

# Peacham Community Survey Findings Report

September 2017



*A part of the Peacham Conversations & Call to Action programming and engagement effort lead by the Peacham Planning Commission with assistance through a 2017 Vermont Municipal Planning Grant and in partnership with the Vermont Council on Rural Development and the Northeastern Vermont Development Association.*

Peacham Planning Commission  
Town of Peacham  
Peacham, Vermont 05862

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# Table of Contents.

- I. Background ..... 1
- II. Brief Community Demographic Profile ..... 2
- III. Survey Findings ..... 3
- IV. Appendices ..... A-1
  - A. Survey Data ..... A-2
    - i. Question 8b..... A-3
    - ii. Question 9b..... A-8
    - iii. Question 10a..... A-19
    - iv. Question 11b..... A-10
    - v. Question 12a..... A-11
    - vi. Final Comments..... A-12
    - vii. Full Data Set..... A-14
  - B. Survey Instrument ..... A-15

*Cover Image by Geoffrey Sewake.*

# I. Background.

A word from the Peacham Planning Commission:

This survey is part of a community-wide engagement effort by the Town to encourage community members to create and take part in volunteer community groups and projects to meet the needs of Peacham. As an added benefit, this survey will also be used for developing and refreshing the Town's municipal plan. While surely a municipal plan is not generally exciting or of usual public interest, the deep engagement process of which the survey is a part, and the related community forums, to be held on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017, will certainly contribute valuable insight from a wide range of Peacham residents that will benefit the planning process. The survey is intended to reach a wide range of community members and give them all an opportunity to express their thoughts on Peacham, the assets, opportunities and challenges. The following community forums will give Peacham residents another opportunity to provide feedback and better yet, brainstorm for community-based action that participants might take upon themselves to rollout. It is true that the municipality has control over a number of things in town, like roads and the municipal buildings, but there are many more community features that the public has domain, for instance, community activities and festivals. If the community desires something in that domain, a volunteer group might come together and action plan how to make that happen---this community-wide engagement process is intended to create a space where that or other volunteer groups and ideas might form.

The Peacham community has a long and proud history of volunteer engagement and community participation. It is our hope that this community-wide engagement process can support those efforts to keep energy flowing, encourage new and continued participation, and have a moment to consider our community goals and objectives moving forward. While this type of process is not new, it can be an opportunity to check in and make sure that as a community, we are going strong and on the right path. Some Peacham residents may remember a similar process several years back, in 2003-05, when the Town conducted a similar survey and community forum. While not all of the ideas from that process have come to fruition, many have. Many in the community expressed a desire for some sort of café, to have more festivals and activities, and to attract young families that might help support the Peacham School---those things *have* happened, and by the effort of community volunteers and individuals. This process is a new chance to identify opportunities, find community support, and move forward with energy and passion to grow and enrich the Peacham community.

While not everyone in the community may like or want every outcome or action from this effort, their participation in, and contribution to, the process is important. Hopefully, in all, the results of this effort will generally be positive, regardless of whether they be a new festival, community space, or what have you, the process will provide an opportunity to engage the community, bring folks together around common goals, and cultivate new volunteers, young and old.

Thank you to all those who participated and will participate---this is your town.

Sincerely,

The Peacham Planning Commission

## II. Brief Community Demographic Profile.

The Town of Peacham, Vermont is located in Caledonia County. It is located south of US Route 2, north of US Route 302, and west of Interstate 91; while none of these major throughways enter the Town, there are three main routes that lead to them, the Peacham Danville Road, Groton Road and the East Peacham Road. Nearby towns include Danville to the north, Cabot to the northwest, Marshfield to the west, Groton to the south, Ryegate to the southeast, and Barnet to the east.

As of 2010, the population of the Town of Peacham was 732, with 62.4 percent of the population under the age of 55, see Table 1.<sup>1</sup> Between 2000 and 2010, the population grew by 10.1 percent. In regards to the Town's racial makeup, 98 percent of the population identified as white.<sup>2</sup> There were 299 households, with 27.4 percent having individuals under the age of 18. Comparatively, 31.1 percent of households had individuals aged 65 and older.<sup>3</sup>

**Table 1. Population by Age Cohort.**

Age Cohort	Percent of Population
0 to 19 years old	23.2%
20 to 34 years old	11.4%
35 to 44 years old	11.3%
45 to 54 years old	16.5%
55 to 64 years old	20.2%
65 to 74 years old	9.8%
75 to 84 years old	5.8%
85 and older	1.8%

In regards to employment of Peacham residents, there were 2.1 percent reported as unemployed, with 475 residents in the labor force, with an average commute time of 26.5 minutes.<sup>4</sup> The median household income was \$56,563, and a per capita income of \$25,210.<sup>5</sup> In terms of poverty, 5.8 percent of the population in the Town of Peacham had income below the poverty level.<sup>6</sup>

Housing stock in the Town of Peacham in 2010 was noted as 542 units, 55.2 percent were occupied, while the remainder were vacant with the majority, 89.7 percent (or 40.2 percent of all housing units), were listed as seasonal, recreational, or occasional use.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> US Census, American FactFinder, "Peacham town, 2010",

<https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=CF>, Accessed August 15, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

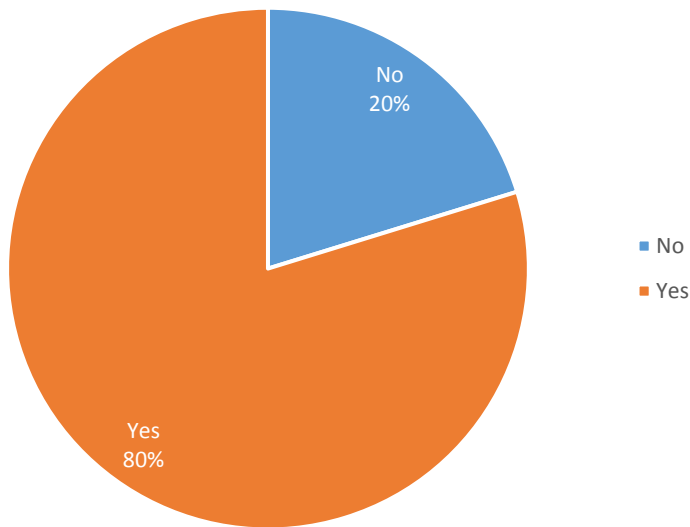
# III. Survey Findings.

The community-wide survey was conducted between March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017 and July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The survey due date was extended twice to accommodate additional participation from as many Peacham residents and property owners as possible. The survey was developed by the Peacham Planning Commission using the Danville Community Survey as a starting template. The survey was available online and on paper. The survey was promoted at Town Meeting Day 2017, through Front Porch Forum, and through a postcard mailing using the Peacham Town Master Tax List. While this survey is only a sampling of the community, it was successful in garnering 169 total responses, or about 30 percent of the adult population (using the 2010 US Census).

Note, "Count" describes the number of survey respondents to answer to a question. For example, for the Question 1, "Are you a full time Peacham resident", there was a count of "34" to the response "No", and a count of "134" to the response "Yes". That means there were 34 survey respondents who answered "No" and 134 survey respondents who answered "Yes" to the question of, "Are you a full time Peacham resident". Please note, not every survey respondent answered every question, and some survey questions allowed for multiple responses. Counts are given to provide context.

## 1. Are you a full time Peacham resident?

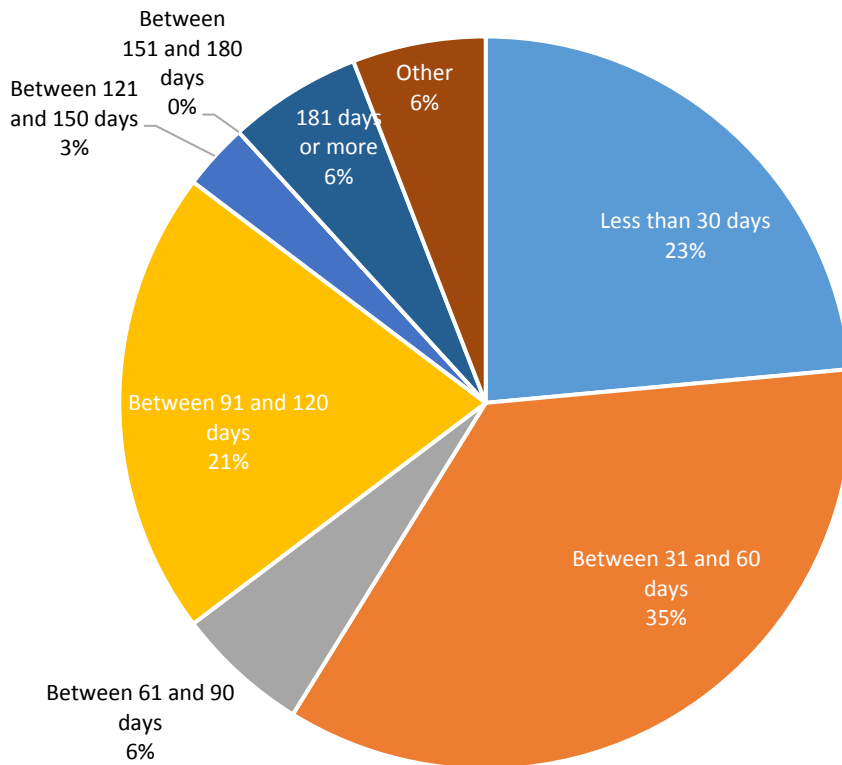
Response	Count
No	34
Yes	134



1a. If No, how many days per year do you usually spend in Peacham?

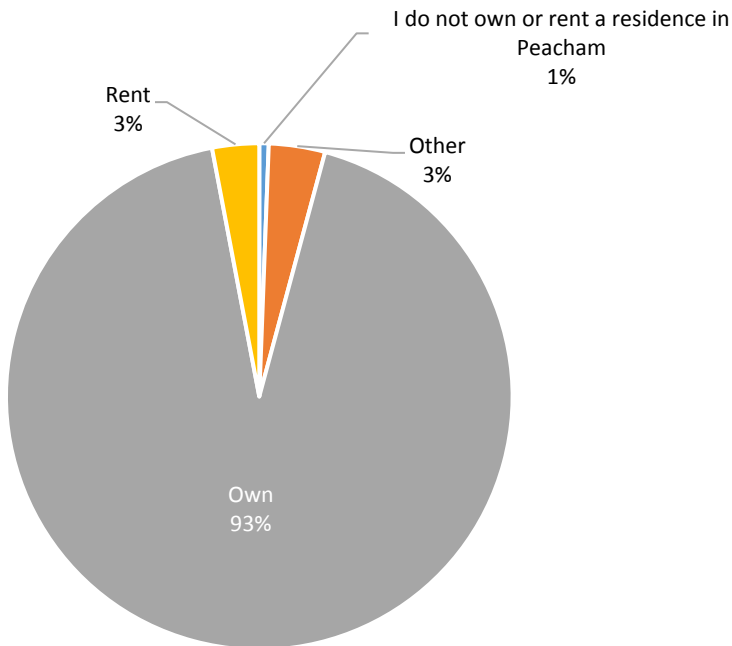
Count	Length of Time
8	Less than 30 days
12	Between 31 and 60 days
2	Between 61 and 90 days
7	Between 91 and 120 days
1	Between 121 and 150 days
0	Between 151 and 180 days
2	181 days or more
2	Other

Count of If No, how many days per year do you usually spend in Peacham?



## 2. Do you own or rent your residence in Peacham?

Response	Count
I do not own or rent a residence in Peacham	1
Other	6
Own	155
Rent	5



### Other (text):

Full time resident +/- 1970-1011, now rent

I grew up in Peacham and moved away. Now, I typically spend a few weeks a year there with family. I hope to move back to Peacham soon.

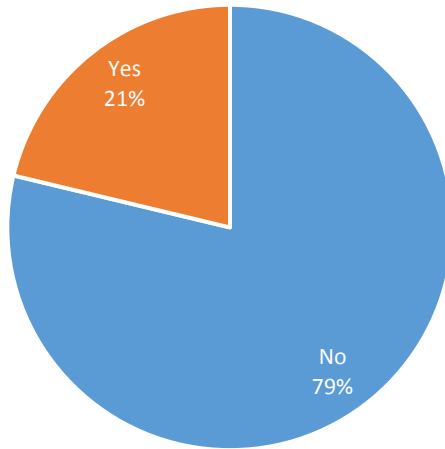
I own land in Peacham.

Land

live in a shared family residence

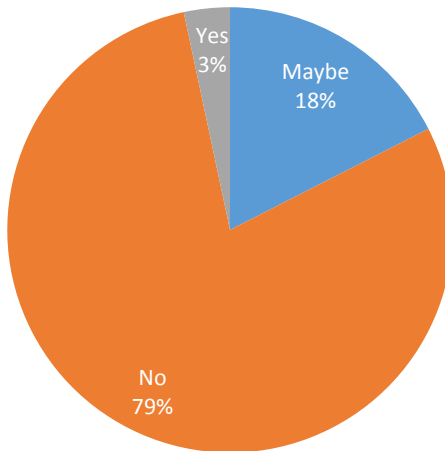
### 3. Do you own or operate a business in Peacham?

Response	Count
No	126
Yes	34



### 3a. If No, are you considering doing so?

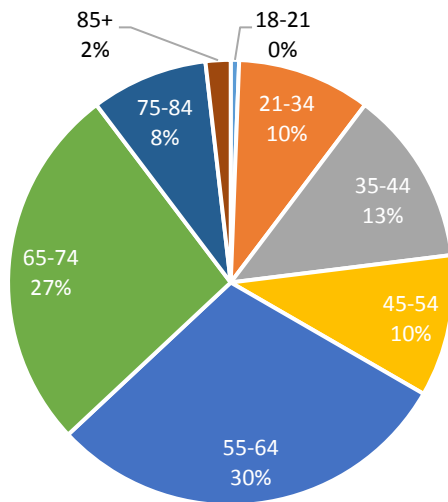
Response	Count
Maybe	21
No	95
Yes	4





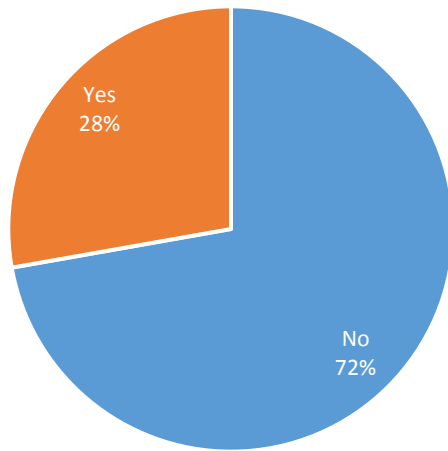
#### 4. What is your age?

Response	Count
18-21	1
21-34	16
35-44	21
45-54	17
55-64	49
65-74	44
75-84	14
85+	3



#### 5. Do you (or will you) have children (aged 0 to 18) living with you in Peacham over the next three years?

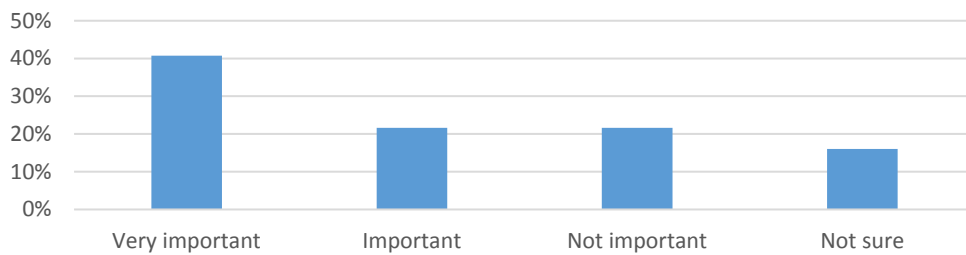
Response	Count
No	117
Yes	45



6. How important is retaining unlimited 7/8 school choice for the community and its students?

Response	Count
Important	35
Not important	35
Not sure	26
Very important	66

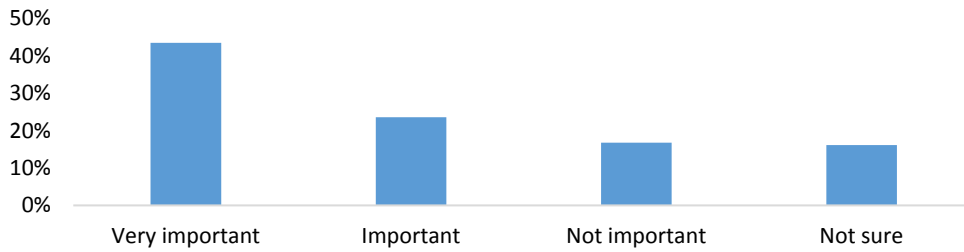
How important is retaining unlimited 7/8 school choice for the community and its students?



7. Given that new funding formulas from Act 46 may make Peacham School increasingly expensive to operate, how important is it for Peacham to retain its school?

Response	Count
Important	38
Not important	27
Not sure	26
Very important	70

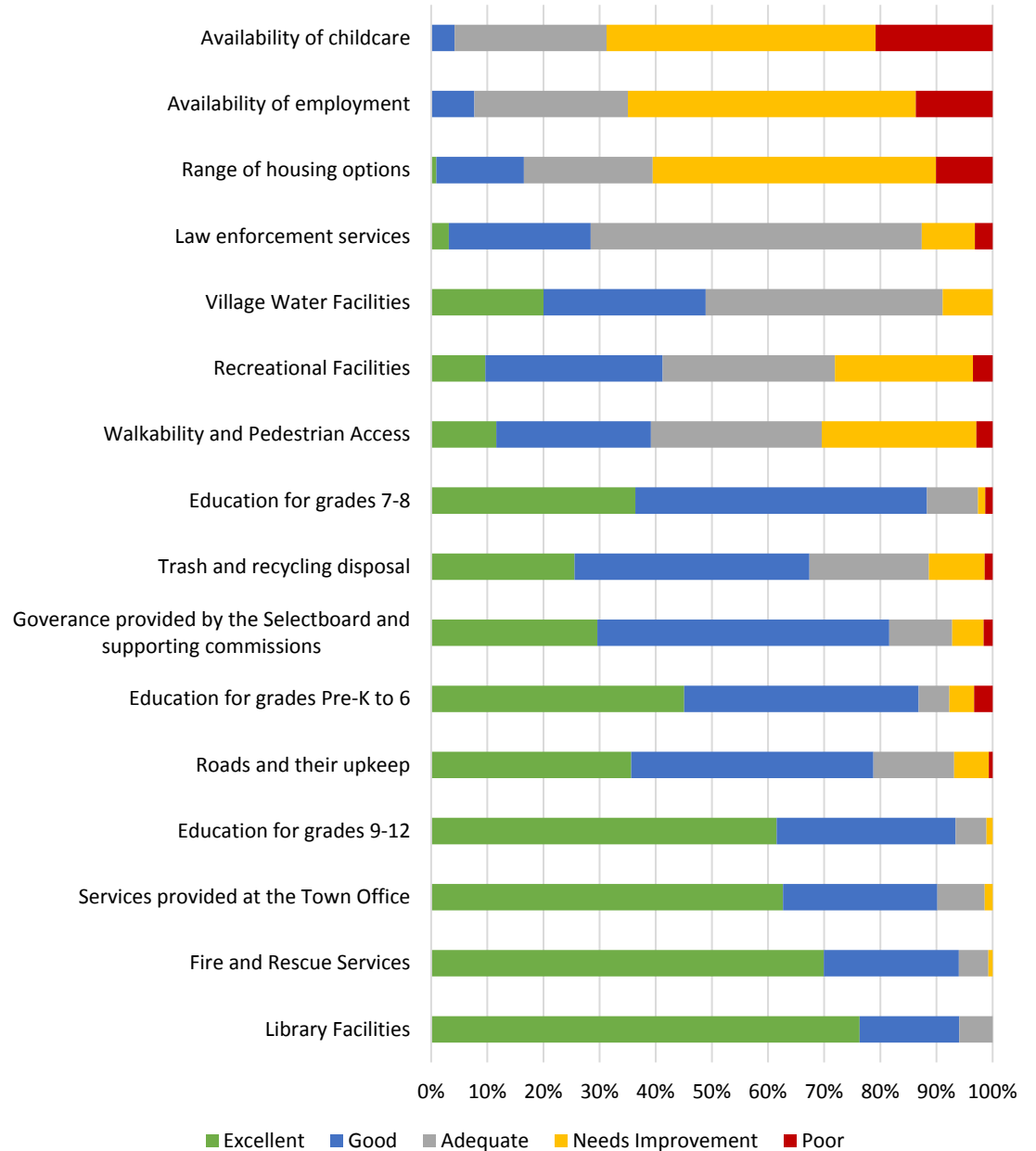
Given that new funding formulas from Act 46 may make Peacham School increasingly expensive to operate, how important is it for Peacham to retain its school?



8. Please rate the quality of services and facilities available in the Town of Peacham.

Category	Excellent	Good	Adequate
Library Facilities	103	24	8
Fire and Rescue Services	93	32	7
Services provided at the Town Office	89	39	12
Education for grades 9-12	56	29	5
Roads and their upkeep	52	63	21
Education for grades Pre-K to 6	41	38	5
Governance provided by the Selectboard and supporting commissions	37	65	14
Trash and recycling disposal	36	59	30
Education for grades 7-8	28	40	7
Walkability and Pedestrian Access	16	38	42
Recreational Facilities	11	36	35
Village Water Facilities	9	13	19

Quality of Peacham Services



**Other (text):**

<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Needs Improvement</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>(blank)</b>
Cafe	Appearance of the town	Financial situation	I would love to find a way to have access to the mail box's after hours. Options for more business' to open up in town.
Cemetery is beautiful !	Cost of education is becoming unsustainable.	Property taxes	Lack of broadband access to dirt road addresses is a concern. It's 2017. Peacham needs to make internet access standard.
ride-share and carpool opportunities	out of town taxes are too high. we get no services but pay dearly for them.,	Value received for school taxes spent	People drive too fast over Academy Hill. It is an accident waiting to happen. Speed sign? Close it off for farmers when they have work to do in the village? Ideas?
	Post Office		Taxes are ridiculous for services offered. Owners on Peacham Pond receive only a small amount of road care - nothing else.
	school board		The addition of rental housing and lower income housing would be positive
	Town needs to consider increased senior housing facilities...		
	Wireless services / Internet		

**8a. Please list the top three service and facility areas that the Town should focus on.**

A wide range of responses were provided to Question 8a. To better provide context, the answers were categorized by general theme. The complete responses can be found in the Appendix.

Rank	Theme	Count <sup>8</sup>	Percent
1	Housing	56	12.5%
2	Recreation Resources & Activities	55	12.2%
3	Education	50	11.1%
4	Economic Development	43	9.6%
5	Roads	38	8.5%
6	Walkability (sidewalks, access)	28	6.2%
7	Broadband Access	22	4.9%
8	Childcare	16	3.6%
9	Cellular Service	15	3.3%
10	Healthcare & Aging in Place	14	3.1%
11	Town Office	12	2.7%
12	Emergency Services	11	2.4%
13	Water Service	11	2.4%
14	Jobs	10	2.2%
15	Library	8	1.8%
16	Speed Enforcement	8	1.8%
17	Transfer Station (waste, recycling)	7	1.6%
18	Public Transportation & Ride Share / Carpool	7	1.6%
19	Attracting Young People / Families	6	1.3%
20	Taxes & Other Income Generation	6	1.3%
21	Community Character (agricultural, historic, aesthetic, peacefulness)	4	0.9%
22	Maintain Sense of Community	3	0.7%
23	More Sophisticated Contra Dances	3	0.7%

<sup>8</sup> Responses were weighted based on the importance given by the survey respondent. A “#1 Focus” response was given the highest weighted value of “3”, “#2 Focus” response was given a weighted value of “2”, and a #3 Focus response was given a weighted value of “1”. The count is the total weighted value calculated for each theme.

**8a. Ranking Continued**

Rank	Theme	Count <sup>9</sup>	Percent
24	Post Office	3	0.7%
25	Town Services	3	0.7%
26	Environment	2	0.4%
27	Renewable Energy	2	0.4%
28	Town Meeting	2	0.4%
29	Government Efficiency	2	0.4%
30	Communication with Voters	1	0.2%
31	Village Property Quality Enforcement	1	0.2%

**8b. Comments, see Appendix.**

<sup>9</sup> Ibid

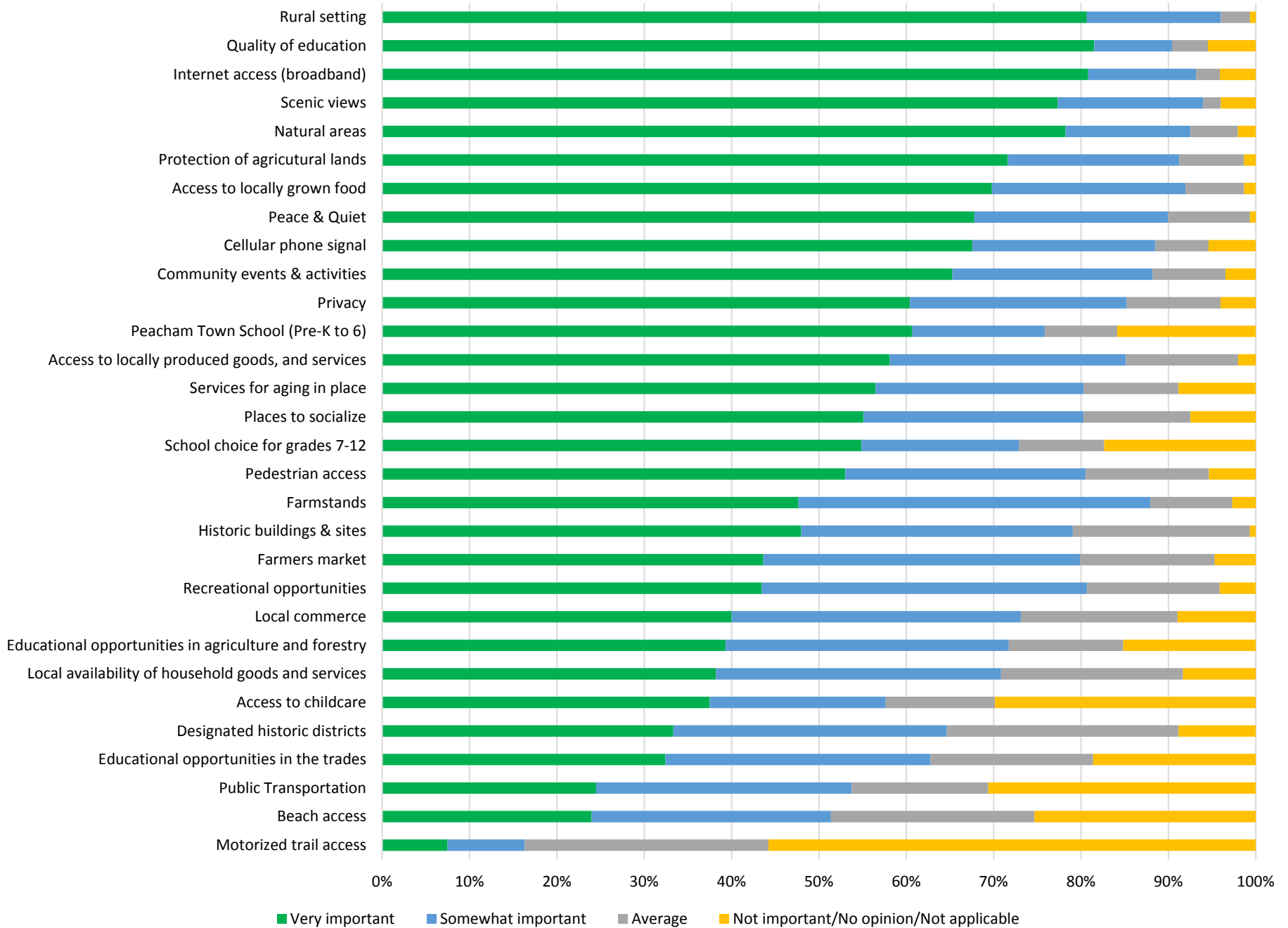
9. Please rate how important the following are to a high quality of life in Peacham.

Category	Very important	Somewhat important	Average	Not important / No opinion / Not applicable
Rural setting	121	23	5	1
Quality of education	119	13	6	8
Internet access (broadband)	118	18	4	6
Scenic views	116	25	3	6
Natural areas	115	21	8	3
Protection of agricultural lands	106	29	11	2
Access to locally grown food	104	33	10	2
Peace & Quiet	101	33	14	1
Cellular phone signal	100	31	9	8
Community events & activities	94	33	12	5
Privacy	90	37	16	6
Peacham Town School (Pre-K to 6)	88	22	12	23
Access to locally produced goods, and services	86	40	19	3
Services for aging in place	83	35	16	13
Places to socialize	81	37	18	11

**9. Categories continued**

Category	Very important	Somewhat important	Average	Not important / No opinion / Not applicable
Pedestrian access	79	41	21	8
School choice for grades 7-12	79	26	14	25
Historic buildings & sites	71	46	30	1
Farmstands	71	60	14	4
Farmers market	65	54	23	7
Recreational opportunities	63	54	22	6
Local commerce	58	48	26	13
Educational opportunities in agriculture and forestry	57	47	19	22
Local availability of household goods and services	55	47	30	12
Access to childcare	54	29	18	43
Designated historic districts	49	46	39	13
Educational opportunities in the trades	47	44	27	27
Public Transportation	36	43	23	45
Beach access	35	40	34	37
Motorized trail access	11	13	41	82

## Importance to High Quality of Life in Peacham





**9a. Please list the top three community areas that the Town should focus on.**

A wide range of responses were provided to Question 9a. To better provide context, the answers were categorized by general theme. The complete responses can be found in the Appendix.

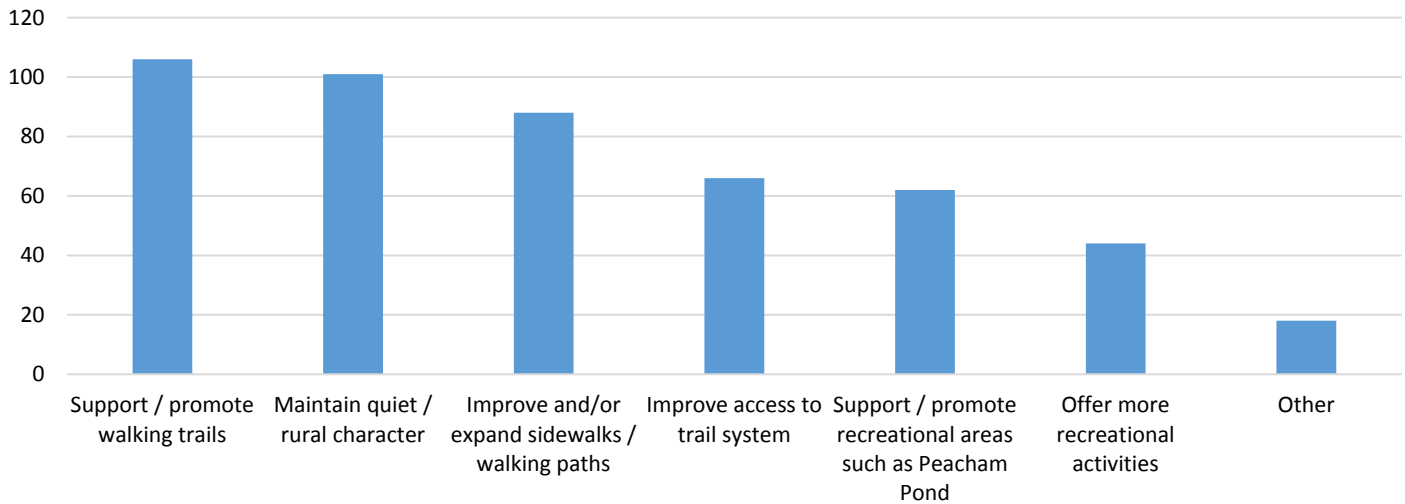
<b>Rank</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Count<sup>10</sup></b>	<b>Percent</b>
1	Recreation Resources & Activities	113	18.5%
2	Community Character (agricultural, historic, aesthetic, peacefulness)	91	14.9%
3	Education	76	12.5%
4	Cellular Service	64	10.5%
5	Economic Development	54	8.9%
6	Broadband Access	36	5.9%
7	Roads	20	3.3%
8	Housing	19	3.1%
9	Childcare	19	3.1%
10	Healthcare & Aging in Place	18	3.0%
11	Public Transportation & Ride Share / Carpool	17	2.8%
12	Food	13	2.1%
13	Library	9	1.5%
14	Maintain Sense of Community	9	1.5%
15	Renewable Energy	8	1.3%
16	Emergency Services	5	0.8%
17	Attracting Young People / Families	5	0.8%
18	Speed Enforcement	5	0.8%
19	Town Office	5	0.8%
20	Jobs	4	0.7%
21	Taxes & Other Income Generation	4	0.7%
22	Environment	4	0.7%
23	Walkability (sidewalks, access)	4	0.7%
24	Water Service	4	0.7%
25	Transfer Station (waste, recycling)	4	0.7%

**9b. Comments, see Appendix.**

<sup>10</sup> Responses were weighted based on the importance given by the survey respondent. A “#1 Focus” response was given the highest weighted value of “3”, “#2 Focus” response was given a weighted value of “2”, and a #3 Focus response was given a weighted value of “1”. The count is the total weighted value calculated for each theme.

10. What strengths or assets could Peacham build on to improve the recreational opportunities of the town?

Categories	Count
Support / promote walking trails	106
Maintain quiet / rural character	101
Improve and/or expand sidewalks / walking paths	88
Improve access to trail system	66
Support / promote recreational areas such as Peacham Pond	62
Offer more recreational activities	44
Other	18



10a. Other (text), see Appendix.

10b. Are you aware that the following are available for your use:

Town Hall Gym / Response	Count	Percent
No	26	18%
Yes	120	82%

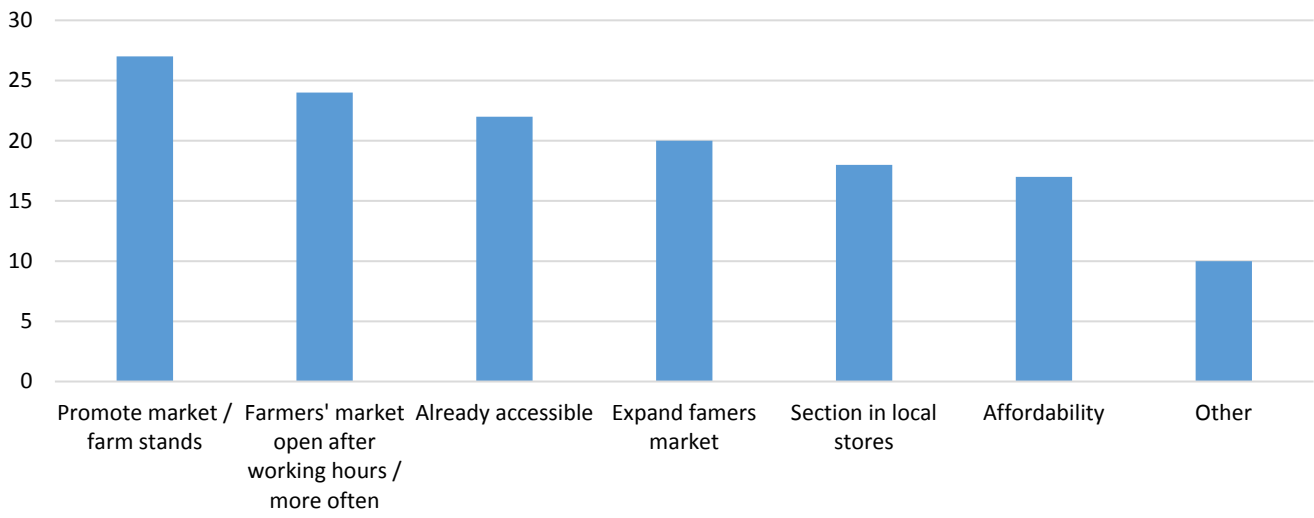
Picnic Area in Town Forest / Response	Count	Percent
No	63	43%
Yes	82	57%

Peacham Pathways / Response	Count	Percent
No	31	21%
Yes	115	79%

Tennis Court / Response	Count	Percent
No	38	26%
Yes	106	74%

11. What would make locally grown foods more accessible to you and your family?

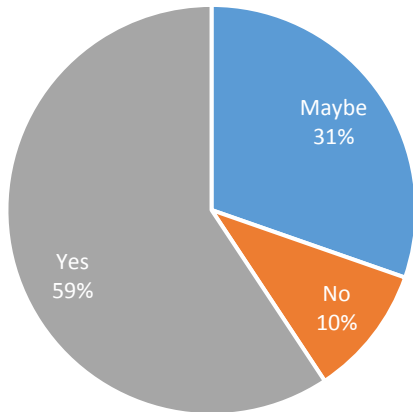
Response	Count
Promote market / farm stands	27
Farmers' market open after working hours / more often	24
Already accessible	22
Expand famers market	20
Section in local stores	18
Affordability	17
Other	10



11b. Comments, see Appendix.

12. In regards to wind, solar, hydro, and/or biomass energy sources, should the Town develop specific standards for siting, and maps for the most and least favorable locations in Peacham?

Response	Count
Maybe	44
No	15
Yes	86



12a. Comments, see Appendix.

### 13. If you wanted to age in your own home, what services would you need?

A wide range of responses were provided to Question 13. To better provide context, the answers were categorized by general theme. The complete responses can be found in the Appendix.

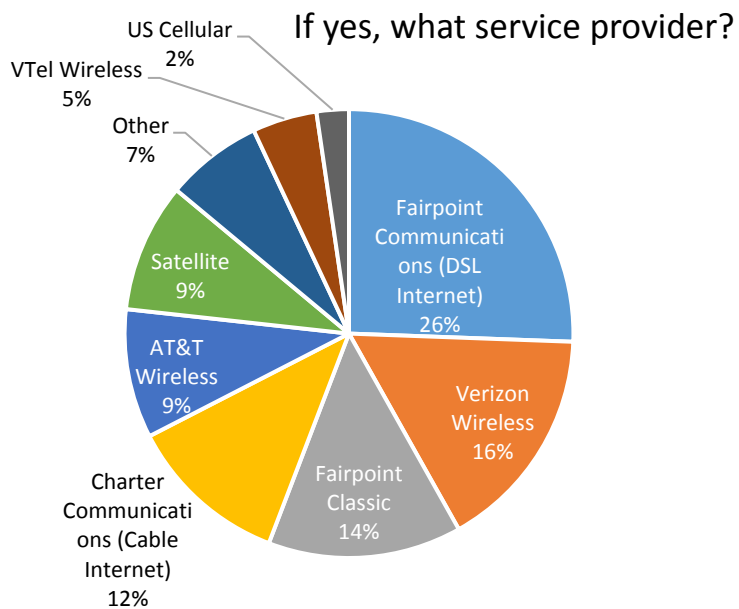
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Home Care / Assistance & General Services	35%
Transportation	23%
Medical (Nurse, ambulatory, other)	21%
Family & Community	7%
Cost of Living	5%
General Accessibility	3%
Internet & Cellular Service	3%
Life Facility	1%
Not a concern, focus on young people	1%
Smaller Home	1%
Don't know	1%

14. Do you have access to the internet from your home/business in Peacham?

Response	Count	Percent
No	16	11%
Yes	131	89%

14a. If you answered yes, from whom do you receive service?

If yes, what service provider?	Count
Fairpoint Communications (DSL Internet)	11
Verizon Wireless	7
Fairpoint Classic	6
Charter Communications (Cable Internet)	5
AT&T Wireless	4
Satellite	4
Other	3
VTel Wireless	2
US Cellular	1



**If yes (Other) (text):**

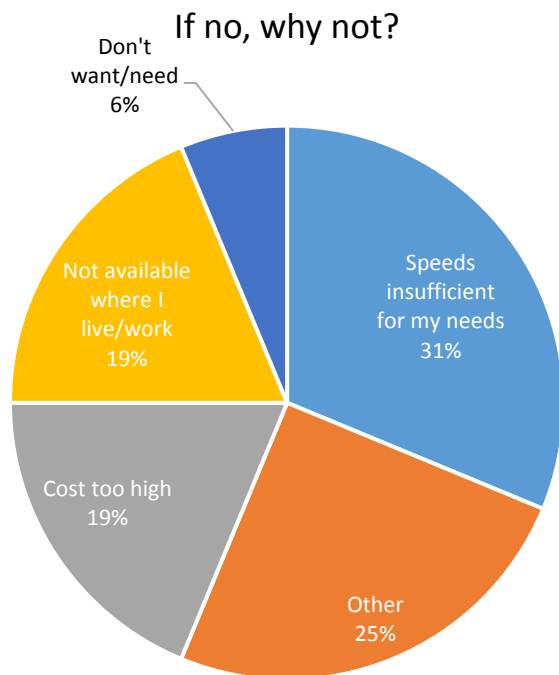
It is deathly slow

Our tenant has great internet access, but not sure which service she uses.

Speed available in insufficient

14b. If you answered no, why not?

If no, why not?	Count
Speeds insufficient for my needs	5
Other	4
Cost too high	3
Not available where I live/work	3
Don't want/need	1



**If no (Other) (text):**

dial up cumbersome

Requires annual contracts that are prohibitive for summer residents.

Satellite internet is garbge.

The options are not worth the investment. The only truly affordable access is cable, however cell service is not even available at my home!

Final request for comments on last page, see Appendix.

## IV. Appendices.

A. Survey Data.

B. Survey Instrument.



## A. Survey Data.

- i) Question 8b.
- ii) Question 9b.
- iii) Question 10a.
- iv) Question 11b.
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- vi) Final Comments.
- vii) Full Data Set.

## i) Question 8b.

	<p>Comments*:            *We are particularly interested in hearing details about items you listed as “Poor” or “Needs Improvement” so we have a better idea of how to improve these services.</p>
#	
1	Need more patrols to help slow down drivers in town
2	Peacham desperately needs more affordable housing for both young families and seniors.
3	Recreational Facilities - We have facilities not being utilized, the Luther Parker Field, the baseball field and basketball court at the school, tennis court, and Peacham walking path. With new State legislation affecting small childcare facilities, many were forced to close (across our area) and this left Peacham residents with very few options.
4	I listed housing as needs improvement. It seems difficult for young families to move in to Peacham. Jobs, of course, need improvement in the entire region for the same reason.
5	<p>There is currently no licensed childcare within Peacham town, and the closest options are in Danville, which is not convenient for my family.</p> <p>Obviously, education is a major concern for the town, as it navigates Act 46. My family moved to Peacham in order to live within walking distance of a small, good, school. It is extremely important to us to retain that school within Peacham!</p> <p>The range of housing options skews heavily towards higher value properties, with not much by way of low/middle income or rental properties.</p> <p>The rec facilities that are available are in pretty bad shape. Even the town gym, which is a really nice facility to have in such a small town, isn't a very welcoming place, with terrible lighting, etc.</p>
6	The need for affordable high speed internet is a huge concern for my family. The option are beyond limited in the area. This is one way of growing our population, and making our town more inviting to young families.
7	Allow for more buisness to come into town. Atleast leave it to a open vote.
8	I think some effort could be put into walkways.
9	If the transfer station could be open one other day than saturday that would be good.
10	<p>The town has no real welcoming and comfortable space for townwide events. Church and library are limited in what they offer and who feels comfortable using them.</p> <p>Affordable housing for families in the village would increase the vitality of the village community and enrich the peacham community as a whole.</p> <p>On commerce: the cafe has added so much to the town, but the absence of a small functioning store is still a problem for seniors and residents.</p>
11	<p>My observation is that childcare works fairly well for parents with school-age kids, but it is important make sure we have facilities and personnel to help two-wager-earner families.</p> <p>It has long seemed to be the case that Peacham could use more moderately priced housing for working families. We need a full range of ages in the town for the school, for volunteers, for diversity of intersts, and for diversity of skills and perspectives.</p>
12	<p>Employment: Not much the town fathers can do about this.</p> <p>Housing: Need more affordable housing</p> <p>More recreational opportunities for residents.</p> <p>There are no sidewalks and walking through/around Peacham is not easy - you need to share the roads</p>
13	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Paved sidewalk on one side of streets in town</li> <li>2. A shaded park with benches, playscape, performance stage, skate board ramp, play water fountain etc at the war memorial green.</li> <li>3. I'm not aware of any childcare in area.</li> <li>4. Selectboard governance summaries- Short, zippy, interesting and with a picture perhaps posted to For the</li> </ol>

	Love of Peacham FB site. 5. What are the Law Enforcement Services?
14	1. Would like to see taxes following the student to independent schools because public education is poor & a disservice to the student.  2. Peacham can become even more attuned with nature in so many ways! Thank you
15	Housing in Peacham is very expensive and the local job situation in the county is not great at all. It can be difficult making ends meet.
16	Childcare has been a big issue for us, as there just aren't any inexpensive options. Additionally, school choice and the quality of K-6 education are huge issues for us. We've found the inability of the school superintendent to foster a nurturing environment and a structure that is flexible/forward thinking enough to effectively teach to the individual needs of the students has been a big reason that some of Peacham's brightest students have chosen to go elsewhere.
17	Turn the science building into lower income housing.  Add sidewalks throughout the village area  Add to the trails system
18	What needs urgent improvement is dealing with the abandoned Peacham Store that is an eyesore in the middle of the village.
19	Sidewalks in the center of town from the school to the library, church, and town hall would be helpful.  Affordable housing options have been an issue for a long time. Shared housing or other similar possibilities should be considered and encouraged through housing codes, etc.  Our roads are generally in very good shape. Providing adequate training, supervision, pay, and benefits would help to retain good employees.
20	Walkability and pedestrian access - especially on the paved roads there is a Wild West of speeding. It's downright dangerous to walk. We need to fix that. It should be much safer for walking and biking in the village AND outside the village, if we want more young families to move to Peacham.
21	Cell tower service is weak
22	The property taxes are too high (both in Peacham and statewide) -- Please keep this in mind when making decisions.  A trash, recycling and compost service/pickup day to the Peacham Pond area would be great!
23	Roads around the Peacham Pond area could be better cared for
24	Need sidewalks in the village to get people from place to place. Retreatment of roads still needs work. Some older people need assistance to stay here in their homes.
25	People from Vermont and elsewhere think Peacham is an absolutely beautiful Village. It is one of the few places in Vermont that is still untouched by developers. Emphasize the HISTORIC aspects of the Village Center. Keep the Village looking like you just stepped back in time to 1790! Emphasize the historic buildings and architecture. Get rid of the 1980-ish street lights that look so out of place - and replace them with more historically appropriate "lantern" lighting. Windham and Old Bennington have beautiful street lights. The Cafe is nice - but too modern...not comfortable. Try to buy the run down red store and turn it into an old fashioned "Country Store". Tourists, bicyclists, and locals would make it a destination - now they just sit on the porch and look in the windows.
26	Unfortunately, it's been so long since I lived full time in Peacham I have very little real info to form any sort of valuable opinion. I *remember* it as being a beautiful place with (mostly :) friendly people, cows, views, sugar

	houses, etc. I try to visit my land at least once a year.
27	I live close to Marshfield and have a Marshfield mailing address. Because of that, I feel more connected to Marshfield. It's library is closer for me. I go to Marshfield often and only go into Peacham center when I go to the dump. Also, I rarely hear about anything going on in Peacham and that may have to do with my mailing address. So, I feel like a Marshfield resident and couldn't really answer most of your questions. It's kind of like living on the wrong side of the tracks. I must applaud Kitty Toll for coming to my house, though. She's the only politician to ever do so!
28	Peacham is a very special place. No doubt about that. But isn't there anything - governance wise - that can be done to constrain owners of properties right in the center of town to keep their buildings well maintained. Specifically, the Peacham Store is an absolute wreck. What a shame. Also, the beautiful, large federal house, just opposite the store across Church Street, is badly in need of repair and painting. It just amazes me that people don't care enough to do this and keep their properties up, or, if need be, the town can't enjoin them to do the same.
29	dirt roads always will need a lot of upkeep and I have no problem with that, but plows have taken out my mailbox and made large ruts when turning around in my driveway. Maybe more careful driving there? It would be nice if there was another week day for having the dump open, but I realize it costs money to open. My house was broken into last October, and the constable was alerted and said some other homes were also broken into. He was going to notify the state police and said they would contact me but they never did. Not sure what else could have been done. I still have a hand print on a window and thought finger prints could be taken by someone.
30	The Peacham School is too expensive for very few students. Children do not have enough options for advanced learning and will not be ready for the St. J Academy. Costs are ridiculously high per student and property taxes are amongst the highest in the state. Prospective home buyers will look elsewhere if this continues.
31	Let Jeremy do his work and have more responsibility. The green and Escalada lawn is getting smaller and smaller due to traffic trying to miss potholes.
32	Peacham has a tradition for fostering education, but it can't support the traditional classroom model with fewer than 120 students. If the Town can innovate, using computer and communication technology to support a closely supervised home-schooling model, it can cut costs drastically while providing a more individualized education for all residents, not just K-5.
33	I have grandchildren that live in Peacham and because there isn't any daycare in Peacham, she has to take her non-school age children to Danville.  The after school program is great, but should go from the start of school until the school year is done. The last 2 weeks of school the after school program wasn't running and she didn't have a way to pick up the kids from school and/or get them to her day care in Danville.
34	Reduced hours at post office is inconvenient---it would help if post mistress could use lockers for packages.
35	Plowing of roads and sidewalks
36	Would love to recycle all plastics, not only #1-4. Also would love to have a sidewalk to school.
37	Speed issue---move radar units - maybe speed cameras; Childcare---opportunity for new jobs and trained care people
38	Peacham needs improved economic development and opportunity. It would be a shame if Peacham faded into a forested town with nothing but faded glory.  Peacham School: Not necessarily expensive to operate if: 1) You need to ask if 9-12 choice would be acceptable; 2) If we can get our school population from 97 to about 105, then the \$200,000 per year penalty goes away. Can't actually go down.
39	sidewalks in town, maintain and for winter use

40	Would love to have real sidewalks installed particularly for school to walk to Town Gym
41	Wireless services / Internet - needs much improvement
42	universal cell coverage. Need to encourage hi-tech employers.
43	Would like a more defined and shoveled sidewalk connecting school to town and library. Could we pay money to Barnet and make access to Havey's Lake Beach free to all?
44	Younger volunteers needed in all areas and committees.
45	condition of paved roads. safety for walkers in the village (Peacham Corner) from speeding cars.
46	Gym---excellent; other rec resources---adequate. Classes in the gym---yoga, dance, sports? It would be nice to open the gym to regular classes/activities that would be paid for by attendees. Regular potluck/picnics in the summer would be good! more opportunities to get together with neighbors other than Town Meeting.
47	*Transfer station: need to be able to recycle more items that can be recycled; there needs to be collaboration with NEK WS to find ways to be able to recycle more! *The main streets needs to provide a safe walkway for residents, school and visitors. Walking in the road is not acceptable. *Affordable housing for young families.
48	we need a permanent sidewalk along Bayley-Hazen Road
49	Trash & Recycling: Adding another open day would make it easier. Zero sort recycling please.
50	Would be great to have housing that middle class, working families could afford---in the village specifically. Thanks for doing this. Keep up the good work!
51	It appears this is a request for identifying areas for spending money. As a retiree with a very small camp on Peacham Pond, I find the taxes excessively high given the limited resources we utilize. I would like to see taxes spread more evenly across all households prior to spending monies. My camp has been in our family for many years, and I should not be forced to consider selling because of the taxes.
52	No brilliant ideas -- services for young, disadvantaged, unemployed & elderly are an endemic problem everywhere & if Peacham can come up with solutions, bravo! One ideal would be local voc. ed. (LNA training, auto mechanics, youth farming, what else?) but I doubt if we're big enough to make it practical, alas!
53	Affordable housing is a priority as more children will make the school more sustainable. Childcare 0-3 will also encourage young families to move here.
54	Peacham need its own trash facility. Road conditions heading toward and on the east side of Peacham pond road needs drainage improvement.
55	Repaint walkway between Cafe and Library to 'signal' pedestrian traffic; maintain walkways where it makes sense - open walkway through cemetery (gate) so it can be enjoyed by all. Let's treat all of our assets (Greens, Cemetery, ball fields, etc). to encourage use.
56	Taxes are ridiculous for services offered. Owners on Peacham Pond receive only a small amount of road care - nothing else. And that isn't great.
57	Walkability: sidewalk along Bayley Hazen Road in the Village is needed. Village Water: Heroic efforts are made by the Peacham Fire District #1, but the system is ancient & needs huge funding to continue running our great water. Law Enforcement: speeding through town is in of more attention.
58	I love Peacham! Keep the School, no matter what
59	Sidewalk should be handicapped accesible. Houseing market survey. Encourage collaborators to look at job exchanges. Identify all entrepreneurs in the area and encourage them to employ local citizens.
60	1. Make "The Science Bldg" into housing for families. 2. Get the the State to fix income-sensitivity compensation re: property tax so wealthy folks are omitted and their share is given to those in genuine need. 3. The school board needs to listen less to Matt Forest's opinions, use him as a resource (not as their boss). Get 7th/8th grades into local public schools.
61	Affordable housing -&gt; so hard to afford living here.
62	Continue to improve the ball field.
63	We are fortunate to have great childcare but recognize that reliable childcare is very difficult to find.

64	1. Utilize the school building to offer 0 - 3 childcare options - give free space for a provider to run a childcare business. 2. Offer a "office" workspace for individuals who work from home to utilize.
65	PLEASE: institute zero-sort recycling
66	Recreational - more opportunities for the young. Pathways for the elderly. Housing - more options for young families and for elderly.
67	Little we can do about employment opportunities.
68	# 4 Roads
69	I like peacham. It's a nice place to have my camp. But I do not benefit in almost any way from the services my taxes provide. I don't have a problem paying for stuff that does not benefit me personally but I do think I pay more than I should.
70	So much could be done with the store where the movie was filmed. Also the Town green could and should be maintained better.
71	Might be interesting to talk to BMA and Sterling College about whether institutions such as those contribute to community invigoration +/- desire of grads to stay, add to area and contribute to it.
72	It would be nice to have some apartments - but not a new building, please! Science building maybe.

## ii) Question 9b.

#	Comments:
1	Peacham should look at its relative lack of motorized recreation (compared to neighboring towns) as an asset and build upon that. Walking, skiing, snowshoeing, horseback riding, etc are greener, cost less and are less intrusive to residents who might be more willing to allow access to land for these types of activities. We should distinguish ourselves from other towns and embrace green recreation vs recreational pollution.
2	I would love to see more public transport.  We have to face we are a old time town in a modern age. We need broadband and cellphone. Cellphone is just good for emergency.
3	Watching the old Peacham Store literally falling down, is a disgrace. The town should do something about this. The Cafe showed that we can, as a a community, raise money for a community supported enterprise. Let's duplicate that for the Store and get rid of the current owners who appear to have abandoned the place.
4	Have done so on proceeding page€!..
5	Having a store locally would be an asset
6	I love peacham because of it is quiet and rural with beautiful views. I love the historic buildings and architecture. I also appreciate that I can drive an hour to Montpelier or St.Johnsbury if I need to - and back to beautiful Peacham.
7	Did we not already this question?
8	I'd propose a community-wide project---perhaps a sister city project in a country that could use our help. (The town in the Dominican Republic where Wendy MacKenzie volunteers perhaps) I'd be interested in helping with this. (Jane Alper)
9	We seem to be improving in most areas; let us keep up this progress.
10	It's the economy stupid. Was true in 1992 and is true today. Powered by education and broadband. This century. The question is how to make Peacham a "destination" for both visitors and potential residents.
11	We have a beach? Educational Opportunities in the Trades---Where are we going with this? 4 yr academic degrees are becoming necessary. We don't need a trade school in Peacham.
12	It would be great to have a town picnic area and paths in the town forest
13	Peacham needs to move forward and allow absentee ballot voting most other other towns. Folks that need to work - and are likely paying the highest taxes - should not have to take a day off to vote.
14	Many community areas as listed on the previous page are not governed by the town, but town encouragement and support in community and/or private efforts are welcome and often needed.
15	Join the Barnet district. Get some simple, solid housing built for middle income families.
16	Peacham is a great place to live - highly appreciative of all that it offers and its many generous people.
17	1. Preserving beauty of our community 2. Provide excellent education and choices 3. Guide infrastructure so people can make a living here.
18	Protecting ag lands; helping to sustain farmers
19	Would like a town Conservation Fund to buy lands for protection until they can be permanently protected by land trust, for instance.

### iii) Question 10a.

#	Comments:
1	I would love access to the peacham pond that didn't take me 20min to circumvent around to it. The fact that there is no even semi direct route there from the town center to it.
2	I will comment on the tennis court, see below. It needs work!
3	We need to build the bridge between the "haves" and the "have nots" in town. I know there is resentment from many of the old timers about the new folks in town.
4	Where is the town forest?
5	All of the above!! But non-motorized!
6	We must strive to make every Town resource work to maximum advantage. The Library is a good example; the school building is not.
7	tennis court not in great enough shape for playing
8	We need healthy activities for all. Less mechanical recreation and more appreciate of the natural world.
9	Become more progressive w/ recreational activities
10	let us truly use the beautiful aspects of our town
11	Tennis Court---What and where? The asphalt mess by Town Hall is NOT a tennis court.
12	Peacham Pathways--- continues to need work / better signage. Picnic Area in Town Forest---map?
13	Would eliminate the tennis courts and replace with a more popular activity
14	Could a town information brochure produced annually be of help in informing residents and visitors?
15	Covered pavilion on tennis courts



## iv) Question 11b.

#	Comments:
1	It would help if residents would commit to supporting local growers and producers - and understand how fortunate we are to have them working hard to provide these foods and products.
2	Love our farm stands. Maybe there could be a way to donate extra produce to the farmers market?
3	Add a "Yellow Pages" section to the Town Telephone Directory.
4	Why come to Peacham farmer's market? Need strong attractions. Perhaps a program offering senior discounts?
5	Can't access during weekday because I work out of town and don't return until 5:30pm or later so I do not go. If in evening or weekend would go.
6	Affordability---Biggest hurdle - quality is not
7	We will support the market every week, we're a family of 4. Diversity (cheese, bread, lots of veg) is great. Miss Tony's desserts---new pastry maker?
8	Sad to loose Willow Brook Farm
9	No improvement needed
10	While I sense the Farmers Market is struggling, why not leverage the Cafe more? They already offer many local products and their infrastructure is in place. It would help if we promoted the Cafe as an asset for everyone to take advantage of.
11	Let's make sure Nattie & Molly are successful
12	plenty of local farm stands
13	Recruit vegetable growers and meat growers in town.

## v) Question 12a.

#	Comments:
1	Would need to know more.
2	Do not believe we should do wind in Peacham
3	It is good to know where people would be ok with it so it won't meet with resistance to do something so beneficial. Its really not hard to hide the small solar farms.
4	No wind!! and not other form that would be objectionable to ANY resident....we pay too much in taxes to lose our views, peace, quiet or privacy for any reason, including energy source
5	Absolutely a priority to do this so that the town's wishes are clear if/when a developer comes to town.
6	Absolutely, I am seeing other towns taking the initiative, and Peacham seems to be passing on opportunities to do our share with 'renewables' and perhaps save money in the long-run.
7	Alternative energy sources are the future. Would be nice if Peacham was on the cutting edge. Fast broadband and reliable cell signal would provide the base for job creation here. Solar arrays nearby. I consider the arrays beautiful, but some don't, so tucking in an underused area would be good. I endorse using the Academy Science building for affordable housing. RCT (Rural Community Transport provides free reliable trips for seniors which would help save money for those on tight budgets-like me!) How about a visible bus stop at the main intersection and maybe a defined time for daily or weekly transportation to St. J for shopping.
8	Homeowners are best equipped to make renewable energy decisions based on the needs of the individual and the contractor and technology chosen. For larger scale projects the town of Peacham can gain party status under the current rules. Determining the best siting for renewable energy requires expertise that most local authorities do not possess.
9	Rooftops first!
10	It's important for people to be able to do what they want on their own property. If the town could recommend places where it would be a good idea, that could help landowners with decision making.
11	Not sure all of those are relevant, but my point would be, we should be intentional and should plan, not just let things happen to us.
12	Need more information
13	Solar and wind generators are only viable if subsidized. Small hydro is reliable, producing full output 24/7. All of the Town's industries were water-powered at one time. It worked then, it can work now.
14	People need professional advice on how to implement alternative energy
15	Standards are required but taxpayers need the freedom to decide what the highest and best use of their land is. We should consider town owned energy parks/farms.
16	Strongly agree to need for site approval criteria
17	I would work on this! Sustainability is key to our town
18	Needs to be in current town plan - not for future adoption
19	No wind power farms!
20	Absolutely!
21	They should be encouraged and not restricted
22	No industrial wind in any rural areas of VT.
23	Peacham's landscape should not be disrupted by such energy sources
24	Unclear Questions. Is this for private installation, if so no interference please.
25	We should move towards renewable energy.
26	No industrial sized wind! Go solar and "hide" it as well as possible.
27	I am firmly opposed to industrial scale wind, solar, and biomass development in Peacham. This invites "green-washing" investors. Home scale wind and solar do fit the rural landscape.
28	No industrial wind!

## vi) Final Comments.

#	Comments
1	Do not limit size of lots any further to limit middle to low income people be able to live here. I do not like being told what I can do with my own property within reason.
2	Thank you for taking the time to do this.
3	Thank you for soliciting feedback.
4	GO SOLAR!!!
5	Australian ballot for more votes @ Town Mtg
6	Keep up the good work. Peacham needs a strong plan, supportive zoning, as well as a capital improvement program.
7	Peacham is a unique town, even within Vermont. Some people want to rush to change it so that it will be like other towns with stores etc. Once it has lost its character, there is no going back. People who want Peacham to be more modern, or like other towns, can always move to a bigger town. But once we've lost our lovely, rural character, there is no going back. Value what we have. It is unique!!!
8	Help us save the store!
9	And thank you all for asking !
10	In large part, the future of Peacham depends on attracting young families to live in town year round.
11	I truly appreciate the efforts of Frank and Patrice in putting on PAMFest. Additionally, the Winter Carnival and 4th of July are great events that help us celebrate the town.
12	It would have been helpful to go back to earlier answers. I hope that the 2017 Town Plan addresses the siting of solar panels, protection of agricultural lands, and building a strong sense of community.
13	Thanks for doing this!
14	I think keeping peacham rural and agricultural is very important and needs to be promoted and preserved.
15	"Tread lightly on sacred soil" Please do not use this Town Plan opportunity to overdo various ideas. Please keep it simple and streamlined.
16	Again we own a home in Peacham, but do not live there. That said, keeping up the physical appearance of the town, beginning with the general store, is very important to my wife and me. It's a shame the way it looks and that it is not operated as a general store. If my wife and I were younger, we might consider buying the property and run the store ourselves. But at 71 now, that's not in the cards.
17	Many thanks for conducting this survey.
18	Make it easier for young people to be able to live here.
19	Thanks for conducting this survey. Town meeting doesn't give voice to part-year residents.
20	We need to promote smart energy = how do we help residents reduce the amount of energy they must buy? How do we help the town produce its own energy? How does the town promote the all electric future? Looking forward to electric cars as the principal mode of transportation. Where will we have public charging stations?
21	Tennis Court - If it is set up, seriously neglected at the moment.
22	I appreciate being asked for my views. Peacham is the best governed place I've ever lived!
23	Internet - Yes, sporadic at best.
24	Internet access---Yes, but its terrible
25	Need better internet service. Faster, more reliable.
26	Desperately need better/faster, more reliable internet connections.
27	Density housing important,stop putting single family homes in good fields.
28	Thanks for doing this!
29	Out internet is consistently poor - would be great to upgrade. Keep up the good work! Thank you - Robert Van Vranken

28	<p>Thank you for your service. It's a great Town thanks to folks like you.</p> <p>[Note from next to question 7]</p> <p>Join the Barnet, et. al. group:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Kids get great schools</li> <li>2. Families enjoy local, public education</li> <li>3. Taxpayers save.</li> </ol> <p>There is no choice for the families who cannot afford the time, money, etc. needed to accommodate the distant independent schools. Many special needs students can be refused admissions at independent schools. Public schools take all kids - and proudly so - despite the disadvantages they endure relative to the independent schools's fewer restrictions/demands from the state. It's unAmerican and morally wrong for one public penny to go the an independent school! Unless they play by the same rules.</p>
29	<p>This is a great town! I am grateful that I was able to buy a home here and move here. It is efforts like Peacham walking group, care, library, and all the many events that have made thus a great place - not mention the many great people!</p>
30	<p>Thank-you</p>
31	<p>More flexibility on set backs. Criteria for building rather than arbitrary lot sizes.</p>
32	<p>Could use some "Peacham Pride" to keep Town houses and buildings looking good!</p>
33	<p>Please include plans for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Preserving character of village w/ designated district</li> <li>2. Preserve the Village Farm</li> </ol>

## vii) Data Set.

*The digital copy of this document contains the data set in the pages below. However, to save on printing, paper copies of the Survey Findings document do not contain the Data Set. To receive a copy of the Data Set please contact the Peacham Town Office.*

## B. Survey Instrument.

*The digital copy of this document contains the Survey Instrument in the pages below. However, to save on printing, paper copies of the Survey Findings document do not contain the Survey Instrument. To receive a copy of the Survey Instrument please contact the Peacham Town Office.*