

FAIRLEE COMMUNITY SURVEY SUMMARY

The document is a report on a community survey conducted by the Fairlee Selectboard in 2020, summarizing residents' opinions on local services, governance, housing needs, and funding for additional housing.

Community Services & Municipal Governance

The survey revealed residents' satisfaction levels with various community services and their perceptions of local governance.

- 72% satisfied with the Library; 71% with EMS/Ambulance; 65% with Fire services.
- 25% dissatisfied with the Transfer Station; 22% dissatisfied with Spring, Summer, and Fall Road Maintenance.
- 59% agree that Town Government welcomes citizen participation; 53% believe elected officials care about residents' opinions.
- 49% feel well-informed about Town matters; 43% pleased with Fairlee's overall direction.

Housing Preferences and Desires

Residents expressed diverse opinions on the types of housing they find desirable for Fairlee's future.

- 167 responses highlighted a need for affordable middle-class housing and options for seniors.
- Suggestions included multi-family homes, tiny houses, and housing near amenities.
- Concerns were raised about low-income housing impacting local schools and community character.

Funding for Additional Housing

The community provided various ideas on how to fund additional housing developments in Fairlee.

- 43% favored private funding, emphasizing minimal government involvement.
- 29% supported public/private partnerships for housing development.
- Some respondents suggested the Town should facilitate land sales for development.

Natural Resources and Land Use

Residents showed strong support for environmentally focused land use policies and recreational planning in Fairlee.

- 72% agree on considering recreational uses in Town Forest planning; 70% support networking trails with adjacent communities.

FAIRLEE COMMUNITY SURVEY SUMMARY

- 63% favor creating a conservation commission; 61% find environmentally focused land use policies reasonable.

Access to Trails and Recreational Uses

The survey gathered opinions on who should have access to Fairlee's trails and the types of activities allowed.

- Hiking, snowshoeing, Nordic skiing, and mountain biking received over 100 responses each.
- Some respondents expressed concerns about motorized vehicles and the need for better trail management.

Comments on Fairlee's Natural Resources

Residents shared their thoughts on the management and protection of Fairlee's natural resources.

- Concerns about water quality in Lake Fairlee and the need for balanced access to natural resources were highlighted.
- Many emphasized the importance of preserving Fairlee's unique natural assets for future generations.

Respondent Demographics Overview

The survey provided insights into the demographics of Fairlee residents who participated.

- 71% are year-round residents; 83% own their homes.
- The largest age group among respondents is in their sixties, with 62% having no children under 18 in their households.
- 64% of employed respondents work outside Fairlee, and 30% reported pre-tax incomes between \$42,000 and \$74,999.

Additional Issues for Consideration

Residents offered various suggestions and concerns for the Selectboard and Planning Commission to consider for Fairlee's future.

- Calls for improved infrastructure, including road maintenance and downtown beautification.
- Suggestions for more community engagement and support for local businesses.
- Concerns about government regulations and the need for a balanced approach to development and conservation.

Maintenance and Safety Concerns on Roads

FAIRLEE COMMUNITY SURVEY SUMMARY

Residents express dissatisfaction with the maintenance and safety of local roads, particularly Main St/Rt 5 and Lake Morey Road.

- The intersection of Main St and driveways is poorly maintained, discouraging visitors to Fairlee businesses.
- Lake Morey Road has deteriorating conditions, including potholes and poor visibility, making it dangerous for users.
- Calls for better speed enforcement and clearer signage for pedestrians on Lake Morey Road.
- Suggestions for a yield street on Lake Morey Rd during summer to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists.

Community Events and Activities

The town's current events and activities are appreciated, but there is a desire for more community engagement.

- Existing events include Town Green socials, Fairlee Community Arts programming, library events, and swimming lessons.
- Residents suggest more activities like block parties, movie nights, food truck gatherings, and talent shows to enhance community spirit.

Town Aesthetics and Development

Concerns are raised about the physical appearance of the town and the need for strategic development.

- The town center is described as unappealing, with a need for more planters, curbs, and regular parking lots.
- A proposal to purchase property for river access and develop it into a mixed-use area to attract tourists.
- Emphasis on securing buildable lots and attracting appropriate development rather than waiting for it to happen.

Property Taxes and Financial Concerns

Residents express concerns about property taxes and the number of paid town officials.

- Property taxes are described as difficult to meet for residents.
- Suggestion to reduce the number of paid town officials to alleviate financial burdens.

Community Engagement and Communication

There is a mixed response regarding sharing email addresses for better communication with the Town.

FAIRLEE COMMUNITY SURVEY SUMMARY

- 37% of respondents (77) are willing to share their email addresses with the Town.
- 35% (72) are not willing to share their email addresses, indicating a divide in community engagement preferences.