

Protection and Preservation Segment

1) Town should have one or two weekends of free bulky waste disposal. 2) Should have a policy addressing property owners who collect and store junk on their property which lowers property value of adjacent property owners. 3) Do away with the "no burn zone" in North Windham, or allow burns on a limited number of days in those areas.

A good place to live!

All in all I've been very happy living here for 18 years. Enjoy the benefits of country living while close to city. Have been very happy with school system my son attended and town services. I also believe that my taxes in that time have only gone up \$600 and that to me is impressive.

Any large development should include a water supply and a waste water system. School system needs to focus on academics and trade and not sports. Our kids are not going to be NFL, NBA or MLB players.

Any new growth, infrastructure, development, should not be done if property taxes will increase. Let's keep what we have & keep it well!

As a newcomer to Windham, I am enjoying living here and having stores close at hand while still living near the pond. It has been disappointing to see business fail in that time and buildings remain empty. I use opportunities to meet other seniors, and take continuing ed classes. Would like to see more cultural opportunities.

As a resident and a business in the town, I have heard many complaints regarding how difficult it is to do business in Windham. As a Loan Officer I have heard many complaints about the code enforcement since Roger Timmons left. Very unfriendly and lengthy process. I grew up in Windham, moved away for 10 years and came back. I appreciate the growth, feel we need to attract good businesses to fill vacancies in the NW corridor and really wish we had access to the shopping centers with sidewalks(There are missing connections), bike paths, picnic areas, playgrounds and other family attractions to keep the business here.

Being in Windham 3 years now has been pleasant for me and my wife. If we had to complain about anything it would be the lack of snow plowing in our neighborhood. The fact that we have been here 3 years and seen the police drive by 4 times. I'm sure they have driven by more while we are working, but who knows? We live on the road by the town beach so there is very little traffic here, but being so far off the road it would be a good place for others to break into homes. The plowing or lack of it really bugs me. Traffic on 302 in the summer has always been a problem but I don't see that changing much. My fear also is that when River Road is complete, the traffic will be much higher and speeding to be a big issue. Would really like to see the town go to trash dumpster service like Westbrook and Scarborough has done. It would make the streets look much cleaner on trash day instead of seeing the trash blowing around and end up in the ditches.

Bulky waste and universal waste disposal should be available and frequent.

Cleaning up the drug use and traffic in Windham needs to be a TOP priority. It is at the root of much of the public safety issues.

Do not allow the sale and use of fireworks anywhere in Windham!!! We will leave Windham soon if the current use of fireworks continues to be legal! Allow for sidewalks in the shopping areas all along 302. Install backroads allowing for access from the post office area/Windham Shopping Center all the way to the Windham Mall.

Downtown Windham looks like a stripmall from LA. You could take some lessons from the changes Westbrook has started making. Controlled development, but maintain the rural feel.

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Extremely important to restrict the use of fireworks in the Town...limit it to holidays and weekends. Also very important to have a dog park in Windham esp. since Portland has 2 dog parks. Wildlife and environment must be protected to maintain any quality of life.
Fix Whites Bridge and Rt 302 intersection. Add a town by-pass.
Focus needs to be put on developing public transportation in Windham.
Forget it.
Get all the traffic off 302, it isn't safe for the roads to be so blocked by all that traffic. Put in a over-pass starting at Prides Corner and ending the other side of Raymond.
Get on board with municipal fiber optic infrastructure and Internet services, like Rockland and South Portland are doing. http://nextcenturycities.org/
Great town but the 302 corridor is a mess. Money spent for new traffic lights several years ago just made it worse and town still allows new curb cuts. Too hard to navigate -easier to go to the Maine Mall.
Great town to raise our kids, thanks and keep it up!
I am glad that this forward thinking and planning are taking place.
I am mainly just in Windham in the summer. It has grown so much since I first came there. Hopefully it doesn't get so large that you can't enjoy it as a summer resident.
I am not against new residential or commercial development, but it must be PLANNED and regulated by the town. I have seen it happen several times: a small business gets a permit for a specific activity and promises they won't expand into things that are not permitted, but then they do and the Town doesn't do anything about it. I know of one case that is environmental---now an auto repair shop that was supposed to be only towing. They are now a full fledged garage -- nothing has been done about making sure they limit their activity. The town should be making sure businesses follow the rules -- that's their job!
I am skeptical of offering preferential tax treatment to businesses to locate here because it seems these are used to play one town against another. I think the town needs to offer more recreational opportunities to our youth, whether it is a recreational building or multiple use of the school facilities to keep them engaged. I think the town should require businesses to build according to a standard that improves look of the downtown. Less strip malls and more traditional architecture.
I am very happy here and the way things are going here.
I believe that the town should be allowed to grow both residential and commercial opportunities in a controlled fashion based on the benefits they bring to the town and balancing growth and town services. I believe that the town should provide both 5 & 10 year plans (and implement them in a responsible fashion) to: - resolve the waste water disposal issue - attract new businesses (that do not have a negative environmental impact) via 5 yr tax incentives, building locations, working with local schools & colleges to train potential work force - upgrade the quality of education for children and adults (including a reimbursement program for teachers to earn masters/doctorate degrees with a minimum 3.0 GPA) - help residents gain access to natural gas pipelines (help negotiate with Natural gas companies for a town wide plan awarded to the company with the best offer) - build a bypass route for the 302 business corridor (like Gray did) to ease traffic in summer.

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I believe this is a strong community in transition. It is a rural community, it is also a bedroom community of Portland. Just look at the stream of cars to and from Portland on 302 for a reality check on that fact. Our schools need to continue to improve - to support growth. A strong school base is the foundation of the strength of a community. I feel strongly that the commercial district was permitted to grow with no thought to issues that would support the use of Windham as a destination for enjoyment and shopping verses a means to getting through to a destination elsewhere. I often wonder at how many people avoid coming to Windham in certain months - because of the traffic problems. Many of the businesses seem to want to cater to the cars waiting in line to get somewhere else. Where has town leadership been in this growth? Why did we permit McDonalds to build a small, ugly venue - focused only on drive thru traffic -and have to be enlarged later? People live here. We use these facilities. Why do we have so many gas stations charging the highest prices in Southern Maine? We are held up as an example of an ugly commercial district and what not to do. Why are a small group of people so focused on sewers? It has the appearance of benefiting the landowners who will significantly benefit financially from waste water installation on their properties - but want others to pay the bill. And what I REALLY, REALLY, REALLY want to know is - who owns the small strip of land at the light 302 and Landing Road - between McDonald's and the Bank. It is ALWAYS AN EYESORE - 12 months a year. There is garbage there, it never gets cleaned and swept and cared for - EVER!!!! Right now it is full of garbage and trash. Meanwhile - Walmart - Lowe's and other large corporations are a stone throw away. Across the street - the same area in the Hannaford shopping are - is constantly cared for and groomed. This is a prime example of what is wrong with this town. Why has no official from the town figured out who owns this small piece of land and asked them to care for it? This would NEVER happen in other communities. Perhaps a business in Raymond could adopt this orphan corner that so many people pass by every day. If this survey does nothing more than have someone take responsibility for cleaning up and caring for this small area - it would be a great success. I appreciate the thoughtful planning that was done to envision green spaces, sidewalks, and more. But can we start small so I see something in the next 20 years? How about the nice lighting that Raymond put in place? How about something on signage? Good Luck and God Bless.

I currently reside on the outskirts of Windham (Forest Lake area), our access to town resources are extremely limited. Winter road maintenance is almost non existent and a constant battle to get roads even passable long after storms. Trash pickup is not door to door (even though we are up to 37 homes in the neighborhood), and the current usable roads that were developed were clearly never built up to code - which is now new residents problem due to lack of the town keeping better track of how land is developed.

I don't think Windham residents should bear the cost of sewerage a treatment program. The Portland Water District services the greater Portland Area with Sebago Lake as a primary water source. PWD should bear the cost through a rate increase to all it's users to protect it's water supply source....not simply the closest community to the source. ie Windham

I don't want to ever see Windham have the issues that Portland and Lewiston etc have with social services.

I enjoy the rural character, retail stores and services, and proximity to Portland and Sebago Lake. I wish there were public transportation to Portland.

I feel that the emphasis should not be on the AMOUNT of commercial or residential development we want in Windham, but instead on SMART, focused commercial and residential development. The commercial sprawl that is North Windham does not encourage shopping or community with a lack of public square and town center. Development should always focus first on building and keeping a sense of community before thinking about growth. Residential and commercial growth for Windham could both be acceptable, but only if we PLAN how to do that in a way that supports a strong sense of community.

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<p>I grew up in a small town like Windham. Over the years it grew into just another area of Orlando, so we moved. I would hate to see what happened to my small town happen here in Windham. We love the convenience of services in Windham, but we also love the small town feel we have here. Too much growth, too fast isn't good for anyone.</p>
<p>I grew up in Gorham, living now in Windham is a pleasure...convenient to the City, to the Lakes, the Ocean. Growth is important but maintenance should precede growth. Thx!</p>
<p>I grew up in NY. I was never robbed or mugged. Since I moved to Windham my property has been stolen on 6 different occasions. Someone was shot dead across the street over pot plants. None of my stolen property has been recovered except for my car, which the NH police found. I don't feel very safe here. Also, it's ridiculous that I can't dispose of anything that won't fit in a trash bag. Most towns have a free dump or pick up of large items at least a few times a year if not every week. This is why people's yards look trashy. Not everyone has a truck or can afford to pay at Riverside to throw thing out. I don't think I'm getting much for my tax \$\$\$\$ here. Poor trash disposal, and I have to pay for bags. No water , no sewer.</p>
<p>I have enjoyed living in Windham. A lot more stores and restaurants have moved to Windham. So there is a variety to choose from.</p>
<p>I like living here. The people are awesome, and I am close to everything. I would like to see a list of people who are experienced in heating , plumbing , and construction in the Windham area. Either in the Windham Eagle or Portland paper.</p>
<p>I like the small town feel. The people overall are friendly. The town doesn't need to grow into a big city, just limited organized growth.</p>
<p>I like this survey, the town should be doing only that which the majority of the people want.</p>
<p>I love it here in Windham. It's where I am excited to raise my children and hopefully grow old. Yet I worry about what it will look like in the future. When every field has become a housing development, it will no longer be the place I want my children to grow up. Windham's rural characteris what makes it great. Once we lose that we can't get it back.</p>
<p>I love living in Windham except in the summer when traffic in downtown is awful.</p>
<p>I love living in Windham! We need to grow and nuture what is already here, instead of trying to grow our town larger without creating the infrastructure. Let's correct the current problems and then grow larger.</p>
<p>I love living in Windham. I feel centrally located to the rivers, lakes, oceans, and mountains. I love the easy access to the riding and snowmobile trails. The easy commute to work and the highway. I would like to see more long term visioning happen before commercial or residential areas are build up. Look at the entire town, its connection to other towns and roadways, what do we want to look like in 10, 20, 50 years. Think about aesthetics when allowing residential and commercial growth. Up till now it has felt, disjointed, not planned, first come first serve do what you want. I know we have planning and people working hard. However, I feel we have a cold, non-welcoming appearance. Can we somehow vision to change that? I think about driving through Falmouth, downtown, nice berms and green space, with lots of commercial. Thank you for asking!</p>
<p>I love so much about Windham... this has been a great place to raise my kids. My two complaints: poor roads and high gas prices, compared to surrounding communities. Also, we could use a Target! :)</p>
<p>I notice quite a few vacant commercial locations in the town. Windham needs to promote these existing buildings/locations before allowing new construction in other locations.</p>
<p>I recently had a bad experience with a young officer using his power. I was very offended with the way I was treated.</p>

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<p>I taught in Windham for 23 years, minus a couple years out for the Peace Corps, and have been retired (somewhat earlier than planned due to budget cuts) but have enjoyed the time I have lived, learned and worked here. I am getting ready to move back to my NH roots, but only to be closer to my children & grandkids. I will miss the good Maine friends I've made.</p>
<p>I think that the town leaders have been less than honest with us by bringing in these big box businesses - low income jobs brought in are being subsidized by Maine Care and food stamps for the Walmart workers for example and our wells are being polluted too.</p>
<p>I think the survey addressed the issues facing Windham. Thank you.</p>
<p>I think the town is in good hands and it is a great place to live. We need to do more for the older generation. A lot of them are having a hard time. Also when a new car is registered Windham taxes for all extras where Gorham charges just for the base price of the car.</p>
<p>I think the town is right where it should be at this time.</p>
<p>I think we have too many discount stores and fast food restaurants.</p>
<p>I think Windham is a wonderful community. Very happy to be living here.</p>
<p>I think Windham is an awesome place to live. My three girls grew up here and loved the school system. My husband and I love Windham and we have made tons of friends here. I wish there was more stores (clothing and shoe stores) to shop or look around on Sunday for example.</p>
<p>I think Windham is becoming too busy and congested. I think the police department is bored and overstaffed. I think giving incentives to businesses to come here is ridiculous - we already have far too many businesses in town. It was nicer when it was a bedroom community for Portland.</p>
<p>I think Windham is full of very generous people who give a lot of their time to make it great. We have great police, fire/rescue personnel. I think as Windham moves forward it needs to take a balanced approach to growth. Support business of all kinds, taking into consideration, looks, economic growth and impact to infrastructure. Allow continued home building but when available preserve open spaces for public use, it's a large part of what makes Windham such a nice place to live.</p>
<p>I would like more diverse retail stores. North Windham is filled with grocery stores and discount stores. Would like to see better options for clothing, shoes and housewares.</p>
<p>I would like to say that I have enjoyed living in Windham and glad that my children attended the school system.</p>
<p>I would like to see more attention paid to the hodgepodge of new buildings and old buildings in the town. Old buildings and empty buildings also detract from a nicer, cleaner, and cohesive town that Windham could be.</p>
<p>I would love to see a youth center for our young adults. Westbrook has a nice facility with an indoor pool. I have heard that there is a drug problem among young adults in our community and it's very worrisome!</p>
<p>I'm thankful to everyone serving on this committee. It's a thankless job. I think it would be interesting to see the last comprehensive plan listed in a way that the citizens could see what was actually accomplished over its span. It helps to show taxpayers that these surveys, meetings, etc are valid and productive. Thanks again!</p>
<p>I'm very happy living in Windham.</p>
<p>Improve the appearance of the North Windham commercial corridor (sidewalks and utilities). Work with and encourage more small businesses. Control our out-of-control school budget. Limit residential building permits. Windham needs more access to lakes and rivers.</p>

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It's a great town to live in. I would like to see more and varied business in town to build up the tax base, provide jobs, and bring more goods/services to the town. I think the taxes are fair. North Windham gets a little busy in the summer, but that can be dealt with by timing when I go buy groceries. The police/fire/plowing are great. I like the rural character of the town and would like us to, in developing it, keep that rural character as much as possible...

It's a nice town.

Its so sad as I take walks or bike around town to see new houses sprouting up so quickly in former open spaces, fields woods etc. It is good to see growth in South Windham Village. like the new Condos. There should be a safe bike lane from South Windham Village to the High school . and I hope as part of River Rd. development, a safe bike lane is being added. The town preserves such as Black Brook and Dundee and Moutnain Division are so wonderful. I live in South Windham Village. Please do not let another slumlord open the former Patsy's Building. But on the other hand, we have three empty houses just up from the fire station. Our iittle village is so beautiful and historic, please pay attention to improving it. The small grant helped with the lovely signs , streetlights and benches. Thank you for the increased police presence towards traffic control in South Windham.

Keep it a town,not a city.

Keep it rural.

Keep the lakes clean by protecting the watersheds.

Keep Windham small. Limit growth of the population. Slow things down. That's why we moved here. Too much development going on now and it's causing problems.

Love where we live in the rural area of Windham. Want to have the rural areas left rural. Development should happen in regions where there is already the same type of business, residential neighborhood, etc.

Lower taxes.

Maintain the quality of the schools. Replace the middle school as it is overcrowded. The library is excellent even though it is underfunded and understaffed. They do a phenomenal job for what they have to work with. The library also has an excellent outreach program. More funds and more staff for the library.

Make residents aware of planned construction and infrastructure work in advance. Not good to be surprised by blocked roads & driveways.

Make sure when considering the growth of Windham that the effects of that growth on ALL of the town's residents

Much of the Route 302 corridor is in a state of decay. Provide lending options to commercial land owners to make improvements and/or expand business opportunities.

My family lives on Highland Lake in the summer so our highest priority is that the lake should be free of contamination and invasive species should be monitored and kept out. I would vote for regulations concerning chemicals used in lawn care--no chemical fertilizers or herbicides should be allowed--EVER!

Need a place to drop off leafs and grass once the snow is off the ground until the snow returns.

Need more field spaces available for youth sports practices and games, need a public recreation center/indoor pool or ice arena for all, a new middle school is a HUGE priority, a public park with playground would be nice. LOVE Dundee Park!

Need natural gas access in residential areas. Public Works Dept. doesn't maintain clean, litter and debris free roadways. Need for affordable public sewer for all residential and commercial properties.

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Need to clean up condemned buildings on Main Street and the ugly old mill on the river.
Need to have Large item pick up or drop off! Having fireworks legal in Windham disrupts the quiet small town feel!!!!
Need to improve Code Enforcement. Not enough people to cover growth. Once there is a problem, it may not be correctable or detectable.
Need to increase the tax base so that the town can grow without putting an increased burden on residents.
Nice schools, need a more diverse curriculum. Many vacant businesses that we would love to see brought back to life. More walking and bike paths (well lit). More community festivities especially around holidays. More neighbor helping neighbor programs. Town Fundraisers for such.
None.
North Windham needs a facelift. Signage, relocation of parking lots, excessive number of fast food stores all contribute to the poor appearance of the town. It's a very unattractive town center. As a commercial center for the area, how about stringing up a few Christmas lights. Even small surrounding towns are able to put up lights... what's wrong with Windham?
North Windham should be more "walkable" and the walk lights should stop all traffic in all directions.
North Windham traffic congestion during the summer is a major limitor to the community's character. The lack of a bypass is a detractor.
Not happy with the look of route 302.
Nothing to share at this moment.
One of the major drawbacks of Windham is the complete lack of any decent restaurants. Portland restaurants are easy to access, but if there were better options in Windham, I would frequent them. There are some amazing chefs/restaurant owners in Maine, and with the right incentives, fine dining restaurants could flourish in our community.
One of the things that Windham has lacked for years is a year round location for organic waste. This encourages people to leave their organic waste by the side of the road or dumping on private lands. Organic waste can be a plus for the town as it can be used as mulch in gardens and around the commercial areas thus saving the town valuable resources. Gorham has a tremendous facility and Windham should model their's like Gorham's.
Please address the "look" of the commercial strip.
Please bring back the dump! It was here when I moved here and now it's gone...
Promoting and encouraging manufacturing businesses to move here is the way to build your tax base. Give them free land if necessary, but get them here, providing jobs and paying taxes. Leave the resident's taxes where they are; more money for the town, i.e. new police, fire town facilities and schools is only a responsible objective when an undue burden is not placed on taxpayers.
Property taxes definitely need to be reduced.
Reinstating a free or low cost bulky waste program, including household goods. Also would like to see a traffic bypass around North Windham. In additon, would like to see free public beach access to Sebago Lake or Little Sebago.
School system tax burden is getting onerous...there seems to be a lack of control over what the school budget is..the town does do a good job managing its portion.
Sewer system upgrades are essential to support future (safe) economic growth for the community.
Sewers and high speed internet are the marks of a modern community.

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<p>Something needs to be done to reduce or re-route traffic on 302, including the commercial district. It has become unbelievably heavy year-round. I also think the town should implement a business beautification and maintenance plan to keep the town looking neat and clean. Some businesses are starting to look run down and shabby with overgrown lawns and shrubbery as well as crater(pot hole)infested parking lots.</p>
<p>Take ownership of roads, reduce/eliminate so many "Private Roads".</p>
<p>Taxes are way too high. We only have seasonal water (May - October). We would like to have sewer service, natural gas service and water. With our taxes as high as they are, we don't get modern conveniences in this town. Traffic on 302 in North Windham is unbearable in the summer. Something needs to be done without raising our already overly high taxes.</p>
<p>Taxes increase every year yet services are reduced. Windham only allots a miniscule amount of tax dollars to ensuring the health of the town lakes which is where the highest taxed residents live and is a major draw of income for this town with summer visitors. Windham needs to reduce spending and put focus back on core needs of the town while making good decisions about economic growth and planning.</p>
<p>Thank the town for what it is right now - so far so great. You get what you put into it - You get out of it.</p>
<p>Thank you for asking me for my opinion.</p>
<p>Thank you for asking!</p>
<p>Thanks for giving me the opportunity to take survey.</p>
<p>Tthe Windham Public Library already does carry a good collection of audio books.</p>
<p>The "slightly rural, yet close to Portland" feel is the reason I picked Windham to buy a house last year. I would hate to lose that rural feeling to a rash of housing and commercial developments. The traffic on 302 is horrendous, and at times, unsafe.</p>
<p>The biggest thing about Windham is the summer traffic. It is huge and needs to be addressed. Windham can attract different ways without giving tax breaks for companies to come here.</p>
<p>The commercial district is not unified. Raymond is much smaller but has done a better job of making their commercial area more appealing - better traffic flow, lighting improvement and pedestrian access. Economic development like upgrading the sewage system for the town.</p>
<p>The future of Windham's growth should be balanced by providing a posiive business growth and the quality of a semi rural environment.</p>
<p>The library hours are terrible for a working family. Moved to Windham from Williamsburg, VA and the library there was open on Sat and Sunday and closed one day during the week. Families that work M-F, 8-5 it is a struggle to get to the library. Recommend opening on Saturday and Sunday and closing, say on a Monday or Tuesday instead.</p>
<p>The majority of the increased population has no "roots" or "ties" to Windham, either in history or current children in school. Need to find a way to get these productive, well-to-do people involved in community. The feeling of community is sorely lacking today.</p>
<p>The Middle School needs replacement. The River Rd widening and upgrade is moving way too slow. There are too many vacant business sites-more should be done to attract new business (not restaurants) to fill these existing vacancies (Shaws Plaza; Windham Mall; and other vacancies on 302-not build new sites). So. Windham needs more attention.</p>
<p>The only residential building needed in Windham is senior housing.</p>
<p>The people who live in Windham must be part of the decision-making process when reviewing changes that will affect the town. Windham is not just about commercial development at any cost.</p>

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The primary focus of the Plan should be on improving the infrastructure and attracting more upscale businesses to the North Windham business district, both to improve the business/town environment and to expand the tax base. This may require changes to the present infrastructure through the center of the business district. Consider a longer term strategy to be accomplished through short-term steps.

The rotary/roundabout at intersection of River road and Windham Center is a waste of money, do not believe it was necessary, will avoid that area as much as possible. Tax dollars down the drain.

The survey indicates a lack of convicted leadership that executes plans to move the town forward. We elect people or officials to make decisions on behalf of our citizenry. We don't need another survey. People just won't make a decision. Our people have good intentions. Tony Plante is a stellar Town Manager. Other officials - just move forward. This is a great town. I have just retired from Navy life. We would rather live in Cumberland County as opposed to other counties. If Windham could only move forward with a plan. More should be done as regards to Portland. Portland is a good example for Windham. We don't stand alone out here.

The survey process is a great ide. Sadly, only a small percent participate in most of Windham's planning which effect all who reside here.

The town Assessor should view all properties by seeing first hand what each should be taxed (value of the land and homestead) at and not go by what is on the current books. There are several properties out there that are to low and many to high.

The town desperately needs an indoor recreation center with a pool, a rock climbing wall, an indoor skate park, an ice rink, exercise classes, educational classes, and youth activities. I'm still disappointed that the library isn't open on the weekends and doesn't offer story time or enrichment activities for young children on the weekends. The winters here are bleak and long, and residents need an indoor facility to exercise, learn, interact socially with others, and enjoy themselves. We really need to create more parks, an open space trail system (no hunting) for hiking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing, better access for recreational water activities such as kayaking, better public lake beaches with bathrooms. The town would attract more tourists year-round if we had these available. We need more and better parks for children. North Windham is ugly. It needs to be beautified and would be more attractive to residents and tourists if it (or part of it) had a quaint Main Street feel. The main street in Falmouth, Massachusetts on Cape Cod (where I grew up) is the best example I can give.

The town has grown to the point that it needs an indoor recreational facility. Current policy limits the access to the town's gyms, consequently need has outgrown supply. Without a change in policy to access current gyms for public use, the town needs to move forward with a recreational facility.

The town needs to seriously take a look at the new student centered learning curriculum that has been implemented in the schools. It is not working. Unmotivated kids are being left behind, teachers are not teaching and the wind has been knocked out of the teachers' sails. The grading system of 1-4 takes away kids' incentives to do well. A 3 or 4 grade means nothing, but a kid can understand what it means get a 100 or an 80 or a 60. I have pulled my kids out of the Windham schools and will not put them back unless things are fixed.

The Town of Windham's property taxes are too high, especially for seasonal property owners who are paying for services (e.g., schools) which they will never use. In addition, the town has rezoned protected land to residential, which has threatened the quality of Little Sebago Lake. The town has seemed to care more about short term tax revenues than overall quality of life. Once their actions destroy the environment, people will want to move elsewhere. In addition, the so-called Route 302 commercial corridor was poorly planned and is very unattractive and not in keeping the character of a small rural town. Sidewalks, bike trails, trees, parks and stricter commercial building codes could have helped in preventing the ugly strip mall look of the commercial section of North Windham - it looks like a lot of other ugly commercial zones around the country. Luckily, Portland, with its unique character, history and excellent restaurants and shops, is nearby.

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<p>The town should focus on empty spaces in buildings instead of allowing businesses to build new buildings. They only add to the traffic problems that already exist. I enjoy Windham for the schools, convenience to the highway, mountains, lakes, ocean and Portland. However, once my children are no longer in school, I am not interested in living in Windham.</p>
<p>The towns hiring practices should also be looked at especially where the G.A. administrator and his assistant are concerned.</p>
<p>There has to be balanced growth.</p>
<p>There is not enough emphasis on getting currently unoccupied buildings used either for housing or small business. We do not need any more big box stores.</p>
<p>There may be a need to rein in town council members and others who are decision-makers from promoting their personal agendas and not supporting/encouraging the citizens attending meetings to verbalize their issues, concerns ,and desires for their town and neighborhoods.</p>
<p>There seems to be a rapidly increasing drug problem in this town and in the schools.</p>
<p>There should be a bypass road like Manchester Drive (which should be extended to Whites Bridge Road) to avoid the terrible 302 traffic. Route 302 looks like an extension of the Maine Mall</p>
<p>There's need to limit commercial and residential growth in this town. It's changed to much too quickly and it's driving the natives out of town.</p>
<p>This survey has two very serious flaws. (There are probably others, too!) First:The town has two types of residents: seasonal and yer-round. I have been a seasonal resident for more than 30 years and have never been impressed by the treatment of the seasonal residents, who pay high taxes, receive very little services, and have no involvement in the town's ongoing businesses. Setting up a meeting in November to get input excludes these important residents. Secondly: the survey does not address the town's precious resources on Big Sebago and Little Sebago in detail and the role these resources play in any long term development and infrastructure needs. Third: road associations and lake associations should play a major role in this as well. (Otmar@dartmouth.edu)</p>
<p>This survey seems to assume that I understand the current situation that exists in Windham with regard to housing, commercial development, occupancy rates, water and sewer availability throughout the town, open spaces, school capacities, and Windham's vs. other surrounding towns; a comparative analysis that would be helpful to answer several of the questions in the survey.</p>
<p>too much developed land - leave open farm land and fields open - do not develop it. There is too much development causing some groundwater contamination. It's over populated now. I am a Geologist and grew up in this town. I do not want to see the same thing happen as the rest of the town.</p>
<p>Too much focus on North Windham some focus should be on South Windham and turning Keddy Mill into a village environment with commercial businesses in the mill. shops, brew pub, a river walk environment and park for the elderly housing and neighborhood kids. That people would support. Use Mountain Divison Trail and provide better access such as parking so equestrians are not left out and it would attract riders from other states, who would stay in local motel being built.</p>
<p>Town center - where is it? Windham needs to find its niche - that would include a library centrally located - libraries are where people congregate - our library is out of place.</p>
<p>Town is a hodge podge of signs and building styles with no clear plan or vision. Businesses find it hard to survive in Windham due to regulations and enforcement. Many, many failed businesses since I have lived in Windham.</p>
<p>Traffic along the 302 corridor is a major problem.</p>

Protection and Preservation Segment

Traffic and the noise of fireworks when we're trying to sleep are major negatives for Windham (especially fireworks). Would like to see restrictions on when fireworks can be used - say, Friday and Saturday nights, not after 10 pm.

Traffic in the North Windham/Raymond line area is challenging during peak times. Already police are posted outside the Windham Christian Academy entrance on Sundays in the summer.

Trash on our roadways and the illegal business signage at the rotary . This is an area that people see first and usually looks trashy .The town could start by having an ordinance ,charge a fee for signage or fines for littering.

We do not need any more big box stores. It would be nice to have more local options (restaurants, stores, coffee shops) and not have to go into Portland for that downtown/local shopping/community feel. Not having a downtown area is one of the biggest drawbacks to life in Windham - instead we have half-empty strip malls.

We have raised our family here and plan our retirement here as well. We understand the need for Windham to grow and we are very concerned about waste water issues associated with commercial growth in North Windham. Windham needs a waste treatment plant to support growth. Septic systems and above ground chambered systems have the potential to contaminate our aquifers.

We like the country feel while still be able to access services (shopping district in Windham or Portland as needed). We don't hunt or fish but some folks do and they do it in our backyard or in the brook less than 1 mile from us... that's cool ! No concerns over safety. Never had an issue with errant hunters...

We moved from Sanford 6 and a half years ago. We really LOVE Windham. We specifically chose Windham over local towns because of the school district for our daughter, property tax, the amount of house we could buy for the price, the feeling of safety, and many other reasons. We are really happy with our decision to live here.

We need a major town council change...To much bickering and childish behavior.. Also need a police chief that is more visabile and interacts with community...Current worries more about Greenville ME then Windham.

We need more infrastructure, rec facilities and a dump, or some method to easily remove larger waste items.

we need to get a handle on tax increases. Also town hall hours are not for the convenience of the citizens, it is for the benefit of the workers. We need to stay open later in the evening (most people work all day) and cut out the three day weekend. Again benefit of the worker, not to serve the tow'ns citizens.

Protection and Preservation Segment

Well I moved to Windham after four years in the active Army, which ended in 1968. I had left my wife and daughter living in Pinewoods Apartments off the Windham Center Road. I worked for Unum and continued in the Army Reserve for 26 years. As the song goes . . . "summers and winters scattered like splinters" and 46 years "slipped away". Back then - in those years we raised three daughters in what was then a very bucolic environment. But the town was growing. Stan Hall came to a School Building Committee Meeting I was holding and questioned the proposed Jr. HS building plan asking rhetorically, why do we need it? At the same time people were subdividing their land, selling off pieces and the population fairly exploded - judging from the growth charts outside the town offices. "Exploded" is a relative term I know but we grew quickly. I think that the shortsighted approach to commercial growth I witnessed - e.g. the "strip" through 'North' Windham was too much, too fast, not judged for compatibility of competing businesses and thus gave us such realities as having a Lowe's & The Home Depot across the road from one another. That is a sad example of the slipshod planning that was both too short term and narrow in scope. In the process we lost some of the charm of the place. I've been in this house some 26 years. I've always been a student of history. Still am. Alas, I have not paid a lot of attention to what has gone on in town since my four or five year stint with the School Building Committee. But I have studied things from a world and national perspective. What we are all up against, in this town too, is an inescapable population plague. That drives up the cost of social services, fosters crime, allows for degrading of infrastructure, encourages citizen apathy (this survey is an attempt to improve that reality) and fosters short-term solutions. But the survey kind forces either-or responses. Black to white. I opine that most possible answers would have been better crafted with more grey choices. Perhaps a vibrant and heeded long and short-term version of a comprehensive plan; one feeding the other. Currently and over the last forty years it seems that we've been driven by short-term business needs - "jobs" seem to have been driving decisions which, considering many of our longer term problems, allowed us capitulate in favor of the short-term while we ignored some obvious world and national realities. Thanks for the chance to comment on this.

When I moved to ME from CA I was intent on settling in Windham as my husband grew up here and we want to grow old here. Windham is a terrific little town and so much more can be done to improve it.

While Windham is a wonderful town and my family enjoys our home here, the lack of a 'downtown' with walkable streets and small, locally owned, businesses keeps us from feeling a true sense of community. Between two members of our household being employed in Portland with the third self-employed with no Windham clients wend up in Portland for most shopping, entertainment, etc. A concerted effort to create a more 'traditional' downtown area to balance the North Windham mess of strip malls and big box stores would go a long way toward making Windham a more attractive and engaging community.

Windham has a weak assessing program. Assessing department needs a review of data characteristics on a 5 year program and should have a revaluation more often, regardless of state requirements. Make sure commercial and industrial match residential ratios.

Windham has been a good place to live and work.

Windham has done an abominable job in preserving its older historical homes, particularly farm houses. Several have been demolished this year including the home my father grew up in on Varney Mill Road. More needs to be done in this area. Too many developments are thrown up helter skelter with no sense of attraction or how they fit with the land. Also, there is no real "park" in Windham and no central location for one except the "heater piece" at Windham Hill. This should be fenced and developed into a park for the town.

Protection and Preservation Segment

Windham has lots to offer - rural character, farm feel, yet lots of convenience in-town and it's proximity to Portland. What it's lacking is some unity around what the community is all about. The in-town 302 area needs to be cleaned up (a little in this area would make a LOT of difference) and while we have lots of great walking trails, we should clean them up a bit more and expand to create a more park environment with places for dogs, picnics AND walking. We also need to preserve our farms and farmlands and encourage people to farm here--this could represent substantial economic opportunities for our town as other conveniently-located towns with farm land have much more expensive property taxes. Let's also embrace, promote and build on all of the positive changes are schools are undergoing. We don't need to be a super wealthy town (like some of our neighbors) to have a good school system and we're proving just that.

Windham is a good summertime location for me. Have had great luck obtaining excellent goods & services when needed. Good people & a great communit. I just stay off Rt.302 on Fridays if possible.

Windham is a great place to live. Consideration should be given to the idea that municipal staff leadership changes made need to be made in order for the Town to progress. The current leadership, meaning the Town Manager and many department heads have been there a long time and new blood may be needed to invigorate the Two with new ideas and passion.

Windham is a great place to live. Lets keep our lakes clean and provide service to all the lakefront owners. Let commercial development pay for themselves and protect lake water.

Windham is a nice community. Overall the focus of what needs to be done for the school overcrowding, school's failing buildings, and with public works is handled poorly. The school board and the committees fail on figuring out the right balance of fixing the school issues while supporting local business and residents. Things do cost money, but when times are tight the two most important areas are the ones to loosing funding: education and safety. This is a huge problem in the long run. To cut cost, the town tried to remove street lights in neighborhoods that they required in order for the roads to be public. This is a poor choice for safety. There are many other ways to cut costs on public safety in the long run by upgrading the light system to be more green and have less money going out a month to CMP. Sometimes, to save money, you need to spend money to insure you have the most efficient system. We were impressed with the town's plowing the first winter we were here. We can say the town's plowing was not as impressive and the criteria for when to plow must of changed due to more snow remaining on the roads for longer periods of time. When there is a wet snow and warmer weather, yes it might melt on its own, but slush on the road is actually a cause of many accidents over compacted snow. I live on a public street were the street late has been out for two years and even after reporting it multiple times to public works, nothing has been done to actual fix the light. if the town wanted to improve traffic congestion on 302, it should consider adjusting the light timing and adding a turning lane north of Whites Bridge Rd. The redesign of the town's website was an improvement, but still is very lacking. The school website is not much better.

Windham is a nice place to live and grow old. We have our burial plot all ready for permanent occupancy.

Windham is a unique town. Our connection to the town dates back to 1954. Having a connection to the town has been a distinct advantage to us. That is all.

Windham is just right.

Windham lacks that small town feeling. There is no village or center of town, only the mess on 302. There are few places where people can meet and share a cup of coffee. It really could use a bookstore of some kind. I have lived in many places and have always felt that I could easily meet people and form a personal community. That has not happened in Windham. I have spoken to others that have lived here much longer and share the same sentiments.

Protection and Preservation Segment

Windham needs to embrace a strong mission to address the issues of climate change now and not keep its collective head in the sand. There are many issues that need to be addressed now. Here are a few to contemplate: unshaded parking adding to global warming; runoff from huge asphalt parking areas; a non-existent public transportation system; invasive plants, insects, and others while not using native species. Our elected officials and town employees need to make hard decisions that are bigger than just the town of Windham.

Windham needs to preserve its rural character, prepare its youth to make the world a better place, take care of its residents, and maintain its public services departments.

Windham seems to resist moving into the 20th (yes, I said 20th) century. Indoor toilets aren't a luxury today--contrary to the views of Town officials both elected and appointed. We spend money like drunken sailors, trying to keep up with Cape Elizabeth, Falmouth, Freeport and Scarborough.

Windham was a beautiful rural community when I first moved here 25 years ago. I knew the police department and the officers, now I know no one. It is not as friendly as it was when it was a smaller town. I don't like that. If I go to the town like the library they are very friendly to me. But if the police or the fire department or dog catcher (municipal services) have to come to me, they are not as friendly to me. They used to be more friendly. That is how I value small town feel by their friendliness - the town officials, etc.

Windham would benefit from stronger zoning regulation in residential and commercial expansion, in order to promote an aesthetic, well planned community.

Windham's middle school needs to be renovated, but the Raymond middle school students should continue to attend school in their own town.

Windham's strengths are its quality schools, open space for recreation, and variety of businesses and services. However, the town could use more focus on "character" of the commercial area. If we want to compete with towns like Falmouth and Cape Elizabeth, which we could certainly do, we need to be sure that new development meets standards for quality construction and that new businesses fit into the type of character we want our community to have. Having good schools is worth what we pay for them, as it draws families to our town.

Would like natural gas down River Rd.

Development Freedom Segment

All in all a nice community in which to live. Would like to see more manufacturing and less retail in the business mix.
Annoyed with town hall hours the most!
Better paying jobs would be nice. Retail jobs, which is what we have for the most part, don't pay enough. As an older person, I'm stuck driving 60+ miles a day for that better job in manufacturing. Summer traffic has been a problem for a long time. I don't think a by-pass is the answer. Four lanes thru to the last traffic light in Raymond would be better in my opinion. Sewer lines in Windham? Ridiculous! I hope I'm wrong but I envision sewer service for 25%, at the most, with 75% paying for nothing.
Development must not interfere with abutter covenants. Enterprise district(s) must not quash abutter due process rights for notification(s) and hearing(s).
Economic development and residential growth are important to maintain infrastructure and create jobs and economic health.
Everything seemed to be covered well. Taxes are always too high. I live on a private road and we don't get the same benefits as others do.
From past experience in Town meetings, I wouldn't waist my time going. There has been "many, many" (Meetings) about growth and change such as a former growth plan, with no follow through with the plan.
Get the utilities underground in North Windham
Go back to the old hours for the Town Hall. The new ones are useless to daytime workers.
Goooooooood Luck, my god, this town is gonna need it.
Great Town, but needs more work
Greatest concern since I live right off 302 - the difficulty in getting through the traffic right now. Mineral Spring road does not have a turn lane when going into my property for example - we need more turn lanes on 302.
High taxes waterfront. Revaluation was done to increase the property values several years ago, but now that market values are down, the valuations remain the same. Beed to bring those tax values down. Also need more public sewers to protect the waterways.
I am concerned about drugs in the schools. I think there should be more police presence and communication with students and their families on issues of this concern.
I am happy to be a resident of Windham, as I have been for 61 yrs.
I believe the focus should be on attracting upper middle class individuals and families to the town to build new homes and improve existing ones, which increases the value of all homes and property taxes. Additional tax revenue can be used to maintain and improve schools and public recreation which will only encourage more people to move here. Do to the proximity to Portland we don't need to focus on jobs because there are enough nearby.
I do like that you have some land when you buy property in Windham.
I do not think that Windham needs new schools and I think that we are ove- taxed. We have way too many people at a high rate of pay working for the town. I believe that some of them could be cut to cut down on taxes.
I feel the high property taxes in Windham is the biggest disadvantage to living in Windham. When property values went down so much, our taxes did not reflect these losses.

Development Freedom Segment

I have stated that senior citizens could use a break in their taxes and not have to pay so much for garbage bags also they took away our street lights but charged us more in taxes having more businesses here could pick up the slack for additional taxes for the town and create more jobs needed for our residents

I love this town, schools are getting overcrowded, not enough businesses that make an impact on jobs or needs in this town. I believe if this town invested in a area where there can be a walking street area that is lined up with restaurants, stores, and a night life to keep our money in our town instead of feeling like we have no other options than going into Portland. It would allow for people to go from restaurant to restaurant, store to store, or whatever nightlife for all the young adults that are starting to saturate this town without having to get in a vehicle and drive to the next location. One of the biggest problems in this city is the reason why the commercial area in Windham struggles to see financial growth is because it is a pain to do anything without having to drive from place to place, getting stuck in traffic and trying to turn across route 302 all within a mile. A place like fore street-commercial street-congress st area in Portland. With how fast this population is growing, this could be a viable way to make local business's that have the effect on keeping Windham money in Windham, but also have the effect on bringing in money from all the commuters that live north of Windham off the 302 and East and West of the 302 that have to drive long distance to get to any place like this. Even Westbrook has small areas like this, and those places have been sustainable at doing exactly what I am talking about. You can park in one place and walk around and enjoy the area going to numerous business's. If we don't do this as a city I believe that we are going to lose a lot of potential positive growth but also eventually people will stop moving here just because we have a good school system.

I love Windham but the elected municipal officials need to retire and get some young blood in here now. The school department is a business now instead of teaching to kids. We don't need a superintendant who makes \$100,000 or assistant superintendant who makes \$80,000. This should go towards the children.

I retired over a year ago and moved here full time (owned home for 25 years). I have no children going to school, but school systems need to be the best they can be. Education is very important. Being on a fixed income makes paying more taxes for schools very difficult.

I see good progres,s but lets not sit back ---let's do more to decrease the amount of red tape business need to go through to locate here.

I think traffic issues in North Windham could be helped by continuing the center turning lane in both directions. (East and West) Otherwise a connector road located near the pipeline R/W from River Road to Manchester Drive and on to Whites Bridge Road and Route 302, running parallel to Route 302 on the West side. This was a plan years ago and part of it is already constructed and in use. Any plans for road development on the East side of Route 302 would not be feasible and very costly to obtain a right of way through residential and commercial development.

I think Windham has kept up in growing, and it seems to have a lot to offer its community.

I'm new to the town but I like it here.

It is a great community right here in Windham. My concern is the water quality impacted by over developmment. The water protection fund did not see fit to use part of that funding for milfoil mitigation and there seems to be a lack of concern for water quality especially from the big box stores and groundwater contamination.

It is great!

It seems ideally situated for me as opposed to living in other towns like Westbrook,or Gorham, or Gray, or somewhere else.

Development Freedom Segment

<p>It was a nice place to live. I am trying to relocate due to congestion, traffic, expanding and wasteful police, fire and public works departments. Lack of and removal of street lighting and the idea I may end up paying for a sewer system I will never use. I try to do all my shopping elsewhere thanks to lack of traffic control in N. Windham (do we have traffic police) or do they spend all their time chasing kids on skate boards while people pay no attention to traffic controls or the speed limit downtown. Frankly I look to moving out of Windham than I did moving in. Oh don't forget the ground water contamination, let's build a motel, put in Lipman Park etc. ----- none of those have any waste water do they? Not too smart.</p>
<p>It's a nice place to live. Would like to see the Middle School replaced. Field Allen is a disgrace. It would be nice to have Manchester School on the Campus with the rest of the schools and that land used for Commercial or Recreational purposes. Too much emphasis on trails as recreational focus. Not enough fields, courts etc.</p>
<p>It's challenging to attend night meetings because of small children at home.</p>
<p>It's too bad that so much of the original character of No. Windham was lost years ago. I think of towns like Bridgton, Brunswick and many other towns that still have character.</p>
<p>Lack Recreational facilities and programs significantly disadvantage the town of Windham. The surrounding towns understand the value of recreation and recreation infrastructure and how it develops a community. Our programs needs and facilities have been neglected for far too long.</p>
<p>Love it and only want to see it get better.</p>
<p>Lower taxes ... taxes are too high.</p>
<p>Miss having town dump.</p>
<p>More of the town's tax burden needs to be shifted to the commercial base. That involves bringing in more new business with strong wages.</p>
<p>My biggest complaint is the absolutely outrageous tax rate here. When I relocate, it will be 100% due to the property taxes here.</p>
<p>My taxes are way too high for the services I receive from the Town. I have my own water & septic. Other than Police and Fire (which I hope I NEVER have to call upon) the only service I really get for my taxes is snow removal. The price of trash pick up at close to \$3 per bag inches skyward every other year. And, please don't tell me what a great job is done maintaining my road - it's private and I pay for that myself.</p>
<p>My wife and I have enjoyed living in Windham for just over two years. We are from Midcoast Maine and were attracted to the town due to the recent growth that has occurred while maintaining a rural community feel. The proximity to the lakes and mountains, as well as the ocean which we have called home our whole life was crucial to our relocation. We look forward to many years in Windham and hope to be involved in community growth and participation as we raise our children here. Although the rural landscape and community is desirable, we must always remember that to promote economic growth and job creation, expansion is required. Hopefully as a community we can select the correct industrial and commercial growth that can promote a strong economy while maintaining the rural identity Windham has always enjoyed.</p>
<p>n/a</p>
<p>Need to improve the intersection of Rt 302 and Whites Bridge Rd. When waiting on the north bound side to turn onto Whites Bridge RD, the curve on the southbound side makes the location very dangerous for stopped cars, especially when large trucks are in the left lane on the southbound side. In addition, vehicles constantly run the red light as they are coming southbound. There is a lack of attention to the attractiveness of much of the commercial center. Result is fewer shoppers, such as at Shaw's Plaza.</p>
<p>Nice community to live in, although let the commercial and business areas pay for their own sewer conditions. Lastly, I have never seen more unmaintained private roads in a community than Windham. These two items are out-of-control issues from past planning.</p>

Development Freedom Segment

Nice place, do not spoil it by raising taxes more so we have to leave the area.
None.
None.
Personally, I feel that taxes are sometimes spent wastefully. Perfect example: the repaving of the fire/police building. I did not see any need to repave at this time. We did not need brand new plow/maintenance trucks. Let's be fiscally responsible and maintain the old ones. The town needs to attract businesses to Windham. The "impact" fee for new housing permits will limit how many people choose to build in Windham.
Please devote some attention to South Windham, and make this part of town as much of a priority as North Windham. There are no restaurants, grocers, doctors, retailers or repair businesses in this area. Sadly, there are several empty lots of abandoned buildings that could be prime locations for such businesses. We do all business in Westbrook, Gorham and Portland and RARELY go to North Windham. It's unfortunate that we live here and don't give much if any financial support to the businesses in town.
Please reinstate the weekends when you could bring large trash to the bus garage....I have concerns about the salaries of the school municipal employees...they seem excessive.
Police are not available at the police station proper, esp. South Windham but I am glad that I live in Windham, but honestly I feel the money spent on doing this survey could have been better spent elsewhere.
Privatize- let people choose services with their dollars. The lower the overhead the lower the taxes the more growth. Government does not create growth, but private businesses do. Privatize everything-schools, fire, roads, etc.
Property owners' rights should be foremost in The Comprehensive Plan. I believe a free and organic growth from a creative public will work better than a micro-management from town government. Do not adopt the U.N. standards known as "Agenda 21" - we will lose our character.
Property taxes are out of control particularly for people who live on the lake. My taxes have increased over 200% in the past 10 years. Family properties will not be able to passed down because of the unnecessary tax burdens imposed on the property. We receive 1 service...trash pick up and pay \$9K a year.
Property taxes have more than doubled. The growth of government is outrageous. The town has far too many police. The cumulative tax burden in Maine is outrageous. That is why we are moving.
Really would appreciate some ideas on where residents are supposed to bring oversized trash items, i.e.: grills, and unwanted household items. I truly appreciated the drop offs that we used to have.
Residents are genuinely happy in their town atmosphere and are not destructive of others property and buildings.
Roadside trash collection in Windham is fine, but considering the population growth ion the last few years we definitely need place to dispose of larger items. We also need a place to dispose of yard waste year round. We also need some sensible regulations for the use of fireworks in the town. They are fine on the Fourth of July but not all year. So far the town has been lucky, but they are a real safety concern.
Several years ago the Town of Windham held a couple meetings about "cleaning up South Windham" area, including Keddy's mill. As of today, NOT MUCH has been done or changed - lots of great ideas from the community, but not much change from the individuals who held these meetings.
Speed limits need to be reviewed on RT 115. I live on Tandberg Trail and when coming home from work (off the turnpike, through Gray and into Windham) I am often waiting to turn left into my driveway. I fear that I will be rear ended by fast moving traffic coming from Gray into Windham.
Thanks for the opportunity to voice my opinions.

Development Freedom Segment

<p>The land trust seems to be comprised of a small group of families within Windham who control open space and purchase land under the cover of the trust to grow their property holdings for future gain.</p>
<p>The lower middle class needs help to survive. However, not sure how to accomplish this. I know tax revenue is important but I am so tired of my husband and I working two or three (good) jobs each just to survive. Also, "nice matters", get rid of the sour personalities in the town office. Many people dread going to register a vehicle for fear of the unpleasantness they will encounter.</p>
<p>The problem with the police dept are the police officer example officers should not do u turn on rte. 302 at anytime. should not request sobriety test when plain to see citizen has not had anything alcoholic can list a dozen other items.</p>
<p>The questions on this survey regarding education were directed to spending priorities. I have two children, but indicated neither of them attend windham public schools, as a person whose professional life has taken me to over 100 different New England school districts. I can say that our focus is misplaced, and that the leadership of our school systems is in the wrong direction. This is not a question of money, as we spend a relatively high amount per student, but more that an emphasis is put on managing students than developing people of character. After having coached many kids in this community I feel we are producing a generation of safe boys instead of well directed young men.</p>
<p>The sewer systems around our lakes needs to be a priority or we will be endangering our most important asset!</p>
<p>The town leadership feels it has a mandate to "GROW" Windham...I would ask, why we need to grow, and to what end? Should we become as large as Portland, South Portland, etc.?</p>
<p>The town losing its rural character has been inevitable as more people move away from the large cities of New England. We cannot allow our town to become a part of Massachusetts. Tax relief for large parcels of land would help land owners keep tracks of land undeveloped, which in turn would reduce the use of town money for buying land to keep it pristine. Small farms are great for our economy and our rural character.</p>
<p>The town of Windham was a fabulous place to raise and educate our children, as well as a convenient location to commute to jobs in Portland and central Maine. Having a rural character is great, but low taxes is key to maintaining affordability as well as aiding economic and residential development. Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinions.</p>
<p>The traffic flow on 302 in N Windham to Raymond really needs to be addressed, especially in the summer time. 20-30 minutes to travel 2-3 miles in unacceptable and will discourage business growth, tourism, and residential growth in points North of 115. Thanks.</p>
<p>There are not enough activities for the kids in town...</p>
<p>This is a great survey process to support and engage residents on the balance of commercial development with charm and quality of life of small town Maine. I really miss not having a historical, inviting, walkable downtown area. Also, my answers about town infrastructure - specifically water/sewer/police/fire are not highly informed. I feel confident and comfortable in our home situation but am not educated on the town's resources. I would expect that as we add more commercial and residential tax payers, infrastructure would improve.</p>
<p>This survey was sent for only one persons opinion. There are three people in the household, so it would have been nice to have a survey for each of us. It would have been nice if the fire and police questions were separated.</p>
<p>Too many private roads in Windham; the maintenance is not good, therefore the developers should be made to bring them up to town standards and turned over to the town.</p>
<p>Too late for the 13th meeting and I hunt with my family on Saturdays. The person that plows are road doesn't do a very good job. All in all, I like Windham the way it is.</p>

Development Freedom Segment

<p>Too many curb cuts in Windham between River Road and Whites bridge road. Why on earth did you allow another high volume curb cut for Aroma Joe's when it is hard enough to get out of Dunkin Donuts? Not forward thinking by the council.</p>
<p>Town Hall hours are ridiculous. Working people can't register new cars unless they use vacation time from their jobs. You should keep 40 hrs for employees but pick a day where they come in 2 hrs late and stay 2 hrs late! The Prks/Rec Dept is a joke. There is never anything new -we've lived here 11 yrs and they still have trick or treat with a flashlight on the school field - lets try something new???? kids are bored with what you offer. You need new ideas. Free kickball for boys under 13 - that wouldn't cost anything! How about a free P.E one hour class each Saturday? Relay race, scavenger hunt, cooking classes for kids, woodworking classes for kids. You should check out Gorham's Rec Dept - Windham should be embarrassed. Other parents complain about the same - you should ask around.</p>
<p>Two major concerns....what are we doing to see that are youth are prepared to work after HS and after college? What jobs are available for them in Windham to strive for?</p>
<p>Waste disposal (brush and non-rubbish items) needs to be addressed. There needs to be a larger item sorting system established for things that can't be placed in the Blue Bags.</p>
<p>We love living here. It would be nice to have more high end options like boutiques and cafes. We support growth and maintenance of infrastructure but the school budgets needs to be addressed. the schools are spending 20x what they did 50 years ago and the education is only half as good. We do not have children yet but I can guarantee we will not be sending them to public school here.</p>
<p>We love the Town but are worried about long term increases in property taxes preventing us from staying here during our upcoming retirement. I think the Town makes it too difficult for new businesses to locate here with unnecessary regulations & open space requirements.</p>
<p>We moved to Windham 5 years ago and I never once have said I wish I had chosen a different town. The schools are fantastic, there is enough shopping for our family downtown. It would be nice to see some of the strip malls get a face lift. We LOVE it here!</p>
<p>We should continue to explore opportunities to work with our neighboring communities. For example both our police and fire chiefs are retiring. Do we really need to replace the positions? Could we explore doing away with our police department and in turn join in with the Sheriffs department ? The Sheriffs already have a great presence in town.</p>
<p>While I believe it's important to attract new businesses into the community, I feel that it's even more important to provide fields for our youth. We, being Windham, have access to so much land--why is this land not being utilized to get our children more involved in recreational activities? It's proven that kids who play sports have improved grades and become excellent citizens--we need to encourage these events as they are the future of Windham residents!</p>
<p>Why do we have so many empty businesses buildings? How about building a music pavilion that would attract both out of state and local residence? have a dog park. It is a shame that we are the center of the lake region but do not have access to public beach. Does not provide recreational entertainment for year round people.</p>
<p>Windham has developed very rapidly. The town needs a little time to catch up with everything.but we should not cease going forward with developments.</p>
<p>Windham has gone from an IGA store and a pile of sawdust for ice to a growing town with new business and homes.</p>
<p>Windham is a good place to live.</p>

Development Freedom Segment

Windham is a great town, we do need more employment for young families. The COMMON CORE EDUCATIONAL PROPOSALS WILL DESTROY EDUCATION IN OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS. THROW IT OUT AND ALL WHO SUPPORT IT ARE SUPPORTING A COMMUNISTIC EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM. WAKE UP PEOPLE. IT IS DUMBING DOWN OUR CHILDREN.

Windham is a very comfortable Maine town. The biggest problem is getting into Windham from Portland. Rt 302 can be expanded in certain areas without disruption of residential/business property. Simply create approximately four areas where slower traffic stays to right and others can pass. I think this would improve quality of life for those who must travel daily back and forth to Portland. Other than that, living in Windham has been wonderful for me, hopefully taxes dont force me to leave.

Windham is a very good place to live, but is increasingly more expensive to the locals due to getting money from the tourists,unfortunately the wages are not keeping up with the inflation rate. Maine is a great place to live but it is becoming impossible to live here and make a comfortable living.

Windham is doing a good job overall. We are not perfect but it is a good community.

Windham needs a traffic flow plan to address increased flow and what the future might bring. The road built behind Walmart going to Lowes was a good move. We need one for the otherside of 302 going towards Home Depot. Any blockage on 302 needs a plan to releive it in case of an emergency.

Windham needs a waste water system sooner than later, waiting will only increase the overall cost and disruption! Do it now!

Windham needs to focus on reducing congestion in North Windham while developing a pedestrian-friendly downtown area (restaurants, small shops, etc) so that Windham isn't just a commuter town and box store hub to nearby towns. We also need to ensure the safety of our water supply and integrate sewers into North Windham. We need to get into long-term planning for upgrading schools and infrastructure with add/alt construction as opposed to more expensive new construction projects.

Windham or WEDC might want to evaluate if there are advantages to purchasing high-speed internet services from current providers at a bulk rate. Could businesses and residents then be able to purchase internet service at a discount.

Windham REALLY needs some more restaurants, larger ones with dine in options!! This town lacks that attraction!!

You seem to have covered it all pretty good.

Both Ways Segment

<p>A dump or transfer station could be used by all taxpayers in Windham.</p>
<p>A transfer station is needed Also the police station needs to be open on the weekends.</p>
<p>Property tax bills should reflect the square footage for which the property is being rated and taxed. Retired seniors should be taxed on a fluctuating scale that reflects consideration of: 1) The value of the property at the time it was purchased. 2) The value of the property at the time the mortgage becomes paid in full) 3) The retired senior's financial ability to pay property taxes.</p>
<p>A lot of times I feel money is wasted, but is wonderful town and I will be here until my final resting place. The people of the town do well to live with limited resources. I have a problem with a lot of town access vehicles that I don't think they are all necessary. We seem to have to have the best when those choices are made. The same with the schools - we have to have it whether we can afford it or not. I feel that Windham is one of the best school systems there is. It can be contradictory at times.</p>
<p>As a summer resident, I would appreciate the town helping with the maintenance of the road access to my property and not just the major roadway, namely Cove Road. Windham as a summer venue is a wonderful spot for lake property. Thank you.</p>
<p>As a resident of South Windham, I feel this area is not a consideration for the town. We have vacant , and condemned buildings that need to be removed. They are an eye sore and a danger. Putting trees and benches in this area were not helpful in improving this area. We need a good clean up. I also have asked for a slow sign or blind drive sign near my driveway and was told it was not necessary. I have been almost hit numerous times coming out of my driveway. People do not obey speed limits and people park on the road blocking my view.</p>
<p>Beautiful town and close to Portland! I would want to see some sort of community service for families on the weekends to help police, fire and town! This would also build more community engagement and would think it would help in the future.</p>
<p>Being in an area that has had businesses for years -it was designated as light residential, but it should be light commercial where I am located.</p>
<p>Best new growth device is tax incentives for business development. Can be a graduated scale no tax for the first 5 years then increase after 5 years by 20% per yr.to come to the base.</p>
<p>Big issue with fire works ordinance in Windham - the area I live in - they go off anytime people let them off. Any night of the week, the fireworks go off. The police cannot tell whether they are hearing gun fire of fireworks. That's not a good thing. Other towns don't allow fireworks to go off anytime people want to use it. The town meetings aired on TV are terrible. You can't hear who is talking and half the time you can't see it either. They mumble at one another.</p>
<p>Business owners in the commercial district need to invest and improve their properties. Some were built on the cheap in order to maximize property owner profit, not to encourage or maintain tenant business use.</p>
<p>Code enforcement is hurting the town's current businesses and preventing new businesses from coming in. It is critical to keep Windham's rural appeal.</p>
<p>commercial growth is not a problem if they use existing buildings. Strip malls need to be upgraded to look nicer and make it still have a small town feel. there are too many abandoned buildings to be doing any new construction. How long before we have an abandoned hotel across from Seacoast Fun Park?</p>

Both Ways Segment

Concerns about the increased accidents on 302 in North Windham, lack of sewer system for commercial district, and inability to obtain natural gas, even though it is a mile away.
Control the school budget. Especially the administrative side. Find a way to provide essential services with out taxing people out of their homes.
Focus commercial development and developing a pedestrian friendly downtown that is easy to walk between desirable stores/buildings. Density downtown is good if planned properly. Urban sprawl is not necessary. Continue to resolve traffic congestion. Utilize experienced professionals. Plan for the future. Thank you.
Glad they are doing evaluation again.
good survey, like the questions. Thanks for seeking input
Great place to live
Great town to live in.
Great town!
have not lived here long enough to form a opinion.
Have only lived here for a little over a year and really appreciate the mix of rural and commercial develop. I think it would benefit the town to have a little more recreational facilities that could be used year round especially for the youth.
Hire the people that pay their taxes in this town. Stop hiring out of state contractors. You are hurting the families of this town and the State of Maine. How proud are you?
I am a member of a third generation family that settled in this town...have seen so many changes through the years. While I am nostalgic for the Old Windham I realize change and "progress" are necessary. No. Windham needs to continue to be the commercial center and the rest of the town should focus on maintaining what rural character is left.
I am happy here. I like it very much. I think it is a nice place. I'm happy.
I am NOT in favor of establishing a sewer system for the North Windham residential area, as was proposed in the last few years.
I and others that live on Highland Lake would love to see some kind of action taken by the town to address the resumption of stocking salmon in Highland lake. I have spoken to the state biologist in charge of this, and the state wants to resume this practice as it was a huge success. The only thing we need is 1 public boat launch on the lake and the state will immediately resume the stocking program. There are no "design laws involved as far as how big the launch is, only that it would enable the public to launch an equitable size boat on the lake, and provide parking. Anyone who wants to launch a boat now has someone here who has access to a launch, and we truly believe there will be no adverse effects if this was done. The quality of the lake is declining without the Salmon and Brown trout population that has been here.
I believe we have everything we need without going into Portland. I would like to see a Metro service which would provide service from Portland to Windham and back. I live on Highland Lake and enjoy it very much. The perfect spot.
I do like the direction the town is going in. With growth comes other challenges. Windham seems to be on the right track for addressing these issues as the occur
I don't believe your question about raising taxes is fair. If you want to assess for an improvement (roads or water) that is different than raising taxes. Once you raise taxes you never give it back even after project is over. Don't think you fool anyone by saying your raising taxes to fund a project.
I don't care for Windham. I am only here because my kids are here. I don't care for it at all.

Both Ways Segment

I don't really have any comments.
I enjoy living in Windham due to proximity to the lakes and the shopping in North Windham
I feel that some of the side roads should be paved due to safety issues
I feel that the speed limit on 302 should be moved to slow down earlier. Currently the speed doesn't drop until you get passed My Sisters Garage. I think it should slow down closer to FW Webb. People zip through 302 and it gets very dangerous at times.
I feel that Windham is a pretty decent place to live. I wish more people would run for the seats on the Town Council.
I feel the traffic lights could be better synchronized. A park for dogs as well as one for people is very needed. I haven't read anymore re: the dog park at the Lipman Park. It was initially planned and hope it still is part of the parks continued development. I also would really like to see a Target come to town. Overall. I'm happy to live in this great bedroom community!! I appreciate the deliberation and communication re: future planning and that putting it out there to the residents is so important. Thank you.
I grew up here in the fifties. I have a lot of ties here. It is a relatively safe town and a great place to bring up a family. My uncle made and drove the first school bus in the thirties for the Town of Windham. (Ralph Lowell) My parents lived in the same house for seventy years. (the house I grew up in)
I grew up in Windham and the town has changed a lot, since the 80's! Not all for the good!!!!
I have attended several of these meetings in the past and it seems that nothing is ever done. It seems a waste of time to go. Windham has no character or sense of definition. Other towns have faced similar growth issues as ours and yet have been able to have beauty incorporated into the growth. There's a lot we could do but have failed to do.
I have been continuously disappointed in the town as my husband and I raise a family, and have to seek out services in other communities because those in our town are so poor. We attend recreation programs in Gorham, send our children to Gorham preschool, travel to Westbrook, Portland, Scarborough, and Gorham for parks and playgrounds. Communication of community events are so poor we often find out about them after the fact. Windham is a bedroom community providing workers for Portland rather than providing services for its people, and making this a community in which people want to be. We reside in South Windham, which has many historic homes but many of which are empty, foreclosed, or apartments in which low income people are living. There is often garbage in the street, children running around unsupervised at all hours, and fighting. There appears to be no investment in what could be a lucrative downtown area. The Keddy Mill area needs to be cleaned and invested in. It seems that all of the focus of economic development in Windham is along 302. 202 is ignored. Collaboration with the town of Gorham to improve and redevelop the area should be occurring. The area has so much potential.
I have no other thoughts or concerns.
I have watched most council meetings and listened to the dyer need of more help particularly by our public works and feel Windham has past the time of adding staffing in the departments. The Towns infrastructural is slowly going down hill because funding has not been put into them, both buildings, equipment, and roads. We are asking for services but money needs to be brought in to pay for them. I feel flat lined budgets on the town side while the school keeps increasing are wrong. stop the school spending and put more money into our assets and people who work for the town.
I like it the way it is. The town should not grow to rapidly. provide lower taxes. The commercial development has helped keep my taxes low.
I like living in Windham - its a nice area and good people
I like the town. I wanted to stay in Windham after my husband died so I went into senior housing.

Both Ways Segment

<p>I listed the town hall as poor specifically for the poor hours that town hall is open for. They recently extended the hours to include Friday as well but they are still only open during normal business hours M - F. Most municipalities are open late one day a week or during Saturday morning. Personally I don't care if they are closed all week during the day as I have to work during normal business hours but if they aren't open late at least one day a week or at some point on the weekend, they may as well be closed 24/7 because they are absolutely useless to me and I have to take time off from my job to perform simple tasks that require me to be at Town Hall. I've never lived in a community that does that.</p>
<p>I love it. I would like to see more small business help and more small businesses here. There are a lot of vacant buildings that need to be filled. 5 alone on the main strip!</p>
<p>I love living in this town, and the people here make it what it is.</p>
<p>I love the fire and police operations. I have had many accidents and used my track phone to communicate with them and they came to my rescue. They responded immediately when my mother rolled over on her alert necklace or bracelet, they came immediately when the alarm went off. She bought coffee and donuts the next day to thank them for their service... even though it was not needed at that time.</p>
<p>I love this town. I would like to see change at a pace that the town can manage while still maintaining its safe warm community feel. Thanks for the opportunity to respond.</p>
<p>I love Windham and am very happy to live here!</p>
<p>I love Windham and I'm happy that we moved to start a happy safe life for my son :)</p>
<p>I moved here from Scarborough as Scarborough had too much resd'l & comm'l growth. Traffic got out of control. Schools got too full. It became a mess. That's why I moved to Windham, more rural, quiet most of the year, good school system, not over crowded. If Windham becomes like Scarborough, I wouldn't give it a 2nd thought to move out of Windham.</p>
<p>I really do like the opportunities available for adult continuing education.</p>
<p>I really don't have any comments as I enjoy living in Windham but wish they had better transportation for seniors going to Drs. in Portland like having RSP available in Windham rather than having to call Portland.</p>
<p>I really like the location of the town in proximity to Portland and the city. We moved here because we didn't want to live in the city but be close enough to it. I feel that the growth of Windham is very important and that we should be bringing in new businesses as well as developing new neighborhoods and homes while preserving the small amount of parks and fields we do have left.</p>
<p>I think everything has been going well for the town - the best they can I guess.</p>
<p>I think it is a great place to live. I have been here 35 years. I am sure that whatever the committee decides to do will benefit the town. They seem to be doing a good job.</p>
<p>I think it is over-populated. Too many houses and new homes being built. The taxes are way to high. The school teachers are the ones who actually teach the young from primary to 8th grade - they should be paid more than the higher paying town manager and others who run the town. We need people in the town who know how to save money. Anyone can spend money. There are a lot of empty houses in Windham.</p>
<p>I think that the vote to turn down the addition of having a public sewer system hurt the growth of Windham and should be brought back to the people of Windham and encouraged to help Windham grow to be the great city is can be.</p>
<p>I think Windham is a lovely town. I don't like the way it is changing - all the hubbub - all the different stores - all the traffic going to all the different places. A by-pass should be added to get rid of the congestion in the area.</p>

Both Ways Segment

<p>I think Windham is a nice little town. I am impressed with it. I have been very happy here. My drive way is a hill and it is a pain in the neck in winter. That is my only complaint. Coming from Atlanta, I hate the Winters here. Nobody can control the weather.</p>
<p>I think Windham would benefit from a health food store and a good restaurant that serves local ingredients.</p>
<p>I will not be in the state of Maine, when the meetings take place.</p>
<p>I wish that the police department would deal with the drug dealer across the street. They tell me they are dealing with bigger drugs in Windham. Well last I knew pot was illegal and these are the high schoolers who are coming and going every 5 minutes. D.E. A, can't help. Have spoken with the chief and he's on his way out. As well as numerous break in in this area. They tell me they have few officers, well my tax bill is pretty damn high.. Disappointed!!!!</p>
<p>I would like to see an effort to create a much more pedestrian/bike friendly environment in the North Windham area. Maintaining and promoting open space in Windham should be a priority. Having access to Sebago and a reasonable commute to Portland makes it a great place to live</p>
<p>I would like to see more shopping stores up here. We need more big stores like a JC Penney's or a Sears.</p>
<p>I would like to see Portland Water District running more distribution lines to people who have wells. The quality of water in my area of Windham is atrocious. Very heavy iron deposits.</p>
<p>I would like to see the town cut the local business tax for small business owners. I think that Windham has enough sports fields for it's size. I would like to see the town take over some of the private road before approving new ones from recent developments.</p>
<p>I would like to see traffic improved on the 302 corridor without impacting the current residential neighborhoods. The 302 business area needs to be spruced up with more attractive buildings and/or landscaping.</p>
<p>I would love to see the North Windham Fire Station spiffed up---including the foundation color---and rust taken care of to create a BEAUTIFUL Building that would show the Towns people and the tourists that travel our Major 302 Artery that we are proud of our Fire Station and take care of it. The Appearance does not seem to go with the Standards that the Town has in place but has not addressed on this building for a very very long time.....painting the doors red would be really cool.....There is free paint already available for this building and if not painting the whole building at least addressing the cosmetic areas that are an eye sore would be an improvment along with the foundation. Please someone agree with me.....It is really looking out of place and not taken care of with all the new buildings that have grown in around it. We do NOT NEED a NEW Building...just one that is being cared for.</p>
<p>I'm alleging and believe this survey's intent is to provide statistical data to merit and foster additional water/sewer lines to benefit commercial interests (current hotel construction North Windham) at cost to the Windham taxpayers!!</p>
<p>Impact fee is a joke and they need to get on maintaining Brand Road.</p>
<p>Improvement of roads.</p>
<p>In the past, expansion and construction of school facilities has adversely and disproportionately increased property taxes; ie., with no regard for the cost to property owners through increased property taxes.</p>
<p>It is a great town. I would love to continue to see it grow and flourish.</p>
<p>It is a very good place to live. I am really satisfied. The schools are very good. The hiking and biking trails are taken care of well by Parks and Recreation.</p>
<p>It is extremely important to preserve the remaining historic aspects and areas of the town before they are lost as they were in North Windham.</p>

Both Ways Segment

It was hard to answer some of these questions because I favor increased business growth, but NOT the continued big box stores with low income job opportunities for residents and huge tax breaks that do not help Windham citizens. We need GOOD jobs, public transportation, relief from traffic congestion in North Windham, safe drinking water but NOT a multi-million dollar sewer project when everyone is already on septic, and better schools that aren't so crowded and have higher achievement. I wish academics got as great a priority as sports, especially at the HS level. Overall, our experience living here has been very good. Much has improved and we support the economic growth in Windham, but find that it has not been very well planned.

It's a lovely town.

It's important that we develop a wastewater treatment system for North Windham commercial area.

It's growing. I am glad to see a decent sized hotel going up on Rte. 302. We needed, and need more guest housing for the visitors. Maine is a great state:) Windham is the best!! I would like to see more of our interest in the local food pantry and the community gardening efforts. We are a farming community!!

Just don't want Windham to become like Falmouth, Cape, Cumberland - that the new affluent residents get to change the town to meet their standards of life. keep things simple, without overregulation and absurd taxes, examination of what is truly necessary, and not just a want of a whim. keep it "rural Maine" --- lots of regular people live here!

Keep or increase rural feel with exception of 302 corridor improvement for business.

Keep property taxes down, and improve snow removal especially around storm drains on the streets. It has been an issue around my house with storm drain on corner of my yard, come spring time I got half of my front lawn covered in sand and snow pile don't melt until late spring because of snow accumulation from plowing.

Love Windham just would love to have more retail stores here so do not have to go to So. Portland.

Many of us in Windham drive to South Portland and other towns for retail shopping spending money there that could be spent in Windham. Walmart isn't a place I consider a place to do regular shopping and Marshall's is convenient but doesn't have a great variety. We need more retailers for our local area as well as the thousands traveling through to the Lakes Regions. The job opportunities for the teens would increase as well. There are very minimal opportunities for them as well. These will help areas from Gray, Gorham, Naples, Raymond and New Gloucester-bring them to Windham to shop and eat.

More opportunities for our youth. When parents are working more than ever in this era because of low wages and the high cost of living. Our children need less ipods, cell phones,etc. The kids need to see nature and learn the value of life, I know times are changing real fast but its so important. These are my feelings.

Most of my views are based on North Windham. I feel that the strip mall feel of the town makes it a stopping point for people passing through versus people visiting Windham for a shopping trip. There are many vacant buildings along 302 that need to be filled with businesses and attracting a variety of business types (both chain-businesses and small shops) will help bring in more revenue for the town.

Both Ways Segment

<p>Moving here from a larger city, I see growth being funded on the backs of the tax payers. The growth that needs to happen should have the taxes or cost associated with the growth directed towards primarily to those who will benefit the most. I.E the waste water issue that was voted down. Why would I tax myself on this issue when I would gain nothing from it? It is an issue that needs talking about, but it was presented and submitted wrong. I grew up on city water and sewer and when I was old enough to buy a house I paid my share of the water/waste based on my frontage to the lines. Everyone was equal. I have never lived in a place that was so hard to get to a lake as it is here, living a stone's through from Sebago Lake. It's awful, I can see it but can't touch it.</p>
<p>My husband's family has lived in Windham since 1965. We enjoy the moderate taxes, quality of life, and the mix of rural, residential and commercial presence. Schools remain a concern; growing population means increased enrollment and increased taxes. Those taxes being a burden on our elderly. Windham's continued success will be credited to moderate and steady commercial growth. Windham sells itself; people want to live here and business wants to settle here because of the Town's proximity to Portland, transportation outlets and moderate cost of doing business without all the hassles of being in Portland or too far removed from amenities. Overall, my husband and I are happy homeowners and residents and really enjoy Windham.</p>
<p>N/A</p>
<p>Nash Road may be the most dangerous road in the state, especially in winter when the frost heaves creat deep mogul-like conditions. Someone will die in a car accident if the town does not address this serious issue. I've heard that the town planned on rebuilding the road after Albion but the cost was over a million. How much is a life worth? Please address this issue, if only to address the 302 side for about a mile up. Please drive this road, especially in winter, to understand the dangers of this neglected importand road. Thank you.</p>
<p>NEED PLAYGROUND IN WINDHAM FOR KIDS!!!!!! PLEASE!!!!!!</p>
<p>Need to listen to new residents of the community and what attracted them to Windham and why they will stay.</p>
<p>New indoor recreational facility. well planned commercial growth limited new residential housing.</p>
<p>No comment.</p>
<p>No more - that is it.</p>
<p>None. Happy here.</p>
<p>None</p>
<p>None. Happy.</p>
<p>Not enough in this questionire about people.</p>
<p>Nothing at this time.</p>
<p>Please increase the availability and quality of the required trash bags..they are often not available in the stores and not strong enough.</p>
<p>Please see Route 302 business potential. Folks come here for our lakes. Windham should be a destination, not a drive through! Desperately need better restaurants and retail shops, not more big box stores. Offer short term tax incentives for mom and pop businesses.</p>
<p>Quality of life here is a balance of commercial, residential, and open space. I have a good quality of life here but would like to see improved business/commercial growth of the type that could help other residents improve theirs (increased tax base value and more good paying jobs). I would like to see this done by doing our best to maintain that balance for which Windham is known.</p>
<p>Really wish we had public water supply on River Road.</p>

Both Ways Segment

Reduce building inspection regulation and costs unless the department can get more organized. Cost of housing and taxes are high enough already for young families.

Regarding this survey, there was a need for comment opportunities on each page. I felt like my responses sometimes contradicted one another. Here is an example, I believe individual residential property owners should have the right to develop their land according to the zoning in place when they originally bought or inherited their property. I also think open space in Windham needs to be preserved, but that is not at the expense of individual property rights. When the broader community wants to share in that open space, then the property owner NEEDS to be compensated for not developing that open space. Not told through zoning the owners property rights have been curtailed! Another example: the definition of commercial development. If that definition is specifically retail, we have enough. If "commercial" has a broader definition, that is a different story. Windham needs greater employment opportunities with positions that pay well. Retail notoriously pays poverty wages. Thus far, Windham has tried to position itself as a regional hub, but we are a retail regional hub, not a professional services regional hub. Therefore, as a community, we have sold out and committed a lot of land resources to businesses that pay poverty wages. Given the 302 and 202 corridor, health care employment opportunities need to be pursued. Let's position Windham as a regional health care center. We are far enough away from Portland to warrant this, with Raymond, Casco, Naples, Gorham, Standish in close proximity. Why should we need to go to MMC Portland, Falmouth or Scarborough for diagnostics, Xrays, mammograms and the like!!!! Those would be good paying skilled positions right here in Windham!! Taxes: only choices; for or against. I might be for, but not in the way Windham's elected officials seem to interpret "for". Case in point, huge and costly infrastructure proposal for expanded sewage. Was far to expansive, far to expensive. Scale it back, look at alternative technologies, as well as alternative funding sources. Our seniors and youth have limited community options. I do support small increases for their specific needs and interests. Rarely talked about, but Windham still has an "old boy" network. The "men" are not necessarily "old", but the "I'll scratch your back, if you scratch mine" is ever present. Personally, I think the sewer project is a recent example. Who in town was going to benefit from that sweet deal?? Who's pockets were going to be increased substantially at taxpayer expense? Windham had a well functioning Implementation Task Force for the current Comp Plan. Things were being discussed that the "powers" did not like. All of a sudden, some key people started to say this Task Force was not functioning well and needed to be scraped. It was disbanded and a group of about 5 of Windham's inner circle development types were hand picked as a representative committee to interact with the town council. Integrity, hardly!! Control of the process, definitely! To make matters worse, they met in the mornings when most people in Windham are working. There was a functioning Implementation Task Force. Yes, a bit cumbersome, but better to have too much participation than a select few making recommendations to the council, don't ya think. The Implementation Task Force was a community at work. But once again newcomers left discouraged by what they saw as insular government. Then Windham wonders why it has so few volunteers for committees. You volunteer and you see how you're not really wanted unless you are a Yes person. So I look forward to the Visioning sessions. Are the committee meetings open to the public? Do they have time for non-committee input? When and where are they held? This needs to be an open process. From the above mentioned issues, I think you now understand why!

Route 302 is becoming more and more like 128 north of Boston. Why are new businesses allowed to be constructed on postage-size lots?? Especially on Windham's busiest roadways. Summer traffic is just awful. Accidents waiting to happen.

Schools should have a History review of area.

Both Ways Segment

<p>Since moving to Windham, I've been impressed with the town overall. The lack of a close dump or transfer facility has been an inconvenience, but far from insurmountable. I feel confident in the town personnel. The school system seems excellent. Overall, glad we moved here! Just fix that 90 degree turn on the intersection of Ward Rd and Pope Road :).</p>
<p>So far we love living in Windham! Our experience with the school system has been great, however I am disappointed it does not offer a pre-kindergarten program. There are so many studies that show the benefits of a 4-year old program (free) in public schools. We relocated from Aroostook County where they've had an established pre-k program for several years. The cost of child care or private pre-schools prevents a lot of children in Windham from receiving the critical early childhood education and experiences. I hope the future of Windham has plans for a public pre-k program!</p>
<p>Something really needs to be done with the large old industrial building in South Windham. This is a beautiful parcel of land that now sits in blighted condition. We should place less emphasis on the 302 corridor and more emphasis on this area.</p>
<p>Stop using the "cheap" water-based yellow and white paint on roads. Use the reflective paints that last about a year, not the water based paints that last about 3 months at best. This is a safety factor at night and in inclement weather.</p>
<p>Stronger emphasis on development of the town - South Windham. They need to complete the beautification project that was started and never completed for South Windham. Demolition of condemned commercial buildings of South Windham is needed so new development can happen there.</p>
<p>Talk of a by-pass of getting through Windham - road behind Walmart - Rt.115 to up behind Planet Fitness -then it stops - it needs to be connected on both ends to get at least the locals across town. A third of it is already built.</p>
<p>Tax rates are too high.... concern about fire stations-which are housed.... seems though calling from other end of town to take care of fire/rescue calls.... more centralized needed or housing onsite.</p>
<p>Taxes too high Roads in poor shape Town leadership is weak Town lets certain people get away with activities it knows is illegal, yet turns their backs and ignores it.</p>
<p>Thank you for the opportunity to make comments.</p>
<p>Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this survey. I hope you get a very good response as citizen input is critical for Windham to be progressive and move forward to enhance the services, opportunities and quality of life in Windham.</p>
<p>The lake region medical facilities are very good, esp. the ambulance service.</p>
<p>The Maine Audubon Society identified N. Windham, Ellsworth, and Falmouth, as being the ugliest commercial developed areas in the state. Only Falmouth took measures to change that. Windham continues to degrade itself.</p>
<p>The North, South, East or West question was hard to answer.....I live off 302 2 miles before N Windham so the answers didn't fit either question.</p>
<p>The Parking around the high school campus needs improvement. We are getting bigger turn outs, with limited spaces to park. PD should feel the same.</p>
<p>The quality of life here in Windham is very good overall. However, there are a few issues that can be addressed for the future. Traffic from Boody's corner up to Raymond (especially in the summer) is constantly getting worse. It would be nice to see different types of new business growth, especially future growth industries and locally owned businesses. Preserve some open space for new parks and trails.</p>
<p>The service at the Town Hall is wonderful. And I'm also very happy with the Senior Center.</p>
<p>The snowplowing on Mill Pond Drive is not evenly divided on both sides of the street. Tired of the snowplow driver ruining our mailboxes.</p>
<p>The survey has kept me up to date in what is going on in Windham.</p>

Both Ways Segment

<p>The Town Hall have excellent people working there. They are so comfortable to speak to. Wonderful to talk to - a plus. The library is lovely. The people are excellent with the public. The programs offered to the people are very well done. I would like to see a Reny's and a Denny's or IHOP added to the town. RT.302 needs to be widened to handle the traffic flow. When the new buildings are being constructed, the barriers need to be removed and allow the use of a back road behind like Walmart and around so you don't have to go out on 302 again. We are also being overcharged for gas in Windham. Raymond is cheaper as well as Portland and even Cape Elizabeth costs less for gas. The stores would benefit too if prices were lowered. More people will stop and shop there if the price is less for gas.</p>
<p>The town lacks typical New England charm. It is not a rural community and should stop pretending to be. The best thing we can do is make code changes to force businesses in the commercial district to beautify their exterior with proper New England signage, lighting, facades, etc.</p>
<p>The town should protect scenic vistas and create a scenic corridor along Route 202 from Gray to Roosevelt Trail.</p>
<p>The town should review the amount of public employees vs. the work that needs to be done. Public Works appears overstaffed. Explore a Western bypass around North Windham to ease 302 congestion.</p>
<p>The town should work towards attracting younger people who want both a rural setting and proximity to Portland.</p>
<p>The traffic situation @ the intersection of 302/35 needs to be of the highest priority.</p>
<p>The wealth of the town seems to have more control of what happens in town just because they have the money to do it.the town should be run by "all" the people rich or poor!!!!!!</p>
<p>There are far to many people in this town that want to live in the country ,but have what a city has. They will never know what country live is about. Would like to be able to afford to move to a more rural place.</p>
<p>There is a downtown feel to communities such as Gorham and Yarmouth that i have never felt in Windham. It would be nice to develop this type of community feel. It promotes community events and involvement such as festivals, parades, walking etc.</p>
<p>There is a group of Senior Citizens about 120 strong who can not find a place to meet for recreation and friendship. We are a group of tax paying individuals that appear to be of no concern to the town officials. It seems very sad to us that we have for so many years supported our town and now that we of less value we are ignored. Please consider a building that could house not only the elderly but many organizations, including youth, in our community. A community center would be an awesome place for many people. Thanking you for any consideration you can give us.</p>
<p>There needs to be a serious effort in funneling and recycling the efforts and resources combining the general public, elected and municipal leaders(leaving their party agenda outside of Windham), and small local business owners(not just the Chamber)to come up with think outside of the box innovative answers without sacrificing the quality of Windham and selling out.</p>
<p>This is a nice little town. I immensely appreciate being able to shop in town rather than go way out to the Mall. A few more nice restaurants would be appreciated. There is wasted space in the Staples area and in the Windham Mall and they have been vacant for too long. Landlords need to lower the rent to make it more attractive for tenants. I also feel pretty strongly that we need a community center with exciting programs for youth. If I won the lottery, I would build one!</p>
<p>This survey came on the very day I planned to write a letter to the Town regarding the terrible conditions of Nash Road. I was shocked to see that Albion Rd was re-paved within the last month and the condition of that road was not as destructive to vehicles as Nash. Last winter the road heaved so much one of our vehicles and a neighbors had to be repaired from damage caused by driving on Nash Road. I ask that this be put onto the budget for 2015.It is time to fix it!</p>

Both Ways Segment

To many closed businesses in town.
Too many fast food restaurants. Not enough clothing stores...and cute gift shops...Windham could be attractive like Freeport, but it's not...it is becoming too snobby and rich, losing it's small town appeal...and the roads are really bad.
Too many private roads ...added cost to residents to maintain, No. Windham is an eyesore with too many disgusting box stores- small Maine owned business with character are better...and a focus on bike/walking with lanes and sidewalks...main street in South Windham could be cleaned up and brought back to past glory...schools need to focus on quality of teaching less on facilities with more services to higher performing kids ..school board needs to reach out to community with surveys like this.
Trader Joe's to Windham. Music, book store, clothing give Walmart some competition.
Try to keep the tax structure from driving people out of the Windham area.
Utilizing the vacant buildings - some of these buildings could be used for medical complex, music store for lessons for the youth or other persons, and reasonably priced women's fashions. Also, better traffic flow at rts.302 and 115. The school buses do not need to stop at every driveway or street. Provide a designated pick up area. The Mall should be updated with new landscaping. Why are the Chamber of Commerce and the Planning Board not more aggressive to attract business?
Very happy living here. Pleased with the school system that my children graduated from. Though I like the rural feeling, I realistically expect growth in residential and business; and welcome both. I would like to see more cultural diversity in the area.
We are seasonal residents so most of this survey has remained unanswered because we are "from away" as we are known in the summer. We have had our cottage since '04, have done extensive improvements and enjoy our time when we are there since we have family in Falmouth and love being close to them. I wish my answers could have been more helpful but my place of residence is Cincinnati, not Windham.
We enjoy living in Windham and we purchased our home because of the country feel, yet the closeness of all businesses. We wouldn't want to see too much change. Encouraging business along 302 would definitely allow us to maintain our lifestyle while keeping taxes in order.
We have a lot of private roads that are financial burdens on the residents to maintain. I would not mind paying more in taxes if it meant that more of these roads would be tarred and made town roads with plowing etc. I also think it is ridiculous to charge \$12.50 a bag for trash when other communities have it as part of their programs.
We have enjoyed raising our family in Windham. We also have enjoyed watching it grow into a relatively safe place to live. A special thank you to Fire, Police and our town officials that make our life easier and happier. Thank you.
We love living in Windham. We feel we live in the country, but yet close to stores!
We love living in Windham. Living the rural life, but being this close to Portland/So. Portland is perfect.
We need a new larger department store here. We need another high profile grocery store like Market Basket here. You leave feeling good from that store because you are not being ripped off. More of a variety is needed in these stores. More of an assortment of clothes and gifts are needed. A Reny's would be very popular in North Windham. Target as well. Add Red Lobster too or the Weathervane.
We need to attract new business to Windham to help with taxes!!
We need to deal with water quality issues . Clean drinking water . Waste water!!! Better roads . Open town hall on Fridays. Close it on Wednesdays if you have close it one day per week!!
We need to have Haven Rd. rebuilt.

Both Ways Segment

<p>We need to provide an access road from behind the post office, all the way to Raymond. Are you familiar with North Conway's North-South Road? That is the model which I think would fit here. Perhaps it would also work. If we had it behind Shaws all the way to Raymond?</p>
<p>When developers want to build new developments in town all they want to build are Dick and Jane basic 3 bedroom homes which have a negative effect on the town's tax structure. The tax on the houses doesn't come close to covering the cost of putting the 2 or 3 kids that live in that house through school. Therefore everyone else's taxes go up. Since we are the fastest graying state in the nation, it makes sense that getting the developers to build more senior housing instead of starter homes, would increase the tax base without adding more kids to the school system. Senior developments could and should be allowed to have smaller lot sizes for more homes. I can't understand why towns haven't figured out the simplicity of this. Just my thoughts.</p>
<p>Why do we need that expensive round-about?? I have NEVER encountered traffic problems at that crossroad.</p>
<p>Windham is a beautiful town in a perfect location between Portland and the Lakes Region areas. We have so many vacant spaces that could be filled with thriving businesses. The mall is a joke and is unsightly. The old restaurant building in front of Rustler's is unsightly as well. Why aren't we trying to attract chains such as a Margarita's or Olive Garden to come in? Places such as these would also create many new jobs as well. Also, why can we not get better retail stores in our "mall"? Marshall's has done very well, why not try to attract businesses like this that already have a good following? Another thought would be a Trader Joe's in the area. Any grocer like that close to us is in Portland. Windham is such a hub for everything between Naples and Portland. We could easily capitalize on this.</p>
<p>Windham is a good place to live but needs to monitor and control its future growth. Growth is inevitable but it must be controlled and directed to maintain the values that are here now or to restore some that have been lost already.</p>
<p>Windham is a great community however it appears it is outgrowing its shoes too fast. Windham was a nice rural community 20 yrs. ago now its a thriving city suburb growing too fast to sustain itself in some areas.</p>
<p>Windham is a great place to live. Empty business space indicates that there is not a need to increase the commercial area but to make better use of the area. Poor planning has led to the traffic problems that will get worse unless they limit curb cuts on Rt. 302. The wastewater program not be brought up again. Twice it has been funded with tax payers dollars only to show how it is not needed or wanted. The ground pollution problem in Windham is isolated to three areas that could be addressed by those businesses responsible for the pollution to install private treatment facilities.</p>
<p>Windham is a great town to live in. I would like to see more businesses come in to the town.</p>
<p>Windham is a growing town. I'd like to see more municipal services such as a permanent brush dump and bulky waste transfer facility rather than having to rely on other towns to provide us these services.</p>
<p>Windham is a nice place to live.</p>
<p>Windham is a nice town, and it has a lot to offer to the people living here.</p>
<p>Windham is an aging community. Our older neighborhood seems to be falling in disrepair with less focus on maintaining homes. Also there is no central location, no village community...no "hub" so to speak. We have too many vacant businesses and increased turnover in those places that are occupied. Think the Windham Mall. However, we have wonderful community members and a general population that seems to care about one another. In today's world though, people are tremendously busy and less likely to join committees and get involved. We could use motivation in the form of service organizations and intergenerational gatherings to promote a more active community.</p>

Both Ways Segment

Windham is evolving and will continue to evolve. I am pleased that this survey and future meetings are available to participate in. These are all important issues, prioritization will be difficult, but needed.

Windham is in major need of sports facilities for youth teams both indoors and outdoor fields. Currently, the town has created a divide between certain sports representatives because of the lack of field space available. There are no indoor recreation facilities or places for kids to go after school. The education at the middle school is less than average. Unless things improve quickly, our children will be seeking private options for high school.

Windham needs a dog park.

Windham needs more business that provides jobs and a solid tax base. The business image should be made more attractive to the eye re: the style and appearance of outside structure. Business growth needs sewer but should be funded from the businesses that will benefit from it. A drive thru our downtown strip is not an attractive one. We can do better.

Windham needs to develop the 302 corridor with added travel and passing lanes and turning lanes to promote traffic movement from Westbrook to Raymond. We should be the model for East West Movement in the Portland area.

Windham needs to stay focused. Development is good, but only the right portions in all sectors will work. Holding back small business is not productive. They are the back bone of America. Variety stores that can not open due to over regulation is an example. We should help these types of businesses who generate income for the town. It should be exciting to live in Windham. We are the gateway to the lakes but driving into Windham will not give you that feeling. I feel we have over commercialized the main commercial by-way. Route 302. We need people to want to stop on the way to and from because they saw and found it in Windham.

Windham offers a good quality of life for both residential and business expansion. What is most important is sound judgment by our elected officials to preserve what we have and make only those decision necessary to enhance that quality for the future, keeping in mind that you cannot please everyone.

Windham Police Department should never have gone to county for dispatch services. Police service is now terrible due to not being able to contact them directly.

Windham should be more environmentally-protective of all of its water sources.

Windham should not become another Portland. Development should moderate between growth and a rural area.

Winter road maintenance is GREAT! Worried about overcrowding of schools & the need for a new middle school. North Windham traffic is a concern - but not sure how to reroute the pass thru traffic so it won't congest the people trying to get to businesses.

Would like to see future development in both residential and business areas to be made as attractive as possible to attract these areas.

Would like to see Summer Concert Series like Westbrook and Scarborough have. Location would be the question also.

You asked if I would support my high priorities with tax increases. My answer to this is No I am paying through my taxes good salary to have this done at this time. Without much luck to economic development in this town. Most of what I hear from business people in town, is that the town discourages development by their arrogance and red tape and not returning phone calls etc. There use to be a formula of 60 40 to help the tax base, should we try to strive for that again?

Both Ways Segment

You have covered quite a bit...I do feel safe here most of the time...our police dept. and fire dept. are exceptional. No town is completely safe. Would be nice if the town had some input to our lakes, rivers, and streams. Also think there is too much constriction on construction near water...I think it should depend on what the intention is.