

7 | Facilities and Services

7.A OVERVIEW

A primary purpose of this plan is to identify services currently available to town residents, evaluate the effectiveness of the town and other providers in delivering those services, anticipate future demands, and assess whether those demands can be met efficiently. Waitsfield residents enjoy a range of services and facilities, including an efficient municipal government, excellent emergency services, access to a variety of social, recreation and health care services, and state-of-the-art telecommunications infrastructure.

Despite the wide range of excellent services available, the town faces several challenges regarding specific facilities and services. The lack of municipal water and wastewater hinders efforts to foster a compact settlement pattern, which can result in sprawl and a corresponding loss of the town's rural character. Local government and education are largely dependent on property tax revenues to fund their operations and taxpayers are stressed by a growing tax burden. Continued growth in the community will require an ongoing assessment and upgrade of specific facilities.

7.B TOWN GOVERNMENT

Administration. Waitsfield is governed by a five-member Selectboard, which is responsible for preparing the town's budget, setting policy, administering town finances and a variety of related duties. A full-time Town Administrator reports to the Selectboard and is responsible for the day-to-day management of town affairs. Town staff also includes a full-time elected Town Clerk and Treasurer and an Assistant Clerk hired by the Town Clerk. A full-time Road Foreman reports to the Selectboard and manages a three-person road department.

Like most small communities, Waitsfield is heavily dependent upon volunteers to fulfill many governmental duties. Several dozen local residents are elected or appointed to serve on boards and committees, and to represent Waitsfield on regional organizations. This dedication and sense of duty helps define our community, and keeps local institutions open and accessible.

Planning. Waitsfield has an active land use planning and community development program that dates

back to the late 1960s. Most planning functions are carried out by a volunteer Planning Commission. A Development Review Board is responsible for much of the oversight of the town's land use regulations. Both bodies are assisted by the Planning and Zoning Administrator, who is hired by the Selectboard and reports to the Town Administrator, and is responsible for the day-to-day administration and enforcement of local regulations.

With the formation of the Mad River Valley Planning District in the mid-1980s, the Planning Commission has been able to augment its planning capacity with professional assistance.

Conservation. The Conservation Commission is composed of up to nine appointed members, with responsibilities regarding the natural resources of the municipality and lands within the municipality which have historic, educational, cultural, scientific, architectural or archaeological values in which the public has an interest. It may make recommendations regarding acquisition of land and receive appropriations, gifts (to include land or other property) and grants for the purposes of carrying out its responsibilities. It may assist other elements of town and regional government on matters affecting the local environment or the natural resources of the municipality. It may also prepare and distribute relevant information, and encourage through educational activities the public understanding of local natural resources and conservation needs.

Under its responsibilities to administer municipal lands, properties and other rights, the commission is actively engaged in planning for the management of 793 acres of public land located adjacent to Scrag Mountain (Scrag Forest), alongside the Mad River (Wu Ledges Forest) and alongside Brook Road (Woliner Parcel), plus easement monitoring on 10 acres behind the Valley Professional Center (Dowdell/Baked Beads parcel).

Other Volunteer Positions. A wide range of other functions are carried out by volunteers appointed or ratified by the Selectboard, including the Fire Warden, Tree Board, Constable, Road Commissioner, Energy Coordinator, Emergency Management Director, Emergency Management Coordinator, Health

Officer, Mad River Recreation District, Mad Bikes of Waitsfield, Dog Warden, and Green Up Coordinator. Other, more ceremonial positions include Fence Viewer, Weigher of Coal, and Inspector of Lumber.

Fiscal Condition. In Vermont, the principal mechanism for funding local government is the property tax. While certain types of outside assistance are available (including state highway aid, fees for services, miscellaneous special purpose grant programs), approximately 80 percent of Waitsfield's annual municipal budget is funded through the local property tax. The fact that non-tax revenues consistently make up around 20 percent Waitsfield's budget is largely due to an aggressive effort on the part of town government to identify and secure alternative revenue sources, such as grants, to fund specific projects.

Figure 7-1 shows annual municipal expenditures between 2004 and 2009. The town has maintained a relatively stable budget for the past several years. Approximately one-third of the town budget is dedicated to road maintenance.

Waitsfield's municipal expenditures are generally higher than in neighboring communities, however, due partly to the town's function as the Mad River Valley's commercial center and the high level of service provided by local government. In addition, the town does not benefit from a higher value grand list like Fayston and Warren, nor does it have large non-tax revenue sources such as those provided the town of Moretown in exchange for hosting the WSI landfill. This, coupled with steep tax increases to fund local education, and related pressure to reduce municipal taxes, will limit the town's ability to maintain existing services, much less fund new initiatives, in coming years.

Capital Budget & Program. To limit fluctuations in town expenditures, thereby stabilizing tax rates, the town has adopted a capital budget and program on an annual basis for more than 20 years. The capital budget and program is a planning tool to help the town anticipate future capital expenditures and to schedule them so to avoid sharp increases in the tax rate during any one year. When combined with a capital reserve fund, the town can spread capital costs over a number of years, further stabilizing the municipal budget. It is also a mechanism for considering capital expenditures in the context of this plan to ensure that

budget decisions are consistent with the town's planning goals.

With regard to the town's capital reserve funds, which have been used effectively over the years, the town should always consider the appropriate balance between savings and indebtedness when making capital purchases. Interest rates on long-term borrowing remain at historic lows. This, coupled with rapidly appreciating land costs in town, presents an opportunity for the town to take advantage of low interest rates by borrowing for key investments.



7.C TOWN PROPERTIES

The town owns several properties used for a variety of civic, recreation, conservation and cultural purposes. The following is a partial list of town properties and a description of relevant considerations related to each.

Joslin Library/Town Office. The town office is located on the first floor of the Joslin Library. The building has undergone several renovations in recent years, including exterior repairs and interior improvements in the library. Town office space is occupied by administrative offices, including the Town Clerk's office, meeting space, and the vault housing the town's property records. Space in the building has become increasingly tight. The most pressing problem is limited vault space, which has been near capacity for several years. In addition, storage and work space for staff is limited, and attendance at public meetings of more than 12 to 15 people typically requires attendees to occupy office areas and/or to stand in hallways.

Options to relocate the town office to another location in Waitsfield Village or Irasville were being actively considered in 2012 with the goal of presenting

a plan to townspeople by the end of the year. A Town Office Task Force, appointed in 2010, hired Maclay Architects to evaluate the suitability of various sites in Waitsfield Village and Irasville. Limitations associated with the site and damage caused by the August 2011 flood led to the determination that expansion of the library building would not be an option to accommodate new town office operations. Other options included relocating to an existing building in Waitsfield Village, adjacent to the General Wait House, or constructing a new facility elsewhere in Waitsfield Village or Irasville.

Following more in-depth analysis and public input, the Selectboard accepted the Town Office Task Force's recommendation that the Town purchase an option for the site in Waitsfield Village owned by Wrenn Compere adjacent to the Flemer Field Community Green and occupied by a farmstand, to allow further study as the preferred site for a new town office. The Selectboard also accepted their recommendation to purchase an option on the nearby parcel, also owned by Wrenn Compere, which is adjacent to the Flemer Field Community Green and is occupied by two barns that may have value for other community benefits.

An important consideration in planning for a new town office is the historic (pre-1950s) practice of designing civic structures to reflect the values of the community. A new town office should serve as a community focal point and convey a sense of permanence, pride of place, and respect for tradition, while at the same time incorporating necessary elements of function and efficiency. The offices should also be centrally located to encourage community interaction.

General Wait House. The historic General Wait House, the original home of Waitsfield's founder, Benjamin Wait, was purchased in 1995. Funded with the assistance of an enhancement grant from VTrans, a grant from the Vermont Housing Conservation Board, town funds, and private donations raised by the Waitsfield Historical Society, the building accommodates display space for the Historical Society, the Mad River Planning District office, a visitor center operated by the Mad River Valley Chamber of Commerce, public rest rooms, community meeting space and office space for local service providers.



The main house was restored to serve the aforementioned functions; the attached barns were only stabilized and remain in need of restoration. The Waitsfield Historical Society made much progress in 2010 restoring the Carriage Barn for expanded display space for the Historical Society, and additional space for larger community meetings and functions than can be accommodated within the main house. In addition, the Carriage Barn roof was replaced in 2009. Federal stimulus funds in 2010 helped provide for the weatherization of the main house, including new insulation, installation of an energy efficient boiler, and new storm windows. Any future renovations should provide a worthwhile community service, improve the outward appearance of the building, and enhance the northern gateway to Waitsfield Village. The General Wait House should continue to manage and have a detailed upkeep and maintenance plan in order to properly care for this important community resource.

Town Garage. The town's highway department, discussed in Chapter 8, is housed in a garage located off the Tremblay Road, near its intersection with North Road. Built in 1986 after a fire destroyed the previous garage, the garage is located on a 10.8-acre parcel. The current facility is barely adequate to meet current needs, and additional space may be needed in the near future with the addition of municipal water and other services. The current location can accommodate expansion as it becomes necessary.

Cemeteries. Waitsfield owns and maintains four cemeteries:

- ◆ Irasville Cemetery, on Route 100 in Irasville;
- ◆ Village/Mill Cemetery, on Bridge Street just east of Waitsfield Village;
- ◆ General Wait Cemetery, behind the fire station in Waitsfield Village; and
- ◆ Common Cemetery adjacent to Waitsfield Common.

The Waitsfield Cemetery Commission is the body responsible for the maintenance and management of the cemeteries. The town is fortunate that, due to decisions of current and past cemetery commissioners, Waitsfield has a perpetual care fund that is among the largest in Vermont. Although the town has a large cemetery endowment fund which provides funds for maintenance of the cemeteries, increased expenses and lack of growth in the fund may require additional funds or support from the town at some point in the future.

Capacity exists in each of the cemeteries, although space is limited in all but the Common Cemetery (which was expanded with the purchase of nearly an acre in the early 1990s). Total remaining capacity, however, is approximately 600 spaces. In light of ongoing development pressure and the limited availability of suitable land, additional space may be required within the next five to ten years to ensure that space will be available to serve future generations. The Cemetery Commission may need to seek expansion of existing cemeteries, consideration of the use of mausoleums, or an additional cemetery location as a last resort in order to provide for future burial needs.

Other Properties. In addition to the Waitsfield-Fayston Fire Department, which is discussed below, the town owns several parcels used for conservation, recreation and other community uses. These parcels are described in appropriate sections of this plan.

Town/Village Green. The Selectboard accepted the donation by the Flemer family in 2009 of a 7-acre parcel of open common land on the north end of Waitsfield Village. A grant from the Trees for Local Communities Foundation and community partnerships resulted in the development of a fruit orchard in 2010 on the western boundary of the Flemer Field Community Green. There is also a small park adjacent to the Joslin Library, and the two undeveloped commons located at the intersections of the Common at Joslin Hill and East Roads. The town-owned pond at Carroll Road and Main Street serves as common land in Irasville. The town should consider ways it or additional lands could serve as a focal point for future pedestrian-oriented, village-style development in Irasville as called for in this plan.

7.D PUBLIC SAFETY

Law Enforcement. The Vermont State Police and the Washington County Sheriff's Department are responsible for law enforcement in the Mad River Valley. The State Police operate out of the Middlesex Barracks located on Route 2 in Middlesex, and are primarily responsible for all law enforcement matters in our area, particularly major criminal investigations.

Waitsfield has contracted with the Washington County Sheriff's Department for local police coverage for nearly two decades. The goals of this program are to enforce traffic safety and provide emergency response services. The local patrol is widely viewed as a cost-effective way in which to provide police protection without the burden of a local police department.

While it is impossible to draw a correlation between the level of police coverage and crime rates, Figure 7-2 indicates the extent to which the number of crimes in Waitsfield has remained relatively stable in recent years and the predominance of property crimes (e.g., larceny, shoplifting, auto theft, etc.). Waitsfield's crime rate remains lower than state and county averages.

One likely cause of the consistently low crime rate in Waitsfield is the strong sense of community that exists. In many respects, a strong community is the best deterrent to crime. As the town grows it will be critical that it not develop in a way that serves to isolate community members or create barriers to local institutions, that options for civil interaction are provided, a strong sense of place is fostered, and that development is guided to reinforce traditional land use patterns—including attractive, pedestrian-scale villages—and maintain a clean, healthy environment.

Waitsfield-Fayston Fire Department. Fire protection services are currently provided by the Waitsfield-Fayston Volunteer Fire Department. The department covers both Waitsfield and Fayston and maintains a mutual assistance agreement with other nearby fire departments. Fayston funds 40 percent of the annual operating and capital costs of the department. This 60/40 split was determined by the approximate percentage of responses within each town. In addition to the funding agreement, many Fayston residents serve as volunteers. As both towns grow, the breakdown of calls should be monitored to ensure that funding remains fairly allocated.

Presently, the department is staffed by 26 active volunteers and responds to around 80 incidents in a typical year. Over the past decade, the department has seen its average number of calls per year increase by 70 percent, while the number of personnel has not changed significantly. Volunteers are reimbursed a nominal fee for time spent on emergency responses; however, the bulk of time spent on administration, training and maintenance is voluntary.

While the number of volunteers is adequate to maintain the excellent level of service presently provided, the number of volunteers should be monitored and additional fire fighters actively recruited. In particular, it is important for the department to include volunteers that are in town and available to respond to emergencies during normal workday hours.

Fires actually represent only a minor component of fire department calls and the department most frequently responds to motor vehicle accidents. Many calls are also related to malfunctioning heating systems that are resolved before a fire starts. In addition to emergency response, the department has emphasized fire prevention and education. The past performance of the fire department has been exceptional, and there is no reason to believe that performance will change in the coming years.

Major equipment, which is maintained in the fire station located adjacent to the General Wait House in Waitsfield Village, includes a 2003 1,000-gallon International pumper, a 1987 Ford pumper, a 1982 GMC tanker, and a 2000 Chevrolet van. A 1943 Ford Model A pumper is also maintained, which symbolizes the department's years of dedicated service to the community. Annual contributions to a reserve fund are made toward future equipment replacement.

Ambulance & Rescue Services. The Mad River Valley Ambulance Service is organized as a non-profit corporation and provides 24-hour service to residents and visitors of the Mad River Valley.

The service operates from a facility in Waitsfield Village, which was purchased in 2001. In addition to providing four garage bays, space is available for equipment storage, administrative offices, and meeting and training facilities. The facility has an emergency generator, base station radio and 25-pair phone cable so that it can operate as an emergency operations center during a disaster. Rescue equipment currently in use includes three fully equipped

ambulances, a rescue/extraction vehicle (not used for transport) that carries heavy equipment, a "mass-accident" trailer, off-road rescue equipment, a dispatch radio and field radios, as well as a substantial amount of emergency medical equipment.

The service has grown considerably over the years to meet the needs of the growing community. Since its inception in 1971, the annual number of calls has increased by 81 percent. The service currently has a roster of 60 volunteers Valley-wide. The average first responder response time is 7 minutes, while the ambulance response time is less than 17 minutes. One reason for such a fast response time is the local dispatch service, which notifies volunteers in scattered locations around the Mad River Valley of a call. Since the late 1990s, E-911 emergency response service has been available in The Valley.

Emergency Shelter. In the case of an emergency, the designated community shelter for the Town of Waitsfield is the Waitsfield Elementary School. A review of the town's emergency procedures is currently underway.

7.E SOLID WASTE

The management and disposal of solid waste is a growing challenge due largely to materialism, excessive packaging and the prevalence of disposable consumer goods. This is exacerbated by the high cost of disposal, from both a financial and environmental standpoint. Efforts to reduce the amount of waste before it enters the waste stream and recycle the broadest range of waste in a cost-effective manner will become increasingly important as population increases.

Waitsfield is a member of the Mad River Resource Management Alliance. The alliance is a six-town district formed through an inter-local agreement in 1994. Other member towns are Duxbury, Fayston, Moretown, Warren and Waterbury. Northfield and Roxbury were added to the MRRMA in 2010. The alliance is responsible for the preparation and adoption of a Solid Waste Implementation Plan, which is required under the state's solid waste law. That plan is regularly updated and submitted to the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources for review and approval.

A representative and alternate from each town serves on the alliance board, which meets bimonthly to set policy, determine programs and oversee the activities

of a part-time administrator. A per capita assessment is charged to cover administrative and program costs (\$2.00 in 2012). Additional funding is provided by Waste Systems International Inc. (WSI), which operates a landfill in Moretown. WSI funds the alliance's education programs and a portion of the hazardous waste drop-off events.

Free disposal of appliances, tires, and collected roadside trash is also provided in association with annual alliance-sponsored events such as Green Up Day, Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days, and tire collections. The alliance works with the Association of Vermont Recyclers, and is a member of the Northeast Resource Recovery Association, which helps market some recyclable commodities.

Hauling, recycling and landfill services are provided under agreement with WSI. Trash collection services also are provided by other private haulers. As the "host district" for the WSI landfill, local residents can bring their recyclables to the Moretown facility at no charge. A regional transfer facility, located in Waitsfield's Limited Business District and operated by Casella Waste Management, provides area residents with a convenient solid waste disposal site as well as a place to recycle materials.

7.F SEWAGE DISPOSAL & WATER SUPPLY

Municipal Wastewater Treatment. Currently, all of the town's sewage disposal needs are addressed by individual on-site systems. Lacking a central wastewater collection and treatment facility, town officials have studied the feasibility of developing such a facility to serve the high density portions of town, especially Irasville and Waitsfield Village.

In 1999, the town secured funding from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources' revolving fund to study the feasibility of developing a municipal wastewater disposal facility to serve Irasville and, possibly, Waitsfield Village. As a result of preliminary analysis, the town purchased a 12.2 acre parcel (the Munn site) located south of Irasville for \$126,000 in November, 2000 as a potential wastewater treatment site.

In 2008, a two-phase plan to provide a sewer system in Irasville and pipe the waste to Munn field for treatment was developed. The total two-phase system was estimated to cost approximately \$12 million. With grants and users funding the bulk of the project, a bond vote was held in March 2008 to finance

the balance of the Phase I cost of \$5.7 million project but was defeated. The Selectboard deferred reconsideration of a municipal wastewater system while proceeding with the municipal water system, which was approved in November 2008 after being narrowly defeated in two prior votes.

In 2011, a plan for a town-sponsored loan program to finance privately-owned, shared, decentralized wastewater systems was developed as an alternative to a municipally-owned system. The same year, a wastewater study entitled "Assessment of Decentralized Wastewater Options: A Survey of Needs, Capacity, and Solutions for Historic Waitsfield Village and Irasville, Vermont" was completed. The townspeople voted at the 2012 Town Meeting to approve allowing the town to bond up to \$250,000 to develop this program. Currently, the town has a loan balance on funds borrowed from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources to cover engineering and other wastewater development costs which will be paid off over the coming years.

Should a municipal system become a practical reality, it will be important that the allocation of available capacity be coordinated with other policies of this plan so that the system reinforces—rather than undermines—land use, housing and economic development goals of the town. Most importantly, service areas should correspond with designated growth center boundaries, and allocation policies should foster the type and rate of development desired by the community.

On-Site Disposal. Shared wastewater options are being explored to serve designated growth areas in Irasville and Waitsfield Village as well as future designated residential hamlets; however, many properties in Waitsfield will continue to be served by on-site in ground disposal. In 2002 the Vermont Legislature amended the state's on-site septic rules to require all new development, regardless of lot size, to meet state septic system standards. This effectively eliminated the "10 acre loophole," which exempted lots greater than 10 acres from any design standards.

The new standards also allow for a number of alternative septic system designs which allow for the placement of septic systems on land that could not have met the previous standards. As a result of the rule changes, on-site disposal systems may now be located on hundreds of acres in Waitsfield previously unsuitable for on-site systems.

Water Supply. In 2008, Waitsfield voters approved the bonds for construction of a municipal water system to serve Irasville and Waitsfield village. That project began construction in 2010. The \$7.6 million project will be paid for by \$4.5 million in federal grants, connection fees, and a \$3.014 million loan.

As designed, the municipal water system will begin at the “Reed Road” wellhead and follow the town’s rights-of-way along Long Road, down Bushnell Road to a new storage tank constructed on the town-owned former LeClair gravel pit site. From the tank, the transmission main follows a right-of-way to Tremblay Road, where it meets Route 100 and continues on to Waitsfield Village and Irasville. Hydrants will provide fire protection along the route.

Outside the planned service territory for the new municipal water system, development will continue to rely on private wells.

7.G COMMUNITY SERVICES

Joslin Memorial Library. The Joslin Memorial Library, located in Waitsfield Village, is administered by a Board of Trustees. A private organization, Friends of the Joslin Library, provides support on a regular basis. A part time librarian maintains library hours Monday through Saturday. Library staff is supplemented by a dedicated group of volunteers who perform a variety of tasks. Without these volunteers, the high level of service library patrons have grown accustomed to would suffer.

The library houses over 9,700 books, supplemented by an interlibrary loan program with other libraries in the state. The library offers children’s programs including a pre-school story hour, a Saturday reading program for school-aged children in addition to a summer program. The library also provides internet access, a large collection of audio book tapes, home book delivery for elderly and disabled residents and, also with support of a foundation grant, a newly expanded adult program.

In addition to private fund-raising and income from various endowments, a large portion of the Library’s operating costs are provided by the towns of Fayston and Waitsfield. Waitsfield also leases the bottom floor of the library for town offices, which provides much-needed income to the library.

Because the town has outgrown existing office space, it is likely that an alternate location for a larger facility will be considered in the coming years. Should a relocation occur, the library would be able to expand to provide additional storage and reading space. It would also provide limited handicapped accessibility, which is severely restricted today. When efforts to study town office space needs are initiated, a corresponding analysis of library space options should also occur.

Local Health Services. The Mad River Valley Health Center, Inc. (MRVHC) in Waitsfield is a non-profit community-owned facility leasing space to a variety of healthcare providers. The mission of the MRVHC is to provide a quality facility to ensure the availability of local health care to residents of the Mad River Valley, neighboring towns and visitors. The health center is governed by a community Board of Directors composed of individuals representing the towns of Warren, Waitsfield, Fayston, Moretown and Duxbury. Healthcare providers at the health center include the Mad River Family Practice (owned by Central Vermont Medical Center), a physical therapist, an alternative healthcare practice and mental health providers. In 1996, the Family Practice received Rural Health Center designation, further enhancing the services available to Medicaid and Medicare patients.

MRVHC was incorporated in 1980 when a group of concerned citizens and businesses raised the funds to purchase the health center building and the medical practice from Dr. John Saia to secure accessible, family health care for the Mad River Valley towns. Over its 30+ year history, the practice at the MRVHC has served an estimated 70-80% of the population of the Mad River Valley at one time or another. The new building, completed in 2005, provides increased medical office space to more efficiently serve the needs of the current medical practice. A second floor provides additional space for complementary health services, as well as space to hold health and wellness workshops.

Other health care services available to local residents include:

- ◆ **Ambulance.** The Mad River Valley Ambulance Service provides 24-hour emergency response throughout the Mad River Valley.
- ◆ **Dentist.** Valley Dental Associates provides full service general dentistry.

- ◆ **Hospitals.** Hospitals serving Mad River Valley residents are Central Vermont Medical Center in Berlin, Gifford Memorial in Randolph, Fletcher Allen Health Care/University of Vermont in Burlington and the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, New Hampshire. Emergency after-hour service is available from a physician on call or at a hospital emergency department.
- ◆ **Pharmacy.** The Drug Store has been a community pharmacy with full prescription drug services and an on-site pharmacist. It was purchased in July 2012 by Kinney Drugs.
- ◆ **Central Vermont Home Health and Hospice.** Home health care services which include therapy (physical, speech, occupational) and), counseling, and consoling the elderly; homemaker service (meals, shopping, housekeeping); Hospice consoling and counseling the terminally ill and their families; and child birthing classes.
- ◆ **Vermont Department of Health.** Well Child Clinic (preschool immunization), WIC Programs (prenatal and preschool nutritional programs).
- ◆ **Washington County Mental Health.** 24-hour emergency service, out-patient clinic, substance abuse programs, job placement, day and hospital-based programs, day hospital and resident programs.

Day Care. Day care facilities are regulated by the Vermont Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. Day care providers operating out of private homes who care for not more than six pre-school children from two or more families, in addition to not more than four school age children for four or less hours each day, must be registered with the state. Presently only two home child care operators are registered in the town—a reduction from past years, when as many as five home child care services were registered in Waitsfield.

Larger facilities, and those not operating out of the care provider's home, are licensed by the state. A licensed facility is allowed to provide care to larger numbers of children, and is subject to more stringent regulation and periodic inspection. Currently six licensed facilities operate in Waitsfield, including the after school program which uses the elementary school.

Other than the use of the elementary school, the town is not involved in providing day care to local residents. No change in this policy is anticipated, although changing demographics resulting in more single-parent homes and families with two working parents have created a growing need for adequate day care. It is not known how adequately these needs are now being served. While there are few actions the town would be likely to take to remedy this, additional facilities could be encouraged through the elimination of any local regulatory barriers to their development and the continuation of the after school program.



Senior Services. The Mad River Valley Senior Citizens Inc. is a non-profit corporation which operates to coordinate and provide services for the elderly population of Fayston, Moretown, Warren and Waitsfield. Funding is provided through a combination of local, state, and federal grant funds and donated time and energy of Valley residents.

The most important program provided by the seniors is the operation of the Senior Center and the senior meals program, both of which operate out of Evergreen Place—a shared housing facility for elders located in Irasville.

Social Services. Most social services are provided by state government through a variety of programs coordinated through the Agency of Human Services. In addition to state programs, all of which are delivered from offices located elsewhere in Washington County outside the Mad River Valley, several private non-profit organizations provide varying types and

levels of assistance to local residents. Several of these service providers receive annual appropriations from the town. In addition, the following two organizations are located within the Mad River Valley and provide assistance exclusively to Valley residents:

- ◆ Valley Community Fund, a non-profit organization serving residents of the Mad River Valley. Funded entirely through contributions, the Community Fund provides financial assistance to local residents experiencing financial hardship.
- ◆ Mad River Valley Food Shelf, coordinated by the Valley Clergy Council, distributes donated food and groceries to Valley residents in need of such assistance.

The assistance of these, and other, private organizations will likely become increasingly important as the current federal administration reduces support for programs designed to assist the least fortunate members of society.

Cultural Organizations. Mad River Valley residents enjoy access to a wide range of homegrown cultural resources and events. While not directly supported by the town on a regular basis, the following organizations provide a variety of performances and exhibits.

- ◆ Vermont Festival of the Arts, which, in cooperation with the Mad River Valley Chamber of Commerce sponsors an annual arts festival.
- ◆ Valley Players, a theater group operating out of the Odd Fellows Hall in Waitsfield Village.
- ◆ Green Mountain Cultural Center, which sponsors a variety of exhibitions, performances and classes in the restored round barn in Waitsfield.
- ◆ Mad River Chorale, a local chorus group.
- ◆ Phantom Theater, an experimental theater group based in a restored Warren barn.
- ◆ Skinner Barn, which hosts a variety of performances and events in a restored barn on the Common Road.
- ◆ Waitsfield Farmers Market, which not only provides a direct market for local farmers, cooks, artisans and crafts people, but also provides an opportunity for local residents and visitors to congregate and socialize on a regular basis between May and October.

- ◆ Yestermorrow Design/Build School, which has hosted public events and lectures for the local community since 1990.

In addition, several individual artists and businesses support a strong community arts culture. Artists studios, which often include display space, are located throughout town, although several are concentrated in Waitsfield Village. Musicians regularly perform at Mad Mountain Tavern, Purple Moon Pub, and the Big Picture Theater, which also functions as the Mad River Valley's only movie theater.

Community Center. Despite the range of recreational, community, and cultural activities available to Mad River Valley residents and visitors, most of which are located in Waitsfield, several residents have lamented the lack of a central community center. Such a center could serve as a gathering place and central recreation facility for The Valley's youth. It could also serve as a multi-generational facility that could serve as a recreational, social and cultural resource for a broad cross section of the community.

While there is clear support for a multi-purpose community center, the depth and breadth of that support is not yet clear. Should such support exist, the creation of a community center in Irasville could serve to strengthen that area's function as a growth center and activity center for the entire Mad River Valley.

7.H COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA

Waitsfield is served by both traditional and more modern forms of communication that inform the community and connect residents with each other and the wider world. In fact, Mad River Valley residents have access to telecommunications technologies that are on par with most urban areas and are considerably more advanced than in most rural communities.

Telecommunications services available to Waitsfield residents are now multiplying at an unprecedented rate, due to ongoing technological advances, industry deregulation, and an expanding number of local and national service providers. As discussed in Chapter 5, advanced communications infrastructure is one of the area's greatest economic assets.

Unlike traditional phone and broadcast networks, available for a nominal fee or the cost of purchasing a radio or television, many of the new technologies

and services require a substantial initial capital investment (e.g., for computers, satellite dishes or wiring), and subsequent monthly payments. There is also a learning curve associated with the use and application of new technologies. As a result, there is a growing information or digital divide, which affects mostly lower income households and the elderly on fixed incomes, who also are often less familiar or comfortable with new technologies.

Newspapers. The Valley Reporter, a weekly newspaper since 1971, is the town's official newspaper for public warnings, notices, and announcements. Waitsfield also receives limited local coverage in the Times-Argus, central Vermont's daily paper based in Barre. Other state and national papers are available through local outlets.

Telephone Service. Waitsfield Telecom, Waitsfield's local, privately owned telephone company, was founded in 1904. In 1994 the company expanded to include GTE's former Central Champlain Valley service area, forming Waitsfield/Champlain Valley Telecom (WCVT). The company now has more than 100 employees and more than 20,000 access lines.

WCVT currently provides a variety of telephone services to area businesses and residents for monthly fees. Local consumers have the option of selecting from a variety of long-distance service providers, including the phone company's Green Mountain Long Distance service.

Wireless Services. Cellular phones and other personal wireless services are an increasingly common means of communication, and provide access to remote areas not served by phone lines. Because of local topography, cellular phone service remains spotty in the Mad River Valley.

Private service providers are actively pursuing tower sites throughout Vermont to expand wireless coverage. Under the federal 1996 Telecommunications Act, the town cannot exclude personal wireless services or unreasonably discriminate among providers, but can regulate facility siting, environmental impacts, and appearance through local zoning. Radio frequency emissions, including related interference and health considerations, are regulated separately by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), but can be subject to local monitoring requirements to ensure that FCC standards are being met.

Radio, Television & Cable. Because of the mountainous terrain, Waitsfield residents without cable or satellite service get limited radio and television reception. Waitsfield Cable, owned and operated by Waitsfield Telecom, has been serving the Mad River Valley since 1980. The company currently offers within its service area, for monthly fees, cable television, digital cable and radio, and pay-per-view options. The basic analog cable package includes four channels that feature local programming: Waitsfield Cable (Channel 11) advertises local events, Sugarbush Resort Television (Channel 12), and Mad River Valley Television ("MRVTV"; Channels 44 & 45), The Valley's designated public access station. MRVTV, on the air since 2000, provides community access to local airwaves and coverage of local government, school and community events. The station is managed by a board of directors, and maintains a studio and production equipment for use by community groups and individuals.

Town residents outside the cable service area have access to other wireless television services for the price of dish installation and a monthly service fee.

Internet & Web Services. Information and services, including government and educational services, also are increasingly being provided through web sites, accessed via the internet. Waitsfield Elementary School has access to on-line services and resources through K12net, an extension of Vermont's GOVnet, which supports local and distance learning programs. The Joslin Library also provides public access. The Town of Waitsfield has an official website that provides a wealth of information about town government, local businesses, community groups and more.

Green Mountain Access, founded in 1997 as an affiliate of Waitsfield Telecom, has grown from a local ISP to a statewide company that offers many of the latest internet technologies. Residential internet services currently offered in town include dial-up access, high speed digital service lines (DSLs), roaming access, and web hosting. Local businesses, in addition, may also have access to dedicated (ISDN and T1) lines, frame relay services for higher speed service.

7.1 RECREATION

The Mad River Valley offers a rich variety of recreation opportunities to year-round residents, seasonal home owners and visitors. A brief inventory of available facilities includes:

- ◆ Two major downhill ski areas;
- ◆ Two cross country skiing facilities;
- ◆ An 18-hole golf course;
- ◆ More than 60 tennis courts;
- ◆ An airport offering gliding;
- ◆ Several riding stables;
- ◆ Biking and mountain biking;
- ◆ A clean river system suitable for fishing, paddling and swimming (the Mad River has been identified as one of Vermont's premier swimming resources); and
- ◆ Miles of trails, footpaths and old logging roads, including the Mad River Greenway in Waitsfield.

Despite these many opportunities, only limited resources exist for formal or organized recreational pursuits, including youth sports leagues and services.



Public Facilities. Public recreation facilities in Waitsfield are limited, although in recent years the town has expanded the number and type of facilities available. Existing facilities include:

- ◆ Ball fields and recreation facilities located at the Waitsfield Elementary School, which are available for public use during non-school hours and the summertime. These facilities are limited, however, and do not presently meet state educational facility standards. There may be an opportunity in the future to acquire adjacent land in the floodplain for expansion.
- ◆ Scrag Forest, consisting of 640 acres acquired by the town (see Chapter 11). The forest offers back country recreation opportunities and access was enhanced in 2011-2012 with the creation of a small parking area and trail access on Bowen Road.

- ◆ The Lareau Swimhole Park, constructed with the assistance of a VTrans enhancement grant in 2003, in addition to two adjacent parcels (former Austin and former Tardy properties) that provide less formal access to the Mad River.
- ◆ 125 acres of conserved woodland known as Wu Ledges, offering trails leading to an outstanding scenic vista from a rock outcropping that overlooks the Mad River and its confluence with the Mill Brook.
- ◆ 7.3 acres at the Flemer Field Community Green off of Route 100 (the old polo fields) and the community orchard project that was planted in 2010.

Private Not-for-Profit Facilities. Another facility open to the public is the Couples Club, an eight-acre multi-purpose field located in the floodplain of the Mad River in Irasville which offers two baseball fields, a small pavilion and river access. The property is managed by the Couples Club, a private organization, and is exempted from property taxes by the town on an annual basis. The Valley Little League has entered into a long-term lease with the Couples Club to ensure it will remain available for youth baseball.

The Skatium, an outdoor skating facility is located in Irasville and maintained by a not-for-profit organization. The Skatium has artificial ice and a Zamboni, but is susceptible to weather conditions due to the lack of a cover. The Skatium organization has identified enclosing the facility as a priority, which should be encouraged concurrent with efforts to improve the area's appearance, especially during non-winter months.

Trails. The Mad River Path system is an extremely popular path along the Mad River. The greenway is maintained through a partnership between the town, the Mad River Path Association, and landowners. Similar partnerships maintain a village path network. This network could form the core of what could eventually be a single pathway linking Irasville with Warren Village to the south and the Fayston Elementary School to the west, and linking Waitsfield Village with Moretown Village and Harwood High School to the north.

The town would benefit from developing a Town trail system. An assortment of additional easements and license agreements for trails and paths around town have been made, although an extensive, integrated

network has not been completed. Through continued partnerships with the Path Association and landowners, such a network could be developed in the future. In addition to trails, Class 4 Roads which are not maintained for year-round travel also provide recreational access, especially in the Forest Reserve District. The town should also explore expanding the trail network on the Scrag Forest Trail, possibly including the Northfield side of the ridge.

Several miles of winter trails for skiers and snow-machines are maintained by the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST) on private land in Waitsfield and surrounding towns. Part of an extensive state-wide network, the local trails are maintained by the local VAST chapter—the Mad River Ridge Runners.

Recreation Programs & Planning. Waitsfield presently does not have an active recreation committee or board and does not offer any recreation programs. However, the town, together with Fayston and Warren, formed the Mad River Valley Recreation District in 1993. The purpose of the Recreation District was to support local recreation facilities and programs, and to identify and pursue opportunities to expand existing facilities or create new facilities. The District has provided funds to improve the Couples Club fields in addition to providing support to other private non-profit recreation organizations such as the Skatium.



7.J GOALS

- 7.J-1 A full range of community services and facilities that are provided in a cost effective and environmentally sound manner without creating an undue burden on local taxpayers.
- 7.J-2 Facilities and services that reinforce the town's land use, development and natural resource protection goals and policies.

7.K POLICIES

7.K-1 Plan facilities and services to accommodate anticipated future growth and to avoid unreasonable burdens on the town's taxpayers. To this end:

7.K-1.a The scale, timing and location of development shall be controlled to ensure that the resulting demand for services and facilities does not exceed the municipality's ability to provide them; and

7.K-1.b In the event new or expanded public facilities required to accommodate proposed development are not available or planned, the developer shall fund the proportional cost of the facility(ies) needed to accommodate the new development unless the town determines that the proposed development will provide community benefits which outweigh or offset the cost of the required facility(ies).

7.K-2 Coordinate the provision of facilities and services with the land use and development goals and policies outlined in this plan, including the reinforcement of growth centers. To this end:

7.K-2.a Facilities that require regular access by the general public and are compatible with compact, mixed use development, such as municipal offices, post offices, community centers and fire stations, should be located in Waitsfield Village or Irasville;

7.K-2.b Facilities that are both land intensive and require regular access by the general public, such as recreation fields, should be discouraged in remote

Table 7-1: Municipal Budget

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Expenses						
Administration	\$307,520	\$342,920	\$384,380	\$360,120	\$329,980	\$347,560
Road Department	\$522,340	\$520,290	\$566,700	\$489,960	\$496,220	\$364,985
Fire Department	\$60,720	\$56,090	\$58,390	\$58,820	\$64,600	\$67,892
Police Program	\$33,740	\$37,580	\$28,820	\$28,210	\$37,730	\$32,862
Water and Sewer	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$38,980	\$18,350	\$-
Employee Benefits	\$89,810	\$97,850	\$99,270	\$97,210	\$94,410	\$111,527
Special Articles	\$122,310	\$111,720	\$110,140	\$94,940	\$121,150	\$67,000
Miscellaneous	\$189,220	\$182,070	\$183,710	\$277,930	\$291,110	\$83,961
Total Expenses	\$1,325,660	\$1,348,520	\$1,431,410	\$1,446,170	\$1,453,550	\$1,075,787
Revenues						
Administration	\$81,120	\$84,800	\$68,020	\$82,430	\$54,620	\$76,900
Delinquent Taxes	\$21,530	\$19,720	\$19,190	\$19,040	\$11,710	\$19,000
Road Department	\$75,970	\$76,560	\$144,140	\$225,240	\$77,170	\$57,630
Fire Department	\$23,600	\$21,390	\$20,550	\$20,940	\$28,440	\$27,157
Police Program	\$32,540	\$50,940	\$28,030	\$28,650	\$24,570	\$26,300
Miscellaneous	\$53,700	\$61,660	\$61,730	\$98,620	\$91,750	\$65,700
Taxes	\$1,058,990	\$1,015,030	\$1,085,580	\$1,129,980	\$997,870	\$1,109,998
Total Revenues	\$1,347,450	\$1,330,100	\$1,427,240	\$1,604,900	\$1,286,130	\$1,382,685

Source: Waitsfield Town Annual Reports, adjusted to 2009\$ using the CPI

Table 7-3: Emergency Response Statistics

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Fire							
Total Calls	68	76	88	81	87	97	75
Active Firefighters	24	20	23	26	24	24	24
Structure Fire	1	3	2	1	1	3	1
Wild Fire	3	0	1	2	1	0	0
Vehicle Accident	18	22	28	17	10	17	9
Utility Assistance	7	4	3	5	7	7	7
Other	39	47	54	56	34	27	29
Call to Waitsfield	37	40	49	47	53	54	46
Call to Fayston	30	33	38	29	33	42	25
Call to Warren	1	2	1	4	1	0	0
Call to Moretown	0	1	0	1	0	1	4
Rescue							
Total Calls	413	460	418	420	430	444	412
Personnel	60	68	60	57	56	56	57
Call to Waitsfield	141	157	135	153	164	160	
Call to Fayston	113	98	85	82	85	59	
Call to Warren	149	110	159	147	146	141	
Call to Moretown	49	46	41	48	49	52	

Source: Waitsfield Town Annual Reports

Table 7-2: Waitsfield Crimes and Crime Rate

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Part I Crime	41	41	26	26	35	38	44							
Part II Crime	76	61	80	87	82	87	84							
Crime against a Person								2	1	3	5	4	3	6
Crime against Property								69	46	43	57	47	43	43
Other Crime								0	2	0	5	1	4	3
Total Crimes	117	102	106	113	117	125	128	71	49	46	67	52	50	52
Crime Rate														
Town	75.88	66.89	70.01	74.15	70.52	75.35	76.51	41.62	28.50	26.90	39.93	30.99	29.80	30.99
County	139.55	160.90	146.27	148.84	132.24	128.65	110.46	44.54	43.46	38.45	40.80	38.86	36.47	38.88
State	127.37	123.35	118.65	118.66	112.47	108.65	101.78	45.45	47.02	48.47	47.58	48.34	47.99	43.50

Source: Vermont Crime Report. Note: The methodology was changed data since 2004 is not directly comparable to pre-2004 data.

- areas of the Agricultural- Residential and Forest Reserve Districts unless designed to serve the immediate neighborhood;
- 7.K-2.c Facilities that do not require regular access by the general public, such as highway maintenance, or are not compatible with compact, mixed use development, such as solid waste transfer facilities, shall be located in appropriate centralized, nonresidential locations, preferably in the Industrial District or Limited Business District.
- 7.K-3 Provide services and facilities in an efficient and cost effective manner while ensuring a high level of service. To this end:**
- 7.K-3.a Capital expenditures will be programmed to avoid sharp fluctuations in the property tax rate;
- 7.K-3.b Alternatives to the property tax to fund local services and facilities (including user fees, state/federal grants and loans, impact fees and negotiated exactions, special taxing districts, private foundations and assistance from non-governmental and/or local option taxes) will be used wherever practical, providing they do not place an additional burden on residents of limited financial means or undermine other policies of this plan;
- 7.K-3.c Wherever practical, services and facilities to address Valley-wide growth and development will be provided in conjunction with neighboring towns.
- 7.K-3.d Statewide efforts to restructure state educational funding to reduce the reliance on the local property tax are strongly supported.
- 7.K-4 Recognize the importance of making the most effective and efficient use of existing services, structures and facilities and utilities before expanding capacity or constructing new buildings or facilities. In the event a new building(s) is required, it shall be designed to reflect the community's historic and architectural heritage, a strong sense of permanence, and to serve as a symbol of civic pride**
- 7.K-5 Continue to use the General Wait House primarily for civic, community and cultural purposes, including public rest rooms, community meeting space, cultural activities, celebration of community history and heritage, and public information. To that end, restoration of the attached barns for one or more of these purposes is encouraged.
- 7.K-6 Maintain town funded emergency services, including fire and police protection, in a manner that continues their current high level of service as the community grows. Explore opportunities to coordinate increased law enforcement services and efforts with other towns in the Mad River Valley.
- 7.K-7 Develop municipal water and wastewater systems to serve the town center areas of Irasville and Waitsfield Village, in order to meet current needs as well as allow for additional growth in residential and commercial properties. Such systems should provide the greatest volume of capacity in the most cost effective manner possible. Support the development of decentralized shared wastewater systems in residential hamlets and commercial development zones in order to facilitate safe and efficient wastewater systems and promote denser development in appropriate areas of town. Once constructed, the system capacity shall:
- 7.K-7.a Be allocated in accordance with the land use, housing, and economic development policies of this plan; and
- 7.K-7.b Be managed, together with the operation of the facility, to ensure maximum protection of water quality in the Mad River and its tributaries.
- 7.K-8 Explore opportunities for the town to acquire land for conservation, recreation and community facilities. Priority should be given to parcels which provide multiple values to the community.
- 7.K-9 Manage undeveloped and semi-developed town-owned properties, including Scrag Forest, the Lareau Swimhole, and other conservation and recreation parcels for the protection of ecological resources and sustainable use.

- 7.K-10 Support the efforts of the Mad River Path Association to create a network of walking and bicycling paths in the Mad River Valley, including extending the Mad River Greenway to link Waitsfield Village with Moretown Village to the north, and with Warren Village to the south. To this end, the town will assist the Path Association by:
- 7.K-10.a Holding easements on segments of the path right-of-way;
 - 7.K-10.b Incorporating path easements into required open space and pedestrian connections as part of local development review processes; and
 - 7.K-10.c Incorporating path segments into management plans for town-owned land.
- 7.K-11 Continue to work with the Couples Club and other organizations to ensure recreation fields remain viable and accessible to local residents and youth sports leagues.
- 7.K-12 Continue to encourage the efforts of VAST to provide an integrated network of winter recreation trails in a manner that does not adversely impact neighboring homeowners and the natural environment, and allow VAST trail use of Class 4 roads on a case-by-case basis to avoid conflict with other users of the road and neighboring residential properties.
- 7.K-13 Make changes to the classification, maintenance, or use of Class 4 roads that would result in an increase of automobile use only if existing recreational uses are maintained or replaced or mitigated with comparable recreation opportunities. The upgrade and/or reclassification of Class 4 roads within the Forest Reserve District shall not be permitted to allow year-round vehicular access and land development.
- 7.K-14 Manage town cemeteries, and expand if needed, to ensure that burial opportunities will exist for the foreseeable future, and to ensure that as undeveloped properties become limited, town cemeteries will continue to serve as an important cultural focus of the community.
- 7.K-15 Continue to participate as a member of the Mad River Valley-Waterbury Solid Waste Alliance, including the alliance's efforts to reduce waste generation and provide environmentally sound waste disposal opportunities.
- 7.K-16 Encourage continued operation of the Valley Transfer Station in its present location, and encourage a privately operated bottle redemption center in conjunction with the Transfer Station, or at a separate location in Irasville or Waitsfield Village.
- 7.K-17 Encourage public and private social service providers, including state, regional and local agencies and non-governmental organizations, to continue providing services to local residents. To this end, the town will continue to consider funding such organizations on an annual basis, and will support efforts to improve local delivery of such services through partnerships with local organizations.
- 7.K-18 Support the development and operation of a multi-generational community center within Irasville or Waitsfield Village.
- 7.K-19 Encourage the Mad River Valley Health Center to continue to meet the needs of local residents and to serve as a designated Rural Health Clinic.
- 7.K-20 Integrate the expansion or development of wireless telecommunications facilities (e.g. cellular) requiring towers or similar facilities into the existing built environment, such as affixed to silos, steeples, cupolas, or on towers located within the Industrial or Irasville Village District.
- 7.K-21 Support the expansion of telecommunication service in the community, including broadband Internet access, and efforts to ensure greater public access through the Joslin Memorial Library and local schools, and through greater municipal use of the internet to disseminate information.
- 7.K-22 Continue to work with and provide support, to the extent practical, to community arts and cultural organizations.

- 7.K-23 Support and continue to help fund Mad River Television's (Channels 44 and 45) efforts to broadcast meetings of public interest, and will use this medium to expand local awareness of community events and issues.
- 7.K-24 Encourage the creation of recreation facilities that foster fitness and well-being (e.g., fitness courses) in a manner that is integrated throughout the community.

7.L TASKS

- 7.L-1 Continue to work cooperatively with neighboring towns and the region on issues of mutual concern, and explore additional opportunities to share facilities and services with neighboring towns. [Town Administrator, Selectboard, Town Boards and Commissions]
- 7.L-2 Establish a special taxing district, or tax increment financing district, for one or more of the town's growth centers. [Town Administrator, Selectboard, Planning Commission]
- 7.L-3 Implement a decentralized, municipal-sponsored, privately-owned wastewater system framework to serve Irasville and Waitsfield Village. [Town Administrator, Selectboard, Study Committee]
- 7.L-4 Review proposals for development to identify potential impacts on the town's ability to provide adequate services and facilities without an undue burden on local tax payers, and place appropriate conditions on new development regarding the timing of construction and provision for services or facilities. [Zoning Administrator, Planning Commission, Development Review Board]
- 7.L-5 Revise the Waitsfield Subdivision Regulations to include updated facility and infrastructure standards, including those related to stormwater runoff, wastewater disposal, impact on community services and facilities, and trails, sidewalks and pathways. [Planning Commission]
- 7.L-6 Prepare an Official Map for the Irasville Village District depicting future public improvements, including roads, sidewalks, paths and park areas, and a town green/common. [Planning Commission]
- 7.L-7 Explore the creation of a municipal stormwater management utility to serve Waitsfield Village and the Irasville Village District in conjunction with the implementation of an Irasville Master Plan. [Planning Commission, Selectboard]
- 7.L-8 Receive Town Office Task Force's recommendations on needs and potential locations for a new space in 2012 and prepare a strategy for meeting those needs within the next 5 years. [Town Administrator, Town Clerk, Selectboard, Study Committee]
- 7.L-9 Evaluate space and facility needs of the Joslin Library in conjunction with the town office study, and prepare a strategy to address any changes to the Library resulting from changes to the town offices. [Selectboard, Library Trustees*]
- 7.L-10 Explore options for expanding existing town cemeteries or, if expansion is not practical, for the creation of a new cemetery located in close proximity to Irasville, Waitsfield Village or Waitsfield Common. [Cemetery Commission]
- 7.L-11 Develop a plan for renovating the Wait House barns for public and cultural purposes. [Selectboard, Waitsfield Historic Society*]
- 7.L-12 Develop long range management plans for undeveloped town-owned parcels, including Scrag Forest, Wu Ledges, Lareau Swimhole and adjacent land, and the Brook Road parcel. [Conservation Commission, Selectboard]
- 7.L-13 Explore methods to obtain access to Scrag Forest from the Northfield side of the ridge. [Selectboard, Conservation Commission]
- 7.L-14 Review ongoing financial support for the Mad River Valley Health Center in light of the presence of other health care professionals located in, and serving, the Mad River Valley. [Town Administrator, Selectboard]