



**Town of North Hampton  
Master Plan  
Vision Chapter**

**A Vision for North Hampton**

**North Hampton Planning Board**

**Adopted: 17 January 2006**

# A Vision for North Hampton

## Introduction

### **Summary**

North Hampton citizens envision a town that preserves its rural New England seacoast character and heritage in the midst of a region, county, and state that will very likely experience rapid growth and development during the next 20 years. They value their Town's natural resources, and they want to protect them.

They also expect their Town's governance and administration to reflect traditional New England values. These expectations include carefully managing operating expenses and capital investments, providing expected levels of service, maintaining sound facilities, effectively and broadly engaging citizens in important decisions, relying on volunteers to conduct many aspects of Town business, and establishing close cooperation and extensive sharing of resources among Town departments and functions.

Finally, they envision open, honest, and frequent communication among Town departments, between Town departments and residents, and among residents. Effective communication is essential to ensure that citizens are well educated about Town affairs and that the character of the Town continues to express citizens' desires and to reflect *their* vision for *their* Town.

### **General Principles**

Responses to North Hampton's "2005 Community Survey" and comments by participants in two Vision Forums suggested three dominant themes for a vision statement for North Hampton's Master Plan:

1. As the state and region develop in the future, North Hampton should maintain its rural New England seacoast character and heritage.
2. North Hampton should continue to spend wisely for municipal services and facilities – that is, the Town should exercise "Yankee thrift" in all decisions about expending taxpayers' funds.
3. North Hampton should strengthen the Town's methods for building a sense of community.

Results of recent elections have been consistent with the first and second principles above. For example: In 2001 over 70% of voters in Town Meeting voted to appropriate \$4.0 million for open space conservation, and in 2005 Town Meeting, voters rejected proposals to fund construction of a new highway department facility and a number of other articles appropriating funds for capital expenditures.

**Principle 1:****As the state and region develop in the future, North Hampton should maintain its rural New England seacoast character and heritage.**

In response to question 14 in the Survey, which specifically asked to what extent the respondent agreed with this principle, 70% indicated that they “Strongly Agree” and another 23% indicated that they “Agree” with it. This overwhelmingly favorable response was consistent with responses to related questions in the survey, including the following:

- The feature of North Hampton that respondents most often chose as the one they liked most about living in North Hampton was “Near ocean/natural features,” and the second most often chosen feature was “Rural atmosphere.” (Question 2)
- Respondents indicated stronger support for pursuing more “Protected open space” and more “Resident parking at the beach” in question 8 than for any other item listed.
- Responses to question 11 about needs for facilities, services or regulations indicated “a strong affinity for the natural environment: almost 90% of respondents felt that protecting aquifers; and preserving forests, wetland, and mature trees along roads either might be needed or were definitely needed” and “80% of respondents think preserving stone walls and historic public buildings might be needed or is definitely needed.”<sup>1</sup>
- 63% of respondents indicated that they support the use of “conservation subdivisions,” as defined in the Survey.

***Implementation Strategies***

Four implementation strategies were indicated by responses to the Survey -- especially to questions 8, 11 and 13 – and in Vision Forum discussions:

1. Protect natural resources – water, forests, pastures, wildlife and their habitats.
2. Preserve the Town’s heritage by maintaining and restoring historic public buildings (e.g., Old Town Hall, Bandstand and Commons), antique houses and barns, and old stone walls.
3. Use “conservation subdivisions” to help protect undeveloped land and natural resources.
4. Develop the Industrial-Business/Residential District in a manner that encourages locally owned, small businesses, rather than national chains, franchises and “big-box” stores; that improves the appearance of Route 1; and that limits the number of businesses of one type.

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<sup>1</sup> Analysis of Survey Results by Mr. Thane Harrison in “Facilities, Services, and Regulations” under section “Land Use, Conservation, Planning and Zoning.”

**Principle 2:**

**North Hampton should continue to spend wisely for municipal services and facilities – that is, the Town should exercise “Yankee thrift” in all decisions about expending taxpayers’ funds.**

Survey respondents were generally satisfied with current services and facilities. They indicated willingness to invest in vehicles and equipment necessary for maintaining current levels of services and facilities, but reluctance to invest in expanding or building new facilities. Responses to Survey question 12 were the strongest indicator of this principle: 83% of respondents said that they were “very willing” (49%) or “willing” (34%) “to accept current levels of Town services and facilities” to limit tax increases. Responses to other questions on the Survey were consistent with this principle:

- Responses to question 9 about levels of satisfaction with aspects of the Town indicated “Neutral Satisfaction” with “Cost of Town services” and “Neutral/Low Satisfaction” with “Cost of public education,” and “Low Satisfaction” with “Property taxes.” In conjunction with responses to question 12, these responses to question 9 suggested that “respondents are not thrilled about taxes, but [are] satisfied with current levels of services.”<sup>2</sup>
- Responses to question 10 about satisfaction with the quality of Town services indicated high levels of satisfaction, with the exceptions of “Zoning Enforcement” and “Tax Assessment.”
- Responses to question 11 -- which asked for opinions about the need for various facilities, services or regulations – indicated reluctance to invest in new or expanded facilities, with the possible exceptions of a new highway department garage and an expanded library building. However, respondents indicated that they supported purchasing vehicles and equipment for the highway, police and fire/EMS departments.

***Implementation Strategies***

Responses to the Survey and comments by participants in the Forums led to six implementation strategies for the principle of “Yankee thrift:”

1. Respond to residents’ expectations for services and facilities.
2. Respect residents’ willingness to provide funding for vehicles, equipment, and facilities necessary to maintain the quality and level of services.
3. Manage capital expenditures wisely within a plan that coordinates actions to meet those needs across all Town departments and functions, including the school.
4. Encourage business development that makes a net positive contribution in taxes to support Town services and facilities.
5. Establish funding and procedures for routine maintenance of all facilities and equipment.
6. Implement an energy conservation plan for all Town facilities and equipment.

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<sup>2</sup> Thane Harrison, Analysis of Survey Results, section “Satisfaction with Aspects of the Town.”

**Principle 3:****North Hampton should strengthen the Town's methods for building a sense of community.**

Although the Survey did not specifically address the question of building a stronger sense of community in North Hampton, in breakout group discussions during the two Vision forums there was a common theme about the benefits of improving communications between Town government and residents, among Town departments and boards, and between Town government and North Hampton School. Participants indicated that there was a need to educate residents about needs for new or expanded facilities, about potential benefits from new approaches to planning and zoning, and about using existing facilities more efficiently and for multiple purposes. Participants indicated that, if residents are reluctant to appropriate funds for projects that some believe are critical, communication and education are necessary to ensure that decisions made by voters are informed and prudent.

***Implementation Strategies***

In discussions of the Vision forum breakout groups five implementation strategies emerged:

1. Use the public access channel on cable television to broadcast public meetings and important public events.
2. Ensure coordination between departments and between departments of the Town and the public school, especially for efficient use of facilities for recreation and meetings.
3. Look for new ways to reach out to residents and to provide attractive opportunities for them to get involved in Town affairs.
4. Continue restricting commercial development to the Route 1 corridor and strengthen the municipal complex as a "Town Center."
5. Develop funding sources, other than local property taxes, and alternative means to provide recreational features and infrastructure such as sidewalks and bicycle paths, crosswalks at traffic signals, activities for all age groups, better public transportation and more parking at the beach for residents.

## Appendices

***Appendix 1: 2005 Community Survey: Report to Residents***

***Appendix 2: North Hampton Master Plan Visioning Forum:  
November 9, 2005***

***Appendix 3: North Hampton Master Plan Visioning Forum II  
Report: November 16, 2005***

## **Appendix 1: 2005 Community Survey Report**



# **2005 Community Survey: Report to Residents**

**North Hampton Planning Board  
Accepted: 17 November 2006**

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2005 Community Survey  
Report to Residents**

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## SUMMARY

During September of 2005, the Long-Range Planning Committee of the North Hampton Planning Board conducted the “2005 Community Survey.” The purpose of the Survey was to gather residents’ opinions in order to write a Vision Section of the Master Plan, to update the Community Services and Facilities Section of the Master Plan, and to update the Capital Improvements Program.

Approximately 2,600 copies of the Survey were distributed in the Community Newsletter, and 315 were returned on or before the 26 September deadline. The number of responses – representing 16-18% of households in Town – was sufficient to provide valid information about opinions of residents for the purposes of the Survey.

***Vision Section:*** Responses to relevant survey questions indicated that residents strongly want to maintain the rural New England seacoast character and heritage of North Hampton, and they want to preserve important features of the Town that define “rural character.” They want to preserve more open space, and they want to see development that enhances their ability to enjoy characteristics of the Town that they most appreciate – the ocean and other natural features and the rural atmosphere. They do not want to see more development that tends to detract from the rural character – fast-food restaurants, hotels, motels, and inns, apartments and mobile / manufactured homes. They look more favorably on single-family homes, but overwhelmingly would prefer to see new subdivisions that are “conservation subdivisions,” as defined in question 15, and that preserve open space while being developed.

***Community Services and Facilities Section:*** Residents indicated satisfaction with all but two community services “Tax Assessment” and “Zoning Enforcement.” They also expressed the need to take steps to protect and preserve aspects of the Town that are consistent with their strong desire to maintain the rural character and heritage of the Town. They expressed continuing support of public safety services to the extent of ensuring that Police and Fire/EMS Departments have up-to-date vehicles and equipment, but not to the extent of providing expanded facilities. They did not indicate support for initiatives to build new facilities, with the possible exception of a new highway department facility.

***Capital Improvements Program:*** Respondents strongly indicated that they do not support capital investments that will increase taxes, even to improve Town services or facilities. This consensus of opinion was consistent with overall satisfaction with current quality levels of municipal services and facilities. The will of residents, who are also taxpayers, therefore, must be balanced against requests of department heads for expansion, improvement, or new construction of facilities that they believe are needed to deliver services at levels department heads desire.

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## **I. Introduction**

### ***Survey Purpose***

The Long-Range Planning Committee of the North Hampton Planning Board conducted the “2005 Community Survey” during September of 2005 to gather residents’ opinions for sections of the Master Plan and Capital Improvements Program (“CIP”) that need to be developed or updated.

Since the last community survey was conducted in 1998, the State of New Hampshire has added a requirement that Master Plans include a “vision section” that “shall contain a set of statements which articulate the desires of the citizens affected by the master plan” and “shall contain a set of guiding principles and priorities to implement that vision” (RSA 674:2.II(a)). Perhaps, the most important purpose of the 2005 community Survey was to gather information about desires or North Hampton’s citizens for the future of the Town.

North Hampton’s current Master Plan also contains a section on “Community Services and Facilities” (“CSF”) that is optional under state law. However, because many important questions about new or expanded community services and facilities now face residents of the Town, the Long-Range Planning Committee recognized that the 2005 Community Survey offered a good opportunity to gather residents’ opinions about development of the municipal complex. Important issues we face as a community include, among others, the specifications and location for a new highway department facility; renovation, expansion, or replacement of the library building; expansion of the fire department/EMS and police department facilities; addition of recreation and meeting facilities; and the disposition the Town Hall. The Committee believed that these issues could best be addressed in an updated CSF section of the Master Plan with information about residents’ perceptions of the current quality and level of services and facilities, their future expectations about those services and facilities, and their willingness to support funding for any proposed changes.

Municipal-facilities issues involve questions about capital expenditures that may affect future tax rates. In undertaking its responsibility for proposing updates to the CIP, the Long-Range Planning Committee recognized that the 2005 Community Survey provided an excellent opportunity to gather citizens’ opinions about current municipal services and facilities, about services and facilities for which residents would support capital investments, and how residents would want Town government – that is, the Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee -- to prioritize investments in expanding or improving services and facilities. With information from the 2005 Community Survey and information provided by heads of Town departments, the Long-Rang Planning Committee could more effectively update the CIP. The Committee could update the CIP in a way that balances the expressed needs of department heads with the willingness of citizens to provide tax revenue to meet those needs, and the Committee can recommend an updated CIP that does as much as possible to keep the tax rate from “spiking” to meet those needs.

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Thus, the three most important purposes of the 2005 Community Survey were to gather citizens' opinions about:

1. Their vision for the future of North Hampton and ways to implement that vision.
2. The current and desired future level and quality of community services and facilities.
3. Potential investments in expanding or improving community services and facilities.

### ***Survey Process***

Members of the Long-Range Planning Committee developed the survey instrument. The 1998 Citizen's Survey was used as a starting point. As the committee developed the 2005 Survey, however, it became clear that many aspects of the Town had changed since 1998 and many issues that were important to explore now were not issues then. Consequently, the 2005 Community Survey took on a life of its own.

The Committee wanted to test the survey before distributing it to the Town. North Hampton School was approached about the possibility of asking eighth graders to complete the survey, but Principal Peter Sweet suggested that the Committee should consult experts at the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension for advice about designing and properly testing the survey. Consequently, the Committee began consulting Mr. Charlie French at UNH about the survey and received many helpful suggestions from him as the survey instrument evolved.

The first version of the 2005 Survey was tested at Old Home Day. The 59 responses that the Committee received helped clarify questions, eliminate ambiguities, and identify items to add or delete. The Committee revised and improved the survey instrument on the basis of feedback provided by those who took the time to complete surveys on Old Home Day.

Approximately 2600 copies of the final version of the survey were distributed with the September-October 2005 *North Hampton Community Newsletter*. The *Newsletter* also contained a lead article that explained the survey. The aim of the Committee was to receive one survey per household from a sufficient number of households in North Hampton to make results statistically significant. The deadline for receipt of completed surveys was 26 September, and boxes were placed in the Library, Town Clerk's Office, and Town Administrative Office to receive completed surveys. Respondents were also offered the option of mailing their surveys to the Town Administrative Office.

A total of 318 surveys were returned. The 2000 US Census reported 1660 households in North Hampton. A reasonable estimate of the number of North Hampton households in 2005 would be 1800-1900. Therefore, returned surveys represent 16.6% to 17.5% of all households, which provides a good sample of citizens' opinions.

Responses were tabulated by Phil Wilson, Planning Board Chair and Long-Range Planning Committee member, using spreadsheets that were provided by Mr. Thane

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Harrison, a graduate student at UNH. Completed surveys were compiled in numerical order and placed in a three-ring binder that will be available for inspection in the Town Administrative Office along with this report, a spreadsheet of tabulated responses to the survey, and comments on the surveys that were transcribed as the responses were tabulated. Messrs. Wilson and Harrison analyzed the data and prepared relevant charts. A catalogue of transcribed comments is available in the Town Administrative Office.

At a “Vision Forum” on Wednesday, 9 November, at North Hampton School, results of the survey will be presented to the public, and participants will be given the opportunity to provide further input into the process of developing a Vision Section and Community Services and Facilities Section for the Master Plan and updated information for the Capital Improvements Program. A second Forum will be held on Wednesday, 16 November, to report back to participants the results of the first Forum and if appropriate, to present for comment a first draft of a Vision Section, as well as more explicit information for the Community Services and Facilities section of the Master Plan and information to help in updating the Capital Improvements Program.

### ***Acknowledgements***

The Long-Range Planning Committee received, and is very grateful for, the assistance of Dr. Jill Robinson, Circuit Rider from the Rockingham Planning Commission; Mr. Charlie French, Extension Specialist, Cooperative Extension, University of New Hampshire, and Mr. Thane Harrison, a graduate student who works with Mr. French at UNH. The Committee is also grateful for the quick and effective work of Mr. Tim Harned, whose facility with Microsoft Excel macros saved hours of work in the process of transcribing respondents’ comments from Excel to MS Word. Finally, the Committee thanks Ms. Lisa Wilson for compiling the completed surveys in a manner that makes them readily accessible to anyone who is interested in reviewing them.

## **II. Results & Conclusions**

### ***Master Plan Vision Section***

Questions 2, 8, 13, 14 and 15 aimed at soliciting information from respondents that would be especially valuable in formulating “a set of statements which articulate the desires of the citizens affected by the master plan” and “a set of guiding principles and priorities to implement that vision,” as required by RSA 674:2.II(a).

Question 14 asked respondents to give their opinion of the following statement: “As the state and region develop in the future, North Hampton should maintain its rural New England seacoast character and heritage.” The Committee decided that this question was a reasonable way to seek an overarching statement of a vision for North Hampton. Over 70% of voters at Town Meeting in 2001 had voted favorably on a \$4.0 million bond issue that was described as aiming to achieve the goal of maintaining the Town’s rural character and heritage. Results to question 14 in the 2005 Community Survey are shown in the following table:

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<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>
2	9	13	72	210

These results clearly indicate that North Hampton residents want to maintain the “rural New England seacoast character and heritage” of the Town. While a small number of respondents in their comments questioned whether North Hampton could be described as “rural,” an overwhelming number of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement.

Responses to question 13 indicated residents’ opinions about features that are important to the rural New England seacoast character of the Town. Results are shown in the following table:

Question 13: In your opinion how important is each of the following features of North Hampton to the character of a rural, New England Seacoast town?	<b>No Opinion</b>	<b>Not Important</b>	<b>Important</b>	<b>Very Important</b>
Dark night-time sky	24	47	130	97
Locally owned businesses	15	31	163	98
In-home/home-based businesses	45	92	129	35
Traditional New England-style architecture for businesses	18	57	136	98
Signs for businesses with traditional New England-style designs	21	58	129	101
Commercial development restricted to sites along Route 1	8	38	115	147
Working farms	23	41	122	120
Open fields, pastures, meadows	7	21	105	175
Forested areas	4	11	110	182
Land suitable for wildlife habitat	5	11	108	182
Healthy wetlands, streams, ponds	2	11	99	195
Drinkable water from private wells	11	19	69	207
Antique houses and barns	21	35	117	133
Historic public buildings	19	41	122	127
Bandstand and common	9	26	122	152
Old stone walls	20	45	113	129

Responses suggest that residents consider virtually all features listed as important to the Town’s rural character and heritage. Exceptionally strong responses (“Very Important” or “Important”) to the following features indicate that, in trying to maintain rural characteristics, they should be given priority for preservation:

- Restricting commercial development to sites along Route 1
- Open fields, pastures, meadows

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- Forested areas
- Land suitable for wildlife habitat
- Healthy wetlands, streams, ponds
- Drinkable water from private wells
- Bandstand and common
- Locally owned businesses.

Responses to question 2 -- “What do you like most about living in North Hampton?” – reinforce the conclusion that residents want to preserve the Town’s rural, seacoast character. Of 315 respondents, 274 indicated that “Near ocean / natural features” was a reason they liked living in Town, and 205 indicated that “Rural atmosphere” was a reason that they liked living in North Hampton.

Similarly, responses to question 15 – “Should the Town allow ‘conservation subdivisions’ in some areas of the Town?” – strongly suggest that preserving open space and forested areas, as well as designing subdivisions to conserve a rural, undeveloped appearance is a desire of residents. The table below shows overwhelming support for using conservation subdivision design techniques as the Town grows:

Yes	197
No	93
No Opinion	23

Responses to question 8, reflect a diversity of opinion about other types of development that the Town should encourage, as the following table shows:

Question 8: The Town should <b>PURSUE MORE</b> of the following?	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>
Fast-food restaurants	195	63	36	12	3
Full-service restaurants	53	32	84	105	35
Retail Stores	60	47	105	73	21
Hotels/motels/inns	84	79	100	30	10
Office buildings/office parks	60	54	97	76	17
Light manufacturing businesses	64	57	86	77	15
Protected open space	1	12	25	79	193
Single family homes	25	52	86	93	42
Elderly housing	14	25	94	104	71
Apartments	98	63	80	43	18
Mobile/manufactured homes	131	87	60	22	6
Recreation facilities	15	22	94	114	62
Crosswalks at traffic signals	3	32	89	92	85
Resident parking at the beach	2	12	49	103	139
Public transportation (bus, rail, etc.)	28	35	78	99	65
Sidewalks	22	42	77	88	74
Bicycle paths along roads	16	30	45	125	98
Bicycle paths off roads	11	29	78	101	78
Community meeting facilities	20	39	131	66	42

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Question 8: The Town should <b>PURSUE MORE</b> of the following?	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>
Other: _____	8	0	0	5	9

Residents strongly agree that the Town should take steps to protect more open space, which is consistent with their strongly held desire to maintain North Hampton’s rural character and heritage. To a lesser degree, but still strongly, residents agree that the Town should pursue more parking at the beach for residents, which is consistent with the most commonly selected reason for their liking to live in North Hampton – that is, because of the proximity to the ocean and other natural features. Residents would also like to see more bicycle paths, especially along roads; more crosswalks at traffic signals; more recreation facilities; more elderly housing; more sidewalks; and more public transportation.

Interests in more public transportation and elderly housing are consistent with demographics of respondents, 117 (36.7%) of whom indicated that they are “Retired” in response to question 4.

Interests in bike paths, crosswalks, sidewalks, and recreation facilities are consistent with the most commonly selected reason that residents like living in North Hampton – that is, “Near ocean / natural features” – they want to be able better to enjoy the environment that they value without having to use their automobiles.

Residents clearly do not want more “Fast-food restaurants” or “Mobile / manufactured homes.” They are somewhat less strongly opposed to more “Hotels / motels / inns” and more “Apartments.” Their opposition to apartments and mobile / manufactured homes appears inconsistent with their somewhat strong dissatisfaction with the “Affordability of housing,” as expressed in their responses to item A in question 9. However, comments about the affordability of housing suggest that respondents may be more concerned about escalating property taxes that make their current houses less affordable, than they are about the affordability of housing for others trying to move into North Hampton. The one exception may be with respect to children of residents who cannot afford to rent or purchase housing in Town.

Residents tend not to want more light manufacturing businesses, office buildings/office parks, or retail stores.

In summary, responses to relevant survey questions indicate that residents strongly want to maintain the rural New England seacoast character and heritage of North Hampton. They want to preserve important features of the Town that they believe define “rural character.” They want to preserve more open space, and they want to see development that enhances their ability to enjoy characteristics of the Town that they most appreciate – the ocean and other natural features and the rural atmosphere. They do not want to see more development that tends to detract from the rural character – fast-food restaurants, hotels, motels, and inns, apartments and mobile / manufactured homes. They look more favorably on single-family homes, but overwhelmingly would prefer to see new

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subdivisions that are “conservation subdivisions,” as defined in question 15, and that preserve open space while being developed.

***Community Services & Facilities Section (“CSF”)***

The chief purpose of questions 9, 10, and 11 was to gather residents’ attitudes toward community services and facilities. Question 10 asked about respondents’ level of satisfaction with various Town services; question 9 asked about their level of satisfaction with several aspects of the Town that may be seen as consequences of Town services; and question 11 asked about their perception of the need for a wide range of possible changes in Town services, facilities, or regulations. Collectively, responses to these questions give good insight into how residents would like to see community services and facilities evolve over time to provide for their needs.

Question 10: How satisfied are you with the <b>QUALITY</b> of each of the following Town services?	<b>Very Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Satisfied</b>	<b>Very Satisfied</b>
Town Administration	9	21	101	144	26
Building Inspection	13	12	123	129	21
Zoning Enforcement	32	53	100	102	10
Tax Assessment	45	85	82	80	5
Tax Collection	11	11	105	146	23
Police Department	2	12	38	192	67
Fire Department/EMS	5	10	38	164	91
Highway Department	4	20	74	163	46
Clerk's Office	4	6	41	151	108
Public Library	2	13	46	132	117
North Hampton School	8	18	89	106	83
Winnacunnet High School	15	31	139	90	25
Recreation Department	3	16	136	122	25
Recycling Center	3	14	107	116	65
Brush Dump	2	17	124	109	52
Welfare Administration	2	5	232	40	4

In their responses to question 10 residents make clear that they are generally quite satisfied with Town services, with the exceptions of “Tax Assessment” and, to a lesser degree, “Zoning Enforcement.”

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The Police Department, Fire Department/EMS, Highway Department, Clerk’s Office, and Public Library are services or facilities with which respondents are particularly satisfied.

Responses to question 9 offer some insight into reasons for both satisfaction and dissatisfaction with Town services. The “Quality of road maintenance” prompted high numbers of responses of “Satisfied” and “Very Satisfied,” which accounts for the high degree of satisfaction with the Highway Department in question 10.

Respondents were in large numbers “Satisfied” or “Very Satisfied” with “Police response time” in question 9, which accounts for the high level of satisfaction with the Police Department in question 10. However, among the aspects of the Town with which respondents expressed greatest dissatisfaction was “Control of motorcycle noise.” Apparently, respondents recognize that because of state laws, the Police Department is not in a position effectively to mitigate this nuisance to many people in Town. Furthermore, respondents expressed a relatively high level of dissatisfaction with “Traffic speed” (9.J) over which the Police Department should have some control.

In responses to “Appearance of Route 1” (9.K) residents indicated a high level of dissatisfaction. Their level of dissatisfaction likely explains their high level of dissatisfaction with “Zoning Enforcement” in question 10 relative to other Town services, although many respondents were also “Satisfied” or “Very Satisfied” with “Zoning Enforcement.” Comments on surveys indicated that many residents are especially concerned about the appearance of the Route 1 and Route 111 intersection, which they described with various colorful, negative epithets.

Question 9: How satisfied are you with each of the following ASPECTS of the Town?	<b>Very Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Satisfied</b>	<b>Very Satisfied</b>
Affordability of housing	43	87	89	77	12
Adequacy of street lighting	32	57	79	115	27
Off-road vehicle use	3	20	170	62	27
Quality of road maintenance	7	25	59	175	43
Traffic on town roads	27	62	72	141	8
Traffic on state roads	33	83	90	93	6
Property Taxes	118	85	57	43	6
Cost of public education	55	76	97	61	12
Cost of town services	31	66	118	83	6
Traffic speed	53	63	90	98	6
Appearance of	32	81	102	85	5

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Question 9: How satisfied are you with each of the following ASPECTS of the Town?	<b>Very Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Dissatisfied</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Satisfied</b>	<b>Very Satisfied</b>
business signs					
Appearance of Rte. 1	65	113	69	54	7
Police response time	3	12	84	155	51
Control of motorcycle noise	108	74	73	47	8
Removal of roadside litter	15	66	88	126	11
Curbside recycling service	17	22	90	128	48

By far the highest level of dissatisfaction in question 9 was with “Property taxes” (9.G). While the “Cost of public education” (9.H) prompted a lower level of dissatisfaction among respondents, the level was, not surprisingly, high relative to most other aspects of the Town listed in question 9. Comments that many respondents made on their surveys about property taxes and school costs made clear that the escalation of property taxes, in part the result of rising education costs, are driving some people out of their homes and placing a burden on others that they perceive as onerous.

Responses to question 11 indicate Town facilities, services, and regulations with respect to which residents would support change, potentially at some cost to themselves as taxpayers. Their responses also indicated changes that residents would not consider needed.

Question 11: Please indicate your opinion of each of the following facilities, services or regulations.	<b>No Opinion</b>	<b>Not Needed</b>	<b>Might Be Needed</b>	<b>Definitely Needed</b>
Expanding water lines/fire hydrants	71	91	106	29
Adding parking at Town complex	29	132	94	40
Constructing a townwide sewer system	24	159	64	52
Improve cable/telecommunications services	22	65	98	116
Expanding the existing library facility	22	94	113	71
Building a new library	20	157	77	47
Creating museum space for town artifacts	29	141	95	37
Building a new highway department facility	48	94	77	78
Purchasing land for a new facility	55	128	83	29
Purchasing equipment/vehicles as needed	36	36	180	47
Purchasing cruisers on a schedule	34	57	143	64
Purchasing police equipment	38	39	167	50
Expanding police department facility	46	148	84	21
Purchasing fire department/EMS vehicles	39	50	163	40
Purchasing fire department/EMS equipment	38	42	169	44

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Question 11: Please indicate your opinion of each of the following facilities, services or regulations.	No Opinion	Not Needed	Might Be Needed	Definitely Needed
Expanding fire department/EMS facilities	45	132	90	31
Locating police, fire, EMS in one new facility	38	172	70	20
Expanding administrative offices	41	195	59	3
Consolidating offices in one location	38	143	93	26
Building a recreation center	28	150	86	38
Expanding existing facility	45	161	71	16
Protecting aquifers	18	12	94	177
Preserving forests and open space	7	20	71	206
Preserving wetlands	8	29	73	194
Preserving stone walls	22	36	92	155
Preserving mature trees along roads	11	25	111	155
Creating a capital reserve fund to preserve or replace roadside trees	19	79	118	83
Preserving historic public buildings	16	40	123	126
Limiting the number of similar businesses	27	67	103	106
Limiting the number of national franchise stores	19	67	90	128
Promoting businesses that contribute more in taxes than they cost in services	16	14	86	185

*Town Infrastructure*

- Most respondents felt internet/telecommunications improvements might be needed or were definitely needed.
- Respondents were split on the need for expanding water lines.
- Parking at the town complex and a townwide sewer system were mostly considered not needed.

*Public Library*

- More than half of respondents thought expansion of the existing facility might be needed or was definitely needed. However, nearly a third of respondents felt it was not needed.
- Though expansion might be favored, over half of respondents felt a new facility was not needed and almost half felt that a space for town artifacts was not needed.

*Highway Department*

- The most popular response to building a new highway department facility was that it was not needed; however, a majority of respondents thought it might be needed or was definitely needed. It appears that most people would accept the expense, but they may take some convincing.

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- Purchasing land for the facility was less popular, with over 40% responding that it was not needed (if the town already owns the land for the expansion the convincing mentioned above could be easier than if they have to purchase land).
- Respondents were comfortable with the possibility that purchasing new equipment might be needed—over 75% responded “might be” or “definitely” needed.

*Public Safety*

- Respondents were favorably disposed towards purchases of new equipment/vehicles for all departments, but were less convinced that new facilities, or consolidation of current facilities would be needed.

*Town Administration*

- More than half, or very close to half, of the respondents thought that expanding the offices, consolidating the offices, and building a recreation center were not needed.

*Public School*

- The majority of respondents did not think the existing facility needed to be expanded, a quarter though it might be needed, and very few felt it was definitely needed.

*Land Use, Conservation, Planning and Zoning*

- North Hampton residents, again, seem to have a strong affinity for the natural environment: almost 90% of respondents felt that protecting aquifers; and preserving forests, wetlands, and mature trees along roads either might be needed or were definitely needed.
- A slightly lower 80% of respondents think preserving stone walls and historic public buildings might be needed or is definitely needed.
- When presented with the idea of creating a capital reserve fund to pay for the preservation of roadside trees, the majority still indicated that this might be, or is definitely needed, but a significant portion (27%) thought that it was not needed.
- About 70% of respondents felt that limits on the number of similar stores and the number of national franchise stores might be or definitely were needed. This implies that residents prefer a more diverse, locally-owned commercial sector.
- Over 60% of respondents thought that businesses that bring in more taxes than they cost in services should be promoted (this rather clearly meshes with earlier responses that showed dissatisfaction with taxes).

In summary, residents expressed the need to take steps to protect and preserve aspects of the Town that are consistent with their strong desire to maintain the rural character of the Town. They expressed continuing support of public safety services to the extent of ensuring that Police and Fire/EMS Departments have up-to-date vehicles and equipment, but not to the extent of providing expanded facilities. They did not indicate support for initiatives to build new facilities, with the possible exception of a new highway

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department facility (11.H), which received numbers of responses of “Might Be Needed” and “Definitely Needed” that were larger than many other items.

***Capital Improvements Program (“CIP”)***

As question 14 may be taken as providing a general principle for shaping the Vision Section of the Master Plan, question 12 may be taken as providing a general principle for updating the CIP in a manner that is consistent with the desires of residents.

Responses to question 12 – “To limit tax increases, how willing are you to accept current levels of Town services and facilities?” – are shown in the table below:

<b>Very Unwilling</b>	<b>Unwilling</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Willing</b>	<b>Very Willing</b>
6	16	32	105	146

Respondents clearly do not want to make capital investments that will necessarily increase their taxes in order to enhance levels of Town services or to improve Town facilities. This strong consensus of opinion is not surprising in view of the fact that responses to question 10, as noted above, indicated that respondents are by and large satisfied with current quality levels of municipal services and facilities.

In summary, this point of view of respondents, who are also taxpayers, must be balanced against requests of department heads for expansion, improvement, or new construction of facilities that they believe are needed to deliver services at levels department heads desire.

### **III. Recommendations**

***Vision Section of the Master Plan***

The Long-Range Planning Committee, after conducting the two Vision Forums that are planned for 9 and 16 November, should draft a Vision Section for the Master Plan that captures strong views of residents that the Town should maintain its rural New England seacoast character and heritage. The Vision Section should also provide principles for implementing this vision that preserve and, if possible, enhance those features of the Town that residents identified as important to its rural character and heritage. The Vision Forums should be used to gather residents’ ideas about how to develop implementation principles.

The Vision Section should also incorporate desires of residents to provide access and enhanced recreational and aesthetic enjoyment of the ocean and the Town’s other natural features with bike paths, sidewalks, and crosswalks at traffic signals.

Finally, the Vision Section should be based on respect for residents’ feelings that taxes and expenditures are already sufficiently high to provide satisfactory or better community

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services and facilities. Future development of services and facilities should, therefore, be driven by necessity.

***Community Services and Facilities Section of the Master Plan***

In view of residents' satisfaction with current levels of quality in Town services and facilities and their strong willingness to accept current quality levels of services and facilities, the CSF Section should emphasize good maintenance practices of all existing facilities, expansion of facilities only where necessary to sustain current service levels – e.g., the library – and new construction only where there is no reasonable alternative – e.g., the highway department garage.

Public safety and highway departments should continue to be supplied with equipment and vehicles necessary to maintain their current levels of service as the Town develops over time. Outside sources of funding – private, state, or federal -- should be sought to provide recreational services and facilities that residents have indicated they would like to enjoy at the same time that they have indicated a desire to avoid tax increases to underwrite increases in current service levels.

The updated CSF Section, therefore, must balance the reluctance of residents to support tax increases against the requests for department heads for expenditures on new or expanded facilities, while ensuring that adequate provisions are made to maintain levels of service in which residents have expressed satisfaction.

***Capital Improvements Program Update***

Consistently with the Community Services and Facilities Section of the Master Plan, the update of the Capital Improvements Program should focus on providing for the maintenance of plant and equipment that is necessary to provide services. Because residents are reluctant to appropriate tax revenues for new facilities, providing for regular, routine maintenance of existing plant and equipment is essential. Residents may support capital expenditures from tax revenues for a new highway department garage (but not for purchasing land for the facility) and for expanding the existing public library.

Any capital expenditures from tax revenues for expanded or new facilities should be planned in the CIP if and only if they are necessary to maintain current levels of services and facilities and only if there is no reasonable, satisfactory alternative that affects taxes to a lesser degree. Further, capital expenditures should be prioritized and timed in a manner that minimizes large fluctuations in capital expenditures from year to year and, therefore, that minimizes fluctuations in tax rates from year to year.

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## IV. Appendices

### Appendix A: Respondents & Demographic Information

1. How many years have you lived in North Hampton?

<b>Mean</b>	19.7
<b>Median</b>	15
<b>Mode</b>	5
<b>Std. Dev.</b>	16.3
<b>Min</b>	0
<b>Max</b>	76

2. What do you like **MOST** about living in North Hampton?

		<b>Total</b>
A	Rural Atmosphere	211
B	Quality of public schools	96
C	Near main highways	82
D	Near Boston	72
E	Near Employer	38
F	Economy of living	19
G	Near ocean/natural features	281
H	Near medical services	57
I	Hometown	43
J	Friendly Atmosphere	113
K	Cultural Amenities	21
L	Other	20

3. Which of these three categories best describes your living situation?

		<b>Total</b>
A	Homeowner	295
B	Renter	6
C	Live with family/significant other	12
D	Other	3

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4. Which of the following categories best describes your employment situation?

		<b>Total</b>
A	Employed full-time	153
B	Employed part-time	29
C	Homemaker	18
D	Unemployed	2
E	Retired	117

5. How many miles does the primary income-earner in your household travel to work (one way)?

		<b>Total</b>
A	Does not travel	84
B	Less than 5 miles	51
C	6-15 miles	59
D	16-35 miles	20
E	More than 35 miles	54
Total		268

6. What roads do members of your household who are employed outside the home take to work?

		<b>Total</b>
A	Route 1	124
B	Route 111	117
C	Interstate 95	76
D	Mill Road	42
E	Route 151 (Post Road)	82
F	Woodland Road	24
G	Route 1A	23
H	Work at Home	20
I	Other	24

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**Appendix B: Tabulation of Responses to Question 7**

Question 7: In what town or city does the primary income-earner in your household work?

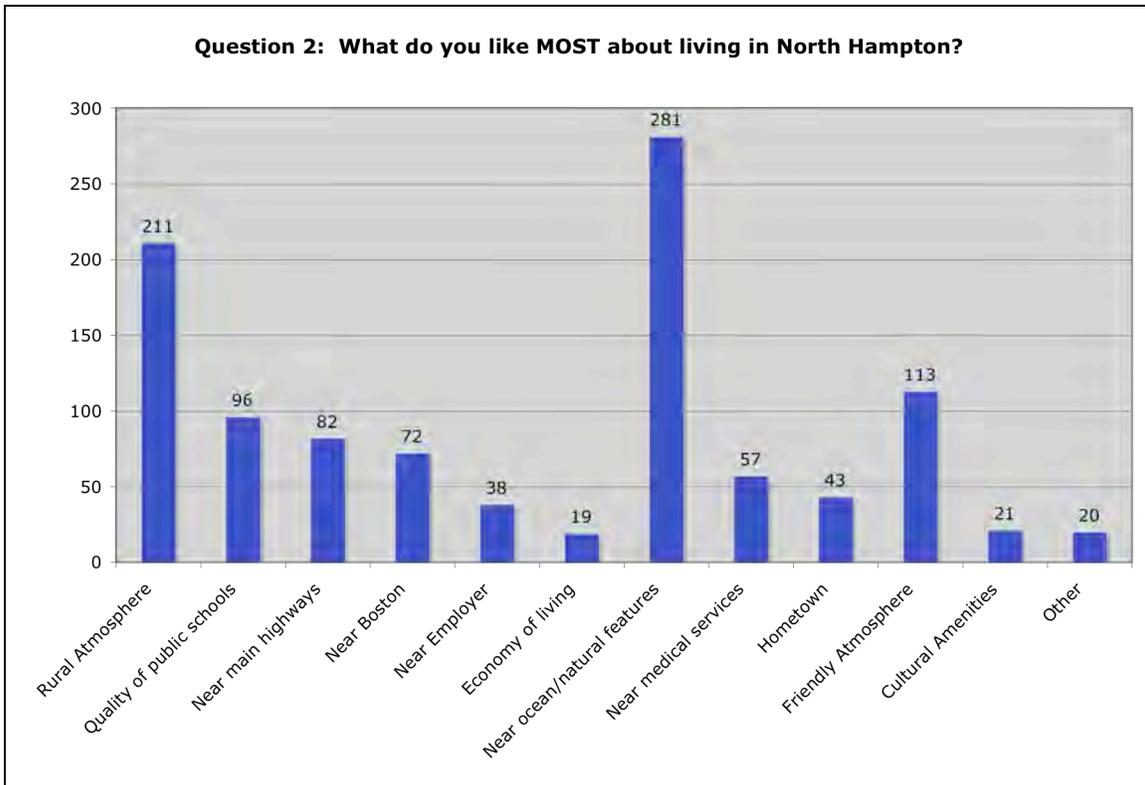
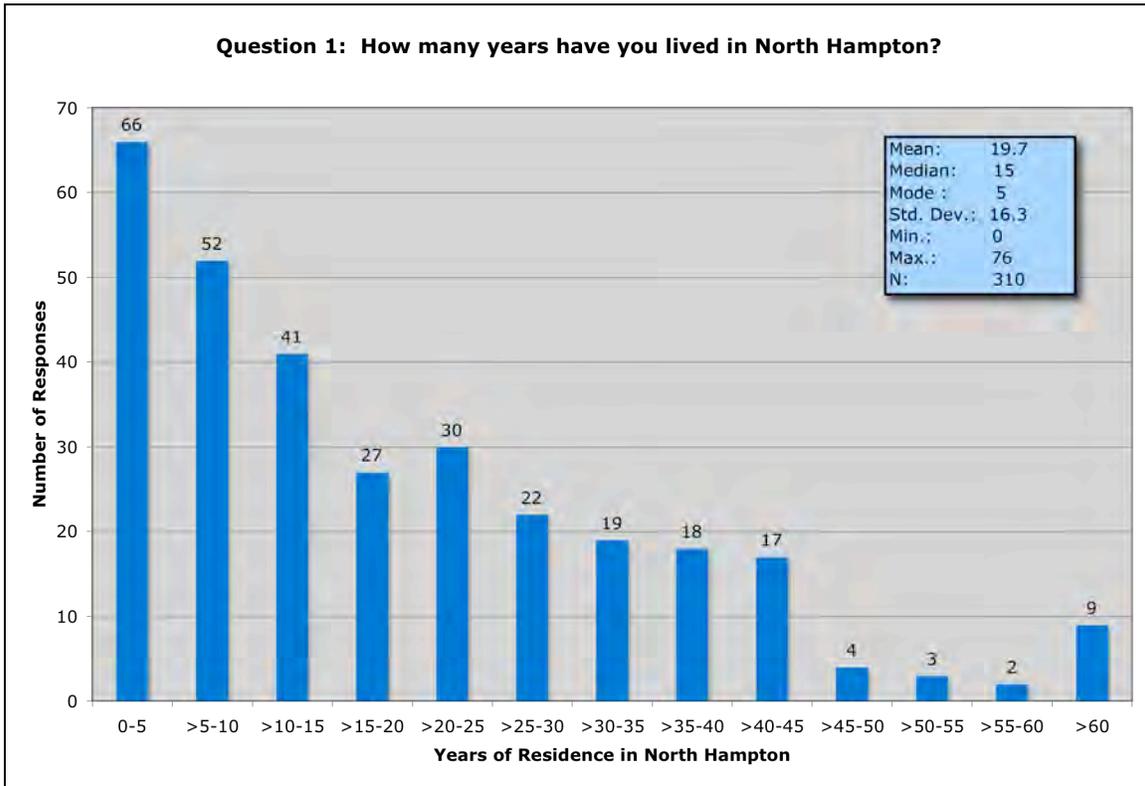
Location	Number of Responses
North Hampton	50
Portsmouth	38
Boston	17
Hampton	14
Manchester	5
Exeter	4
Newburyport, MA	4
Amesbury, MA	3
Burlington, MA	3
Kittery, ME	3
Seabrook	3
Stratham	3
Bedford	2
Cambridge, MA	2
Concord, NH	2
Greenland	2
Rye	2
Tewksbury, MA	2
Belmont	1
Brentwood	1
Concord, MA	1
Danvers, MA	1
Dover	1
Durham	1
Epping	1
Gloucester, MA	1
Littleton, MA	1
Lowell, MA	1
Lynnfield, MA	1
MA North Shore	1
Merrimac, MA	1
Merrimack, NH	1
Middleton, CT	1
New York, NY	1
Newfields	1
Newington	1
Newmarket	1
Newton, MA	1
North Conway	1
Portland, OR	1
Raymond	1
Rochester	1
Rockingham County	1
Salem, NH	1
Salisbury, MA	1
Utica, NY	1
Washington, DC	1
Wellesley, MA	1
Wilmington, MA	1
Woburn, MA	1
York, ME	1
Total Responses	192

N. B. Responses that gave non-specific locations – e.g., “all over the country” – were not included in the tabulation.

**Tables showing tabulations of responses to all other questions appear in the text of the report (Section II, above).**

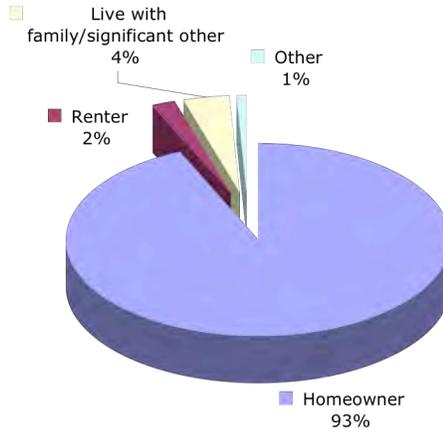
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**Appendix C: Charts**

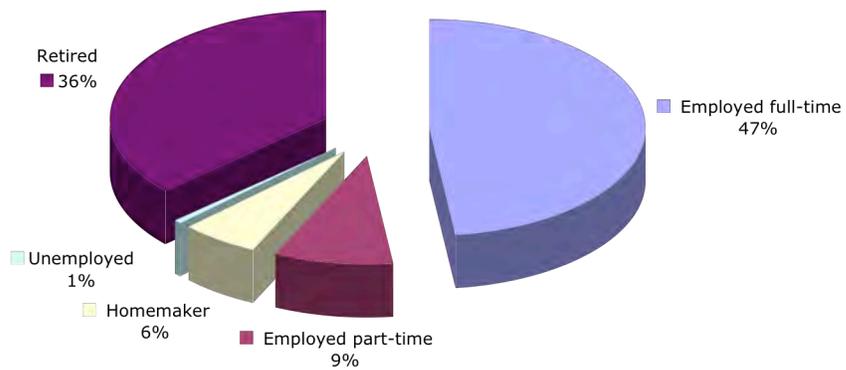


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**Question 3: Which of the following categories best describes your living situation?**

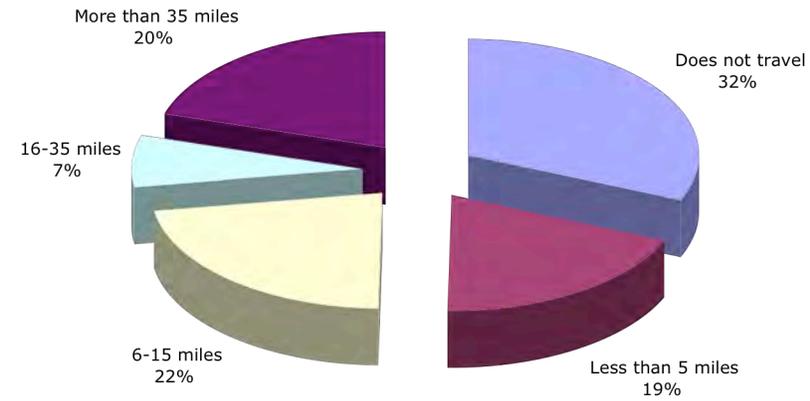


**Question 4: Which of the following categories best describes your employment situation?**



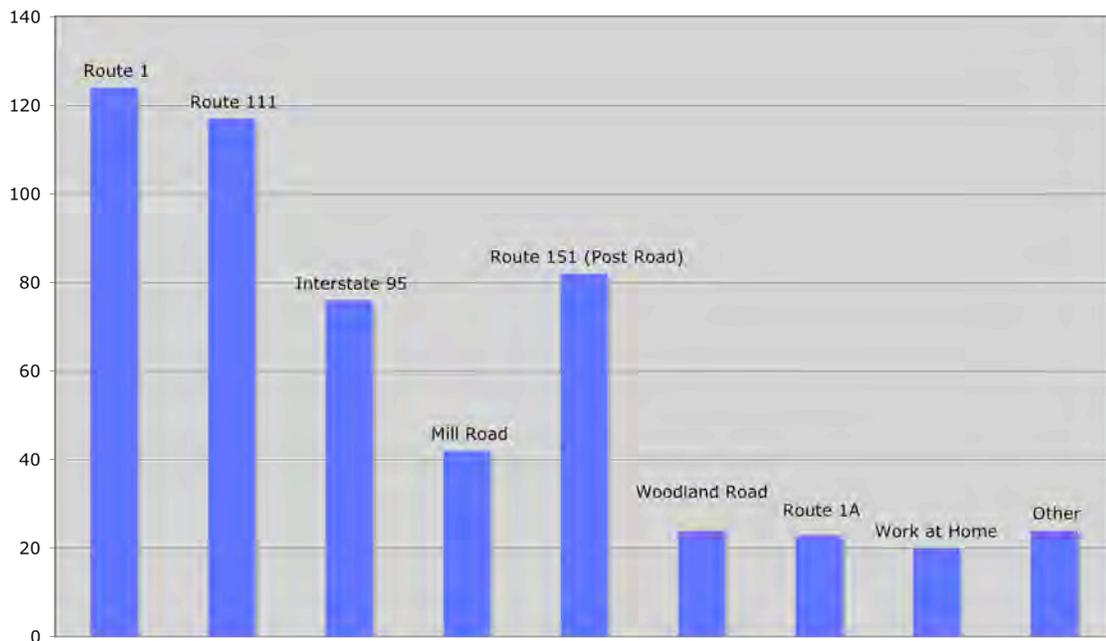
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**Question 5: How many miles does the primary income-earner in your household travel to work (one way)?**



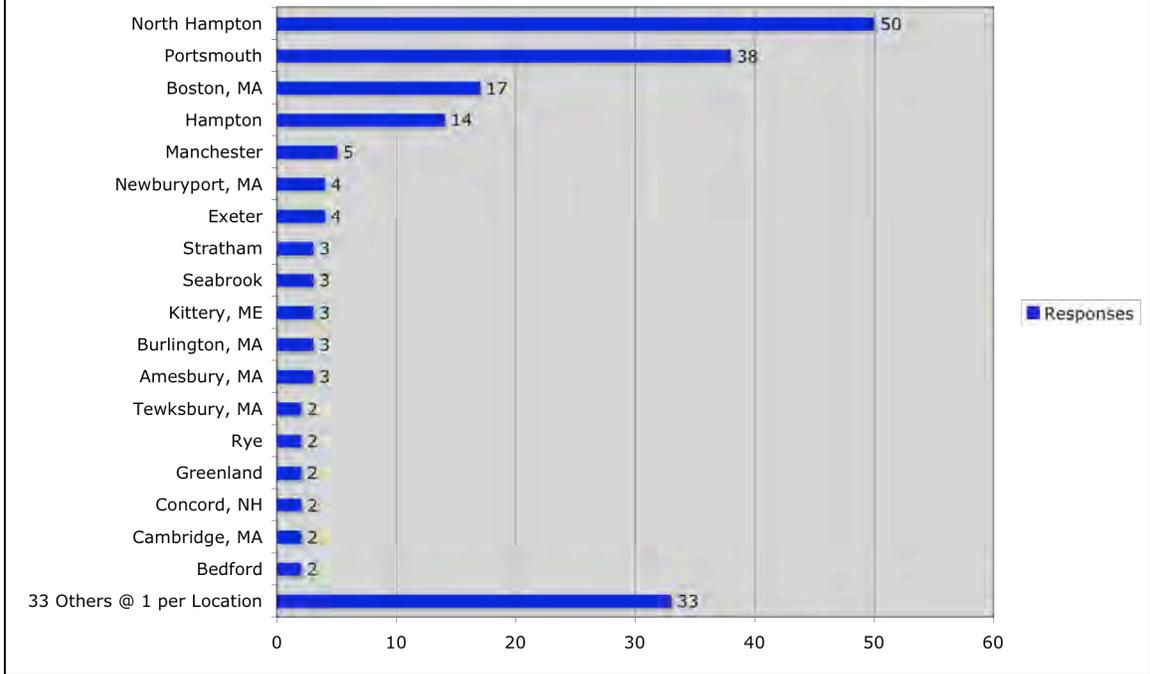
Number of responses = 268

**Question 6: What roads do members of your household who are employed outside the home take to work?**

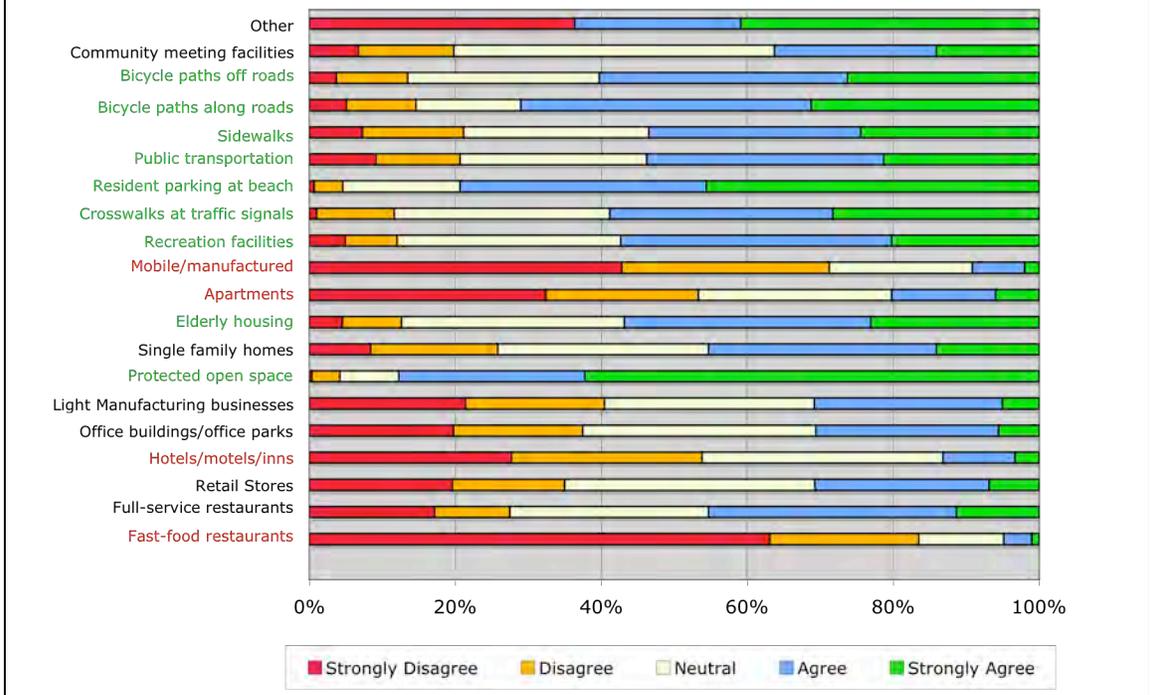


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**Question 7: In what town or city does the primary income-earner in your household work?**

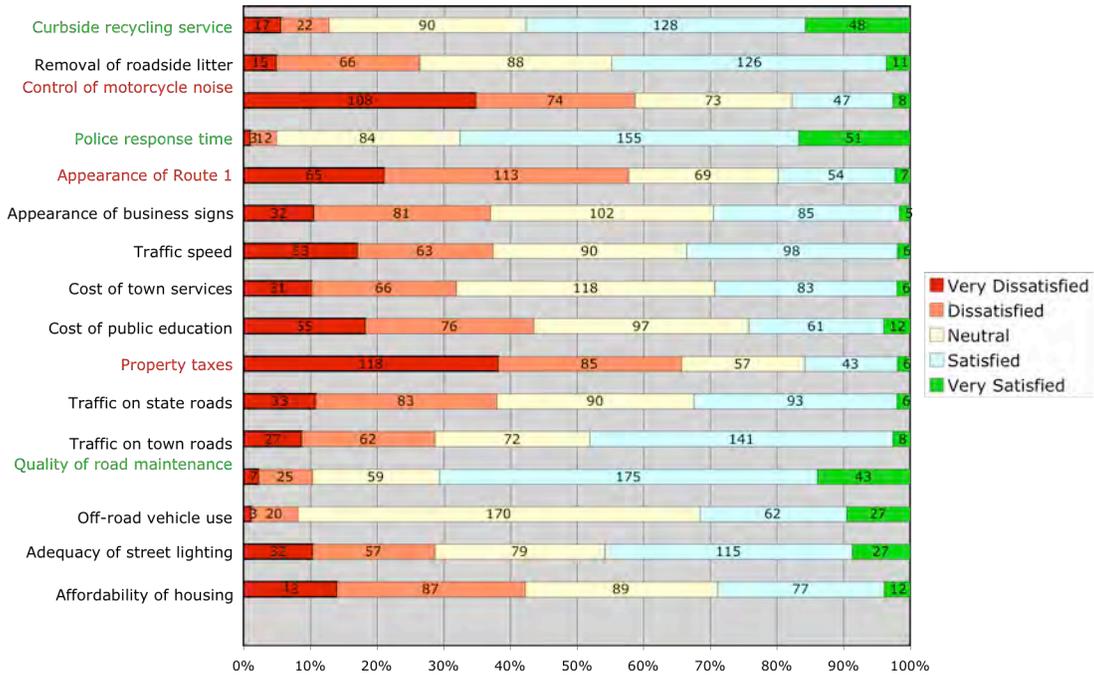


**Question 8: The Town should PURSUE MORE of each of the following:**

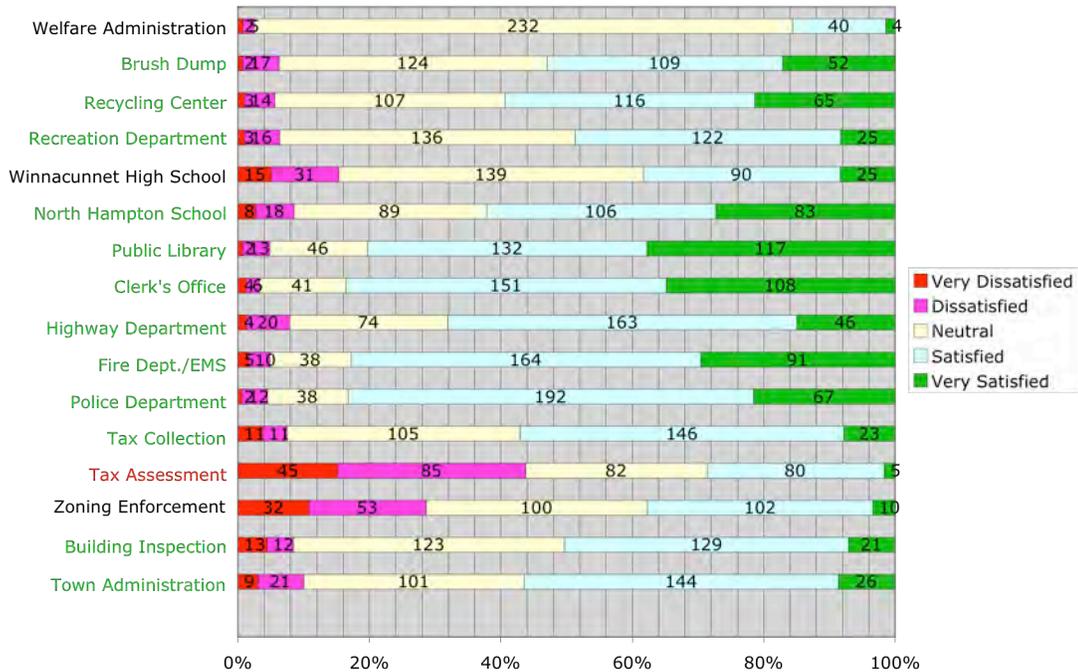


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**Question 9: How satisfied are you with each of the following ASPECTS of the Town?**

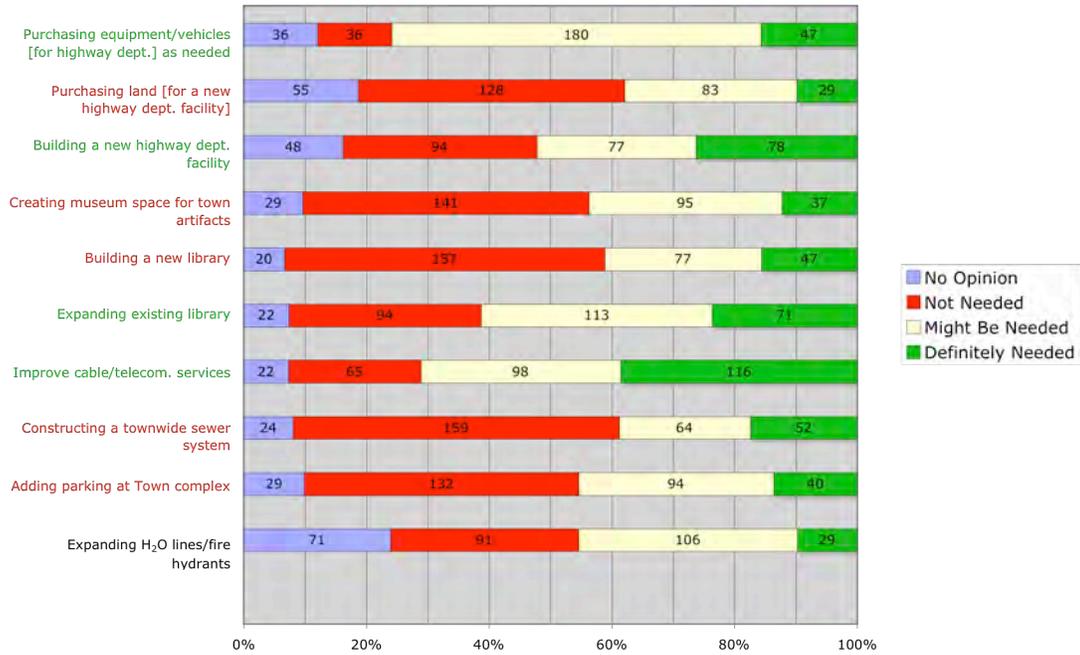


**Question 10: How satisfied are you with the QUALITY of each of the following town services?**

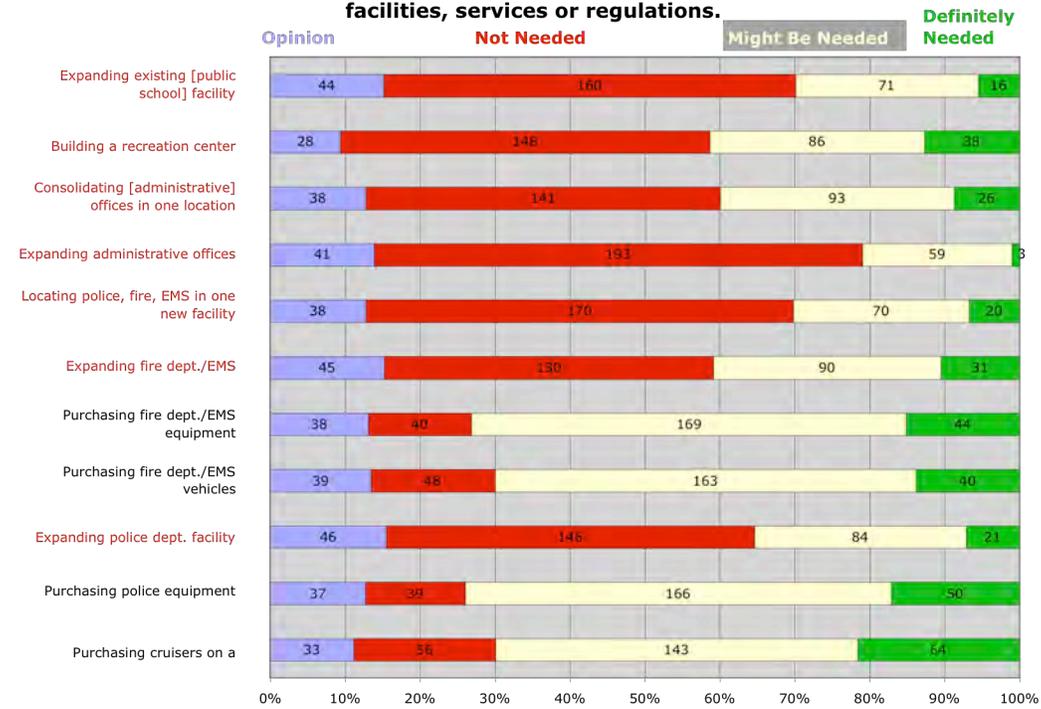


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**Question 11 A-J: Please indicate your opinion of each of the following facilities, services, or regulations.**

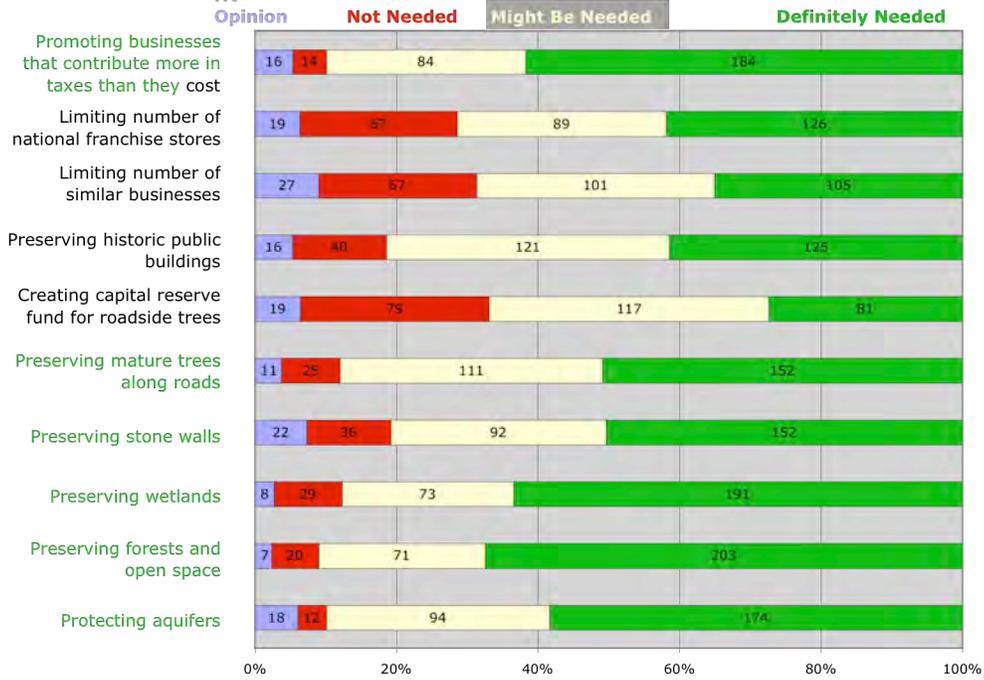


**Question 11 K-U: Please indicate your opinion of each of the following facilities, services or regulations.**

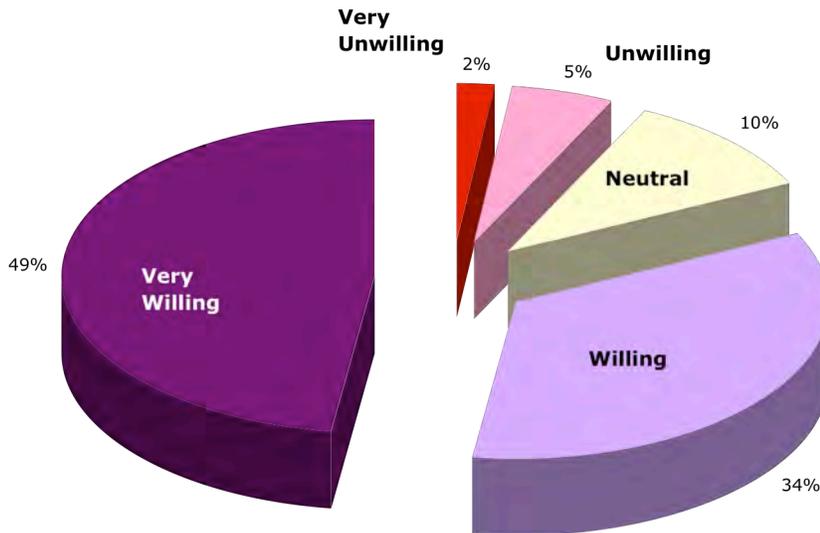


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**Question 11 V-Ee: Please indicate your opinion of each of the following facilities, services or regulations.**



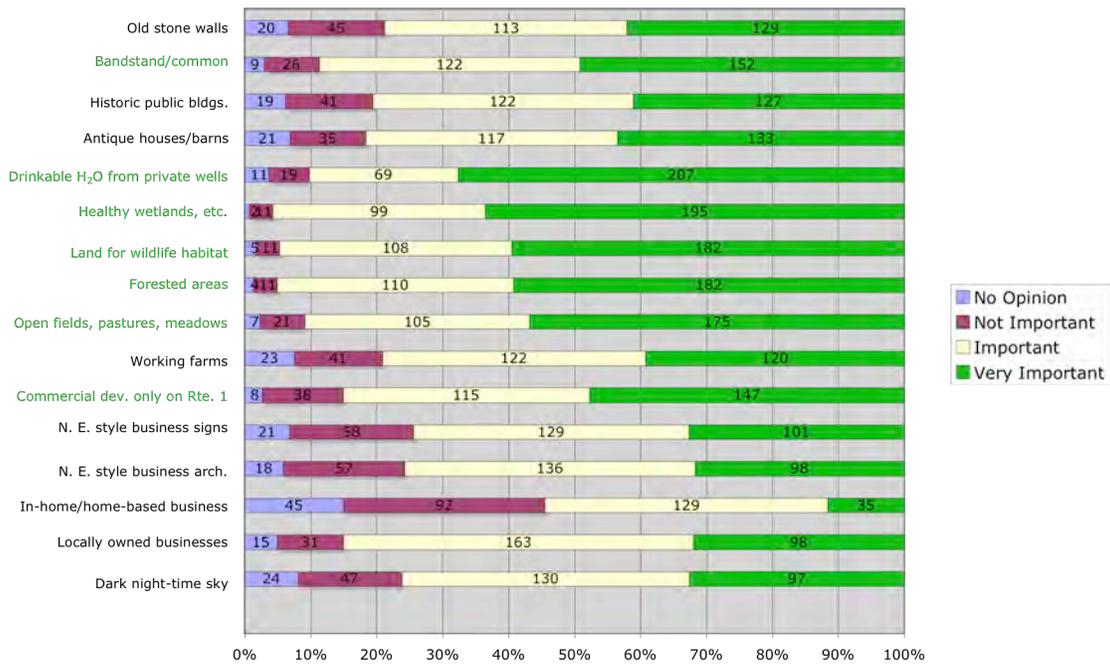
**Question 12: To limit tax increases, how willing are you to accept current levels of Town services and facilities?**



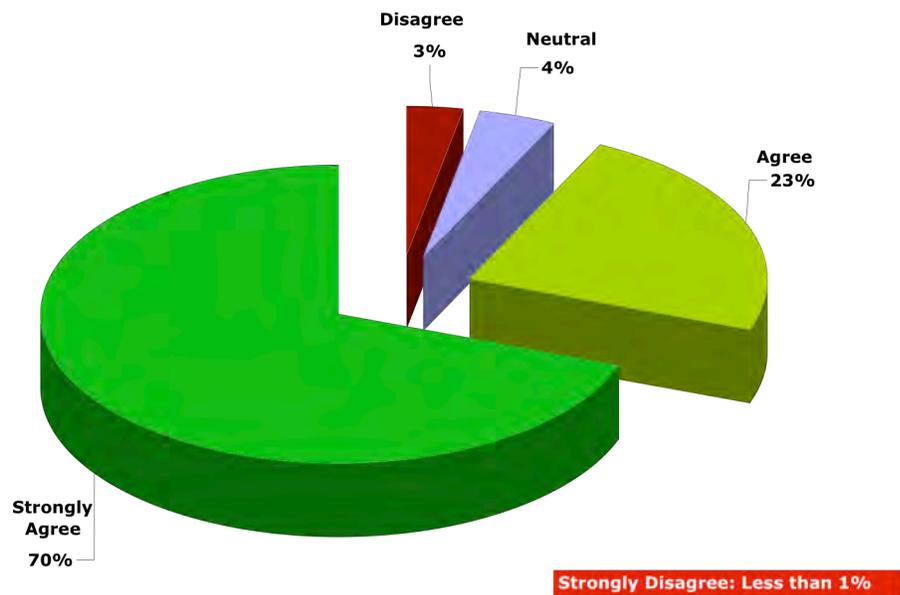
**82% of Respondents indicated willingness to accept current levels in order to control taxes.**

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**Question 13: Importance of Features to Rural Character**

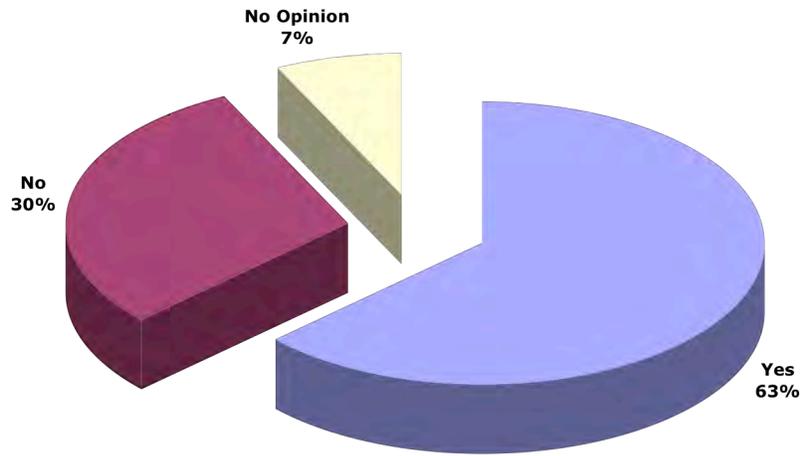


**Question 14: Should Maintain Rural Character**



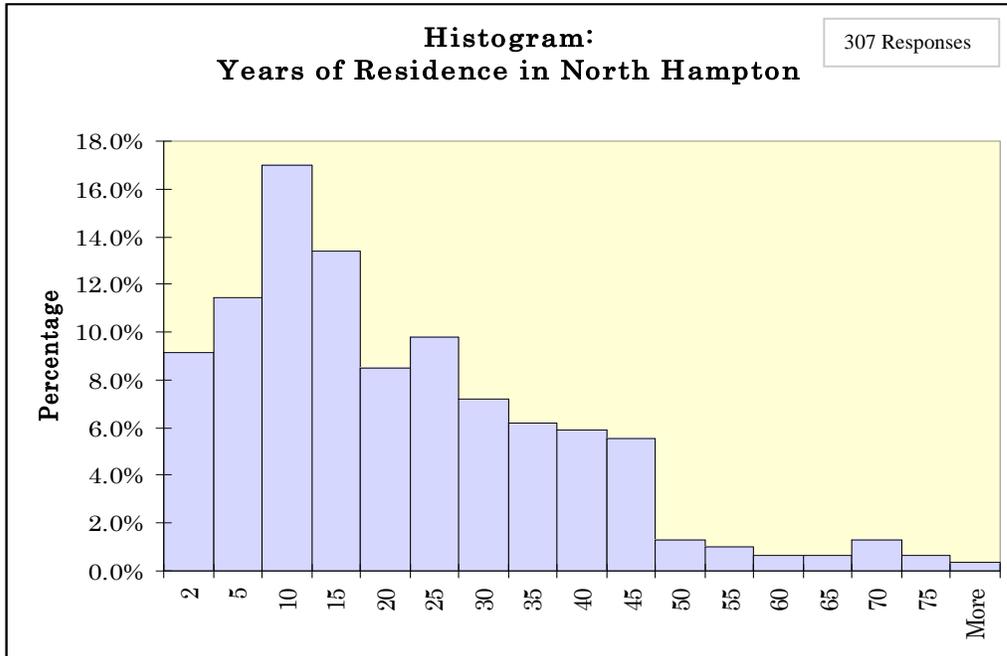
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Question 15: Should Town allow "Conservation Subdivisions"?



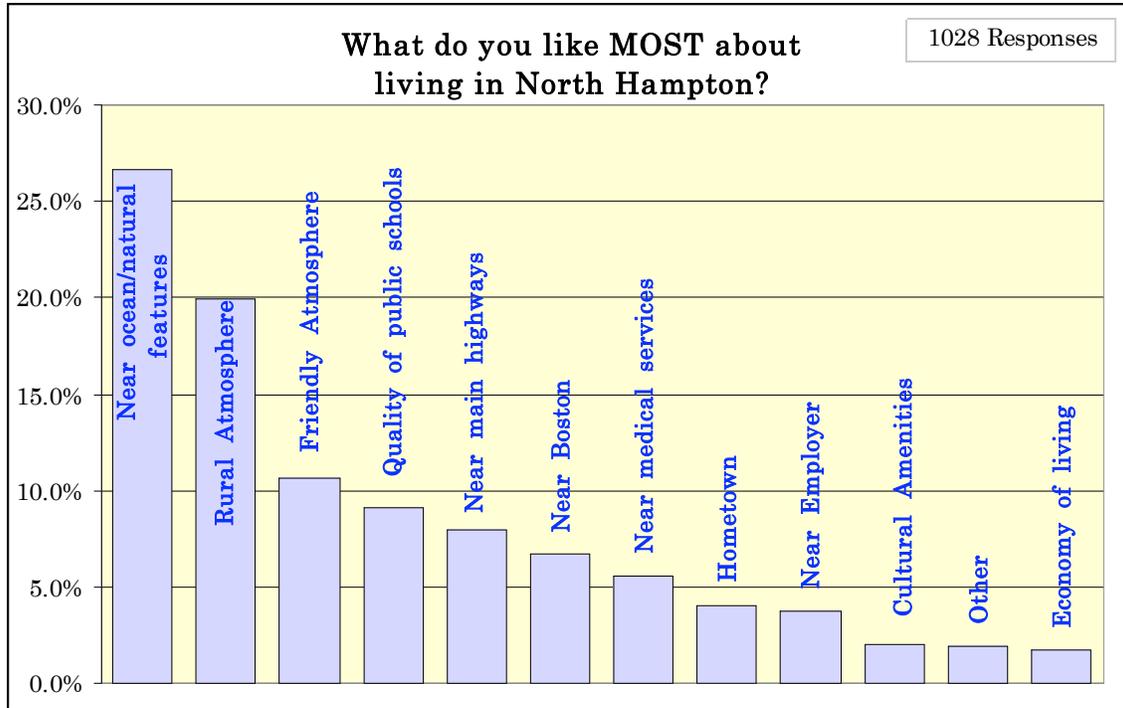
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**Appendix D: Charts & Analysis by Mr. Thane Harrison**



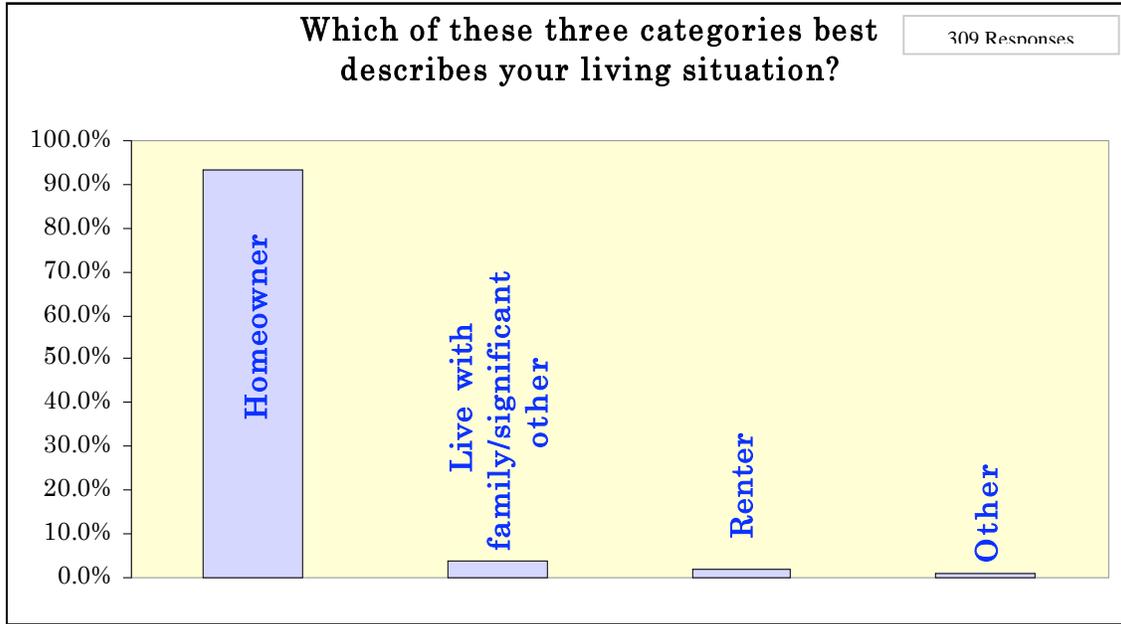
- The average North Hampton respondent to the survey has lived in the town for slightly over 19 years.
- Half of the respondents have lived there for less than 15 years and slightly.
- More than one-fifth of the respondents have lived there for less than 5 years.

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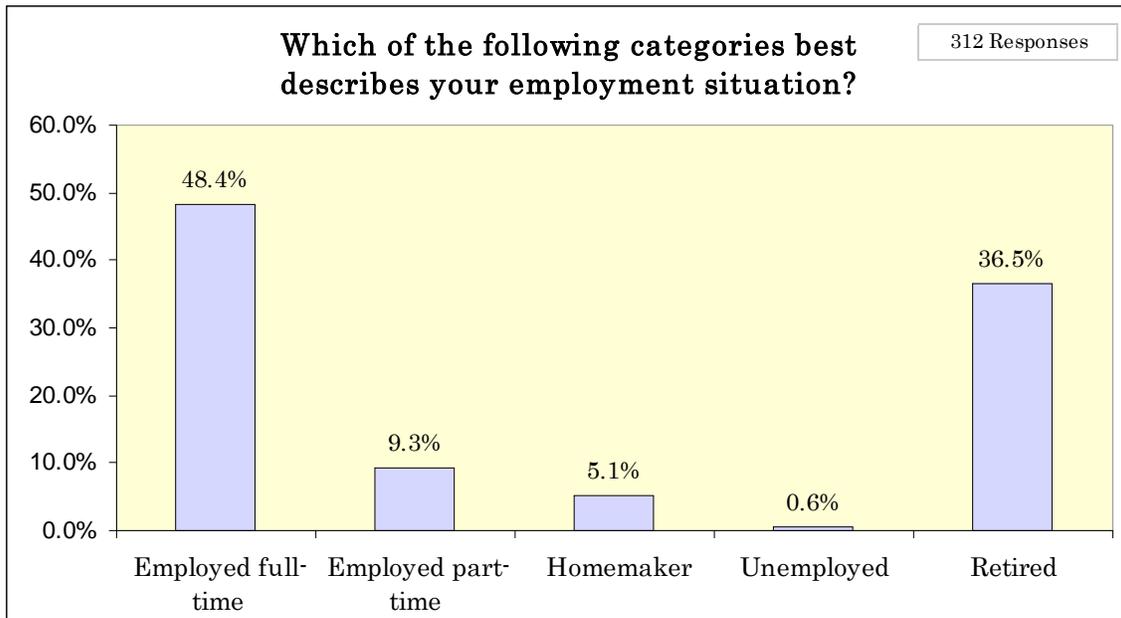


Characteristics related to the natural environment to be the most liked among survey respondents—with “near ocean/natural features” and “rural atmosphere” being chosen as 26.7% and 19.9% of respondents’ answers. “Friendly atmosphere” and “quality of public schools” form the second tier of the higher end of the most liked characteristics. Proximity amenities like “near Boston,” “near medical services,” and “near employer,” ranked in the middle of responses. “Cultural amenities” and “economy of living” were of the least importance to respondents.

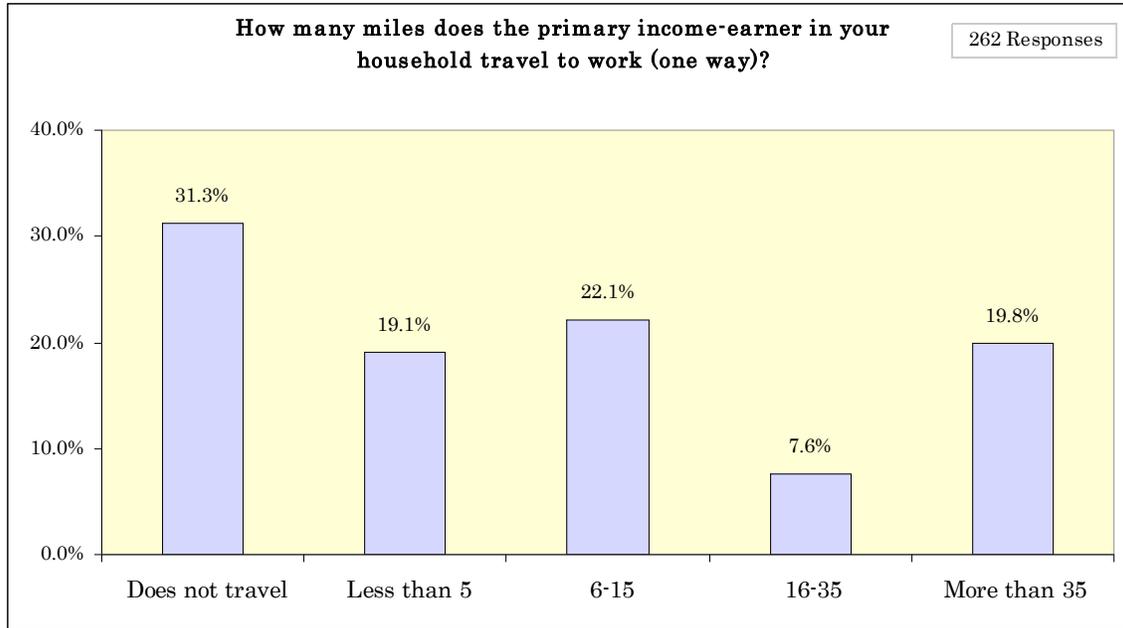
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- The vast majority of respondents owned their own homes.
- Respondents were primarily employed full-time or retired.

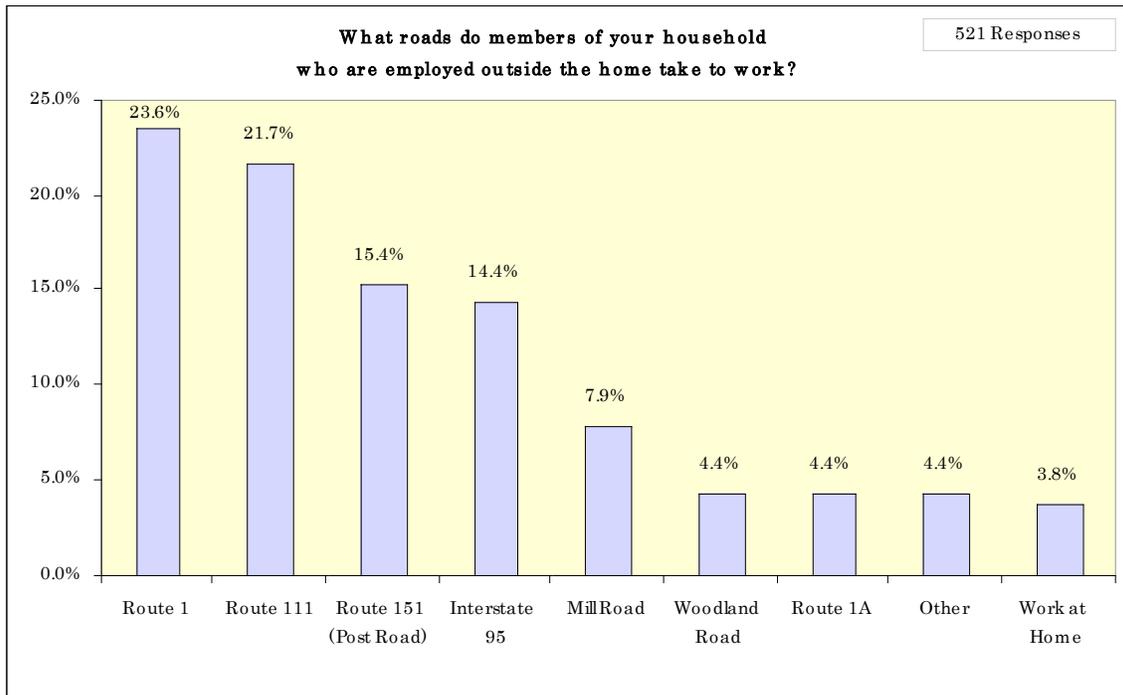


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The commuting patterns for survey respondents were varied. Almost a third did not travel for work, while approximately a fifth of them travel a short distance (less than 5 miles), a modest distance (6-15 miles) or a long distance (more than 35 miles). Relatively few people traveled an intermediate distance of 16 to 35 miles.

Route 1 and Route 111 are the most often used roads for these commutes. Post Road and I-95 are also used relatively frequently.



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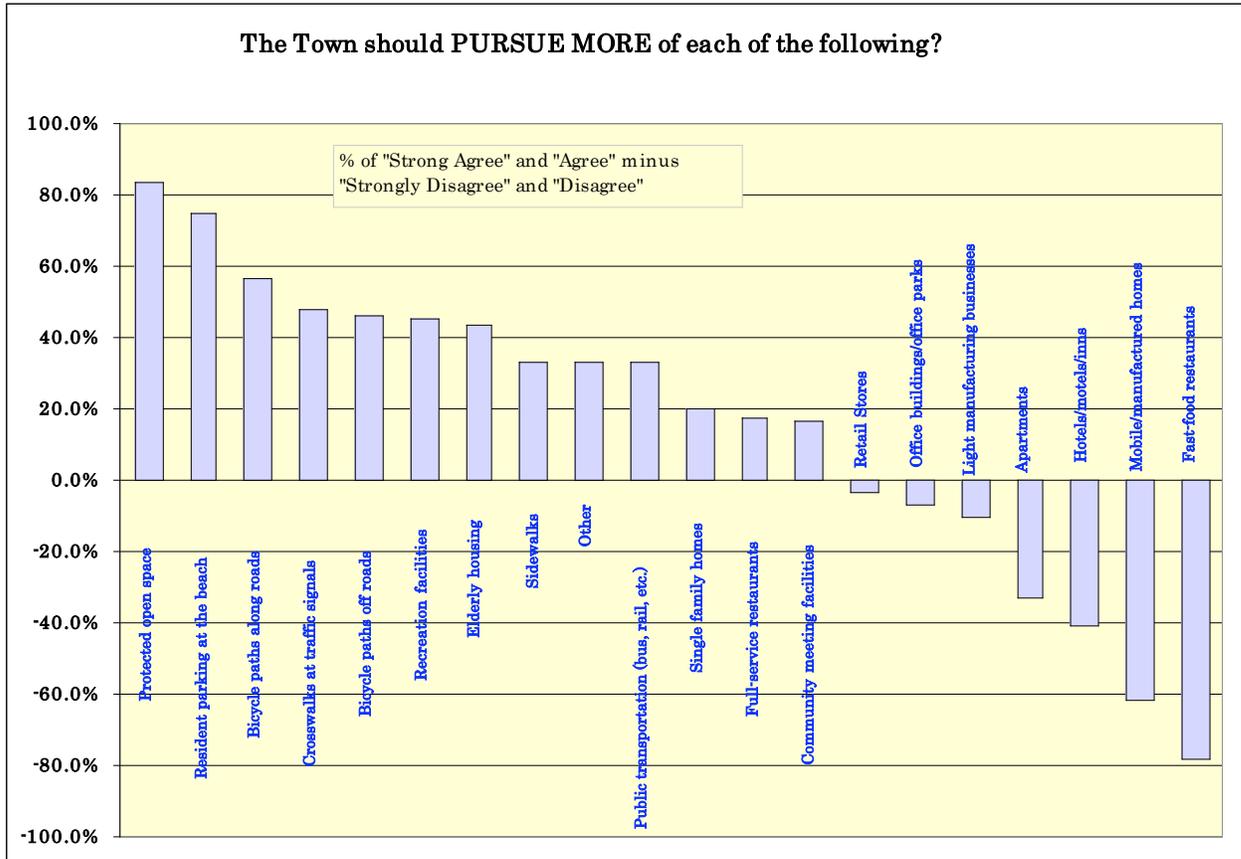
The table below lists the top four responses as to where do primary-income earners work.

- In-town workers were most common, followed by commuters to Portsmouth.
- Neighboring Hampton gets almost as many commuters (15) as the regional employment hub, Boston (17).
- No other community received more than 5 responses.
- There were 197 responses in all, and 56 different locations.
- 44 respondents commute to Massachusetts.

7. In what town or city does the primary income-earner in your household work?

Location	# of Responses
North Hampton	50
Portsmouth	36
Boston, MA	17
Hampton	15

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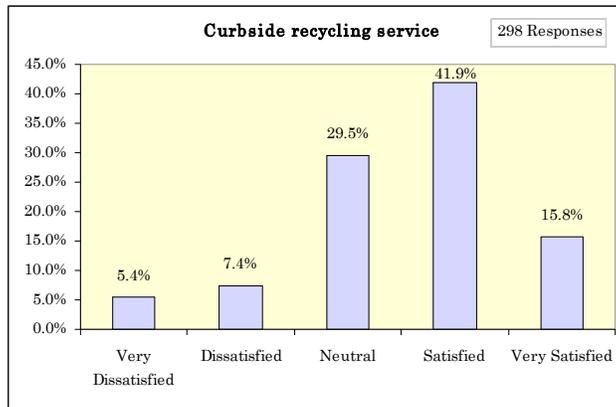
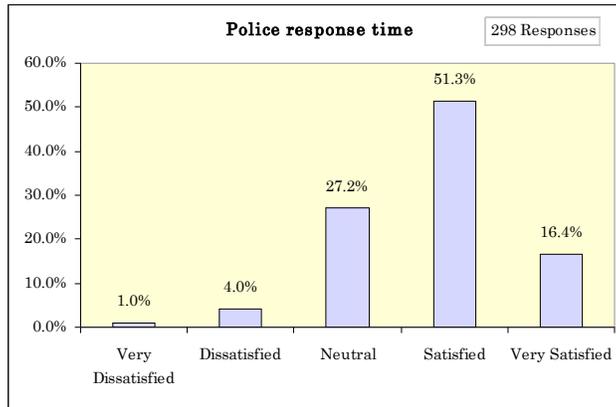
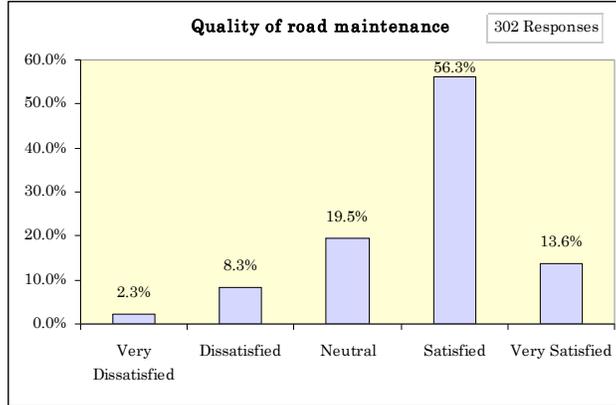
A preference for natural amenities was revealed again in the residents' responses regarding what projects they were most in favor of pursuing more of as "protect open space" and "resident parking at the beach" were the top two categories measured in the % of "Agree" and "Strongly Disagree" minus "Disagree" and "Strongly Disagree."

- Respondents also clearly favored more bicycle paths (along roads and off roads), crosswalks at traffic signals, recreation facilities, and elderly housing.
- Projects that respondents were somewhat favored were sidewalks, single family homes, full-service restaurants, and community meeting facilities.
- Respondents were slightly in disagreement with pursuing retail stores, office buildings or parks, and light manufacturing businesses.
- Projects that respondents were opposed to the pursuit of were, in order of least favored: fast-food restaurants, mobile/manufactured housing, hotels/motels/inns, and apartments.

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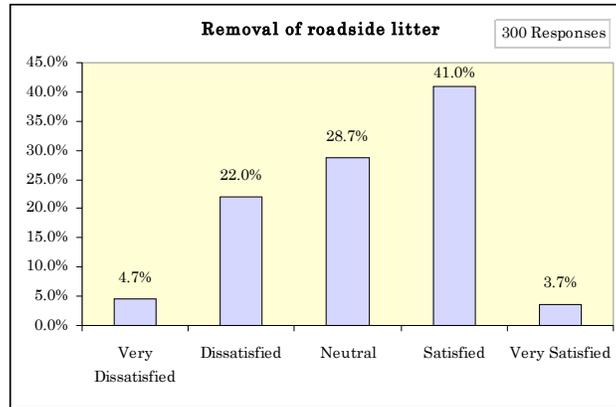
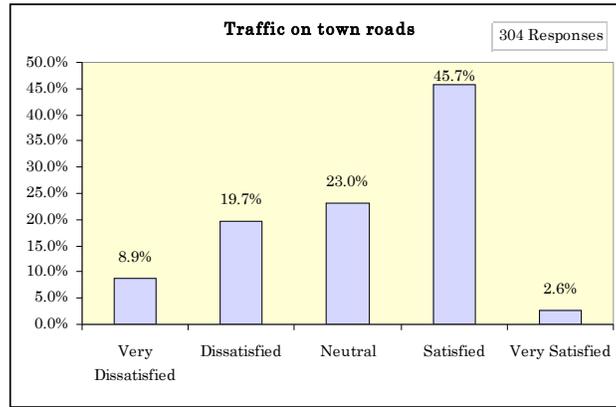
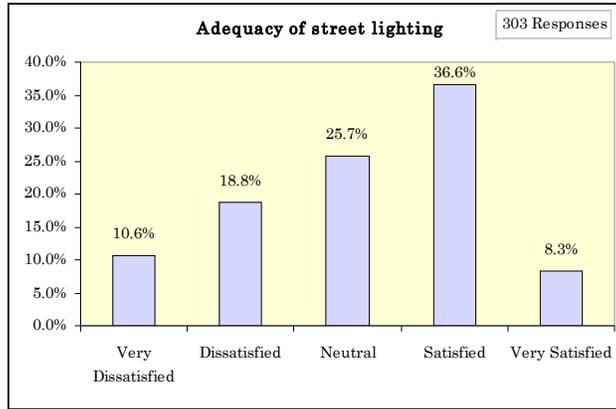
Satisfaction with Aspects of the Town

*High Satisfaction*



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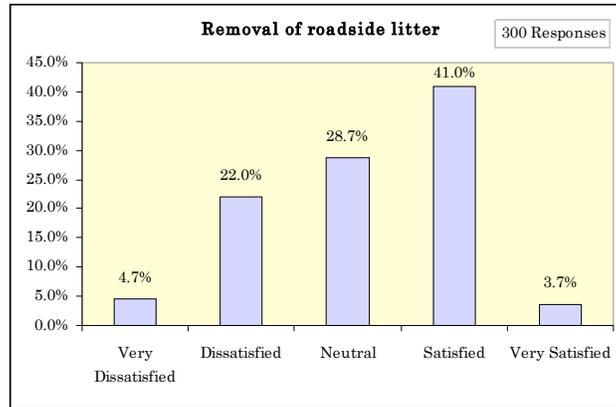
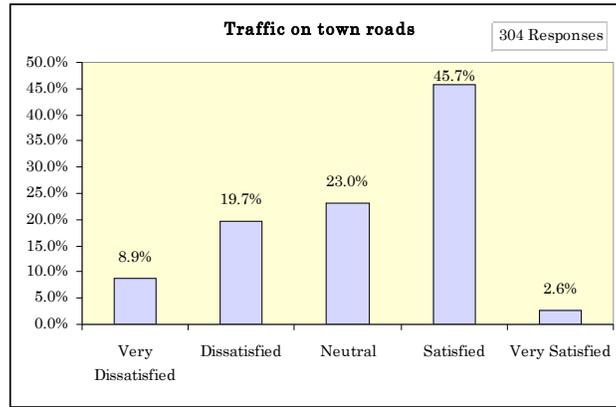
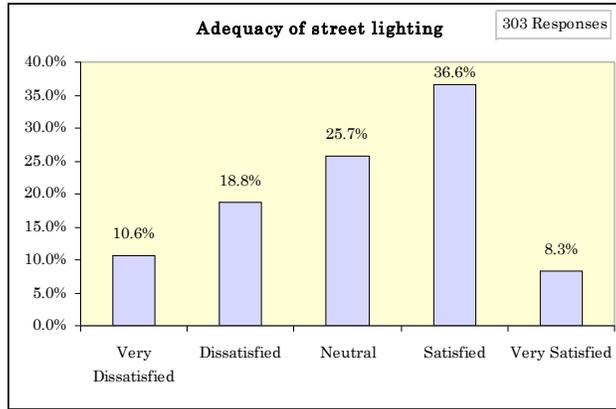
*High Satisfaction*



Municipal services and road-related aspects seem to be well regarded by survey respondents—road maintenance, litter removal, police response.

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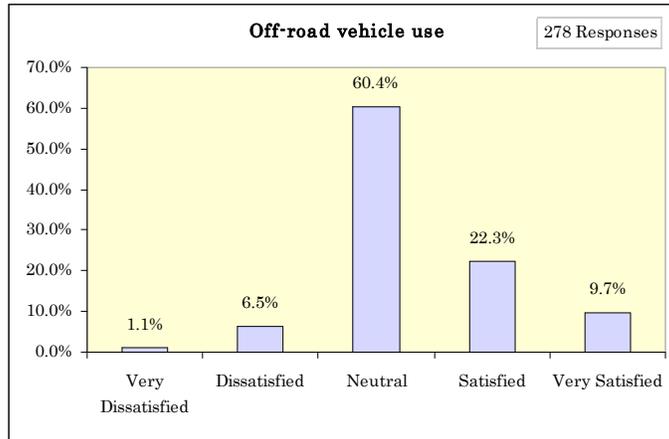
*High Satisfaction*



Municipal services and road-related aspects seem to be well regarded by survey respondents—road maintenance, litter removal, police response.

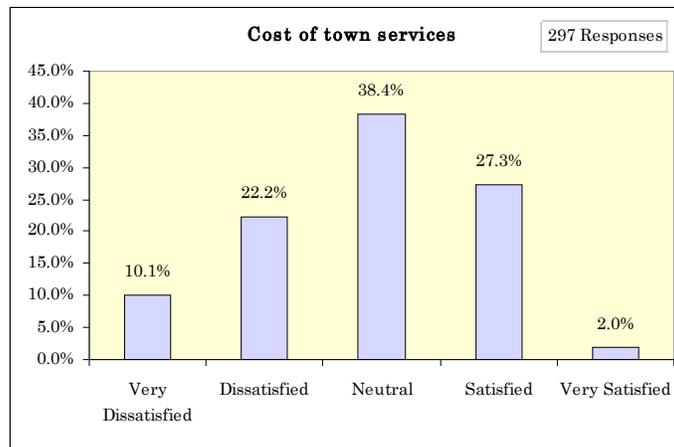
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*High/Neutral Satisfaction*



This could have been classified as high satisfaction, especially considering that there are very few people dissatisfied, but I've put it in the "High/Neutral" group because of the overwhelming neutral response.

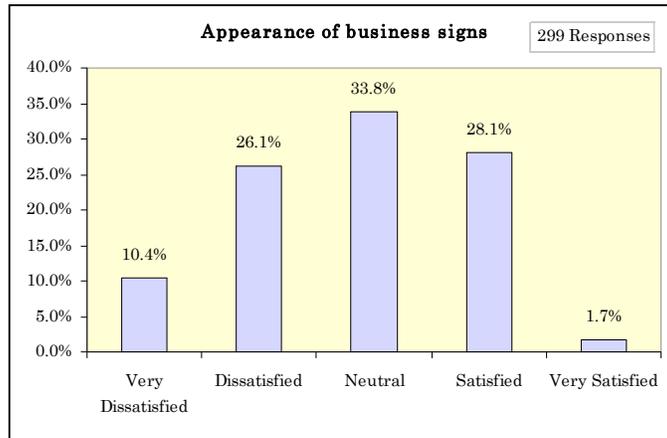
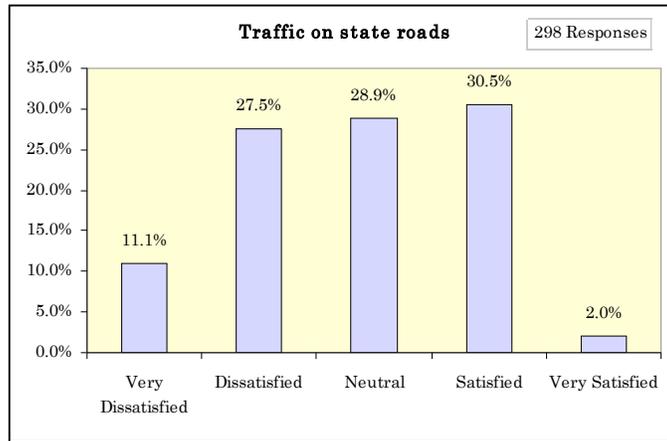
*Neutral Satisfaction*



This seems in line with the higher satisfaction with many of the town services—not everybody is happy with the costs, but if people are mostly satisfied by the services, they probably feel the costs are appropriate.

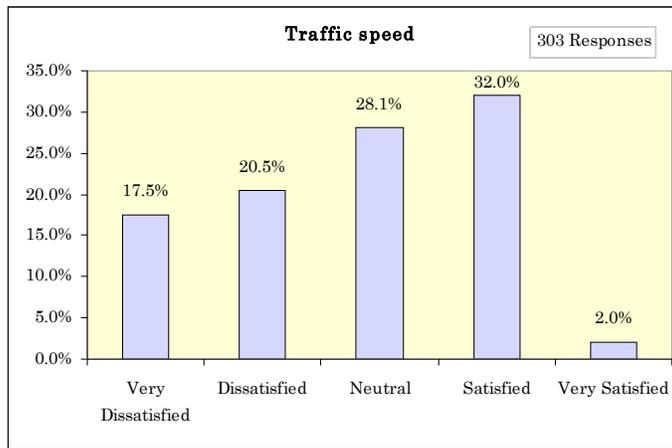
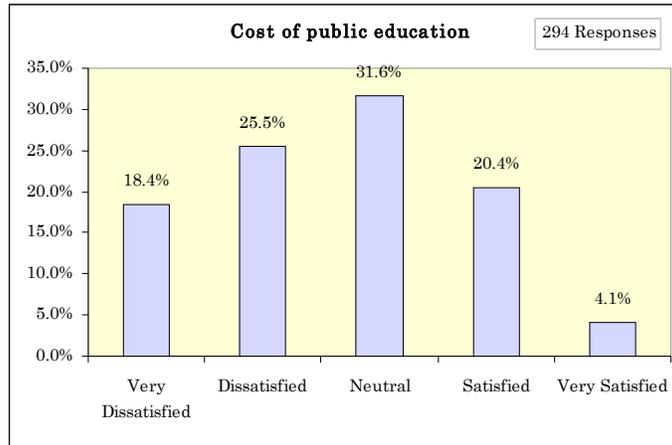
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2005 Community Survey  
Report to Residents**

*Neutral/Low Satisfaction*



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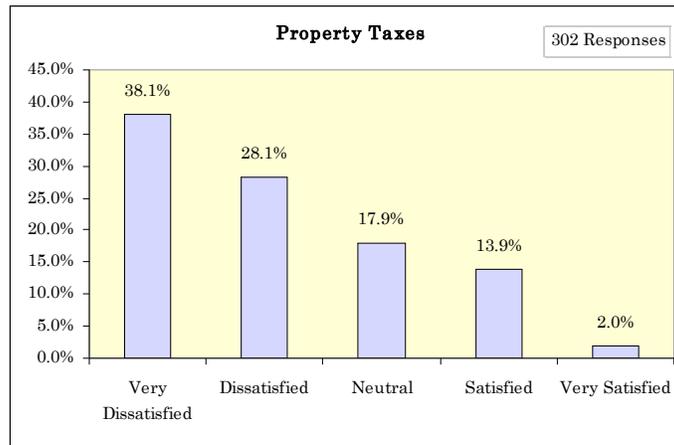
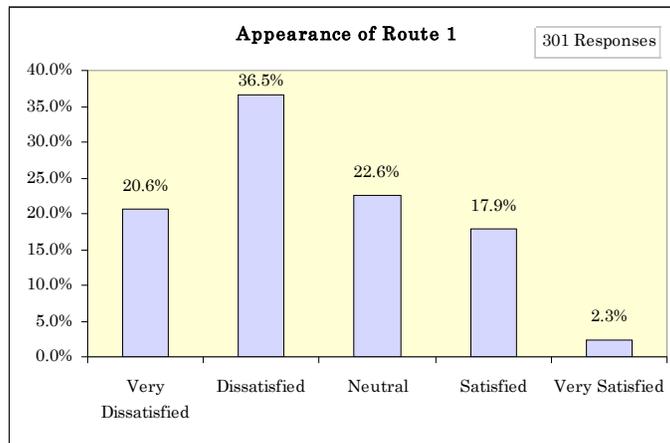
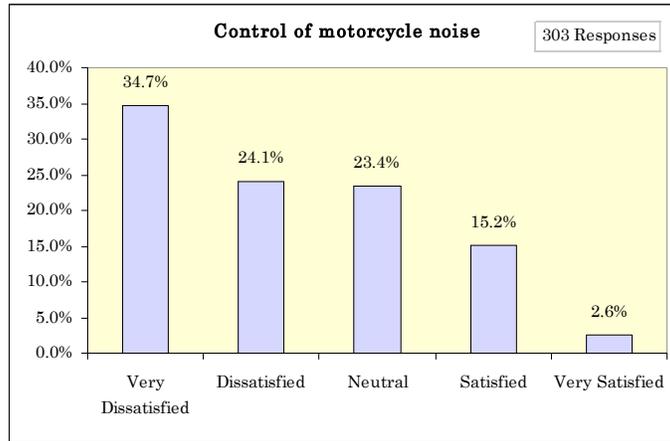
*Neutral/Low Satisfaction*



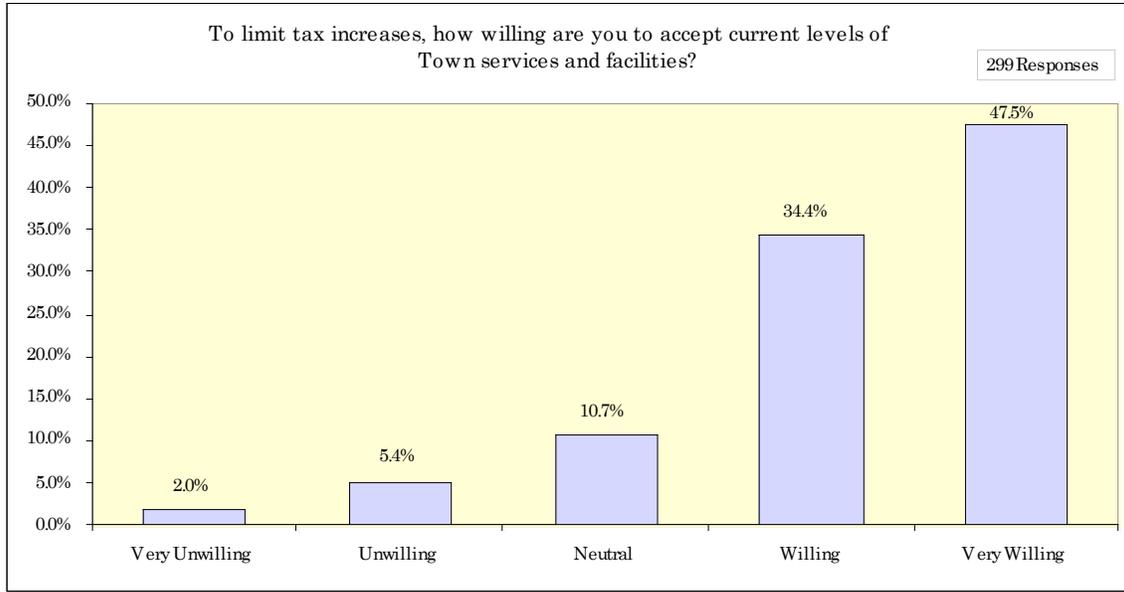
Housing and education costs, and traffic issues that are mostly related to the larger roads do produce responses with some dissatisfaction, but for most of these issues the majority falls in the neutral, satisfied, or very satisfied group.

**North Hampton Planning Board  
2005 Community Survey  
Report to Residents**

*Low Satisfaction*



**North Hampton Planning Board  
2005 Community Survey  
Report to Residents**



This is the result from question 12, but I'm putting it right after the results for question 9, because I think, in conjunction with the "Low Satisfaction" results—of which property taxes were had the lowest satisfaction—this chart makes it clear that respondents are not thrilled about taxes, but satisfied with current levels of services.

Regarding the other two "Low Satisfaction" results, they could both be seen as connected to traffic on some of the town's bigger roads. Traffic/development issues seem to garner negative responses (in addition to everybody's favorite: taxes).

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2005 Community Survey  
Report to Residents**

**Satisfaction with Town Services**

Overall, town services receive very high rates of satisfaction, especially the library, the Clerk’s Office, North Hampton School, and the Police and Fire Departments.

Only two town services receive a significant degree of dissatisfaction: Zoning Enforcement and Tax Assessment. These two are probably the most likely to be seen as “taking” from or “regulating” residents, so this result is not terribly surprising. Winnacunnet High also receives a slightly higher percentage of “dissatisfied” responses than most of the other services.

How satisfied are you with the QUALITY of each of the following town services?					
	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
Town Administration	3.1%	7.1%	33.0%	48.0%	8.8%
Building Inspection	4.5%	4.1%	41.1%	43.2%	7.2%
Zoning Enforcement	11.0%	17.9%	32.4%	35.2%	3.4%
Tax Assessment	15.5%	29.0%	27.2%	26.6%	1.7%
Tax Collection	3.8%	3.8%	36.0%	48.8%	7.6%
Police Department	0.7%	3.9%	11.5%	62.5%	21.4%
Fire Department/EMS	1.7%	3.3%	11.6%	54.0%	29.5%
Highway Department	1.3%	6.7%	23.7%	53.3%	15.0%
Clerk's Office	1.3%	2.0%	13.2%	49.5%	34.0%
Public Library	0.7%	4.3%	15.1%	43.4%	36.5%
North Hampton School	2.7%	6.0%	28.9%	35.6%	26.8%
Winnacunnet H.S.	5.1%	10.5%	45.8%	30.2%	8.5%
Recreation Department	1.0%	5.4%	44.6%	40.5%	8.4%
Recycling Center	1.0%	4.7%	34.9%	38.6%	20.8%
Brush Dump	0.7%	5.7%	40.4%	36.0%	17.2%
Welfare Administration	0.7%	1.4%	81.9%	14.4%	1.4%
Average for all Services	3.4%	7.2%	32.2%	41.4%	15.7%

**North Hampton Planning Board  
2005 Community Survey  
Report to Residents**

### **Facilities, Services, and Regulations**

WARNING: The results for this section may say more about human psychology than they do about what people really want in North Hampton. Items that used words like “expand,” “build,” “create,” or “construct” received “not needed” as the highest response. Items using words like “maintenance” or “purchase” had “might be needed” as their most common response. Meanwhile the most common responses to items using words like “protect,” “preserve,” “improve,” or “promote” were “definitely needed.”

#### *Town Infrastructure*

- Most respondents felt internet/telecommunications improvements might be needed or were definitely needed.
- Respondents were split on the need for expanding water lines.
- Parking at the town complex and a townwide sewer system were mostly considered not needed.

#### *Public Library*

- More than half of respondents thought expansion of the existing facility might be needed or was definitely needed. However, nearly third of respondents felt it was not needed.
- Though expansion might be favorable, over half of respondents felt a new facility was not needed and almost half felt that a space for town artifacts was not needed.

#### *Highway Department*

- The most popular response to building a new highway dept. facility was that it was not needed; however, a majority of respondents thought it might be needed or was definitely needed. It looks like most people would accept the expense, but they may take some convincing.
- Purchasing land for the facility was less popular, with over 40% responding that it was not needed (if the town already owns the land for the expansion the convincing I mentioned above could be easier than if they have to purchase land).
- Respondents were comfortable with the possibility that purchasing new equipment might be needed—over 75% responded “might be” or “definitely” needed.

#### *Public Safety*

- Respondents were favorable towards purchases on new equipment/vehicles for all departments, but were less convinced that new facilities, or consolidation of current facilities would be needed.

**North Hampton Planning Board  
2005 Community Survey  
Report to Residents**

*Town Administration*

- More than half, or very close to half, of the respondents thought that expanding the offices, consolidating the offices, and building a recreation center were not needed.

*Public School*

- The majority of respondents did not think the existing facility needed to be expanded, a quarter though it might be needed, and very few felt it was definitely needed.

*Land Use, Conservation, Planning and Zoning*

- North Hampton residents, again, seem to have a strong affinity for the natural environment: almost 90% of respondents felt that protecting aquifers; and preserving forests, wetlands, and mature trees along roads either might be needed or were definitely needed.
- A slightly lower 80% of respondents think preserving stone walls and historic public buildings might be needed or is definitely needed.
- When presented with the idea of creating a capital fund to pay for the preservation of roadside trees, the majority still think this might be, or is definitely needed, but a significant portion (27%) thought that was not needed.
- About 70% of respondents felt that limits on the number of similar stores and the number of national franchise stores might be or definitely were needed. This implies that the residents prefer a more diverse, locally-owned commercial sector.
- Over 60% of respondents thought that businesses that bring in more taxes than they cost in services should be promoted (this rather clearly meshes with the earlier responses that showed dissatisfaction with taxes).

**North Hampton Planning Board  
2005 Community Survey  
Report to Residents**

**Importance of Features to the Character of a Rural NH Seacoast Town**

- Every characteristic listed for this question received 74% or higher responses of “important” or “very important”—except for in-home/home-based businesses, which only received 58% in those two categories.
- Characteristics with the highest percentage of “very important” responses were: Drinkable water from private wells; healthy wetlands, streams, and ponds; land suitable for wildlife habitat; and forested areas.
- Besides in-home businesses, the remaining categories were all considered important, but there aren’t great variations in the degree to which they were considered so.

**Appendix 2: Visioning Forum I Report**



UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE  
Cooperative Extension



Rockingham  
Planning  
Commission

**NORTH HAMPTON MASTER PLAN  
VISIONING FORUM I  
REPORT**

**NOVEMBER 9, 2005**

**Accepted: 17 January 2006**

# Appendix 2: Visioning Forum I Report

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## Appendix 2: Visioning Forum I Report

### Group I: TAX ISSUES

#### ***Participants:***

Glen Greenwood (facilitator), Ken Perkins, Robin Reid, Don Gould, Emily Creighton, Jeff Hillier, Peter Parker

#### ***Issues, Concerns, Vision***

- School cost vs. Town costs (70%? 20% - town; 10% other)
- Need understanding of connection between assessment & development types
- Understanding of relationship between commercial and residential development
- Thought should be given to attracting the “right” kind of commercial development
- Master Plan should detail benchmarks between the different types of development (residential/commercial)
- Educate the public about the need for improved facilities
- Educate the community regarding the comparative tax burden versus other municipalities statewide
- Project impacts need to be quantified – how much will this project cost me?
- Do I “see” the delivery of new services?
- Property tax is the mechanism that we must work with at the present time
- What impact has SB-2 status had on the town’s tax management process?
- Take necessary measures to bring the school district into the CIP process, more cooperation between town and school
- Desire expressed by citizens to remain at current levels of service as a hedge against raising taxes
- Town should actively work to ensure taxes don’t drive out long-time, older residents

#### ***Key Issues***

1. Clear understanding of school cost versus town costs.
2. Education: People should be made aware of the realities of the local tax situation
3. To combat the perception that the status quo must be preserved requires educating the general public.
4. Attempts should be made to bring the school district into the broader municipal budgetary process.

## Appendix 2: Visioning Forum I Report

### ***Strategies to Address Issues***

- Get people involved – need their support thru votes
    - o Use of community television
    - o Develop a public relations strategy for dealing with issues
    - o Community newsletter
    - o Quality information from Selectmen's office
    - o Public involvement thru committees
  - Review the impacts of the change to SB-2 status
  - Continue to build “bridges” between town and schools (e.g. fuel oil, cable tv)
  - Town website should have direct links to school district websites
  - Regional cooperation between towns - barriers
    - o Libraries, code enforcement
1. lack of communication between town and school districts
  2. high percentage of town budget is consumed by “fixed costs” leaving little for increases in levels of service
  3. CITIZEN APATHY – uninformed voters
  4. TAXES > Resources>Taxes

## Appendix 2: Visioning Forum I Report

### Groups II & III: LAND USE & COMMERCIAL/BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

#### ***Participants:***

Patricia Gianotti and Charlie French (facilitators), Dick Wollmar, Cynthia Swank, Lisa Wilson, Mary Lou Wollmar, Shirley Carter, Jim Kierstead, Craig Salomon, Janet Sanborn, Glenn Martin, Bob Landman

#### ***Issues, Concerns, Visions***

- New urbanism
- Walkable communities (pathways Rt. 1 don't improve roads for car traffic)
- Relocalization
- ? divided highway down Rt. 1 based on how much business development and what kind/control traffic (density issue)
- Walkable access across Rt. 1
- Cluster housing to meet land conservation and housing needs
- Affordable housing
- Cluster housing as a village concept by giving incentives to builders
- Creative zoning to meet housing and conservation needs – NOT old subdivision model
- How cluster housing – education around what it is and where located
- Create a downtown – “Main Street Project”
- Aesthetics – landscaping
- Create a hearing about what conservation housing would look like
- Paths and trails through conservation lands
- If cluster housing septic issues over long haul whose responsible – keeping 2 acres zoning protects town's liability
- Continue North Hampton forever
  - o Possibly picking up conservation easements
- North Hampton forever may to leverage conservation land with conservation subdivision efforts with builders > cooperative sharing
- Preservation of existing walls, barns
- Elderly housing: allowing apartments that are not mother-in-law in barns

#### ***Key Issues***

1. How do we preserve what we love about community?
  - a. Creative zoning to meet housing and conservation needs
  - b. Preservation of walls, barns, trees, old growth
  - c. Keep North Hampton forever and possibly picking up new conservation easements and leveraging conservation land with conservation subdivision, efforts and cooperative cost sharing with builders

## Appendix 2: Visioning Forum I Report

2. Community education regarding conservation development – making sure people understand the terms and concepts – addressing
  - a. Septic issues
  - b. Water issues
  - c. New urbanism and walkable communities
  - d. Relationships between zoning enforcement and new proposals
3. Mobility, access management, traffic management
  - a. Safety – crosswalks across Rt. 1
  - b. Signals on Rt.1
  - c. Frontage roads
  - d. Connectivity between and through conservation land
  - e. Building paths and trails through conservation land
  - f. Access to bus transit or public transit (Coast)

### ***Strategies to Address Key Issues***

1. How do we preserve what we love?
  - a. Leverage North Hampton forever
  - b. Honest and strict and fair enforcement of zoning ordinances
  - c. Enforcement of conservation regulations
  - d. Looking at what other towns have done to implement creative zoning
  - e. Integrating Master Plan and existing laws and new laws so they work together
2. Education
  - a. Schedule workshops (septic, water)
  - b. Show “End of Suburbia video”
  - c. Research (Gilmanton as a model, Nancy Girard) and (Beyond NH) find town that already went through what we are dealing with
  - d. Leverage resources to assist with education campaign
  - e. Michael Behrent (New Urbanism ) Rochester
  - f. Website linked to town website
  - g. Tv – getting warrant article to make it possible to use cable as education medium
3. Mobility Access, traffic Management
  - a. Route 1 corridor study – attend DOT public hearing
  - b. Crosswalks, bicycle paths, pedestrian overpass, put in Master Plan as desired elements
  - c. Impact fees
  - d. Encourage bus stops and community involvement to support funding of Coast
  - e. Bicyclist lobby group – support bike paths along road and building paths to conservation lands

### Potential Barriers/Road Blocks

- Perception around use of terms and definition of terms
- Same business, community members resistant to expense

## Appendix 2: Visioning Forum I Report

### Group IV: Community Facilities

#### ***Participants:***

Jill Robinson (facilitator), Lee Kierstead, Hope Miller, Steve Miller, Suzette Miller, Jenifer Landman Richard Goeselt, Dorita Snow Chretien, Jody Nordstrom, Kathie Scheuerte, Thomas Lambert, Jean Robinson, Jon Rineman, Linda Hillier, Robert Maxwell O'Kane, Stan Knowles

#### ***Issues, Concerns, Vision***

- Highway Department
- Library Expansion
- Municipal Complex Plan
- Communication and Public Awareness

#### ***Key Issues***

1. Public awareness
  - a. Education, community facility/town complex
  - b. Parking is it an issue?
2. Community complex
  - a. Emergency access – traffic flow (parking one area, EM vehicles-another)
  - b. Heritage Artifacts donation storage
  - c. Combine services above town office in 1 location
3. Highway Department
  - a. A real need – immediate need does the public understand/aware of situation
  - b. Are we using past study committee – what they have to offer reinventing the wheel
  - c. Taxes are an issue – making living in North Hampton affordable for its residents – volunteering opportunities
  - d. Residents having a voice – that is listened to
  - e. Recycling center – educate more information what can we recycle
  - f. Setting priorities for town complex: Time Line
  - g. Recreation –what is owned by town – no town fields, not addressed by survey at all
4. Library
  - a. 2<sup>nd</sup> floor? Not structurally possible. Can we build up – additional staff?
  - b. Sliding book shelves – open up space \$
  - c. Craig Room question role of library providing a meeting room for the town
  - d. How can we work with what we have if town doesn't want to support expansion presently
  - e. Mary Herbert Room as alternative meeting place
  - f. 18% responding – what does it mean – validity? Cared enough to respond

## Appendix 2: Visioning Forum I Report

- g. average age group who responded to survey?
- h. Tax rate – will be exactly the same \$15.05
- i. Undesignated fund balance – can be used
- j. Highway department complex may be possible to build using land sale and U. [undesignated] fund balance – BIG IF
- k. Over 80 year old building a priority – SAME SITE
- l. A place to meet? Town hall: engineer: Not a “big deal” to fix soon. Houses Paul Revere’s bell
- m. Recycling – people community effort USE IT MORE
- n. How to communicate better to our town “I didn’t know anything about it”
- o. Question room at complex site for all that’s needed
- p. Room for garage
- q. Salt and sand – look for other site(s)
- r. Library crowded space – maxed out
  - i. Every area too small
  - ii. Needs to be part of community complex
  - iii. Safety of parking
    - Highway shed – needs the expansion
    - Public awareness and involvement is important
    - Involve the very young
    - Visions vs. ideas
    - European model – school the cultural center
    - What is an ideal community response to needs/wants
    - Mean 20 years in town (living) in response to survey
    - High garage – not in residential area – support for this way
    - Higher taxes not popular, creative shifting of assets/donations – fundraiser
    - Municipal complex plan and design (Architects Plan)
    - A plan (flexible) in place that is a work in progress (look at Mires Plan – updating)
    - Does the decision to expand a facility in one location limit the possible future expansions of another facility?
    - Are we looking far enough ahead
    - Are we using what is already in place to its full potential
    - Technology – public access – community newsletter
    - Including facility map in newsletter
    - More opportunities for people to come together and discuss these issues/ongoing discussion

## **Appendix 2: Visioning Forum I Report**

### ***Potential Barriers/Road Blocks***

- Money
- Communication – the bottom line
- Study is already 5 years old
- Apathy
- Town meeting (warrant article) Voting process – inferior
- A plan with a sequence of steps and events involves understanding – how to educate voters so they understand the sequence
- Keeping the rural, the historical, the flavor of our town in place

## Appendix 2: Visioning Forum I Report

### Group V: Recreation

#### ***Participants:***

Tim Harned (facilitator), Joan Breen, Sandy Dewing, Dave Farrell, Kathy Grant, Walter Nordstrom, Arrianna (unknown family name)

#### ***Issues, Concerns, Vision***

- What about fields?
- Part of “recreation facilities”?
- Recreation Center vs. businesses
- Do we need a full time recreation department?
- Recreation connects kids who aren’t in the school community
- Senior activities
- Tennis courts gets revenue from community use
- Maintenance on school playground
- A problem on other facilities
- Who “owns” programs, facilities?
- Want to fully utilize school as a facility (rec)
- Recreation funding an issue
- How do we utilize school more efficiently for recreation (less \$)
- Recreation department is important but
- Insure facilities (in school) used to full capacity
- Expansion only to serve real need (not self)
- Better coordination with school
- Pursue with other towns
- Recreation department as coordinator?
- Beach parking
- Enforcement an issue – local police
- Looking into negotiate “buy” a few more spots if cost effective tied to town growth
- Bathroom at beach spring/early fall
- Bike paths (on road)
- Where is 4’ path from Rte. 1 to beach?
- State, where is it?
- State already owns/controls
  - o Expansion new development should provide for these needs
- Sidewalks from Centennial Hall to school
- Crosswalks – at school boundaries, at Rte.1 and Atlantic (barriers, money, coordinate state/private resistance by abutters)

#### ***Key Issues***

1. Recreation department is important but: insure facilities (in school) used to full capacity
2. Beach parking – enforcement an issue
3. Bike paths (on road)

## **Appendix 2: Visioning Forum I Report**

### ***Strategies to Address Key Issues***

1. Bring recreation facility use to full capacity
  - a. Ensure better coordination with the school
  - b. Pursue collaboration with other towns
  - c. Look into the possibility of a recreation department coordinator
2. Beach parking enforcement
  - a. Look into and possibly negotiate possibility of buying a few more parking spots if it is cost effective
  - b. Bathroom at beach (Spring/early Fall)
3. Bike Paths onRoad
  - a. Answer questions about bike paths
    - i. Where is the 4' path from Rt. 1 to beach?
    - ii. Does the state already own it?
  - b. Look into Crosswalks
    - i. Crosswalk at school boundaries
    - ii. Crosswalks at Rt. 1 and Atlantic

### ***Potential Barriers/Challenges***

- Potential lack of cooperation between the town and schools (pertaining to recreation facilities)
- Lack of money, lack of coordination between state and private sector, and resistance by abutters (pertaining to bike paths and crosswalks)

# Appendix 2: Visioning Forum I Report

## Appendices

### A. Agenda

#### Master Plan Visioning Forum Agenda November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005

**North Hampton Visioning Forum:** This forum seeks public input for the development of a vision that will be a guiding principle for North Hampton's Master Plan. Input will also be sought for revisions to the Community Services and Facilities section of the Master Plan and the Capital Improvements Program.

**7:00 Welcome and Overview by Phil Wilson and Laurel Pohl**

**7:20 Survey Results Presented by Jill Robinson**

**7:40 Participants Move into Breakout Groups (Coordinated by Charlie French):** Participants will have the opportunity to participate in one of 5 breakout groups. Each group will address a particular topic pertaining to the Master Plan vision, CSF, and/or CIP. The groups are as follows:

1. Taxes
2. Land Use
3. Commercial and Business Development
4. Community Services and Facilities
5. Recreation

**7:50 Introductions & Sign-in Sheet**

- Facilitators introduce themselves and explain their role to facilitate a session aimed at collecting public input for the Master Plan vision section, the CSF section, and the CIP.
- Have session participants give their names and tell something about themselves.
- Pass around the sign-in sheet for names and contact info. Be sure that your breakout group's topic area is written on the top of the sign-in sheet.
- Go over ground rules (from poster).

**7:55 Provide Background on Topic Area:**

- Outline topic area: What does it encompass
- Go over survey results pertaining to that topic area
- The following questions are aimed at getting more detailed input around a variety of issues that were identified through the survey.

**8:00 Considering the survey results, what issues, concerns, or community desires do you think should be addressed in the Master Plan, CIP, and/or CSF?** (Go around in round-robin format asking each participant for input. Bullet out the comments)

**8:15 Of the issues, concerns, and community desires mentioned, what are **three** key ones that are of high priority?**

**8:30 How might the high priority issues, concerns and community desires be addressed?**

**8:45 What barriers might North Hampton face with regard to addressing them and how might these barriers be overcome?**

**Group Reports:** Each group gives 2-3 minute presentation to the large group on three key issues and possible ways to address these issues.

**Wrap up and Next Steps**

**9:30 Adjourn**

-----Breakout Group Sessions Details-----

## Appendix 2: Visioning Forum I Report

### **B. Topic Statements & Survey Results for Each Breakout Group**

#### **I. Tax Issues:**

**Assessment, Spending, Capital & Operating Expenditures**

#### **Questions:**

- 8:00** Considering the survey results, what issues, concerns, or community desires do you think should be addressed in the Master Plan, CIP, and/or CSF?
- 8:15** Of the issues, concerns, and community desires mentioned, what are **three** key ones that are of high priority?
- 8:30** How might the high priority issues, concerns and community desires be addressed?
- 8:45** What barriers might North Hampton face with regard to addressing them and how might these barriers be overcome?

#### **Background;**

In response to question 12 on the 2005 Community Survey residents indicated that they are inclined to accept current levels of Town services and facilities, if that would limit tax increases. The table below shows their responses:

Very Unwilling	Unwilling	Neutral	Willing	Very Willing
6	16	32	105	146

In response to question 9, item G, respondents also indicated the highest level of dissatisfaction with “Property taxes:”

Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
118	85	57	43	6

In response to question 10, item D, respondents indicated low to neutral satisfaction with “Tax Assessment:”

Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
45	85	82	80	5

Not only are respondents, therefore, dissatisfied with the level of property taxes, they do not have a high level of satisfaction with a key process that underlies the property tax system.

## Appendix 2: Visioning Forum I Report

The level of property taxes and the assessment process contribute to the neutral to low satisfaction with “Affordability of housing” (item A, question 9):

Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
43	87	89	77	12

In the current economic environment on the seacoast, affordable housing typically refers to the availability of housing that low to middle income families can afford. Comments on the survey, however, indicate that in North Hampton the issue is that high property taxes are making it difficult, if not impossible, for some current residents, their families or friends to afford to continue to live in their homes.

**Operating expense** levels appear to be one source of dissatisfaction.

Respondents were dissatisfied with “Cost of public education:”

Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
55	76	97	61	12

They were neutral about “Cost of Town services:”

Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
31	66	118	83	6

Possible **capital expenditures** for future building projects also appear to pose a problem.

In response to question 11, respondents indicated unwillingness to make capital expenditures for new buildings, with the possible exception of a new highway department facility. “The most popular response to building a new highway dept. facility was that it was not needed; however, a majority of respondents thought it might be needed or was definitely needed. It looks like most people would accept the expense, but they may take some convincing.” (T. Harrison)

Respondents tended to favor expanding the public library, but not building a new library:

	No Opinion	Not Needed	Might Be Needed	Definitely Needed
Expanding the existing library facility	22	94	113	71
Building a new library	20	157	77	47

- “More than half of respondents thought expansion of the existing facility might be needed or was definitely needed. However, nearly [a] third of respondents felt it was not needed.
- Though expansion might be favorable, over half of respondents felt a new facility was not needed and almost half felt that a space for town artifacts was not needed.” (T. Harrison)

## Appendix 2: Visioning Forum I Report

With respect to capital expenditures for other Town facilities and services, respondents indicated mixed opinions as shown in the following table:

	No Opinion	Not Needed	Might Be Needed	Definitely Needed
Building a new highway department facility	48	94	77	78
Purchasing land for a new facility	55	128	83	29
Purchasing equipment/vehicles as needed	36	36	180	47
Purchasing cruisers on a schedule	34	57	143	64
Purchasing police equipment	38	39	167	50
Expanding police department facility	46	148	84	21
Purchasing fire department/EMS vehicles	39	50	163	40
Purchasing fire department/EMS equipment	38	42	169	44
Expanding fire department/EMS facilities	45	132	90	31
Locating police, fire, EMS in one new facility	38	172	70	20
Expanding administrative offices	41	195	59	3
Consolidating offices in one location	38	143	93	26
Building a recreation center	28	150	86	38

Respondents tended to be willing to make expenditures for vehicles and equipment for police, fire/EMS, and highway department needs, but did not tend to favor expenditures on facilities: “Respondents were favorable towards purchases on new equipment/vehicles for all departments, but were less convinced that new facilities, or consolidation of current facilities would be needed.” (T. Harrison)

Responses to items about expanding town offices, consolidating offices and building a recreation center indicated that residents felt they were not needed, and most respondents indicated that expanding the existing North Hampton School facility was not needed.

### **Summary:**

Respondents are not satisfied with current property-tax levels or the assessment process. Furthermore, responses to relevant survey questions suggest that residents are reluctant to take on higher levels of expenditures -- and thus higher taxes -- to increase or improve services and facilities. With few exceptions they appear to be satisfied with current levels of services and facilities; yet, they recognize that there might be specific needs for capital expenditures in plant and equipment – building a new highway department facility, expanding the public library, and purchasing vehicles and equipment for Town departments as they are needed.

## Appendix 2: Visioning Forum I Report

### II. Land-Use Issues: Defining & Preserving Rural Character, Conservation Subdivisions

#### **Questions:**

- 8:00** Considering the survey results, what issues, concerns, or community desires do you think should be addressed in the Master Plan, CIP, and/or CSF?
- 8:15** Of the issues, concerns, and community desires mentioned, what are **three** key ones that are of high priority?
- 8:30** How might the high priority issues, concerns and community desires be addressed?
- 8:45** What barriers might North Hampton face with regard to addressing them and how might these barriers be overcome?

#### **Background:**

Responses to question 2 – “What do you like **MOST** about living in North Hampton?” – pointed the direction responses to related questions would take throughout the survey:

Rural Atmosphere	211
Quality of public schools	96
Near main highways	82
Near Boston	72
Near Employer	38
Economy of living	19
Near ocean/natural features	281
Near medical services	57
Hometown	43
Friendly Atmosphere	113
Cultural Amenities	21
Other	20

The two most frequent selections – “Near ocean / natural features” and “Rural atmosphere” – suggest that North Hampton residents are interested in preserving the rural characteristics of the Town and that they appreciate the natural environment they enjoy.

Responses to question 14 – “What is your opinion of the following statement? As the state and region develop in the future, North Hampton should maintain its rural New England seacoast character and heritage.” – indicated overwhelmingly strong agreement:

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
2	9	13	72	213

## Appendix 2: Visioning Forum I Report

While somewhat less one-sided, responses to question 15 – “Should the Town allow ‘conservation subdivisions’ in some areas of the Town?” – were also strongly favorable:

Yes	197
No	93
No Opinion	23

Responses to question 8, item G, indicated strong agreement with efforts to pursue more “Protected open space:”

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	12	25	79	193

Similarly, responses to question 11, items V-Bb, indicated strong support for land use, planning and zoning measures that are consistent with preserving rural character and heritage and with conservation of resources:

	No Opinion	Not Needed	Might Be Needed	Definitely Needed
Protecting aquifers	18	12	94	177
Preserving forests and open space	7	20	71	206
Preserving wetlands	8	29	73	194
Preserving stone walls	22	36	92	155
Preserving mature trees along roads	11	25	111	155
Creating a capital reserve fund to preserve or replace roadside trees	19	79	118	83
Preserving historic public buildings	16	40	123	126

Thane Harrison analyzed these responses in his comments below:

- “North Hampton residents, again, seem to have a strong affinity for the natural environment: almost 90% of respondents felt that protecting aquifers; and preserving forests, wetlands, and mature trees along roads either might be needed or were definitely needed.
- A slightly lower 80% of respondents think preserving stone walls and historic public buildings might be needed or is definitely needed.
- When presented with the idea of creating a capital fund to pay for the preservation of roadside trees, the majority still think this might be, or is definitely needed, but a significant portion (27%) thought that was not needed.”

## Appendix 2: Visioning Forum I Report

Question 13 asked for respondents’ opinions about the importance of various features of North Hampton with respect to the “character of a rural, New England seacoast town.” Results were shown in the following table:

	No Opinion	Not Important	Important	Very Important
Dark night-time sky	24	47	130	97
Locally owned businesses	15	31	163	98
In-home/home-based businesses	45	92	129	35
Traditional New England-style architecture for businesses	18	57	136	98
Signs for businesses with traditional New England-style designs	21	58	129	101
Commercial development restricted to sites along Route 1	8	38	115	147
Working farms	23	41	122	120
Open fields, pastures, meadows	7	21	105	175
Forested areas	4	11	110	182
Land suitable for wildlife habitat	5	11	108	182
Healthy wetlands, streams, ponds	2	11	99	195
Drinkable water from private wells	11	19	69	207
Antique houses and barns	21	35	117	133
Historic public buildings	19	41	122	127
Bandstand and common	9	26	122	152
Old stone walls	20	45	113	129

Thane Harrison commented as follows about these results:

- “Every characteristic listed for this question received 74% or higher responses of “important” or “very important”—except for in-home/home-based businesses, which only received 58% in those two categories.
- Characteristics with the highest percentage of “very important” responses were: Drinkable water from private wells; healthy wetlands, streams, and ponds; land suitable for wildlife habitat; and forested areas.
- Besides in-home businesses, the remaining categories were all considered important, but there aren’t great variations in the degree to which they were considered so.”

### **Summary:**

Respondents consistently expressed strong support for maintaining North Hampton’s rural characteristics and heritage. They consistently indicated aspects of the Town that they consider most important for that end – including, among others, protecting aquifers; preserving opens space, fields, forests, wetlands, and pastures; and preserving structures of historical value.

## Appendix 2: Visioning Forum I Report

### III. Commercial / Business Development Issues: Appearance of Route 1, Traffic, Motorcycle Noise

#### **Questions:**

- 8:00** Considering the survey results, what issues, concerns, or community desires do you think should be addressed in the Master Plan, CIP, and/or CSF?
- 8:15** Of the issues, concerns, and community desires mentioned, what are **three** key ones that are of high priority?
- 8:30** How might the high priority issues, concerns and community desires be addressed?
- 8:45** What barriers might North Hampton face with regard to addressing them and how might these barriers be overcome?

#### **Background:**

Responses to question 14 – “What is your opinion of the following statement? As the state and region develop in the future, North Hampton should maintain its rural New England seacoast character and heritage.” – indicated overwhelmingly strong agreement:

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
2	9	13	72	213

Questions 8, 9, 11, and 13 provide insight into respondents’ opinions about commercial / business development in North Hampton and about how that development might proceed in a manner that would tend to preserve the Town’s rural character and heritage.

Responses to items B, C, D, E, and F in question 13 provide suggest what respondents would want to see with respect to business development while maintaining the rural character and heritage of the Town.

	No Opinion	Not Important	Important	Very Important
Locally owned businesses	15	31	163	98
In-home/home-based businesses	45	92	129	35
Traditional New England-style architecture for businesses	18	57	136	98
Signs for businesses with traditional New England-style designs	21	58	129	101
Commercial development restricted to sites along Route 1	8	38	115	147

Continuing to restrict commercial development to the Route 1 corridor was considered “Important” or “Very Important” by over 85% of respondents, and therefore offers an important parameter for dialogue about the Town’s vision for future development. New England style signage and architecture for businesses each were considered “Important” or “Very Important” by about 75% of respondents. The item “In-home/home-based businesses’ received only 54.5% of responses in the “Important” or “Very Important”

## Appendix 2: Visioning Forum I Report

categories and was, therefore, the item considered least important in relation to rural character and commercial development.

Responses to items F, J, K, L, and N in question 9 provide additional insight into respondents' opinions about commercial development and traffic concerns, especially along Route 1.

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
Traffic on state roads	33	83	90	93	6
Traffic speed	53	63	90	98	6
Appearance of business signs	32	81	102	85	5
Appearance of Route 1	65	113	69	54	7
Control of motorcycle noise	108	74	73	47	8

Item N "Control of motorcycle noise" and item L, "Appearance of Route 1" received the highest number of responses expressing dissatisfaction. The percentage of responses in the two categories of "Very Dissatisfied" and "Dissatisfied" for "Control of motorcycle noise" exceeded the percentage of responses of "Very Satisfied" and "Satisfied" by 41%. The similar figure for "Appearance of Route 1" is 38%.

The appearance of Route 1 is relates to residents' desires for future development along Route 1; and their opinions about motorcycle noise are also related, albeit less obviously. Motorcycle traffic -- and therefore noise -- in North Hampton is increased because three prominent motorcycle dealerships are located on Route 1.

The level of dissatisfaction among respondents with respect to the three other items -- "Traffic on state roads," "Traffic speed," and "Appearance of business signs" -- is less than the two above, but still suggests a desire for improvement. For these three items, responses in the two categories of "Very Dissatisfied" and "Dissatisfied" exceeded responses in the two categories of "Very Satisfied" and "Satisfied" by 5.6%, 3.9%, and 7.5% respectively.

Responses to items Cc, Dd, and Ee in question 11 provide insight into characteristics of businesses respondents would like to see develop in town:

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	No Opinion	Not Needed	Might Be Needed	Definitely Needed
Limiting the number of similar businesses	27	67	103	106
Limiting the number of national franchise stores	19	67	90	128
Promoting businesses that contribute more in taxes than they cost in services	16	14	86	185

In view of their concerns about property taxes, it is not surprising that respondents expressed a need for businesses that make a positive net contribution to tax revenues after deductions for costs in services they require. Respondents’ sense of a need to limit national franchise stores is consistent with their feeling that locally owned businesses are an important feature of rural character in question 13. Respondents’ beliefs that limiting the number of businesses of similar kinds is “Definitely Needed” or “Might Be Needed” may reflect various interests, including a sense that North Hampton has begun to have a disproportionate number of automobile and motorcycle related businesses or a desire simply to have more diversity in the business base of the community.

Responses to relevant items in question 8 below indicate that the only specific type of business included in the question that respondents appear to want the Town to pursue is “Full-service restaurants.” Respondents were slightly disinclined toward pursuing more “Retail stores,” “Office buildings / office parks,” and “Light manufacturing businesses.” Respondents expressed relatively strong disagreement with pursuing more “Apartments,” “Hotels / motels / inns,” and “Mobile / manufactured homes,” and they expressed especially strong disagreement with pursuing more “Fast-food restaurants.”

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Fast-food restaurants	195	63	36	12	3
Full-service restaurants	53	32	84	105	35
Retail Stores	60	47	105	73	21
Hotels/motels/inns	84	79	100	30	10
Office buildings/office parks	60	54	97	76	17
Light manufacturing businesses	64	57	86	77	15
Apartments	98	63	80	43	18
Mobile/manufactured homes	131	87	60	22	6

This analysis of responses to all items in question 8, Thane Harrison wrote:

- A preference for natural amenities was revealed again in the residents’ responses regarding what projects they were most in favor of pursuing more of as “protect open space” and “resident parking at the beach” were the top two categories measured in the % of “Agree” and “Strongly Disagree” minus “Disagree” and “Strongly Disagree.”

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- Respondents also clearly favored more bicycle paths (along roads and off roads), crosswalks at traffic signals, recreation facilities, and elderly housing.
- Projects that respondents were somewhat favored were sidewalks, single family homes, full-service restaurants, and community meeting facilities.
- Respondents were slightly in disagreement with pursuing retail stores, office buildings or parks, and light manufacturing businesses.
- Projects that respondents were opposed to the pursuit of were, in order of least favored: fast-food restaurants, mobile/manufactured housing, hotels/motels/inns, and apartments.

### **Summary:**

Respondents indicated that they would like to see:

- Commercial development continue to be restricted to the Route 1 corridor,
- Development of businesses that contribute more in taxes than they consume in services,
- Limits on businesses similar to those already in Town, and
- Limits on national franchise businesses.

The one specific type of business that respondents indicated they wanted to see developed in Town was “Full-service restaurants.” They did not favor more “Fast-food restaurants,” and there were a few businesses that appeared to be less unattractive than most – “Retail stores,” “Office buildings / office parks,” and “Light manufacturing businesses.”

Overall respondents indicated a greater interest in “natural amenities” than in commercial development, a perspective that is consistent with their strong desire to maintain the rural New England seacoast character and heritage of the Town.

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### IV. Community Services & Facilities Issues: **Highway Department Facility, Expansion of the Public Library, and Police and Fire/EMS Departments**

#### **Questions:**

- 8:00** Considering the survey results, what issues, concerns, or community desires do you think should be addressed in the Master Plan, CIP, and/or CSF?
- 8:15** Of the issues, concerns, and community desires mentioned, what are **three** key ones that are of high priority?
- 8:30** How might the high priority issues, concerns and community desires be addressed?
- 8:45** What barriers might North Hampton face with regard to addressing them and how might these barriers be overcome?

#### **Background:**

In response to question 12 on the 2005 Community Survey residents indicated that they are inclined to accept current levels of Town services and facilities, if that would limit tax increases. The table below shows their responses:

Very Unwilling	Unwilling	Neutral	Willing	Very Willing
6	16	32	105	146

This strong willingness to live with current levels of services and facilities is consistent with responses to question 10 about satisfaction with the quality of Town services and with responses to relevant items in question 11.

Responses to question 10 are tabulated below:

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
Town Administration	9	21	101	144	26
Building Inspection	13	12	123	129	21
Zoning Enforcement	32	53	100	102	10
Tax Assessment	45	85	82	80	5
Tax Collection	11	11	105	146	23
Police Department	2	12	38	192	67
Fire Department/EMS	5	10	38	164	91
Highway Department	4	20	74	163	46
Clerk's Office	4	6	41	151	108
Public Library	2	13	46	132	117
North Hampton School	8	18	89	106	83
Winnacunnet High School	15	31	139	90	25
Recreation Department	3	16	136	122	25
Recycling Center	3	14	107	116	65
Brush Dump	2	17	124	109	52
Welfare Administration	2	5	232	40	4

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Except for Zoning Enforcement and Tax Assessment, respondents indicated that by and large they are satisfied with Town services and, in many cases -- Clerk's Office, North Hampton School, and the Police and Fire/EMS Departments – they are highly satisfied, which is consistent with and helps account for their strong degree of willingness to accept current levels of services and facilities to avoid tax increases. Respondents' satisfaction with Winnacunnet High School was slightly lower than with other items.

Satisfaction levels with current services also tends to account for respondents' opinions about items in Question 11:

			No Opinion	Not Needed	Might Be Needed	Definitely Needed
<b>Town infrastructure</b>	A	Expanding water lines/fire hydrants	71	91	106	29
	B	Adding parking at Town complex	29	132	94	40
	C	Constructing a townwide sewer system	24	159	64	52
	D	Improve cable/telecommunications services	22	65	98	116
<b>Public library and museum space</b>	E	Expanding the existing library facility	22	94	113	71
	F	Building a new library	20	157	77	47
	G	Creating museum space for town artifacts	29	141	95	37
<b>Highway department</b>	H	Building a new highway department facility	48	94	77	78
	I	Purchasing land for a new facility	55	128	83	29
	J	Purchasing equipment/vehicles as needed	36	36	180	47
<b>Public Safety: Police, Fire, Emergency Medical Services (EMS)</b>	K	Purchasing cruisers on a schedule	34	57	143	64
	L	Purchasing police equipment	38	39	167	50
	M	Expanding police department facility	46	148	84	21
	N	Purchasing fire department/EMS vehicles	39	50	163	40
	O	Purchasing fire department/EMS equipment	38	42	169	44
	P	Expanding fire department/EMS facilities	45	132	90	31
	Q	Locating police, fire, EMS in one new facility	38	172	70	20
<b>Town Administration and Recreation Department</b>	R	Expanding administrative offices	41	195	59	3
	S	Consolidating offices in one location	38	143	93	26
	T	Building a recreation center	28	150	86	38
<b>Public school facilities and services</b>	U	Expanding existing facility	45	161	71	16

Thane Harrison's analysis of responses to the above sections of question 11 follows:

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### *Town Infrastructure*

- Most respondents felt internet/telecommunications improvements might be needed or were definitely needed.
- Respondents were split on the need for expanding water lines.
- Parking at the town complex and a townwide sewer system were mostly considered not needed.

### *Public Library*

- More than half of respondents thought expansion of the existing facility might be needed or was definitely needed. However, nearly [a] third of respondents felt it was not needed.
- Though expansion might be favorable, over half of respondents felt a new facility was not needed and almost half felt that a space for town artifacts was not needed.

### *Highway Department*

- The most popular response to building a new highway dept. facility was that it was not needed; however, a majority of respondents thought it might be needed or was definitely needed. It looks like most people would accept the expense, but they may take some convincing.
- Purchasing land for the facility was less popular, with over 40% responding that it was not needed (if the town already owns the land for the expansion the convincing I mentioned above could be easier than if they have to purchase land).
- Respondents were comfortable with the possibility that purchasing new equipment might be needed—over 75% responded “might be” or “definitely” needed.

### *Public Safety*

- Respondents were favorable towards purchases on new equipment/vehicles for all departments, but were less convinced that new facilities, or consolidation of current facilities would be needed.

### *Town Administration*

- More than half, or very close to half, of the respondents thought that expanding the offices, consolidating the offices, and building a recreation center were not needed.

### *Public School*

- The majority of respondents did not think the existing facility needed to be expanded, a quarter though it might be needed, and very few felt it was definitely needed.

Although no specific question in the survey addressed the issue of how to deal with the deteriorated condition of the old Town Hall responses to item N in question 13 suggest that respondents look favorably on efforts to preserve “Historic public buildings:”

	No Opinion	Not Important	Important	Very Important
Historic public buildings	19	41	122	127

## Appendix 2: Visioning Forum I Report

### **Summary:**

Respondents indicated a very strong willingness to accept current levels of Town services and facilities to avoid increases in taxes, and they also expressed general satisfaction with the quality of Town services, and the two exceptions – tax assessment and zoning enforcement – are not necessarily related to facilities for these services.

However, respondents were not necessarily opposed to building a new Highway Department facility, but they do not favor purchasing land on which to construct it. Expansion of the Public Library and expansion of the Fire/EMS Department facility might be said to fall in a “Might Be Needed” range, and expansion of Police Department facilities is considered less needed. Other expansion or new construction projects are generally considered “Not Needed.”

While no specific indications were given about how to deal with the old Town Hall, respondents’ desire to preserve historic public buildings may suggest a willingness to support efforts to preserve and restore the structure to usable conditions.

## Appendix 2: Visioning Forum I Report

### V. Recreation Department & Other Recreation Issues: Facilities, Bike Paths, Sidewalks, Beach Parking

#### **Questions:**

- 8:00** Considering the survey results, what issues, concerns, or community desires do you think should be addressed in the Master Plan, CIP, and/or CSF?
- 8:15** Of the issues, concerns, and community desires mentioned, what are **three** key ones that are of high priority?
- 8:30** How might the high priority issues, concerns and community desires be addressed?
- 8:45** What barriers might North Hampton face with regard to addressing them and how might these barriers be overcome?

#### **Background:**

In response to question 12 on the 2005 Community Survey residents indicated that they are inclined to accept current levels of Town services and facilities, if that would limit tax increases. The table below shows their responses:

Very Unwilling	Unwilling	Neutral	Willing	Very Willing
6	16	32	105	146

This strong willingness to live with current levels of services and facilities is consistent with their responses in question 10 about satisfaction with the quality of services of the Town's Recreation Department.

	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
Recreation Department	1.0%	5.4%	44.6%	40.5%	8.4%

In responding to relevant items in question 8, however, respondents indicated an interest in pursuing more of items related to recreational activities and opportunities in Town:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Recreation facilities	15	22	94	114	62
Crosswalks at traffic signals	3	32	89	92	85
Resident parking at the beach	2	12	49	103	139
Public transportation (bus, rail, etc.)	28	35	78	99	65
Sidewalks	22	42	77	88	74
Bicycle paths along roads	16	30	45	125	98
Bicycle paths off roads	11	29	78	101	78
Community meeting facilities	20	39	131	66	42

Respondents were most strongly in favor of pursuing more parking at the beach for residents, followed by clearly favorable responses to pursuing more bicycle paths along roads and off roads, crosswalks at traffic signals, and recreation facilities. Respondents were somewhat less favorably inclined to pursue more sidewalks and community meeting facilities.

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Responses to item T in question 11 indicated that respondents did not think that building a recreation center is needed:

	No Opinion	Not Needed	Might Be Needed	Definitely Needed
Building a recreation center	28	150	86	38

While not directly related to recreation facilities, it is worth noting that at every opportunity in the survey, respondents indicated their appreciation for natural amenities – such as the ocean, open space, forests, wetlands, pastures, fields, and meadows – as well as certain man-made features – such as historic public buildings and antiques buildings, the bandstand and common, and stone walls.

For example: The most often chosen reason for liking to live in North Hampton was “Near ocean / natural features,” (about 27% of responses) and the second most often chosen was “Rural atmosphere” (about 20% of responses).

Opportunities to enjoy these features of North Hampton, as well as other features, on foot or on bicycles are in part a function of the recreational infrastructure supported by the Town.

### **Summary:**

To avoid tax increases, respondents to the survey were very willing to accept current levels of services of Town departments, including the Recreation Department. They also indicated satisfaction with the current level of quality of the services provided by the Recreation Department. They did not indicate support for building recreational facilities or community meeting facilities.

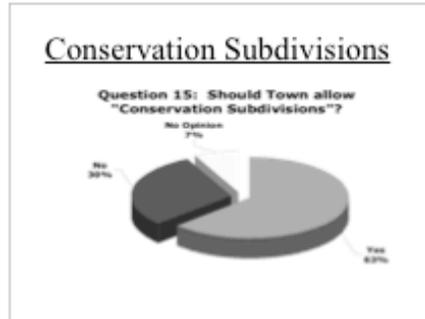
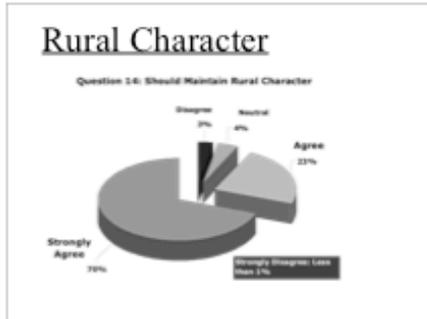
However, respondents did indicate interest in enhancing recreational opportunities in Town – such as opportunities for walking by building sidewalks and crosswalks at intersections, for biking by providing more bike paths on and off roads and for enjoying easier access to the beach by increasing resident parking.

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### C. Powerpoint Presentation of Survey Results

<p><i>North Hampton</i> Community Vision Session</p> <p>November 9, 2005</p> 	<p><u>Why Are We Here?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Update Master Plan and CIP</li><li>▪ Update Community Facilities Section of Master Plan</li><li>▪ <b>Public input:</b> New Hampshire Law requires a <b>Vision Section</b> to express "<b>the desires of the citizens</b>"</li><li>▪ Discuss strategies to address issues raised by survey responses</li></ul>
<p><u>Goals</u> </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Present the findings of the survey</li><li>▪ Examine main topics and issues in small groups</li><li>▪ Formulate suggested actions</li></ul>	<p><u>The Survey</u> </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ 2,600 copies distributed in newsletter</li><li>▪ 16 to 18% response rate</li><li>▪ Field tested during Old Home Day to clarify questions that were unclear</li><li>▪ Survey based on survey from the 1998</li></ul>
<p><u>Survey Findings</u> </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ What residents want more of</li><li>▪ What residents <b>DO NOT</b> want</li><li>▪ Resident satisfaction with community services and facilities</li><li>▪ Changes in facilities and services</li></ul>	<p><u>Major Findings</u></p> <p>Residents want to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Maintain <b>rural character, conservation land</b></li><li>▪ Encourage <b>conservation subdivisions</b></li><li>▪ Provide more <b>beach parking</b> for residents</li><li>▪ Enhance <b>bicycle and pedestrian</b> access</li><li>▪ Plan for more <b>public transportation</b></li><li>▪ Allow for more <b>elderly housing</b></li></ul>

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- ### What residents DON'T want:
- Development that is inconsistent with rural character:
  - Fast food restaurants
  - Mobile/manufactured homes
  - Hotels/ motels/ inns
  - Apartments
  - Light manufacturing
- 

### Resident Satisfaction w/ Community Services

**Q 10: How satisfied are you with the quality of each of the following town services?**

Residents were generally satisfied with town services.

Tax Assessment and Zoning Enforcement had the highest numbers under "very dissatisfied" and "dissatisfied", compared to other categories. High numbers of "neutral" responses.



### Satisfaction with Community Services

	Dissatisfied or Very Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied or Very Satisfied
Zoning Enforcement	84	98	112
Tax Assessment	130	81	83

- ### Community Services
- Residents particularly satisfied with:
- Police Department
  - Fire Department/EMS
  - Highway Department
  - Clerk's Office, and
  - Public Library
- 

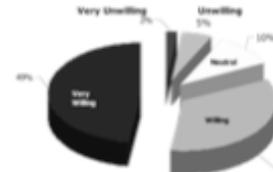
# Appendix 2: Visioning Forum I Report

## Changes in Facilities and Services

Q 11 dealt with residents' support for changes in Town services, facilities, or regulations.

Several areas to discuss here that will be relevant to small-group discussion. Our summary:

Question 12: To limit tax increases, how willing are you to accept current levels of Town services and facilities?



82% of Respondents indicated willingness to accept current levels in order to control taxes.

## Changes in Facilities and Services

- Town Infrastructure: support for improvements to internet and telecommunications
- Residents split on need for water line expansion
- Parking at town complex, sewer system mostly not needed



## Public Library



## Public Library



- More than half of respondents thought expansion of existing facility might be needed or definitely needed. One third felt it was not needed.
- Over half felt new facility was not needed. Almost half felt a space for town artifacts was not needed.

## Highway Department



## Appendix 2: Visioning Forum I Report

### Highway Department

- A majority of respondents thought new facility might be needed or was definitely needed.
- As for new equipment, over 75 percent responded might be or definitely needed.

### Land Use and Planning



### Land Use and Planning

- **90 percent** said protecting aquifers, preserving forests, wetlands, and mature trees either might be needed or were definitely needed
- **80 percent** think preserving stone walls and historic buildings might be needed or definitely needed

### Land Use and Planning

- **70 percent** felt limits on number of similar stores and franchise stores might be or were definitely needed
- **Over 60 percent** felt businesses that bring in more taxes than they cost in services should be promoted

### Summary



### Summary

- Maintain **rural character** of the town
- Conservation and **protection of water** and other resources
- Support for **up-to-date vehicles and equipment for town services**, but not for new or expansion of facilities
- **Exception: highway department**



## Appendix 2: Visioning Forum I Report

### Discussion Groups



### Discussion Groups

1. Taxes
2. Land Use
3. Commercial and Business Development
4. Community Services and Facilities
5. Recreation

**Appendix 3: Visioning Forum II Report**



UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE  
Cooperative Extension



Rockingham  
Planning  
Commission

**NORTH HAMPTON MASTER PLAN  
VISIONING FORUM II  
REPORT**

**NOVEMBER 16, 2005**

**Accepted: 17 January 2006**

**Appendix 3: Visioning Forum II Report**

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## **Appendix 3: Visioning Forum II Report**

### **Master Plan Vision Section**

#### *Major Themes for Master Plan Vision Statement from Forum I*

- Preserve Rural New England character
  - Protect natural resources: water, forests, pastures, wildlife
  - Preserve town heritage: historic buildings, houses and barns, stone walls
  - Use Conservation Subdivisions to protect land and resources
  
- Spend wisely for municipal services and facilities (Yankee Thrift)
  - Respond to residents' expectations for services and facilities
  - Respect residents' willingness to provide funding for equipment + facilities
  - Manage capital expenditures wisely and plan for future needs through a coordinated plan
  
- Coordination and Communication between town departments and between the town and residents
  - Broadcast public meetings
  - Consider Town Meeting
  - Coordination between departments
  - Find new ways to reach out to residents and provide opportunities to get involved

## Appendix 3: Visioning Forum II Report

### ***Comments about Major Themes of the Vision***

- ✓ Marshes should be included in what we preserve
- ✓ Having a physically identifiable town center
- ✓ Route 1 is central aspect to rural character
- ✓ Use term "creative zoning" instead of "conservation subdivisions"
- ✓ Affordable housing/workforce housing
- ✓ Controls on commercial growth
- ✓ Commercial growth needs to be incorporated & addressed
- ✓ Issue not necessarily town meeting revival, but rather informing voters. (consequences of alternatives) – using multiple media
- ✓ Need to make environment such that commercial businesses thrive or not put all eggs in one basket
- ✓ Need better news outlet(s)
- ✓ There are different notions/ideas around New Urbanism
- ✓ Education about above & other planning items, as well
- ✓ Slow growth
- ✓ Taxation (residential vs. commercial)
- ✓ Using tax bill as another method to educate people
- ✓ Consider time of year when convening town residents and timing of vote is a factor
- ✓ Limiting building size

## Appendix 3: Visioning Forum II Report

### GROUP NUMBER 1 BREAKOUT DISCUSSION

**Facilitator:** Jill Robinson

**Participants:** Dr. Joseph Arena, Jr.; Kimberly Chenard, Judy Day, Sandy Dewing, Bob Landman, Priscilla Metalious, Walter Nordstrom, Peter Parker, Janet Sanborn, Phil Wilson

**Discussion Topics:** Highway Department, Library, Municipal Complex, Recreation

#### ***Municipal Complex and Library Priorities:***

- Things for families
- Would be willing to pay [for them]
- Wants to pay for [them] with alternative means, i.e. fundraising
- Live with what we've got and not spend what we can't afford – can we afford to live here if taxes rise
- Get a needs assessment with cost analysis for entire facility
- We need to maintain equipment and buildings that we have before we spend
- We need a plan to conserve energy in all facilities – existing and new
- What are residents willing to give in terms of volunteering
- Creating a sense of community and bring people together and is there access and connections and creative fundraising
- Creative zoning
- Stop subsidizing IBR [Industrial-Business/Residential District] growth
  - make business have their own security
- Needs analysis to find out what's necessary
- Efficiently and cross-functionally use what we build
  - no isolated palaces
- Consistently perform routine maintenance on what we have

#### ***What Do We Need to Do?***

- Find place for highway garage
  - most economical use of space we already own
- Most economical both now and in the long-term
- Population of town in future is important factor
  - population projection 25% growth
- Example [of bad decision]: buying a used fire truck that won't last

## Appendix 3: Visioning Forum II Report

### ***How Do We Do This?***

- Look at complex as an integrated whole
- Move the building itself [Old Town Hall]
- Library becomes center
- Using donations [to build or expand library]
- People's participation in town matters/affairs has an influence on the outcome
- What is different between us and other towns
  - is it reaching out?
- If you move town hall, may lose jail and historic elements
- Do people have information on cost of library
- If we move town hall, still need records space
- Revisit multiple options from last years study
- Instead of moving town hall to 239 Atlantic, put highway garage there
  - but neighbors are concerned
  - shielding? How to hide
- There is more space where town hall is
  - look at options for expanding complex on abutting properties or accessible [land behind Lamprey facility]
- How can we utilize the railroad? It could be a road that the town uses
- Railroad could be trail and recreation
- Reconsider Cherry & Cedar Road for highway shed
  - would it affect aquifer? Closed building
- Work environment for people in highway department
- Work environment for safety and work conditions
- To attract and retain best people, have to provide needed facilities, i.e. female fire fighters
- Before we design, we need to do a needs assessment
  - independent professional should do this
- Centralize is goal, but it won't all fit
- Hobbs' land is possible place for municipal complex
  - accessible by Boston & Maine Railroad
- 1000 people [will be added to Town by 2025]
  - will this be cost efficient to pay for community facility
- Planning catch-up with facilities [not planning for growth]
- Is it cost effective
- Avoid a "vicious downward spiral of spending"
  - how much to value social benefits from new facilities
  - whenever we talk about spending more, one more person may have to leave town
- We should compare ourselves to towns of similar size

## **Appendix 3: Visioning Forum II Report**

### ***How Do We Coordinate Development of Municipal Complex***

- Review last year's study
- Design charette
- Move town hall to 239 Atlantic Avenue
- Meeting place
- Make building structurally sound
- Consider private police for Lafayette Crossing to free police
- Get cost estimates for moving buildings
- How our growth relates to growth of other towns

### ***How do we limit Commercial Growth?***

- Limit square feet of buildings
- Type of business matters
- Control type of use
- Limit retail development [because of impact on police services]
- [Promote] commercial office & professional development [because it increases tax base without drain on police services]
- Creative zoning
- Revisit zoning for IBR [Industrial-Business/Residential District]

## Appendix 3: Visioning Forum II Report

### GROUP NUMBER 2 BREAKOUT DISCUSSION

**Facilitator:** Charlie French

**Participants:** Allen Brandt, Jill Brandt, Emily Creighton, Rich Goeselt, Jeff Hillier, Jenifer Landman, Glen Martin, Robert Maxwell O’Kane, Laurel Pohl, Lisa Wilson

**Discussion Topics:** Highway Department, Library, Municipal Complex, Recreation

#### ***Needs Related to Municipal Complex and Highway Department:***

- Municipal complex should be arranged better to reduce costs and ensure that emergency vehicles are out of way
  - keep cost down
  - service community’s needs better
  - provide better access/parking
- A Master Plan of some sort needs to be developed for municipal complex to see how it can best be utilized (flow, etc.)
- Do all services/functions need to be located at municipal complex?
  - There needs to be more thought about how like services that people need to access can be housed together (car registration, dog license, etc.)
- Needs to be better education/communication regarding what the municipal complex entails – services, departments, space demands, etc.
- The public should be able to access emergency services in one location.
  - Need to consider daily needs vs. emergency needs
- Need for highway department facility that houses all equipment
  - E.g. salt/sand shed
- Complex doesn’t need to be in high profile location
- Consider space demands for various municipal facilities (e.g. highway department)
- Needs to be some process to examine exactly what the diverse needs are down the road.
  - How far out do we look?
  - How do we prioritize those needs?
- Consider how existing municipal complex can be most efficiently/ effectively used before we think about developing new space
- There is no place for storage of records

### **Appendix 3: Visioning Forum II Report**

- Fire department needs expansion (possibly 2 more bays)
  - Ladder truck is ancient so new truck with taller ladder may be needed
- The needs of the various town departments have to be communicated to the public – there are certain needs which cannot be overlooked (i.e. emergency facilities)
- Police need evidence bays/lockers, Sally port needs expansion
- There is a need for a community gathering spot (e.g. park benches, gazebos, meeting space, etc.)

#### ***Needs Related to Public Library:***

- Determine future space/physical demands of public library
  - books, meeting rooms, computer terminals
- Library functions may cross over with recreation functions
- Perhaps the ‘library’ should be broadened to be encompassed by a ‘cultural center’ that houses library, history center, school functions, etc.
  - Museum and welcome center integrated with library
  - Plans should be flexible to allow a variety of options

#### ***How Should Long-Range Planning Committee Address these Needs?***

- Committee needs to ensure that the Master Plan incorporates a system for identifying needs and priorities
  - Survey/Needs Assessment
  - Tap into Existing Data (Mires Report, previous committee work, etc.).
  - Get more department input (or effectively utilize input already provided)
  - Engage boards and community
- Long Range Planning Committee needs to come up with new and better ways to communicate the needs identified through the assessment with public and a feedback loop that channels info from the public back to the assessment should be established
  - The question is, how is all of the existing needs data and new data going to be compiled and evaluated?
  - Perhaps utilize the community newsletter as an information/education conduit to the public
- Whatever happens with regard to the planning process, it has to be built on the backs of public officials and the citizens of the community or it isn’t going to happen.
- There is great need a visionary to guide process

### **Appendix 3: Visioning Forum II Report**

- The long range planning committee needs a directive from community, such as:
  - Hire a consultant
  - Involve more public input
  - Spend money to ensure that things happen
- Ultimately, the long range planning committee needs to find the solution that is least opposable but it has to be comprehensive and comprehensible
- Get a neutral non-community member, such as staff from RPC or UNH Cooperative Extension, to coordinate and orchestrate the needs assessment process

# Appendix 3: Visioning Forum II Report

## APPENDICES

### A. Agenda

#### Master Plan Visioning Forum #2 November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2005

*North Hampton Visioning Forum:* This forum seeks to refine the public input that was provided through a community-wide survey and a community visioning forum. The end result of this public input process will be a Master Plan vision statement, a revised Community Services and Facilities section of the Master Plan, and a revised Capital Improvements Program.

**7:00**            **Welcome and Overview** (Phil Wilson)

**7:15**            **Master Plan Vision and Implementation Strategies** (Charlie French & Jill Robinson)

**7:45**            **Participants Move into Breakout Groups**

Participants will have the opportunity to participate in one of four breakout groups that focus on the Community Facilities and Services (CFS) section of the Master Plan. Each group will address a particular aspect of the CSF. The groups are as follows:

1. Highway Department
2. Library
3. Municipal Complex
4. Recreation Facilities and Amenities

**7:50**            Introductions & Sign-in Sheet

- Facilitators introduce themselves and explain their role – role is to facilitate a session aimed at collecting public input for the CSF section of the Master Plan.
- Have session participants introduce themselves.
- Pass around the sign-in sheet for names and contact info. Be sure that your breakout group's topic area is written on the top of the sign-in sheet.

**7:55**            Provide Background on Topic Area:

- Outline breakout group topic area: What does it encompass?
- The following questions are aimed at getting detailed input around a variety of items that need to be addressed in the Community Facilities and Services section of the Master Plan.

**8:00**            What are the most important goals that you would like to see achieved through the CFS section of the Master Plan regarding this topic? (Go around in round-robin format asking each participant for input. Bullet out the comments)

**8:15**            Of these goals, what are **three** key goals that are of high priority?

**8:30**            How might these goals be achieved?

**8:45**            How might achieving these goals impact other community services and facilities?

**Group Reports:** Each group gives 2-3 minute presentation to the large group on three goals and possible ways to address them.

**9:20**            **Wrap up and Next Steps** (Laurel Pohl)

**9:30**            **Adjourn**

-----Breakout Group Sessions Details-----

## Appendix 3: Visioning Forum II Report

### B. Presentation of Results from Forum I & Next Steps in Forum II

# North Hampton

## Vision II: Taking the Next Steps



## Vision II Roadmap



- How will public input be incorporated into Master Plan?
- Why is the Vision Chapter important?
- What are the Major Themes of the Vision Chapter?
- What we need to do tonight?

## Appendix 3: Visioning Forum II Report

### Public Input

- ◆ Topic areas relate to different master plan chapters: Land Use, Recreation, etc.
- ◆ Last week's discussion frames the Vision Chapter and also each separate chapter's "mini-vision" section

### The Vision Chapter

- ◆ Frames the discussion for the entire Master Plan
- ◆ What the Community thinks is most important
- ◆ Guides the setting of priorities and the development of an implementation plan

## Appendix 3: Visioning Forum II Report

### Major Themes of the Vision



### Major Themes of the Vision

- ◆ **Preserve Rural New England character**
- ◆ **Spend wisely** for municipal services and facilities (Yankee Thrift)
- ◆ **Coordination and Communication** between town departments and between the town and residents

## Appendix 3: Visioning Forum II Report

### Preserve Rural Character



### Preserve Rural Character

- ◆ Protect natural resources: water, forests, pastures, wildlife
- ◆ Preserve town heritage: historic buildings, houses and barns, stone walls
- ◆ Use Conservation Subdivisions to protect land and resources

## Appendix 3: Visioning Forum II Report

### Spend Wisely (Yankee Thrift)

- ◆ Respond to residents' expectations for services and facilities
- ◆ Respect residents' willingness to provide funding for equipment and facilities
- ◆ Manage capital expenditures wisely and plan for future needs through a coordinated plan

### Coordination/ Communication

- ◆ Broadcast public meetings
- ◆ Consider Town Meeting
- ◆ Coordination between departments, between town and school system
- ◆ Find new ways to reach out to residents and provide opportunities to get involved

## Appendix 3: Visioning Forum II Report

### Summary

- ◆ Rural character
- ◆ Spend wisely
- ◆ Coordination and
- ◆ Communication



### CSF Master Plan Chapter:

#### **Action Plan**

- ◆ Highway Department
- ◆ Municipal Complex and Library
- ◆ Recreational Facilities and Amenities