



**WEST FAIRLEE
PLANNING COMMISSION**

Responses to the West Fairlee Town Survey

The West Fairlee Planning Commission mailed 508 surveys to West Fairlee property owners and registered voters who are not property owners. One hundred and five usable surveys (approximately 21% of those mailed) were returned to the Planning Commission.

I. Communication and Community

1. Do you feel your voice is heard on town issues?

YES		NO		NO RESPONSE	
49	46.7%	35	33.3%	21	20%

Comments:

- Haven't participated.
- I do not make my voice heard very often...and when I have spoken out at meetings I have been belittled by certain Town officials. With one issue I took before the Town Selectboard, the issue was not given serious consideration but several years later the issue was acted upon when the town was addressed by one of the town commissions and it was determined the town could save money if the issue was addressed.

2. How do you get information about town issues, meetings and decisions:

From public postings (Town Office, Library, B&B)

YES		NO		NO RESPONSE	
27	26%	43	41%	35	33%

From West Fairlee's Listserve email

YES		NO		NO RESPONSE	
52	49.5%	28	26.7%	25	23.8%

By word of mouth

YES		NO		NO RESPONSE	
71	67.6%	14	13.3%	20	19.1%

By attending Selectboard or other town meetings

YES		NO		NO RESPONSE	
24	22.9%	38	36.2%	43	40.9%

From Journal Opinion Newspaper

YES		NO		NO RESPONSE	
29	27.6%	38	36.2%	38	36.2%

Comments:

1. We are new here.
2. Annual Report.
3. Just what is mailed, like this survey.
4. Inadequately.
5. Post card in the U.S. Mail.

3. Have you missed town events or meetings because you were unaware they were scheduled?

YES		NO		NO RESPONSE	
49	46.7%	50	47.6%	6	5.7%

Comments:

1. How would I know I missed events if I were unaware they were scheduled?
2. Except for school events for public. I now go on the Westshire newsletter on-line.
3. Don't go (elderly)

4. Are the required public postings for town events and meetings located conveniently for you

YES		NO		NO RESPONSE	
45	42.8%	49	46.7%	11	10.5%

Comments:

1. Have never seen them out.
2. There should be signs put up at Middlebrook and Route 113.
3. There is a town sandwich board that would be very helpful if it was used.
4. Haven't really looked.
5. I don't live near the village, so bulletin boards aren't helpful.
6. No, and there are way too few posting places. On several voting days, or just before, I searched far and wide for a posted copy of the ballot and found none in public places or town bulletin boards.
7. Have no idea.

5. How often do you visit the West Fairlee Community Building?

WEEKLY		MONTHLY		YEARLY		NEVER		NO RESPONSE	
6	5.7%	29	27.6%	58	55.2%	8	7.6%	4	3.8%

Comments:

1. Once to vote.
2. As needed...several times a year.
3. For elections.

6. Do you own or have access to a computer or smart-phone with internet access ?

31 October 2017

YES		NO		NO RESPONSE	
81	77.1%	15	14.3%	9	8.6%

7. How do you connect to the Internet at your home? (check all that apply)

I do not have Internet service at my home	18	16.1%
Dial-up via standard telephone line	5	4.5%
Satellite dish	2	1.8%
Wireless network (through WaveComm, HughesNet or other)	14	12.5%
DSL through FairPoint	45	40.2%
Topsham Communications Fiber	17	15.2%
ECFiber	7	6.2%
NO RESPONSE	4	3.6%

Comments:

1. DSL through FairPoint is not good; I wish we had another way.
2. No computer.
3. DSL does not come down our street. DSL is on RT 113 but Fairpoint won't spend the money to extend the line down the short distance of our road to serve the eleven houses on this road.

8. How often do you visit West Fairlee's town website (www.westfairleevt.com)?

DAILY		WEEKLY		MONTHLY		YEARLY		NEVER		NO RESPONSE	
4	3.8%	4	3.8%	28	26.7%	24	22.8%	42	40%	3	2.8%

Comments:

1. Did not know it was there.

9. If our West Fairlee town website posted the warnings for all meetings, agendas, minutes, and upcoming town events, would you visit the website regularly?

YES		NO		DON'T KNOW		NO RESPONSE	
54	51.4%	17	16.2%	32	30.5%	2	1.9%

Comments:

1. Automatic weekly/monthly emails.
2. Do not have a computer.
3. I don't think our website is user friendly as it could be. Several towns have better set-ups on 1st click.
4. An automated email would be best, or through the Listserv.
5. I do not visit many websites regularly, but if the postings were done, I would probably avail myself of the opportunity.

10. Cell phone service is very important to West Fairlee's future.

STRONGLY AGREE		AGREE		NEUTRAL		DISAGREE		STRONGLY DISAGREE		NO RESPONSE	
71	67.6%	17	16.2%	6	5.7%	5	4.8%	3	2.8%	3	2.8%

Summary: 83.8% Agree 7.6% Disagree

Comments:

1. Especially needed for a special needs child.

11. High speed Internet service is very important to West Fairlee’s future.

STRONGLY AGREE		AGREE		NEUTRAL		DISAGREE		STRONGLY DISAGREE		NO RESPONSE	
78	74.3%	17	16.2%	4	3.8%	1	0.9%	0	0.0%	5	4.8%

Summary: 90.5% Agree 0.9% Disagree

12. I would support the placement of a cell tower in West Fairlee to improve local cell phone reception.

STRONGLY AGREE		AGREE		NEUTRAL		DISAGREE		STRONGLY DISAGREE		NO RESPONSE	
64	60.9%	18	17.1%	13	12.4%	3	2.8%	3	2.8%	4	3.8%

Summary: 78.1% Agree 5.7% Disagree

Comments:

1. Agreed, but smartly placed.
2. What would the tower look like?
3. It would need to be well concealed.
4. It would need to be visually appealing.
5. The tower would have to be placed to minimize visual impacts; and it should not be too tall.
6. Depends on location and visual and environmental impact.

II. Local Economy

13. West Fairlee needs more businesses in town.

STRONGLY AGREE		AGREE		NEUTRAL		DISAGREE		STRONGLY DISAGREE		NO RESPONSE	
64	60.9%	36	34.3%	18	17.1%	2	1.9%	5	4.7%	4	3.8%

Summary: 72.3% Agree 6.7% Disagree

Comments:

1. Depends on what they are...no manufacturing.

14. I would support:

More business establishments in the village center

YES		NO		NO OPINION		NO RESPONSE	
75	71.4%	8	7.6%	10	9.5%	12	11.4%

Comments:

1. Depends on what kind.
2. Certain types.

A local country-store type retail establishment

YES		NO		NO OPINION		NO RESPONSE	
78	74.3%	11	10.5%	8	7.6%	8	7.6%

A chain-store type retail establishment (such as Dollar Store)

YES		NO		NO OPINION		NO RESPONSE	
18	17.1%	71	67.6%	4	3.8%	12	11.4%

Comments:

1. Won't happen for a long time.
2. Yes, Dunkin Donuts!
3. Boycott these.

Recreation-related businesses that take advantage of the town's natural resources (Brushwood Forest, Rivendell Trail, Lake Fairlee)

YES		NO		NO OPINION		NO RESPONSE	
66	62.8%	13	12.4%	15	14.3%	11	10.5%

Comments:

1. No trapping.

Local venues for artists, authors, craftspeople and musicians, etc

YES		NO		NO OPINION		NO RESPONSE	
72	68.6%	9	8.6%	13	12.4%	11	10.5%

Comments:

1. To bring me to the village center would require food/coffee, benches to visit, a town garden.

General Comments Concerning Support for Businesses:

1. I would support all but chain-store type retail, but have no interest in subsidizing any with public funds.
2. Clean-up town.

15. To generate more jobs and revenue in West Fairlee, what kind of local business enterprises would you like to see? (Number in order of priority: 1, 2, 3 etc. Number 1 being the highest priority.)

RAN K	BUSINESS
1	Restaurants/Coffee Shops
2	Professional and consulting services (such as doctor, lawyer or accountant)
3	Home based businesses (such as a seamstress or house painter)
4	Agriculture
5	Retail stores
6	Services (such as barber or electrician)
7	Light industry/manufacturing
8	Forest products businesses
9	Tourism related information and services

Comments:

1. I just don't see markets for any of these types of businesses in the local area with possibly exception of home based businesses and possibly services and professional consulting services. Then there is the issue of personnel to staff them. Perhaps West Fairlee needs to think outside the box to establish/attract businesses...since there is no markets in town perhaps we need to export services and/or goods.
2. Good law enforcement.
3. Don't care.
4. No chain stores.
5. All of these businesses require a bigger customer base than we offer. Many of these would not create large numbers of jobs.
6. The towns surrounding Hanover and Lebanon are mostly bedroom communities to those economic hubs. The small towns do not offer and "economic driver." Without that driver being created/supported by a town (and then there would be no guarantee that the town's investments in the driver would yield results). Unless steps are taken to improve the visual appearance of the Route 113 community...why would anyone stop here?
7. More restaurants/coffee shops, but I doubt there is enough business to support it.
8. Don't want any of the listed businesses.
9. Need a hardware store.
10. None.
11. No big box stores.
12. Not a good location for retail stores.

16. Should a committee of community members be established to encourage new businesses to open in town?

YES		NO		NO OPINION		NO RESPONSE	
63	60%	8	7.6%	27	25.7%	7	6.7%

Comments:

1. The town needs to determine what we have to offer that other towns do not.

2. Depends, I don't want to gentrify the town so locals can't afford to live here.
3. Nice idea, but volunteers are a limited resource.

III. Roads and Transportation Facilities

17. Are the town's roads adequately maintained?

YES		NO		NO OPINION		NO RESPONSE	
72	68.6%	18	17.1%	8	7.6%	7	6.7%

Comments:

1. Roads in good shape, plowing is excellent, better than State roads.
2. Dirt roads maintained adequately but not paved roads.
3. Not Blood Brook Road! All asphalt or all gravel; fix the whole road.
4. Still a lot to be done, especially in winter, need more help.
5. Pavement needs more maintenance.
6. Back Street bridge has large holes that need to be filled.
7. We do what we can with the tax dollars we have. The roads could be better but we are not a wealthy community who could afford the increased taxes.
8. Middlebrook Road needs some attention, as do others.

18. Should the balance between paved and gravel roads change?

(please explain) _____

YES		NO		NO OPINION		NO RESPONSE	
15	14.3%	59	56.2%	27	25.7%	4	3.8%

Comments:

1. If it works don't fix it.
2. What we have maintain.
3. Need more paved roads.
4. Where will the money come from?
5. It is sometimes more costly to maintain paved roads.
6. More pavement. Pavement cost less to maintain than gravel.
7. Most traveled are already paved.
8. When there are more than 3 tax payers on a class 4 road it needs to be changed to class 3.
9. One or the other; just keep it maintained.
10. Some roads need paving to be better in the winter.
11. School bus routes should be blacktop.
12. People speed along Middle Brook and Wild Hill Roads. The gravel roads fare better.
13. Everything should be usable.
14. Keep the same or pave Wild Hill Road going to Bradford.
15. Need more paved.
16. Fine as is.

31 October 2017

17. Slow people down, they drive too fast on gravel roads.
18. Fix Rowell Brook Road.
19. I'm not familiar enough with town roads.
20. More paving.
21. More paved roads.
22. All paved with continued maintenance.
23. Beanville Road will be tough if it becomes all gravel (especially in Spring).
24. Paved roads are OK as to quantity -- need to be better maintained.
25. Lake roads should all be paved.
26. We must communicate and travel and gravel roads hinder the latter.
27. Fine the way they are.

19. Should West Fairlee explore the need for a designated commuter parking area?

YES		NO		NO OPINION		NO RESPONSE	
43	40.9%	35	33.3%	20	19%	7	6.7%

Comments:

1. They should ride-share for certain, but commuter lots are druggy meeting places, so am not sure that helps on balance.
2. Strongly disagree.

20. Should West Fairlee explore the need for more public transportation?

YES		NO		NO OPINION		NO RESPONSE	
57	54.3%	25	23.8%	19	18.1%	4	3.8%

Comments:

1. There already is a bus to Hanover.
2. People won't use it.
3. This may best be done regionally or with other towns.
4. Would be nice but taxes for local transport that's almost empty? Maybe a localized Uber style?
5. You are kidding I assume on this one.

IV. Housing and Population

21. Would you like to see the number of houses and the population of West Fairlee increase over the next 8 years?

YES		NO		NO OPINION		NO RESPONSE	
48	45.7%	28	26.6%	23	21.9%	6	5.7%

Comments:

1. Not flatlander that wants to run the town.
2. Moderate income level who will pay their taxes.
3. Just enough to keep up with the cost of running the town, plus a tiny bit of growth.
4. Don't care.

22. Housing needs differ by such factors as family size, income, age, mobility, access to transportation, etc. Who needs housing the most in West Fairlee? (Number in order of priority: 1, 2, 3 etc. Number 1 being the highest priority.)

RAN K	HOUSING NEED
1	Seniors
2	Families with children
3	Low income people
3	Disabled people
4	Middle income people
5	Young/Single adults

6	Seasonal visitors
7	High income people

Comments:

1. Better question might be what type(s) of residents does West Fairlee need and what does West Fairlee need to do to attract them?
2. Get rid of drug sellers and users in our town!!
3. Need development with strict zoning rules.
4. Who needs housing? Seniors, disabled, families with children and young adults need housing, but middle and high income people and seasonal visitors can afford housing and not need it.
5. As your question reads...the most vulnerable need housing. But these are not necessarily the groups you want to attract if you want to have the town grow in population...grow in business vitality...etc.
6. Housing for seniors and disabled people who already live here. These people should not be force out. They paid their dues already.
7. I don't know the population of West Fairlee well enough to answer, but transferring knowledge from similar towns, I would guess seniors and low income people.
8. This is a difficult question.
9. No.
10. Encourage the development of Air BNB's.

23. Do you favor adding the following types of housing in West Fairlee?

Apartments

STRONGLY FAVOR		FAVOR		AGAINST		STRONGLY AGAINST		NO OPINION		NO RESPONSE	
12	11.4%	42	40%	16	15.2%	10	9.5%	12	11.4%	13	12.4%
Summary:		51.4% Favor				24.8% Against					

Condominiums

STRONGLY FAVOR		FAVOR		AGAINST		STRONGLY AGAINST		NO OPINION		NO RESPONSE	
8	7.6%	25	23.8%	27	25.7%	16	15.2%	12	11.4%	17	16.2%
Summary:		31.4% Favor				40.1% Against					

Single-family houses on individual lots

STRONGLY FAVOR		FAVOR		AGAINST		STRONGLY AGAINST		NO OPINION		NO RESPONSE	
32	30.5%	50	47.6%	1	0.9%	2	1.9%	8	7.6%	12	11.4%
Summary:		78.1% Favor				2.8% Against					

Single-family houses in subdivisions

STRONGLY FAVOR		FAVOR		AGAINST		STRONGLY AGAINST		NO OPINION		NO RESPONSE	
9	8.6%	24	22.8%	19	18.1%	22	20.9%	13	12.4%	18	17.1%
Summary:		31.4% Favor				39% Against					

Multi-family houses on individual lots

STRONGLY FAVOR		FAVOR		AGAINST		STRONGLY AGAINST		NO OPINION		NO RESPONSE	

31 October 2017

15	14.3%	31	29.5%	16	15.2%	10	9.5%	15	14.3%	18	17.1%
Summary:		43.8% Favor			24.8% Against						

Mobile homes on individual lots

STRONGLY FAVOR		FAVOR		AGAINST		STRONGLY AGAINST		NO OPINION		NO RESPONSE	
10	9.5%	26	24.8%	23	21.9%	17	16.2%	14	13.3%	15	14.3%
Summary:		34.3% Favor				38.1% Against					

Mobile homes in a park

STRONGLY FAVOR		FAVOR		AGAINST		STRONGLY AGAINST		NO OPINION		NO RESPONSE	
5	4.8%	13	12.4%	22	20.9%	33	31.4%	13	12.4%	19	18.1%
Summary:		17.1% Favor				52.4% Against					

Congregate housing (independent living)

STRONGLY FAVOR		FAVOR		AGAINST		STRONGLY AGAINST		NO OPINION		NO RESPONSE	
20	19%	44	41.9%	8	7.6%	5	4.8%	13	12.4%	15	14.3%
Summary:		62.8% Favor				12.3% Against					

Cluster homes (single-family houses on small individual lots close to one another and sharing common services such as water, septic systems and the surrounding open space)

STRONGLY FAVOR		FAVOR		AGAINST		STRONGLY AGAINST		NO OPINION		NO RESPONSE	
20	19%	24	22.8%	20	19%	15	14.3%	12	11.4%	14	13.3%
Summary:		41.9% Favor				33.3% Against					

Comments:

1. No Zoning.
2. No housing.

24. Development of senior housing in the village area should be encouraged.

STRONGLY AGREE		AGREE		NEUTRAL		DISAGREE		STRONGLY DISAGREE		NO RESPONSE	
36	34.3%	42	40%	18	17.1%	3	2.8%	1	0.9%	5	4.8%
Summary:		74.3% Agree				3.8% Disagree					

Comments:

1. Every town should take care of their seniors.
2. I like my own home.
3. No.

25. The community needs to develop programs and services for children and young people.

STRONGLY AGREE		AGREE		NEUTRAL		DISAGREE		STRONGLY DISAGREE		NO RESPONSE	
31	29.5%	39	37.1%	22	20.9%	6	5.7%	2	1.9%	5	4.8%

Summary: 66.7% Agree 7.6% Disagree

Comments:

1. I think West Fairlee does okay and really tries.
2. Always.
3. No.

26. The community needs to develop programs and services for our aging population.

STRONGLY AGREE		AGREE		NEUTRAL		DISAGREE		STRONGLY DISAGREE		NO RESPONSE	
39	37.1%	44	41.9%	16	15.2%	1	0.9%	1	0.9%	4	3.8%

Summary: 79% Agree 1.9% Disagree

Comments:

1. No population or resources to do so.
2. There are buses who transport seniors to centers in different towns. They like to get out and visit. What is needed is rides.
3. Continue meals on wheels, vegetable delivery, food shelf delivery.

V. Municipal Services and Regulations

27. How do you feel about these municipal services? (Check one box for each type of service)

West Fairlee Volunteer Fire & EMS Department

FINE AS IT IS NOW		IMPROVE		NO OPINION		NO RESPONSE	
66	62.8%	21	20%	13	12.4%	5	4.8%

Outside Ambulance/EMS services

FINE AS IT IS NOW		IMPROVE		NO OPINION		NO RESPONSE	
57	54.3%	20	19%	18	17.1%	10	9.5%

Emergency Preparedness

FINE AS IT IS NOW		IMPROVE		NO OPINION		NO RESPONSE	
39	37.1%	26	24.8%	30	28.6%	10	9.5%

Health Officer

FINE AS IT IS NOW		IMPROVE		NO OPINION		NO RESPONSE	
36	34.3%	30	28.6%	31	29.5%	8	7.6%

Comments:

1. Never met him/her.
2. What health officer?

31 October 2017

3. Better one.

Animal Control

FINE AS IT IS NOW		IMPROVE		NO OPINION		NO RESPONSE	
47	44.8%	27	25.7%	22	20.9%	9	8.6%

Comments:

1. More enforcement.

County Police/Public Safety

FINE AS IT IS NOW		IMPROVE		NO OPINION		NO RESPONSE	
34	32.4%	42	40%	19	18.1%	10	9.5%

Comments:

1. Didn't know there were any.
2. More patrolling.

West Fairlee Public Library

FINE AS IT IS NOW		IMPROVE		NO OPINION		NO RESPONSE	
38	36.2%	38	36.2%	22	20.9%	7	6.7%

Comments:

1. Where is it?
2. Close it.

Road Maintenance

FINE AS IT IS NOW		IMPROVE		NO OPINION		NO RESPONSE	
70	66.7%	24	22.8%	5	4.8%	6	5.7%

Comments:

1. Road maintenance is great.

Solid Waste Management/Recycling

FINE AS IT IS NOW		IMPROVE		NO OPINION		NO RESPONSE	
46	43.8%	35	33.3%	15	14.3%	9	8.6%

Comments:

1. More access please!
2. Current guy is rude.
3. The current hauler is rude.
4. Poor as is.

Town Clerk's Office

FINE AS IT IS NOW		IMPROVE		NO OPINION		NO RESPONSE	
61	58.1%	24	22.8%	13	12.4%	7	6.7%

Comments:

1. Better response to messages left when the office is closed.

Town Treasurer's Office

FINE AS IT IS NOW		IMPROVE		NO OPINION		NO RESPONSE	
65	61.9%	16	15.2%	16	15.2%	8	7.6%

Comments:

31 October 2017

1. Better response to messages left when the office is closed.

West Fairlee Community Food Shelf

FINE AS IT IS NOW		IMPROVE		NO OPINION		NO RESPONSE	
50	47.6%	18	17.1%	29	27.6%	8	7.6%

Comments:

1. Glad we have a food shelf, but it needs more hours open.

28. I would be willing to pay additional taxes to improve the services that I checked *Improve.

STRONGLY AGREE		AGREE		NEUTRAL		DISAGREE		STRONGLY DISAGREE		NO RESPONSE	
10	9.5%	26	24.8%	32	30.5%	16	15.2%	11	10.5%	10	9.5%

Summary: 34.3% Agree 25.7% Disagree

Comments:

1. I don't know how taxes are divided up now?
2. I cannot afford more taxes. If I could afford more taxes, then I might be willing, but taxes in West Fairlee are high already.

29. Do you think West Fairlee devotes too many or too few resources to any of the following areas or is the present situation just about right? (Check one box for each listed below)

Municipal services and regulations

TOO MANY RESOURCES		*TO FEW RESOURCES		JUST ABOUT RIGHT		NO OPINION		NO RESPONSE	
5	4.8%	25	23.8%	45	42.8%	24	22.8%	6	5.7%

Communication and community

TOO MANY RESOURCES		*TO FEW RESOURCES		JUST ABOUT RIGHT		NO OPINION		NO RESPONSE	
1	0.9%	44	41.9%	32	30.5%	20	19%	7	6.7%

Roads and transportation

TOO MANY RESOURCES		*TO FEW RESOURCES		JUST ABOUT RIGHT		NO OPINION		NO RESPONSE	
2	1.9%	17	16.2%	61	58.1%	19	18.1%	6	5.7%

Land conservation and use

TOO MANY RESOURCES		*TO FEW RESOURCES		JUST ABOUT RIGHT		NO OPINION		NO RESPONSE	
7	6.7%	16	15.2%	48	45.7%	28	26.7%	6	5.7%

30. I would be willing to pay additional taxes to improve the item(s) checked *Too Few Resources.

STRONGLY AGREE		AGREE		NEUTRAL		DISAGREE		STRONGLY DISAGREE		NO RESPONSE	
9	8.6%	22	20.9%	27	25.7%	15	14.3%	10	9.5%	22	20.9%

Summary: 29.5% Agree 23.8% Disagree

Comments:

1. I cannot afford more taxes. If I could afford more taxes, then I might be willing, but taxes in West Fairlee are high already.

31. Which of these statements best expresses your opinion about property rights? (Check only one)

Development should be regulated by our local government so that what one person does with his or her property does not adversely affect adjoining property owners or the common good of West Fairlee residents.	50	47.6%
Property owners should be able to do what they want with their property (as long as they comply with state and federal laws and regulations).	43	40.9%
NO RESPONSE TO QUESTION	12	11.4%

Comments:

1. One of the joys of living in West Fairlee for 35 years has been the lack of regulation. I realize this situation is a two edge sword. If I want to live free of outside regulation, I must give the same freedom to my neighbors. Then it boils down to respect for one another and the land.
2. I would support regulating home businesses that devalue the property value of adjacent properties. Also regulations regarding junk cars, trash, junk, etc. accumulating on people's property is a health hazard to neighbors and devalues nearby properties.
3. An Option 3 might beat the first (a town without resources to do so) or the second (state/federal to remote to do so).
4. Should not harbor dump like yards.
5. Poor options.
6. Whatever we do now is working fine.
7. Within their 4 walls -- i.e. we should not insist on regulations for electrical wiring, building codes, etc.

32. When considering proposals for development, the town’s primary concern should always be: (List in order of importance: 1, 2 etc. Number 1 being the most important.)

RANK	
1	The well-being and interests of the town's present residents.
2	The economic consequences of the proposed development.
3	Other (explain): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintaining small Vermont architectural attributes. West Fairlee needs a center focus. 2. Both current residents and new ones. 3. Both the short and long term economic consequences of development need to be considered. I do not feel the two statements can be separated. Issues need to be looked at holistically. 4. I don't believe one is more important than the other. A holistic approach looking at short and long term impact and so on. 5. Building and following consensus developed goals for town land uses. 6. Getting working people a place to live. 7. Effect on traffic, water supply. 8. Keeping prime resources (water, agricultural land, wildlife corridors intact/healthy. 9. Everything working so far. 10. Both of the above. 11. No Zoning. 12. Environmental concerns. 13. Impact on current town character and resources. 14. Environmental impact. 15. Preservation of designated conservation areas. 16. Environmental impacts. 17. Lowering property and school taxes. I'm single, disabled home owner and taxes are absurd. 18. Home businesses. 19. Usually, very few people benefit from a development. 20. The long-range consequences and effects on rural character of the town. 21. More town gatherings for communication.

33. West Fairlee should have a subdivision ordinance that regulates the development of multiple housing units on a tract of land:

STRONGLY AGREE		AGREE		NEUTRAL		DISAGREE		STRONGLY DISAGREE		NO RESPONSE	
46	43.8%	28	26.7%	8	7.6%	10	9.5%	8	7.6%	5	4.8%

Summary: 70.5% Agree 17.1% Disagree

Comments:

1. Provided that town votes to approve such ordinances.

- 18. Animal control.
- 19. Animal control.
- 20. Junk around houses! Old unoccupied houses and cars.
- 21. Junk and junk vehicles.
- 22. Build permits so they know what is being built in town. Also would generate revenue.
- 23. No Zoning.
- 24. No Zoning. Stop meddling in people's business.
- 25. Dilapidated homes/excessive debris/autos.
- 26. Use of property in flood zones.
- 27. Steep (ridiculous) driveways, septic system monitoring on Lake Fairlee.
- 28. Remove junk.
- 29. Water safety.
- 30. But should not propose new ordinance that cannot or are unwilling to enforce.
- 31. Animal control, junk on property.
- 32. Definitely not taking months to address and achieve finality.
- 33. Junk yard homes (one on RT244 and one in Post Mills).

36. If West Fairlee could save taxpayers money by working cooperatively with one or more adjacent towns to provide the same or better services, would you favor such a cooperative arrangement (for example policing, recycling, snow removal, etc.)?

YES		NO		NO OPINION		NO RESPONSE	
89	84.8%	7	6.7%	4	3.8%	5	4.8%

Comments:

- 1. We did it with schools - it is a financial and educational disaster.
- 2. Yes, provided that West Fairlee maintains authority to supervise/oversee contractors who provide such services.
- 3. Absolutely! Include Treasure Island.
- 4. I don't see anything done with the taxes you get except driving people out of their homes.

VI. Land Use and Conservation

37. West Fairlee's Town Plan should seek to preserve the rural character of West Fairlee.

STRONGLY	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	STRONGLY	NO
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39. What activities should the west Fairlee Conservation Commission concentrate on most? (Number in order of priority: 1, 2, 3 etc. Number 1 being the highest priority.)

RAN K	ACTIVITY
1	Advise the Selectboard on issues of water and air quality, forest management, land conservation, wetland, preservation, etc.
2	Work actively with land owners, the Town and land trusts to facilitate the conservation of land.
3	Educating and working with school children on outdoor and conservation projects.
4	Mapping the town's special natural areas.
4	Conduct environmental education programs.
5	Building and mapping town trails.
6	Leading hikes and other outdoor activities.

Comments:

1. Talk to residents about their conservation goals to establish consensus priorities based on outcomes and costs. Need events in the village to bring people together to discuss issues and build sense of community to motivate establishment of goals and means to implement/realize/execute them. What about conducting parades, school exhibitions, community presentations?
2. Maintain what is conserved already. Better OFF the highway parking like on Blood Brook Road.
3. Invasive species removal/control.
4. Cleaning impaired waterways.
5. Provide more support to people in current use program.
6. Should close the Conservation Commission.
7. Difficult question!

40. In recent years, the Vermont state government has established ambitious goals related to energy efficiency, in-state generation of renewable energy and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. In West Fairlee I support the development of:

	YES		NO		NO OPINION		NO RESPONSE	
Privately owned small-scale electric generating wind towers.	63	60%	20	19%	10	9.5%	12	11.4%
Commercial large-scale electric generating wind towers.	37	35.2%	47	44.8%	10	9.5%	11	10.5%
Privately owned small-scale electric generating solar panel arrays.	86	81.9%	2	1.9%	6	5.7%	11	10.5%
Commercial large-scale electric generating solar panel arrays.	46	43.8%	34	32.4%	14	13.3%	11	10.5%

Comments:

1. Is West Fairlee topographically suited to wind towers?
2. A project to identify low cost/low impact source of electricity would be excellent. Independence is not a goal West Fairlee might pursue prudently.
3. Yes, if properly regulated.
4. They don't bother me, even if they are in the fields.
5. Privately owned solar panels are OK on houses or if hidden from view like in Thetford.
6. Privately owned solar panels on houses are OK, but large-scale operations are not unless they are hidden from view like in Thetford. If it is visible...NO WAY.
7. I don't think we have a good site for large scale wind. If we did I would allow.

VII. General Demographic Information

41. How long have you lived in West Fairlee? ____ years. *No Response

-1-9yrs	10-19yrs	20-29yrs	30-39yrs	40-49yrs	50-59yrs	60-69yrs	70-79yrs	80-89yrs	*NR
24	23	14	12	8	5	5	1	0	13
24%	21.9%	13.3%	11.4%	7.6%%	4.8%	4.8%	0.9%		12.4%

42. What is your age group? *No Response

18-19yrs	20-29yrs	30-39yrs	40-49yrs	50-59yrs	60-69yrs	70-79yrs	80-89yrs	*NR
0	1	7	11	15	32	24	7	8
	0.9%	6.7%	10.5%	14.3%	30.5%	22.6%	6.7%	7.6%

43. How many residents under the age of 18 years of age reside in your home? *No Response

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	*NR
79	1	10	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	12
75.2%	0.9%	9.5%	0.9%	1.9%						11.4%

13.3% of homes had children under 18 years of age residing at home.

44. If there are students in your household, how many attend the Rivendell Interstate School District? *No Response

0	1	2	3	4	5	*NR
5	1	4	1	0	0	2

45. Are you:

Actively employed full-time	47	44.8%
Actively employed part-time	8	7.6%
Seeking employment	0	
Attending school/training	1	0.9%
Retired	38	36.2%
In the military	0	
No Response	12	11.4%

Comments:

1. I'm working a full-time and part-time job to pay the ridiculous taxes and support the numerous people who do not work in West Fairlee and Vermont.

46. What town or city do you most often travel to for:

Most Frequently Cited Town or City for Each Category	Employment	Grocery Shopping	Other Shopping	Sports Activities	Restaurants	Fast Food	Entertainment	Social Activities	Overall Responses
Bradford, VT	4	51	16	4	17	1	3	5	101
Hanover, NH	10	10	1	9	27	3	24	15	99
Lebanon, NH	12	22	29	5	24	15	19	9	135
West Lebanon, NH	1	17	42	5	16	13	7	5	106

Full List of Responses

Full List of Cited Towns and Cities for Each Category	Employment	Grocery Shopping	Other Shopping	Sports Activities	Restaurants	Fast Food	Entertainment	Social Activities	Overall Responses
Barre, VT			1		2				3
Bethel, VT					1				1
Boston, MA				2			2		4
Bradford, VT	4	51	16	4	17	1	3	5	101
Burlington, VT		1					2		3
Chelsea, VT					1		1	1	3
Claremont, NH		1	1						2
Corinth, VT							1	1	2
Dummerston, VT	1								1
East Thetford, VT	1								1
Fairlee, VT	5	7	1	5	1	2	2	3	36
Green Mountains, VT				1					1
Hanover, NH	10	10	1	9	27	3	24	15	99
Hartford, VT				2	1				3
Hartland, VT	1								1
Haverhill, NH			1				2		3
Lebanon, NH	12	22	29	5	24	15	19	9	135

Littleton, NH			1						1
Lyme, NH				1	4		2	1	8
Manchester, NH				1					1
Montpelier, VT								1	1
Newberry, VT				1			1		2
No Response/NA	5	1	1	6	3	6	5	5	36
Norwich, VT	7	6	9	7	0	5	3	8	5
Norwich, VT	1			3	1			1	6
On-Line			3						3
Orford, NH	1			5	2			2	10
Piermont, NH					1				1
Post Mills, VT			1	1					2
Randolph, VT							1		1
Springfield, VT	1								1
Strafford, VT	1								1
Thetford, VT	6			3	1		1	3	14
Upper Valley, VT/NH	3	1	1		2	1	2	6	16
Vershire, VT				1				1	2
Wells River, VT					2				2
West Fairlee, VT	7			5				1	23
West Fairlee, VT								1	
West Fairlee, VT								1	
West Lebanon, NH	1	1	4	5	1	1			10
West Lebanon, NH	7	7	2	5	6	3	7	5	6
White Mountains, NH				2					2
White River Junction, VT	5	3	5		9	9	1	0	43
White River Junction, VT							1	2	
Woodstock, VT					1				1
Woodsville, NH		6	9	1	7	4			27

47. Are you a West Fairlee: (check all that apply)

PROPERTY OWNER	FULL-TIME RESIDENT	PART-TIME RESIDENT	REGISTERED VOTER	NO RESPONSE
81	78	2	67	5

48. Over the next 8 years what will be the most critical issues facing West Fairlee?

1. Energy conservation.
2. Moving toward sustainable energy and organic food growth.
3. Taxes, taxes, taxes. Education, did I mention taxes.
4. Sustainable, responsible development; housing; retaining/attracting younger people, Internet/cell phones.
5. Environmental.
6. The deterioration of some homes in West Fairlee Town.
7. Taxes.

8. Lower taxes.
9. Property taxes.
10. Taxation and related funding.
11. Controlled, planned growth.
12. Bean Hall.
13. Aging population.
14. To bring back the community that has been lost.
15. Taxes, education and services.
16. Roads, community involvement.
17. Haven't been here long enough to say.
18. Bean Hall costing town too much money.
19. Lack of technological infrastructure (broadband Internet and cell phone). Nobody will move to a house without decent Internet speeds. Limits jobs. Frustrating as heck.
20. Holding the line on taxes.
21. Attracting new business. Improving community enhancement.
22. Class 4 roads.
23. Problems associated with the opioid crisis: theft, unemployment, affect children with "issues" in the schools. Crack-heads as neighbors decreasing property values and bringing drug addicts into the neighborhood. Working people leaving the area due to higher taxes.
24. Attracting young professionals and families.
25. Need for cell service/Internet. Getting rid of all the drug dealers in town.
26. Housing for older people who cannot afford to stay in their homes.
27. Taxes!!!
28. Owner property rights. No one should go uninvited onto other's land.
29. Revitalizing community identity and spirit.
30. Drugs, education, elderly living.
31. Bringing the community together and environmental concerns.
32. Lack of growth; insufficient tax base.
33. Getting younger people to run for town offices.
34. Employment.
35. Property tax increase.
36. Improving schools.
37. Tax burden. Attracting young families and jobs for them.
38. Restore Bean Hall. Resume some kind of post office.
39. Water quality, development issues.
40. Road care; culvert near here needs fixing; bumps on the road from water; noise.
41. Zoning and property taxes.
42. Maintaining paved roads.
43. Business in West Fairlee.
44. Rebuilding a sense of community.
45. Taxes.
46. Property/school tax increases.
47. Improving the image of the village.
48. Improving the image of the village so that someone would want to live and work here.
49. Over development.
50. Tax break for seniors and veterans.
51. Clean-up the town (good luck).
52. Jobs/income, services for seniors.
53. Transportation.
54. Police coverage, community development activities.
55. No Zoning.

56. Better cell coverage. 100% Internet at 50 MBPS for everyone.
57. Making West Fairlee attractive to more residents.
58. Taxes.
59. High speed fiber Internet for everyone and not just the wealthy.
60. Haven't lived here long enough to say.
61. Property taxes, infrastructure.
62. Tax burden on retired/low income residents.
63. Taxes.
64. Crime prevention, drug abuse prevention.
65. Keeping rural character.
66. Renewable energy and land use, local business development.
67. Declining population/educational costs/aging population.
68. Declining population, aging population, decrease in tax base.
69. School property taxes.
70. School taxes, taxes in general.
71. Taxes.
72. Consuming critical wildlife habitat.
73. Rising taxes.
74. Look closely at long-term environmental and other impacts of programs promising jobs.
75. Paved road maintenance, Zoning.
76. Town library should be maintained by volunteers and better hours, newer books, new computers.
77. Drug problems.
78. Find a way to keep taxes down for property owners.
79. Technology.

49. How would you most like to see West Fairlee change over the next 8 years?

1. Cell phone and better internet service.
2. Become more community minded.
3. Development of a community center with activities and a business center.
4. Move towards sustainable energy and organic food growth. Preserving wild places and encouraging people to care and protect.
5. Clean up the school system; we spend too much for less!
6. Build more responsible local businesses. Establish social life for teens/seniors.
7. Cleaning up messy properties.
8. Clean up abandoned trailers and homes in town.
9. Business growth and broader tax base.
10. More housing; facilitate light industry; build Internet infrastructure; build population.
11. Actions supporting enhancement of town economic/social center.
12. Growth while retaining quaint Vermont life.
13. Not to lose its hometown appeal.
14. More social services.
15. To have less non-working/ welfare dependent families living here and for properties to have to be cleaned up.
16. To find a way to make Bean Hall the center of our community.
17. Larger tax base.
18. Community gathering place.
19. Prosperity.
20. Policing; more things for young children; clean-up some of the properties in town.
21. Increased tax base.
22. Stronger community.

23. Give equal services to all taxpayers.
24. Taxes lowered, especially school taxes.
25. To see a more vibrant and engaged community. I would love to see a central town space that would ??? community engagement.
26. More community!!
27. Lower property taxes and protect private property owners.
28. The thought that the town, city, state know what is best for me.
29. More communication among community members and development of community goals.
30. Police, better education, community group for teens.
31. More positive and community supported and not as divided.
32. I don't want it to change much at all.
33. More small businesses; renewable energy; modest increase in population.
34. Bring activities/events to interest younger generation!
35. Cable accessible for all.
36. Keep it country.
37. Less petty crime, better education, more citizen participation.
38. Merge with Thetford or Fairlee. Make the village and outlying areas "one community".
39. Restore Bean Hall.
40. More involvement in town affairs by community.
41. Doesn't care, she is 96 years old.
42. Having zoning in place to clean-up and preserve!
43. Curb population growth.
44. Development of the town.
45. Strong, forward looking leaders who can rebuild our community.
46. More open to business.
47. More gentrification of village/town.
48. Gentrification but with respect and help for those who live here now and are low income.
49. Improve or establish programs to advance West Fairlee.
50. Appearance.
51. More prosperous, more unified (village versus brooks).
52. Do more with trails and natural resources.
53. Cell service. Fire Department needs support.
54. Better communications, better infrastructure, proactive investment.
55. Clean-up town center, preserve rural character.
56. Community commitment.
57. More professional fire department.
58. An active town center and a more involved population.
59. Keep its rural nature, but have a more robust business area(s).
60. Clean it up.
61. Increased awareness of the natural resources and how to preserve/protect our lovely area.
62. More business in town.
63. more community events. West Fairlee Day. Halloween parties, etc.
64. Restoration and use of Bean Hall, improved public transportation.
65. Younger families/more business opportunities.
66. Business and population growth. Would like it to have a country vacation appeal. More of a connection to the lake.
67. Stabilize tax increases.
68. Get out of Rivendell System.
69. Small changes in town (Bean Hall) but no large scale development.
70. More young families.
71. Convert the trailer park into low income cluster housing.

72. Zoning, improved paved road maintenance.
73. More communication.
74. A place where people can meet.
75. Drug problems.
76. Keep taxes down.
77. Putting Bean Hall back in use (coffee shop, crafts, meeting place).
78. Solar energy, high-speed internet and cell service.
79. Join the 21st Century.

50. If other topics not covered in this survey are important to you, please describe them. Attach a separate sheet of paper if needed.

1. Selectboard representation is ineffective in supporting and representing citizens of the town. Development in Town government needs to be welcomed by the town and encouraged.
2. Affordable housing.
3. Cleaning up the Ompompanoosuc River.
4. Have the selectboard work to get better law enforcement in town to get rid of drug problem (there is a drug house right by the school).
5. Loss of post office.
6. We need to get more residents to participate in town offices and meetings. We also need to be able to hold these people responsible to perform the duties of these offices as well as getting more citizens involved in town activities (i.e., volunteering for community clean-up projects such as cemetery beautification, town hall gardens, etc.).
7. Taxes are way too high.
8. We need a newsletter and an energy committee and to join ECFiber as a member town.
9. Thank you to the people who put together this survey and will use the information gathered to better our nice community.
10. I grew up in West Fairlee and West Fairlee Day was a HUGE event for the entire town along with Halloween parties for children. As I am now graduated from college and in the process of buying a home, I would love to see/help these events come back to life for our community.
11. I would like to see concerned attention to residents needs and not too much activism based on ideology.
12. This town does nothing except take outrageous taxes from residents. I see nothing that ever concerns me done with my tax money except make me broke. I have no kids, don't use schools; I just pay for others. I wish I knew this when I bought my house and i would never recommend this town to anyone to live in.
13. I have never had children but I pay the same amount of taxes as people with children. I should get a percentage of school tax cut.
14. I think the role of constable should be eliminated, however, I believe we do need some form of law enforcement.
15. Some outside residents try to run our church which affects all residents.