

Cabot Community Planning Survey

Purpose and methodology

The Cabot Community Planning Survey was conducted in the month of June, 2010. This was the Cabot Planning Commission's first step in reaching out to the Cabot community to seek input on various issues that would be covered in the Town Plan. Residents of all ages were invited to participate anonymously.

Prior to the opening of the survey on June 1, postcards were mailed to all Town residents notifying them of the purpose of the survey, how to access the survey online, and where to find paper copies. Copies of the survey were distributed as an insert to the June issue of *The Cabot Chronicle*, and were also available at the Town Clerk's office and the local library. Eighty-five residents responded, 63 online, and 22 using the paper survey.

The survey contained a total of 26 questions. The first 11 questions sought the opinion of Town residents on various issues that would be addressed in the Town Plan. Questions 12, 13 and 14 inquired about past participation of the respondents in the Town planning process, gauged interest in future participation, and solicited general comments on the Town Plan update. Questions 15 and 16 gathered information regarding the area of Town where respondents lived, and their age, as a way of determining the general representativeness of the survey responses. Question 17 was used to direct certain questions to year-round residents; seasonal residents skipped forward to question 25. Questions 18-24 were for year-round residents, and pertained to occupations, employment status, home-ownership, number of years residing in town, farming practices, and number of school children in the household. The last two questions asked residents to rate Town facilities and services, and to identify what they believed were the most significant problems affecting youth in the community.

Based on a comparison to the age breakdown within the population estimates for Cabot for 2010, the survey response rate was determined to be about 8.3%.

Results

Valued Resources and Quality of Life in Cabot

The **first question** on the survey asked residents to rate the extent to which they value particular physical features and institutions in Cabot. Out of the choices provided, "working farms" ranked first as the most-valued feature in Cabot, followed by "natural features" in second place, and "historic buildings and sites" in third. Respondents were also given the option of identifying additional features that were not specifically listed. Ten people took this opportunity to describe or elaborate on the features they value most.

1. To what extent do you value the following features of Cabot?

Answer Options	Very Valuable	Valuable	Not Valuable	Don't Know	Response Count
Historic buildings and sites	36.5% (31)	56.5% (48)	3.5% (3)	3.5% (3)	85
Working farms	77.6% (66)	22.4% (19)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	85
Natural features (lakes,rivers,forests,etc.)	76.5% (65)	21.2% (18)	0.0% (0)	2.4% (2)	85
Schools	57.6% (49)	30.6% (26)	10.6% (9)	1.2% (1)	85
Community and cultural organizations	48.2% (41)	38.8% (33)	7.1% (6)	5.9% (5)	85
Recreational facilities	28.2% (24)	56.5% (48)	11.8% (10)	3.5% (3)	85
Other (please specify and indicate value) 10					10
<i>answered question</i>					85
<i>skipped question</i>					0

Number	Other (please specify and indicate value)
1	stores & businesses - very valuable
2	open land
3	community facilities library, fire station town recycling garage
4	value k-8, not high school
5	working organic farms, public library, local farmers market, food and hardware store in village: very valuable
6	times of community celebration around all of them... potlucks, parades, suppers, etc.
7	Jobs!
8	a relaxed place to visit with local people, café
9	Events and organizations that provide for our youth after school, weekends and summer.
10	active "downtown" in the village is also very valuable

While the first question on the survey dealt with physical features or institutions, the second question dealt with qualities of the community. It is noted that while “working farms” was the front runner in question 1, in **question 2** a “healthy economy” rated number one as valuable in maintaining a high quality of life. “Rural character” and “scenic qualities” tied for second, and “neighborly connections” came in third. Respondents were given the option of identifying additional features important to a high quality of life. Four people took this opportunity to describe or elaborate on the qualities they value most.

2. How valuable are the following in maintaining a high quality of life in Cabot?

Answer Options	Very Valuable	Valuable	Not Valuable	Don't Know	Response Count
Rural character	57.6% (49)	36.5% (31)	4.7% (4)	1.2%(1)	85
Scenic qualities	55.3% (47)	38.8% (33)	5.9% (5)	0.0% (0)	85
Small-town character	48.2% (41)	41.2% (35)	9.4% (8)	1.2% (1)	85
Safety	54.1% (46)	37.6% (32)	7.1% (6)	1.2% (1)	85
Neighborly connections	50.6% (43)	41.2% (35)	4.7% (4)	3.5% (3)	85
Access to health care	37.6% (32)	50.6% (43)	10.6% (9)	1.2% (1)	85
Healthy economy	50.6% (43)	48.2% (41)	1.2% (1)	0.0% (0)	85
Other (please specify and indicate value)					4
<i>answered question</i>					85
<i>skipped question</i>					0

Number	Other (please specify and indicate value)
1	access to healthy food
2	children having "safe" adults to talk with, healthy fun as a value, yoga-meditation-dances-dancing-etc
3	Note: Scenic qualities are important, however, so are solar panels and windmills. Some people complain about how these things take away from scenic beauty, but they are just as important, if people can stand the sight of telephone poles, there should be no complaints about anything else.
4	youth programs

Housing Types, Location and Affordability

Since housing is an issue that must be addressed in the Town Plan, **question 3** on the survey sought input from residents regarding the specific types of additional housing they thought were needed in Town. More than half (67.1%) of respondents indicated “don’t know,” to this question, indicating that more information in the area of housing would be useful to residents. Of the eight identified categories of housing, the top three housing types needed as per the respondents’ choices were single-family housing for sale (16.5%); rental housing for the elderly (14.1%), and single-family rental housing (12.9%).

3. Do you believe there is a need in Cabot for more...? (select all that apply or select "Don't know")		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Single-family housing (for sale)	16.5%	14
Single-family housing (for rent)	12.9%	11
Multi-family housing (for sale)	7.1%	6
Multi-family housing (for rent)	8.2%	7
Housing for the elderly (for sale)	10.6%	9
Housing for the elderly (for rent)	14.1%	12
Housing for the disabled (for sale)	10.6%	9
Housing for the disabled (for rent)	10.6%	9
Don't know	67.1%	57
	<i>answered question</i>	85
	<i>skipped question</i>	0

Question 4 dealt with housing affordability. When asked what actions the Town should take to address affordability of housing, a majority of respondents (67.1%) responded “Don’t know.” This question also afforded the option of an open-ended response, to which 28 residents provided a response. Eleven of the responses identified property taxes or a flawed property valuation system as an impediment to affordability. A few respondents suggested that affordable housing should be well- planned, incorporating green space and easy accessibility to the Town center. Planned unit developments (PUDs) were suggested as a means to provide affordable housing. It was also suggested that planned affordable housing would be more beneficial to the community if it was owner-occupied, promoting permanence over transience. A number of comments suggested the renovation of existing older buildings as a means to

provide affordable housing. Other comments questioned the Town’s role in providing affordable housing, or suggested working with other Towns in the region to identify need and housing options.

4. What action(s) do you think the Town of Cabot should take to address local affordable housing needs?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Don't know	67.1%	57
The following action(s) should be taken	32.9%	28
	<i>answered question</i>	85
	<i>skipped question</i>	0

The following action(s) should be taken

- 1 Accurately re-assess property instead of using a computer generated program. Also increase disabled veteran tax abatement to \$40K - you will attract more vets to the area. Possibly, offer an abatement for residents who are on SSDI or are 65+ years and on Medicare. Finally get rid of the "dead wood" and redundant teachers at the Cabot School and put in a more reasonable budget so the school taxes will be reduced.
- 2 reduce rents so people can afford to live here.
bring jobs here
- 3 Lower tax rate
- 4 Multi family housing like condos for sale and/or rent.

This should be a well planned community with lots of open space not far from town with a bike path to town. It could also utilize alternative energy practices and be a model for other communities. It is a smaller carbon footprint than many single family houses.
- 5 Need to know more. Planned affordable housing that allows for shared green space, gardens, recreation & leisure is one thing; encouraging slummy apartments in the village is entirely different. What are the incentives for Cabot to plan more housing? Seems the benefits accrued to the town from shared housing would come from sold housing signaling a longer commitment to & investment in community; more shared rental housing sounds like more burden than it's worth on all systems & more transient, aka non-community oriented residents.
- 6 Lower land and housing property values. These are way out of reach, and cause the taxes to go up too much. The values are not realistic. Money isn't everything.
- 7 tax discounts for the elderly and disabled, and also for families living at or close to the poverty level
- 8 Depending on what may happen to our school and consequently the buildings (some of which may not at a later date be in use), these were intended to be lower income housing I heard....a good idea if they're rehabed a bit.
- 9 develop a cluster housing zone that allows for ownership of a larger parcel with clustered facilities on normal than average lots, also average lot size should be larger to keep more open areas for farming recreation ect.
- 10 If a survey finds housing is needed, it could be addressed at some point; for now, in this economy, it wouldn't

- seem to be sensible to invest deeply in housing.
- 11 Reduce property taxes, because buying a house is one thing, but being able to keep on paying very high and ever increasing property taxes is another thing.
- 12 the idea that every small town has to provide affordable housing should be not be assumed to be true till tested.
- 13 Encourage a few PUD's
- 14 Work with the Land Trust to secure property designated for low-income occupancy. Make sure the property is inspected and up to code. I think low-income "clusters" should be avoided (think of Holister Hill apartments, for example.)
- 15 Work with surrounding towns (like Marshfield) to explore affordable housing options and needs
- 16 encourage through zoning etc, the development of additional affordable housing options for families, single persons and the elderly
- 17 More available housing - well supervised
- 18 Open the UDAG grant for residential "flip" opportunities and small business improvements in Cabot.
- 19 Address the problem of high taxes.
- 20 No Action
- 21 I realize that this is going to sound extreme, but since my junior year at Cabot High (less than five years ago), I have believed that Cabot and Twinfield should join forces for schooling and that Cabot should then convert the campus into affordable housing. Unfortunately, due to declining enrollment, I feel that the school is going to inevitably suffer if it continues the way it has been going. By pooling resources with the entire district, we are able to give students more options for courses. I know this would have meant a lot to me as I was only able to take an extremely limited number of AP courses during my time at Cabot. By converting the campus to housing (either rentals or condos for purchase), there would be more housing. The CSPAC, gym, and other areas could be maintained for the community as well as for school age students.
- 22 Lower property taxes so I could afford to build single family housing.
- 23 we need to lower our taxes. The taxes in Cabot are too high to have affordable living
- 24 Bring the residential valuations in line with the actual market. When appraisals come in 40% below the town valuations, there are problems to accessing affordable housing. In other words, get the listers off their A\$\$e\$ and have them visit the sites rather than relying upon archaic computer programs and owners' "word" for newness / completion to set valuations.
- 25 lower taxes
- 26 Encourage better economic environment rather than providing housing for lower economic realm. Providing "affordable housing" will only serve to further over burden our schools and services. The residential tax values should be re-evaluated immediately to account for the downturn in the housing market. That would make saleable homes slightly more attractive to those who might better afford them. Additionally, Question #3 should have allowed for other options as well. I have an opinion, not "don't know", but I don't believe manipulating housing is the way to go.
- 27 Housing upgrade loan program, loans to run with the property, repayments to be added to property tax bill
- 28 Renovate some of the existing buildings in town

The Central Vermont Regional Plan has established a regional housing distribution plan to help meet future housing demand. In order for the Town’s plan to be confirmed by the regional planning commission, it must identify the preferred location for any future housing. In **Questions 5**, the Planning Commission sought input from residents to determine the best location for future housing in Town by rating the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with several statements regarding the location of new housing. The highest number of respondents (50) registered strong agreement with the statement that new housing development should be located “so as to avoid impacts to farmland.” However, when looking at all who registered any level of agreement with the various statements, the highest number of respondents (73) agreed with the statement that new housing should “avoid impacts to natural resources.” The second highest number of respondents agreed that new development should avoid impacts to farmland, and the statement that rated the third highest level of agreement was “in areas served by existing roads and utilities.” The statement that rated the highest level of *disagreement* was that new housing development should be located “wherever it is feasible to build.”

5. Cabot needs to identify the preferable location for any new housing that is built in Town. To what extent do you agree or disagree that new housing development should be located...						
Answer Options	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Response Count
Wherever it is feasible to build	7.8% (6)	22.1% (17)	28.6% (22)	31.2% (24)	10.4% (8)	77
So as to avoid impacts to farmland	60.2% (50)	25.3% (21)	7.2% (6)	1.2% (1)	6.0% (5)	83
So as to avoid impacts to natural resources	57.3% (47)	31.7% (26)	2.4% (2)	1.2% (1)	7.3% (6)	82
So as to avoid impacts to historic sites and buildings	41.0% (34)	33.7% (28)	14.5% (12)	2.4% (2)	8.4% (7)	83
In a manner that preserves open space	57.1% (48)	22.6% (19)	6.0% (5)	2.4% (2)	11.9% (10)	84
In areas served by existing roads and utilities	47.0% (39)	36.1% (30)	4.8% (4)	1.2% (1)	10.8% (9)	83
<i>answered question</i>						85
<i>skipped question</i>						0

Land Use and Development

Question 6 was a more general question regarding the protection of resources when any type of development occurs (not just housing). Respondents were again asked to rate their level of agreement or disagreement with several answer choices. In addition to identifying nine types of features, the question included the option to specify an additional resource that should be protected when development occurs. The results show that the resource respondents were most concerned with protecting was land being actively farmed. Wildlife habitat/wildlife travel corridors and tributaries and streams tied for second as a resource most agreed should be protected, and historic buildings and sites came in third. Eight respondents took the opportunity to make additional comments. Three of the comments specifically supported the use of wind power on ridgelines. Two of the comments noted that while development may have an impact on historic or natural resources, this may be a positive or non-damaging impact if done responsibly. Other comments noted that impacts on traffic flow and privacy of existing homes should be considered.

6. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the following resources should be protected when development occurs?						
Answer Options	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Response Count
Large areas of contiguous forest	45.8% (38)	33.7% (28)	10.8% (9)	1.2% (1)	8.4% (7)	83
Wildlife habitat and wildlife travel corridors	66.3% (55)	21.7% (18)	7.2% (6)	1.2% (1)	3.6% (3)	83
Land being actively farmed	70.2% (59)	22.6% (19)	3.6% (3)	1.2% (1)	2.4% (2)	84
Open land not actively farmed	22.9% (19)	39.8% (33)	26.5% (22)	1.2% (1)	9.6% (8)	83
Scenic views, including scenic roads	24.4% (20)	42.7% (35)	17.1% (14)	2.4% (2)	13.4% (11)	82
Ridgelines	27.2% (22)	32.1% (26)	21.0% (17)	4.9% (4)	14.8% (12)	81
Wetlands	52.4% (44)	27.4% (23)	11.9% (10)	1.2% (1)	7.1% (6)	84
Tributaries and streams	61.4% (51)	26.5% (22)	6.0% (5)	1.2% (1)	4.8% (4)	83
Historic buildings and sites	37.3% (31)	45.8% (38)	8.4% (7)	1.2% (1)	7.2% (6)	83
Other (please specify)						8

<i>answered question</i>	85
<i>skipped question</i>	0

Other (please specify)

- 1 I support wind development on a small scale
- 2 historic sites can be utilized/incorporated into development
- 3 "Don't know" means "it depends" on what is meant by "impact". any housing will have impact. the question is, on who and what. I might wonder if the survey is designed and the planning commission comprised by those who want to protect their own corner at the expense of others - the 'not in my backyard' syndrome. shared housing could be reasonably and responsibly developed in areas that do impact natural and hx resources w/o trashing or ruining those resources. development of any kind may require a scar on a ridgeline that is enjoyed by those who own 1/4 and 1/2 million dollar homes but we should not protect those better off from having to see any impact on their world except where they want to see it. the consequences of development should be shared by all - not just those that are currently living in affordable housing, neighborhoods, or cedar swamps.
- 4 wind power on ridge lines is ok with me
- 5 traffic flow is good (or improved by this dev)
- 6 I would welcome windpower on ridgelines
- 7 Are we developing for families with school age children?
- 8 existing homes - i.e. privacy, use, existing conditions

Question 7 sought residents’ opinion regarding permanent land conservation (through public ownership or conservation easements). While a majority (57.6%) of respondents indicated that additional conservation should be supported, 22.4% of respondents answered “don’t know” indicating more information regarding this practice may be useful to residents. 20% of respondents did not support additional permanent land conservation.

7. Over 2,000 acres of land in Cabot (about 9 percent of Cabot's total land area) are permanently conserved through public ownership or conservation easements. Should additional land conservation be supported?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	57.6%	49
No	20.0%	17
Don't Know	22.4%	19
	<i>answered question</i>	85
	<i>skipped question</i>	0

Recreational Resources

Question 8 asked residents which recreational features in Cabot they valued most. This was an open-ended question to which 48 people responded. At least 20 of the responses specifically identified trails for hiking or cross-country skiing as most valued, three of which mentioned use of trails by snowmobiles. Fourteen of the comments highly valued water-dependent activities including fishing, boating and swimming. Organized community events were also noted as being valuable, and 10 of the comments identified recreational opportunities for youth (recreation fields, organized sports programs, and playgrounds) as valuable. Other valued recreational activities mentioned often were biking (10 instances) and walking (12 instances).

8. What recreational opportunities in Cabot do you value most?

<i>answered question</i>	48
<i>skipped question</i>	37

Response Text	
1	We like to hike, fish, hunt, and ride ATV's.
2	Places for families and friends to gather for events; trails for walking
3	Cross country skiing
4	I know little about this. Have never been invited to anything like a softball game but I would like that. I work weekends and am not available evenings so m y free time is daytime and during the week mostly.
5	dirt roads and vast trails for walking; the fact that landowners share their land for trails, Larry's field and the Rec field, ponds and pond access for small boats
6	walking and skiing trails
7	hiking paths
8	None.
9	back roads for biking and walking, hiking and ski trails
10	The wooded trail systems and logging roads. The river running thru our town and the par - rec field
11	trails open space, recreational facilities, would like to see further development of recreational facilities at rec field and connection to other town owned land, plus future things such as a tennis court/swimming pool
12	School sports.
13	I don't often use recreational facilities/opportunities except to attend functions sometimes.
14	Hiking trails (Coits Pond), ski trails
15	Walking, swimming, biking

- 16 x-c skiing, walking
- 17 Hiking and kayaking
- 18 Things I like to do include x-c skiing, walking, hiking, biking, and community events - including those sponsored by the library and the school. C-SPAC is a WONDERFUL addition to the community and I hope to see it used more! I think sports events are great; while I don't play any organized sports I do recognize that they are an important piece of the picture.
- 19 trails for low impact (non-motorized) recreation
- 20 cross country skiing, biking and walking trails
- 21 hiking, rink on commons, playgrounds, library
- 22 Cabot Roamers
- 23 library, bike group
- 24 Recreation for young people - Rec. field - adult volunteers
- 25 trails for hiking and skiing
- 26 Snowmobiling is vital to our local economy - biking, hiking, horseback riding are all important too.
- 27 The recreation field used for the 4th of July Barbecue
- 28 Sno Trails, access to Wood Lands
- 29 walking, kayaks, maybe riding horses, maybe bicycles.
I think adult sports are good... softball, basketball, volleyball... keep 20-50/60 year olds in good shape and in healthy social times. Dancing, yoga, etc for anyone interested.
- 30 we are close to many opportunities
- 31 camping, swimming boating
- 32 kids sports
- 33 Walking and biking
- 34 Joe's Pond and the channel
- 35 Joe's Pond and the channel
- 36 Do not enjoy, as they are "controlled" by an elite few.
- 37 cross country skiing
- 38 Hiking, biking, areas for organized athletics (courts, fields)
- 39 Library activities,
- 40 Nichol's Ledge, informal hiking trails, athletic fields for kids, quiet roads for walking on, Joe's Pond
- 41 Joe's Pond and it's channel
- 42 Snowmobiling, hunting, and baseball
- 43 river access
- 44 Trails for skiing and hiking; Ponds for swimming
- 45 Field Day 4th of July
- 46 Who has time for recreation?
- 47 Skating, fields for games (baseball, soccer, etc.)
- 48 outdoor - skiing, snowshoeing, boating, hiking

Question 9 was another open-ended question, asking residents what they believed was needed in regard to recreational opportunities in Town. Thirty-eight people responded. In the responses, 11 mentioned the need for more trails for walking and cross-country skiing. Eight of the comments suggested physical improvements to recreational facilities, including new playground equipment, tennis court, swimming pool, rope tow/sledding area, a skate/bike park, running track and a safe shooting range. Eight of the comments suggested a need for more organized, community-oriented recreational events that are well-publicized, and five comments mentioned a need for bike paths. Two comments specifically suggested a swimming area be created at West Hill Pond.

9. What, if anything, do you believe is needed in regard to additional recreational opportunities in Cabot?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Don't Know	55.3%	47
The following is needed	44.7%	38
	<i>answered question</i>	85
	<i>skipped question</i>	0

Number	The following is needed
1	I would love to have a new playground at the recreation field. It is a great unused space for the community.
2	limited atv access; trails for walking
3	Would love to see some bike paths Publicity and coordination for activities and times, see above.
4	Peoples availability vary...
5	it would be nice to have a local rope tow. the loss of Thistle Hill sledding to the elder housing was big to village people. a new sledding area is needed. a skateboard area @ Larry's or the Rec field would be nice to develop
6	dances
7	There seems to be plenty of recreation enthusiasts and efforts under way. If anything, we need more emphasis on the arts and on sustainable living.
8	Year round recreational trails (non-motorized)
9	x-c ski trails, bike trails, nature trails, rope tow ski lift near village, shed for skating, year-round swimming pool
10	More use of the Fields across from Nunns, esp by the school children during school hours
11	trails open space, recreational facilities, would like to see further development of recreational facilities at rec field and connection to other town owned land, plus future things such as a tennis court/swimming pool
12	Activities for adults and families.
13	New gym.
14	None

- 15 maintained winter skating area
- 16 A really good, modern playground that is adaptable for a wide age range and doesn't give kids splinters. I would love something like a park with covered bench swings, shade trees, and a bike path. Marked nature trails that are accessible to families would be fantastic. Maybe even an exercise trail, something like the trail in Hubbard Park? Okay, now I'm on a roll....
- 17 More low-impact recreational trails
- 18 Anything that encourages fitness and is community building
- 19 swimming pool, xc ski trails (groomed)
- 20 Bike and walking trails around town. Any recreation that supports businesses or fits good niche in community.
- 21 More trails - and maps showing where they are.
- 22 4-wheelers on designated trails.
- 23 1/4 mile track - so the students can run the mile in a safer location than Gould's Flats.
- 24 None
- 25 I think there are a lot of opportunities already if someone wants to be involved. Some ideas I listed above, too.
- 26 Get rid of the beavers in Molly's Pond.
- 27 kids sports
- 28 more participation of residents in recreational activities....it seems that it is a small group of families that organize and attend these events.
- 29 A community calendar that allows for all community members to participate...
- 30 skate park... or somekind of better recreational area that is up to date and not creepy, i have heard complaints of kids riding their bikes/skateboards at the school... first off, isn't that public property? second I pay a load of taxes for that school, and it bothers me that kids get yelled at for riding their bikes on the "new concrete" in front of the over priced music room. I'm pretty sure if some little kids want to tool around on there bikes they shouldn't be reprimanded for it. at least they are not getting into trouble.
- 31 sidewalks to walk on, at least on Rte. 215, More walking paths in the woods
- 32 safe shooting ranges
- 33 bike paths
- 34 I'd love public swimming access at West Hill Pond--we live only 1 mile away, but have to drive half an hour to Joe's Pond to swim. (Nichol's Pond is closer, but is pretty grubby and there's often people smoking and/or swearing etc. there, so I don't like to go with kids.)
- 35 Allow recreation in conservation areas
- 36 Why not use the Masonic Hall for programs (other than those provided by the Cabot Library) (Bingo, Movies, Cont. Education, First Aid Training, Garden and Art Classes)
- 37 Town Swimming Area at West Hill Pond
- 38 More hiking trails

Economic Development

Question 10 was another open-ended question that asked residents what businesses they believed were needed in town. 54 residents responded. Twenty-eight respondents (over 50%) mentioned an eatery of some kind as being desirable in Town. Ten of the comments suggested new local businesses that marketed locally-sourced goods or products, including farmers markets and coops. Six of the comments specifically mentioned a bank as a desirable local business. Other suggestions included a laundromat, chiropractor, drug store, book store, bed and breakfast, barber shop, bike repair shop and general retail businesses.

10. What, if any, additional businesses do you think are needed in Town?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Don't Know	36.5%	31
New businesses needed in Cabot include	63.5%	54
	<i>answered question</i>	85
	<i>skipped question</i>	0

New businesses needed in Cabot include

- 1 A year-round cooperative market to let farmers and micro-farms sell to each other. A cooperative craft store would also be nice for local artisans to display their wares. If the town were to renovate an old building and lease the spaces (stalls), the revenue would pay into the town.
- 2 anything to bring in revenue
- 3 a bank branch
- 4 Restaurant
- 5 none - we're good
- 6 A good eatery with a friendly bar so people do not have to go far or drive after drinking in St. J or Montpelier.
- 7 small, low-impact, owner-operated businesses w/ pretty low impact. the problem w/ these is that small business often has difficulty w/ health insurance for employees (so they say)small scale agricultural business would be nice. it all depends on the entrepreneurs and the market
- 8 restaurant, eco friendly power generation, food production,
- 9 banking, expanded retail, public transportation connection from village to Rte. 2 bus
- 10 Small, individually/family owned businesses. The cafe at the Hardware Store provides a place for folks to gather, and it is amply used by community members. An evening spot to gather, such as a pub, would be great also.
- 11 cafe/deli/bakery; coffee shop/cybercafe; chiropractor
- 12 bakery, cable tv service for other than the village,
- 13 Having the restaurant in town was nice; also, it would be convenient to have banking services. What happened to the Union Bank

branch that was promised as part of UDAG deal?

14 a restaurant, farmer's market

15

Small businesses that bring life back into town, rather than the sleeping village it is now, because most people work out of town. Stimulate the development of small farms and artisan food production and contribute to making our society sustainable again.

16 Breakfast and lunch diner or rest.

17

A laundromat, bike repair shop, an active farmer's market. Better access to locally grown and butchered foods would be nice!

18 Restaurant

19 Restaurant, fitness center, food coop

20 restaurant, inn, drug store / variety store

21 pharmacy, farmers market, thrift shop

22 Restaurants, Lodging, anything to strengthen local economy, book store

23 Towns stores should offer organic and local food, and organic animal feed.

24 Some sort of office business - tax company, Alternative Energy Company

25 Any and all. Restaurant serving dinner, better farmers market, a CSA or 2.

26 Restaurant -- Goldies is missed dearly!

Gym or regular exercise classes in evening and when people can attend. This is very limited in Cabot.

27 A Saturday Farmers' Market with crafts

28 Bed and Breakfast

29 This is not an addition, but I would like to say that the snack area in Harry's is an incredible addition!

30 bank, public transportation,

31 Anything that will bring some jobs even if it is manufacturing. We all want the area to be pretty, but it's impossible to make a living without traveling so far that it's prohibitive on gas and terrible for the environment.

32 pub

33 Would like some time of casual meeting/dining/pub area with maybe some pool tables....some where for adults to get out that is close to home.

34 barber shop, evening restaurant for dining

35 barber shop, evening restaurant for dining

36

A community cooperative for local farm products, produce, and gifts. The store is obsolete and does not help local people.

37 some kind of coffee shop might be nice. however the last few restaurants seemed to have failed so I don't know how well a coffee shop would work out.

38 Restaurant

39 eatery, youth center

40 what ever the owner of the land chooses

41 let the ones that are here to be able to operate

42 Clothing or furniture manufacturing that takes advantage of local resources in coordination with farmers and loggers and provides employment opportunities. Expand on the arts. Camps and businesses that bring musicians and artists to Cabot will bring outside

money and can be coordinated with NECulinary efforts. Build on the success and reputation of the school music and art program as well as Vermont culinary niche. Engineer an area to host performances and events that are compatible with nature and Vermont values. Attract people with disposable dollars. Serve people that have a desire to spend.

- 43 restaurant
- 44 Restaurant, Laundromat, Specialty retailer -- locally-made goods, crafts, foods -- general Vermontiana
- 45 good restaurant
- 46 A coffeehouse would be very cool, though not _needed_ as such.
- 47 A place to eat.
- 48 evening restaurant
- 49 Any manufacturing that will promote job growth and school population
- 50 Bank, Pharmacy, Craft/Art (for local artisans - Coop), Legal Aid (affordable for lower-income residents-sliding fee scale- civil not criminal)
- 51 A better hardware store
- 52 Bank
- 53 clean retail businesses
- 54 creamy stand

Planning Priorities

Question 11 asked respondents to prioritize various planning issues. Retention of farms was the number one issue, followed by road maintenance, and tied for third were energy alternatives and retention of open space/natural areas. Respondents were also given the opportunity to identify other issues that should receive priority. Fifteen residents provided written comments, most of which qualified or elaborated on the issues they had rated, including schools, economic development, energy alternatives and farming. The responses helped to identify the issues that have particular urgency.

11. Please help the Cabot Planning Commission prioritize the following issues:					
Answer Options	Very important	Important	Not important	Don't Know	Response Count
Retention of farms	61.9% (52)	31% (26)	2.4% (2)	4.8% (4)	84
Retention of open space/natural areas	50.0% (42)	36.9% (31)	7.1% (6)	6.0% (5)	84
School facility planning	46.3% (37)	35.0% (28)	12.5% (10)	6.3% (5)	80
Preservation of historic buildings and sites	25.0% (21)	54.8% (46)	10.7% (9)	9.5% (8)	84
Development of tree canopy on Main Street	26.5% (22)	28.9% (24)	34.9% (29)	9.6% (8)	83
Climate change mitigation	24.4% (20)	40.2% (33)	24.4% (20)	11.0% (9)	82

Transportation alternatives	29.3% (24)	43.9% (36)	17.1% (14)	9.8% (8)	82	
Affordable housing opportunities	19.3% (16)	51.8% (43)	10.8% (9)	18.1% (15)	83	
Road maintenance	50.6% (42)	42.2% (35)	4.8% (4)	2.4% (2)	83	
Economic development	33.7% (28)	48.2% (40)	8.4% (7)	9.6% (8)	83	
Tourism	22.9% (19)	49.4% (41)	15.7% (13)	12.0% (10)	83	
Energy alternatives	50.0% (42)	36.9% (31)	7.1% (6)	6.0% (5)	84	
Commercial development	10.8% (9)	41.0% (34)	33.7% (28)	14.5% (12)	83	
Cell phone service	31.3% (26)	45.8% (38)	19.3% (16)	3.6% (3)	83	
Other (please specify and indicate level of importance)					15	
					<i>answered question</i>	85
					<i>skipped question</i>	0

Other (please specify and indicate level of importance)

- 1 I would love to see us look into wind farm possibilities and/or solar panels for at least town buildings
- 2 A restaurant and bar in town like Clares in Hardwick. Community supported and partially funded.
- 3 some of these things seem to be beyond the purview of the planning commission
- 4 economic development of a sustainable type that is also ecologically sound
- 5 Burying of wires to accomodate tree canopy
- 6 improvement of town facilities
- 7 Farming needs to move away from dairy toward vegetable crops; we have to down-size the school as it take too much of our resident's resources in proportion to the number of people in town and children served; we need to come up with alternative transportation as road maintenance is a very expensive and taking too much out our wallets.
- 8 You guys don't have enough to do? (Kidding!) I think there's a lot to work with here!
- 9 Development of local products economy - firewood, food, crafts
- 10 An idea: Creative community housing, like senior housing very close to school, mixing of generations is usually a win-win. Seniors should be able to walk to the school. Daycare near to the school (and health center). Like a complete village.
- 11 Property taxes are too high
- 12 Cable TV or Fiber network for broadband internet service.
- 13 open road to 4 wheelers
- 14 The school is a JOKE. Don't put any more money into it - and fire the duplicative staff. Get rid of the paraeducators and hire ones that KNOW how to do their job rather than feeding off of the Udders of the town.
- 15 Re: School Facility Planning -- put CSPAC to use as COMMUNITY resource -- establish year-round venue management as school-town partnership

Community Involvement and General Comments

Question 12 asked residents to indicate the extent to which they had been involved in the Town Planning process in the past. 78.8% respondents had no previous experience with the Town Planning process, indicating that the survey represented their first involvement with this process. 18 of the respondents described their previous involvement, which included serving on the Planning Commission or other Town committees.

Question 13 asked residents how they planned to be involved in the planning process in the future. While 65 respondents did not know how they might be involved in the future, 17 residents indicated ways they would like to be involved, six of which identified the current survey and future surveys as ways they would like to be involved. While the survey responses to this question were anonymous, respondents had the opportunity at the end of the survey to add their name, contact information, and area of the plan in which they'd like to become involved.

12. How have you been involved in the Town planning process in the past?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Not previously involved in the planning process	78.8%	67
I've been involved in the following way(s):	21.2%	18
	<i>answered question</i>	85
	<i>skipped question</i>	0

I've been involved in the following way(s):

- 1 Planning Commission years ago
- 2 Was on zoning board in another town.
- 3 my experience w/ any sort of town planning is that town fathers only want to hear from those w/ like minds and shun others. Those who speak out are often ostracized and gossiped about
- 4 formerly on planning commission
- 5 tangentially through serving on the UDAG committee, which encourages economic development, service and recreational groups and activities, and scholarship
- 6 zoning
- 7 on the commission
- 8 Participated in Taking Charge program
- 9 Member of Planning Commission
- 10 Years ago

- 11 I am currently living out-of-state and have been for the past three years. However, when I was living in Cabot, I was very active in the community as well as in the school.
- 12 no specific answer
- 13 UDAG, Village government, facilitating services
UDAG Committee

Solid waste representative
- 14 Selectboard member
Have become very familiar with the most recent town plan and Zoning
- 15 Ordinances.
- 16 review of plans for adoption by the selectboard
Planning Commission Member - also developed overall plans for different
- 17 sectors.
- 18 Fire Department

13. How would you like to be part of the planning process in the future?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Don't know	79.3%	65
I would like to be involved in the following ways:	20.7%	17
	<i>answered question</i>	82
	<i>skipped question</i>	3

I would like to be involved in the following ways:

- 1 by voting for various foci, including renewable energy alternative, preserving farms and farmland, and contiguous forest land; I might help with renewable energy issues
- 2 I would be willing to meet w/ town selectmen to discuss and develop longterm capital needs so facilities can be planned for, not just equipment
- 3 This online survey is a good start - online participation is a very good way to make me part of the process as it is convenient, less time consuming, and flexible.
- 4 I'm not sure what I can do, but I'd like to help in some way. Give me some idea of what needs doing!
- 5 Attend public forums and meetings
- 6 receive e-mail updates, participate in work days (planting trees, setting up rink, etc.)
- 7 unknown
- 8 Surveys like this are a wonderful tool to involve everyone who wishes to participate...
- 9 one shot deals, not committee forever meetings. advisory. brainstorming sessions...
- 10 continue surveys to get everyones input
- 11 whatever is available

- 12 I am. Thank you.
- 13 taking part in surveys, coming to meetings
- 14 Collaborate on program design re: housing loans, CSPAC, etc.
Collaborate on development of a REAL UDAG plan that actually proposes how to SPEND money to leverage economic development in Cabot village.
- 15 Assisting, if possible.
- 16 I would like to make sure the plan is specific to cabot and not some other towns rendition
- 17 Community forum participation, review of plan

Question 14 was an open-ended question soliciting general comments on the Town Plan Update process. Thirty-one residents responded, and provided specific comments on various aspects of Town, including housing, economic development, schools, land conservation, and roads and use of Town facilities. A few comments expressed dissatisfaction with local politics, local regulation and taxes. Some comments expressed suggestions for the content of the plan, such as the inclusion of cost/benefit analyses for housing and commercial development, and more discussion of long term use and maintenance of town buildings and facilities. A few comments stressed self-sustainability in the plan for Cabot.

14. Would you like to share any other comments regarding the Town Plan update with the Planning Commission?

	Response Count
	31
<i>answered question</i>	31
<i>skipped question</i>	54

	Response Text
1	I might be interested, but don't want to get into the small town politics that are inherent in Cabot. Case in point is that Chris Tormey is the head of the school board and his wife is a teacher. At the town meeting a lady stood up and mentioned this. She was laughed out by the crowd...but she was right (I checked, because I felt bad for her) - and the Cabot School Board is breaking the law. When the town's people start to follow the laws instead of ignoring them, I might get involved, but until then, I don't want the liability for stupidity.
2	I am not sure about that
3	stick to a few manageable items. I don't think it's the business of the town planning to try to manage all open land, school facilities, road maintenance,
4	Cabot is beautiful, and the folks who live here know that. We need to be careful about selling out to big business, and becoming a dumping ground for dangerous waste and other pollutants. We can survive, together, by sharing what we've got with each other more. Expanding the farmer's market, and bringing

it closer to the outside world (such as on Route 2) would be useful. Any "commerce" with the outside world could move closer to Route 2, since Cabot Village is tucked out of most people's way. Cabot's Route 2 corridor is underutilized as a valuable asset, and way to bring commerce to the residents.

- 5 If possible, the update should do cost-benefits analyses of increasing available housing, of encouraging new businesses in designated areas of the town (village, route 2 corridor) etc., and also cost-benefit analysis of school centralization, including maintenance, new construction, bussing.
- 6 Town development and infrastructure for future development is sorely lacking in the old town plan the current town garage is in violation and the town has been using the recently acquired masonic hall to store sand, the current fire station is inadequate and town office facilities will not be able to handle long term needs. the school facilities need to address long term maintenance and they also need to address long term viability.
- 7 Thank you for doing the updating of the plan. I haven't a clue how it's done, but I know it's important to our future.
- 8 Local, decentralized, self sustainable are the keywords we need to start using as our mantra when planning for our future.
- 9 It would be nice if the plan/zoning were actively enforced--otherwise this is just wasted energy.
- 10 Thank you for the work you're doing!
Get a grip on profligate spending for schooling. Class size is too small, and there are too many teachers' aides.
- 11 Less planning; more action please!
- 13 Additional land conservation should be supported for future food growing
- 14 keep it simple and small town
- 15 The Festivals (Maple, Apple) are great ways to encourage economic growth and strengthen community, but there needs to be more collaboration between festival coordinators and farmers and business owners so that businesses and farms benefit from these festivals rather than simply being asked to donate.
- 16 Schools are much too expensive for elderly taxpayers.
- 17 Limiting multi-housing units limits/controls the level of "undesirables" who will "set up shop" in town. More single-family homes for rental ops brings in better family units not delinquents.
- 18 Keep The Gov't out of our lives. We don't need all your regulation and taxation.
- 19 Thank you for this survey, and I hope the results are thoroughly reviewed and used to improve this incredible town and community that is Cabot.
- 20 I do not want Rt. widened into my hayfield. The road is fine the way it is and was just resurfaced last summer. The traffic is too fast already and they have to slow down when they get to Joe's Pond anyway, so don't waste money on a hideously expensive road project that would take most of my hay field and make the road more dangerous. Also, I've already take the trees down along the curve just west of Young Farm road which vastly improved the visibility.
- 21 I am a very new resident so I do not know how much demand exists for new housing or new businesses but I am willing to help if needed. I will say that rural character, open spaces and lack of commercial interests were a plus for me in choosing to live here. That said, the health of any community requires a healthy economic base to pay for services and finding the right type of business to encourage would, to

- my mind, be of primary importance in planning.
- 22** I'm not familiar with the "update". I would like to be, though. How can I accomplish this?
- 23** leave our personal lives alone
- 24** The survey sounds like the decision has already been made to affect the housing scene in Cabot. I would suggest that you have additional questionnaires reviewed by someone outside of the creation process. Unless that is what you intended, and if so...congratulations. Please do what ever you might in your power to dis allow Leonard and others like him from taking advantage of section 8 housing opportunities. I have been required to check a box in number 3. None of the boxes are appropriate and I considered stopping at that point. Thank you for your efforts.
- 25** Village development is of greatest importance -- we need to take advantage of our wastewater system and incentivize village development through more aggressive application of UDAG funds, events programming at CSPAC, expansion of public parking.
- 26** Get rid of the red apartment building next to Cabot Inn.
- 27** Not familiar with updates, yet...
- 28** Is road grader broken? Whittier Hill has not been graded in a year
- 29** Good luck!
- 30** The Fire Department has thoughts about planning of driveways and other ordinances.
- 31** keep it simple

Demographics

Questions 15 and 16 asked questions of respondents that would help determine if the respondents were representative of the general population of Cabot. Question 15 asked people to identify in which quadrant of Town they lived. The results indicated that respondents came from all parts of Town, with the least amount of respondents (11) coming from quadrant D, the southeastern portion of the Town.

Question 16 asked respondents to indicate the age group to which they belonged. The results show that only residents 18 and older responded to the survey. 78% of respondents were in the 18 to 64 age group, and 22% were 65 or older. Current estimates of the Cabot population and age breakdown indicate that those in the age group of 20 to 64 make up 64.7% of the population and those in the age group of 65 and older make up about 11.7% of the Cabot population. The age grouping of survey respondents is roughly proportional to the age breakdown in the adult population of Cabot.

15. In what part of Cabot do you live, or, if a part-year resident, own a home?(Please refer to the map above)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Quadrant A	25.0%	21
Quadrant B	36.9%	31
Quadrant C	25.0%	21
Quadrant D	13.1%	11
<i>answered question</i>		84
<i>skipped question</i>		1

16. Are you...?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Under 18	0.0%	0
18 to 64	78.0%	64
65 or older	22.0%	18

<i>answered question</i>	82
<i>skipped question</i>	3

Question 17 asked the residency status of respondents. Although the survey was open to seasonal residents, only 6 of the survey respondents were seasonal residents. Since questions 18 through 24 related to housing and occupational characteristics of year-round residents, seasonal residents were directed to skip ahead to question 25.

17. Is your primary residence in Cabot?		
	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	92.9%	78
No (skip to question 25)	7.1%	6
<i>answered question</i>		84
<i>skipped question</i>		1

Question 18 asked respondents how many years they had resided in Cabot. Almost half (48.7%) of year-round respondents had lived in Cabot for 20 years or more. Another 29.5% of respondents had lived in town for at least 10 years. This indicates that almost 80% of survey respondents have been in Town long enough to be familiar with the previous Town Plan (2003). It also indicated that 15.4% of the respondents to the survey were relative newcomers (those living in town for less than 5 years) presumably interested in becoming involved with the Town planning process.

18. How many years have you lived in Cabot?		
	Response Percent	Response Count
Less than 5	15.4%	12
5 to 9	6.4%	5
10 to 19	29.5%	23
20 or more	48.7%	38
<i>answered question</i>		78
<i>skipped question</i>		7

In order to ascertain some of the reasons that people would plan to continue to live in Cabot, **Question 19** asked whether respondents expected to be living in Cabot for the next 5, 10 or 20+ years. A majority of respondents (65.4%) responded that they expected to be

living in Cabot for the next 20 years and beyond. 20.5% of respondents expected to live in Cabot for another 10 years, and 14.1% expected to live in Cabot for only the next five years. Respondents were also asked to explain the reasons for their answers, and 49 responded.

In order to understand the reasons that people expected to be living in Cabot for only 5 more years, responses by the 11 who checked that category were filtered to examine the reasons. All of the respondents in that category were in the 18 to 64 age group. Two had lived in Cabot for less than five years, two had lived there for five to nine years, three had lived in Cabot for 10 to 19 years, and four had lived in Cabot for 20+ years. Six of the 11 respondents in that category also provided an explanation, and those were response numbers 5, 11, 28, 29, 30, and 34. The reasons for a limited outlook included access to affordable housing, access to employment, dissatisfaction with cuts that eliminated school sports and music programs, and high taxes and water/sewer costs.

The responses of the 16 residents who answered that they expected to live in Cabot for only another 10 years were also filtered to determine reasons. Of the 16 residents, 9 were in the 18 to 64 age group and 7 were 65 or older. Seven had lived in Cabot for 20+ years, six had lived in Cabot for 10 to 19 years, two had lived in Town for five to nine years, and one had been a resident for less than five years. Eleven of the 16 respondents provided an explanation for their choice, and these were response numbers 2, 7, 10, 17, 22, 24, 35, 37, 44, 45, 49. Out of those 11 detailed responses, six cited health or age as determining factors. Other factors cited were affordability, commute to work, taxes, economic sustainability, and whether Cabot retains its small-town feel.

It is noted that a number of the 51 residents who expect to be living in Cabot for 20+ years indicated that continued affordability and ability to maintain property would determine how long they would remain in Town.

19. Do you expect to still be living in Cabot in...		
	Response Percent	Response Count
5 years	14.1%	11
10 years	20.5%	16
20 years and beyond	65.4%	51
Please explain...		49
	<i>answered question</i>	78
	<i>skipped question</i>	7

Please explain the factors that will determine whether you continue to live in Cabot	
1	Veteran's tax abatement, lower property taxes, and conservative spending in the school.
2	I may be looking for a retirement community setting with leveled care

- 3 If I'm too old to stay in my home, which heats with wood, I might have to move to another place. . .
- 4 life span
- 5 access to arts, affordable housing (perhaps co-op community) w/ gardening, trails, and VIEW,
- 6 If I can afford the property taxes and if I am able to manage transportation
- 7 health
- 8 I plan to be buried here, come hell or high water. Only full-fledged government facism and emanant domain could make me go.
- 9 Cost of living, cost of maintenance, health, marketabilty of home
- 10 affordability commitment to improving overall quality of life
- 11 Whether or not employment continue to be available in this area of the state.
- 12 Age and health!
- 13 Whether I will have someone to shovel snow for me when I get old.
- 14 The level of property taxes will ultimately decide whether I will be able to afford to live here when I am retired.
- 15 death and taxes
- 16 property taxes cannot go up
- 17 It's very expensive to commute to work, and I'm in a position where I either need to work closer to home or move closer to the town where I work. However, the quality of the education at Cabot has been exceptional and I am reluctant to put my child in a different system! Plus, Cabot has been a warm and kind community to me, and that's important. I live in a very rural location, and would consider moving into town at some point in the future if I can afford to do so.
- 18 If I can afford the high property taxes.
- 19 good neighbrs, working rural landscape (farms, forestry), services in town (library, hardware store, food store)
- 20 Affordable property taxes, good neighbors, continued good food growing climate/soils; ability to get around when oil runs out.
- 21 Death
- 22 If I am healthy enough to maintain my home.
- 23 Appropriate work opportunity within a 30-mile range.
- 24 Population stays small, safe, small town feel.
- 25 Secure feeling, convenience, natural beauty
- 26 If I am living and the Government doesn't take over.
- 27 If spouse dies. children live hours away and I want to be near to them and the grandkids... ?
- 28 If I can make a living I will have to move. If I can't pay the property taxes I will have to move. If Rt. 2 expansion takes my land I will sell it and move.
- 29 Whether we find affordable housing when we are ready to buy.
- 30 Due to increases in water / waste waster/ taxes and severe reductions in the school and activities offered for my children, I don't not expect to stay in Cabot for a long period of time. I feel that my children do not have enough sports opportunities and am disappointed with the changes that have happened in Cabot School due to the budget cuts. I believe that the loss of music, a school sports program for elementary and grade consolidation will ultimately reduce the quality of education that they children receive.

- 31 extended family, water quality of Joe's Pond, physical ability to maintain our property.
- 32 extended family, water quality of Joe's Pond, physical ability to maintain property
- 33 Affordable taxes.
- 34 can plan ahead more than 5 years, but if the school taxes and water/sewer costs keep going up I am not going to be able to afford owning a house and paying for these things and sadly would probably have the end up selling my house. this is something that worries me greatly, but as it is I can barely afford to live here, but I also don't know where else to go in VT because it is so pricey in general.
- 35 Death and/or taxes
- 36 if I can afford to do to taxes
- 37 Economic sustainability, will move if school is combined with Twinfield.
- 38 what we choose to do for retirement
- 39 Property taxes, Village water price, Village sewer price
- 40 When I die
- 41 We will live here as long as we can live independently in a rural location.
- 42 I'm not sure I'll still be alive in 20 years, but if I am I expect to live here.
- 43 Extended family, ability to maintain our property, water quality of Joe's Pond
- 44 i may not be alive
- 45 Age
- 46 As long as I am able
- 47 Quality of school, quality of community life, quality of life on Main Street
- 48 Live here as long as I can make a living here!
- 49 taxes

Question 20 asked respondents about home ownership. 94.9% of respondents owned their homes, with the remainder (3.8%) either renting or living with a family member. Although available public information on home-ownership rates in Cabot are based on the 2000 Census and therefore dated, that data show 15.4% of Cabot's population in 2000 were in renter-occupied housing units. Assuming that homeownership rates in Cabot have not significantly risen since 2000, this indicates that Cabot residents who rent their homes were under-represented in the survey.

20. Do you...? (please choose one)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Own your home	94.9%	74
Rent your home	3.8%	3
Other (please specify)	1.3%	1
<i>answered question</i>		78
<i>skipped question</i>		7

Other (please specify)

1 Live in house owned by my daughter

Question 21 inquired about school children in the household. The reason for this question was to determine whether the survey represented the opinions of residents who lived in households both with and without school-aged children. 32.1% of the survey respondents had children in their household, while 67.9% did not.

21. Are there school-aged children (entering pre-k through 12th grade) in your household?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	32.1%	25
No	67.9%	53
<i>answered question</i>		78
<i>skipped question</i>		7

Question 22 asked respondents to describe their employment status, to better understand the various employment situations represented by survey respondents. The category with the largest percentage of respondents (32.5%) was “Travel outside Cabot to work.” The next highest category of respondent were “retired” (19.5%), followed by people who worked from home, either self-employed or working for a Cabot business numbered (18.2%). The results indicate a diversity of employment situations among respondents to the survey, although the percentages in each category do not necessarily reflect the percentages in the Town-wide population.

22. Are you...? (choose the one that best describes your situation)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Working from home (self-employed or working for a Cabot business)	18.2%	14
Working from home, for a business outside Cabot	11.7%	9
Working outside the home for a business in Cabot	7.8%	6
Travel outside Cabot to work	32.5%	25
Stay-at-home parent/caregiver/homemaker	6.5%	5
Retired	19.5%	15
Attending school	0.0%	0
Unemployed	3.9%	3
<i>answered question</i>		77

Question 23 sought information on the types and nature of agricultural/forestry operations survey respondents were engaged in. A majority (61.5%) of survey respondents were engaged in some level of agriculture or forestry, with over half (53.8%) growing produce for home consumption. Farming provided supplemental income for 6.4% of respondents, while 5.1% listed farming as their primary source of income. The results indicated that residents engaged in a wide variety of agricultural concerns, from raising produce for their family to operating dairy farms, were represented in the survey.

23. Are you engaged in the following in Cabot? (Please select all that apply)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Farming as a primary income source	5.1%	4
Farming as a supplemental income source	6.4%	5
Raising dairy cows	3.8%	3
Raising other livestock	15.4%	12
Growing field crops	9.0%	7
Growing hay	19.2%	15
Producing Maple syrup	10.3%	8
Growing produce for home consumption	53.8%	42
Forestry	17.9%	14
None of the choices listed	38.5%	30
	<i>answered question</i>	78
	<i>skipped question</i>	7

Question 24 was included to determine how many survey respondents drew a sizeable portion of their income from agriculture. The percentage of survey respondents that reported earning more than 50% of their income from farming or forestry was 7.8.

24. Do you earn more than 50% of your annual income from any of the agricultural/forestry occupations listed in question 23 above?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	7.8%	6
No	92.2%	71

<i>answered question</i>	77
<i>skipped question</i>	8

Town Programs and Services

Question 25 rated respondents’ satisfaction with 19 town facilities and services, to inform the goals and plans of action contained in the Town Plan. The results help to illustrate where improvement is most needed. It also afforded respondents the opportunity to specify and rate other services not listed.

The service that received the poorest rating was indoor recreation facilities, with 31% of respondents giving it a poor rating. Second lowest rated was police protection, with 29.8% of respondents indicating a poor rating. Third in line was internet access, with 17.9% giving it a poor rating. Services that received the largest number of people responding in the “don’t know” category were Town water supply (48.8%) and Town wastewater treatment (40.5%). Since a relatively small percentage of residents are served by public water and sewer, it is likely that this is the reason for this response. Other areas that had a high number of responses in the “don’t know” category were adult/senior services (42.2%) and indoor recreation facilities (28.6%).

Ten respondents included additional comments, either elaborating on their responses or identifying and rating other services, all of which will help the Planning Commission to identify problem areas in its work on the Town Plan.

25. How satisfied are you with the following Town facilities and services?						
Answer Options	Very good	Good	Adequate	Poor	Don't Know	Response Count
Town water supply	9.5% (8)	17.9% (15)	17.9% (15)	6.0% (5)	48.8% (41)	84
Town wastewater treatment	8.3% (7)	23.8% (20)	19.0% (16)	8.3% (7)	40.5% (34)	84
Town administration	13.3% (11)	39.8% (33)	31.3% (26)	7.2% (6)	8.4% (7)	83
State road maintenance	11.9% (10)	40.5% (34)	34.5% (29)	6.0% (5)	7.1% (6)	84
Local road maintenance	35.7% (30)	34.5% (29)	17.9% (15)	10.7% (9)	1.2% (1)	84

Fire protection	28.6% (24)	38.1% (32)	14.3% (12)	3.6% (3)	15.5% (13)	84
Police protection	3.6% (3)	14.3% (12)	34.5% (29)	29.8% (25)	17.9% (15)	84
Emergency medical services	23.8% (20)	32.1% (27)	15.5% (13)	7.1% (6)	21.4% (18)	84
Trash/recycling services	25.3% (21)	39.8% (33)	26.5% (22)	6.0% (5)	2.4% (2)	83
Outdoor recreation facilities	8.3% (7)	38.1% (32)	28.6% (24)	4.8% (4)	20.2% (17)	84
Indoor recreation facilities	2.4% (2)	15.5% (13)	22.6% (19)	31.0% (26)	28.6% (24)	84
Building maintenance	1.2% (1)	39.0% (32)	37.8% (31)	8.5% (7)	13.4% (11)	82
Cabot School	19% (16)	33.3% (28)	26.2% (22)	14.3% (12)	7.1% (6)	84
Adult/senior services	15.7% (13)	25.3% (21)	15.7% (13)	1.2% (1)	42.2% (35)	83
Internet access	17.9% (15)	31.0% (26)	28.6% (24)	17.9% (15)	4.8% (4)	84
Arts and cultural events	9.5% (8)	32.1% (27)	35.7% (30)	9.5% (8)	13.1% (11)	84
Cabot Public Library	33.3% (28)	40.5% (34)	20.2% (17)	1.2% (1)	4.8% (4)	84
Cabot Chronicle	22.6% (19)	40.5% (34)	23.8% (20)	9.5% (8)	3.6% (3)	84
Cabot Coalition	22% (18)	23.2% (19)	24.4% (20)	8.5% (7)	22.0% (18)	82
Other service (please specify and rate)						10
<i>answered question</i>						84
<i>skipped question</i>						1

Other service (please specify and rate)

- 1 Cabot coalition and chronicle are poorly balanced in their view and turn most normal youth off. Doesn't address the hard real issues of use and/or abuse and a punitive 0 tolerance approach never works. It is like teaching sexual abstinence and not teaching about making choices.
- 2 let's be clear - they are not Town water supplies or wastewater - they are users and supported only by users - excessively expensive & forced upon them by town majority; user fees continue to rise and are above affordable rates for individual users. The Town should subsidize as the Town benefits and feels satisfied w/ these resources. Town people tend to want to develop the village to hold all conveniences for them to come from their lovely hillside estates and get the convenience of down-country but not have to bear the consequences in their own back yards.
- 3 Waste water bill is out of proportion (too high) when compared to other towns.
- 4 I think C-SPAC has made a big improvement in access to indoor recreational facilities - otherwise, I'm not sure I know if any.
- 5 farmers market/easy access to local foods: adequate/poor
- 6 Mutual aid emergency medical services: good
- 7 Store - good
Hardware - good
Garage - Poor (too pricey)
- 8 The police are a joke and the town is regressing into a place where only the affluent can live. Real people live here and need to be treated fairly. All recreation has been planned or curtailed by the school in the PAC - It SUCKS and is a WASTE of MONEY.
- 9 We could have more recycling services. Use that 'historic' building as a give & take center. not including clothes. Things like building supplies, household items, etc.
- 10 Zoning enforcement: we are pleased Town administration has taken steps to try to better enforce...

Question 26 was included at the suggestion of the Cabot Coalition, and gauges the perceptions of Town residents regarding problems affecting the Town's youth. Respondents were asked to identify the three most significant problems affecting youth ages 12 to 18. In addition to choosing among a list of 12 problem behaviors/situations, respondents were able to identify other issues.

The three behaviors identified as having the greatest impact on overall community health were alcohol abuse (55.1%), illegal drug use (44.9%), and lack of activity/exercise (39.1%). Twenty-four residents took the opportunity to specify other problems, or describe the factors that lead to the problems. Boredom, lack of meaningful and interesting activities outside of school, and lack of adult role models were among the issues cited as leading to problems affecting youth in the community.

26. Of the following, which do you think are the three most significant problems affecting youth ages 12 to 18 in our community? (Please select the three problems that have the greatest impact on overall community health)

Answer Options

Response Percent

Response Count

Alcohol abuse	55.1%	38
Being overweight	27.5%	19
Dropping out of school	10.1%	7
hygiene	0.0%	0
Illegal drug use	44.9%	31
Lack of activity/exercise	39.1%	27
Poor eating habits	37.7%	26
Pregnancy	4.3%	3
Sexually transmitted disease	7.2%	5
Tobacco use	30.4%	21
Not using safety belts in cars	4.3%	3
Racism	4.3%	3
Other (please specify)		24
<i>answered question</i>		69
<i>skipped question</i>		16

Other (please specify)

- 1 Boredom
- 2 being overweight and poor eating habits and lack of activity are really all the same problem; a very big problem that isn't listed here is driving safety
- 3 See above #26 comments.
- 4 lack of access to educational, vocational opportunities; lack of guidance and models re: how to develop their future lives. More recreational and arts/ culture opportunities. Need more diverse peer interactions and opportunities to get out of Cabot. Hope for the future. Work opportunities. These kinds of oportunities leave little room for the select few cabot coalition fears for youth. Cabot Coalition is touting too many scare tactics. Boo. positive adult relationship, work, and non-academic learning opportunities for teens are the biggest needs. The other issues are more surface symptoms that often don't develop for youth w/ meaningful endeavors.
- 5 War Culture (media, military and government influences).
- 6 Hypocrisy
- 7 I think there is too small a population to generalize so specifically--each of these is a problem to somebody, but I don't think we have a pandemic of any of them
- 8 lack of choices in activities/school interests
- 9 Not enough opportunities to get involved in community events and issues that impact them. Although I would like to thank Kathleen at the library for encouraging kids to be very involved in the summer reading program events; she's made it very welcoming to kids and very easy for parents.
- 10 Technology overload, i.e. facebook, twitter / bullying
- 11 Isolation from community due to lack of jobs, too much media (TV, Video games) school's narrow focus.
- 12 Don't know this age group well enough
- 13 Unsupervised youth is a huge problem.

- 14 Don't know responsibility and work ethics.
- 15 Face it-- we all drank when we were younger. It's part of life. Let's stop wasting money on preventing teenagers from drinking and rather focus it towards other issues-- perhaps ones that (especially when combined with drinking) can cause severe future problems. As a young adult who recently grew up in Cabot, I believe that the amount of racism (or racist comments that are made out of pure naivety) as well as the lack of seatbelts that have even this past weekend led to deaths in the local area are unacceptable. I hope that there is some way to use some of the money (that in my opinion is wasted on getting teenagers in trouble for consuming a few beers in the safety of their own family homes) to work through these issues.
- 16 Sorry, I don't know any youth in Cabot.
- 17 Lack of Good Parenting
Lack of Accountability to selves and others
Lack of APPROPRIATE School Discipline
- 18 they may do all of the above for lack of anything else to do
- 19 These are all symptoms of not having positive activities and appropriate adult role models/mentors to offer and lead them into better behaviors. Why aren't you listed here?
- 20 Lack of recreational and cultural activities
- 21 Prevalence of TV/videogames/internet as extracurricular activities of choice (and the fact that they see adults all around them making the same choice)
- 22 Reckless driving (cars, mopeds, ATVs, Trucks, etc.)
- 23 don't know
- 24 homophobia