

Be a part of the vision!



**2022
NORTHWOOD
MASTER PLAN**

PUBLIC INPUT DOCUMENTATION

Last Updated: November 22, 2022

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INTRODUCTION

This document contains input received during public engagement activities designed for the development of the Master Plan. Two primary engagement activities were held in 2022: a survey and a community workshop. The input received during these engagement sessions directly informed the development of the vision statement: A Vision for Northwood.

The following key themes and concepts emerged from the Master Plan Community Survey conducted in the summer of 2022 and the Community Workshop held in August 2022 and were incorporated into the vision statement:

- Welcoming community
- Increased communication
- Rural character
- Safety on roadways
- Natural and water resource protection
- Diverse and affordable housing
- Indoor and outdoor recreation for all ages

Refer to the Plan Introduction for a description of how representative icons that are based on public input will be used throughout the Master Plan.

MASTER PLAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

Date: June 27, 2022 – July 24, 2022

Digital responses: 843

Paper responses: 5

Digital responses omitted from this analysis via filtering out respondents who completed the survey in less than 3 minutes: 581

Digital responses analyzed: 260

Total responses analyzed: 265

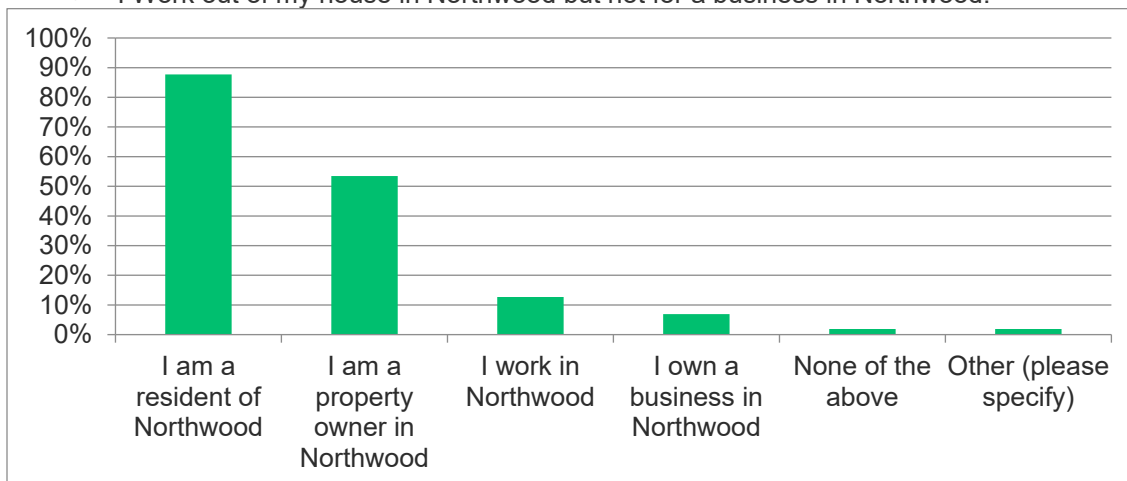
Survey Questions and Responses

Q1. Please select all that apply

| Answer Choices | Responses | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----|
| I am a resident of Northwood | 87.5% | 232 |
| I am a property owner in Northwood | 53.6% | 142 |
| I work in Northwood | 12.5% | 33 |
| I own a business in Northwood | 6.8% | 18 |
| None of the above | 1.9% | 5 |
| Other (please specify) | 1.9% | 5 |
| | Answered | 265 |
| | Skipped | 0 |

Other (verbatim responses):

- Need to move to Northwood asap
- Remote worker
- Summer resident only
- Part time resident
- I Work out of my house in Northwood but not for a business in Northwood.



Q2. I am a: (for residents only)

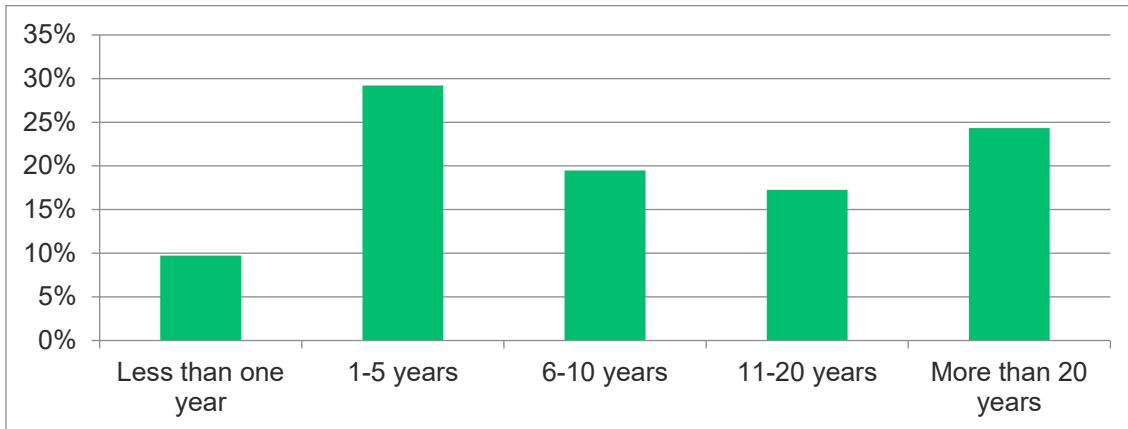
| Answer Choices | Responses | |
|---------------------|-----------|-----|
| Year round resident | 97.8% | 227 |
| Seasonal resident | 2.2% | 5 |
| | Answered | 232 |
| | Skipped | 33 |

Q3. Do you own or rent your home? (for residents only)

| Answer Choices | Responses | |
|----------------|-----------|-----|
| Own | 94.4% | 219 |
| Rent | 5.6% | 13 |
| | Answered | 232 |
| | Skipped | 33 |

Q4. How long have you lived in Northwood? (for residents only)

| Answer Choices | Responses | |
|--------------------|-----------|-----|
| Less than one year | 10.4% | 24 |
| 1-5 years | 28.6% | 66 |
| 6-10 years | 19.0% | 44 |
| 11-20 years | 17.3% | 40 |
| More than 20 years | 25.1% | 58 |
| | Answered | 231 |
| | Skipped | 34 |

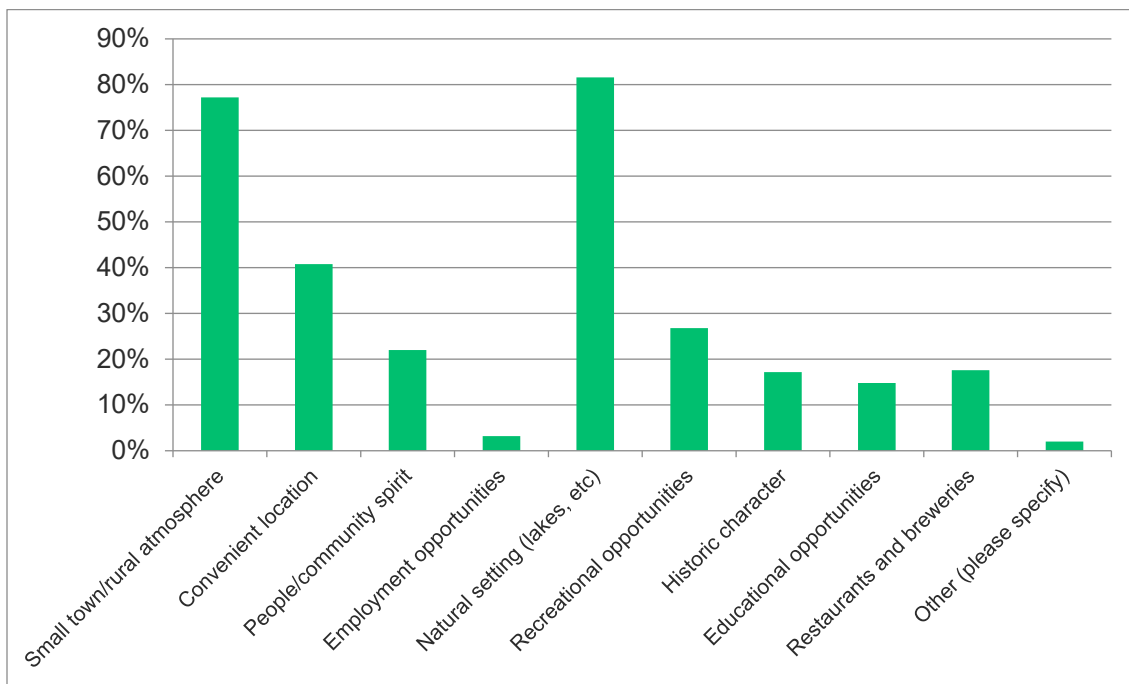


Q5. What do you like about Northwood? (choose your top 3)

| Answer Choices | Responses | |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----|
| Small town/rural atmosphere | 77.1% | 195 |
| Convenient location | 40.3% | 102 |
| People/community spirit | 22.1% | 56 |
| Employment opportunities | 3.2% | 8 |
| Natural setting (lakes, etc) | 81.8% | 207 |
| Recreational opportunities | 26.5% | 67 |
| Historic character | 17.4% | 44 |
| Educational opportunities | 15.4% | 39 |
| Restaurants and breweries | 17.4% | 44 |
| Other (please specify) | 2.8% | 7 |
| | Answered | 253 |
| | Skipped | 12 |

Other (verbatim responses):

- Lake side living
- not much
- The potential opportunity due to old generations moving out and high COL in surrounding areas pushing people in this area
- The crazies are in the minority and shrinking
- Non-franchised businesses
- Not too big. Small enough to "make a difference". Also, "Dark Sky"= see the stars
- Dark skies



**Q6. What pattern of commercial development would you prefer to see in Northwood?
(check all that apply)**

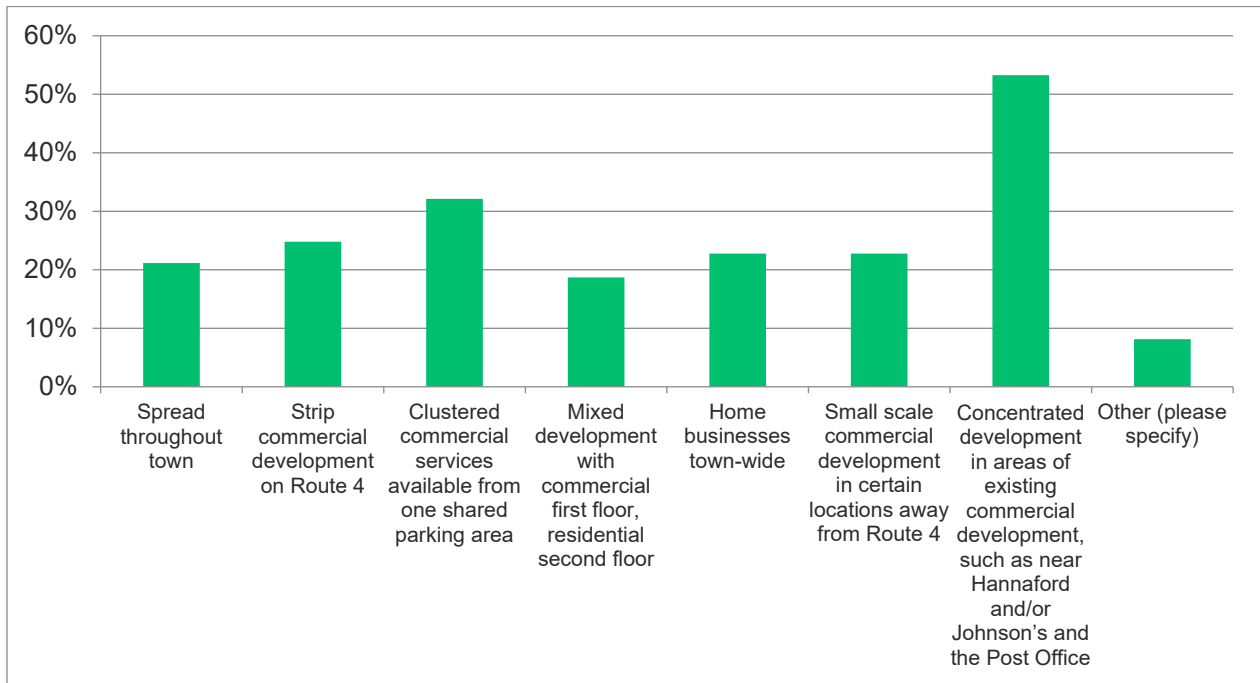
| Answer Choices | Responses | |
|---|------------------------|-------|
| | Spread throughout town | 21.6% |
| Strip commercial development on Route 4 | 24.8% | 62 |
| Clustered commercial services available from one shared parking area | 32.0% | 80 |
| Mixed development with commercial first floor, residential second floor | 19.2% | 48 |
| Home businesses town-wide | 22.8% | 57 |
| Small scale commercial development in certain locations away from Route 4 | 23.6% | 59 |
| Concentrated development in areas of existing commercial development, such as near Hannaford and/or Johnson's and the Post Office | 53.2% | 133 |
| Other (please specify) | 8.0% | 20 |
| | Answered | 250 |
| | Skipped | 15 |

Other (verbatim responses):

- not in Johnson's field.
- More housing of all types
- A small "downtown" outside of Route 4
- Create loop around designated area that pulls off rte 4
- No more commercial development.
- to much traffic & noise already on rt. 4
- Please don't make Route 4 like Loudon Road, Concord or Kittery, Maine - - No strip malls!! Will loose the charm of town!!
- Ban Air B and Bs in Residential areas
- No restrictions on business locations
- Would like a new way to get off from golf road With one way in and 1 way out it gets too congested
- Limited to State highways if above 3000-4000 SQ FT
- I don't care. More housing
- Just put a starbucks in somewhere and attract people from portsmouth/dover/exeter
- None. Northwood needs to be left as is. Northwood is such a small, peaceful, serene area. It's how New Hampshire is supposed to be. Land of the evergreens, where they are in abundance. If we keep adding to these discreet little areas, our future generations will never know what it is like to truly live in the beautiful open fresh air. the peace and tranquility the earth has to offer. There are plenty of other places in New Hampshire succumbing to the over population and retail giant stores, malls. Where and why have all our beautiful small town general stores. Where the screen door slams shut and the bell always ring? You know, the small town general store where you can buy almost anything you need. There are no more souvenirs. There aren't even postcards to be bought. You used to be able to buy those items in all the small stores. I don't think we need to move into the whole. Cramped city type vibe. It's more important that somewhere we can hold onto those time treasured times before they're all gone. It upsets me that when my grandchildren come ti visit there are no places like these left. It was always a special time to visit the old time places. If I wanted to go where the smog filled high emissions, overcrowded roads, with stop lights every 20 feet, I wouldn't have brought property

here. Especially to return to the very things I'm trying to get away from. are at there. Leave Northwood alone

- Route 4 is busy so putting more businesses on it will make it even more busy. Is it possible to put a business park with shared parking away from route 4 such that it would lessen the traffic or control the traffic in a positive way.
- None
- No development. There should be less development opportunities available. We need to maintain the available wooded areas and maintain the the small town status. It is unfortunate to see towns invite industry and stores to the area to become overrun and busy. The politics change. The available housing changes for the worse. The tax's go up. Next thing you know only Massachusetts residents will live in our small town. Less industry and commercial property is better. More woods and swamps is better.
- Mixed development can bring a lot to Northwood, included much needed housing. as long as it remains affordable. I would like to introduce rent protection too
- medium scale commercial development on Route 4 to aid in the tax base
- Community center for all ages
- Development may require turning lanes or traffic lights



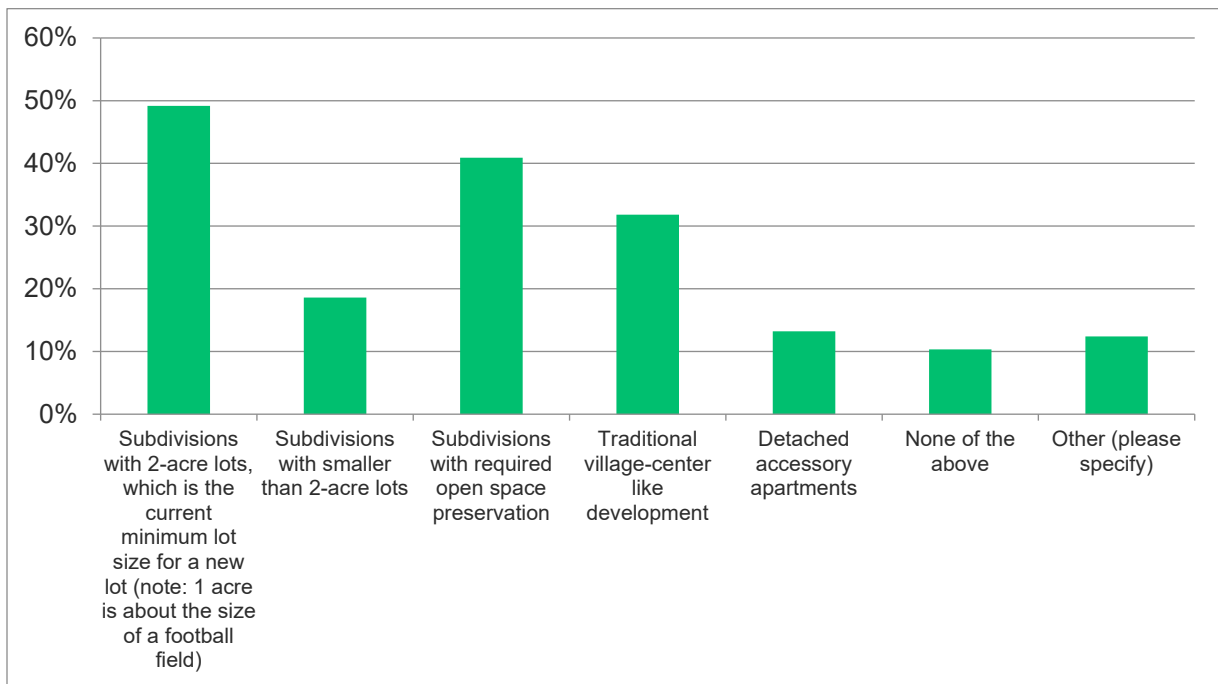
**Q7. What types of residential development would you like to see more of in Northwood?
(check all that apply)**

| Answer Choices | Responses | |
|---|-----------|-----|
| Subdivisions with 2-acre lots, which is the current minimum lot size for a new lot (note: 1 acre is about the size of a football field) | 48.8% | 120 |
| Subdivisions with smaller than 2-acre lots | 18.3% | 45 |
| Subdivisions with required open space preservation | 41.5% | 102 |
| Traditional village-center like development | 31.7% | 78 |
| Detached accessory apartments | 13.8% | 34 |
| None of the above | 10.2% | 25 |
| Other (please specify) | 13.0% | 32 |
| | Answered | 246 |
| | Skipped | 19 |

Other (verbatim responses):

- subdivisions with smaller than 2 acre lots only if 50 of developable land is open space placed in conservation easements. More developments with shared wells and septic. More affordable housing.
- I'd love if new lots could be wooded or at least maintain some trees rather than be blank lots like a lot of new developments I see
- Apartments. Renters need a place to live too
- Please work on keeping rural feeling in Northwood
- We are losing our rural small town history. We are losing our open fields and wide open spaces for development.
- 55+ living
- halt/or severely curtail development on town roads with only one point of access
- What ever there is a market for
- I would much rather see some affordable housing allowing young families an opportunity to purchase a first home
- More housing is needed to draw people to Northwood
- single family homes
- I would need to know what size lot is being proposed to answer 2 above. I have no clue what number 5 is "accessory apartments?"
- Make sure the board doesn't cave to less than 2 acre lots!!
- Limited 2 acre zoning with tax incentives offered to unused or abandoned properties rehabilitation. Thus minimizing larger, more intrusive sub-divisions.
- No more cookie cutter subdivisions. More apartments and other creative AFFORDABLE options for 20s and seniors.
- Increase subdivision requirement to 3.5-acre lots
- Condominiums
- MULTI FAMILY
- Convert trailerparks into developments that provide a better experience for low-income families
- Tiny homes, environmentally friendly
- Likely a variety of small residential development projects would work best

- Condos for 55+
- Affordable Housing
- Existing small lots to be buildable
- No subdivision. Lots here and there. Less clustered housing.
- None
- Attractive how income housing, a similar development was created in Exeter, cul-de-sacs with five freestanding townhouses with garages per neighborhood, a total of three neighborhoods all adjacent, and then a mid range development with community access to trails and pool just up the road.
- Condo Properties
- I think additional development along existing roads, including improving class 6 roads is also important.
- Multi-unit (up to 6) apartments or town-houses.
- I am very concerned about the tax rate going up
- Subdivision specifically for low-income working families
- Uncrowded mobile home park, well-designed and run

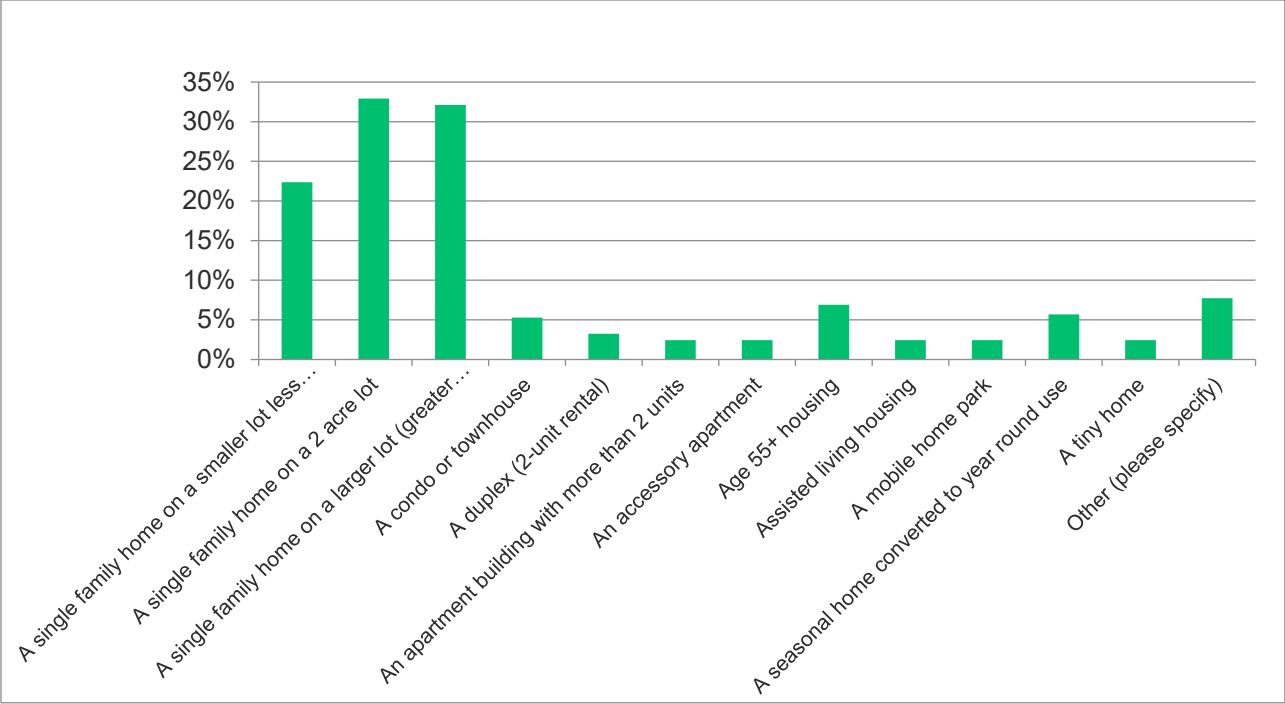


Q8. In ten years (or sooner), I will probably be living in:

| Answer Choices | Responses | |
|--|-----------|-----|
| A single family home on a smaller lot less than 0.5 acres (1 acre is about the size of a football field) | 22.1% | 55 |
| A single family home on a 2 acre lot | 32.5% | 81 |
| A single family home on a larger lot (greater than 2 acres) lot | 31.7% | 79 |
| A condo or townhouse | 5.2% | 13 |
| A duplex (2-unit rental) | 3.2% | 8 |
| An apartment building with more than 2 units | 2.4% | 6 |
| An accessory apartment | 2.8% | 7 |
| Age 55+ housing | 6.8% | 17 |
| Assisted living housing | 2.8% | 7 |
| A mobile home park | 2.4% | 6 |
| A seasonal home converted to year round use | 5.6% | 14 |
| A tiny home | 2.4% | 6 |
| Other (please specify) | 7.6% | 19 |
| | Answered | 249 |
| | Skipped | 16 |

Other (verbatim responses):

- We may miss be south
- Does it matter? My partner and I just don't want to be renting the rest of our lives and need a reasonable commute to Concord and Rochester
- My current home on a 1.5 acre lot.
- Lake front property year round
- Current home
- Single family on 1.5 acres
- Probably in a CCRC if I can afford it.
- In the veterans cemetery
- Unsure
- In my current residence
- This is not a good question... how should i know
- The condo selection is not Northwood available!!!
- I'm 24 I'm going to be renting the rest of my life
- I the same little camp I bought just a few years ago. I wouldn't change anything
- In my same house on 3/4 acre
- My current house or somewhere else.
- single family home on 1 acre
- Single family home on 1 acre
- Current home: one acre- free standing structure

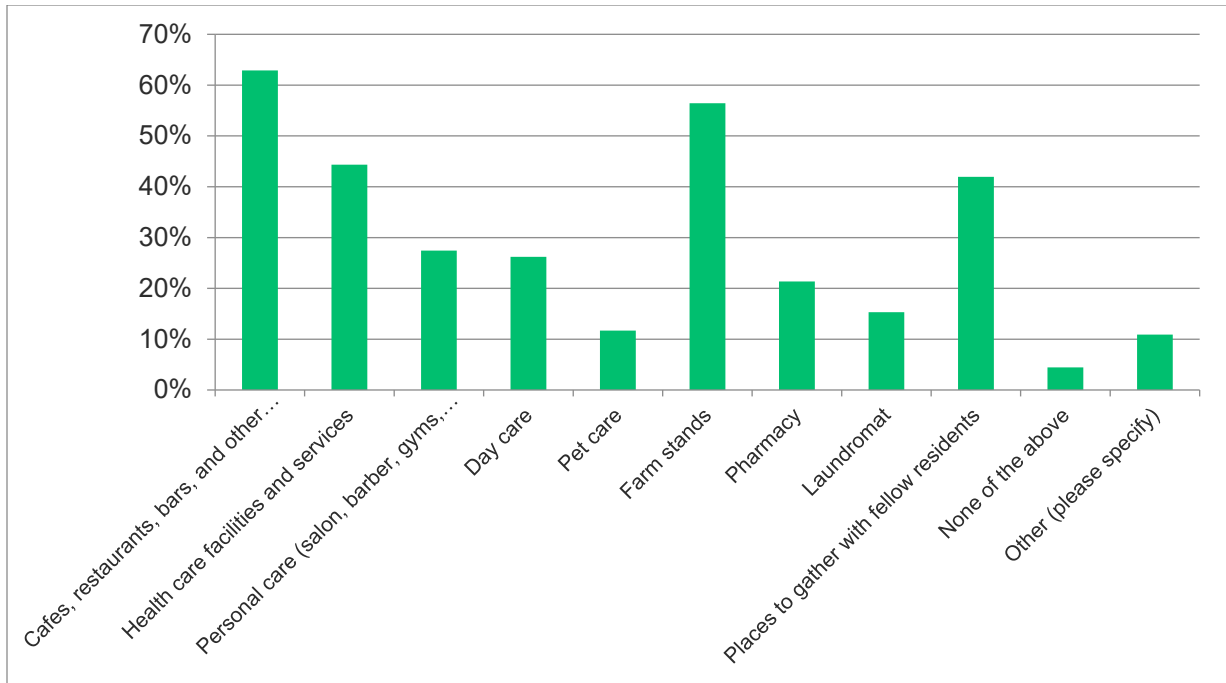


**Q9. What additional businesses and services would benefit residents of Northwood?
(choose all that apply)**

| Answer Choices | Responses | |
|---|-----------|-----|
| Cafes, restaurants, bars, and other places to eat and drink | 62.2% | 156 |
| Health care facilities and services | 44.2% | 111 |
| Personal care (salon, barber, gyms, fitness classes, etc.) | 27.1% | 68 |
| Day care | 26.3% | 66 |
| Pet care | 11.6% | 29 |
| Farm stands | 56.6% | 142 |
| Pharmacy | 21.1% | 53 |
| Laundromat | 15.9% | 40 |
| Places to gather with fellow residents | 41.8% | 105 |
| None of the above | 4.4% | 11 |
| Other (please specify) | 11.2% | 28 |
| | Answered | 251 |
| | Skipped | 14 |

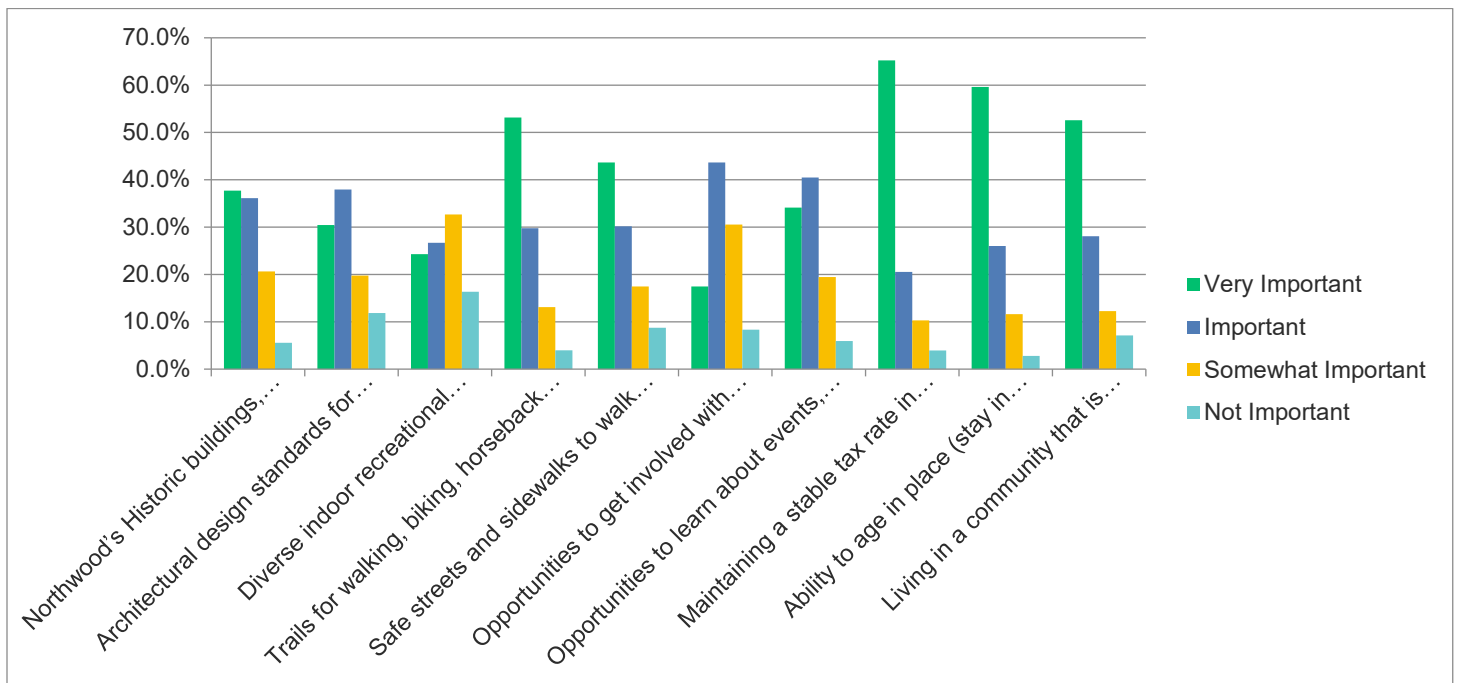
Other (verbatim responses):

- Auto parts
- Housing
- This town has minimal to no commodities for young families. Besides location between Concord and Portsmouth - there is not much appealing to young families
- community garden
- Light Industrial and commercial, Lowe's, HD, other supermarkets
- Car wash
- Safety Complex/Community Center
- Bookstore cafe
- Northwood is situated perfectly between the seacoast and Concord and is travel lane for lots of people. We should be promoting commercial development of all kinds all along rt 4
- Market Basket!!!!!!
- More walkable non wooded spaces
- Larger retailers
- Some sort of recreational area for teens
- Bring back Antique Alley!! This brought business to the town.
- Local farm products business
- All of the above would benefit the residents, question is, is it feasible or sustainable for a community of our size?
- MORE HOUSING
- Park, w/ fountain, paths, trees, not for organized sports. A town common.



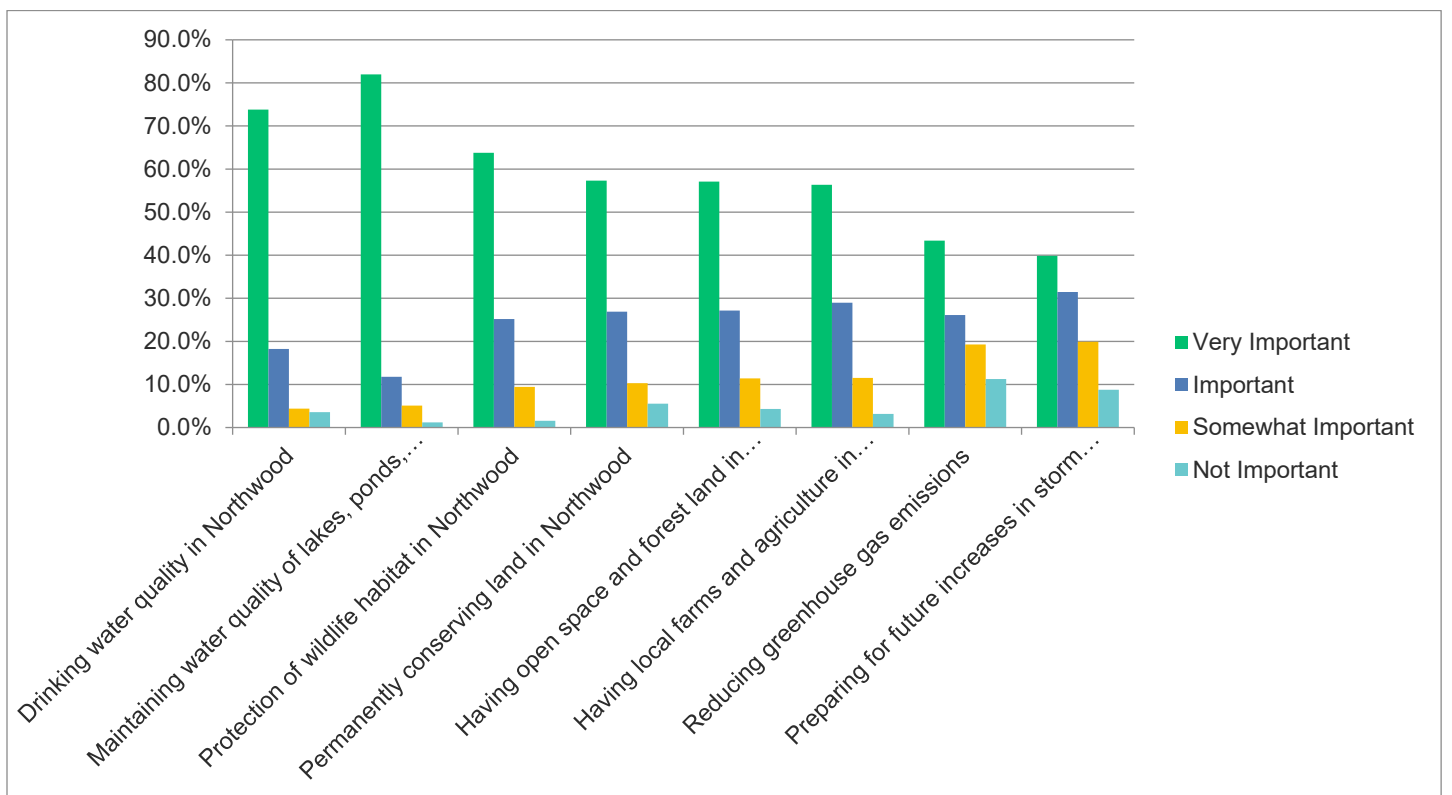
Q10. How important are the following to you:

| | Very Important | | Important | | Somewhat Important | | Not Important | | Total |
|--|----------------|-----|-----------|-----|--------------------|----|---------------|----------|-------|
| Northwood's Historic buildings, resources, and charm | 38.0% | 97 | 36.1% | 92 | 20.4% | 52 | 5.5% | 14 | 255 |
| Architectural design standards for commercial development in Northwood | 30.5% | 78 | 37.5% | 96 | 20.3% | 52 | 11.7% | 30 | 256 |
| Diverse indoor recreational opportunities for all ages in Northwood | 24.0% | 61 | 26.4% | 67 | 33.1% | 84 | 16.5% | 42 | 254 |
| Trails for walking, biking, horseback riding, skiing, and other recreational uses in Northwood | 52.9% | 135 | 29.8% | 76 | 13.3% | 34 | 3.9% | 10 | 255 |
| Safe streets and sidewalks to walk and bike on in Northwood | 43.9% | 112 | 29.8% | 76 | 17.6% | 45 | 8.6% | 22 | 255 |
| Opportunities to get involved with my Town | 17.6% | 45 | 43.5% | 111 | 30.6% | 78 | 8.2% | 21 | 255 |
| Opportunities to learn about events, news, budgeting, and decision making in my town | 34.9% | 89 | 40.0% | 102 | 19.2% | 49 | 5.9% | 15 | 255 |
| Maintaining a stable tax rate in Northwood | 65.4% | 166 | 20.5% | 52 | 10.2% | 26 | 3.9% | 10 | 254 |
| Ability to age in place (stay in Northwood) | 60.1% | 152 | 25.7% | 65 | 11.5% | 29 | 2.8% | 7 | 253 |
| Living in a community that is welcoming to all | 52.9% | 135 | 27.8% | 71 | 12.2% | 31 | 7.1% | 18 | 255 |
| | | | | | | | | Answered | 258 |
| | | | | | | | | Skipped | 7 |



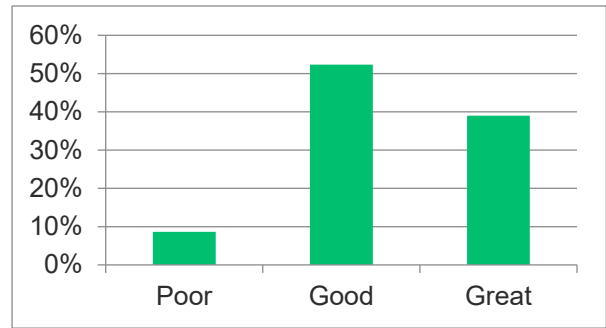
Q11. How important are the following to you:

| | Very Important | | Important | | Somewhat Important | | Not Important | | Total |
|--|----------------|-----|-----------|----|--------------------|----|---------------|----------|-------|
| Drinking water quality in Northwood | 74.3% | 191 | 17.9% | 46 | 4.3% | 11 | 3.5% | 9 | 257 |
| Maintaining water quality of lakes, ponds, streams in Northwood | 81.9% | 213 | 11.9% | 31 | 5.0% | 13 | 1.2% | 3 | 260 |
| Protection of wildlife habitat in Northwood | 64.1% | 166 | 25.1% | 65 | 9.3% | 24 | 1.5% | 4 | 259 |
| Permanently conserving land in Northwood | 57.4% | 148 | 27.1% | 70 | 10.1% | 26 | 5.4% | 14 | 258 |
| Having open space and forest land in Northwood | 57.1% | 148 | 27.4% | 71 | 11.2% | 29 | 4.2% | 11 | 259 |
| Having local farms and agriculture in Northwood | 56.4% | 145 | 28.8% | 74 | 11.7% | 30 | 3.1% | 8 | 257 |
| Reducing greenhouse gas emissions | 43.3% | 110 | 26.4% | 67 | 19.3% | 49 | 11.0% | 28 | 254 |
| Preparing for future increases in storm events, high temperatures, heavy rainfall, and drought | 40.6% | 104 | 31.3% | 80 | 19.5% | 50 | 8.6% | 22 | 256 |
| | | | | | | | | Answered | 260 |
| | | | | | | | | Skipped | 5 |



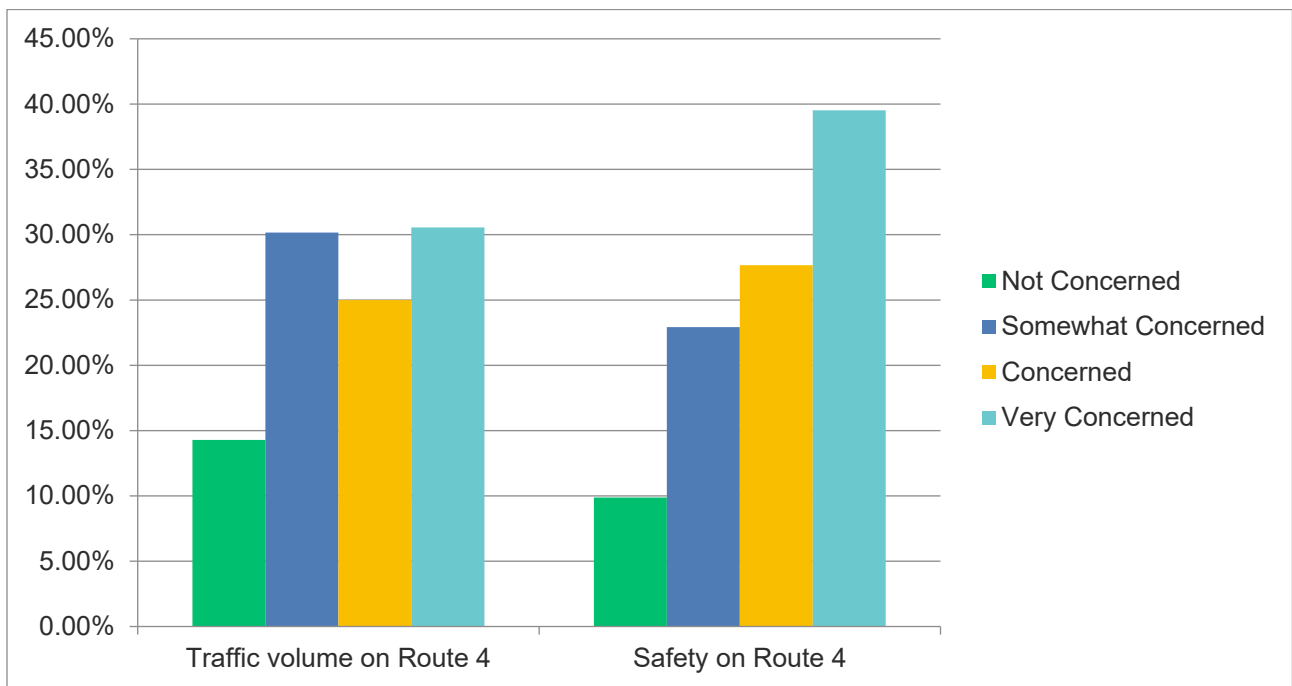
Q12. How would you rate your access to Northwood's lakes and ponds?

| Answer Choices | Responses | |
|----------------|-----------|-----|
| Poor | 8.5% | 22 |
| Good | 51.9% | 134 |
| Great | 39.5% | 102 |
| | Answered | 258 |
| | Skipped | 7 |



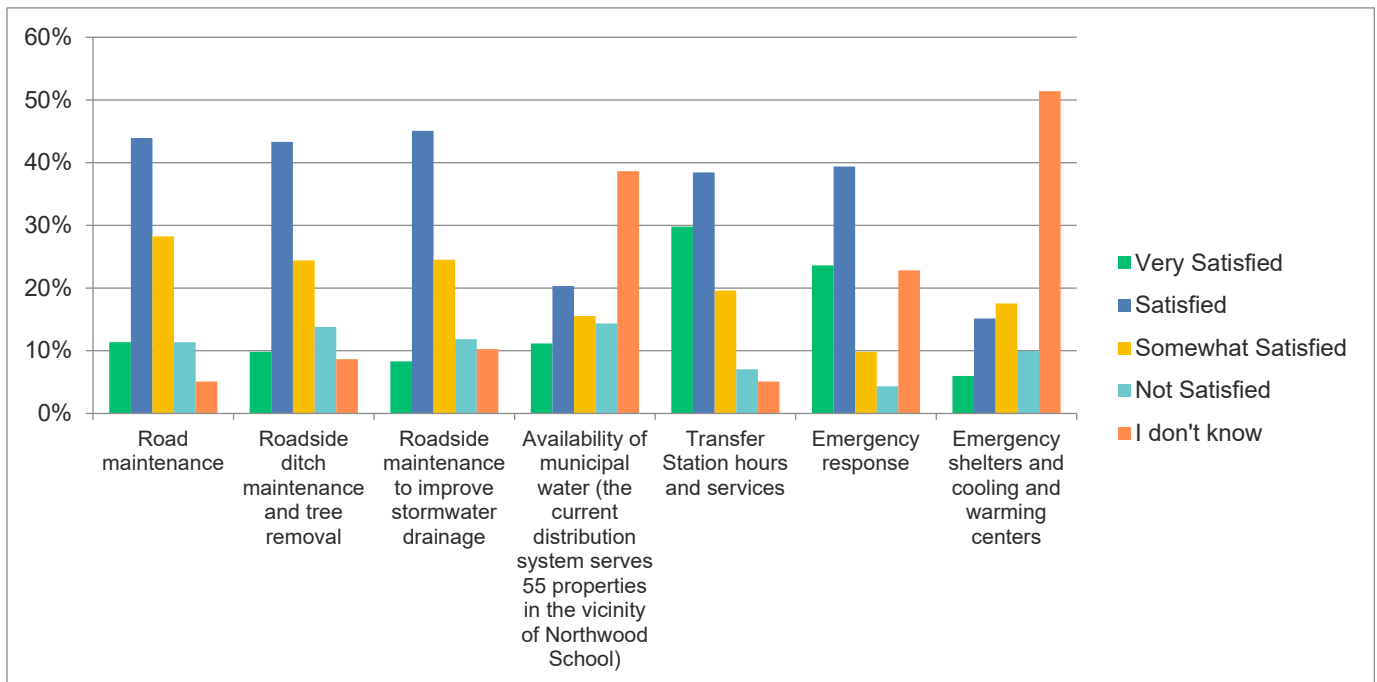
Q13. How concerned are you with:

| | Not Concerned | | Somewhat Concerned | | Concerned | | Very Concerned | | Total |
|---------------------------|---------------|----|--------------------|----|-----------|----|----------------|----------|-------|
| Traffic volume on Route 4 | 14.0% | 36 | 30.4% | 78 | 24.5% | 63 | 31.1% | 80 | 257 |
| Safety on Route 4 | 9.7% | 25 | 22.5% | 58 | 27.5% | 71 | 40.3% | 104 | 258 |
| | | | | | | | | Answered | 259 |
| | | | | | | | | Skipped | 6 |



Q14. How satisfied are you with the following municipal services?

| | Very Satisfied | | Satisfied | | Somewhat Satisfied | | Not Satisfied | | I don't know | | Total |
|--|----------------|-------|-----------|-------|--------------------|-------|---------------|-------|--------------|----------|-------|
| | % | Count | % | Count | % | Count | % | Count | % | Count | |
| Road maintenance | 11.2% | 29 | 44.2% | 115 | 28.5% | 74 | 11.2% | 29 | 5.0% | 13 | 260 |
| Roadside ditch maintenance and tree removal | 9.7% | 25 | 43.6% | 113 | 24.7% | 64 | 13.5% | 35 | 8.5% | 22 | 259 |
| Roadside maintenance to improve stormwater drainage | 8.1% | 21 | 45.0% | 116 | 24.8% | 64 | 12.0% | 31 | 10.1% | 26 | 258 |
| Availability of municipal water (the current distribution system serves 55 properties in the vicinity of Northwood School) | 10.9% | 28 | 20.7% | 53 | 15.6% | 40 | 14.1% | 36 | 38.7% | 99 | 256 |
| Transfer Station hours and services | 30.0% | 78 | 38.5% | 100 | 19.6% | 51 | 6.9% | 18 | 5.0% | 13 | 260 |
| Emergency response | 23.6% | 61 | 39.8% | 103 | 9.7% | 25 | 4.2% | 11 | 22.8% | 59 | 259 |
| Emergency shelters and cooling and warming centers | 5.9% | 15 | 15.3% | 39 | 17.6% | 45 | 9.8% | 25 | 51.4% | 131 | 255 |
| Road maintenance | 11.2% | 29 | 44.2% | 115 | 28.5% | 74 | 11.2% | 29 | 5.0% | 13 | 260 |
| | | | | | | | | | | Answered | 260 |
| | | | | | | | | | | Skipped | 5 |



Q15. One word I would use to describe present-day Northwood is:

* (number) indicates the number of respondents who chose this word. All other words had one respondent.

| | | | |
|------------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Rural (11) | vibrant (2) | Frustrating | Resistant to change |
| beautiful (10) | Welcoming (2) | Fun | Safe |
| Growing (10) | Wonderful (2) | glamorous | salutatory |
| Quaint (9) | Above-average | Haughty | Scattered |
| Home (6) | Acceptable | Heavenly | silence |
| Peaceful (5) | Adequate | Helter-skelter | Small town charm |
| Friendly (4) | anxious | Hostile | Small town thinking |
| Pleasant (4) | appealing | In involved | stable |
| Quiet (4) | At-risk | Inconsistent | Stagnant |
| Boring (4) | backwards | Inefficient | Stretched |
| Average (3) | balance | Jambalaya | struggling |
| Charming (3) | Behind | Lackluster | Suburbia |
| Convenient (3) | busy place | Lakes | Taxation |
| Disjointed (3) | cleanly | Mess | Taxes |
| Expensive (3) | Closed-minded | Mismanaged | The original ecological |
| Good (3) | comely | Natural | The warm |
| Great (3) | Confused | Nature | through-way |
| busy (2) | Conscience | Noisy | Town |
| Changing (2) | corrupt | Normal ! | Traditional |
| Comfortable (2) | dated | Okay | Traffic |
| Conservative (2) | Declining | Old | Tranquil |
| Dilapidated (2) | Disconnected | Optimal | Unchanging |
| Evolving (2) | divided | Overtaxed | Underutilized |
| Isolated (2) | Enjoyable | Perfect | Unique |
| Lacking (2) | fair | Polarized | Unwelcoming |
| Lovely (2) | Fine | Reactive | variety |
| Nice (2) | fractured | Relaxed | Very good |
| picturesque (2) | fresh | Relaxing | white |
| Promising (2) | frugal | Reserved | Wonderful |
| Small (2) | | | |

Other (verbatim responses):

| |
|---|
| Pass through town (I know not one word but there is no downtown that makes this feel like a community) |
| potential (to have it all, in terms of great schooling, sports, restaurants, outdoor activities) |
| The town of Northwood is great. The school is awful and run by an economically illiterate board whose allegiance is to political ideology and not the Northwood citizens or their children. |
| Too expensive. Northwood and other communities on 4/9/202 have the opportunity to be better commuter communities |

| |
|---|
| Where we live it is filled with seasonal residents and out of towners |
| Home for the long haul |

Q16. One word I would use to describe how I want Northwood to be in the future is:

* (number) indicates the number of respondents who chose this word. All other words had one respondent.

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| Rural (16) | Unchanged (2) | Flourishing | Proactive |
| Welcoming (10) | Updated (2) | Frugal | Reasonable |
| Affordable (8) | vibrant (2) | Good | Relaxing |
| Brilliant (7) | Accessible and welcoming to all | Green | Resilient |
| Safe (7) | Adapting | Growing | respectful |
| Community (6) | angelic | Growth | Same |
| Progressive (6) | Appreciative | Gulf road | Same as now |
| Inclusive (5) | Aware | Heavenly | Sidewalks |
| Quaint (5) | beauteous | Hometown | Small |
| cohesive (4) | Bucolic | Hospitable | Small home town feel |
| Prosperity (4) | Business friendly | Interesting | Special |
| Stable (4) | Clean | Involved | Strategic Growth |
| Peaceful (4) | Community-centered | irresistible | Sustainable |
| Better (4) | Community-minded | Lovely | Thriving and green |
| Convenient (3) | Connected | Maintaining | tidy |
| Home (3) | Conscious | Managed | Town |
| Quiet (3) | Consistent | modernize | Tranquil |
| Thriving (3) | Country | More retail | Transparent |
| Balance (2) | Cozy | natural | Unique |
| beautiful (2) | Crazy-free | NO.1 | united |
| bustling city (2) | Creative | Oasis | Updated with charm |
| Diverse (2) | Cute | Optimal | variety |
| friendly (2) | destination | Organized | Very peaceful |
| Inviting (2) | Efficient | Perfect | Vision |
| Modern (2) | Fairness | picturesque | Visionary |
| pleasant (2) | FAMILY | Planned | wonderful |
| Quieter (2) | Family centered | Preserved | |

Other (verbatim responses):

| |
|--|
| Don't want it to become too populated |
| Few more basic stores in town . " convenient " |
| Representative (of what NH towns can be) |

Q17. Please provide your name and contact information if you would like to receive occasional updates about the Master Plan update and be entered in random drawing to win one of five gift cards from local businesses.

| Answer Choices | Responses | |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----|
| First Name | 100.0% | 163 |
| Last Name | 99.4% | 162 |
| Email address | 100.0% | 163 |
| Phone number (if no email) | 20.3% | 33 |
| | Answered | 163 |
| | Skipped | 97 |

[Email addresses will be provided to the Subcommittee and Town but not shared publicly].

COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP

Northwood School Gym, August 29, 2022, 7pm-9pm

Stakeholder Input

(verbatim responses):

Discussion Topic 1:

Survey Respondents describe present day Northwood as:

Expensive Changing Charming Northwood Good average Quaint Convenient
beautiful town Rural Quiet Growing communities
Home busy Peaceful Boring Pleasant Disjointed Friendly

Do you agree or disagree? Why?

- Quiet in certain areas
- It is growing
- Still same areas, primarily rural
- Expensive – yes
- Agree, factual basis
- Convenient access to work and recreation
- Water supply – top of watershed
- We agree physically beautiful with all moved back after being away 25 years. Owns 17-acre lot, but have neighbors nearby.
- New residential communities some benefit, but not what we wanted. Not a negative.
- Melanie – moved from small town to be near her family. Had been Selectperson in Lyman, NH
- Loves having beaches, convenient to Dover
- Pass through town
- Had looked for town center, but opted for porch.
- Both like idea of a town common.
- Rec fields could serve as meeting community
- M likes minimum of chain businesses in Northwood. Prefers individual.
- W likes local hardware, etc. Businesses contribute back to community
- Expensive – yes, market up
- Quiet in areas, not Route 4
- Beautiful areas, yes

- Rural, yes. 30 minutes away from Portsmouth/Concord (convenient)
- Growing, yes, but need more small business
- Quaint, parts, antique alley
- Beautiful, but needs protected and governed (enforced)
 - lake water quality
 - oil contamination
- Agree, but area specific, i.e. junkyards, abandoned properties. Water quality is declining in our wake(?)well(?). Need watershed and aquifer ordinance.
- Agree, words are fact based.
- Convenient access to work and recreation

Discussion Topic #2

The (one) word that survey respondents chose to describe how they want Northwood to be in the future is:

peaceful Updated home Better Inclusive Quaint Community prosperity
 Safe town Welcoming Stable Rural Convenient
 Affordable Cohesive brilliant Sustainable Progressive friendly
 Quiet Thriving

What would need to be done or change to achieve this vision? Are we already there?

- Safe town – need to make Route 4 safer – traffic planning, etc.
- Affordable – at least in some areas
- Get away from a 2-acre minimum
- Town should foster events for community cohesiveness. Need center for events, socializing, etc.
- Senior activities.
- Safety: Traffic plan/study for Route 4. Too many accidents happening. As a resident who lives in Northwood Narrows and I drive west on Route 4, go route 107 south through Deerfield to Route 43 to Route 4 to go Route 4 east. It takes a lot longer, but I feel safer. (bothers me as when I moved to Northwood 20+ years ago, Route 4 was much safer.
- Rural: Northwood is growing too quickly. Many people moved here for country living, not industry/commercial.
- Already rural (except Route 4)
- Not affordable – housing market inflated
- No downtown
- 30 minutes away from Portsmouth & Concord

- Welcome center in town
- Better communication
- Safe for pedestrians and bicyclists
- No workforce housing, esp. for emergency personnel
- Importance of rural feeling
- Safe now – Concern over crime moving in from urban areas

Discussion Topic 3:

| |
|--|
| What can be done to enhance Northwood's sense of community? |
|--|

- Beanhole bash location playground
- Town center
- Food festival
- Communication difficulties – newsletter
- Volunteers – young involvement problem
- Communities voting
- Community events, i.e. Home Day
- Media to inform residents of events (rec program)
- Communication Plan/Consistency of events (rec program)
- Pavilion and ballfields for concert series, food
- Trucks, chili fest, brew fest (local brews)
- Welcome to Northwood packets for new residents
- Communication
- Newspaper
- Web page
- Updated booklet on community businesses and town agencies/offices
- Determine what people want to see and build on those things.
- One facility large enough. Hobby equipment, arts, crafts, workshops, teaching.
- Community Power committee to gain better pricing for all residents.
- Involvement of multi-generations – kids, teens, seniors
- CBNA students, community hours, Town served mentors.
- More friendly
- Communication
- Community page on town website
- Newspaper/newsletter

Discussion Topic 4:

What would you change (if you could) about Northwood to make it a better community?

- Need ↑ communication
- Sense of community
- Venue for events
- No town center
- Route 4 long and divides us
- We had small local districts. Find way for central location
- Recreation fields potential for gathering site.
- Encourage our arts community
- FT (full time) rec director
- Revaluation of town staff for better communication
- Intergenerational activities
- More communication
- Use library more
- Use of sign – change messages frequently
- Improvement to communications
- Venue for music events and lecture series, etc.
- A “downtown” or central congregation area
- Make an investment in quality as opposed to price - pays off richly in the future
- Intergenerational activities
- More community functions. Other towns have summer music series.
- Safe active transportation. Upgrade Class VI.
- Get communities connected.
- Keep the business directly updated.
- Better organization and communication of committees and parties organizing stuff, events. More involvement from town residents.

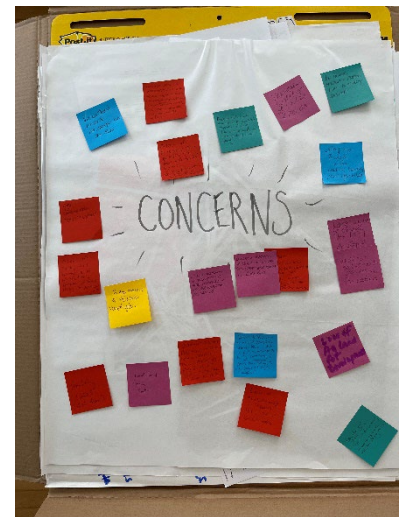
Discussion Topics 1-4 Report Out

- Communication from Town Hall could be improved. Rec, business, help from committees
- Northwood is a beautiful place. Maintenance is critical.
- Community-based events, and someplace to hold them, both indoor and outdoor. Getting the word out.
- Safety – especially Route 4. Need a traffic plan.
- Back roads are dangerous for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Concerns & Ideas Sticky Notes

Concerns

- Large number of small lots being developed; and/or seasonal to year round on lakes.
- Staying rural while making housing more affordable.
- Loss of agricultural land to development.
- Joe Gunter started a master plan. Is it being reviewed.
- Maintaining quality of lakes and ponds
- Providing for future water supplies as the population expands.
- Education and public safety are important for community. We need to improve the acceptance to pay for them.
- Lack of oversight on development. Need watershed and aquifer protection ordinance.
- Length and number of homes on cul-de-sac (dead end roads), i.e. Gulf Road
- Better enforcement of environmental impacts on lakes. Waste and oil, gas, etc. has seeped into the lakes.
- Northwood is atop 3 watersheds, so our use and waste affects many downstream users. Most residents are on wells. We need to consider long term water supply.
- A lot of programs that benefit the few and funded by all. Ex. Some recreation events, special interest groups.
- Lack of communication. Talk!! Listen
- A lot of talk, not always a lot of action. Almost 30 years living in Northwood, and every few years I hear someone with a “great new” idea that has been brought up over the years and never gets done.
- Some more of these meetings
- Healthy lakes (all of them)
- Need for a senior center.
- Unfair business practices in town. When reported, Town officials play dumb or keep kicking the can down the road.
- Same folks are on town boards/committees – how to get town folk more interested? Activities geared to only certain ___ taxpayers.
- Lack of transparency in town hall/town government.



Ideas

- Have annual community pride day
- Community center, heating/cooling for weather disasters. Learning center for games, crafts, instruments, dance, etc.
- Hire a grant writer to chase funding for a community center, safety complex
- Lobby NH DOT for a corridor study for Route 4, Epsom Circle to Lee Circle.
- Build on arts community
- The master plan statute (RSA 674:2) now allows an energy section to be included. Can that be added as a section?
- Seems it is the same people doing all the work. Try to solicit more involvement by other residents.
- Trail connectivity. Need on lot to complete connection from School to west side.
- Town Administrator must live in Northwood, along with police force.
- More centralized places to gather. Sidewalk on Route 4 – State issue as it is a State road.
- Develop a community center that could hold large town gatherings, concerts, meetings.
- A common meeting area or venue in Town. Example, bandstand for music events. Stage for performances.
- Xmas party in Jan for all volunteers
- Left hand turn lanes on Route 4 to improve safety.. or at least more rigorous enforcement of traffic laws, rate of speed, etc.
- Senior center
- Business development in village setting off Rt. 4
- Better communication with town signage (many times messages are days or weeks old.. not timely)
- Partner with neighboring communities for trail connections for safe bicycle, pedestrian access
- Foster better relationships in town. Feels like there are groups that are self-serving “What’s in it for me?” Paid for all to serve a few.

