

Town Of Newfield 2019 Community Survey Results

As part of the process in updating the (1981) Town of Newfield's Comprehensive Plan, the Planning Board conducted a survey of the towns people. The survey was mailed in hardcopy with the 2019 tax bills in October, a link to an identical Google Survey was posted on the towns website as well as the Facebook Community Spotlight (Limerick/Newfield) Page. This survey is only one of the methods used to gain some of the needed information. There have been several public input meetings held in the past several months. Public participation at planning board, select board, town finance committee and school committee meetings are some other ways to share information about our community's desired vision for the way of life that will affect our day to day living.

Surveys were mailed in, dropped at the Town Office or Transfer Stations drop boxes or completed online via the Google Survey.

Once collected, hardcopy surveys were entered into the google survey database in order to develop the results.

There were 209 total responses received. Not all questions were answered on all responses. Each question below shows how many total responses for that question and a breakdown of how it was answered.

1. Should the town make it a priority to keep taxes low or improve services?

200 Total Responses

Keep Taxes Low: 137
22 Improve Taxes: 22
Yes: 18
Both: 19
No: 2
Neither: 1
Moderate: 1

2. Should support for individuals in need of financial assistance who don't qualify for State assistance be increased?

177 Total Responses

No: 106
Yes: 56
If it's paid back or worked for: 4
Undecided or unsure: 4
Maybe: 3
Case by case/individual basis: 3
Only for Sick/Elderly: 1

3. Would you like to see housing growth in the Town of Newfield?

196 Total Responses

No: 130
Yes: 51
Limited/Reasonable/Slow/Some: 9
Maybe: 2
Lower my taxes: 2
No opinion/don't care: 2

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4. Which response best reflects your opinion regarding the need for the following housing types in Newfield?

Single family homes on large lots: 171 Total Responses - 126 Adequate / 40 Not Enough / 5 Too Many
Single family homes on small lots: 159 Total Responses – 100 Adequate / 31 Too Many / 28 Not Enough
Homes in subdivisions: 147 Total Responses - 88 Adequate / 39 Too Many / 20 Not Enough
Single family rentals: 152 Total Responses - 99 Adequate / 27 Not Enough / 5 Too Many
Multi-unit rentals: 151 Total Responses - 86 Adequate / 28 Not Enough / 37 Too Many
Seasonal rentals: 153 Total Responses - 114 Adequate / 26 Too Many / 13 Not Enough
Affordable senior housing: 157 Total Responses - 84 Not Enough / 69 Adequate / 4 Too Many
Low income/affordable housing: 151 Total Responses - 88 Adequate / 37 Not Enough / 26 Too Many
Mobile home parks: 151 Total Responses - 81 Adequate / 58 Too Many / 12 Not Enough

5. Should local tax support be increased, decreased, or remain the same for the following?

Police protection: 190 Total Responses – 44 Increase / 7 Decrease / 139 Same
Fire protection: 188 Total Responses – 17 Increase / 2 Decrease / 139 Same
Rescue squad: 189 Total Responses – 49 Increase / 3 Decrease / 137 Same
Road maintenance and repair: 188 Total Responses – 62 Increase / 2 Decrease / 124 Same
Snowplowing: 185 Total Responses – 39 Increase / 4 Decrease / 142 Same
Recreational Facilities: 185 Total Responses – 36 Increase / 12 Decrease / 137 Same
Solid waste management hours of operation: 186 Total Responses – 32 Increase / 0 Decrease / 154 Same
Trash disposal services available: 184 Total Responses – 21 Increase / 10 Decrease / 153 Same
Town government transparency: 180 Total Responses – 54 Increase / 0 Decrease / 126 Same
Town Web Site Information: 178 Total Responses – 41 Increase / 3 Decrease / 134 Same
Town Office Hours: 186 Total Responses – 38 Increase / 1 Decrease / 147 Same
Access to public Wi-Fi: 179 Total Responses – 50 Increase / 15 Decrease / 114 Same
Physical accessibility to town buildings: 179 Total Responses – 15 Increase / 1 Decrease / 163 Same
Code enforcement: 181 Total Responses – 21 Increase / 11 Decrease / 149 Same
School system: 182 Total Responses – 20 Increase / 37 Decrease / 125 Same

6. Which of the following options do you think would be best for future residential development in Newfield?

178 Total Responses
Larger lot size: 107
Larger setbacks from roads and adjacent properties: 86
Larger lot frontages: 67
Subdivisions off of main roads: 64
Encourage development: 42
Smaller lot size: 34
Cluster development: 26
Smaller lot frontages: 23
Other (please specify): None (2); Increase business in town (2); Don't allow large subdivisions (1); separate from SRCC influence and grant building on lots purchased originally as buildable (1); Reasonable growth (1); Tiny Homes and In-Law Apartments (1); Wetland setback 50'(1); No Diesel Boats (1); Tiny Homes (1); Less Waterfront Development (1); Full Foundations (1); Tax deferment for companies willing to come to Newfield (1); Over 55 Developments (1); Limited development is the appealing quality (1); Keep Newfield quaint (1); Rollback EPA regs on building near water (1); Allow Tiny Houses (1); Limit construction (1); Develop toward reducing tax rate for home owners (1); Business (1); No campers used for homes (1); Limit Air BnBs (1); Slow Development (1); No Development (1); Business Development (1); Discourage Development (1); Don't encourage residential development without also having better access to food, transportation and health care (1); Slow Growth (1); Keep development to a minimum (1); Farms need larger lots, 5 acres lots could be smaller (1); Larger lots encourage the destruction of farm land as fewer houses take up more space (1); Home business, farms, recreation (1)

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7. Are you concerned that growth and development in Town are having a negative impact on water quality of lakes, rivers, streams and aquifers?

182 Total responses

Yes: 88

No: 87

Not Yet/currently: 2

Some concern about increased motorboat use / huge boats/big wakes: 2

Unknown / not well enough informed: 2

Variable, milfoil a real problem for our lakes, glad to see Newfield contributing: 1

8. Are you concerned that open space and natural areas may be lost to development?

202 Total Responses

Yes: 141

No: 57

Some: 4

9. Are you concerned that the character of the town is being threatened by housing development?

200 Total Responses

Yes: 102

No: 93

Some: 4

Unsure: 1

10. Are you concerned that the character of the town is being threatened by business development?

200 Total Responses

No: 147

Yes: 50

Not Sure: 1

Maybe: 1

No more convenience stores or pizza joints need more activities/recreation: 1

11. Which describes your Newfield residency

201 Total Responses

Year-round resident: 132

Seasonal resident: 37

Non-resident property owner: 32

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12. Reasons why you continue to live in, have moved to, continue to visit or own property in Newfield.

196 Total Responses

Rural character of the town: 171
Property tax rate :109
Sense of Community: 64
Limited government: 64
Proximity of Family: 46
Availability of town services: 18
Proximity to work: 11
Quality of School: 6

13. Please indicate how long you have been a resident of Newfield:

198 Total Responses

Twenty years or more: 86
Ten to twenty years: 43
Five to ten years: 29
Non-resident: 22
Two years or less: 18

14. Do you agree that the Town should make a strong effort to insure that public open space remains available for traditional outdoor recreation uses such as swimming, hunting, fishing, bird watching, hiking, snowmobiling, and boating?

197 Total Responses

Agree: 189
Disagree: 8

15. Do you agree that the Town should provide financial resources to improve Newfield's recreation facilities and opportunities?

174 Total Responses

Disagree: 110
Agree: 64

If you answered agree, what recreational activities would you like to see in town?

49 Total Responses with multiple answers as listed below

A park, splash pad, or anything kids could do for fun; access to lakes; All; All in question 14; All of the above; Athletic sports and leisure sports; ATV club; ATV trails; Beach facility; Beaches, swimming access; Better beach; better boat ramps, cut trees at beach; Bike/walking trail along River, outdoor music; biking, more access to saw mill; canoe/kayak launch; Children's and senior citizens activities; Fishing, bird watching, boating; Fix boat ramp; Hiking trails; Hiking, bird watching, snowshoeing, cross country skiing; Hiking, snowmobiling; hunting, 4 wheeling, fishing; Hunting, fishing, trapping, trail making and marking maps; I would love to see the maybe a park added, or a area of land with trails for ATV / hiking; I'm not sure; Indoor pool, rec building-facility; Indoor swimming, shooting range; Indoor, year round classes, painting, dances, theater, fitness; Money is available. We have a recreation committee, no one will run it
More activities for families, for families, youth; More hiking trails; More or better ATV trails not just snowmobiles
Nothing motorized; Outdoor rec field for ballgames and soccer; Park, playground, walking and hiking trails, picnic areas, indoor winter activities, ice skating; Parks; playgrounds, parks for picnics (handicapped accessible); Rec program/center - ping pong, games, sports fields, snow shoe/cross country trails; Rec sports for kids, dog park, walking trails regular maintenance; Ski bus / funtown trip; Snowmobiling, beaches; something foe school aged residents
Swimming, ATV trails, boat launches, snowmobile trails, nature trails Swimming, boat access to lakes; Swimming, hiking, bird watching; Tennis, basketball courts; the town needs to increase its tax base first; trails, playing fields; Youth activities

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16. Do you agree that the Town of Newfield should promote itself as a place to vacation year-round?

164 Total Responses

Disagree: 100

Agree: 64

17. The things I like most about living in Newfield are: (please select your top 4 choices)

194 Total Responses

Town's small town/village character: 157

Town's rural atmosphere and scenic beauty: 152

Newfield's low property tax rate: 113

Proximity to outdoor recreational opportunities: 74

Near to freshwater beaches for residents: 61

Near to friends and family: 53

Housing affordability: 43

Near to my workplace: 11

Proximity to churches: 7

Regional school system: 3

Proximity to shopping: 2

Other (please specify): Quiet, away from busy areas (1); Community (1); I like my house, close to Ogunquit (1); Camp on lake (1); Fishing (1); Rock Haven (1); peace and quiet (1); Utilizing outdoors (1)

18. Would you like to see business growth in the Town of Newfield?

184 Total Responses

Yes: 98

No: 70

Maybe: 2

Limited/Controlled/Moderately: 6

Small Business: No big box/dollar general: 4

Depends: 2

Clustered in certain areas: 1

Don't Know: 1

19. What type(s) of businesses should be encouraged to be located in Newfield? (Please select your top 4 choices)

181 Total Responses

Small retail and service businesses: 117

Low impact home occupations: 93

Campgrounds/recreational businesses: 67

Light industry/manufacturing: 64

Senior, child care, and group home facilities: 50

Professional offices: 47

Forestry-related businesses: 44

Tourism-related businesses: 40

Chain stores and restaurants: 25

Building and land development related businesses: 10

"Big box" stores: 4 Social clubs: 20

Mining, extractive/processing industries: 3

Other please list: None (5); Family Oriented (1); Farming (1); Year round recreational (1); Gastro Pub, Restaurants, brewery (1); Gas Station (1); Places to stay overnight (1); Service Business (1); Stay the same (1); Not on a large scale, no Walmart, could benefit from a restaurant (1); needs to fit character of the town (1); fitness center with pool (1); restaurants, not chain stores (1); grocery and gas (1); restaurants (1); technology (1)