

# **TOWN OF WESTMORELAND, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

## **MASTER PLAN 2016**

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

We thank the residents of our Town that responded to the 2013 Master Plan survey for providing the basic information needed by the Master Plan Committee. This was a necessary and key part of the process of updating the 2003 Master Plan.

As chairman of this Committee, I thank the members of the team for their input and commitment to this project.

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## **PURPOSE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE MASTER PLAN**

As stated in RSA 674:2,I, “The purpose of the master plan is to set down as clearly and practically as possible the best and most appropriate future development of the area under the jurisdiction of the planning board, to aid the board in designing ordinances that result in preserving and enhancing the unique quality of life and culture of New Hampshire, and to guide the board in the performance of its other duties in a manner that achieves the principles of smart growth, sound planning, and wise resource protection.”

In 2012, the Planning Board acted to satisfy the RSA by appointing citizens, not members of the Planning Board, to the Master Plan Committee to update the 2003 Master Plan. At the Committee’s first meeting, the Chair of the Planning Board gave instructions, guidance and data to the Master Plan Committee.

As an initial part of the process of generating an updated Master Plan, the committee surveyed town residents. The purpose was to determine public concerns and perceptions of the town at present and what direction the people would like to see the town take in the future as well as what they see for Westmoreland's future. The Committee developed a survey and mailed it to every resident (715) and property owner (175). This was accomplished by using all post office boxes and town mail boxes. The survey was also available online at Survey Monkey.

Responses were requested no later than September 15, 2013. Mailed responses totaled 105 with an additional 27 responses online for a response rate of 14.8%. The information received was used to help create this Master Plan. Details are in the Appendices. The committee found that the views expressed in the survey were consistent with the two community forums held in 2008.

During its many meetings, the Committee worked to make this document clear and concise while updating its content. Development involved drafting updates by all members and group reviews. The Planning Board received oral progress reports through its liaison.

After the Committee agreed on a draft of the Master Plan, it was given to the Planning Board to be reviewed and updated. The Planning Board approved the final version after holding two public hearings in March and April, 2016.

The Master Plan was adopted by the Board of Selectmen on April 29, 2016.

## **WESTMORELAND PROFILE**

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Westmoreland, N.H. is located in the southwest corner of N.H. and borders 11 miles of the Connecticut River. Cheshire County owns 6700 feet of land bordering the River and owns a total of 640 acres in town.

According to U.S. census data, in 2010 the population was 1730. There are about 1260 registered voters. For 2014, the NH Office of Energy and Planning estimated a population of 1734, including 153 at Maplewood Nursing Home.

The population in 1800 was 2066.

Granted Fort # 2, or Great Meadows, in 1735, Westmoreland was chartered in 1752 and named by Governor Benning Wentworth in honor of Sir John Fane, Earl of Westmoreland. During the late 1700s and the 1800s, Westmoreland was basically an agricultural community, but also supported many mills and small industries.

Appendix A provides a brief history of Westmoreland.

Appendix B provides the Westmoreland Community Profile from the NH Department of Employment Security.

The Westmoreland Zoning Map is on the following page.

# Town of Westmoreland, NH

## Zoning Map

Approved March 12th, 2002

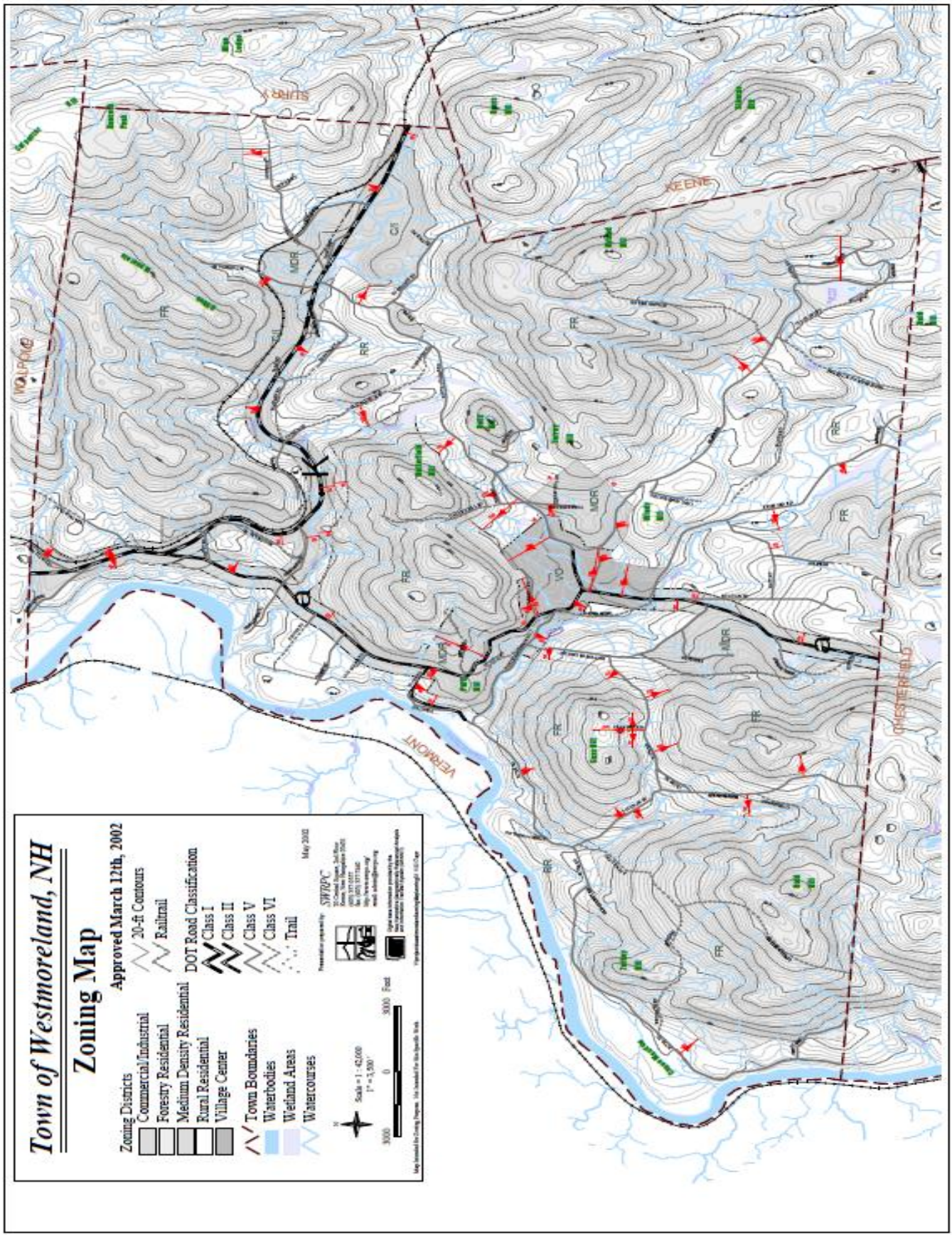
<b>Zoning Districts</b>	Commercial/Industrial
Forestry Residential	Medium Density Residential
Rural Residential	Village Center
Town Boundaries	Waterbodies
Wetland Areas	Watercourses
20-ft Contours	Railroad
DOT Road Classification Class I	DOT Road Classification Class II
DOT Road Classification Class V	DOT Road Classification Class VI
Trail	

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 Date: May 2002

Scale = 1" = 0.100  
 1" = 3,300'

0 3000 Feet

Map based on existing topographic maps. All roads for this map are based on the current GIS data.



## **SECTION 1            VISION**

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Incorporating the results of the committee's survey of town residents and property owners, the committee's discussions, and a public hearing; the 2013 Master Plan Update Committee's vision is to achieve the following seven goals for the Town of Westmoreland:

- Goal 1: Preserve the present character of the town by supporting land uses that complement the community.
- Goal 2: Encourage local employment.
- Goal 3: Expand recreational opportunities for town residents.
- Goal 4: Identify, preserve and protect cultural, archeological and historic resources.
- Goal 5: Maintain a low density residential community with affordable housing.
- Goal 6: Provide communication avenues between the town government, residents and property owners..
- Goal 7: Enhance older residents' ability to live independently in their own homes.

### **OBJECTIVES - REALIZATION OF THE VISION**

Objectives have been established for each of the seven goals as a way to realize the vision:

**Goal 1:            Preserve the present character of the town by supporting land uses that complement the community.**

1. Use the Conservation Plan Inventory of Natural and Cultural Resources as a resource.
2. Use the 2009 Connecticut River Corridor Management Plan as a resource.
3. Use the Town's Zoning and Planning Board regulations as a resource.
4. Establish regulations and ordinances favorable to installation of home solar panels, but discourage solar farms.
5. Consider ordinances addressing use of wind power by homeowners while restricting commercial wind power facilities.
6. Initiate education and outreach to build understanding of, and support for, land conservation, *and* generate awareness about conservation options and benefits for owners of high priority lands including prime farmland, undeveloped areas, natural and cultural resources – including County Land.
7. Develop incentives to encourage and assist landowners who want to provide permanent protection for their property.
8. Reconsider the amount of allocation of current use Tax Penalty revenue to the Conservation Fund and establish procedures for its use.. RSA 36 a 56.
9. Maintain the current town's Recycling Center while continuing to explore alternatives.
10. Maintain town's cemeteries, assess need for additional cemetery space, and obtain additional space if needed.
11. Establish ordinances unfavorable to overly large developments or businesses such as big box stores.
12. Revise ordinances regarding tall structures including wind turbines and cell towers.



**Goal 2: Encourage local employment.**

1. Encourage installation of three-phase power down Route 12 thru commercial zones.
2. Encourage increased availability and quality of broadband infrastructure critical to modern business.
3. Provide a climate favorable to the establishment of small businesses in keeping with the character of the town.
4. Consider establishing a local Chamber of Commerce.
5. Maintain zoning specifically for commercial/industrial uses.

**Goal 3: Expand recreational opportunities for town residents.**

1. Support efforts to develop Connecticut River access for recreational purposes.
2. Encourage Recreation Committee to inventory and preserve recreational sites and assess potential new sites.
3. Maintain and utilize the capital reserve fund.

**Goal 4: Identify, preserve and protect cultural, archeological and historic resources.**

1. Encourage the Historical Society to inventory and assess cultural, archeological and historic sites in Town, and help develop a preservation and protection strategy.
2. Ensure that Westmoreland's regulations are favorable to preservation of these resources.

**Goal 5: Maintain a low density residential community with affordable housing.**

1. Consider town ordinances to support low density residential housing while monitoring the state requirement for workforce housing, including rental and multi-family housing.

**Goal 6: Provide communication avenues between the town government, residents and property owners.**

1. Keep the bulletin boards at Town Hall current.
2. Keep the town website ([www.westmorelandnh.com](http://www.westmorelandnh.com)) up-to-date and include meeting notices.
3. Institute periodic reports directly from the Select Board for residents.
4. Encourage increased availability and quality of broadband infrastructure for residential access.

**Goal 7: Enhance older residents' ability to live independently in their own homes.**

1. Ensure town departments and officials keep needs of the elderly in mind and collaborate with other resources as appropriate.
2. Consider town ordinances to support elderly living in their own homes .



## 2.1 Changes since the 2003 Master Plan

In the past decade, the Monadnock region, including Westmoreland, has experienced very limited growth (4% since 2005, 6% increase since 2000). During this time there has been a major economic recession and the loss of some manufacturing businesses in the region. This situation gives us time to review our planning and prepare for the budding resurgence that is expected to put pressures on our attractive town due to its natural beauty, high quality of life, highly regarded schools, and a strong sense of community. It is important that the town continue to maintain a sound land use plan to manage anticipated growth. In this way, our town will be in a good position to regulate for future change.

## 2.2 Existing Land Uses

**Table 2.a Existing Land Uses**

<b>TOWN PARCELS</b>	No. of Parcels	Acres
Residential - Land only	352	9,837.43
Residential - Land and buildings	628	9,803.29
Commercial - Land only	23	1,273.92
Commercial - Land and buildings	45	1,069.25
Exempt property - Land only	39	290.07
Exempt property - Land and buildings	14	42.42
Totals	1101	22,316.38
<b>CURRENT USE LAND</b>		
Farmland		2,528.04
Forest - Hardwood		582.806
Forest – Pine		388.006
Forest – Mixed		14,224.61
Unproductive		40.65
Wetland		70.31
Totals		17,834.42
<b>ROAD MILES</b>		
	Miles	
State Highways – Class I and Class II	13.7	
Town Roads – Class V, paved	28.5	
Town Roads – Class V, gravel	13.1	
Totals	53.8	278.01
<b>TOTAL LAND AREA</b> (35.9 Square miles)		22,594.38

Sources: see Master Plan land chart sources sheet

**Agricultural:** This is still, by far, the dominant active use of land in Westmoreland. Farms, pastures, and fields for growing corn and hay are scattered throughout the town with major concentrations along the Connecticut River and in the central and southern portions of town. There are also many wood lots in which the trees are being harvested for firewood or lumber. The character of the farms dotted throughout town help to enhance the town aesthetically, financially and environmentally.

In recent years, there has been little change in the agricultural acreage. It appears that the greatest threat to the town's open land remains large scale development and, over a long period of time, incremental development. The Town now has in place suitable ordinances to ensure that this development is done with minimum impact to the agricultural lands of Westmoreland.

## **Forestry**

Forests, which cover the majority of the open spaces, play an important role in providing clean air, clean water, and habitat for plants and animals. Managed forestlands help protect watersheds: reducing the impacts of floods and, storing carbon from the atmosphere. The same ordinances which manage agricultural land development also help minimize impact on forest land.

**Industrial:** This use represents the second largest land-use category in Westmoreland. Included are a large crushed-stone operation, and several small manufacturing enterprises that account for nearly 1200 acres. Additionally with the Industrial Park on Route 12, there has been some minor growth along the Route 12 corridor. This totals approximately 2300 acres, or almost 10%, of the town's current land inventory.

**Residential:** Homes are scattered throughout the town with major concentrations in and around the South Village, East Westmoreland, Westmoreland Depot and Park Hill areas. This estimate is based upon the 2010 census figure of 683 housing units, and an assumption of one acre average per home. With 35.9 square miles, there are approximately 50 people per square mile. (<http://factfinder.census.gov/>) The dominant residential land use is single-family homes. There are very few multifamily structures and little seasonal home development. These facts support the characterization of Westmoreland as a bedroom community.

**Roads:** According to the most recent study, the 63.9 miles of town and state roads in Westmoreland account for an estimated 278 acres of land in the community. These road networks are described in detail in the Traffic and Transportation Section. A 38' average road width was assumed for all roads.

**Commercial:** This use accounts for an estimated 96 acres, and is concentrated in and around South Village and along the Route 12 corridor. Other small-scale commercial uses are scattered throughout the town. This acreage is based upon a list provided by the town office of 49 businesses, including four communications towers and three gravel mining operations. Each business is assumed to occupy two acres.

In conclusion, approximately 5,000 acres, or 22% of Westmoreland, is actively and regularly used for the above mentioned categories of land-use. Potentially open and available for future development would be an approximate 78%. Much of this land may be poorly suited for development for a variety of reasons: steep slopes, wet land, seasonal high water tables and floodplains, shallow to bedrock soils, remote and relatively inaccessible lands. Also, the future land-use policies of Westmoreland may preclude the intensive development of certain areas: the preservation for farmland, for example. In order to develop a realistic future plan for Westmoreland, each of these factors has to be considered carefully.

## **2.3 Analysis of Development Capability**

An essential element in the development of a Land Use Plan is consideration of the actual physical characteristics of the land and the extent to which these characteristics affect the land's ability to accommodate future development.

Excellent resources to support such an approach exist. One is the "Soil Survey of Cheshire County" published in 1989 by the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Soil Conservation Service (SCS) - now the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in cooperation with the NH agricultural Experimentation Station. Drainage, slope, useful and restrictive soil features are factors that impact the various uses any site can accommodate. The maps and descriptions of the Soil Survey illustrate these factors for all of Westmoreland. A copy of the soil survey and a large map of the town's soils are available in the town office.

Another useful tool is a Cheshire County Conservation District 1984 publication, “Soil Potential Ratings for Development.” This document details each soil type’s restrictive features, corrective measures and overall rating for septic systems, roads, and buildings. Maps (available in the Town Hall) produced by the SCS and Southwest NH Regional Planning Commission (SWRPC) summarize an assessment of Westmoreland based on a similar system of categorizing and rating soils. Table 2.b summarizes what these maps illustrate regarding development potential.

**Table 2.b Development Potential**

<b>Development Potential</b>	<b>Approximate Acreage</b>	<b>Percent of Total Land</b>
Very High	1,082	5
High	1,930	8
Medium	1,907	8
Low	2,361	10
Very Low	7,343	32
Wetlands, Floodplains, Agriculture	8,476	37

## **2.4 Opportunities and Limitations for Development**

The SWRPC also produced a “Limitations to Development” map for the town that focused on three major factors: engineering characteristics of the soils, agriculturally important soils and terrain slopes.

The important soils characteristics are flooding, depth to bedrock, wetlands, and occurrence of a seasonal water table, as interpreted from the SCS maps and data sheets for the town. In evaluating these data, the SCS slope information was ignored. The soils limitations data are detailed on a separate map and presented on the combined map as limitations due to soils.

Agricultural soils data were derived from the SCS Agricultural soils Map prepared for the town. In place of the SCS slopes, interpreted data from USGS topographic maps have been substituted.

Factors considered under moderate limitations classification –

1. Agricultural soils of state-wide importance,
2. Slopes between 15 and 25%, and
3. Soils classified as gravel pits and fill.

Factors considered under moderate to severe limitations classification –

1. Soils with seasonal high water tables (wide site by site variability, a few days to more than half a year),
2. Agricultural soils of national importance.

Factors considered under severe limitations classification –

1. Slopes in excess of 25%,
2. Muck and Peat and Fresh Water Marsh,
3. Soils subject to flooding, and
4. Soils less than 1.5 feet to bedrock.

In using these maps, it must be remembered that the data have been interpreted from maps and have not been checked in the field. The maps serve as a guideline to represent general characteristics within an area but the conditions at a specific site within an area may be quite different. Table 2.c summarizes the information detailed on the maps.

**Table 2.c Development Limitations**

<b>Potential Development Limitations</b>	<b>Acreage</b>	<b>Percent of Total Land</b>
Steep Slopes (greater than 25 degrees )	4,907	20.8
Shallow to Bedrock ( less than 40 inches )	9,178	39.0
Shallow to Water Table ( less than 1.5 feet )	4,535.2	19.2
Flood Plain	343.1	1.5
USGS Wetland & Hydric soils (wetland Indicators)	1,284	5.4
Total Wetland Indicators including State/Town Buffers	4,416	18.7
Conservation Lands	791	3.4
County Land	616	2.6

The numbers in Table 2.c indicate some overlap of characteristics, i.e. there are land areas that have two or more attributes that may limit development. Soil Survey based assessments are helpful in determining the acceptability of a specific use proposal (intensive soil survey), as well as in planning on a large scale for the town's future.

## **2.5 Land Use Patterns**

If a community wishes to address the future properly, it must take into consideration not only its own wishes and desires, but those responsibilities placed upon a community by the State of New Hampshire. These require a community to provide for its future growth and development, and in doing so must accommodate such reasonable development patterns as can be expected in a community like Westmoreland.

The Land Use Plan deals initially with an overview of past developments that have shaped the town. Land use data, coupled with the Soils and Survey Report and its interpretation, provide significant information in the formulation of the town's development plan.

The present land use pattern in Westmoreland has evolved as a result of over 250 years of occupation. People have sought livelihoods in the community and the various stages of these economic endeavors are all reflected in today's community patterns.

Like other New England communities, the settlers of Westmoreland were initially interested in basic subsistence items such as water and waterpower, farm produce, flour and lumber, and many took advantage of natural attributes to support their livelihoods and endeavors. While initial settlement took place along the river, a road network soon brought about development throughout the community with houses built in the outlying sectors. This typical New England rural pattern lasted until the end of World War II. Then automobiles and improved roadways allowed for people to commute to employment elsewhere while residing in Westmoreland.

At the present time, there are two interrelated patterns occurring simultaneously in Westmoreland that are having a major impact upon the town. One is the tangible and affordable commuting pattern to nearby employment centers. The other is the increased population the town experienced after the more than 100 years of population decline starting in the 1820's. This rise in population was a result of both the accessibility to nearby jobs and the attractiveness of the community itself.

## **2.6 Future Development Patterns**

Future growth should be in accordance with the Land Use Plan and the town's zoning ordinances. The Land Use Plan addresses the future needs of the individual community, the town, as well as its role as part of a regional community, and makes provisions to retain desirable features.

## **2.7 Land Use Plan**

The determination of land use patterns not only provides but also sets the pattern for the town to control its future growth. Because of the imminent possibility of more and larger subdivision developments, the town must take heed in planning for its future.

It is important that future development be so located as to be accessible to community facilities and highway networks without undue expense to the town. For example, school buses and emergency response vehicles must have reasonable access to any development that would require these services.

Many of Westmoreland's assets are a direct result of natural setting and landscape. Its protection is one that present generations must strive for if they desire to retain the community qualities that are present today. The hilltops, the large forested areas, the beautiful vistas such as the Partridge Brook Basin, the Connecticut River Valley, and the ridge created by Cass Hill and Bald Hill in the western portion of the town, are unique features that help make Westmoreland's character.

In the survey, the citizens indicated the town's planning effort should continue to be geared towards the maintenance of a small, rural community that makes provisions for growth and various land use activities without changing the character of the town. Our zoning ordinances should support and protect the following, in accordance with resident's desires:

1. The rural character of the town. Stonewalls, brooks, the Connecticut River, woodlands, fields and swamps contribute to this rural character. Other examples include many beautiful homes and barns, historic buildings and farms.
2. Property along and affected by our waterways. Two major floods (2008 and 2013) since the 2003 Master Plan indicate an ongoing need to lessen flood potential. In light of extensive state laws regarding wetlands and water, it may be a challenge for our zoning ordinances to provide property owners with the ability to protect their previously flooded properties from future flooding.
3. Agriculture as a major land use.
4. Types of development that conserve land and preserve open space.

Westmoreland's current zoning ordinances provide for five district types that are delineated on the zoning map (see last page). The following are the land use classifications:

### Commercial / Industrial District

This district allows for the establishment of manufacturing employment opportunities in the community. Research and development and other high-density employment, along with wholesale activities, should be concentrated in this district. The maximum density of development permitted is one business per two acres.

### Forestry Residential District

This district permits agricultural and forest uses, wildlife refuge, accessory use, single family dwellings, private stables and home occupations (other uses allowed by Special Exception). Land in this district is prime for conservation because of their scenic values in order to obtain the community goal of keeping this an attractive community with adequate open space. The maximum density of development permitted is one dwelling per ten acres.

### Medium Density Residential District

This district permits agricultural and forest uses, accessory use, single family dwellings, home occupations, schools and manufactured homes (other uses allowed by Special Exception). This district is intended to house the majority of the community's residents. The maximum density of development permitted is one dwelling per two acres.

### Rural Residential District

This district permits agricultural and forest uses, accessory use, single family dwellings, home occupations, private stables, wildlife refuges and manufactured homes (other uses allowed by Special Exception). The maximum density of development permitted is one dwelling per five acres.

### Village Center District

This district permits single family dwellings, two family dwellings, accessory use, public schools and home occupations (other uses allowed by Special Exception). This district is in the center of town, and is characterized by municipal buildings, a historic village store and high-density housing. The maximum density of development permitted is one dwelling per one acre.

## **2.8 Remaining Land Planning Issues**

Of the ten to eleven miles of land in Westmoreland that borders the Connecticut River, Cheshire County owns approximately 6,700 feet (1.27 miles). Wildlife habitat, watershed, and recreational potential could be jeopardized should that county land revert to private, residential use. Efforts by the Conservation Commission and the land use boards toward preserving and conserving some or all of the County land remain important.

It remains important to continue the town's current use taxation category, to promote education regarding development easements and land conservation through the Conservation Commission, and to maintain access to information generated by the Southwest Regional Planning Commission by remaining a member town. All will help to preserve open space and the present character of the town.

### 3.1 Introduction

In the Master Plan Committee survey, residents overwhelmingly indicated that they were in favor of preserving the rural character of Westmoreland. Few wish to see Westmoreland take on suburban features. These sentiments provide a strong guide for those involved in planning and zoning.

Ordinances to assure quality housing in accordance with Building Officials and Code Administrators International, Inc. (BOCA) are already in place. Additional ordinances address important issues such as minimum frontage on a class V or better road, minimum lot size, square footage, and setbacks from lot lines.

### 3.2 Background

Westmoreland has traditionally been a community composed largely of single family, owner-occupied homes. Permits for single family dwellings have significantly decreased, most noticeably in the past 5 years.

**Table 3.a**

**Number of Single Family Building Permits Issued during Five-year Periods**

Period	1985-1989	1990-1994	1995-1999	2000-2004	2005-2009	2010-2014
Number	49	40	26	45	29	9

The 2010 US Census shows Westmoreland with 683 housing units, up from 618 in 2000 (up 10.5%). The ratio of owner-occupied to rental units has remained steady since 1970.

### 3.3 Future Considerations

In 2013, the town adopted an ordinance allowing for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) by special exception. This was an attempt to assist residents with affordable housing and Westmoreland's aging population. The population 65 and over grew from 249 in 1980 to 369 in 2010, a nearly 50% increase in thirty years. ADU's allow for a home owner to add a secondary residence, for any number of reasons, including financial or other types of support.

For significant additional housing units to be added in town, some major Zoning Ordinance changes would have to occur. One change would be to upgrade Class VI roads to Class V or better. Another would be for one or more of the larger tracts of undeveloped land to be subdivided. Allowing for more ADU's or similar units could reduce development pressure on open land that residents have expressed an interest in preserving.



## 4.1 Introduction

A community's transportation system is critical to its vitality. Westmoreland's initial settlers came northward via the Connecticut River and settled along the shoreline. Later, overland travel by road and rail arrived from Keene and points east. Even today settlement often follows these earlier patterns, with some areas more accessible than others. Business activity is also strongly affected by the traffic movement.

From a transportation aspect, Westmoreland is a triangular-shaped "island". As one leg, the Connecticut River acts as a limiting factor to growth and development. The second side of the triangle is Route 12, which traverses the northern section of town. The third leg is Route 9, which is accessed via a portion of Chesterfield. The lack of a bridge across the Connecticut River and the location of Routes 9 and 12 creating a bypass pattern for Westmoreland are significant influences contributing to the town's relatively unspoiled character. Westmoreland's current development is very much defined by this road network.

## 4.2 Street Classification

There are basically two classification systems used in Westmoreland today. One is the state classification. The second is the present functional classification as roads are now being used.

### 1. State Classification

According to Southwest Regional Planning Commission, roadways in Westmoreland are as follows:

**Table 4.a Highway Classification**

CLASS	NAME PER NHDOT	MILES	INCLUDES	NOTES
I	State Trunk Line	6.2	NH12 and NH9	Only 200 yards of NH9 lies in town
II	State Aid Highway	7.5	NH63	
V	Rural Highway	41.6	Town roads	28.5 paved, 13.1 gravel
VI	Unmaintained Highway	8.6	Town roads	Subject to gates & bars

Ordinances require frontage on a Class V or better road for development to provide for access by services. The town road mileage has increased little since the original Master Plan was created. Since 1990 there has been upgrading of small sections of some Class VI roads including Makinen, Hunt, Capron, Lord Cemetery, Thompson and most recently Old County Road. The total upgrades together total less than 1 mile.

### 2. Functional Classification

The road network in Westmoreland falls into three categories: major highways, connector roads, and service roads. This classification has definite implications for highway recommendations to serve future needs.

The major highways are NH63, NH12, and NH9 (via Chesterfield). Connector roads serve as links between the various populated areas and the major highways. These include River Road, Spofford Road, Glebe Road, South Village Road, and Hurricane Road. Although Poocham-Paine-Butterfield Hill Road is listed as a connector road, most of the traffic transiting Route 63 to River Road uses Partridge Brook

Road. Hurricane Road also serves as an alternate to Route 12, going into Keene. Both Glebe Road and South Village Road are major connectors between the South Village area and Routes 9 and 12, respectively.

The remainder of the roads in Westmoreland, such as McAdam Road, Pierce Lane, Sewall Road and others are identified as service roads that primarily serve adjacent properties. Both connector and service roads are under the auspices of the town.

### 4.3 Traffic Volumes

Routes 9 and 12 are the primary traffic carriers in Westmoreland as indicated on traffic counts at NH.gov/DOT, shown below.

**Table 4.b Traffic Volumes – Latest NHDOT Data**

Highway, with count location	Vehicles per Day	
	2010	2013
NH 9 (only 200 yards in Westmoreland)	13000*	14,000*
NH 12 at Walpole town line	7200	7200
NH 12 at Surry town line	8100	7400
NH12 north of Woodward Road	6500	6400
NH 63 north of Glebe Road	1200	1700
South Village Road south of NH12	1300	1100
NH 63 south of Depot Road	1100	1000
NH 63 at Chesterfield town line	1000*	960*
NH 63 south of River Road	750	780
Partridge Brook Rd east of River Road	380	770**
Glebe Road east of NH 63	540	570
Spofford Road at Chesterfield town line	330*	410*
River Road east of Atherton Hill Road	350	320
Hatt Road at Partridge Brook bridge	80	60

\*year of count was 2011 and 2014

\*\*likely due to River Road red-listed bridge being closed to commercial trucks

Since the 2003 Master Plan, the traffic counts on Route 63 by the Town Hall has increased as much as 50%, Route 9 traffic has increased almost 20%, while other volumes do not have notable changes. Traffic counts are taken over a short period by NHDOT and may not accurately reflect a complete picture of traffic flow. Over one-half of the 2013 survey respondents that travel to work commute to/through Keene.

Where significant development is being planned, the Planning Board should consider traffic impacts and include the costs of upgrading town infrastructure as part of the developers’ responsibilities.

### 4.4 Street and Highway Conditions

In the 2013 town survey, respondents scored the town roads as satisfactory, with 43 “poor/improve”, 34 “adequate” and 41 “good/excellent” votes. The town should continue to maintain roads at a level that is satisfactory to the majority of residents.

According to the NHDOT's "Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan 2013 – 2022" (signed into law in June 2013) there are no state plans to expand our roadways, although the planned improvement of NH63 along Spofford Lake will enhance access from NH9 to Westmoreland.

The town's emphasis on developer responsibility for good roads as part of any development proposal must be an important element to assure a minimal cost to the town for any necessary road improvements. Major future expenditures, such as the repair of the River Road bridge on River Road over Partridge Brook, should be identified in a multi-year Capital Improvement Plan.

#### **4.5 Public Transportation**

At present, there is no practical alternative to the motor vehicle in the area. With major state routes running through it and the town's dependence on Keene and Brattleboro, Westmoreland's participation in a public transportation system should be considered, if an opportunity arises. At SWRCP.org, the "Community Transportation Directory" identifies transportation services specifically available to Westmoreland, including no-fare service for eligible people in need, fare transport for the general public, and for carpools. Westmoreland should promote a volunteer-based service for residents in need, as found in other towns.

**5.1 Summary**

In support of multiple goals, the town should promote adequate utilities for electric power and communications while regarding rural character.

**5.2 Services Available**

**Table 5.a Electric, Telephone, Voice, Television and Internet Service**

SERVICE	TYPE	PROVIDERS	COVERAGE	VIA
Electric	1 phase	Eversource	Throughout town	Wire on poles
Electric	3 phase	Eversource	Limited (1)	Wire on poles
Telephone	Land line	Fairpoint Communications	Throughout town	Wire on poles
Telephone	Cellular – mobile	Various (2)	Throughout town	Cell towers (3)
Voice	Internet	Vonage, MagicJack, Skype (with video), etc.	Same as Internet	Internet, using Voice over Internet Protocol
Television	Broadcast	Conventional TV towers - digital as of 2008	Variable due to terrain	Air
Television	Cable	Argent Communications (5)	Call Argent (5)	Coaxial/fiber on poles
Television	Satellite	Dish, DirecTV, etc.	Throughout town	Space (delayed signal)
Television	Internet	Websites	Same as high speed Internet	Internet , using Internet Protocol TV
Internet (4)	Dial-up	Fairpoint Communications	Throughout town	Telephone wires
Internet (4)	Digital Subscriber Line	Fairpoint Communications	Within 3 mi of terminal	Telephone wires Coaxial/fiber on poles
Internet (4)	Cable	Argent Communications (5)	Call Argent (5)	Coaxial/fiber on poles
Internet (4)	Satellite	Hughes, ViaSat(WildBlue), etc.	Throughout town	Space (delayed signal)
Internet (4)	Wireless	Verizon, Sprint, USCellular, etc.	Throughout town	Cell towers (3)

- (1) Three-phase power enters Westmoreland along Spofford Road and continues to the Town Barn and the County Complex.
- (2) Examples are TracFone, Verizon, US Cellular, ATT, T-Mobile, Comcast, and Nextel where they have contracts with cell tower operators.
- 3) Cell towers are located at a) 112 and 133 Lincoln Hill Road (Map 2/Lot 16, by 3R Reality, Applicant Sprint-Nextel), two towers, b) North side of Route 9 (Map5/Lot 15, American Tower), c) 114 Aldrich Road, (Map15/Lot25, Crown Communications, expanded by AT&T and T-Mobile) and d) Hyland Hill Road (Map6/Lot 23), two towers. Also on Hyland Hill (Map6/Lot22, NH state land), the Cheshire County Sheriff’s Department operates a tower. There are also two nearby towers on Mt. Pistareen in Spofford.
- (4) Users communicate with the Internet (World Wide Web) using “broadband” signal technology. The user additionally arranges for a browser (generally free) to operate with the Internet, such as Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, and Internet Explorer.
- (5) Argent has a broadband/TV contract with Westmoreland available at Town Hall. Only one cable provider is allowed per town due to non-compete agreements between providers. The availability and speed of internet service will continue to increase in importance for residences and businesses, and is a

major consideration for business growth in town. A road survey performed in October 2013 with SWRPC found that internet cables by Argent Communications are along portions of the following roads and some of their branches. Rt12, Rt63, Spofford Road, South Village Road, River Road, Glebe Road and others. To be considered “served,” a minimum download speed of 3 Mbps (megabits per second) is required, and most internet connections do not meet this criterion. Because internet service is under regular improvement and internet speed is important, contact Argent and [iwantbroadbandnh.org](http://iwantbroadbandnh.org) for current information.

Significantly, there is no three-phase power in the areas along Route 12 that the plan promotes for commercial/industrial expansion, for which three-phase power is sometimes desirable.

### **5.3 Internet Services**

In the town survey, respondents strongly supported more robust service. Internet service is also critical for most businesses. Current assessment shows that only 5% of the town receives service that meets the new FCC minimum download speed standard of 25 Mbps.

### **5.4 Cell Towers**

In the town survey, respondents clearly opposed the construction of more cell towers which are typically hill-top structures. The cell tower opposition is in conflict with the survey’s desire for more robust internet, where cell towers transmit wireless internet—possibly the future of internet.

Regarding cell towers, Section 453 of the Telecommunications Facilities Regulations is incorporated in the Zoning Ordinances, providing guidelines for towers and antennas. In considering changes regarding height restrictions it is important to balance the impact of restricting tower height with the impact of multiple towers. Impact on view lines should be part of the consideration.

### **5.5 Wind Turbines**

In the town survey, respondents strongly opposed the construction of utility-sized wind turbines, which are very large hill-top structures over 400 feet tall. The town has no utility-sized wind turbines, and thus votes for “same” and “less” indicate opposition – a total of 73% opposing.

Homeowner wind power typically places a rotor above nearby trees on a light tower. The town has no apparent homeowner-sized wind turbines, and thus votes for “same” and “less” indicate opposition – a total of 59% opposing.

Westmoreland is not a priority target for developers to propose wind turbines, as our wind potential would not support above-average electrical production. Hilltops to the northeast, such as Lempster Mountain and Groton (operating) and Willard Mountain (defeated by NH Siting Evaluation Committee and the Town of Antrim on aesthetic grounds) have superior winds. Also, our electric transmission capability is limiting.

### **5.6 Solar Panels**

The town has no utility-sized solar installation, and thus votes for “same” and “less” indicate general opposition – a total of 52% opposing. The need for extremely large areas of quality land needed for a significant photovoltaic power plant conflicts with the broader survey desires for open space. Also, our electric transmission capability is limiting.

Respondents indicated strong support for homeowner solar panels, which typically are mounted on rooftops. Such panels may be used to produce electricity (“photovoltaic”) or heat domestic water for household use. Solar panels may also be used to heat the home; this is quite limited in New Hampshire.

### **5.7 Sewage**

Westmoreland, with the exception of the Cheshire County Complex, relies on individual treatment of sanitary waste. In the rest of Westmoreland population densities are still low enough that individual septic systems can provide adequate treatment of sewage.

### **5.8 Water**

The Town of Westmoreland does not have any public water distribution system. In addition there are a number of registered public wells providing water for public facilities such as the public school and the industrial park. For all practical purposes town and private users rely on individual water supply systems. The town is dependent on groundwater availability. For this reason, it is important that the town protect its underground water resources.

**6.1 Introduction**

A community's self-image and quality of life is reflected in its public and semi-public facilities. The needs and concerns regarding public facilities are acted upon at Town and School District Meetings and are related to future growth and development of the town.

**6.2 Existing Facilities****1. Town Government**

Located in South Village, the Town Hall is listed on the Register of Historic Places. It is a multi-purpose facility used for board and committee meetings, governmental and social gatherings. Offices of the Select Board, their Administrative Assistant, the Treasurer, Town Clerk, and Tax Collector are situated in the Town Hall. Historical Society records are located on the third level. The post office has a separate entrance on the lower level. A Town Hall Improvement Committee has been appointed to identify and make improvements in the building and many updates have already been completed.

**2. Public Safety – Fire/Rescue Department, Emergency Management, and Police Coverage**

The Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department's Station is adjacent to the Town Hall. It has a meeting space, houses the department's apparatus, including a generator, and serves as the town's Emergency Operation Center.

Ambulance service is provided by a contract with the City of Keene. Police-related services are provided by the State Police through the Emergency 911 System or individual request and the Cheshire County Sheriff's Department by individual request.

**3. Public Works - Highway Department**

The Highway Garage is located off McAdam Road. It houses highway equipment and office space for the Road Agent and staff (assistants) who maintain the Town's roads and bridges.

**4. Solid Waste Disposal – Waste Management – Recycling Center**

The Recycling Center is located off London Road and is open Wednesdays and Saturdays. The facility includes a Swap Shop and is supervised by licensed Town employees. To assure that only Westmoreland residents use the Center, stickers are required. Recycling is required by State law and the Recycling Advisory Committee encourages recycling. The Town continues to use private haulers to remove trash and recyclables.

**5. Library**

The Westmoreland Public Library, located on South Village Road, is staffed multiple days per week, and is the site for special programs. The original building has an addition. This town-owned building is managed by a Director and an elected Board of Library Trustees.

**6. Cemeteries**

The Town has nine cemeteries, with space available for possibly the next decade. Consideration should be given to town owned property for additional cemetery use. The elected Cemetery Trustees assure upkeep of the grounds and the repair of the broken or misplaced stones.



#### 7. Schools – Public

The Westmoreland School is located on Glebe Road and provides education for the Town's Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. It was constructed in the 1960's and has had numerous upgrades since then including the addition of gymnasium, playground, athletic fields and an emergency generator. Its current enrollment is about 153 students for 2014-2015. The Westmoreland School is the responsibility of the Westmoreland School District. The School's gymnasium can be utilized for large town functions, including Town Meeting and the School District Meeting. The School is also the Town's Emergency Shelter.

The Town's high school students attend Keene High School as Westmoreland is included in the School Administrative Unit #29. Westmoreland is assessed tuition fees associated with the education of the Town's approximately 70 high school students. Bus transportation of all Westmoreland students is contracted through a Westmoreland provider.

#### 8. Schools – Private

Located on Mt. Gilboa Road, Pioneer Junior Academy is neither owned nor funded by the Town. However, the Town owns and maintains the basketball court and public sports field adjacent to the school.

#### 9. Schools – Historic

The Corner School is located at the corner of Poocham Road and River Road and is listed on the Register of Historic Places. It is representative of what were the Town's neighborhood schools. The Westmoreland Historical Society maintains this town owned property

#### 10. Churches

The Town once included four churches. The White Church in South Village was eventually torn down. The Park Hill Church is now the Park Hill Meeting House. The building is listed on the Register of Historic Places and is managed by the Town's Historical Society. The East Westmoreland Church and the Brick Church are now the town's churches. The Westmoreland United Church is located in the South Village. Besides religious activities, it offers space for social and community activities in its adjacent Fellowship Hall. The Union Church in East Westmoreland was reorganized in 2015.

The facilities that we currently have will continue to be funded by the town as they have in the past.

There are two recreation facilities in Westmoreland, one adjacent to the school and the other in East Westmoreland off Route 12. The main recreation area is adjacent to the school; housing a playground, soccer/baseball field, and tennis court. The second recreational area off of Rt. 12 and on Mt. Gilboa Road is presently used by town teams for baseball, basketball and soccer.

There are also hiking trails on the County Farm property and on The Warwick Preserve on Rt. 63. The abandoned railroad right-of-way, roughly parallel to Rt. 12 and known as the Cheshire Rail Trail, is also used as an off road biking, hiking, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing trail. There are snowmobile trails over private property (with owner's permission) and class VI roads that connect various areas of the town to this trail system. It is possible to travel to Keene, Walpole or Chesterfield over this trail system.

Westmoreland is considered a very desirable community in which to live. Adequate recreation opportunities contribute to this desirability. Facilities for all ages and interests need to be continually considered. Use of our natural resources such as trails and waterways are a good source of natural recreation; these sources would provide inexpensive, low maintenance opportunities for everyone. Another consideration would be to open up the county property to the public. If possible, organize a Committee to take the idea of a future county park to the county. Westmoreland could benefit from a water-front park, with boat launch access and beautiful grounds for recreation and entertainment for individuals and families. Maintenance and security would have to be carefully considered.

Westmoreland remains a rural community with small town character and a bucolic natural setting. Westmoreland residents value the rural character of their community and wish to maintain it. The community surveys performed for the 1986, 2003 and this Master Plan all demonstrate residents' interest in retaining Westmoreland's rural character. Such was also a priority of attendees of the two Community Forums (5-18-2008 & 11-18-2008) held to obtain input for the 2012 Conservation Plan. A complete copy of the 2012 Conservation Plan can be obtained from the town office and is available on the town website.

The Conservation Plan includes:

1. A summary and analysis of natural and cultural resources
2. A set of conservation priorities based on community values
3. Suggested implementation strategies to further conservation objectives.

The values expressed by the public in the various Master Plan Surveys and the Community Forums fall into six major themes:

1. Agriculture – working farms, prime agricultural soils
2. Cultural Identity – historic homes & village district, scenic vistas & rural character
3. Economic Vitality – small business
4. Natural Areas & Wildlife – habitat & biodiversity
5. Recreational Activities – trails, water based, school/town facilities
6. Water – wells, water quality in streams, ponds & the Connecticut River

Actual conservation of any parcel of land is a voluntary action on the part of its owner. Many Westmoreland landowners have their land enrolled in the Current Use Program, which affords a temporary degree of preservation of a property's existing amenities and use. The voluntary protection of Westmoreland land parcels will occur to the degree that residents choose to participate and see land conservation actions as useful ways to maintain the rural character they treasure.

**9.1 Overview**

Westmoreland continues to be a small agricultural and residential community. The majority of its working residents are employed in surrounding towns and out of state (68.9% and 13.1%, respectively). Residents working in Westmoreland (18% of the population) are either employed in farming, by smaller light-industrial companies, or by Cheshire County's Maplewood Nursing Home.

**9.2 The Components of Westmoreland's Economy**

Westmoreland's economy consists of three basic industries - agriculture, commercial/industrial/ retail, and governmental/educational.

An understanding of the individual components of Westmoreland's economy could help in planning for slow to moderate growth of commercial and/or industrial opportunities. However, due to disclosure regulations, this information is not available.

From an income perspective, available data indicates that Westmoreland had a median household income of \$75,028 in 2013, which was higher than both the Cheshire County (\$55,584) and State of New Hampshire (\$64,916) median incomes. For planning purposes, this data indicates that Westmoreland's residents are in a higher income bracket than many other towns in Cheshire County.

Due to its size, Westmoreland does not have individual manufacturing, retail/trade, or wholesale enterprises listed in the U.S. Census. However, Westmoreland's economy does have some diversity in its commercial base and includes an agricultural component. While agriculture is scattered throughout Westmoreland, the commercial base is generally concentrated along the Route 12 corridor, including the Industrial Park.

**9.3 Summary**

Westmoreland likely will continue to exist as an agricultural/residential community. However, moderate growth in commercial and industrial development could (1) help support the local tax base and alleviate some of the tax burden that is borne primarily by Westmoreland's property owners and (2) create additional jobs in Westmoreland for its residents.

Planning for any such expansion should take into account the residents' desire to preserve Westmoreland's rural character, historic landmarks and natural resources. At the very least, maintaining the current commercial base will keep an even higher tax burden from falling on Westmoreland's residents in the future.

### 10.1 Population Growth

Westmoreland had a historically high population in both 1800 (2,066) and 1830 (2,176) which corresponded with the peak of hill farming in New England. While there was a slight population increase in 1850, there was a near-continuous decline thereafter until 1930. Most recently, a 45% population gain from 1970 to 1980 was largely due to the fact that the 1980 census was the first to include Westmoreland's institutional population as residents. However, between 1980 and 1990, the growth rate leveled off to approximately 10%. Since then, the rate of population increase has declined steadily.

Cheshire County's decision to move the County Jail out of Westmoreland impacted the town's population statistics. Moving Maplewood Nursing Home out of Westmoreland, currently under consideration by the county, would have similar impact.

Over the thirty-year period between 1970 and 2000, Westmoreland gradually absorbed more of Cheshire County's population: from 1.9% of the total in 1970 to 2.4% in 2000, a percentage that has remained steady since 2000. According to the US Census Bureau, the 2013 estimated population of Westmoreland was 1963. This estimate includes the Cheshire County jail population (144) which no longer is in Westmoreland.

### 10.2 Population Distribution

Historically, the concentration of population in Westmoreland had followed a pattern established in many other rural New England farming communities – scattered farms during the 1800s and more concentration in villages as a result of increased mill and industrial activity in later years. Today, the population is concentrated in areas around South Village, East Westmoreland, Westmoreland Depot and Park Hill.

In 2000 and 2010, Westmoreland's population density was approximately 50 people per square mile, compared to 28 people per square mile in 1970, and 38 people per square mile in 1990.

Planning for future growth and development that coincides with the desires of Westmoreland's residents will need to assess where development can best be accommodated, while minimizing the cost of town services and the impact on the natural environment.

### 10.3 Age Distribution

The age distribution of Westmoreland's population has continued to follow the national trend of an aging population, as evidenced by the 2013 median age of 47.4 years for town residents compared to 43.3 years in 2000.

### 10.4 Population Trends

Current population characteristics and projected future trends should be considered for Westmoreland's future planning. For example, a population dominated by residents in their childbearing and working years will make different demands on community services (such as an increased school population and improved road maintenance for out-of-town commuters) than will an aging population.

### 10.5 Population Projections

The population projection for Westmoreland between 2010 and 2040 is growth of 7%, which is slightly above the projected rate for Cheshire County (4%) and slightly below the projection for the State of New Hampshire (8%). As noted earlier, because Westmoreland residents desire slow growth in residential and commercial uses, the population projections must be considered when planning how Westmoreland will accommodate a changing population in the future at minimal impact to the community as it now exists.

**11.1 Introduction:**

The preservation of historic properties is important for perpetuating the character of the town and its people.

**11.2 Implementation and Costs:**

1. Information is the key to success; expanded use of the town website could assist with this. If the townspeople are kept informed of town owned historic properties, and their needs, this could create more interest, awareness and support among the residents.
2. While fundraisers help, a more stable source of income should be sought; grant applications and federal subsidies are a possibility as well.
3. Continue to value and coordinate with The Historical Society.
4. Consider creating a Trust Fund for historical preservation.

Down through the generations, people in Westmoreland have cared for and maintained their individual properties and have collectively cared for their churches and common buildings. They have maintained an overall quality that reflects, in many instances, a very rich, historical background. With continued vigilance and updates by the citizens of the town, that tradition will continue.

The Cheshire County Complex, owned and operated by county government, is located at the foot of Partridge Brook Road, on River Road. The 640 acres overlooking the Connecticut River once included a nursing home, a farm, and a jail/house of corrections. The Cheshire County Department of Corrections is now located in Marlborough, NH and the former jail is vacant.

The Cheshire County Farm once included a prize dairy herd, piggery, farm fields and vegetable gardens managed by County employees who supervised inmates. It is now leased to a private individual and there are no longer County employees or inmates involved at the farm.

The County continues to run the hilltop Maplewood Nursing Home. Opened in 1977, the facility is licensed for 150 beds and is showing signs of age. In addition 20 Assisted Living apartments were added in the mid 1990's. Maplewood employs many from in and out of the county. Their private vehicles and delivery trucks do have an impact on town roads.

Maplewood's SHEPHERD Program provides the free use of durable medical equipment to community residents by calling 399-4912.

The County Complex has its own potable water supply and waste treatment facilities.

The future of the nursing home was evaluated by a Task Force charged with making a recommendation to the Cheshire County Legislative Delegation as to whether the County continues its 140 year history of providing long-term care by upgrading the present facility, building a new facility in Westmoreland, or building a new facility in a more centrally – located town in the County. No final selection has been made at this time.

What happens to the County Complex at Maplewood will have an impact on Westmoreland. The potential development, or protection, of over 6700 feet of fertile riverside land, 500 acres of woodland, and 129 acres of open farmland could have a significant impact on many aspects of the community, tax base, population, services, green space in Westmoreland.

The hope is that the county will donate some land to be used for recreational purposes. Improvements would be considered by a Committee to be approved by the Town's people, and funding would be determined by the scope of any project. Efforts by the Conservation Commission and the land use boards toward preserving and conserving some or all of that land remain important.



## APPENDIX A

### WESTMORELAND HISTORY

(Taken verbatim from the 2003 Master Plan)

In 1733, Massachusetts granted a township lying to the northeast of Northfield named Arlington. Pending the King's decision concerning the dividing line between this and other provinces, the General Court of Massachusetts, in the fall of 1736, granted 30+ townships – between the Merrimac and the Connecticut River. Of these townships, No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, and No. 4 lined banks of the Connecticut River, just north of Arlington and were nearly identical. They later became Chesterfield, Westmoreland, Walpole, and Charlestown.

On February 2, 1737, No. 2 (later Westmoreland) was placed in Hampshire County “in order to have their title recorded, the King's peace preserved and common justice done.” The only inhabitants until then were a few Abenaki Indians, a small sub-branch of the Five Nations tribes. Their wigwams were in the north part of town along Wigwam Brook. They remained in the area for a short time and seemed friendly.

In the spring of 1736 settlers began arriving, and in 1741 a blockhouse was erected for protection against the Indians. This blockhouse was later strengthened by palisades because of Indian trouble and was known as Great Meadow.

After the French & Indian War broke out in 1744, homes were considered unsafe, and settlers from N. 2, Putney and Westminster crossed the river to Putney Meadows, where they constructed a stockade fort. Although the war officially ended in October, 1748, the Indians had become so enraged that they kept up their forays through the next season.

In the meantime, the New Hampshire and Massachusetts boundaries under dispute were finally decided. A large section of land (including No. 2, or Great Meadow) was taken from Massachusetts and given to New Hampshire. More settlers started moving into the area, and by 1752 there were 300 people living here.

In 1752, a charter for the No. 2 settlement was granted by Governor Wentworth, and was incorporated under the name of Westmoreland, in honor of Lord Westmoreland, an intimate friend of the governor. Owing to the unsettled times, the grantees were unable to fulfill the conditions of the charter and, upon petition, the grant was extended to June 11, 1760. To fulfill the conditions of the charter and secure their title, the town was subdivided into lots. Each of the 72 proprietors had a 100 acre pitch lot, a meadow lot, a 20 acre house lot, and 150 acres of common land, plus lots were set aside for Governor Wentworth, his son, the Anglican Church, the minister, and the school.

The town was surveyed, a plan drawn up and completed, and on March 30, 1752 the first Town Meeting was held. One of the first problems to be dealt with was the necessity of a grist mill. The townspeople decided to set aside 50 acres of land for anyone who would build a mill and run it for 10 years. Thomas Chamberlain and Samuel Minot accepted the offer and built the first mill at Granger Hollow. Mills were also established along Partridge Brook, and are described in *The History of Westmoreland*. Ruins may still be seen along the brook, and a series of photos are available through the Westmoreland Historical Society.

As soon as the town was chartered, it was required to provide schools and teachers. This responsibility was carried out under the auspices of the Selectmen (until 1805), and schools were located according to population densities. In 1748, the town voted to divide into four districts called squadrons. In 1794, the town was divided into eight districts. Two school buildings remain. The Corner School, now part of the Historical Society, and another building on Poocham Road, owned by Mame Odette and Steve Robbins. The owners have taken steps to preserve the original schoolhouse that in the distant past served the

residents of Poocham as far as the Chesterfield line. The remaining schoolhouses have been turned into houses, torn down or as in one case used as a storage shop.

In 1779, Vermont territory was claimed by both New Hampshire and New York, with duplicate grants being issued from these two states for the same areas. New Hampshire Grants settlers were badly treated by New York governing bodies, and a long battle was fought for this territory to be admitted to the Union as a state. New Hampshire, along with some towns on the east side of the Connecticut River south of Claremont, withdrew and organized as Washington County on January 16, 1781. In August, 1781, the General Assembly passed an act obliging each town to provide monthly installments of beef and rum for the Continental Army. Along with other revolting towns, Westmoreland refused to do this. A warrant was served on the town and a fine imposed. To prevent an impending civil war, General Washington intervened and asked Vermont to give up her eastern Connecticut River towns and join the Union as its 14<sup>th</sup> state. On February 23, 1782, the western bank of the Connecticut River, as designated by Congress, became the boundary line dividing New Hampshire and Vermont. Westmoreland was back under the jurisdiction of New Hampshire.

Water transportation played quite an important role in the settling of Westmoreland. People used the River to settle the town, as a means of escape from Indian raids, and to bring their corn to be ground at the Westmoreland Grist Mills.

The first planned county road ran from the Walpole town line, over Park Hill, down to a bridge, then over Cass Hill, along Poocham Road to Hunt Road to the Hunt residence. The first town road was Canoe Meadow Road (now River Road). Boston Post Road went over Park Hill, over Farr Hill and branched off over Dagget Hill.

Overland transportation, mainly stage lines and horse power, was very slow, and the town's major industries during the early 1800's were at a distinct disadvantage because of this. The woolen and cotton mills, as well as the woodenware industry, therefore, benefited greatly after the second half of the extension of the Cheshire Railroad from South Ashburnham to Bellows Falls became operational on January 1, 1849. Two railroad stations were built in Westmoreland, the first at Gilboa (in East Westmoreland), and the second at Westmoreland Depot.

Westmoreland's fine agricultural land has always been a matter of record. At its peak, around 1885, it was one of the most fertile and productive towns in the State of New Hampshire. In 1866, about 200 acres of this prime farmland was purchased by the County for the County Poor Farm, and today is still a working and productive farm. The new Nursing Home was built around 1974 and the old buildings at the bottom of the hill were demolished a few years later with the hopes that someone would buy it and turn it into something, but the complex needed so much work there were no buyers. There is today; however, significant concern by local people that a proposed enlargement of the correctional institute will degrade the area and the image of the town.

The topography of Westmoreland is not quite as hilly as most of the neighboring townships and, combined with a very pleasing landscape overall, draws an increasing number of visitors every summer. The resident population grew from 300 in 1752 to 1,094 in 1880, and by April 1967 it was 1,003. Allowing for slight fluctuation, the town is steadily growing. Today's population, less the nursing home and correctional institute, is 1462.

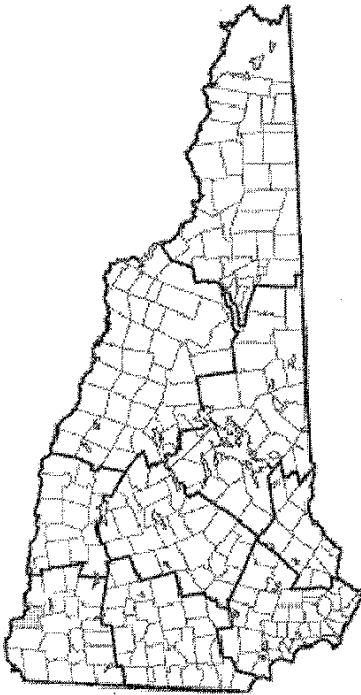
Source: Written by Dorothy Dunn, 6/19/69 and updated by Bill Hunter and Bill Howland, 9/2002

## APPENDIX B

### Westmoreland Community Profile

This profile is updated every year and the current one can be seen on the NHES website:  
<http://www.nhes.nh.gov/elmi/products/cp/>

# Westmoreland, NH



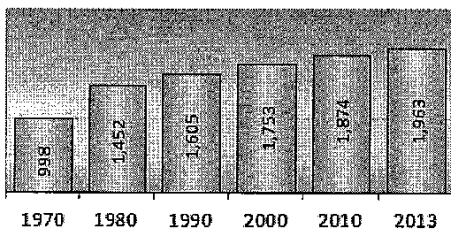
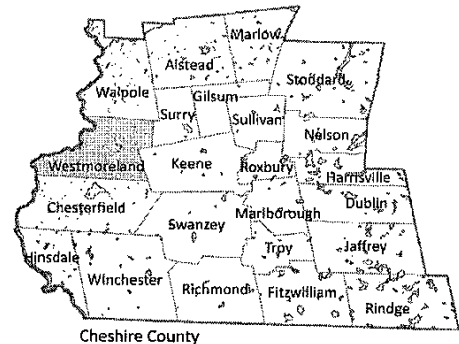
Community Contact	<b>Westmoreland Board of Selectmen</b> JoAnn LaBarre, Town Administrator PO Box 55 Westmoreland, NH 03467
Telephone	<b>(603) 399-4471</b>
Fax	<b>(603) 399-4386</b>
E-mail	<b>townofwestmoreland@myfairpoint.net</b>
Web Site	<b>www.westmorelandnh.com</b>
Municipal Office Hours	<b>Selectmen: Monday, 12 noon - 8 pm, Tuesday through Friday, 8 am - 4 pm; TClerk, TCollector: Monday, 7:30 am - 2 pm, 6 pm - 8:30 pm, Wednesday, 6 pm - 8:30 pm, Thursday, 7:30 am - 11 am</b>
County	<b>Cheshire</b>
Labor Market Area	<b>Keene, NH Metropolitan NECTA</b>
Tourism Region	<b>Monadnock</b>
Planning Commission	<b>Southwest Region</b>
Regional Development	<b>Monadnock Economic Development Corp.</b>
Election Districts	
US Congress	<b>District 2</b>
Executive Council	<b>District 2</b>
State Senate	<b>District 10</b>
State Representative	<b>Cheshire County District 1</b>

**Incorporated:** 1752

**Origin:** This territory was chartered by the Massachusetts government in 1735 as Number 2, being second in the line of Connecticut River fort towns designed to protect the colonies from Indian attack. For a while, the settlement was known as Great Meadows. When New Hampshire became an independent province, Governor Benning Wentworth granted the town to Thomas Chamberlain and others as Westmoreland. The name was in honor of a relative of the Governor, John Fane, seventh Earl of Westmoreland. The meetinghouse in Westmoreland, built in 1762, has a steeple bell cast by the Paul Revere Foundry.

**Villages and Place Names:** East Westmoreland, Gilboa, Poocham, Westmoreland Depot

**Population, Year of the First Census Taken:** 2,018 residents in 1790



**Population Trends:** Population change for Westmoreland totaled 1,042 over 53 years, from 921 in 1960 to 1,963 in 2013. The largest decennial percent change was an increase of 45 percent between 1970 and 1980, accounting for over half the total numeric increase. The 2013 Census estimate for Westmoreland was 1,963 residents, which ranked 139th among New Hampshire's incorporated cities and towns.

**Population Density and Land Area, 2013 (US Census Bureau):** 54.6 persons per square mile of land area. Westmoreland contains 35.9 square miles of land area and 0.9 square miles of inland water area.

<b>MUNICIPAL SERVICES</b>	
Type of Government	<b>Selectmen</b>
Budget: Municipal Appropriations, 2015	<b>\$1,245,770</b>
Budget: School Appropriations, 2014-2015	<b>\$3,573,846</b>
Zoning Ordinance	<b>1957/15</b>
Master Plan	<b>2003</b>
Capital Improvement Plan	<b>No</b>
Industrial Plans Reviewed By	<b>Planning Board</b>

Boards and Commissions  
 Elected: **Selectmen; Library; Budget; Cemetery, Briggs Fund; Trust Funds**  
 Appointed: **Planning; Zoning; Conservation; Joint Loss Mgt; Recreation**

Public Library **Westmoreland Public**

<b>EMERGENCY SERVICES</b>	
Police Department	<b>No</b>
Fire Department	<b>Volunteer</b>
Emergency Medical Service	<b>Volunteer</b>

Nearest Hospital(s)	Distance	Staffed Beds
<b>Cheshire Medical Center, Keene</b>	<b>11 miles</b>	<b>169</b>
<b>Battleboro Memorial, Battleboro VT</b>	<b>14 miles</b>	<b>61</b>

<b>UTILITIES</b>	
Electric Supplier	<b>Eversource Energy</b>
Natural Gas Supplier	<b>None</b>
Water Supplier	<b>Private wells</b>
Sanitation	<b>Private septic</b>
Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant	<b>No</b>
Solid Waste Disposal	
Curbside Trash Pickup	<b>Private</b>
Pay-As-You-Throw Program	<b>No</b>
Recycling Program	<b>Mandatory</b>
Telephone Company	<b>Fairpoint</b>
Cellular Telephone Access	<b>Yes</b>
Cable Television Access	<b>Yes</b>
Public Access Television Station	<b>No</b>
High Speed Internet Service:	
Business	<b>Yes</b>
Residential	<b>Yes</b>

<b>PROPERTY TAXES</b> (NH Dept. of Revenue Administration)	
2014 Total Tax Rate (per \$1000 of value)	<b>\$21.78</b>
2014 Equalization Ratio	<b>104.3</b>
2014 Full Value Tax Rate (per \$1000 of value)	<b>\$22.66</b>
2014 Percent of Local Assessed Valuation by Property Type	
Residential Land and Buildings	<b>89.5%</b>
Commercial Land and Buildings	<b>8.4%</b>
Public Utilities, Current Use, and Other	<b>2.1%</b>

<b>HOUSING</b> (ACS 2009-2013)	
Total Housing Units	<b>747</b>
Single-Family Units, Detached or Attached	<b>699</b>
Units in Multiple-Family Structures:	
Two to Four Units in Structure	<b>18</b>
Five or More Units in Structure	<b>20</b>
Mobile Homes and Other Housing Units	<b>10</b>

<b>DEMOGRAPHICS</b> (US Census Bureau)		
Total Population	Community	County
2013	<b>1,963</b>	<b>76,723</b>
2010	<b>1,874</b>	<b>77,117</b>
2000	<b>1,753</b>	<b>73,993</b>
1990	<b>1,605</b>	<b>70,223</b>
1980	<b>1,452</b>	<b>62,116</b>
1970	<b>998</b>	<b>52,364</b>

**Demographics, American Community Survey (ACS) 2009-2013**

Population by Gender		
Male	Female	1,016

Population by Age Group	
Under age 5	<b>77</b>
Age 5 to 19	<b>363</b>
Age 20 to 34	<b>255</b>
Age 35 to 54	<b>602</b>
Age 55 to 64	<b>265</b>
Age 65 and over	<b>401</b>
Median Age	<b>47.4 years</b>

Educational Attainment, population 25 years and over	
High school graduate or higher	<b>93.4%</b>
Bachelor's degree or higher	<b>37.4%</b>

<b>INCOME, INFLATION ADJUSTED \$</b> (ACS 2009-2013)	
Per capita income	<b>\$32,004</b>
Median family income	<b>\$77,663</b>
Median household income	<b>\$74,028</b>

Median Earnings, full-time, year-round workers	
Male	<b>\$52,270</b>
Female	<b>\$32,500</b>
Individuals below the poverty level	<b>6.1%</b>

<b>LABOR FORCE</b> (NHES - ELMII)		
Annual Average	2004	2014
Civilian labor force	<b>948</b>	<b>958</b>
Employed	<b>925</b>	<b>930</b>
Unemployed	<b>23</b>	<b>28</b>
Unemployment rate	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>2.9%</b>

<b>EMPLOYMENT &amp; WAGES</b> (NHES - ELMII)		
Annual Average Covered Employment	2004	2014
Goods Producing Industries		
Average Employment	<b>126</b>	<b>111</b>
Average Weekly Wage	<b>\$ 705</b>	<b>\$ 787</b>
Service Providing Industries		
Average Employment	<b>152</b>	<b>97</b>
Average Weekly Wage	<b>\$ 483</b>	<b>\$ 736</b>
Total Private Industry		
Average Employment	<b>278</b>	<b>208</b>
Average Weekly Wage	<b>\$ 584</b>	<b>\$ 763</b>
Government (Federal, State, and Local)		
Average Employment	<b>412</b>	<b>292</b>
Average Weekly Wage	<b>\$ 531</b>	<b>\$ 641</b>
Total, Private Industry plus Government		
Average Employment	<b>690</b>	<b>501</b>
Average Weekly Wage	<b>\$ 552</b>	<b>\$ 692</b>

**EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE**

Schools students attend: **Westmoreland operates grades K-8; grades 9-12 are tuitioned to Keene** District: **SAU 29**  
 Career Technology Center(s): **Cheshire Career Center (Keene); Fall Mountain RHS - CTE; Windham RCC (VT)** Region: **13**

Educational Facilities (includes Charter Schools)	Elementary	Middle/Junior High	High School	Private/Parochial
Number of Schools	1			1
Grade Levels	K 1-8			1-8
Total Enrollment	153			11

Nearest Community College: **River Valley**

Nearest Colleges or Universities: **Keene State; Franklin Pierce University; Antioch New England**

2015 NH Licensed Child Care Facilities (DHHS-Bureau of Child Care Licensing) Total Facilities: **0** Total Capacity: **0**

LARGEST BUSINESSES	PRODUCT/SERVICE	EMPLOYEES	ESTABLISHED
Maplewood Nursing Home	Nursing Home	200	
Servpro	Cleaning service	8	
Cox Woodworking	Millwork	5	1981
Westmoreland Wood Products	Woodturning	4	1970

**TRANSPORTATION (distances estimated from city/town hall)**

Road Access	US Routes		
	State Routes	<b>12, 63</b>	
Nearest Interstate, Exit	<b>I-91 (VT), Exit 3 or 5</b>		
	Distance	<b>10 miles; 11 miles</b>	
Railroad		<b>No</b>	
Public Transportation		<b>Yes</b>	
Nearest Public Use Airport, General Aviation			
<b>Dillant-Hopkins, Swanzey</b>	Runway	<b>6,201 ft. asphalt</b>	
Lighted? <b>Yes</b>	Navigation Aids?	<b>Yes</b>	
Nearest Airport with Scheduled Service			
<b>Lebanon Municipal</b>	Distance	<b>54 miles</b>	
Number of Passenger Airlines Serving Airport		<b>1</b>	
Driving distance to select cities:			
Manchester, NH		<b>67 miles</b>	
Portland, Maine		<b>160 miles</b>	
Boston, Mass.		<b>97 miles</b>	
New York City, NY		<b>216 miles</b>	
Montreal, Quebec		<b>236 miles</b>	

**COMMUTING TO WORK (ACS 2009-2013)**

Workers 16 years and over	
Drove alone, car/truck/van	<b>70.8%</b>
Carpooled, car/truck/van	<b>19.1%</b>
Public transportation	<b>0.0%</b>
Walked	<b>0.7%</b>
Other means	<b>4.5%</b>
Worked at home	<b>4.8%</b>
Mean Travel Time to Work	<b>22.8 minutes</b>

**Percent of Working Residents: ACS 2009-2013**

Working in community of residence	<b>21.4</b>
Commuting to another NH community	<b>67.6</b>
Commuting out-of-state	<b>11.0</b>

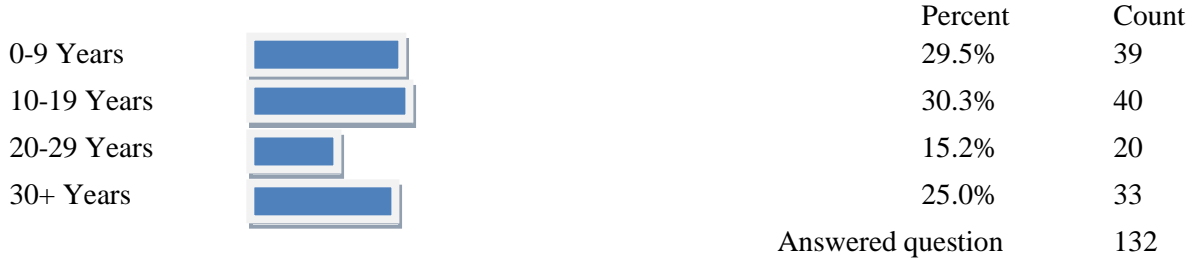
**RECREATION, ATTRACTIONS, AND EVENTS**

	Municipal Parks
	YMCA/YWCA
	Boys Club/Girls Club
	Golf Courses
	Swimming: Indoor Facility
	Swimming: Outdoor Facility
	Tennis Courts: Indoor Facility
<b>X</b>	Tennis Courts: Outdoor Facility
	Ice Skating Rink: Indoor Facility
	Bowling Facilities
	Museums
	Cinemas
	Performing Arts Facilities
	Tourist Attractions
<b>X</b>	Youth Organizations (i.e., Scouts, 4-H)
<b>X</b>	Youth Sports: Baseball
	Youth Sports: Soccer
	Youth Sports: Football
	Youth Sports: Basketball
	Youth Sports: Hockey
	Campgrounds
<b>X</b>	Fishing/Hunting
	Boating/Marinas
<b>X</b>	Snowmobile Trails
<b>X</b>	Bicycle Trails
<b>X</b>	Cross Country Skiing
	Beach or Waterfront Recreation Area
	Overnight or Day Camps
	Nearest Ski Area(s): <b>Mount Snow &amp; Okemo, VT</b>
	Other:

## APPENDIX C

### Master Plan 2013 Questionnaire Results

**1. How many years have you lived in Westmoreland?**



**2. What is your age?**



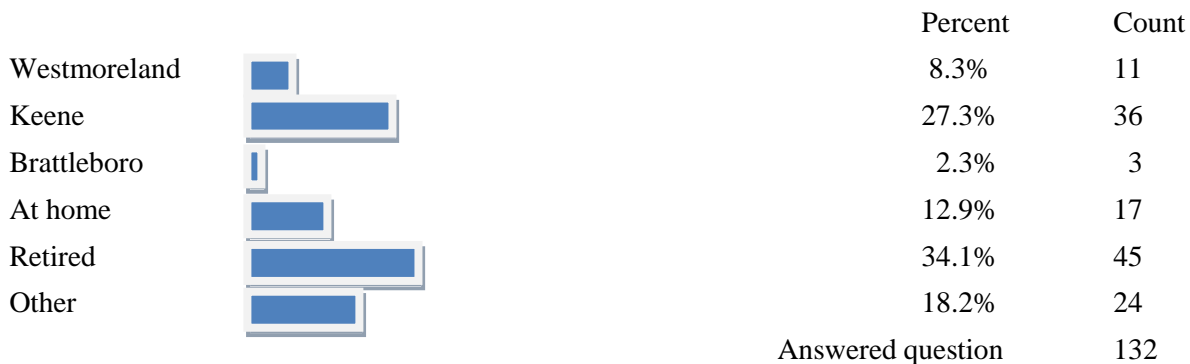
**3. Which describes you best?**



**4. Do you have school age children?**

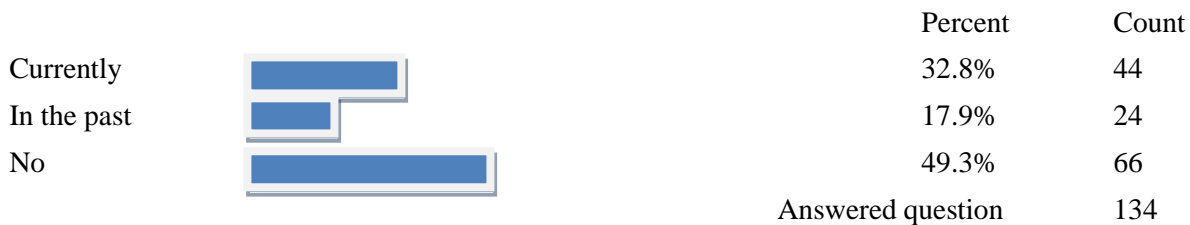


5. Where are you employed?



Claremont , Walpole (5) Swanzey (3), Marlborough, NYC, Manchester, Not Employed (2), CT (2), Vernon, VT (2), Chesterfield (3), Hancock, Bellows Falls, VT, Cambridge MA

6. Are you involved with the town/school by your job, a committee or similar role?



7. Are you familiar with the 2003 Master Plan?



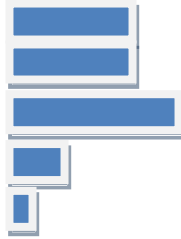
8. What are your sources for town information?



e-mail (16), mailed notices (3), TV, Church, none (2)

9. What would you like, even at a small cost?

	Percent	Count
Direct e-mails	26.5%	57
Selectmen letter	26.0%	56
Updated Web-site	35.3%	76
No response	8.8%	19
Other	3.3%	7
Answered question		215



Nothing (4), ok with the way it is now, minutes of Selectmen’s meeting, website has been recently updated and is good

10. Please rate the following:

	<u>Poor</u>	<u>Improvement</u>	<u>Adequate</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>	<u>Count</u>
Government	4 (3%)	18 (13.5%)	26 (19.5%)	48 (36.1%)	12 (9%)	25 (18.8%)	133
Schools	1 (.8%)	6 (4.6%)	14 (10.7%)	40 (30.5%)	35 (26.7%)	35 (26.7%)	131
Fire/Rescue	0	2 (1.5%)	29 (21.6%)	44 (32.8%)	31 (13.1%)	28 (20.9%)	134
Police	13 (9.8%)	15 (11.4%)	35 (26.5%)	21 (15.9%)	11 (8.3%)	37 (28.0%)	132
EM	6 (4.6%)	8 (6.2%)	35 (26.9%)	29 (22.3%)	8 (6.2%)	44 (33.8%)	130
Roads	8 (6.0%)	35 (26.3%)	34 (25.6%)	33 (24.8%)	8 (6.0%)	15 (11.3%)	133
Library	0	1 (.8%)	29 (22.1%)	28 (21.4%)	41 (31.3%)	32 (24.4%)	131
Recreation	3 (2.5%)	21 (17.2%)	31 (25.4%)	5 (4.1%)	8 (6.6%)	54 (44.3%)	122
Waste Mgt	2 (1.8%)	9 (8.0%)	31 (27.7%)	22 (19.6%)	18 (16.1%)	30 (26.8%)	112
Cemeteries	1 (.8%)	5 (4.0%)	31 (25.0%)	22 (17.7%)	22 (17.7%)	43 (34.7%)	124

Other:

Land preservation/conservation easements	PB, ZB & Selectmen need improvement of communication
Pedestrian and bike access	between Boards and a pro-business approach
Community unity/spirit	Feel adequately served by most town government that I use
No complaints, love Westmoreland	More supervision of highway with accountability
Conserve; don’t spend it if you don’t need it	We do not need a police department; we are covered well
No increases; reductions are needed	We need a swimming pool or swim area on the river and
The town should buy up land available	boat access to the river in our town
Better utilization of our rail system in town	

11. Please tell us what you feel is important about Westmoreland’s government and services **See Appendix C-1**



12. Westmorelander’s speak of retaining our “rural character” To what degree do the following define “rural character” to you?

	(1) Not <u>Important</u>	(2) Somewhat <u>Important</u>	(3) Very <u>Important</u>	No <u>Opinion</u>	Rating <u>Average</u>	Response <u>Count</u>
Historic Sites	7 (5.4%)	39 (30.0%)	67 (51.5%)	17 (13.1%)	2.2	130
Large Lots	10 (7.7%)	34 (26.2%)	62 (47.7%)	24 (18.5%)	2.0	130
Working Farms	3 (2.3%)	37 (28.2%)	87 (66.4%)	4 (21.0%)	2.6	131
Recreation	20 (15.3%)	47 (35.9%)	43 (32.8%)	21 (16.0%)	1.8	131
Undeveloped	7 (5.3%)	26 (19.8%)	89 (67.9%)	9 (6.9%)	2.5	131

Checked with no values treated as Somewhat Important

Other:

Land conservation (2); Managed forests; Undeveloped CT River land (3); Non-Industrial (3); Preservation of any good farmland we have left; No stop lights; attitude; Leading question – of course important but can we afford to maintain?; Clean air, water & low light/noise pollution levels; No cookie cutter development where houses are all the same, the variety of homes adds character, Maintain setbacks so houses are not right on top of the road, Manage commercial areas and businesses in residential areas so that they are tasteful and not neon strips.

13. What makes Westmoreland a desirable place for you to live? **See Appendix C-2**

14. What might cause you to leave Westmoreland and move to another town/city? **See Appendix C-3**

15. How do you picture our town’s future?

	Percent	Count
Rural/Agricultural	45.5%	61
Rural/Residential	51.5%	69
Suburban	2.2%	3
Mixed rural commercial/industrial	26.1%	35
Mixed suburban commercial/industrial	0.75%	1

16. To what degree are the following conservation/preservation objectives important to you?

	(1) Not <u>Important</u>	(2) Somewhat <u>Important</u>	(3) Very <u>Important</u>	No <u>Opinion</u>	Greater <u>Expenditure</u>	Response <u>Count</u>
Open Land	5 (4.2%)	27 (22.9%)	82 (69.5%)	4 (3.4%)	6(5.1%)	118
Farmland	4 (3.1%)	22 (22.0%)	89 (70.1%)	6 (4.7%)	5 (3.9%)	127
Forested Areas	2 (1.7%)	24 (23.5%)	85 (71.4%)	4 (3.4%)	6 (5.0%)	119
Hilltop	5 (4.4%)	28 (27.2%)	75 (65.8%)	3 (2.6%)	2 (1.8%)	114
Water	3 (2.5%)	24 (22.7%)	86 (72.3%)	3 (2.5%)	10 (8.4%)	119
Historic	7 (6.1%)	44 (38.6%)	61 (53.5%)	2 (1.8%)	7 (6.1%)	114

Checked with no values treated as Somewhat Important

Other:

Non-industrial (3) Preservation of what we value should be a goal of the town  
 Old trees, stone walls, dirt roads (3) Commercial zone & conservation easements each noted once and  
 Preserve and be thankful for what we have circled indicating \$\$ warranted for the two.

**17. In the future, to what degree would you like to see;**

	(1) Less	(2) Same as Now	(3) More	Count
Industrial Development	29 (29.6%)	56 (57.1%)	13 (13.3%)	98
Commercial/Retail Development	32 (29.1%)	57 (51.8%)	21 (19.1%)	110
Office Development	35 (32.1%)	54 (49.5%)	20 (18.3%)	109
Single-family Homes	7 (6.4%)	78 (71.6%)	24 (22.0%)	109
Multi-family Homes	56 (55.4%)	40 (39.6%)	5 ( 5.0%)	101
Mobile Homes	91 (82.7%)	18 (16.4%)	1 ( 0.9%)	110
Cluster Housing (with space)	53 (52.0%)	30 (29.4%)	19 (18.6%)	102
Cell Towers	36 (35.3%)	49 (48.0%)	17 (16.7%)	102
Internet Services	7 (6.5%)	34 (31.5%)	67 (62.0%)	108
Homeowner Wind Turbines	20 (19.2%)	41 (39.4%)	43 (41.3%)	104
Homeowner Solar	4 (3.7%)	31 (28.4%)	74 (67.9%)	109
Utility Scale Wind Turbines	41 (40.6%)	33 (32.7%)	27 (26.7%)	101
Utility Scale Solar	25 (24.5%)	28 (27.5%)	49 (48.0%)	102

**18. Please tell us what you feel is important about Westmoreland’s character and future (feel free to expand on separate page.) See Appendix C-4**

**19. Other See Appendix C-5**

## Appendix C – 1

11. Please tell us what you feel is important about Westmoreland's government and services.

*Missing numbers mean there was no response.*

- 2 Keeping services affordable.
- 4 Accountability. Try cutting expenses
- 7 It's great we still have town meeting, officials are usually accessible
- 8 I would like more social activities during the daytime for the older folks in town. One Sr. meal is hardly enough. TOWN WIDE HIGH SPEED INTERNET.
- 11 Westmoreland is OK now just fine.
- 12 The current system for town government is adequate for a town our size. The Highway Dept. could use more financial support
- 13 No police. No emergency management.
- 14 Keeping growth to a minimum
- 15 For the most part it is sensible - External elements have been kept at bay - good people have put considerable time in serving the common good.
- 16 Local control - Limited state and national support.
- 20 Both are small, limited and more than adequate. Let's not become complicated
- 21 Don't depend much on government and services - fire and roads maybe
- 22 Keeping the budget and taxes as low as possible.
- 25 Enable, Engaged, Out of Sight
- 26 In all honesty keeping out welfare and Section VIII you have done well
- 28 Many committed volunteers
- 29 Jo Ann LaBarre
- 30 Communication.
- 34 Close transfer station and use Keene
- 36 People chosen or elected for positions...should not be chosen because of their political beliefs, but on who is best for serving our town...need intelligent, open minded, dedicated people with no bipartisan views.
- 37 Payment of personal property taxes - on a quarterly payment schedule - is easier and all done on computer.
- 38 Think it is important that our government represents all the people of Westmoreland and...protects itself and the people...from the very vocal and very small minority of free staters and their agenda.
- 43 Openness, low cost
- 44 Smaller is better
- 45 Maintain small rural community...keep up-to-date with tech advances such as disbursing information
- 47 I feel we get a lot for what we pay - high value
- 49 Overall town government is adequate, but inconsistent, it depends on who is serving. Services are also okay, little money available
- 55 Current government is working well! Selectmen are reasonable, dedicated volunteers with no hidden agendas.
- 56 Town selectmen and town boards have little informative communication...need to work more together
- 57 Selectmen are honest, dedicated and responsive to the public...town needs to be managed more as a business.
- 58 Nice small government - cares about people...results of their actions - except for a person or two on the zoning board who just wants power
- 59 They match the requirement
- 60 They are independent, looking out for what is best for the town
- 61 It would be a great advantage for our residents if our town government was run as if it were a business.
- 62 More business experience needs to be applied to decision making in our town government.
- 63 Selectmen or boards need to enforce rules...I would also like to see the pamphlet of property assessments published again.
- 66 ...town provides adequate services...fire department is probably one of the best volunteer departments...Town government does not need to grow.
- 67 I feel there should be more accountability and overseeing of town employees.
- 68 Roads - excellent job...speed limit on South Village Road...is 30...Could we get a flashing sign?...Could we have police presence?...Recreation - we would like the tennis court resurfaced and town access to the river. Waste management - excellent except we would like...hazardous waste.

69 We need to have our school be excellent. The dump should be open more... The town clerk should be open more... 62

78 Road maintenance - currently lacking...Lack of internet connectivity is ridiculous!

79 Town administrator/manager needed...

80 Keep it small.

84 Keep things running smoothly.

85 They do amazing things on a shoestring budget.

86 Life is good in Westmoreland. If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

87 Keeping aware of what is going on.

88 Not intrusive.

89 It's all personal...lack of town constable is a roadblock...

91 Most things are just fine for us. Good selectboard. Capable fire and rescue. Able to step up in emergencies and work together.

92 Both are efficient, capable and responsive.

93 Challenge is to maintain the current level of services without raising taxes...the only way to do this is to increase the # of businesses...

94 Important the elected officials follow the letter of the law carefully and not let hidden agendas interfere.

95 That services...expand to more rural hilltop areas. More services for future home building.

96 Nothing important.

101 Town meeting/school meeting. People need to stay informed to avoid undesirable results.

103 Keep spending down to keep taxes down.

104 Common sense approach with focus on local business.

105 I had a very nice one-on-one conversation with selectmen office...Bill Chase with road damage after flooding. Thank you.

106 Road crew seems to have no idea what they are doing - ever.

108 Providing reasonable services for reasonable cost.

110 I moved to Westmoreland for the low taxes, please make them lower.

111 Maintain the current quality of living in Westmoreland.

112 Selectboard is a thankless but critical position...JoAnn is well worth the money...May be worth contracting for...coverage from Sheriff's office...

114 Maintain costs and a lean government support system.

115 Provide the basic needs and services for the broadest possible segment of the Westmoreland population.

116 Important that town government and services...serve the best interest of the town, not personal or political agendas...look for ways to cut budgets...to lower taxes.

117 Keep it simple. The right people...who can make good decisions...on behalf of the town's values.

120 ...preventive measures are needed especially on dirt roads. Increased funding...should be budgeted.

122 Dealings with the various selectmen...have been positive...members have been fair and upfront with issues. Resolutions were acceptable and timely.

124 TRANSPARENCY.

125 Being available and thorough.

126 School needs better website.

127 More communication to the general public.

128 Small town government, does not need to get bigger with added bureaucracy.

130 Fix the roads, plow the snow.

## Appendix C – 2

### 13. What makes Westmoreland a desirable place for you to live?

*Missing numbers mean there was no response.*

1 Rural Character

2 Low taxes and farm life

3 Diversity and lot size

4 Rural Beauty

5 It is our home

6 Outdoors

7 Rural environment, good people with similar values

8 Historic sites, large lots, working farms, outdoor recreation, forest

10 Low taxes, rural character and beauty

11 The way it is

- 12 Rural character
- 14 Rural setting, great local people
- 15 A small population - good neighbors, good government, not too much cheap looking buildings and businesses.
- 16 Near Keene - desirable school system - rural - independent
- 17 Quiet - privacy
- 18 It is where I grew up until I was old enough to stop farming and change to work and fly helicopters
- 20 Low taxes, open government, rural character, low population density
- 21 The people and the rural character - no trailer parks
- 22 Low taxes
- 24 Family here, grew up here, know about town and feel at home here, people are thoughtful and caring
- 25 Many things, lot size, location, rural characteristic
- 26 Rural character
- 28 Open spaces, scenery, easy access to Keene and Brattleboro, old friends, concerned neighbors, ability to have in-home business
- 29 Landscape diversity
- 30 Our space
- 31 The town supports the school very well
- 32 Friendly atmosphere, community feeling, willingness to help others
- 33 Everything
- 34 Small town, no Police Department, pretty
- 36 Rural character, the people
- 38 The peace, tranquility of rural New England
- 41 Low taxes, quality of life
- 42 Quiet
- 43 No stop lights or Police
- 44 Rural character
- 45 Quiet, quiet community not far from work, recreation and shopping. Relatively crime-free, adequately zoned and non-industrial
- 46 Everything about it
- 47 Low population, extensive land without buildings, sense of community
- 48 Country setting
- 49 Rural open environment
- 50 Out of the "city" - country setting. Sense of community and small-town atmosphere
- 51 Rural
- 52 Natural setting, community, rural, hills, woods and lack of commercialization. Quiet and peaceful
- 53 Its unique New England character of people
- 54 A lovely country atmosphere - small town
- 55 Open space, very little development, farms
- 56 It is a small, friendly community. People really care about each other and the town. Quiet, nice people, great community
- 57 Less developed
- 58 Quiet - wildlife
- 59 I love Westmoreland. I just never made it out there
- 60 Small town atmosphere. Friendly people. Close to outdoor activities
- 61 It's home
- 62 It's people
- 66 Reasonable taxes
- 67 Country living, mostly good people in town
- 68 Location - near Keene and Brattleboro - yet rural - good school - reasonable taxes - a library. Past and current attention to Master Plan and zoning
- 69 It is a small town with "rural character"
- 70 Rural character - farms. Lower taxes than Keene
- 72 Quiet - friendly - good neighbors
- 73 Small town, rural character
- 74 Open space, small-town living, opportunities to volunteer
- 75 The school, small community
- 77 Love where I live and my friends in town
- 78 Beauty, quiet, privacy
- 79 Quiet, rural living with easy proximity to Keene, Brattleboro, etc.
- 81 Location to Keene, People are friendly, taxes are low
- 83 Quiet, well maintained roads and properties, many working farms that provide our local food. Plenty of woods and forests in which to hike
- 84 Pretty countryside, low level of traffic, friendly neighbors, our home location
- 85 Friendly helpful neighbors and friends. Sprit of volunteering
- 86 Rural, not Keene taxes. Common sense in government
- 87 Location - people
- 88 Good people - good school and library - open space

- 89 Personal contacts
- 91 Relatively quiet and private - unpretentious - open green space - good people - good school
- 92 It's peaceful, safe, beautiful
- 93 Good school - children go to KHS - much lower taxes than Keene - good neighborhood - safe place to live
- 94 Great beauty, all different types of people, all kinds of home based businesses and small business of heavy equipment operators
- 95 It's rural charm and small town environment
- 96 Lots of land
- 97 For us a vacation get-a-way but not too far from our primary residence. Beautiful location
- 99 Small community, peace and quiet
- 100 Excellent schools! Size of population
- 101 Quiet - rural - friendly people
- 102 Proximity to Keene and Brattleboro, low taxes, rural nature, small, friendly, rural character
- 103 Rural - agricultural landscape. Small town with simple government. Still functions the way it always did
- 106 Actually I am sort of fed up and ready to move.
- 107 the school system, the sense of community, relatively low tax rate
- 108 Undevelopment, reasonable taxes, mostly civil leadership, proximity to larger towns with required services (supermarkets, hospitals, etc.)
- 110 Low taxes, few ordinances.
- 111 As a bedroom town to Keene and Brattleboro the privacy and security need to be maintained.
- 112 Safe, I have no concern for my grandchildren playing outside, riding bikes or walking on roads. People who care about each other and the town. Open space and natural resources. Affordable. Realistic balance of government services vs people being able to do things themselves - do not want mandatory requirements for licensed tradesmen but do appreciate necessity of regulations that set appropriate standards for folks who do their own work on their property.
- 113 Close to larger town. Atmosphere. Caring people. Taxes.
- 114 Safe environment and bearable property taxes.
- 115 Rural environment located in close proximity to the vast majority of required businesses and services.
- 116 The small-town closeness that many (but not all) residents share.
- 117 Small, simple, close nit, good school, good community events, freedom & ability to enjoy the environment.
- 118 The friendliness of the town. We moved here a year ago, and the towns people are absolutely the most welcoming group of folks I have ever known. We love it here. The scenery, the people, the town!
- 119 My family has been around here for a few centuries and it is the perfect place for me
- 120 Open, undeveloped areas. Participation by residents on many committees and boards with input solicited from all residents - democracy in action.
- 121 There are many good people who try to help others in a positive way. Also, I enjoy the natural beauty of the town.
- 122 This community recognizes the importance of open farmlands, farms, forest, villages, schools and homes that supports a safe community for all members of this town.
- 124 Sense of community
- 125 It's sense of safety, security, and community. It is also a very beautiful town with proximity to Keene and Brattleboro.
- 126 Rural yet well connected to other towns/states
- 127 The quiet open spaces, and openness for farming/homesteading
- 128 Small town, with rural character, active & working farms.
- 129 We moved out of Keene so that we could send our kids to a small k-8 school. With Mark Hayward and Kendra DiLegge at the school, we figured at minimum our kids would love school. We also value our property which gives our kids room to run, and is isolated and safe. I worried about the commute to work in the winter months. Our road is very well maintained, so this has not been an issue. When moving to Westmoreland we were invited to attend the church, the Lions club and the Historical Society. Receiving that information was very welcoming. In addition, the librarians have been a wonderful source of town information -- they have updated me on events, even calling to invite our kids to library events.
- 130 Five acre zoning
- 132 It's quiet, small town with lots of undeveloped land and it rural characteristics and no cops

### Appendix C – 3

#### 14. What might cause you to leave Westmoreland and move to another town/city?

*Missing numbers mean there was no response.*

- 1 no plans to move
- 2 more ordinances and taxes
- 3 Raising tax rate
- 4 constantly raising taxes, decreasing friendly business environment
- 5 Lack of affordable housing - especially for senior citizens
- 7 employment
- 8 nothing
- 10 development
- 11 O.K.
- 12 unrestricted growth
- 14 job change
- 15 If extreme right wing ideologies take over as well as extreme Libertarians
- 16 Taxes/Development
- 17 No Foreseeable reason"
- 18 At my age I plan to stay here.
- 20 Will - a lot of developments/homes, high taxes, loss of dirt rds. Loss of barns & farms
- 21 Too close to Vermont
- 22 high taxes or increases in taxes
- 24 overcrowding/crime & drugs move in/people begin NOT to care
- 25 Change of Relationship, Retirement or Loss of Job.
- 26 lack of job opportunities within reasonable commute, change in school ratings
- 28 when driving to Keene becomes a problem, when maintaining property becomes a problem
- 30 Too much gov't
- 33 Town Politic', Taxes
- 34 If taxes keep increasing, stricter zoning
- 36 change in personal situation
- 37 Taxes no sidewalks Taxes
- 38 The intrusion of the free state movement into our town's gov't & committees.
- 40 Higher Taxes
- 41 more activities
- 42 The grim reaper
- 43 Increased settlement
- 44 Lack of work or transportation. Unable to maintain current property. Retire to warmer climate. Large increase to property taxes.
- 45 high property taxes, not able to maintain home by myself as I age
- 46 infirmity
- 47 Nothing
- 48 Nothing as retirees
- 49 Too high property taxes, influx of people moving to town
- 51 Inability to take care of property because of illness or frailty
- 52 Town Politics
- 53 Age & need to be closer to medical, food shopping etc. when we no longer can drive
- 55 Health needs.
- 56 too much traffic
- 57 Lots of growth
- 58 If zoning or Planning gets too carried away it would cause me to sell, resulting in building of multiple homes.
- 59 Being not able to take care of myself/live alone.
- 60 A never ending escalation of property taxes
- 61 property taxes that keep going up while our income as seniors remains the same.
- 65 Higher Taxes
- 66 Taxes getting more out of control. Government getting to (too) involved with how we live
- 67 overdevelopment/excessive taxes
- 68 major development
- 69 Excessive fireworks & shooting guns. Divisive nature of town - democrats vs republicans/free staters
- 73 old age/need to live in a condo, etc.
- 74 drastic change in the school
- 76 nothing
- 77 Difficulty with access to my home. Lack of a sense of community.
- 78 Automobile dependence as age limits mobility.
- 79 to (too) much Regulation
- 80 Different job; higher taxes
- 81 Overdevelopment of dense housing, paving or otherwise destroying the natural beauty of the land!

- 82 school?
- 83 Need to be able to walk to store
- 84 Price of homes and taxes
- 85 Nothing
- 86 Unable to maintain home
- 87 Hasn't happened yet - but feuding over town government, permits & so forth bring out the worst in some people
- 89 celebratory gunfire, indiscriminate use of pyrotechnics,
- 90 Poverty - if I could no longer afford to keep up my property.
- 91 Taxes
- 92 destruction or elimination of established community benefits - such as the school, highway crews, library
- 93 Non-maintained roads & services/power lines etc.
- 94 Town does nothing. Center of Town looks like a dump - They should buy property and fix it up.
- 95 No plans in the near future
- 96 Family, work - employment
- 97 Property taxes, too many people
- 98 Taxes
- 99 much higher taxes, losing rural character (For example, adding housing developments) same
- 100 Might changed to "will...loss of spouse/otherwise nothing unless we develop
- 101 Too many rules & regulation on small business and lack of private property rights (Too much town interference)
- 102 No plans to leave. Thank you for the culvert replacement and attention to roads (ORT)
- 103 Other reasons: extreme ideologies/divisiveness , too much government or intrusion of free-state
- 104 barns or farms, decrease in a caring community, loss of a personal relationship, unrestricted growth,
- 105 lack of affordable housing, decrease in a business-friendly environment, increase in crime or drugs,
- 106 Roads, non-progressive, legacy residents who think we still live in the 1900's. There are no stores here and I am tired of driving to Keene for everything
- 107 high rise in taxes
- 108 Higher taxes, overdevelopment
- 110 Higher taxes and more ordinances
- 111 Would take a lot. Overdevelopment - Route 12 turning into a used car lots
- 112 Overly restrictive town officials who are overbearing in carrying out duties (such as Chesterfield building inspector who puts his own unreasonable restrictions on projects above and beyond BOCA codes). Poor school system. Poor maintenance of town and infrastructure. (Town common was becoming eyesore until recent reclamation and curbing - a worthwhile project.)
- 113 Job move out of area.
- 114 High taxes
- 115 Cost - taxes, etc. in the short run; difficulty accessing required services and support in older years.
- 116 Higher taxes, a gambling facility at the County complex.
- 117 Nothing at this time.
- 118 If it became commercialized.
- 119 Nothing
- 120 Possibly health issues but I know of no other reason.
- 121 I'd consider leaving if the relatively few constant complainers ever outnumbered the present rational folks!
- 122 Planning and zoning regulations that limit the abilities of farmers and foresters to make a living off their land/farms. Regarding #14: there is not a selection for rural/agricultural/residential - a survey mistake to be noted.
- 124 Not likely.....But, closed sessions the selectmen have piss us all off!!! Their refusal to attend state courses on town planning is shameful!
- 125 Lack of jobs in the area would be a reason to move on.
- 126 Job opportunities
- 127 Career change.
- 128 More development, urban sprawl, bloated town government, wasteful spending.
- 129 Having lived in a house in Keene for a decade, I have no desire to leave Westmoreland anytime in the near future.
- 130 taxes get too high
- 132 Become more developed, the woods get cleared cut, we get cops



## Appendix C – 4

19. Please tell us what you feel is important about Westmoreland's character and future.

*Missing numbers mean there was no response.*

1 Industrial, Commercial/Retail, Office development along Rt 12 corridor

2 I want the town government to pass and enforce the fewest laws and taxes possible and to repeal as many as possible, including zoning

4 cooperation among fellow Westmorelanders; self-reliance

5 We like the character but see a need to allow people the freedom to make their homes and property and businesses change to allow affordability. Staying in the past makes us unaffordable.

7 Thoughtful development – not lack of growth. Sustainable growth with respect for natural environment and culture.

8 I think most of the commercial/light industrial development should be kept along the Rt. 12 corridor.

11 Keep the Flat Landers out. They like the town, move in, then they want, want, want.

14 The rural character and close proximity to larger city/towns.

15 The county farm real estate ??? for agricultural uses and for recreation. The historic districts ?? developed to protect the visual aspects of the town.

16 Maintaining Westmoreland's integrity and reputation as a good town to live in.

20 small, familiar, rural, small government, not crowded.

24 Is it possible to have Rte 63 a "scenic route" again as in years past and eliminate some of the huge 18 wheelers and log trucks using Rte 63?

25 1. Still considered special place/town to live in and raise a family a cut above other towns like Swanzey.  
2. "Health of town dependent on Keene economy."

26 Clean up Rte 12. Not attracting opportunity for amazing go to locations.

27 Anything considered should have the environmental impact weighed: clean air, clean water, noise limitations, open lands and forests, wildlife preservation.

28 keep rural character

29 Read conservation plan and review proceedings.

30 Small town: being conservative. Don't become Chesterfield where they carelessly spend money. While we aren't elderly or retired, it's not right to increase expenses for everyone when the town seems

to function efficiently already.

32 In keeping with Westmoreland's clean air and environment looking toward Keene's Healthy Vision 2020, it would be great to see more sidewalks. In addition, the snowmobile trails could be adapted for bike and pedestrian access and maintained year-round. This is such a beautiful town and opening up trails would encourage fitness and a healthier lifestyle. It would also enhance our sense of community. Children could use the trails to visit friends in other parts of town; perhaps groups or parents and children could use these paths to walk to school and town center. I would be happy to help with such a project.

33 Open space/forest/streams/historic sites and buildings/stone walls/dirt roads/village store/town hall/church/school team spirit.

36 The rural character.

38 Keeping the rural atmosphere.

39 It's historic, rural nature

43 Tranquility, friendliness.

44 Smaller is better.

45 Stay rural, do not over develop industrially or via multi-family homes or trailer parks.

47 Rural nature but close to modest population density.

48 Staying the same.

49 Open land, forest and individual farm settings provide a great rural environment.

50 The old town country farmland – people owning homes with many acres – we don't have cluster housing or heavy commercial property.

53 Better communication, less spending and more financial monitoring.

55 Much open space, farms and very slow growth.

56 Westmoreland is a wonderful place to live/raise a family. B/c retail-commercial industrial helps keep a low tax base I feel allowing more business on Rt 12 would be beneficial. All attempts to keep and welcome businesses to Rte 12 and maybe other areas such as the area near the store would help with improvements while keeping taxes low. Many people find the zoning is tough. Live free or die seems to have been forgotten by a certain few members of the board. Don't make mean comments or laugh at a hard situation – Barry! Small details regarding business/building etc are the challenges of the owner

- not the zoning board. If the business is viable let the owner worry about the details. The town boards should be working WITH the people to make it work – not overseeing little details. Barry makes Westmoreland look bad. He needs to go AWAY
- 57 still less developed than surrounding towns.
- 58 Agricultural roots. Small town atmosphere. Historic sites.
- 59 Respect existing property owner's rights. Don't change rules on them after they have owned property for over a decade.
- 60 Our town's "small town character", friendliness, and closeness to Keene for shopping, etc. if the reason why I want to live here. I would hope that we could keep this, as much as possible, in the future.
- 68 Good mix of growth and interest in history preservation.
- 69 There is no need to make any great changes in the future.
- 70 That we stay together as a community despite our different politics. Keep Maplewood Nursing Home in Westmoreland.
- 78 The lack of development makes it desirable. Avoid "big box stores". Prevent East Westmoreland on Rt 12 from becoming more developed.
- 81 So happy to live in Westmoreland. It's a nice place to call home.
- 84 We would like it to retain it's rural character and charm.
- 85 We love that Westmoreland has stayed basically the same size since we moved here over 30 years ago. High speed internet everywhere in town is important.
- 89 Professional boards with even tempers and good town counsel vital. There will always be disagreements. No law enforcement is amazing. I know of no other town without an officer at least.
- 91 Implement what people say they want in this survey.
- 92 Westmoreland is a combination of history, beauty and well protected lands. This should be preserved into the future.
- 93 Maintain current services while not increasing taxes, determine a solution (more businesses on Route 12) to do this.
- 95 Love it the way it is!
- 96 Westmoreland needs a nice center of town. Try to buy land close by and develop it.
- 100 To help keep taxes low, we need commercial development in the correct zone to help with this.
- 101 Forested areas – open spaces – working farms – good school. We need to do some flood mitigation!!
- 102 Town should support farms and farmers by giving tax breaks on actively farmed land. Careful zoning on Rte 12, no gas stations or commercial district on wetlands.
- 104 The ability to change with times while maintaining low taxes and commercial zones.
- 105 The personal nature in which people interact with you is such a plus. The fact that it's so quiet. Neighbors out of visual sight but friendly. Reasonable taxes.
- 106 There is tremendous potential for a recreational site at the old prison. Water entry, boat docs, rental spaces, park and playground, cross country ski area, etc. People would pay \$5 to spend the day, like Spofford beach.
- 107 The people are what make the town and the town make the people. We are a supportive, close knit community and we will continue to grow and thrive because of the people that live here.
- 110 Low taxes and few ordinances.
- 111 Conservative, low crime (house break-ins, etc.), clean, high standard of living
- 112 We need to seriously think into the future - change will happen, what is realistic, what do we want and what do we want to avoid. I want Westmoreland to remain primarily rural residential with a sprinkling of other uses.
- 113 Working together to solve the problems, first, being flooding of the same areas. Local families helping other families
- 115 Small, country atmosphere, significant community focus on the school, ability to participate and impact local politics, policies, etc.
- 116 It is important that we look to the past - to simpler ways and times - in order to protect the small-town character of Westmoreland for the future.
- 117 Small, Simple, Effective, family values, living free
- 118 Its a family town. A town where everyone knows everyone and takes care of their neighbors!
- 119 Preserving a rural, beautiful landscape with fields and woods, supporting the school and local farms and pushing forward with renewable/sustainable energy sources like geothermal, wind and solar.
- 120 Zoning ordinances try to preserve open land and control development. Zoning and planning and conservation remain important. Allocating town funds to preserve open land may be necessary.

- 121 Leave it as is-but be careful to not approve more restrictive ordinances (e.g., size of signs!!)
- 122 It is important for Westmoreland to retain its rural character and not become a subdivision of Keene.
- 124 Knowing each other.
- 125 It's important to maintain events such as Old Home Day to keep the small town New England feel. Also keeping properties on large tracks of land so that it does not become over developed.
- 126 Need to balance the respect for the past with more acceptance of a changing future reality. Average

## Appendix C - 5

### 20. Other:

- 5 We find this survey awkward to complete. Completing it makes it seem that of course we should want everything to remain the same with little to no growth. However you lack in information and content that allows for positive controlled growth with affordable housing in mind. Cluster housing should be explained. Multi family would allow some of our seniors the ability to stay in the town they've lived in for decades instead of moving to Keene because they can't afford to stay or can't care/maintain a large property any longer. We should be looking for ways to help the town grown in an affordable way instead of preventing growth. Your questions ask for black/white answers and this not a black/white issue.
- 7 The people make it great!
- 8 High speed internet will become more important as more "Baby Boomers" retire! Need to increase tax base. I would like to see some of the County land put to better use.
- 11 It's a nice town. Planning Board don't! Make too many changes please.
- 20 I believe ungrandfathered building lots should be 10 acres minimum.
- 21 More land preservation/town forests/conservation easement. Improved internet speed.
- 24 I definitely feel there is a need for elderly housing – perhaps a cluster of 1 – 2 bedroom homes (10 – 12) with a central building for gatherings or socials. Should be near the village so people can walk to library, church, store, town hall and just walk on flat roads (no hills). Homes don't need basements – all handicap accessible – more elderly would leave their large homes and move to smaller ones if in town where their friends and family are. Perhaps

- age of residents will change (younger). Let's lead by strengthening a green, connected community, a great school, rather than being afraid of change.
- 128 Rural character, with small town government
- 129 I like the small town feeling, where everyone seems to have learned your name and invite you into town events.
- 132 To keep that small town feel. Have farmland and forested areas without any development

- rent. Not sure of financial obligations of town. I can think of 6 women, all over 75, and 3 men plus maybe 2 – 3 couples, who would seriously be interested in something like that. If town could plow and take care of road to and from the residences/send out a questionnaire to residents. Is it better if privately owned or town owned?
- 25 Rail bed thru town is a plus! ??? single user (snowmobile/ATV). Prefer more use by non-motorized interests. Also feel ATVs are using it, but are not supposed to. I used to x-country ski on it, but is now too dangerous because heavy use by motorized sports.
- 30 Don't invent projects/expenses, then have to raise taxes on people needlessly.
- 32 Thank you!
- 33 Town common improvements are awesome. Need town team building – more community activities – like barbecue, road clean up, Old Home Day – fun but productive. Like registering cars in town.
- 34 Spending needs to be reined in. Bid policies should be strictly followed. Capital reserve funds should never be invested in the stock market. Highway Department should be managed by Selectmen.
- 36 We need to get our property taxes under control. There are many people in town who are retired and will be taxed out of town if the taxes keep rising. We don't need new or more town facilities if what we have will serve us well.
- 38 We moved here several years ago and have loved it from the beginning. The town is doing a good job of keeping this a nice town to live in.
- 43 Don't mess the town up!
- 44 Like it as is.
- 45 Thank you for your efforts. They are most certainly appreciated!

- 53 Let's manage the town finances more efficiently.
- 54 Boat landing on Conn. River. Get the old jail torn down. Keep that area a park and farm. Or something similar. Keep the garden of course!
- 58 Would like to see old cemetery on Hurricane Rd maintained more often.
- 59 By the looks of these questions I see a liberal agenda for Westmoreland.
- 61 Westmoreland does a great job of supporting it's school. It would be nice if we could say the same in supporting our businesses.
- 70 Westmoreland today is fairly upper middle class town with not too much poverty. We have a good school which the town supports. It would be nice to have a town recreation area either on river or Spofford lake.
- 78 It's inevitable that we close the transfer station and use Keene for trash. Bite the bullet and do it. Access to public transportation is missing. Senior Center in future?
- 81 Really happy to see that Cheshire County and Antioch are partnering to grow at old jail site. Garden looks great and food is going to a good cause. I wish people wouldn't drive so fast on these roads!!!!. Really unsafe.
- 93 People have to be realistic. They complain about the taxes going up, and yet don't want anything to change.
- 95 Allow more rural landowner to build with proper inspections without zoning problems. If you own land allow proper building permits regardless of zoning issues. After all, they pay taxes to the town.
- 102 Need balance between preservation and families to be able to afford housing. Keep county farm as agricultural land. Don't be too quick to approve opening Class 6 roads.
- 105 No need to change the "feel of the town". Just keep up with the current trends in technology and what already exists with roads and structure.
- 110 I privately educate my child. Every dollar you tax me to educate other people's children is stolen from my kid.
- 115 Westmoreland of the future should retain its basic core values while being flexible enough to recognize and adopt changes in support of our quality of life. We should be willing and able to make decisions that support growth and sustainability.
- 116 All board and committee members need to become more educated in the roles they fill and look less to serving their own interests and the interests political affiliations and more to serving the greater good of all residents. Personal conflicts must be set aside when serving as a representative of the town. Town employees must be held accountable by the Selectmen in order to ensure that budget expenditures are what is truly needed and not what fit one's personal desires. Residents need to be more knowledgeable about what they vote on at Town Meeting, demand forwarding-planning for high-ticket budget items, and hold town representatives accountable.
- 117 Expanding the Rail trail system use for motorized vehicles would provide a unique opportunity for our kids to learn responsibility and work ethic. A coordinated program requiring volunteer time to maintain trails and vehicle registration and rider training revenue could allow this opportunity to come alive with little town expenditure. the program could be coordinated through the current snowmobile club. The town would be required to help with the request through the state politics. The program could require, provide, and fund Safety training programs and get more people involved with maintaining our the trail system opportunity.
- 118 Keep it simple, keep it the same,
- 119 I am glad we have not fell victim to overdevelopment and would like to keep it that way in the future.
- 120 Town funds for the landfill might be better used for conservation. Keene's landfill could accommodate Westmoreland residents' needs in close proximity to Westmoreland and in a more cost-effective way.
- 121 I think we should investigate the possible closing of our transfer station. If it would be possible for the town to use the Keene station, then we might be able to use the savings for a more permanent fix of some of our dirt roads.
- 124 Stop development in flood zones like Rt 12 & Village Road. Steep slopes regulations on driveways and blind curves. Keep heavy truck traffic on state roads only, not South Village, Partridge Brook and River Roads.
- 126 Explore bridge to Putney
- 129 I would love to see the website updated on a more regular basis. If I did not have kids in the school, I would miss a lot of information. Also, I am interested in reading meeting minutes, but they do not seem to be updated on a regular basis.