

# Community Visit Program

## By the Vermont Council on Rural Development

The “Community Visit program is a way for towns to engage and bring together their residents, set common goals and directions in a neutral and facilitated structure, and access resources that will help them take action on those goals. The Community Visit program, provided at no cost to communities, gets citizens engaged in working for their communities and connects them to the resources they need to be successful.”

“The Community Visit program actively connects grassroots community building efforts in towns across Vermont with state-wide resources, expertise and opportunities. Each visit brings together a broad mix of community members with a *Visiting Resource Team*, made up of Council members and statewide providers (state, federal, non-profit and philanthropic), to create intensive partnerships and tailored work plans for long-term local success. The Community Visit process is designed for community members to prioritize and choose strategic goals and vision for their community and for the state-wide visiting resource team to provide advice and expertise to help them get there.”

Once all ideas have been presented, the community decides the priority, **volunteers** will create task forces to advance the identified strategies.

VCRD is offering **Mendon** an abbreviated version of their full program assisting Mendon to conduct **one** Community Visit Meeting.

- ❖ VCRD will hold ONE Community Visit Meeting organized and advertised by the Mendon Steering Committee.
- ❖ The VCRD has agreed a late April meeting would be a feasible timeline.
- ❖ The Mendon Steering Committee will:
  - Plan & organize the Community Visit Meeting between 1/27/20 – late April (TBD).
  - Work with the VCRD staff to get direction on proven outreach and organization strategies.
  - Work with VCRD to determine date, time & location for the Community Visit
  - Create and execute a plan for outreach strategies to get community members involved and engaged.
  - Work with a budget provided by the Selectboard to implement outreach strategies and pay for expenses of the meeting.

### What are the ideas?

The members of the community get to decide what they would like to tackle in their community.

Community Center/Maker Space  
Designated Village Center

Development of Bike Trail  
Redevelopment of Route 4

**What is your idea? Bring it to the table.**