copies, contact Chris Sargent at 802-457-3188 ext. 12.

Demographic Information

1. What is your age?

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 to 14 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 30 to 34 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 50 to 54 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 70 to 74 years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15 to 19 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 35 to 39 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 55 to 59 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 75 to 79 years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 20 to 24 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 40 to 44 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 60 to 64 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 80 to 84 years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 25 to 29 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 45 to 49 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 65 to 69 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 85 years and over |

2. What is your occupation? (select all that apply from the list below)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Construction | <input type="checkbox"/> Educational, health and social services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing | <input type="checkbox"/> Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wholesale trade | <input type="checkbox"/> Other services (except public administration) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retail trade | <input type="checkbox"/> Public administration |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation and warehousing, and utilities Information | <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance, insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing | <input type="checkbox"/> Retired |

3. If you are currently employed, do you commute to work? (if you are unemployed skip to question # 7)

- Yes No

4. If so, where do you commute to? (Select those that apply)

- | | | |
|--|---|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Randolph | <input type="checkbox"/> Hanover | <input type="checkbox"/> Chelsea |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Montpelier/Barre/Berlin | <input type="checkbox"/> Northfield/ Williamstown | <input type="checkbox"/> Rutland |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White River Junction/West | <input type="checkbox"/> Waterbury | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon | <input type="checkbox"/> Chittenden County | |

5. If so, how long is your commute (one way)?

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 20 minutes | <input type="checkbox"/> 40 to 49 minutes | <input type="checkbox"/> 60 to 89 minutes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 20 to 29 minutes | <input type="checkbox"/> 50 to 59 minutes | <input type="checkbox"/> 90 or more minutes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 30 to 39 minutes | | |

6. If you had access to reliable high-speed (Cable or DSL) internet at your home, would you telecommute?

- Yes No I have access to the internet via DSL I have access to the internet via Cable

7. Do you have children? (If you answer "no", skip to question # 14)

- Yes No

8. If yes, how many?

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> One | <input type="checkbox"/> Four | <input type="checkbox"/> Six |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Two | <input type="checkbox"/> Five | <input type="checkbox"/> More than six |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Three | | |

9. What are their ages? (Select all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under 5 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 14-16 | <input type="checkbox"/> 19-21 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6-9 | <input type="checkbox"/> 17-18 | <input type="checkbox"/> Over 21 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10-13 | | |

Please return by Friday, July 1, 2011

10. Are any of your children enrolled in Braintree Elementary School?

- Yes No

11. Are any of your children in daycare?

- Yes No

12. If yes, is that daycare located in Braintree?

- Yes No

13. If yes, how far do you travel for day care services?

- Less than ten miles 31-40 miles
 11-20 miles more than 40 miles
 21-30 miles

Agriculture, Forestry and Open Space

14. The citizens of Braintree have, in the past, indicated that they value open space in the community. **Should the Planning Commission adopt language that encourages the protection of open space?**

- Yes No

15. If the Planning Commission were to adopt zoning or subdivision language that encourages the protection of open space, should it be: *(pick only one)*

- a requirement (i.e. mandatory) optional (i.e. offer incentives)

The Mud Pond area is an important ecological area in Braintree that residents have indicated should be protected. Development in this area is limited to large lots (20-acres) but can still occur, which will lead to the creation of new roads and possibly the extension of town services (such as school bussing or fire and rescue) into this relatively undeveloped area. **Should the Planning Commission adopt zoning language that limits the developable area of property based on any of the following:**

16. Distance from existing roads. Yes No
17. Proximity to wetlands. Yes No
18. Proximity to known wildlife corridors. Yes No
19. Fluvial Erosion Hazard Areas (steep slopes that tend to flood) Yes No
20. Slopes in excess of 25% Yes No

21. State Statute allows towns to have a Selectboard appointed Conservation Commission. A conservation commission is a group of unpaid volunteers who focus on issues relating to open space preservation, protection of natural resources and outdoor recreation on behalf of the community. **Should the Selectboard create a Conservation Commission?**

- Yes No

22. Conservation commissions often manage a town conservation fund which is used by the community to help preserve valuable natural areas such as prime agricultural soils or wildlife habitat. If a conservation commission were created, **would you support the creation of a conservation fund (which would be funded by the voters on a yearly basis), that would be used to help assist farmers with the purchase of conservation easements?**

- Yes No

23. If yes, what amount would be put into the fund per year? *(select only one - if "no" skip this question)*

- Less than \$1000 \$1000-2000 \$2000-3000 \$3000-4000

24. There is a large parcel of ridgeline property on the boundary of Granville and Braintree which has the potential to be a substantial recreational asset for the community. It is a prominent ridgeline that can be viewed throughout the community and the woodland resources could be a potential source of income for whoever owns it. **Should the town explore ways to conserve this parcel for future public use?**

- Yes No

25. Communities have very limited control over the placement of cell towers (they generally do not require a zoning permit), but towns can discuss their placement and aesthetics in their town plan. These comments will be considered when cell towers are reviewed by the Department of Public Service. **Should the planning commission encourage the placement of cell towers in Braintree by indicating that it is appropriate for them to be located in town?**

- Yes No

Municipal Government

26. Good design of private roads is essential to maintaining safe access for emergency services (fire & rescue). Roads that are too steep, too narrow or are poorly designed can make it difficult for first responders to reach those in need. **Should the town require approval from the Road Foreman and/or Fire Chief when residents design access roads to ensure safe access for emergency service vehicles?**

- Yes No

27. **Do you favor changing the date of Town Meeting to a weekend or evening date to accommodate more participation from members of the community?**

- Yes No

28. **If Yes, which day do you prefer?** (if "no" skip to the next question)

- Saturday Two Weeknights

29. **Would you support the creation of a capital budget fund (to be funded by the taxpayers) that would help pay for energy efficiency improvements to town buildings in an effort to reduce long-term expenses?**

- Yes No

30. Given that Braintree's municipal buildings are aging and may require major renovations which could not be supported in their existing locations, **would you support the creation of a capital budget fund (to be funded by the taxpayers) that would set aside funding for the purpose of purchasing property for future municipal use?**

- Yes No

31. **If you are a resident of Mobile Acres, do you feel that emergency services are able to adequately reach your home in the event of fire or rescue situation?**

- Yes No I do not live in Mobile Acres

32. **Do you own a potential site of a gravel pit and would you be interested in working with the town to develop it?**

- Yes No

Thank you for taking this survey, the Planning Commission appreciates your input. **Please return this survey by Friday July 1, 2011 using the self-addressed stamped envelope provided, or mail to the following address:**

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