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## Warren Community Survey 2017

The survey was distributed online in June 2017 and advertised through multiple Front Porch Forum postings. **266 responses** to the survey were received (there are approximately 770 households and 1,700 residents in Warren).

### 1. Do you live in Warren?

	YES	NO	
#	212	54	32 respondents live in the Mad River Valley outside Warren 9 respondents live in Massachusetts 13 respondents live in elsewhere
%	80%	20%	

### 2. Are you a year-round or seasonal resident?

It is likely that the 14 respondents who replied that they did not live in Warren or elsewhere in the Mad River Valley are also seasonal residents. Given that seasonal or second homes comprise 60 to 70% of the town's housing stock, seasonal residents are significantly underrepresented in the survey.

	YEARROUND	SEASONAL	NR
#	180	30	2
%	85%	14%	1%

*Warren residents only*

### 3. Do you own or rent your home?

The 2015 American Community Survey reported that rental units comprise 20% of Warren's housing stock, suggesting that renters are somewhat underrepresented in the survey. It is common for homeowners to be more likely than renters to respond to a survey such as this.

	OWN	RENT	NR
#	188	21	3
%	89%	10%	1%

*Warren residents only*

### 4. What year were you born?

The age distribution of survey respondents was generally consistent with the age distribution of town residents as a whole as reported on the 2015 American Community Survey.

AGE	<18	18-29	30-44	45-64	65-74	75+	NR
#	1	7	30	104	37	16	17
%	0%	3%	14%	49%	18%	8%	8%

Median age of respondents was 57.

*Warren residents only*

## 5. How many years have you lived in Warren?

Long-time residents are likely over-represented in the survey based on 2015 American Community Survey data. It is typical for long-time residents to be more likely to respond to a survey such as this.

	<5	5-19	20+	NR
#	33	82	96	1
%	16%	39%	45%	0%

*Warren residents only*

## 6. How long do you think you will continue living in Warren?

Two-thirds of survey respondents indicated that they plan to continue in Warren for the foreseeable future. This suggests that they have a strong connection to and investment in Warren, and generally have positive feelings about life in Warren.

	Not Likely to Leave	Likely to Leave w/in 5 yrs	Likely to Stay 5-10 yrs	Like to Stay > 10 yrs	NR
#	76	31	35	66	4
%	36%	15%	16%	31%	2%

*Warren residents only*

## 7. How many people in each age group live in your household?

Comparing the survey results to 2015 American Community Survey suggests that those living in families with children were more likely to respond to the survey and are somewhat over-represented.

HOUSEHOLDS WITH AT LEAST 1 MEMBER AGE							
	0-4	5-17	18-24	25-44	45-64	65-74	75+
#	30	69	44	55	127	61	34
%	14%	33%	21%	26%	60%	29%	16%

12 respondents skipped this question.

*Warren residents only*

## 8. Where do the members of your household work?

As compared to Census data, survey results suggest that more Warren residents may be working in town (including those working from home).

HOUSEHOLDS WITH AT LEAST 1 MEMBER WORKING							
	NO WORKERS	FROM HOME	WARREN	ELSEWHERE MRV	MONTPELIER	BURLINGTON	OTHER
#	38	51	40	82	18	15	45
%	18%	24%	19%	39%	8%	7%	21%

2 respondents skipped this question. 13 responded Boston and 6 responded Waterbury.

*Warren residents only*

## 9. What three words come to mind when you think of Warren?

Beautiful	111	Recreation	33
Peaceful & Quiet	88	Home	26
Community	66	Small	21
Friendly & Safe	53	Arrogant	14
Quaint & Quirky	41	River	11
Rural	40	Village	8
Expensive	36	Mountains	7
Sugarbush	36	Other	52

Responses were grouped as follows:

- Beautiful (beautiful, cute, scenic, scenery, picturesque, pretty, views)
- Peaceful & Quiet (peaceful, peace, peacefulness, quiet, tranquil, low key, restful, relax, relaxed)
- Community (community, local, town, Warren Store, school, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, people, library)
- Friendly (friendly, safe, neighborly, caring, nice, personable, welcoming)
- Quaint & Quirky (quaint, quirky, historic, nostalgic, eclectic, rustic, funky, artistic)
- Rural (rural, remote, space, natural, green, clean, fresh)
- Expensive (expensive, costly, upscale, exclusive, taxes, rich, low wage)
- Sugarbush (Sugarbush, skiing, resort, tourism, tourists, condos)
- Recreation (recreation, cycling healthy, fitness, active lifestyle, outdoor activities / exercise / oriented)
- Home (home, refuge, happy place)
- Small (small, tiny)
- Arrogant (arrogant, elitist, exclusionary, pompous, hypocritical, snobbish, prejudicial, cliquy)
- River (river, water, waterfall, covered bridge, Mad River, Warren Falls)
- Mountains (mountains, hilly)

212 respondents answered this question.

## 10. Describe one positive change in Warren in the past 10 years.

Roads and bridges	34	Improved sense of community	4
Sugarbush	31	Economic development and growth	4
Paths and trails	22	Efforts to improve flood resiliency	3
East Warren Market	19	Renewable energy generation	3
Blueberry Lake	17	Municipal sewer	3
Library	17	Improvements at Warren Falls	2
Goods & services available	13	Other	10
Warren Village projects	7	No positive changes	15
Changes at the school	6		

194 respondents answered this question.

**11. Describe one negative change in Warren in the past 10 years.**

School consolidation	32	Warren Dam	5
Rising taxes & cost of living	28	Flooding	5
Businesses have closed	12	High housing costs	4
Roads and bridges	12	Development of large homes	4
Increased traffic / less quiet	11	Climate change	3
Changes to Main Street	9	Municipal building	2
Sugarbush (development, snow)	8	No negative changes	15
Warren Falls (overuse, parking)	8	Other	25
Signs	6		

180 respondents answered this question.

**12. Describe one thing about Warren that should not change.**

Warren village	25	Not overdeveloped	8
Rural character	18	Scenic character	7
Quality of life (slow pace, quiet)	16	Access to outdoor recreation	6
Being a small town	16	No traffic lights	5
July 4 celebration	15	Dirt roads	4
Town government	12	Clean environment	4
Local businesses	12	Warren school (keep elementary)	4
Sense of community	9	Warren Dam (repair)	4
Open space (undeveloped land)	8	Other	21

188 respondents answered this question.

**13. Describe one thing about Warren that should change.**

Economy (local business, tourism)	26	Warren Dam (remove)	5
Taxes and cost of living	21	Town facilities (garage, library, etc.)	5
Affordability / cost of housing	16	Consolidate schools	3
More walkable and bikable	14	More renewable energy generation	3
Roads (maintenance, paving)	14	Reduced traffic speed	3
Recreation (access, facilities)	11	No change	7
More civic engagement	10	Other	33
Town gov't (sharing, town mtg.)	9		

183 respondents answered this question.

**14. Please rate the following:**

	<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>	<b>UNSURE</b>	<b>NR</b>	<b>AVE</b>
Overall quality of life in Warren	102 38%	78 29%	10 4%	3 1%	4 1%	69 26%	1.55
Overall economic health of Warren	6 2%	62 23%	89 33%	25 9%	15 6%	69 26%	2.73
Overall direction Warren is taking	8 3%	101 38%	46 17%	15 6%	25 9%	71 27%	2.40

Average calculated using a scale where EXCELLENT = 1 and POOR = 4.

**15. What specific changes are needed to improve any of the above?**

Economic development	35	Town government and spending	6
Affordability and cost of living	25	More public transportation	3
Lower taxes	15	Other	44

117 respondents answered this question.

**16. Please rate the following:**

	<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>	<b>UNSURE</b>	<b>NR</b>	<b>AVE</b>
Condition of town roads	12	122	56	18	0	68	2.40
Winter maintenance of town roads	69	103	18	4	4	68	1.78
Safety of driving in Warren	26	125	32	11	2	70	2.14
Availability of sidewalks, paths & trails	16	75	73	25	8	69	2.57
Safety of walking in Warren	18	86	69	18	6	69	2.46
Safety of biking in Warren	12	61	76	27	21	69	2.67

Average calculated using a scale where EXCELLENT = 1 and POOR = 4.

**17. What specific changes are needed to improve any of the above?**

More walkable (sidewalks, paths)	39	Pave roads	7
More bike friendly (lanes, paths)	36	Improved road maintenance	6
Traffic calmed (lower speed)	16	Do not build sidewalks	5
Driver behavior (speed, cell use)	7	Other	26

115 respondents answered this question.

**18. Please rate the following:**

	<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>	<b>UNSURE</b>	<b>NR</b>	<b>AVE</b>
Availability of housing	3	41	62	44	42	74	2.98
Affordability of housing	0	11	64	87	30	74	3.47
Quality of housing	7	77	61	15	31	75	2.52

Average calculated using a scale where EXCELLENT = 1 and POOR = 4.

**19. What specific changes are needed to improve any of the above?**

More affordable housing	35	Cluster housing (smaller lots)	6
More rental housing	14	Higher wages	6
Lower taxes	14	Enforce codes (improve quality)	5
Rehab existing homes (efficiency)	12	More multi-family housing	5
More smaller homes	8	Less empty seasonal housing	3
More workforce housing	8	No changes	4
Easier to permit housing	7	Other	18

108 respondents answered this question.

**20. Please rate the following:**

	<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>	<b>UNSURE</b>	<b>NR</b>	<b>AVE</b>
Job opportunities in Warren	0	20	73	69	32	72	3.30
Business climate in Warren	2	39	80	34	38	73	2.94
Availability of goods and services	6	46	88	48	6	72	2.95

Average calculated using a scale where EXCELLENT = 1 and POOR = 4.

**21. What specific changes are needed to improve any of the above?**

No business growth	16	Increased tourism	4
Commercial activity in Waitsfield	10	New gas station	3
Economic development (growth)	9	Grocery store	2
Incentives (zones, incubators, etc.)	9	More businesses in village	2
Reduce taxes	6	Other	47
More restaurants	6		

104 respondents answered this question. Many of the uncategorized responses related to: thinking about economic development valley-wide, the perception that Warren is not business-friendly, and general interest in having more local businesses so it would not be necessary to drive as far for goods and services.

**22. Please rate the following:**

	<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>	<b>UNSURE</b>	<b>NR</b>	<b>AVE</b>
Town response to emergencies	63	73	16	1	37	76	1.71
Safety from crime in Warren	49	98	30	7	8	74	1.97
Quality of response by VT state police	11	55	35	17	73	75	2.49
Quality of response by fire department	73	50	6	4	57	76	1.56
Quality of response by ambulance	83	58	3	2	44	76	1.48

Average calculated using a scale where EXCELLENT = 1 and POOR = 4.

**23. What specific changes are needed to improve any of the above?**

More police coverage	14	Other	40
No change	6		

60 respondents answered this question. Many of the uncategorized comments related to Warren being a rural community and there not being an expectation of greater police or ambulance service.

**24. Please rate the following:**

	<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>	<b>UNSURE</b>	<b>NR</b>	<b>AVE</b>
Overall environmental quality	103	79	8	0	1	75	1.50
Water quality in rivers and streams	80	93	13	1	5	74	1.65
Ability to enjoy nature in Warren	141	44	5	1	2	75	1.30
Ability to enjoy quiet in Warren	129	45	13	1	2	76	1.39
Ability to enjoy scenic views in Warren	148	33	7	0	0	78	1.25
Adequacy of public recreation areas	70	92	17	6	4	77	1.78

Average calculated using a scale where EXCELLENT = 1 and POOR = 4.

**25. What specific changes are needed to improve any of the above?**

More paths and trails	14	Control invasives (knotweed)	5
Reduce use (Falls, Blueberry Lake)	10	Reduce noise (glider planes)	5
More public access	10	Dogs kept on leash in rec areas / trails	3
Mad River (water quality, access)	9	Warren Dam (repaired)	2
More recreation facilities	9	No changes	5
Improved water quality	7	Other	13

79 respondents answered this question.

**26. Please rate the following:**

	<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>	<b>UNSURE</b>	<b>NR</b>	<b>AVE</b>
Availability of activities for youth	11	65	39	14	61	76	2.43
Availabilities of activities for seniors	7	31	35	29	88	76	2.84
Availability of cultural activities in Warren	10	78	59	21	22	76	2.54
Access to childcare providers	3	18	25	19	122	79	2.92
Quality of the school in Warren	49	67	19	6	48	77	1.87
Quality of the library in Warren	73	70	12	0	34	77	1.61
Access to healthcare providers	5	33	42	68	40	78	3.17

Average calculated using a scale where EXCELLENT = 1 and POOR = 4.

**27. What specific changes are needed to improve any of the above?**

Healthcare (access, cost)	15	Childcare and youth activities	6
Seniors (activities, transportation)	9	Library	4
More arts and cultural activities	7	Public transportation	3
School (repairs, local control)	7	Other	23

64 respondents answered this question.

**28. Please rate the following:**

	<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>	<b>UNSURE</b>	<b>NR</b>	<b>AVE</b>
Access to high-speed internet	38	82	37	26	10	73	2.28
Access to cell phone service	12	66	70	40	3	75	2.73
Management of stormwater	10	62	46	12	62	74	2.46
Energy efficiency of town facilities	9	50	23	9	101	74	2.35
Availability of parking in Warren	21	75	58	33	5	74	2.55

Average calculated using a scale where EXCELLENT = 1 and POOR = 4.

**29. What specific changes are needed to improve any of the above?**

Better cell phone service	29	Main Street project (don't like)	9
Faster / lower cost internet service	19	Improved energy efficiency	4
More parking	19	Other	12
Better stormwater management	12		

76 respondents answered this question.

**30. Please rate the following:**

	<b>EXCELLENT</b>	<b>GOOD</b>	<b>FAIR</b>	<b>POOR</b>	<b>UNSURE</b>	<b>NR</b>	<b>AVE</b>
Overall quality of town gov't	30	96	26	8	28	78	2.08
Access to info about town issues	25	102	39	8	16	76	2.17
Opportunity to participate in community	43	98	18	10	21	76	1.97
Response of town gov't to citizens	18	73	43	10	45	77	2.31
Value of services for town taxes paid	17	55	57	40	20	77	2.71

Average calculated using a scale where EXCELLENT = 1 and POOR = 4.

### 31. What specific changes are needed to improve any of the above?

Lower taxes	25	Town government (satisfied)	5
Greater civic engagement	12	Town government (dissatisfied)	3
More municipal services	8	Other	9
Improve town website & use FPF	7		

64 respondents answered this question.

### 32. Should Warren be regulating development more than, less than or the same as we do now to protect the following resources?

	<b>MORE</b>	<b>SAME</b>	<b>LESS</b>	<b>UNSURE</b>	<b>NR</b>
Historic buildings	40	102	8	13	103
Scenic views	53	87	10	13	103
Wildlife habitat	66	75	8	15	102
Wildlife travel corridors	68	70	7	17	104
High elevation areas	59	74	11	20	102
River corridors	61	76	10	18	101
Wetlands	43	88	10	21	104
Floodplains	54	76	9	23	104
Farmland	47	86	11	19	103
Forestland	44	86	11	19	106
Ridgelines	57	73	10	20	106
Steep slopes	42	85	8	27	104

### 33. Are there specific locations or resources that should be protected?

Ridgelines	10	Farms and meadowlands	4
Water resources	9	Control invasives	4
Wildlife corridors	6	Other	31

61 respondents answered this question. Many of the uncategorized responses were general in nature and supportive of continued protection of natural resources.

### 34. What regulatory approaches should Warren take to protect important natural resources?

	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	UNSURE	NR
Require DRB approval for homes larger than 2,000 sf	44	63	50	109
Require DRB approval for homes larger than 3,000 sf	61	49	47	109
Require DRB approval for homes larger than 4,000 sf	101	28	29	108
Require clustered subdivisions or PUDs in rural parts of town	58	46	50	112
Decrease the max number of homes per acre in rural parts of town	52	48	56	110
Increase the min lot size in rural parts of town	50	50	54	112
Encourage additional multi-family development in Warren and Sugarbush villages	109	23	28	106
Increase the max number of homes per acre in Warren and Sugarbush villages	77	46	35	108
Decrease min lot size in Warren and Sugarbush villages	68	45	43	110
Restrict development in areas with important natural resources	126	11	23	106
Inventory and assess important natural resources	131	7	20	108
Use tax dollars to help fund the purchase of conservation easements	91	31	37	107

### 35. Where should open space be maintained in Warren?

	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	UNSURE	NR
Along the access road	48	54	55	109
Along Route 100	106	27	30	103
In Warren Village	69	53	37	107
In Sugarbush Village	35	74	48	109
In rural areas of town	127	13	25	101

### 36. Are there specific locations that should remain open space?

Farms and meadowlands	9	Viewsheds	3
Rivers and streams	8	Wetlands	2
East Warren	7	Wildlife corridors	2
Ridgelines	5	Other	18
Blueberry Lake	4		

46 respondents answered this question.

### 37. What would be the most effective steps Warren could take to support recreation and recreation-based economic development?

- 1 Expand and interconnect trail systems
- 2 Improve facilities for bicyclists and pedestrians
- 3 Improve public recreation areas
- 4 Improve water access
- 5 Improve maps and online information about recreation
- 6 Improve kiosks and signs providing information about recreation

*Based on 111 responses*

### 38. What specific recreation projects or improvements should be undertaken?

Trails and paths	32	Warren Falls	4
Bicycle improvements	16	Other	23

64 respondents answered this question.

### 39. Should Warren encourage more renewable energy production?

	<b>SUPPORT</b>	<b>OPPOSE</b>	<b>UNSURE</b>	<b>NR</b>
Solar collectors for personal use	150	4	7	105
Solar facilities for utility energy production	116	18	26	106
Wind turbines for personal use	85	50	26	105
Wind facilities for utility energy production	60	61	39	106
Biomass for personal use	94	13	53	106
Biomass for utility energy production	65	23	72	106
Hydro for personal use	87	30	41	108
Hydro facilities for utility energy production	70	37	52	107

### 40. Are there specific locations where renewable energy projects should or should not be encouraged?

Not on ridgelines	19	Do not support renewable anywhere	3
Not in visible locations	9	Not on farmland	3
Put solar on buildings	8	No utility-scale renewables	3
Support renewable anywhere	4	Other	18

46 respondents answered this question.

### 41. What would be the most effective steps to manage future residential development?

- 1 Allow higher-density housing in Warren and Sugarbush villages
- 2 Expand village areas to provide opportunities for more housing
- 3 Provide water and sewer infrastructure in more areas
- 4 Increase opportunities for housing in the rural areas of town

*Based on 110 responses*

**42. Should Warren encourage more residential development in the following locations?**

	<b>SUPPORT</b>	<b>OPPOSE</b>	<b>UNSURE</b>	<b>NR</b>
Within Warren Village	103	37	16	110
Within Sugarbush Village	125	17	15	109
Outside village areas	65	52	39	110

**43. What would be the most effective steps Warren could take to manage future commercial development?**

- 1 Expand village areas to provide opportunities for more businesses
- 2 Improve high-speed internet and cell phone service
- 3 Increase efforts to attract new businesses to locate in Warren
- 4 Allow expanded agricultural enterprises or on-farm businesses
- 5 Allow large home-based businesses

*Based on 116 responses*

**44. Should Warren encourage more commercial development in the following locations?**

	<b>SUPPORT</b>	<b>OPPOSE</b>	<b>UNSURE</b>	<b>NR</b>
In Warren Village	118	31	9	108
In Sugarbush Village	141	11	6	108
On the access road	111	24	20	111
Along Route 100	84	49	23	110
In rural areas of town	31	91	30	114

**45. How should Warren allocate funds among the following?**

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\$22	Roads and bridges
\$10	Affordable and special needs housing
\$10	Public safety
\$9	Economic development
\$9	Energy conservation, efficiency or alternatives
\$9	Sidewalks, paths, trails
\$9	Land conservation and historic preservation
\$8	Public parks and recreation
\$7	Emergency preparedness, disaster mitigation, resiliency
\$5	Public transit
\$1	Other

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*Based on 118 responses*