

Tab 1 Subsection C
Clinton Public Opinion Survey Roll-up
Clinton Comprehensive Plan Committee

Please take a few minutes to read and respond to the following questions. The Town of Clinton is conducting this survey to obtain information for the comprehensive plan. The data gathered is very important because it will have an effect on the Town's long-range planning. A public hearing will be held on the results of this survey on October 30, 2019. Please return to the Clinton Town Office by October 23, 2019. Numbers after the answers to the questions indicate the number of responses by the citizens. Remarks are also included after the answers.

1. *How satisfied are you about living in Clinton? (Please circle one answer)*

- 1 Very Satisfied 22
 - 2 Somewhat Satisfied 8
 - 3 Somewhat Dissatisfied 4
 - 4 Very Dissatisfied 1
- A large percentage of Clinton residents were very satisfied.

2. *If you had to choose a future vision for your community, which of the following would it be? (Please circle one answer)*

- 1 Heavy industry in the industrial park 4
 - 2 Large commercial businesses in a few strip centers 5
 - 3 Small commercial businesses spread throughout the town 21
 - 4 Little commercial development, maintain and increase residential development 2
 - 5 Little development period, preserve remaining tracts of undeveloped land 0
- The people's vision for Clinton is small commercial business throughout the town.

3. *What do you wish was in Clinton that isn't already available to you? (Please circle all that apply)*

- 1 Public park for passive recreation (walking trails, woods, etc.) 17
 - 2 Public park for active recreation (playground, soccer fields, etc.) 13
 - 3 Small corner general store with Gas Station etc 0
 - 4 Large grocery store or wholesale club 1
 - 5 Small shopping center (Subway, hair salon, etc.) 4
 - 6 Large shopping center (Sears, Petco, Tractor Supply etc.) 3
 - 7 Restaurant or Bar 21
 - 8 Nothing, I like living far away from stuff 3
- Most residents are looking for a restaurant or bar.

4. *How often do you enjoy recreational activities, such as fishing, swimming, snowmobiling, or playing in waterside parks, or the Kennebec and Sebasticook River?*

(Please circle one answer)

- 1 Multiple times per month 9
 - 2 Once a month 2
 - 3 Less than once per month, but at least once per year 15
 - 4 Never 9
- Recreational enjoyment varies in frequency in Clinton.

5. Please circle any of the services or programs below for which you are willing to pay (either new or continued) increased taxes.

- 1 Fire Department 26
- 2 Police Department 23
- 3 Public Works 17
- 4 Code Enforcement 16
- 5 Develop a network of pedestrian and bicycle trails around town 14
- 6 Purchase land or easements for permanent conservation 6
- 7 Provide structured activities for youth, such as a skatepark 11
- 8 Subsidize companies that open businesses in town 8
- 9 Subsidize homes to provide more affordable housing 6
- 10 Develop land along river for public swimming and boating 14
- 11 Other Community Center (1); Snowplowing (1)

People are willing to pay with increased taxes for fire, police, public works, code enforcement, trails and recreational development along rivers.

6. Which of the following transportation options would you consider using?
(Circle all that apply)

- 1 Drive my own car 34
 - 2 Carpool (you set up with some friends) 6
 - 3 Vanpool (private company provides and organizes the van) 4
 - 4 Bike or walk 8
 - 5 Bus Service (making the Clinton-Waterville-Augusta loop) 15
- In Clinton, the majority drive their own car and would opt to use a bus if available.

7. Where do you live? (Please circle one answer)

- 1 Urban section of town (sewered) 12
- 2 Rural section of town (non-sewered) 23

8. Here in Town, our comprehensive planning process is all about building on our strengths and dealing with our weaknesses. Listed below are some of the features of the town. Please tell us whether you think they are strengths or weaknesses

	Strength		Weakness		Neither	
Cost of housing/property	1	19	2	6	3	8
Small town/rural setting	1	28	2	3	3	1
Quality of public services	1	22	2	5	3	8
Job opportunities	1	5	2	19	3	6
Access to shopping/services	1	8	2	13	3	12
School system	1	16	2	9	3	11
Tax rate	1	7	2	15	3	11
Recreational opportunities	1	6	2	19	3	8
Environment	1	17	2	6	3	12
Access to health services	1	15	2	9	3	10

The biggest strengths in rank order are rural setting, public services, cost of housing, environment, school system, and health services. The biggest weaknesses in rank order are job opportunities, recreational opportunities, tax rate, and access to shopping.

9. Our comprehensive plan must consider many, diverse issues. In Town, some will be more important than others, and we will concentrate on those. Listed below are some of these issues. Please tell us how you feel about them (If no opinion, leave blank.)

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
Reducing the tax rate	1	16	2
Protecting the town's natural resources	1	20	2
Increasing recreational opportunity	1	10	2
Improving town facilities	1	9	2
Increasing retail and service businesses	1	9	2
Preserving the town's rural character	1	20	2
Ensuring safe and affordable housing	1	18	2
Creating local jobs	1	19	2
Supporting local agriculture	1	27	2
Supporting local forestry	1	20	2
Preserving historic sites and buildings	1	16	2
Improving educational opportunities	1	20	2

The citizens opinions on issues found the following **very important**: agriculture, forestry, educational opportunities, preserving rural character, protecting natural resources, local jobs, affordable housing, tax rate, and historic sites and buildings. The following areas ranked in order were found to be **somewhat important**: recreational opportunity, town facilities, and retail and service businesses.

10. **RECREATION**: Which of the following recreational facilities do you think we should develop and/or improve? (Circle all that apply.)

1. Indoor facilities	12	7. Swimming/boating access	12
2. Playgrounds	14	8. Playing fields (baseball, soccer)	8
3. Bike paths	12	9. Snowmobile trails	11
4. Ice rink	7	10. Cross-country ski trails	10
5. Access to school facilities	7	11. Pedestrian paths	23
6. ATV trails	8	12. Other Community center	1

The largest need identified was pedestrian paths.

What do you think is the best way to pay for these improvements?

27 State/federal grants 17 local fund-raising 5 property taxes
Citizens thought the best way to support these activities was with grants or local fund-raising.

11. **WATER RESOURCES**: Which of the following do you think should be provided in order to enhance the town's water bodies (Kennebec / Sebasticook River?) (Circle all that apply.)

1. Boat Landing(s)	20	4. Public Swimming / recreation areas.	16
2. Private Fish stocking	4	5. Marina	1
3. Waterside Campgrounds	5	6. Other Fix Main St boat landing (1), river walk (1)	

People believe the best way to enhance the town's rivers is boat landings and public swimming areas.

What do you think is the best way to pay for these improvements?

22 State/federal grants 8 local fund-raising 3 property taxes
Citizens thought the best way to support these activities was with grants or local fund-raising.

12. **NEW DEVELOPMENT:** *As part of the comprehensive planning process, we will develop a Land Use Plan, indicating how we wish to manage growth within our boundaries. A set of statements concerning this topic are listed below. Please circle a number on the scale that best describes whether or not you agree with them.*

	Agree ----- Disagree				
	Strong 1	Somewhat 2	Neutral 3	Somewhat 4	Strong 5
a. The Town should strengthen ordinances that manage the type and location of development.	7	16	6	1	3
b. The Town should identify specific areas for new development	17	12	6	1	0
c. The Town should encourage commercial development.	12	12	4	3	1
d. The Town should NOT limit the location of new commercial or industrial development.	7	9	3	8	6
e. The Town should have standards to assure that residential areas are protected from new commercial development.	13	14	2	3	2
f. New commercial and industrial should be limited to land adjoining state-numbered highways.	7	9	8	8	2
g. New development should be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and permitted wherever it will not adversely affect property values, the environment, or town services.	19	8	6	0	3
h. We should prohibit new subdivisions and mobile home parks on <u>unpaved</u> town roads.	14	5	4	4	5

13. *How do you feel about Town's population growth and development the past twenty years?*

1 Much too slow 8 too slow 23 about right 0 too fast 0 much too fast

Most citizens feel that growth is about right.

14. **NATURAL RESOURCES:** *Currently, much of Town is undeveloped, contributing to our environmental quality and scenic beauty. The statements on the next page suggest ways that we can encourage the preservation of farm, forest, shore frontage, and other undeveloped tracts of land. Do you agree or not?*

	Agree -----			Disagree	
	Strong 1	Somewhat 2	Neutral 3	Somewhat 4	Strong 5
a. The Town should do nothing, letting the real estate market decide the highest and best use of undeveloped land	3	3	5	14	8
b. The Town should help the State or a land trust to purchase conservation easements from landowners to keep tracts as open space.	7	11	8	1	7
c. The Town should ask developers to set aside a portion of the land in new subdivisions as permanent open space.	10	11	8	1	3
d. The Town should keep property acquired through tax liens if the land can serve a public purpose such as providing open space.	8	11	6	4	4
e. The Town should identify environmentally sensitive areas, where new development would be limited.	18	7	5	2	1

The citizens disagree that the town should nothing letting the real estate market decide the best use of undeveloped land. However, in all other questions citizens agree the town should take an active role.

15. **HOUSING:** *As part of the comprehensive planning process, we must also consider policies to keep local housing decent and affordable. Which of the following steps to promote this goal should the Town undertake? (Circle all you agree with.)*

1. Keep lot sizes as small as possible 3
2. Encourage rental housing units/apartments 10
3. Encourage well-designed mobile home parks 10
4. Promote the use of Maine State Housing financial assistance 22
5. Require developers to include a percentage of affordable lots/units in proposals 11
6. Apply for grants to assist low income families in upgrading substandard housing 26
7. The town should not promote affordable housing 3
8. Aggressively enforce existing laws and ordinances regarding safety and sanitation 24
9. Other suggestions Encourage development in areas with public sewer and water. 1

Townpeople feel strongly in applying for grants to upgrade substandard housing, the promotion of Maine State Housing financial assistance, and aggressively enforce existing laws and ordinances regarding safety and sanitation.

Any other Comments:

Landowners of low income housing should maintain property and be selective on tenants.
 Have Lights installed at I95 ramps.
 Promote small agricultural based businesses.
 Unsafe trees along the road. Too many fees. Widen shoulders on roads for pedestrian traffic.
 Town notification to the public could be improved.

Thank you!

Please return completed surveys to the Clinton Town Office no later than October 23, 2019. For any further questions regarding the Survey and the Comprehensive Plan please contact Terry Knowles, Comprehensive Planning Committee Chairman at 238-0635.