

A Brief Summary of the Highlights of the Results of the 2021 Master Plan Survey

All survey responses are available on the town website. The Planning Board encourages all residents to review the collated document as we figure out the next steps in this process.

Summary of Survey Questions 2-17

1. Maintaining the Town's natural landscape, scenic areas/viewsheds and open space are all especially important.
2. Maintaining and expanding access to outdoor recreation; more biking & walking opportunities a priority.
3. Commercial development in Town is not a major priority -- any new businesses should complement the smaller village feel & environment.
4. The largest area of concern coming out of the survey regards the growth of short-term rentals (Airbnb, etc.) within the Town, and how they directly compete with families and low/middle income folks attempting to acquire property and become Town residents.
5. Regarding solar installations, most folks appear supportive of solar, although based on the comments, concerns exist regarding impacts on views, etc.
6. Access to more 'affordable' housing (including senior & workforce housing) is a major concern/priority in the Town.
7. Although receiving many comments, upgrading Town facilities seems to be a more middle of the road priority, with those areas called out as needing the most attention: adding public restrooms, transfer station and Town hall -- in addition to adequately maintaining what we already have -- (one other note: adding electric car charging stations also mentioned in several of the survey's comment sections as well).
8. Although again receiving many comments, improving Town Departments seems to be only of moderate concern, with no single overriding issue.
9. Access to dependable high-speed internet throughout the Town is also a major priority.

Survey Questions 2-17 (with metric results) listed below

Question 2: Are you a full-time resident: 122 responses-, 84% yes, 16% no

Question 3: Do you own or rent your home: 122 responses, 97% own, 4% rent

Question 4: Do you own a 2nd home or other property in Franconia: 122 responses, 25% yes, 75% no

Question 5: Do you have school aged children? 122 responses, 15% yes, 85% no

Question 6: How important is maintaining Franconia's natural landscape? 122 responses, 71% extremely important, 23% very important, 5% somewhat important, 0% not so important, 1% not important at all

Question 7: How important is conserving scenic areas, natural resources, open space & scenic views? 122 responses, 74% extremely important, 22% very important, 4% somewhat important

Questions8: How important is expanding and maintaining access to parks, trails, village greenspace & outdoor recreation? 120 responses, 58% extremely important, 27% very important, 13% somewhat important, 2% not so important, 0% not important at all

Question 9: How important is improving bicycle & pedestrian infrastructure? 121 responses, 42% extremely important, 30% very important, 18% somewhat important, 10% not so important

Question 10: How important is promoting more commercial and business development in town? 119 responses, 18% extremely important, 19% very important, 38% somewhat important, 16% not so important, 8% not important at all

Question 11: How important is improving regulations on short term rentals such as Airbnb? 113 responses, 42% extremely important, 20% very important, 22% somewhat important, 12% not so important, 4% not at all important

Question 12: How important is improving regulations for solar installations as related to resident and community views? 112 responses, 17% extremely important, 26% very important, 38% somewhat important, 13% not so important, 6% not at all important

Question 13: How important is providing for diverse housing opportunities such as workforces, senior and affordable housing? 120 responses, 34% extremely important, 30% very important, 17% somewhat important, 11% not so important, 8% not at all important

Question 14: How important is upgrading town facilities (Please specify which facility): 108 responses, 17% extremely important, 19% very important, 38% somewhat important, 15% not so important, 11% not at all important

Question 15: How important is improving town departments (Please specify which department): 103 responses, 8% extremely important, 15% very important, 41% somewhat important, 23% not so important, 13% not important at all

Question 16: How important is increasing access to high-speed broadband? 118 responses, 55% extremely important, 27% very important, 14% somewhat important, 2% not so important, 2% not at all important

Question 17: Do you have concerns regarding domestic or farm animals? 116 responses, 16% yes, 84% no

Summary of Survey Questions 18-26

1. Lack of affordable and senior housing is the #1 ranked issue and reported in most questions.

2. Disapproval of the rapid increase of short-term rentals goes hand in hand with lack of affordable housing.
3. Maintaining the small town feel and community spirit while increasing community participation.
4. Preserving the environment, natural beauty and maintain/add to outdoor recreation.
5. More transparency in government, control of spending and lower taxes.
6. Expansion of broadband and high-speed internet.
7. Favorability to small business development, in a controlled manner, and keep with town feel. Small, quaint shops instead of chain/box stores.
8. Beautifying Main Street, in large part current buildings and homes.

Question 18-26 listed below. 790 individual comments were received for these 9 questions. Please see the full document to see all the comments.

Question 18: What is the most pressing issue Franconia is facing?

Question 19: What impacts outside of Franconia concern you the most?

Question 20: What is the best or worst thing about Franconia?

Question 21: What is the one thing about Franconia that you would change?

Question 22: What do you want Franconia to look like in 20 years?

Question 23: What are the best opportunities for Franconia to improve?

Question 24: What is an issue that is important to Franconia now and in the future?

Question 25: Why do you live in Franconia?

Question 26: Additional comments.