

APPENDIX A:
SURVEY SAMPLE
SURVEY RESULTS
SURVEY COMMENTS

Townsend Open Space & Recreation Survey 2010

Townsend is in the process of updating its 1999 Open Space and Recreation Plan. This update will make Townsend eligible to apply for state and federal grants for acquiring open space and for creating recreational facilities. A citizen survey is an important part of the process. The Open Space and Recreation Plan committee wants to know your opinion about how best to acquire, protect, maintain, promote and use our open space and recreational facilities.

In this survey, "Open Space" is defined as "public and privately owned lands that are important for a variety of reasons, including recreation, agriculture, forestry, wildlife habitat protection, water supply protection, scenic interest or which contribute to a more sustainable quality of life for the residents of Townsend."

The survey should take you 15-20 minutes. Thank you for your interest in your town's open space.

1. Open space has financial implications for our town:

a) When the town acquires open space, no taxes are collected.

b) State acquired open space provides decreased taxes.

c) Land that becomes residential development collects taxes that rarely cover the services provided.

Please give your opinion on open space financing:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The town should acquire more open space.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The town should encourage the state to acquire open space.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The town should finance open space through a one-time conservation surtax on all taxpayers.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The town should finance open space by passing the Community Preservation Act, a surcharge with state matching funds.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The town should finance open space through raising the general tax rate.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The town should finance open space by attracting businesses and industries to town.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The town should finance open space through charging fees to use open space land.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The town should finance open space by soliciting benefactors to contribute sustaining funds.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The town should pursue other methods, such as purchasing development rights, to curtail residential development.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Town should	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Townsend Open Space & Recreation Survey 2010

contribute annually to the
Conservation Land Fund at
Annual Town Meeting.

Other comments

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2. The following are the Open Space and Recreation Goals from the 1999 Plan. Please rank the importance of these goals for you today and in the future.

	Very important	Important	Neutral	Somewhat unimportant	Unimportant
Maintain high quality drinking water for the residents of Townsend.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensure the quality, vibrancy, and continued usage of the Squannacook River and its tributaries.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protect and maintain the quality of all surface waters in Townsend, including wetlands.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Retain the natural character and natural heritage of Townsend.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provide increased access to state and town owned lands deemed to hold a conservation value.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Develop active recreation facilities.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provide for maintenance of conservation lands and recreational facilities.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Establish a linked system of open space/recreation available to all town residents.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comments or Additional Goal(s)

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Townsend Open Space & Recreation Survey 2010

3. Regarding your knowledge of Townsend's recreation and open space facilities:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I am aware of state owned recreation areas within the town.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am aware of town owned recreational areas within the town.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Townsend does a good job communicating about open space and recreation areas.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The town should have more web based information available.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The town should have more brochures available.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The town should have trail maps and maps of the recreation areas available.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Printed information should be available for a fee.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other comments:

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4. Landscape character is defined as those features both natural and man-made that give Townsend its unique character. Rate the importance of the following to Townsend's natural landscape character:

	Very important	Important	Neutral	Somewhat unimportant	Unimportant
Hills and views.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rivers, ponds, streams and wetlands.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Forest tracts.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please identify a site in town that you would most like protected:

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Townsend Open Space & Recreation Survey 2010

5. Landscape character is defined as those features both natural and man-made that give Townsend its unique character. Rate the importance of the following to Townsend's man-made landscape character:

	Very important	Important	Neutral	Somewhat unimportant	Unimportant
Farmland	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Historic Buildings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cemeteries	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Town Common	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other Town Parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Historic relics, i.e. stone walls, railroad trestles	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Scenic roads	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Neighborhoods	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please identify a site in town that you would most like protected:

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6. Townsend's rural character is enhanced by the wildlife that lives here. It is important to protect Townsend's wildlife by protecting important habitats such as:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Connections between existing publicly-owned lands to serve as travel corridors for wildlife.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Riverside land to serve as travel corridors for wildlife.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Land bordering ponds and rivers as habitat for water-dependent species.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Open land (e.g., pastures and old fields) because this habitat type is becoming uncommon.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Forested land.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Unusual habitats (e.g., vernal pools, bogs, and ravines).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Areas known to be used by rare species.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other comments:

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Townsend Open Space & Recreation Survey 2010

7. Need for recreation facilities in Townsend

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I am satisfied with existing places for children to play and recreate in Townsend.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am satisfied with the places available in Townsend for recreational use by adults.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am satisfied with the general condition of these facilities.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other comments:

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Townsend Open Space & Recreation Survey 2010

8. Please rate the need you feel for the following recreational facilities.

	Very much needed	Needed	Neutral	Not needed	Not at all needed
bike trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
outdoor amphitheater	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
conservation areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
recreation center	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
children play areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
tennis courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
family picnic areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
paintball area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
sport fields	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
recreational vehicles area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
basketball courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
fishing area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
hiking & skiing trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
town pool	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ice skating rink	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
handball courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
local neighborhood parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
mountain biking trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
skateboard park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
hunting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
dog play area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
community gardens	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
running/jogging	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
rollerblading	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
horseback riding	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
boating/canoeing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
environmental education	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
town beach	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
golf course	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
miniature golf	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
golf driving range	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other comments:

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Townsend Open Space & Recreation Survey 2010

9. How often do you visit the following in Townsend for recreation?

	Don't know where it is	Very often	Often	Rarely	Never
Town Common	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Howard Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pearl Hill State Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Willard Brook State Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
State Walking Trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Town Walking Trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
School Playgrounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Senior Center	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Library	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Squannacook River	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other Rivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Old Meetinghouse Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Basbanes Trail	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Craven Field	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Squannacook Meadows	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other comments:

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10. If you feel improvement is needed in Townsend for bicycling and walking from one place to another, then an important aspect would be to:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Build more sidewalks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Widen state roads	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Widen town roads	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Develop MBTA rail bed as a rail trail	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Add bike lanes to roads	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More bike safety training	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Stricter enforcement of speed limits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Make it easier for Townsend children to bike or walk to school	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other comments:

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Townsend Open Space & Recreation Survey 2010

11. Maintenance of existing town Open Space and Recreation Areas should be accomplished through:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Volunteers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Town hired grant writer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Grants	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Taxes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Donated funds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
School or scout projects	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Usage fees	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other comments:

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12. Would you be willing to participate in the maintenance and development of Townsend's recreation and open space facilities? (If you would like to volunteer, please email clem6six@verizon.net)

	Often	Occasionally	Rarely	Never	Don't know
I would assist an occasional work crew.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would assist in ongoing maintenance.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would assist in distribution of information.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would be willing to participate on a committee to manage open space.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other comments:

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Townsend Open Space & Recreation Survey 2010

13. Water supply protection

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I am knowledgeable of existing bylaw protections of our water supply.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I take precautions to protect the groundwater on my own property.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am concerned about chemical spills and road salt entering the water supply.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would like more information regarding groundwater and how it can be protected.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am in favor of purchasing strategic parcels of land to protect the aquifers of the town.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know where the public water supply wells are in town.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I know where the aquifers are in town.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other comments:

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14. Historic assets in Townsend

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The documented history of Townsend should be preserved for future generations.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Historically significant buildings and sites should be preserved.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Historically significant buildings and sites should have public hours.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Townsend's history should be promoted.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Townsend's colonial village appearance should be preserved.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A more defined walking area of our Historic Districts would be beneficial.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other comments:

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Townsend Open Space & Recreation Survey 2010

15. How long have you been a resident of Townsend?

- ☐ Less than 5 years
- ☐ 5 - 10 years
- ☐ 10 - 20 years
- ☐ 20 - 30 years
- ☐ > 30 years

16. Do you or anyone else in your household own property in Townsend which can be described as (check all that apply):

- ☐ House with < 2 acres
- ☐ House with 2 or more acres
- ☐ Developable residential land
- ☐ Developable commercial/industrial land
- ☐ Forest land (Chapter 61 and >10 acres)
- ☐ Agricultural or horticultural land (Chapter 61A and >5 acres)
- ☐ Recreational land (Chapter 61B and >5 acres)
- ☐ Land with any kind of conservation restrictions (other than Ch. 61)

17. Which of the following best describes your current living situation? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ single/couple household
- ☐ family with children (ages 0-11)
- ☐ family with children (12-18)
- ☐ family with children (19+)

18. What is your age group?

- ☐ Less than 18 years
- ☐ 18-30 years
- ☐ 31-45 years
- ☐ 46-60 years
- ☐ 60-75 years
- ☐ Greater than 75 years

SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESPONSES

1. Open space has financial implications for our town:

- a) When the town acquires open space, no taxes are collected.
- b) State acquired open space provides decreased taxes.
- c) Land that becomes residential development collects taxes that rarely cover the services provided.

Please give your opinion on open space financing:

A majority of respondents are in favor of open space preservation for recreation and other uses, and a sub set of them understand the cost of residential development.

Some respondents could benefit from education with regard to alternative financing methods, purposes for conservation, preservation and need for recreational facilities.

Other respondents were in favor of open space preservation, but only in better economic times.

Some respondents thought that open space would help preserve the rural feel of Townsend, while other thought enticing industry to Town would help defray the cost of preservation.

There were four specific self-interests mentioned: horseback riding, ATV trails, rail trail, and areas with no hunting allowed.

2. The following are the Open Space and Recreation Goals from the 1999 Plan. Please rank the importance of these goals for you today and in the future.

To provide the ranking, the percentage of the categories Very Important and Important were combined.

- **Maintain high quality drinking water for the residents of Townsend. (94.1%)**
- **Ensure the quality, vibrancy, and continued usage of the Squannacook River and its tributaries. (92.5%)**
- **Protect and maintain the quality of all surface waters in Townsend, including wetlands. (88.2%)**
 - The goals and objectives established in 1999 are still relevant and dominant in the minds of the current residents.
 - Water Quality Protection both above (Surface Waters) and below ground (Aquifer Protection) are at the top of the list in importance.
 - A question about creating links between parcels spurred many comments about a linear recreational park through Townsend, the rail trail bike path.

3. Regarding your knowledge of Townsend's recreation and open space facilities:

- Responders felt they had good awareness of local recreation areas yet did not feel the town does a good job supplying information.
- More maps and information should be available, particularly web based information.
- 70% felt they were familiar with the town recreation areas. However 49% felt the town did a poor job of communicating about its open space and recreation areas
- Most thought the town should have more info available with 91% indicating need for maps

4. Landscape character is defined as those features both natural and man-made that give Townsend its unique character. Rate the importance of the following to Townsend's natural landscape character:

The following was the order of importance of the natural landscape character: 1. water bodies 2. Forest tracts 3. Hills/views

1. The greatest number of comments in response to this question focused on the Squannacook River and the Harbor Area
2. The Town's protected forest preserves and the many walking trails through these areas were mentioned often.
3. Protecting Farmland from development was a major concern

Responses to the question Please identify a site in town that **you would most like protected:** 1. Squannacook River 2. Harbor 3. Town Forest 4. Trail Systems 5. Ash Swamp 6. Howard Park 7. Amadon property

5. Landscape character is defined as those features both natural and man-made that give Townsend its unique character. Rate the importance of the following to Townsend's man-made landscape character:

1. The greatest number of comments focused on the Town Common, the three historic districts and farmland under development pressure.
- The following was the order of importance of the **man-made landscape that residents would like protected is**: 1. Common. 2. Other Town Parks. 3. Historic buildings. 4. Farmland. 5. Scenic Roads. 6. Historic Relics. 7. Cemeteries. 8. Neighborhoods.
- Responses to the question **Please identify a site in town that you would most like protected**: The three historic center, The Harbor, The Common, and West Townsend. Other places mentioned as distinctive: All Cemeteries, Howard Park, Railroad trestle, Stone bridge in West Townsend, Joanna Giworski Property, Downtown Main Street, Hog Hill and Haynes Area, Rossback Farm, any neighborhood that attracts families

6. Townsend's rural character is enhanced by the wildlife that lives here. It is important to protect Townsend's wildlife by protecting important habitats such as:

less than 5% of the responses were strongly disagree or disagree with all questions and more than 75% of the responses were agree or strongly agree with the questions.

Travel corridors along rivers had the most people interested in protecting it (88% agreed or strongly agreed), with only 2% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing.

Forested land had almost the same number of people interested in protecting it as riverside land (87% agreed or strongly agreed), and fewer disagreeing with the statement (0.5% disagreed or strongly disagreed).

Unusual habitats and areas known to be used by rare species were the losers, with 77% of the respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing to protect them and 4% of the respondents disagreeing or strongly disagreeing.

Travel corridors between protected pieces of land, land beside water bodies as habitat for water-dependent animals, and open land were in the middle, with 83-85% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing that they should be protected and 2% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing.

But the majority of respondents wanted to protect all of the wildlife habitats mentioned.

Comments were split between those agreeing and disagreeing.

Some points that came up:

- Nuisance wildlife—beavers (1 person)
- Whether the respondent agreed or disagreed would depend on the method of protection (3 people). Taking away landowner rights was a no-no; buying land a possibility depending on price.
- Spend money on education rather than wildlife (2 people)
- A few comments seemed to show that the person was knowledgeable about wildlife and regulations (3).
- Only one person was unclear on the feasibility of wildlife protection techniques.

7. Need for recreation facilities in Townsend

Teen Center

Bike Trail / Walking Paths

Skateboard Park

- Out of 223 responses; 80 (35.9%) strongly agree/agree that they are satisfied with existing places for children to play and recreate in Townsend. 97 (43.5%) strongly disagree/disagree and 46 (20.6%) remain neutral.
- Out of 224 responses; 80 (35.7%) people strongly agree/agree that they are satisfied with the places available in Townsend for recreational use by adults. 95 (42.4%) strongly disagree/disagree and 49 (21.9%) remain neutral.
- Out of 220 responses; 75 (34.1%) people strongly agree/agree that they are satisfied with the general condition of the existing facilities. 71 (32.2%) strongly disagree/disagree and 74 (33.6%) remain neutral.
- Comments include; the need for tennis courts ,bike/walking paths ,skateboard park ,basketball courts, a recreation area for teens and for better upkeep of existing town fields and parks.

8. Please rate the need you feel for the following recreational facilities.

- The **top ten areas** of importance that are very much needed/needed are as follows; bike trail, hiking and skiing trails, conservation areas, environmental education, running/jogging, boating/canoeing, basketball courts, recreation center and sport fields.
- Top comments included the need for bike trails, swimming area, tennis courts, basketball court, dog park, golf/miniature golf and the upgrade/create neighborhood playgrounds.

9. How often do you visit the following in Townsend for recreation?

The **top five visited recreational areas** in Townsend are as follows; Town Common, Library, Squannacook River, Willard Brook State Park, and State Walking Trails.

Many commented on not knowing where the areas were that were listed; especially Basbanes Trail, Squannacook Meadows and Howard Park.

10. If you feel improvement is needed in Townsend for bicycling and walking from one place to another, then an important aspect would be to:

- The majority of the people felt the need to build more sidewalks for those bicycling and walking from one place to another.
- Improving pedestrian and bicycle access in our town is a top recreational priority in our town. The following all got very strong support in the survey:
 - Adding more sidewalks
 - Building the proposed rail trail
 - Finding safe routes to schools

11. Maintenance of existing town Open Space and Recreation Areas should be accomplished through:

- Donations ranked highest for funding
- Volunteers for maintenance
- Taxes were the least supported for either funding or maintenance.

12. Would you be willing to participate in the maintenance and development of Townsend's recreation and open space facilities?

- Most responders would be willing to "occasionally" assist with local recreation and open space facilities.
- a good percentage would be willing to sometimes participate in maintenance work, but not too many were interested in serving on a committee to accomplish this

13. Water supply protection

A majority of respondents were in favor of protecting our ground water resources, but could benefit from education with regard to water source cycle and how their activities affect the outcome.

Some respondents need to know where to obtain information on alternative fertilizers and pesticides, and information on individual wells.

14. Historic assets in Townsend

- 5 respondents were not historically minded
- 6 respondents would like to see more local history taught in our schools, and more information on Townsend's history available for newcomers.
- 5 respondents would like to see historical areas and properties preserved, if possible. Some would like the center brought back to look more colonial.
- 2 respondents would like trails through our historic areas, off the main roads. Picnic areas at the Harbor Pond were suggested.
- 2 respondents would like maps of the historic areas available.
- Only 60% of the total survey respondents care that our town history be preserved for the future.

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION SURVEY COMMENTS 11/17/2010

QUESTION 1 COMMENTS:

1. The town should spend tax dollars wisely, any surplus could buy land.
2. If your goal is to provide a truly fair questionnaire, then providing loaded comments at the lead in will not do it. This is not a scientific survey and I hope you will not use it to suggest otherwise.
3. It is very important that space for the purpose of horse back riding be maintained!!
4. Adopt a current use policy similar to NH
5. I am not knowledgeable of the Community Preservation Act or anything else in this section for that matter.
6. Promoting residential development will only raise property taxes in the long run. Encouraging commercial development should lead to lower property taxes in the future.
7. There should be no taking of privately owned land by eminent domain.
8. We cannot afford higher taxes. Please, let's look for more business ways to raise more money.
9. We support any initiative that will bring a Rail Trail to Townsend.
10. We need a rail trail. it would benefit so many people.
11. Raising money for open space should be done only when excess money is available. When money is tight, this shouldn't be considered.
12. Community Preservation Act has widespread success. So why create the wheel?
13. Many people who live in Townsend cannot afford a tax increase, and would be making decisions about whether to move out of town, or whether to pay a real estate tax or maybe as severe as heat their home, or eat every meal.
14. I think in today's economy times are tight for everyone and raising taxes is not a good option!
15. Allow ATV riding on town open space
16. At this time I believe we have enough open space.
17. we have lived here in Townsend for a 27 years...Some may think the town doesn't have much to offer..but that is what is special about Townsend and the surrounding towns...we don't have services that increase taxes, we don't attract people who can't pay. It is much the same peaceful community that drew us here in the first place. In an incredibly stressful world, it's nice at the end of the day to - come home.
18. BUYING LAND IS CHEAPER THAN PAYING FOR SERVICES THAT COME WITH NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS, LIKE POLICE, FIRE, SCHOOLS, ETC.
19. They stopped making land a long time ago. So save it now for us and the future generations for or childrens to enjoy. Put the land in perpetuity. The state land is NOT listed like that. It can become a state prison tomorrow.....
20. In this fiscal climate, asking taxpayers and the town to pay for open space is a difficult challenge. But relative to the needs of the community and the amount of open space in Townsend relative to other neighboring communities, we should support this agenda and further explore options when the fiscal climate moderates/improves.
21. http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/habitat/grants/lip/lip_home.htm
22. All means available to support open space.
23. About 26% of "open space" exists within Townsend boundaries of which about 23% is State owned. Townsend does not control State owned space.
24. If open space is acquired and hunting *not* allowed I'd be more than happy to pay a user fee!
25. I no longer live in Townsend thank god.
26. In the end, open space costs less than developed property because a household never pays back the amount in property taxes that it costs to educate all the children.
27. we need large business in town to pay some hefty taxes. homeowners should not bear the burden like we do
28. We need to stop further development. We (together with other non-urban communities) need to stop sending money to the state in hopes of getting some back (spreading it around). We need to become self sufficient with regard to taxes and services. This means striking a comfortable balance between services and taxes. We are not a poor people - even if some individuals are poor. The need is to disempower the state and return it to its simple functions of running the courts, the elections and the militia. Towns will then gravitate to their own level - as it was in the beginning.
29. The Town should encourage people who have land by giving tax reductions for keeping it as undeveloped, Open Space.

QUESTION 2 COMMENTS:

1. Encourage Volunteerism to keep up conservation lands and rec facilities. Make it a party - first clean up, then party/celebrate together afterward.
2. Create a rail trail
3. I don't see either the utility or viability of a "linked system" of open space or recreation. The town is spread out far enough that linking them makes little to no sense to me.
4. Ensure that trails are maintained for equine use. Join the ELCR efforts by starting a local leg. <http://www.elcr.org/index.php>. There may be more collaborative efforts out there than we know of if tax breaks were given for the shared land. I'd be very interested in joining.
5. I think it is also important to provide large areas of "wild lands" for wildlife habitat - large areas are needed for a healthy wildlife population.
6. Control clear cutting of our woodlands.
7. Get a rail trail put in!
8. Would not increased access to conservation land compromise conservation?

9. Our families need more recreation places. Please let's provide more parks, playgrounds, trails, etc for our community. We don't even have public basketball courts, or tennis courts.
10. So hard to commit money when money is tight. Last question, I am hoping refers to the Rail Trail; a valuable use for space not being utilized now. This can bring revenue, people to town and enrich the space for all citizens.
11. We need more manicured parks and facilities. (Like the town common). Townsend already has plenty of open space but it would be good to fit out some of these wild forest areas with groomed trails for convenient public access.
12. I'd like to see the rail trail happen.
13. We definitely need to work on our drinking water; we've had quite the issues in the last year or so!
14. TOWN RECREATION NEEDS SERIOUS HELP, OUR FIELDS ARE NOT ON PAR WITH OTHER TOWNS WE PLAY.
15. The priority should be to maintain drinking water, then ensuring usage of Squannacook River AND area wetlands. Then development of recreation facilities and maintenance of conservation/recreation (ideally through volunteers).
16. Drinking water is always most important! Our recreational fields are sad and embarrassing. Future is in the youth, by not putting funds into the fields in which our children play shows everyone how little the town of Townsend values it's youth and their social growth. Wetlands, conservation, and history should not be valued more important than our interest in our children.
17. The town needs a rec center especially for teens. A town pool would be best as it would offer employment and give kids and families a place to "hang out." Local events could be held there in the summer as well (music, art...)
18. Incursion into prime habitat regions should be minimal
19. Drinking water should be in the forefront. As should maintaining the character of the town. I do believe however that Townsend needs to attract more business to help defray the cost and should not solely rely on property tax. Would love to see a rail trail in town for safer biking walking etc. As a resident on rte 13 I do not feel safe walking on my street. I believe some groups need to take more responsibility in fund raising to maintain their sports fields etc.
20. Since you could only choose one goal for each ranking - I strongly feel that ensuring the quality & vibrancy of the Squannacook / retaining the town's natural character & heritage / protecting all surface waters including wetlands - are all extremely important.
21. What about the Rail Trail?
22. We need rec facilities such as distributed playgrounds and basketball courts within walking distance for all town residents. Young kids should be able to walk to playgrounds without being driven by parents. We need conserved open space which unconditionally prohibits "recreational" activities such as dirtbike, ATV and snowmobile usage.
23. All cost should be donated and the use of volunteers. There are not enough programs to help seniors now to help on their tax bill and they have the life experience to do what needs to be done to do this. As a Master Plumber, Licensed Sprinkler Contractor and member of Pipefitters Local 537 in Boston and have been in construction for over 35 years there are many things i could do, that is just as an example of the type of talent that resides in Town and that could be used to help with a huge amount of the work that would have to be done with little or no cost to the Town. We can not afford to put any type of tax or assessment on the people in this economy. It has to be an in town program with maybe one person hired to put the system in place and work as a facility manger/construction manger. Seniors can not afford any hike in cost of any kind.
24. Bike path
25. I am not in favor of Townsend spending any money on recreation or land until our schools are funded properly.

QUESTION 3 COMMENTS:

1. Web-based is definitely the way to go.
2. The state park and friends of Willard Brook have maps, etc.
3. More brochures? We have some already? Yes, the website could be far more useful than it is - no shocks there. And the brochures could potentially be subsidized by local business advertising or something of the sort.
4. Education on the trails and the proper use/maintenance of the trails is critical. Including special information such as hunting seasons opening and closing, proper trail etiquette when encountering horses.
5. i think we should concentrate on having information available on line and let people print what they need.
6. I hadn't thought about it, but printed information could be available for a nominal fee that could go to the Conservation Land Fund, or at least cover the cost of the materials. The cost should be very low.
7. Local residents free, visitors for a fee.
8. The town common continues to be used as a place to put up signs. The Welcome Home Veterans sign has served its purpose and can be moved to the Town Hall lawn if necessary.
9. I agree with fees only if absolutely necessary to provide the maps.
10. I'd like to see land open to motorized recreational vehicles.
11. Put it all on the town's website.
12. If all information was on a website we could print our own brochures and maps saving the town money.
13. It depends on the activity, price, and feasibility as to whether fees should charged.
14. I think web-based information should be free but if people want a map trail brochure, they should have to pay for it.
15. We have maps.
16. The initial distribution to residents should be free. Any secondary requests should have a fee
17. all this info should be available, free, on the web.
18. There should be both web and printed information. The generations are split between technology and hand on info. I don't think any tax payer should have to buy information about the place in which they reside.
19. Information should be posted on the town's website, but without going on a goose chase to find it.
20. Have more web based information - I love to hike and mountain bike but I'm not able to find details on what paths are available for this for residents and where they lead too.

21. If information is available online, printed information should be available for a fee.
22. I spend a lot of time in the woods every day - and prefer not to be bumping into a lot of people. That defeats the purpose. If people are interested enough to find a place, they'll find it. Those are the folks that appreciate the land and take care of it and all the creatures within. If you make everything known, you start having people come in from other towns - more trash, noise, nuisance. Maps would be great - maybe an online pdf - but no advertising of the fact. You can already find maps of the areas in town either through the state's website, Willard Brook's site, etc.
23. I was not certain how to answer the last question. It would depend on the fee.
24. Enough with the fees already. Put it on the web.
25. Minimize the paper hand outs. Do as much as possible online.
26. Again no cost to people of town.
27. Everything should be available online. Townsend is still in the 1800's regarding their use of web space.

QUESTION 4 COMMENTS:

1. View to Mount Wachusett from Route 119
2. On Rte 119, heading west, after you pass Sterlite Corp., there is a relatively open stretch that includes Gary's Farmstand on one side: would love for both sides of the road to remain unbuilt. Also: Rte 119 along the Harbor pond could be so beautiful, but now it is one of the ugliest places in town.
3. Harbor Pond and surroundings
4. Around the Harbor Pond area
5. Ash Swamp
6. Harbor Pond
7. Squannacook River
8. Townsend Harbor
9. Area between Wallace Hill Rd and Haynes Rd.
10. Pearl Hill and the trails on Shirley Road, Meeting House Road Trails are nice as well.
11. They are all important. but I would protect additional parcels near/adjacent to the new Townsend Hill WMA, and the granite quarry next to the Townsend State Forest, and Ash Swamp.
12. Squannacook River
13. Squannacook River; I love walking on all the paths that access the river.
14. Townsend State Forest
15. the harbor
16. Cut back some of the trees. Trees should not encroach upon utility lines and roads. Provide the residents with places that offer vistas and views.
17. pearl hill and willard brook areas
18. Squannacook River
19. We are neglecting the upkeep of open fields for particular wildlife. It would be good to bring back a number of areas in town that use to be fields. I think this is very important
20. I would like to see "Leave No Trace" policies in place for Howard Park. While we do not have the resources to actively enforce, we should at least have rules to curtail activities like parking vehicles, dumping yard waste, spray painting and hanging signs on trees, digging firepits, raking and removing rocks to groom running trails, etc.
21. There is an area off of Dudley Road where people hike, and off road bike.
22. Harbor Pond
23. townsend hill
24. Townsend State Forest
25. river
26. Forrest land
27. Along streams and rivers; & rail line.
28. Wooded area between Emery Road area and Timberlee Park
29. Land off of Warner/Ball Road
30. Any aquifer district or aquifer overlay needs protection
31. Sauannacook River Banks
32. The state owned property heading North on Route 13, away from town!
33. ALL THE STATE FOREST LANDS.
34. Amadon property abutting the land the town owns meeting house park and the land behind the car wash the same and the land 30 acres that are locked off highland street that would fill in the map of meeting house park. The land is owned by the person who just built the 5000 square foot house just from the top right side on Highland.....Also the field and land across from that house. its part of a wildlife corridor.
35. Willard Brook and related lands.
36. The various trails around town, we like the ones that go behind the Squannacook and Hawthorne Brook
37. Harbor Pond
38. Townsend Common
39. Trail head on Old Meeting House road, for one.
40. Squannacook River
41. two regions important to habitat: 1) Townsend Hill, 2) area at the closed landfill
42. Everywhere along the Squannacook River - and the vista at the old quarry.

43. townsend state forest
44. Townsend State Forest
45. I'm not much of a nature person, but I have spent some time walking the area around the Squannacook River - it would be important to me to see that area maintained.
46. Squannacook Meadows on West Meadow Road
47. Squannacook River, Townsend Hill
48. Howard Park
49. i would like the rail trail to be developed. kids in this town have nowhere to ride bikes
50. Wetlands are important, but every puddle is not a wetland. Wetland protection is abused as a tool to limit development and consequently the rights of other owners of moderated to large parcels. Limit developments with honest straightforward bylaws find a way to make that work. Repeal the intrusive state laws that force us to accommodate developers. Add large fees for developers to fund joint lawsuits with other towns to repeal these laws (e.g. 40B).
51. The historical Harbor area.
52. The Ledge in West Townsend
53. watershed areas
54. Townsend State Forest
55. Harbor section
56. Barker Hill Road

QUESTION 5 COMMENTS:

1. Rail trail
2. Not sure what you mean by protecting neighborhoods. But anything irreplaceable should be cared for.
3. howard park
4. Town Common
5. Former property of Joanna Giworsky on Ball Road. First period cape style house with many original features and 40 acres.
6. I'm not sure that these things give Townsend a "unique character." (I'm not sure Townsend *has* a unique character!) Almost everything that maintains appearances as they are help to maintain character, such as it is - but, for example, to what extent is the old bank building maintaining character and to what extent is it an expensive to maintain eyesore? The former library is attractive, by contrast, but needs a use, rather than just remaining a decaying empty shell.

Cemeteries need to be maintained, regardless of character. Stone walls and railroad trestles are lovely, but how many of them and under what cost to private ownership?

7. Town Common
8. The Harbor
9. Perhaps the "downtown Main St" area could be a focus point. I don't know how - maybe give the Historic Commission more authority? Improve the sign laws? Change the lighting to have a more old-fashioned appearance? Plant trees along the sidewalks? We would need a fund to help store owners make changes
10. Squannacook River
11. Stone bridge on Canal St.
12. Neighborhoods invite families.
13. historic buildings
14. The old railroad that cuts through the middle of townsend should be turned into a bicycle trail.
15. common area
16. Harbor Pond
17. Common
18. keep the hog hill and haynes area free from the housing development that will ruin the wet lands and all its creatures
19. The trestle bridge by the old library.
20. The historic buildings are an important part of "who Townsend is".
21. Farmland, I am upset that the Rossbach farm sold off their cows, I don't want to see their land sold off to developers next.
22. Town Common
23. Town Common
24. townsend harbor and west townsend
25. common and parks
26. The town's common
27. Town Common
28. rail line.
29. We need to paint the town gazebo, I think the town should have a painting party! I'm in, however communication is the key, if people don't know they can't help out! :)
30. Town common
31. I would like to see farmland (fields) protected so they do not turn into housing developments.
32. I'm not sure, they all need protection to a certain degree ..I am more interested in the wetlands/water protection..in addition we need to protect our wildlife
33. Common
34. Rossback Farm must, MUST be protected.....
35. Townsend harbor waterfall

36. Town Common should be kept in great condition and protected. It symbolizes our pride in the town and thus should be the best looking spot around.
37. Rail beds, with an eye to a rail trail.
38. Townsend Common.
39. ALL OF IT. (Neighboring towns do a great job of preserving stone walls, maintaining historic buildings, in addition to filling their pot holes. We don't seem to have enough \$ to do that.) Town Common. The Cooperage/falls area. Any popular road that provides a point of entry for our visitors coming to our town.
40. Rossback's Farm - going out of business.
41. Memorial Hall and adjacent historic buildings.
42. The harbor area.
43. Townsend Harbor- The Cooperage, Grist Mill, Conant Tavern and Harbor Pond.
44. The Town Common.
45. rail trail.
46. We have enough strip malls and more than enough donut shops. We must find a way to prohibit any further multi-family slums like Pine Ridge or the one on Turnpike Rd.
47. The three Historic Districts in Town. The Historic District Commission is not doing a good job of maintaining the character of these districts by allowing things that are not proper for the area.
48. The historical harbor area.
49. The Common.
50. common.
51. The Common.
52. I am not in favor of Townsend spending any money on landscape character until our schools are funded properly.

QUESTION 6 COMMENTS:

1. rare species habitat verified by knowledgeable neutral party
2. With growth being what it is it is important to protect all the open space we can. When it is gone it is generally gone for ever or will be expensive and timely to recreate.
3. Nothing more important than preserving wildlife.
4. If we invest in pasture and field preservation, it will be important to keep them open. Don't let these open areas become grown over with trees. We already have enough forested land in the area.
5. get rid of the beavers which are ruining large areas
6. This is the most important issue beside water protection
7. Not sure what I would be agreeing to here. If it takes away rights of the landowners and their ability to manage their property the way they see fit, then I strongly disagree.
8. The state of Mass likes to know and buy land that has vernal pools. work with them first then approach the owner of the property.
9. I am neutral on this because I need more specific information to give an opinion. Habitat preservation is important but to take it to the extremes in which it has outrageous price tags or restricts residents, I feel that we need to find middle ground. As for the rare species, they need to be relocated to places where they can thrive with out the interference of residential growth and general human interference. Townsend is well populated and you are risking the rare species by not finding them a secluded place to thrive, as Townsend has already been infiltrated by people and at this point you can't remove the population and it's growth.
10. Something should be done to resolve the turtle nesting area problem around the soccer fields, I don't know what but fencing or something like that to control use.
11. more areas for NO hunting
12. I can agree to the town acquiring for sale parcels to achieve these goals. I can not approve of the town imposing its will on private landowners to by forcing them to use their lands in any manner other than as the landowner sees fit (other than housing development).
13. Items 2,3,& 5 are already protected resources are better directed towards unprotected areas
14. Not my main concern - rather funds were used for education
15. I am not in favor of Townsend spending any money on wildlife until our schools are funded properly.

QUESTION 7 COMMENTS:

1. we have nothing for our kids or pm programs most towns offer something
2. i would like the bike/walk path otherwise i just go to other towns/states for things i want to do
3. Don't know enough about any of them to comment.
4. kids not engaged in good things, become engaged in other things
5. need a teen center
6. If it wasn't for the new library, I would have to disagree with these statements.
7. Preserving of open space and trails is critical
8. Tennis courts for the community would be great
9. Too new to town to know about these.
10. Generally in poor shape and not enough signage, parking or communication of the areas.
11. The Townsend parks are not kept up, the mowing, the trash, even the portable potties... a shame!
12. We need more options: like golf, tennis courts, basketball courts, snow tube... Things like those... What if we bring private companies to offer recreation in our town?

13. This town places very little importance on the general upkeep and appearance of public areas, particularly the children's playground and playing fields. Trash removal and mowing are rarely done in a conscientious manner and the result is run-down and trashy looking areas. The port-a-potties are neglected also.
As an example of the lack of detail that our DOE puts into their work, in the newly repaved Spaulding parking lot, the mess that was left behind over a year ago from the rearranging of the lot is still there today. This should have been tidied up immediately; instead we have piles of sand and stone along the perimeters of the parking that just contribute to the overall appearance of lack of care in this town. Why can't they just finish the job, and have it look nice? This town has great potential to be the pretty, old historic town that is hiding beneath the lack of care.
14. We have Willard Brook State park. Its nice but that is in Ashby. We should build a public park behind Squanacook elementary school.
15. the kids need a skateboard area and a recreation place like Lunenburg has
16. Ball fields are atrocious
17. would love to see the railtrail connect from pepperrel into ashby and beyond
18. We have a unique opportunity to create a recreational rail trail along the unused railroad bed. The town should support the volunteer group engaged in this effort.
19. Other than school grounds, I am not sure where these recreational areas are.
20. Tennis courts at Hawthorne Brook are abandoned
21. I am dissappointed that the town does not maintain and keep up kids kountry playground and parents have to donate the money for this upkeep. Helping out is one thing but having to raise money and pay for the full amount of up keep is not ok.
22. Teenagers need somewhere to go. A skateboard park would be great as well as a teen center.
23. Need somewhere for teenagers to "hang out" and have fun while staying out of trouble or creating "clicks". Something organized.
24. tennis court at HBMS should be a priority
25. There are many existing organizations in the town that, if they worked together, could make a strong impact on the recreational options for all residents of Townsend. These include the Recreation Department, Townsend Recreational Activity Council, the Boy and Girl Scouts, the Council on Aging, Kids Kountry Playground, the schools and many others.
26. Need the rail trail
27. My children are almost adults so we don't use much recreational facilities in town anymore. It would be nice to have some type of teen center like Lunenburg does.
28. I understand the need for recreation ...but I believe our schools need to work hand and hand with the recreation department, why should we pay double taxes to build facilities for children, Recreation programs are outside of school hours and the recreation department should have full access to the buildings.
29. when we move to townsend in 1983 we had 3 tennis courts..(i dont play tennis, this did not really make any impact on me) but...we never maintained any of them...we now have one at HBMS, which i belive there are huge cracks.. The one downside in this town is the inability to maintain anything. I was really excited about the possible rail trail, but townsend being townsend....we would never maintain it, and the trail would be as an embarassment as Townsend Hill Road...a real road.!
30. The town needs to support the people and especially the children of this community and see what they can do to get a recreational facility.
31. I haven't made as much use of the recreation facilities as I would like, thus I feel relatively uninformed to answer this question.
32. Our recreational fields are horrible. I have been told by coaches of other towns that are fields are not fit for games. I have showed up to volunteer days and turned mulch, attempt to deweed baseball fields, flipped bleachers to clean up the mess, warned parents of broken seating, donated bee spray to rid nest at parks and schools, and a lot more. I have a comment that I continuously announce each time I labor at one of these sites and it is this, "I will gladly vote for any chairperson or selectmen/women that shows up with a wrake or shovel to help." When it comes time to vote there are signs and picketers everywhere, but when we need lines put on a field, grass mowed, or spring clean up Townsend Town Hall turns its back.
33. Rail trail, please! and tennis courtsand skateboard park, at minimum.
34. We need a place for teens!
35. I take my daughter to neighboring towns due to the lack of attractive outdoor facilities here for young ones. WE DO LOVE OUR NEW LIBRARY, however! Would love to see adult recreational activities such as yoga, pilates, water aerobics, Jazzercise, kick-boxing - with classes that are actually held in town
36. My children are 4-legged. I think there are enough facilities for 2-legged children. I actually use less of the tax dollar that I pay than those who have 2-legged children. I would like a permanent dog-only park. Currently, I use the former tennis courts at the middle school, but I have to close very poorly maintained chain-link doors to do this. I think someone who lives in the area uses one of the tennis courts as a shortcut for their dirt bike use. Considering I've been harassed by another dirt bike user in my neighborhood who started buzzing my home after I complained to the police because they were using their dirt bike in an area where it is not legal, I am emphatic about creating a dog-friendly area in the town.
37. I think more places for teen's would be great - a skate park ?? Not sure if this falls within the realm of this survey
38. People need to do more for themselves instead of the town having to supply it for them
39. I know there are halls and such for adults to use, but there is usually a fee. It would be a tremendous benefit to the town to have a community recreation center at least for the young adults of the town. Not sure what the adults would need.
40. Townsend kids..AND TEENS need places for recreation. We have nothing here for them, and no way for them to get anywhere.
41. This needs to be balanced against available funds without becoming class warfare(seniors vs youth). in the end the youth always outlast the seniors - then they get theirs.

For the very young we have some good facilities at Kids Kountry and the schools after hours. For the age 10-18 crowd we have nothing. We have some for-fee organized sports and one basketball court at Spaulding. We need basketball and tennis courts around town as well as open space for pick-up baseball, football and volleyball - just open fields with cut grass. These kids have no place to go. Monitoring of youngsters facebook pages indicates there are a lot of troubled kids in town who might not be if they had something to do. We, the adults, do not have to organize everything for them. We do need to make facilities available so that the kids can develop normally. Since the schools won't let them run at lunch and they can only play sports for a fee, these kids are being denied the fundamental childhood pleasures of being able to run around, play rough and even get hurt. The result is that they turn to available pleasures such as facebook, sex and drugs.

42. need bike paths

43. I am not in favor of Townsend spending any money on recreation facilities until our schools are funded properly.

QUESTION 8 COMMENTS:

1. Townsend offers nothing
2. some things needed so people would come to townsend and businesses can thrive
3. I think the activities that are more broad and of interest to more people should be the focus. Not just what a select few are most interested in.
4. I think things like golf, mini golf, skate parks are fine if they are part of private development.
5. Serious study should go into saturation by area for endeavors.
6. I think that we need these recreational facilities, but we already have many of them.
7. We're not a city, yards are more plentiful here.
8. We need more options: like golf, tennis courts, basketball courts, snow tube... Things like those... What if we bring private companies to offer recreation in our town?
9. So hard to please everyone...but how do you please the most people? I feel strongly about having a rail trail that hooks into the others in the area. I have always felt towns should encourage swimming lessons for all children, but you would need a pool to do that. Would they have to be able to afford lessons or would they be provided????
10. All of these things sound great. I would have to check "strongly agree" to all (except hunting) but I'm guessing we don't have the funds necessary to move forward on all fronts at the same time. I would like to see us place an emphasis on building the rail-trail first.
11. if you want kids to get some exercise, give them places to do it!
12. Most of the items I checked as "Neutral" are things I believe are very important, but we already have them in our area so we do not need to commit more town resources.
13. Having facilities where people of all ages can go, to enjoy their family or find other people with similar interests would benefit everyone. The challenge is the cost. The state has season passes to some of its facilities and programs.
14. School superintendent told me tennis courts are not needed, nor used in 2007.
15. existing fields need to be upgraded and maintained vs new ones. playground at Squannacook Early Childhood and Spaulding needs to be repaired and updated
16. People already use the HBMS field as a dog park you can not walk through there without ruining a pair of shoes. It is really disgusting that they refuse to clean up after their dogs.
17. Some of these interests either already exist or are provided outside the immediate borders of Townsend. However, we should make the existing space more usable and accessible to residents.
18. Some of these things we already have which is great. Would love to see a dog area where dogs can play off-leash.
19. If we had a bike trail, it would provide a "safe" area for rollerblading, jogging, and biking.
20. The #1 recreational need is a bike trail.
21. We need our sports fields cared for that is first on my list. Second on my list is Timberly Park is a great neighborhood with no playground/park. I would love to see a park with a fenced in playground, and a basketball court for our kids to have a location to play instead of in the middle of the street. Third is the rail trail. That would be a wonderful asset to many of the above mentioned activities.
22. Based on community interest, I would think the rail trail and skateboarding would rise to the top as priorities. ANYTHING the town could do to improve the quality of community life for our young would be an improvement.
23. A multiple use center would be great! Big vote for town pool!
24. Did the VFW area have a town beach once? That would be nice; I wouldn't have to go to Westford. We do go to Willard Brook for swimming. We already have a lovely golf course. Any extension of Rails to Trails would take care of running/jogging/rollerblading and bicycling. Community gardens at this day and age is almost a necessity; everyone deserves to know where their produce actually comes from! If we have a great over-all facility that provides a variety of activities for families, we may not need neighborhood parks
25. The Harbor bike trail 8 million paved to Townsend Center. 100K unpaved all the way to Mason, NH - trail system. It would be a great tourist attraction. Go see the rails trails in the tiny town of Mason, NH. These put Townsend to shame not the bike trail in Pepperell. -- Snowmobilies in the winter, horse and bikes the rest of the year - beautiful.
26. We need a safe place for our teens to gather - skate park / rec center / basketball courts
27. I listed most things as not needed as most are already established or available within our town informally.
28. If the existing tennis / basketball courts at Hawthorne could be repaired that would be great - don't need any more than that. You'd have a mini-recreational area right there with the library. Use existing spaces for recreation - don't take away any more wooded areas.
29. a bunch of us were talking the other day how shepards ice cream was to also put in a mini-golf and driving range. very disappointed that it has not been put in yet. also what happened to the ice skate rink?

30. ATV & dirt bike riding area. Many people would come, it should be fee-based & self-supporting. It's not as destructive as the environmental folks make it out to be - they are extremely biased against motor sports.
31. It seems like we already have some of these things, so I wasn't sure what to say for those.
32. Many of these we already have and are checked as not needed. What we do not need and must prohibit are all forms of motor sports. These so-called sports have a footprint of miles and are intrusive and detrimental to the private landowners enjoyment of his property. They WILL result in lawsuits.

A town beach sounds nice if we can restrict it to residents (Lexington does). But where would it be. The river is polluted and the pond is not suitable without disturbing non-human habitat.

We have miles of trails already. They need maintenance only because we do not enforce the prohibitions against bikes and ATVs. I certainly do not want unnaturally manicured and paved trails.

33. Turning the rail trail into a reality would be very nice, as we like the one that runs from Pepperell to Nashua, and would like to see one in Townsend.
34. I am not in favor of Townsend spending any money on recreation until our schools are funded properly.

QUESTION 9 COMMENTS:

1. as my daughter gets older-we do not frequent some of the above. squannacook river besides fishing and boating-is there a walking path???
2. I will look for info on the town Web site -- it would be a great help.
3. These are my escape. I take my camera and extra batteries, and love that there is so much variety of space to get away from every day stresses.
4. Field conditions at Squannacook Meadows is in terrible shape as compared to other towns in the area.
5. I need to know where all these good places are!
6. i didn't even know most of these places existed
7. Life seems to be too busy to have time to much of anything recreational!
8. I'm too new to know all of these
9. Just retired so this will increase
10. I don't use the Senior Center but my mother goes all the time
11. We use these places once, maybe twice a year. We would use sidewalks on Route 13(out further than Worcester Road)"very often".
12. We need our own trail rail.
13. Residents should not have trespass on private property to access the Squannacook River or its small tributaries.
14. I guess we don't know where these areas are. Have never been told or know how to find out.
15. school playgrounds when my boys were younger.
16. Howard park? Don't know where that one is.
17. Howard park could be used more except for the dog on Howard St. (the last house on the right) that threatens people and makes it impossible to take children there to play.
18. Don't get out as much as I would like - but happy to know that these places are available.
19. The field conditions for sports are sub par. Our kids need better spaces for athletics.
20. Just moved here...plan to start visiting as many of these as possible..
21. I would like more information about these sites so I can explore them with my family.
22. Not sure of the official names but we like the park on the opposite side of the Spaulding School and the park behind Squannacook. We are at the fields behind Hawthorne Brook practically everyday. And we play at Squannacook Meadows a few days a week.
23. Basbanes Trail - Google and I have never heard of it - no Google Earth. Are you sure it even exist?
Craven Field -- Even the Pepperell Little League site doesn't know where it is: <http://www.eteamz.com/pepperelllll/locations/>
24. We need better documentation on what is available for biking and hiking in the town itself.
25. I don't know where Howard park, Basbanes trail or old meetinghouse park are.
26. Frankly, I don't know where all the recreation areas are. Could use some information on this.
27. Why is Townsend State Forest not on this list?
28. need to provide more information about what is available. I have lived here 30+ years and have never heard about some of these places

QUESTION 10 COMMENTS:

1. A rail trail connecting with other rail trails would be amazing!
2. The new library/senior center is situated on Dudley Road. However, there isn't a safe place to walk on Dudley Road to reach the library or senior center. Considering the retirement home is a few doors down, its a missed opportunity for seniors and their neighbors.
3. The rail trail would alleviate many issues with bikes, kids, and people on the busy Rt. 119. Much safer for all!
4. The rail trail is a must. The town should move ahead with this without delay. Other biking areas would add tremendously to the desirability of Townsend.
5. Stop cars on 119 who won't stop for pedestrians. Very Dangerous!!
6. The safer you can make the roads maybe we will see children become more active riding bikes. The safer we make athletic facilities and or town recreation centers maybe more children will get back into sports.

7. It would be great to have the trains out here again, but if that is impossible, then turning it into a rail trail would be great. Widening town roads would only increase the speed limit. State roads should be widened because bikers use them all the time and it is very dangerous. Bike lanes might help. A sidewalk along 119 would be great too
8. I would like to have sidewalks on the highways. It is very dangerous to walk along these roads. This is more important than a rail to trail path.
9. Children living a mile or less from school have been encouraged to walk to school but the town has not provided a safe place (aka sidewalks) for them to walk to NMRS for instance.
10. Well-maintained sidewalks among the center of town on major roads would be helpful to create more of a small town community feeling, which Townsend is lacking. Groton's downtown is a great example of a small downtown with a real small, close-knit community feeling; with the sidewalks throughout downtown Groton, community members are encouraged to walk from shop to shop downtown or simply to stroll through downtown. It creates such a nice small town feeling. It also helps to bring up local real estate value.
11. Bicycle and pedestrian safety comes well engineered trails and sidewalks, not from stricter speed limit enforcement.
14. I would not allow my children to bike on Rt 119 even with a bike lane as the traffic is too heavy and the speed limit is too fast to safely allow biking. I think more children and adults would walk if there was a safer avenue for them to walk on. My husband and I would love to be able to walk from Timberlee park to the center but it is not possible to do that now in a safe and pleasant manner.
15. Money appropriated for sidewalk engineering has never been done!!
16. I walk and/or bicycle in Townsend almost every day and I am appalled at how biased we are towards getting places by driving. What few sidewalks we have go a mile or so and then stop in the middle of nowhere. What few crosswalks we have go from a parking lot to a church or funeral parlor. There is not even a crosswalk to town hall, without pressing the light and stopping multiple lanes of traffic at a major intersection. In winter, the sidewalks around the town common and the schools are not cleared after snowfalls. We need to become a more walking-friendly town.
17. Safety has to be the issue. If there are areas that can be used where bikes do not have to compete with cars (and trucks) that is a good situation.
18. It is truly unexpeable that there is no pedestrian byway from the center of town to Townsend Harbor and N.M.H.S. Either a sidewalk or winter maintained bike trail is a necessity for Townsend.
19. I think the rail bed through Townsend Harbor would be a great project and would be happy to assist in that.
20. I also believe that most kids and adults don't know what side of the road to walk on when there is no sidewalk. We should also have walking safety training. It just might save a life!
21. My children often ask me if they can ride their bikes to school and I am just so afraid of the limited space there is for them to ride their bikes on the main roads
22. we need to create a safer environment for both bicyclists and motor vehicles..it is getting dangerous for both
23. MOST ROADS ARE TO NARROW WHICH IS A SAFETY ISSUE.
24. Developing a rail trail would bring many benefits and link us to surrounding communities that enjoy this feature
25. This is the most important need in Townsend, so far, on this survey! Side walks and bike trails. Provides recreation and health!
26. Bike lanes are not necessary and seem to introduce new problems. Side walks would be nice. There seems to be a lot of walkers who travel in and out of Timberly park headed both to the high school/shopping area and to the center of town. So 119 from high school to town center.
27. Speed bumps on roads where speeding occurs often and are highly populated.
28. I'm not sure parents at this day and age would allow their kids to walk to school anymore. It's a different world. Not sure that widening the roads would do the trick; we can't seem to adequately maintain the size of our roads now.
29. As mentioned above - See Mason's Rail Trail - Low cost, beautiful and empty. A place for many types of riders to venture. NO WHEELED VEHICLES - ATV - Dirt Bikes
30. With regards to the bike safety training, bicyclists don't seem to realize that "share the road" works both ways, and that it's illegal for them to ride side-by-side on the road. Bicyclist seem to think laws only work in their favor.
31. Opening the rail trail would provide a safe and enjoyable route for people in one of town to reach the other end without having to travel on 119. I would take my kids to the center of town / library / playground more often via bike from Timberly park if I did not have to take them on 119. Given the speed and traffic on 119 I do not take them to the center on Bike. It would also allow people from the center / west townsend access via bike to the Harbor and activities on this side of town.
32. With bussing becoming an issue and more children being forced to walk/bike to school, it needs to be made safer for those children.
33. sidewalks on 119 near the high school
34. the rail trail would be awesome for people to ride there bikes to the common. its almost impossible now to ride your bike with kids to the common. a side walk on 119 might also help this issue, but i think the rail trail would be awesome. Look how much it has added to ayer and pepperell.
35. We don't need sidewalks on all roads. We do need sidewalks on much of Main street and especially at some blind curve areas. There should be more cycling in town. The police need to do their parts by citing/educating cyclists operating on the wrong side of the road. without proper lights after dark, and acting as though they were pedestrians and not vehicles.

Kids should be walking to schools if less than 1.5 miles or so and should otherwise be walking to centralized pick-up points. Bus costs could also be reduced this way, but the big benefit is in getting these kids walking. They will be healthier and wide away when class starts.

36. Build sidewalk wide enough for people to walk and cycleists to ride together along the entire Main St. Develop MBTA commuter rail for the commuters to reduce traffic through town.
37. No place to bike at all, as I live off 119. 119 is too dangerous to bike/walk along. Also, when I take walks in Townsend, I go to the center, but after a little while the sidewalks go away and I have to walk in the road.
38. Townsend doesn't have the money for any of this stuff

QUESTION 11 COMMENTS:

1. This would provide a good opportunity for college-bound kids to have community service to add to their applications.
2. I think usage fees would discourage use of the areas rather than increasing revenues.
3. I use many of the trail systems in this area regularly. It is upsetting to see the trash that is left...some by the users themselves the rest by the drop by persons who don't want to pay the fee to dispose of items properly. Many of those free couches end up in the woods.....So I don't know how it would be possible to have payment made by the offenders. Volunteer days would be good with a free town pick up or a call number to report large or dangerous items that have been dropped off on the side of the road. I pick up trash regularly but get frustrated with the large items I can not remove personally and I pay for the hazardous material I pick up as well as the tires and lamps.
4. Cannot our present town employees write grants for these purposes?
5. Maybe yearly or bi-yearly do a fund raiser for the parks.
6. Hate to charge usage fees. Always better to get volunteers, or money from elsewhere. Grant writer would have to bring enough money to cover salary plus some. There are always groups around town that need community service hours, so wish list of jobs would need to be posted online with name of a contact person who can keep track of who is doing each task.
7. This question should read...11 Maintenance of existing "and future" town Open Space...
8. survey is too long
9. In order to be successful at raising funds today you have to have many ways of attracting money. Also selling maps etc...
10. Usage fees are a good idea but I don't see how they can be implemented.
11. The children can "give back" when it comes to these areas. There are Eagle Scout projects from 2 troops in Townsend, and some of these could involve recreation areas. Young people at the churches have to put in service time, and adults should be setting that example. It is always nice to get donations, but that is not guaranteed. A reasonable usage fee, with a seasonal pass amount, per person, and a slightly greater one if it is per family could work.
12. Small usage fees are okay as long as the fee goes to maintenance--not to the cost of collecting the fee
13. Can't really make a decision regarding taxes or hiring of personnel without knowing how much this would cost
14. I would like to see/learn about a committee to solicit volunteers, volunteer grant writers, coordinating school/scout projects with other volunteer outlets.
15. Rely on volunteers and children is pretty much the plan in place at the moment and does not cut it. Townsend has grown and is growing. If we want these things then we need to fund them.
16. All of the above should do it!
17. All state and federal parks charge a usage fee. If you pay for it you'll take care of it.
18. On the last question, it would depend on how much the usage fees would be.
19. Taxes and fees must be mutually exclusive.
We maintain things with taxes to make them available not because everyone uses them (think fire department). We must be rigorous in prosecuting those who would vandalize or otherwise abuse our good will. Volunteers can write grant applications - not all can use a shovel. Scouts are great for this - unfortunately Townsend has a terrible scouting program. If we could harness the time and energy wasted in the NMRSD we could get it all done - but don't get me started on that.
20. Usage fee only for large groups

QUESTION 12 COMMENTS:

1. I'm not qualified to manage anything!
2. Maybe in the future but my plate is full at the moment.
3. I would be happy to engage in these efforts as much as I can!
4. I've never done much like this but I think I'm willing.
5. Ah...this is the problem with volunteers. They are all very busy and no one has time. Or I see the faces all over town when a job needs to be done. And those of us that do volunteer have a limited number of hours and are committed to other groups...historical society, church groups, etc....
6. My husband and I are very active with the Historical society and do not have a large amount of extra time for other activities
7. I am already spread thin with other volunteer commitments to the point of letting some dear to my heart lapse, but recreation means a lot to me. I would love to help where I can.
8. Devon Skerritt, dmskerritt@gmail.com
9. I already do and will continue to do so. But volunteers is not the answer here. Funds are needed.
10. I would be very willing to work on a committee that is dedicated to ALL usage for recreation, not just that geared toward 2-legged children. If that is the goal, feel free to contact me at carolyn.a.upham@gmail.com.
11. I am already a volunteer for other projects and am already spread too thin.
12. Most of the programs/projects that I have seen run by the Town Rec Committee are terrible. New leadership need to be in place for these projects to succeed.

QUESTION 13 COMMENTS:

1. Other than obvious I am not well educated on water supplies for Townsend and issues around them.

2. I would like to see less use of fertilizers and herbicides for lawn maintenance.
3. I know where the aquifer is for Timberlee park. I am not sure of the exact location of the others in town.
4. most of them, most of townsend is damp, wet, or stone.
5. I know of the water supply to Timberlee Park but not other areas.
6. This makes me nervous. Why is drinking water even being debated. Our water supply comes first and whether people understand it or not shouldn't make a difference. Whatever needs to be done to protect our water should be done no questions asked. This sounds like the people are being asked if it is alright if we have poor water supply's in town. And if that is the case is this a preventative measure to make it known that the town is not accepting responsibility for water conditions. I as a resident expect perfect water conditions and nothing less. Do what ever is necessary to keep us healthy.
7. How is this information made publicly available?
8. i think there should be a push on using natural fertilizer. Yard Spice is at our earth fair every year and there stuff is great.
9. I know where some wells are (Timberlee and West Townsend), but not others.
10. The water department is a mystery if you have a well.

QUESTION 14 COMMENTS:

1. And education of the young, so the future of Townsend's History might be of more value to the next generation.
2. what colonial village appearance?
3. One man's "historically significant" building is another man's eyesore claptrap that needs to be torn down. Some should be preserved, in my opinion, and some should not. I suspect others would say the same thing, but have a different notion of which are which.
4. Why isn't more effort made to promote the town's historical assets?
5. I know very little about Townsend from an Historical account and enjoyed talking to one of the gentlemen at the town hall one afternoon about some of the historic information.
6. Townsend has a lot of offer - antiquing, outdoor rec, but we need to focus more on preserving our heritage and improving our landscape architecture.
7. The colonial village aspect has been lost along Route 119 as it has become a semi-strip mall from the Center towards the Harbor. One way to return to a more rural setting is to have Routes 13 and 119 by pass the center of town as they did in Milford with Rte 101 going around the town center.
8. Years ago the children did a "Townsend Project" in the third grade. By visiting historical sites, answering questions about Townsend's history, etc...they, and their families learned alot about this town. Wish they would bring a similar project back to the schools, if they have not already.
9. I would prefer a more modern and functional look to our downtown area.
10. I feel that the Historical Society accomplished many of these goals.
Regarding a walking tour, I think that a rail trail would be a huge advantage for our historic district in Townsend Harbor. This is another area where I think we are too car-friendly. Rt. 119 is no place to be on foot touring historical buildings.
11. I would like to see the center of town spruced up, although I realize that with the shopping center there, it will never have the character it once had. The shopping center severely cheapens the look of town.
12. I have lived in Townsend for 14 years and I am ashamed to say that I don't know that much about the town. It is full of history and I for one would like to learn more about it. My kids have learned about it in school but what about the adults and newcomers?
13. What colonial village are you referring? This town looks like most any non historical town
14. Significant buildings that are in major disrepair should be gotten rid of. Waste of time and money to preserve something that is ready to fall down.
15. maps
16. I love history. Growing up in Boston and surrounding towns, history has always been a priority. Of course Townsend should preserve and promote all it has to offer.
17. Walking tour maps? along a rail trail? Picnic areas on the Harbor?
18. I just recently started researching Townsend and it's residents from the 1800's due to the discovery of old beams in our house with initials and such carved into them. If we don't preserve such history now, it will diminish.
19. Look to the future
20. Define historically significant. If privately owned, then public hours are at the owners discretion only. Townsend history should be taught in our schools - along with Pepperell and Ashby to be fair. The less of the Boston-approved SS curriculum the better. Some of our historic building are beyond preservation. Consider these as opportunities lost. Learn from it and move on. Remember that these too will one day be considered historic times so let's us not prevent our present glory from showing through.