

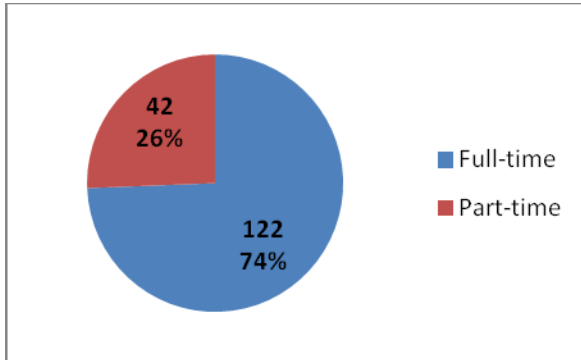
# Groton Community Survey Summary

Paper copies were distributed at Town Meeting and were made available at the Town Clerk's Office and various locations around town. Postcards with a URL to an online survey were mailed to the grand list and the voter checklist in March, and a link to the online survey was made available from the Town Web site. There were 165 respondents, although not all respondents answered every question.

## Demographics

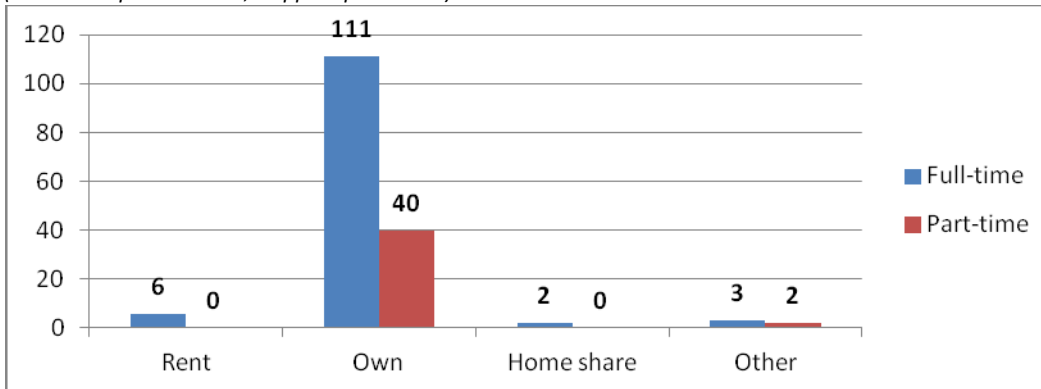
### 1. What is your residency status in Groton?

(Answered question: 164; Skipped question: 1)



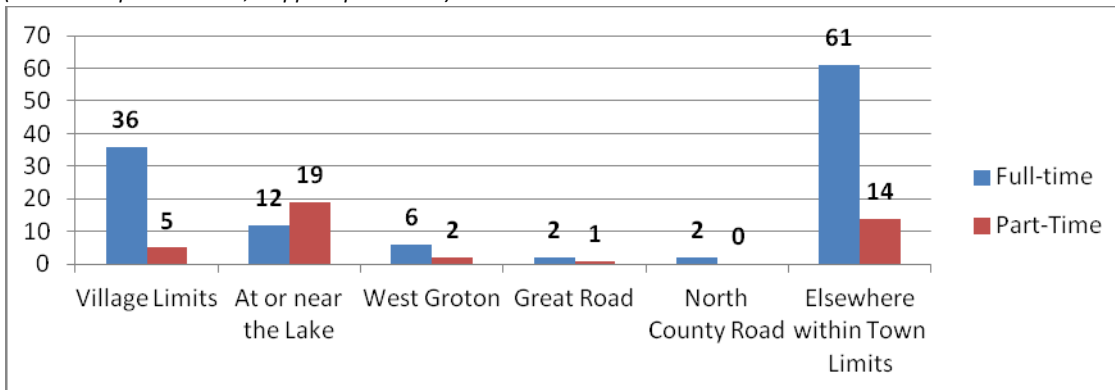
### 2. Do you rent or own your Groton home?

(Answered question: 165; Skipped question: 0)



### 3. Where is your Groton residence?

(Answered question: 161; Skipped question: 4)



#### 4. How many people are in your household (including yourself)?

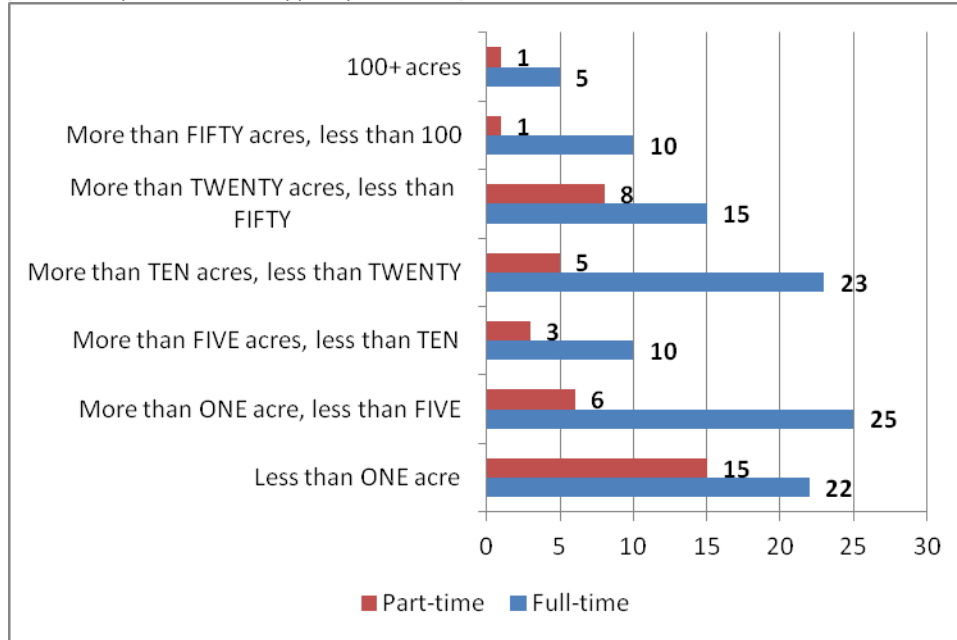
(Answered question: 160; Skipped question: 5)

**Full-time residents:** 120 survey respondents, representing a total of 318 household members in Groton. Average household size per respondent: 2.65

**Part-time residents:** 40 respondents, representing a total of representing a total of 97 household members in Groton. Average household size per respondent: 2.49

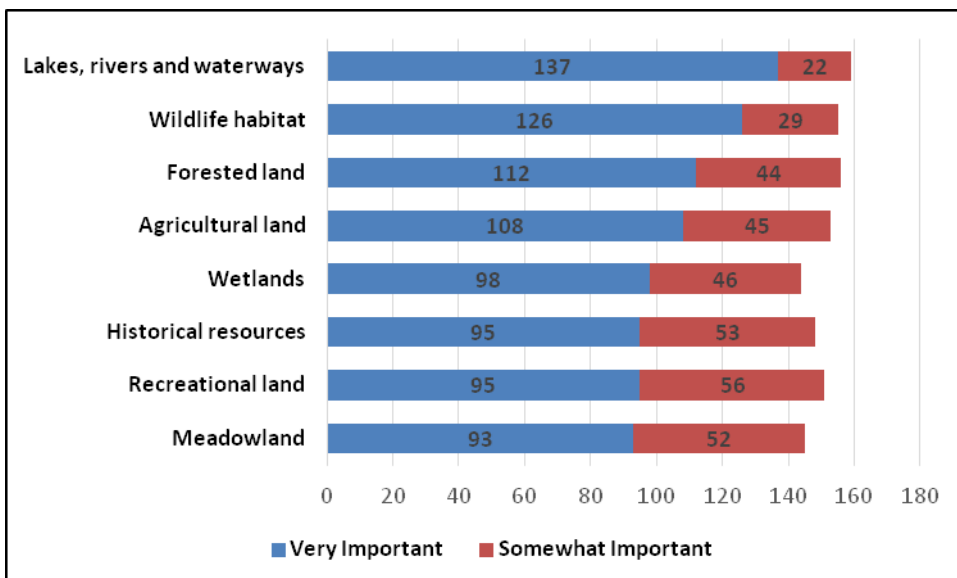
#### 5. If you currently own land in Groton, please indicate how many acres:

(Answered question: 150; Skipped question: 15)



### Planning Considerations

#### 6. How important would you rate conservation of the following resources? (Check ONE for each category.)

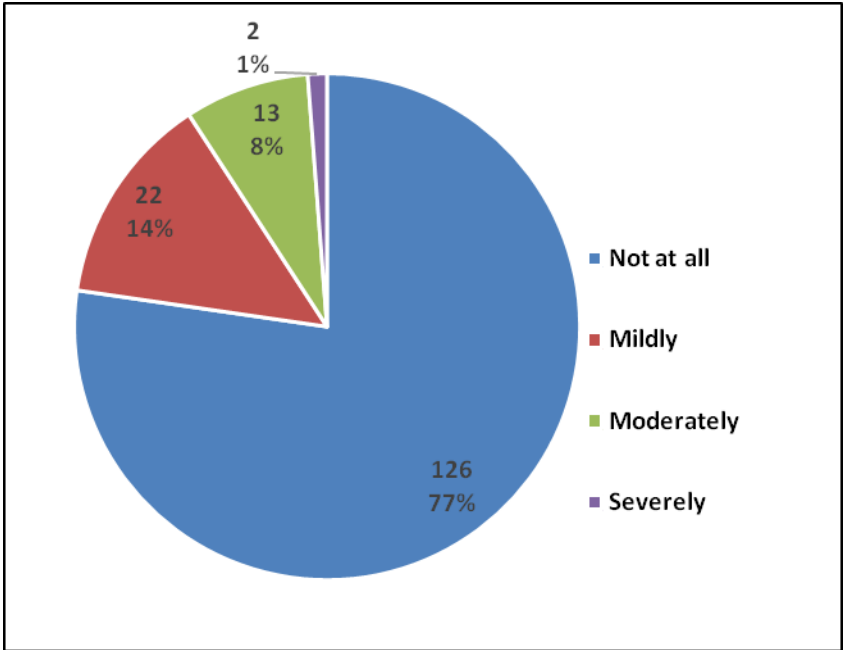


(Answered question: 162; Skipped question: 3)

**Other open ended responses:** “Without undue limitation on private property owner rights. State Forest does a great job with their resources.” Economic; Village, Lake Groton, State Forest, Two open-ended responses called for ATV (to be considered as a recreational asset); People; “Forest and meadowland for animal habitat are very important.”; Two comments about safety: “Priority should be given to the safety of the residents.” And “No cell towers, especially this day and age (911)””; and “Enough regulations already!”

**7. Act 16 now requires Town Plans to address flood resilience. Please indicate if your LAND has been affected by flooding. (Please check ONE).**

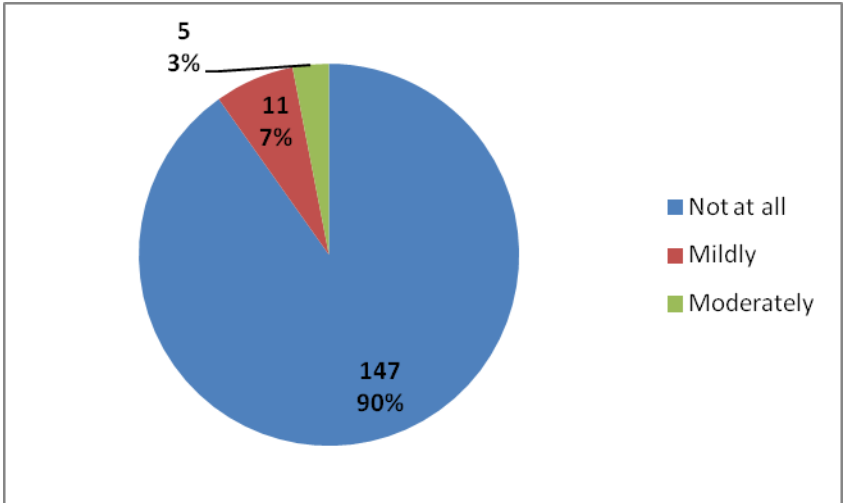
(Answered question: 163; Skipped question: 2)



Have lost land, trees, garden and driveway.  
 Wet basement - sump pump 24/7  
 No drainage system.  
 Driveway washed out.  
 Water covers the fields  
 Driveway washed out in couple of places, has been remediated  
 my driveway was washed out several times last summer  
 rocks and sand from the river on my lower property roads have limited flood control  
 brook erosion  
 100 year storm flooding  
 Road run-off due to poor drainage has damaged the driveway  
 brook flooded causing driveway stone washout across lawn and mild lawn erosion

**8. Please indicate if one or more STRUCTURES on your property have been affected by flooding.**

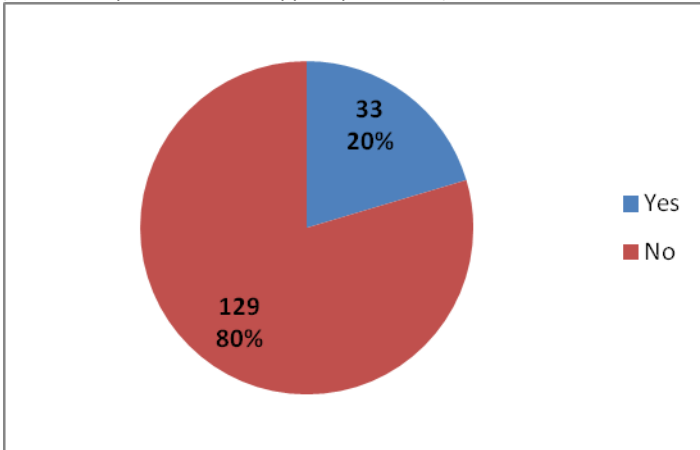
(Answered question: 163; Skipped question: 2)



Fence posts, gate, wire  
 Flooded basement. Shifting of the addition  
 The garage that was affected has been removed. It was slowly sinking due to runoff from the marsh behind it.  
 Water in basement  
 Went behind my house by river.  
 Flooded basement  
 Just floods my dirt basement  
 100 year storm flooding

### 9. Have road washouts from flooding prevented you from traveling to work or to errands?

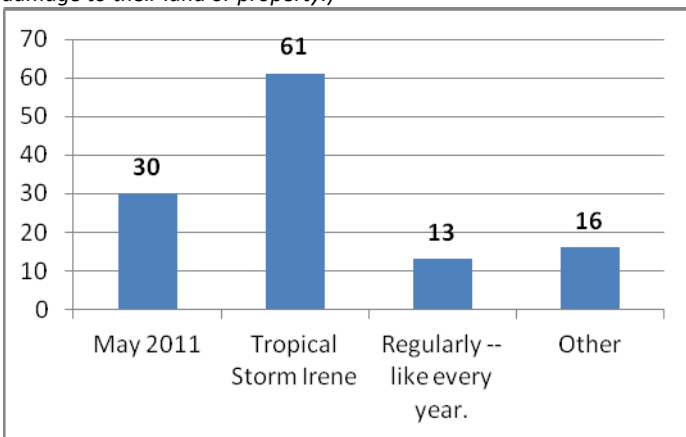
(Answered question: 162; Skipped question: 3)



Two days  
 They are impassable for only a few hours and only once or twice a year.  
 One day road closed  
 It doesn't bother us much except Irene  
 In 1984 from 302 being washed out. 2011 TS Irene.  
 1970s flood -- several days road washed out  
 Just 24 hours  
 Around 2013 washout on Ct Rd nr Gov Mattox road there was a serious washout; a huge culvert has since been installed.  
 Not more than a day after flooding was done  
 Road washed out but we notified road crew and it was fixed soon after  
 302 was impassable  
 Could not get through Private Road  
 unable to get home on 302 due to wash out  
 Just during Irene  
 Branch Brook Road and 302  
 Bridge above ballfield on Powder Spring washed out, forcing us to drive to Topsham, adding at least 45 minutes travel time each way.

### 10. WHEN have you been affected by flooding in Groton? (Check ALL that apply.)

(Answered question: 103; Skipped question: 62; Note: More people answered this question than the total number of respondents who reported damage to their land or property.)

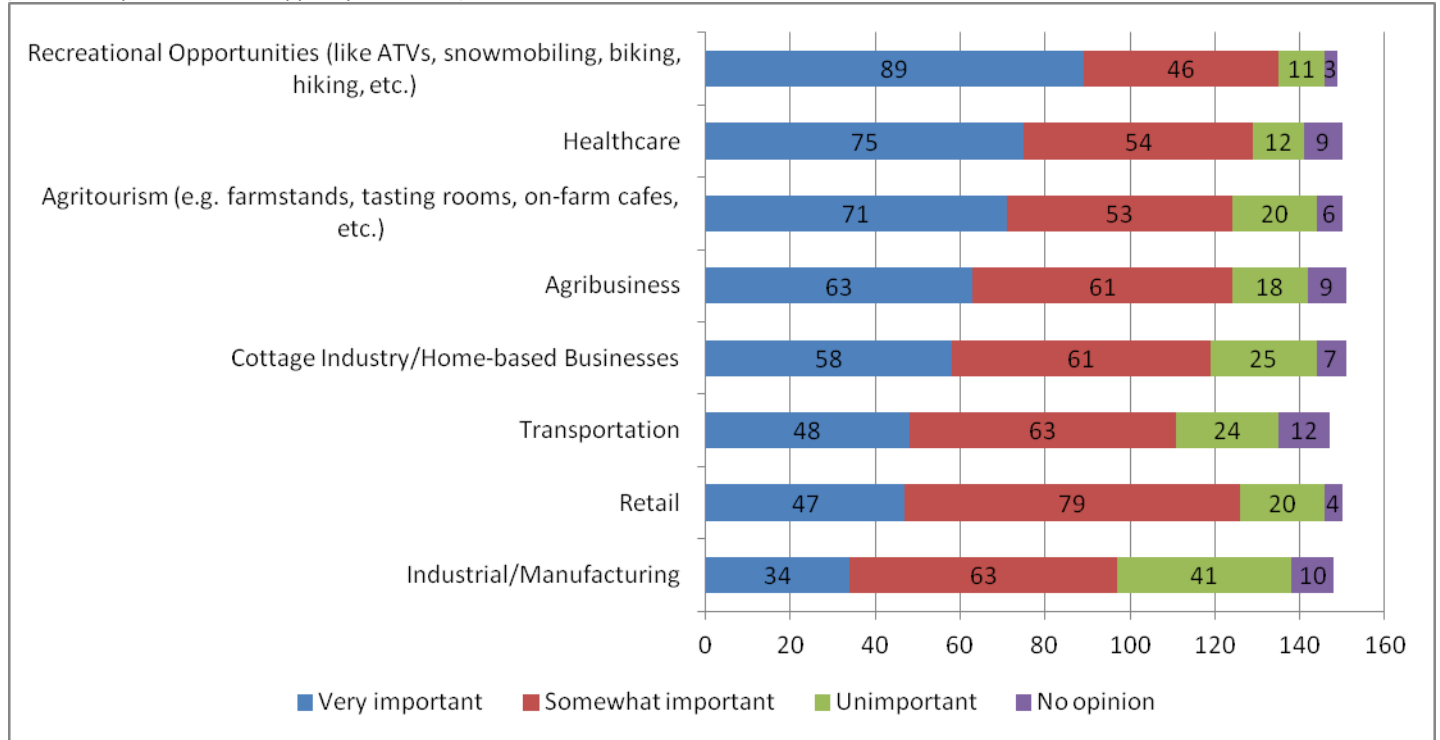


When "S" curves washed out 1970s/1980s  
 To the point that the state highways dept. came to investigate  
 1984 (2)  
 1973 (2), 1993  
 1970s flood  
 When there are ice jams  
 1968 not sure of date  
 Some years after ice and snow melting  
 2014  
 No damage, just floods the fields  
 a couple years ago when 302 was closed near Fred Hayes Rd  
 Usually when Red Brook overflows onto 302 or if the Wells River at that point of intersection exceeds floodstage  
 Flash floods, Irene, May 2011  
 Occasional brief flash flooding during summer cloud bursts

# Economic Development

## 11. Please rank the following economic opportunities based on importance to you: (Check ONE for each category.)

(Answered question: 155; Skipped question: 10)



*Daily bus service to Barre*

*State Park*

*Agribusiness (if clean and follow regs), farmers' market, any "clean" enterprise (technology, service, law)*

*Restaurants. - dining options*

*Love the Groton farmers market*

*Abandoned/vacant houses*

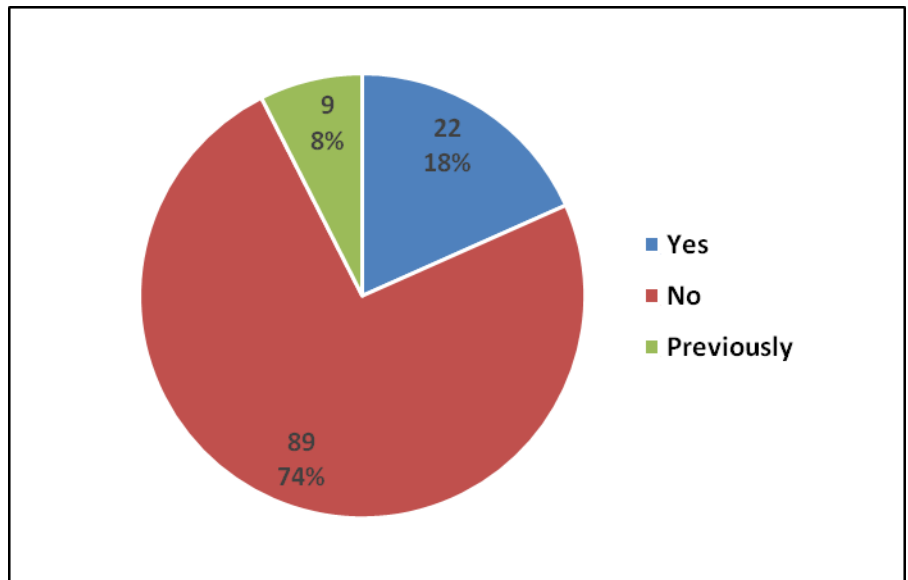
*education*

*ATV riding should be allowed*

*We do not need more farm stands or other tasting things, there is more important ways to spend the towns money than that. Just because a few middle to upper class want it does not mean they are in the majority*

**12. Do you operate a business in Groton, including home-based services such as childcare, or land-based enterprise, such as farming or logging?**

*(Note: Filtered to show Full-time residents only.  
Answered question: 120; Skipped question: 2)*



**13. Regarding your answer to #12....**

If YES – Please describe your business.

If NO – Is there something that prevents you from opening a business?

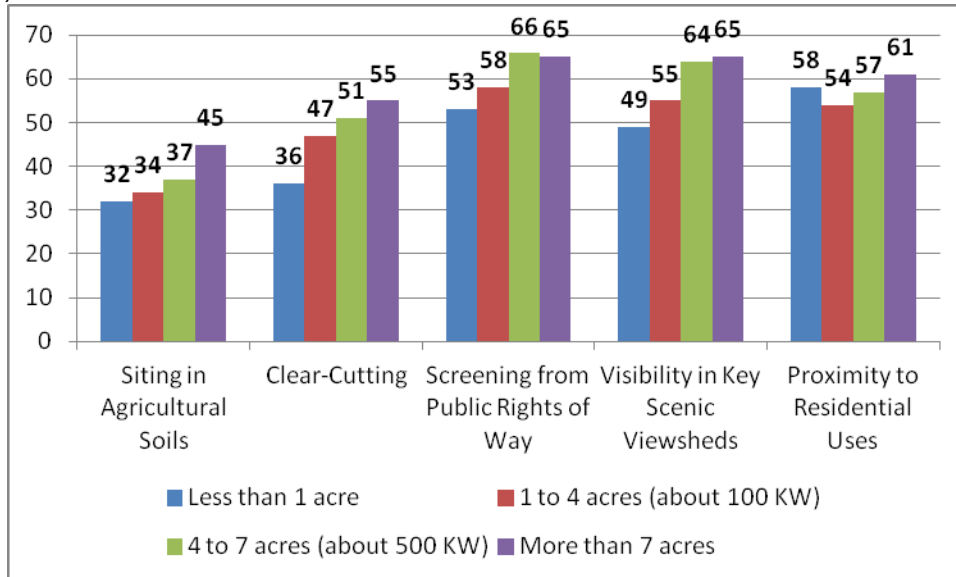
If previously – What caused you to cease operations?

If YES....	If No....	If Previously...
Trucking (2)	Already employed elsewhere (4)	Old age
Logging and/or sawmill (4)	Taxes	childcare, farming, logging.
Vacation rentals (2)	Not enough demand in town (3)	previously, all and IDK
Web design	No interest or time (4)	Money and overhead (2)
Wholesale distribution	Money/capital (4)	Taxes (2)
Auto/Auto repair (2)	Excessive regulations (i.e. zoning, state) (5)	Intermittent nature of business
Retail (including online) (2)	No interest in retail management	
Renovations cabinet making	Taxes (2)	
Counseling, instruction or consulting (3)	Retired/age	
Non profit	Health issues	
Artesano Mead and Ice Cream	Need health insurance	
Cleaning		
Taxidermy		
Beef farm		

## Energy

### 14. Do you think Groton's Town Plan should have siting standards for solar fields based on the following scale? (Check all that apply.)

(Answered question: 118 Skipped question: 47)



*Wrote Never and No! in all other columns.*

*Make it community - not private company*

*Should be voted on by the people (2)*

*Based on local needs and economic benefit*

*None -- no more solar in the town.*

*The plan should require consideration (using common sense) of all the above standards for any sized project.*

*question is confusing - check the ones where standards should apply? is acreage lot size or size of renewable energy field?*

*Not a big fan of solar. Have no thoughts either way.*

*We need energy from solar panels; I don't mind seeing them even in scenic viewsheds, if it can't be avoided.*

*So they are not visible to the roadways or homeowners*

*no clear cutting*

*They are an eye-sore and not that efficient to destroy prime land.*

*We have enough. No more*

*what difference would it make we already have 2*

*Siting standards should not be used as a means to discourage solar projects, they should help to site them appropriately to benefit the whole community*

*Don't understand the question*

*Question is confusing; Allow solar everywhere*

*Have the renewable energy credit been sold?*

*if there are solar fields keep them away from the roads and out of site they are an eye soar and take away from our towns beauty*

*Not in favor of solar fields. I have been involved in Massachusetts within the Permitting and inspection process since its popularity and I am very aware of the negativity surrounding solar*

*Open fields, out of vision on no more than 2 acres, not agricultural or clear cuts, away from water*

sources

*I do not believe or endorse solar fields. I believe they ruin the rural character of the town*

*MUST PROVIDE BOND FOR REMOVAL. (Solar panels are TOXIC and must have a removal payment plan.*

*None*

*The one east of town looks like hell*

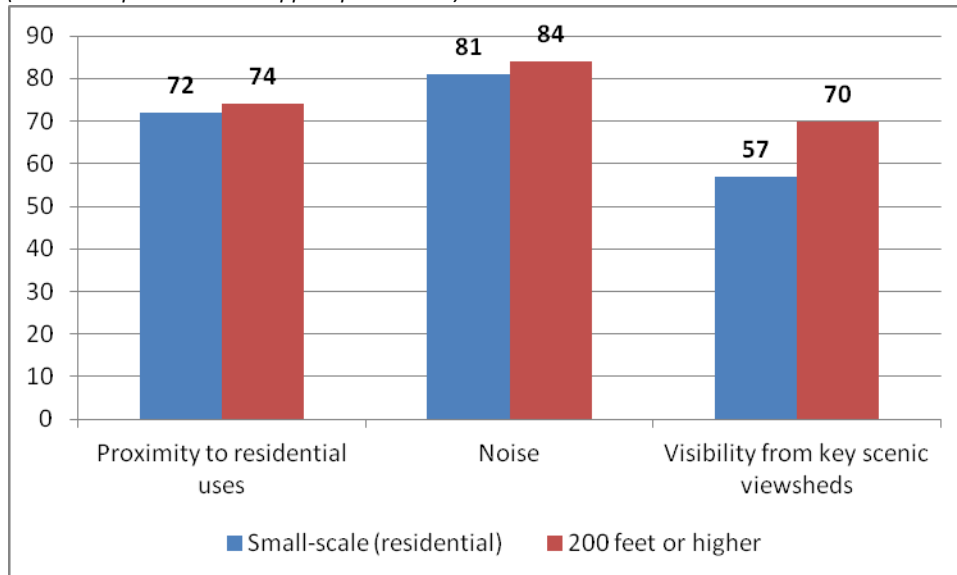
*Solar development should have maximum town support*

*These are ugly and ruin vt landscape small return on investment*

*Solar fields are unsightly and should not be in sight, the one that is on the way into Groton should not have been placed there it is in a most inconvenient place and do not enhance the towns appearance.*

**15. Should Groton's town plan have siting standards for wind projects based on the following scale? (Check all that apply.)**

(Answered question: 114 Skipped question: 51)



*Wind farms*

*Migratory flight and trail paths should be examined*

*No wind (4)*

*Should be voted on by the people (2)*

*Effect on wildlife populations*

*No big wind farms in town. (2)*

*The plan should require consideration (using common sense) of all the above standards for any sized project.*

*Not an issue for us*

*I don't mind the sight of windmills, but would like to know more about the noise disturbance. I have read about complaints.*

*So they are not near residential areas because of the noise*

*see above. They permanently destroy ridgetops for little benefit. We will look back at this in the not too distant future and realize it was a grave mistake.*

*For me it is not the view of the wind project that is intrusive, but what has, or will be damaged in the process, new roads, clear cuts, waterways, of water table during construction.*

*Interference with wildlife migration/habitat*

*you are going to do what you want anyway*

*Siting standards should not be used as a means to discourage wind projects, they should help to site them appropriately to benefit the whole community*

*same*

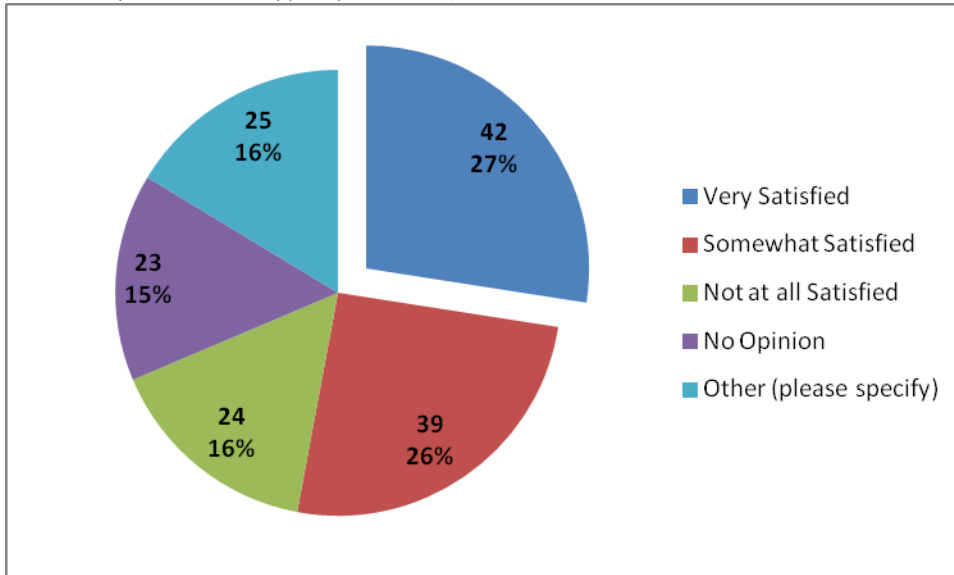
*Question is confusing; allow wind everywhere*



if they are too loud then no  
 NOT AT ALL, useful, however it ruins mountain tops and tramples on hiking, camping activities.  
 MUST PROVIDE BOND FOR REMOVAL - (look at the eyesore abandoned wind towers in Hawaii)  
 None  
 maximum support by town  
 These are ugly and ruin vt landscape small return on investment

**16. In the wake of state-mandated recycling, how satisfied are you with the current, shared recycling program with Groton/Ryegate? (Please check one.)**

(Answered question: 153 Skipped question: 12)

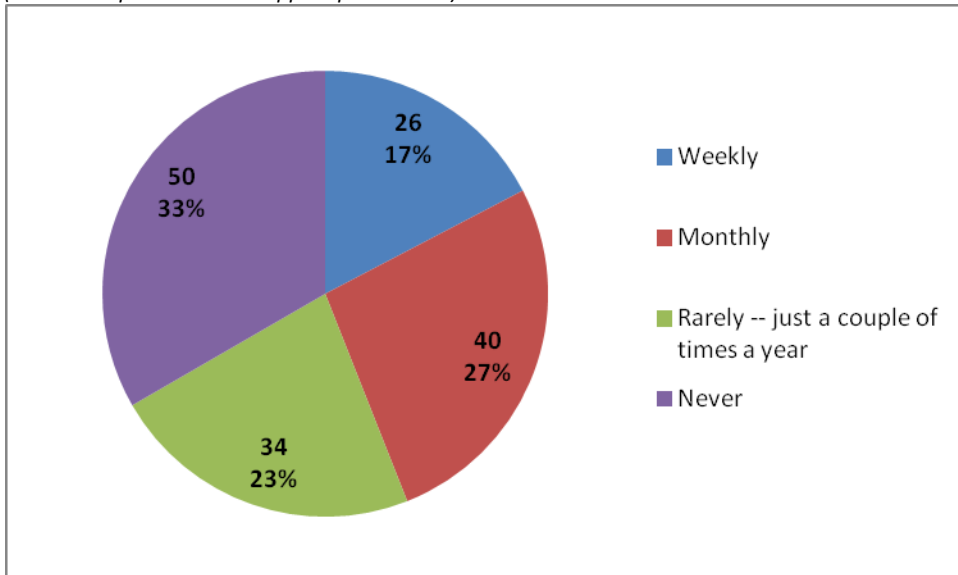


**OTHER:**

There needs to be a sub station  
 Would like to see ability to recycle more products  
 Would prefer more plastics to be accepted. Staff is excellent at recycling.  
 They have stopped taking all recyclable materials because of oil prices. How do we recycle the balance?  
 The distance most often cited (especially from West Groton). (9)  
 Go to Barre  
 Curbside pickup would be nice. Zero-sort system of some type.  
 Need to be able to recycle everything.  
 We have one of the best collection systems in the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management towns.  
 It would be better if it was no-sort  
 How does it work?  
 recycling in this area is extremely limited in availability or expensive as offered by private companies  
 non resident  
 Would be nice if it were a no sort  
 Not satisfied, until separate bins are provided by type; paper, plastic, aluminum, glass, batteries, computers, paint/s.  
 Limited hours  
 Have not used

**17. Do you currently use the shared recycling program? (Please check one).**

(Answered question: 150 Skipped question: 15)

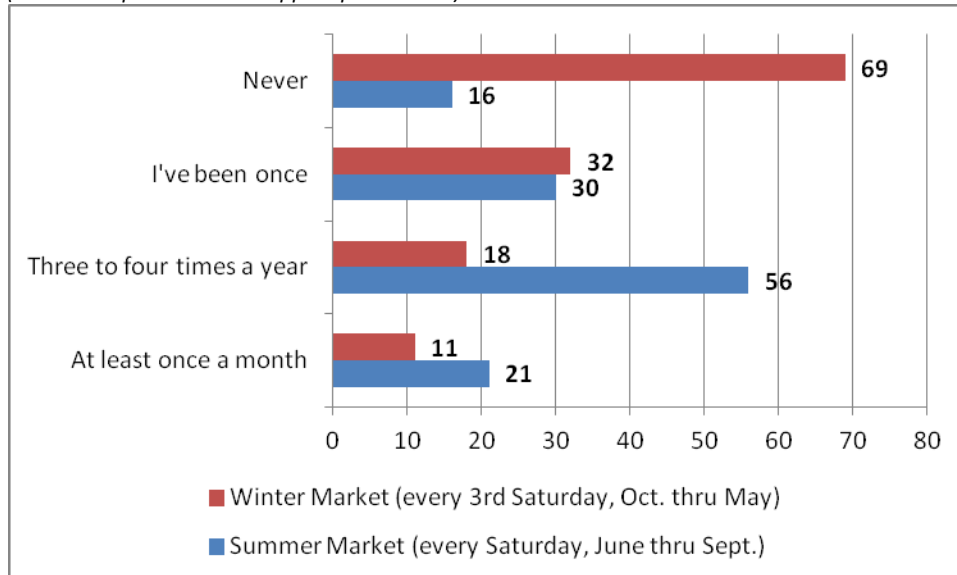


**Please tell us what would help you use it more often:**

- More convenient location - needs to be closer (23)
- Better hours (4)
- More information (don't know about it) (5)
- Curbside pickup (3)
- See a return on investment at the town level. Why are we paying to recycle?  
It works!
- Don't need to recycle more than usual
- Nothing -- all good!
- Need to fix the plastic recycling scale #s.
- Zero sort bins.
- When I have a car load to go. I love to know I can have a place to take my things besides a dump.
- We wait until we have a load to save travel.
- if we were living there full time
- More time in Groton!
- No sort bins
- A local drop off point, that is single stream.
- There needs to be affordable pickup of all types of recycling, unsorted as well as compostable, so citizens do not need to expend gasoline in order to recycle, devote space in their homes to build up recycling materials and conform their schedules to comply with limited times when recycling centers are open.
- When I retire there if I will be able to afford Vermont by then
- It's a mix of recycled items, creating nothing but trash
- Don't need more frequently
- We are seasonal / vacation residents so we pack recycling out.

## 18. Do you visit the Groton Growers Market?

(Answered question: 151 Skipped question: 14)

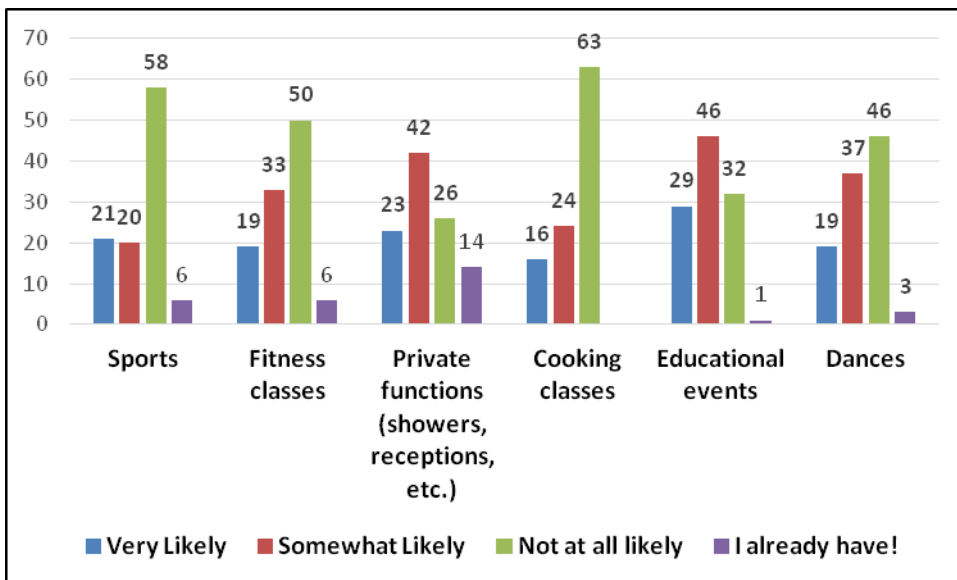


What would make you more likely to visit the SUMMER market?	Winter market?
Knowing what's available	Knowing what'
New to the area. Have not had time. Plan to attend and visit.	New to the area. Have not had time. Plan to attend and visit.
Just time	Just time
More food for less clams	More food for less clams
If it was open longer and/or open on different days ( I typically work during those hours)	If I knew when it was open.
Lower prices, more vendors.	Lower prices, more vendors.
Retirement	I didn't know about it.
Longer hours	
Can't think of any reason to go there.	No reason to go there.
lower prices	lower prices
More parking	Easier parking -- At least once month for WINTER -- must fix!
	The prices would be less than they are. I would need a ride.
More variety of vendors.	More variety of vendors.
More time in Groton!	More time in Groton!
I would be more likely to visit on a weekday.	
A person who was involved is no longer involved	
	less cold weather!
More agricultural products, less other	
More Produce	
If they change it so it is avail. during the week	If they change it so it is avail. during the week
week nights are better. weekend are too precious	
	More vendors
If I was there more often I would visit more often	
We do plan to visit. Great initiative	We do plan to visit. Great initiative
If I could visit when it is convenient for me and not have to interact with people from whom I do not want to purchase anything.	if it was a store with a reliable supply of products I know I want

proximity	none
More vegetable vendors	
more flowers, more healthy selection of baked goods, more fruits	More variety; more crafts, more used goods for a cause
I think it's a great event, but we are often so busy on Saturdays	I think it's a great event, we are often so busy on Saturdays
nothing	nothing
Time	
Same vendors - limited amount of vendors	More vendors - different variety of products
Normal business hours	normal business hours
Cheap, cheap, cheap...grocery stores charge too much for out of state/nations degrading them through transportation	Cheaper
I am not in town often enough	
	more veggies
knowing the time its open	Knowing the time its open
We know of the market and would like to visit in the future.	
longer hours	longer hours
in a more accessible place with parking creating less congestion.	
I forget about it	I forget about it
Availability of products and scheduling.	Availability of products and scheduling.

**19. How likely would you use the Community Building for the following functions? (Please check ONE for each category:**

*(Note: Full-time reported separately from part-time, since interest levels varied between the populations.)*

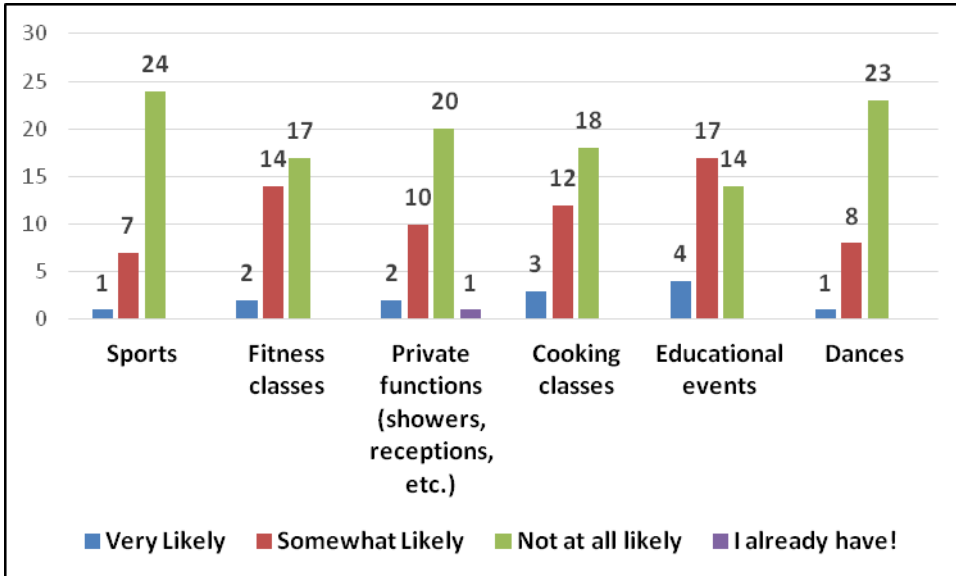


*Full-time only -- Answered question: 110 Skipped question: 12)*

**Other:**

- Great opportunity.
- Town Meeting!
- Replace church with a community day once a month with music, TED talk and food
- Movies
- Youth open gym programs
- Vaudeville.
- It would be great if we could use the stage for theater events
- theater
- Great service and asset

community events like pi day, halloween party  
 Town potluck  
 swap meets, flea market  
 Teenage events on daily basis to divert them from using drugs/alcohol, most important  
 NEED  
 Concerts; movies



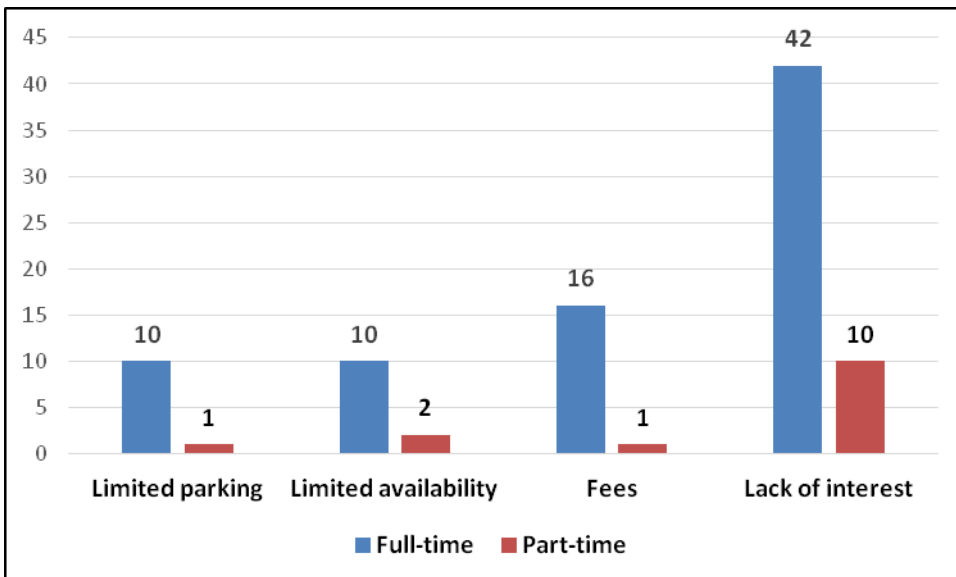
Part-time only -- Answered question: 35 Skipped question: 7)

**Comment:**

Seasonal / vacation residents; not much need for these offerings.

**20. What prevents you from using the Community Building? (Check all that apply.)**

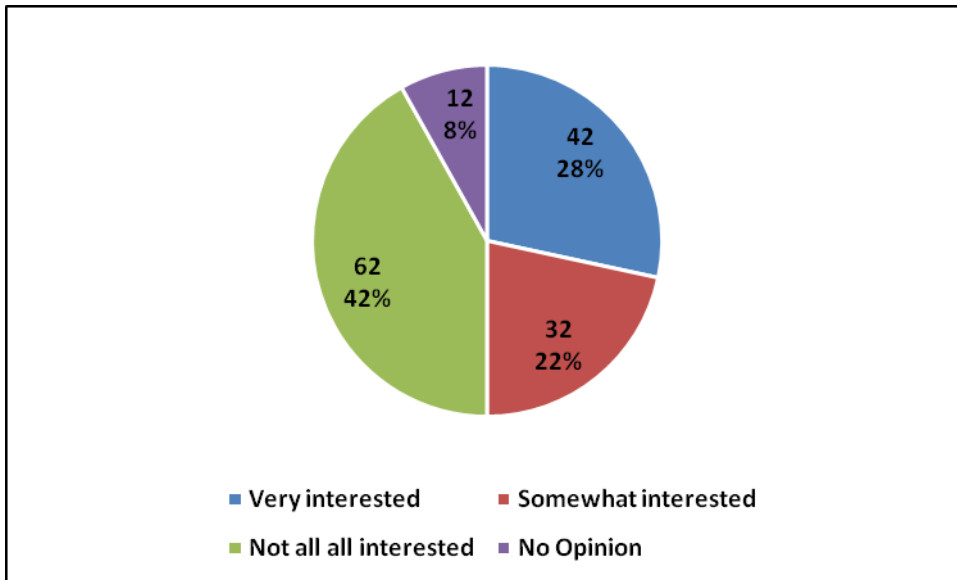
(Answered question: 125 Skipped question: 40)



No Need (8)  
 Time (3)  
 Lack of conference/small meeting area  
 When there are events I use it. Wish there were more classes (fitness), etc.

Too many limitations noise, drinking, etc.  
Working  
It's just stupid to keep paying for the gym.  
New to community  
Greater use of the community building will increase your emergency services response time.  
I only go when I need to.  
Part time resident  
not living there full time  
I need more time in Groton!  
Part-time Resident  
My property is a camp primarily used for recreation  
sole caretaker of parent with dementia  
my age.  
liability  
Not a full time resident,  
Nothing  
I have no event  
Nothing prevents me  
only live here on weekends unfortunately. Might be full time someday  
no reason  
none  
Seasonal campers on Groton Pond  
Other commitments  
no events planned that we can attend. Love the October supper.  
nothing  
time  
Part time resident  
it used to be that you could call anytime and get the gym within days, now you have to call a month out  
to get the gym  
not retired yet  
I visit when I can.  
do not live in Groton  
don't know what's offered  
Not enough events I would/could attend on weekends  
appearance  
sluggish motivation  
No alcohol permitted in building/parking lot

**21. Based on past town discussion and a wide range of community response, how interested would you be in expanding research into further opening of select town roads for ATV use?**



(Answered question: 148 Skipped question: 17)

**Comments:**

Why not?

Do NOT want roads opened to ATVs. (3)

Make trails first

Do not [want?] ATVs on our roads. Why have ATVs ride on roads that have minimal maintenance?

I don't want ATVs on my road.

No more ATVs!

Keep them off public roadways -- they may cross where designated, but I shouldn't have to move my vehicles from my side of the road because they are speeding down the road.

More ATV accidents and need for emergency services.

A responsible plan should be on the table.

I am a senior. Too old for ATVs.

You people have tried to have ATV on several occasions before and have failed. So drop it already!!!

Would be very interested if the interest is maximum safety with thorough regulation, tough and thorough enforcement, and should consider age limits, licensed drivers, and purchased permits if need to pay for enforcement.

They shouldn't have them because of too much noise and it would ruin the road.

No law enforcement -- and no liability. Tearing around half the night and day.

We are opposed to having our Quiet Groton changed

Depends on local owner buy-in for roads slated for use.

Keep them on own land or land you have permission to ride

I feel they are loud, and make a negative impact on the environment, causing erosion and generally litter

NO ATVS AT ALL ANYWHERE!!!!!! Only on trails in the woods.

respect landowners.

never

Our road is already strewn with empty beer cans and soda cups. If ATV'ers want to be taken seriously, let them do organized clean-up days at the beginning and end of a season, with a prize for most trash hauled out.

More use for expansion for fat bike usage

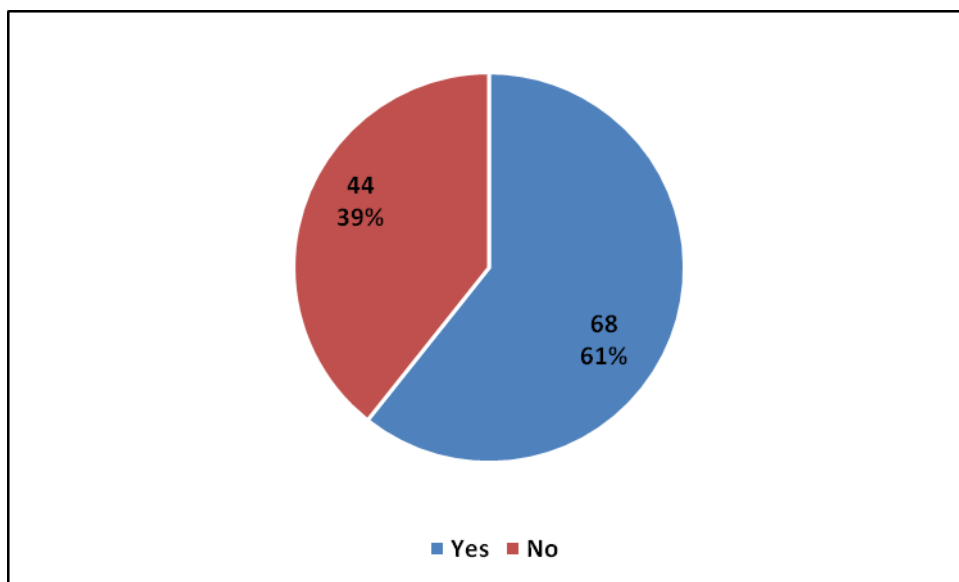
Great family activity activity

as long as they didnt tear up the roads

I am in favor of an ATV trail system like New Hampshire has. In fact we go to New Hampshire and spend our out of state dollars there for that reason without tearing up the trails  
 Another activity for ATV certified drivers (teenagers)  
 No snow this year hurt.... Always dirt in the summer!  
 There needs to be speeded enforcement for me to agree to it.  
 Property on Class IV road; concerned about increased use and maintenance of road and also trespassers.  
 Need to form a club  
 It is a great, inexpensive family fun activity that if thought out and planned well, I think could be a great asset to the towns local business'.

**22. Based on past town discussion and a wide range of community response, how interested would you be in expanding research into further opening of select town roads for ATV use?**

(Full-time only. Answered question: 112 Skipped question: 10)



**Comments:**

Work conflict (21)  
 Because it is a waste of time.  
 Too many out-of-state opinions and wasting time on small problems.  
 When not working  
 Sometimes.  
 Open prayer.  
 Friendly. People care.  
 Decent parking. All cut and dried. Should be by Australian ballot.  
 sole caretaker of parent with dementia  
 Past response to a problem from council  
 list sometimes. during working hours /divisive commentary  
 lack of childcare.  
 everything is all settled before the meeting starts  
 loi  
 Whereas I respect people's belief in and use of prayer, I don't feel welcome in an environment where people want to mix prayer with civic government functions.  
 time  
 Haven't for a long time, lack of interest!  
 Drama (screaming kids, fight over prayer, etc.)  
 when, time



Not registered voter here yet  
when it is convenient.  
Only last couple of years, prior to that, lack of interest.

### **23. Please tell us what makes Groton a special place for you.**

Answered question: 119 Skipped question: 46)

Its HOME

People and rural feel.

Well run, beautiful community.

The people! and the privacy.

Know most everybody, a lot of relatives live here.

It's my home, which I love.

My adopted home.

Family

I've grown up in Groton. We are a small community and as a small community, everyone knows each other.

The library, the historical society, the fall foliage festival, the summer music in the park, the lake/beach, campground/hiking trail, the Upper Valley Grill, THE PEOPLE

Senior Meals/The Bistro

The Meadery

Groton Tire and Auto

Most of the people.

Nature

Church, library, sense of community for each

Where we live in Groton is special and the people of Groton.

Small community, availability of outdoor recreation

Fall Festival

Library

Access to Lake

the people

It's where I grew up. It may be small and there may not be a whole lot for the younger crowd, but it's a great place to live and I can't imagine living anywhere else.

The planning commission

The people

Recreation - woods, lakes, etc.

The woods.

Safe clean home.

People are very friendly.

The forest and the lake

Community events.

Born and raised and family born and raised here.

Being a friendly town.

Quiet -- laid back.

All the beautiful vistas. Conservation land, lack of commercialism.

Reminds me of when I was growing up. The smallness.

the people

It's home.

It's a wonderful community.

It's a nice town.

I have family here and have lived in this area my whole life.

It's not anymore -- taxes are too high! Too many "big city" ideas are moving into Groton with too many city people coming with ideas.

The good people. Rural environment. Community involvement.

It's a small town. Makes it like family.

Because I have lived here for 30 years, my family was here, and now I am here and I like to be near there they're buried. I also have lots of friends and my church is here.

Groton is like a family.

Our home and the landscape.

The people, the landscape, the parks and lakes. Love the Groton motto: Wh

ere a small town is like a large family!!!

Clean air, clean water, nice neighbors, ability to grow a large garden

Good community. Recreation options, easy access to swimming, boating, fishing. Hiking, cycling

family that have been here since the town was chartered

Its scenic beauty

We LOVE it there! Quiet, peaceful small town setting

Family has been on the pond for generations

It's where my family is originally from.

its nice & quite & peaceful

Wonderful neighbors and natural beauty.

Friendly small community

Location and recreation.

The lake and family

I love Groton for the small community feeling

Nature environment, woods, hills, lakes

Serenity, true honest people, beautiful surroundings, natural resources untouched

Quiet, pastoral village without the noise and relentless distraction of an urban area.

Owned property there for 40 years and visited friends there for 10 years before that

Rural setting, devoted community members, privacy

Proximity to recreational activities. Friendly Residents

Great place for snowmobiling, its peaceful and private place to live

it feels like home

CAMRADERIE, SCENIC VIEWS

It's people and how willing they are to help out when you need them.

Sense of community, coming together whenever needed

small town community

It's small, quiet & friendly

very quiet and peaceful place to live

love my land, nice people

lifelong home /state forest

Quiet place enjoy living here.

I really enjoy the friendly people, have made some very good friends in the past 9 years. Compared to CT. Things seem to be accomplished in a simple but concerned way.

It is my home and where I grew up.

I grew up here and there is a wonderful sense of community.

It is not special any longer, can't wait to get out. Too noisy and too many drug dealers around and welfare recipients.

It is a single village community that looks forward and collectively to solve issues

it isn't

The people and the land

I think "Where a small town is like a large family" sums it up nicely

tranquil and beautiful retreat from the rat race

the mtns. rica pond, lake groton, upper valley grille.

It is a welcoming community with lots going on. I especially appreciate the library and the Groton Forest recreation.

Peaceful and quite.  
homestead  
Seasonal Home for our extended family for over 100 years.  
grew up here  
Small town. Clean and safe. Nice library.  
wild turkeys (and sometimes an owl) out my window.  
Beautiful, quiet  
Great people, great get away, peaceful and quiet  
nature  
Small community beautiful resources  
The people  
The lake's peacefulness and the wildlife.  
It's peaceful here, good people, lots of hiking, biking, swimming.  
Small town as I have a home in the city also  
mild country side, quiet community  
We are part time now, but plan to be full time residents by 2018.  
its a small community with lots of nice people, and great veivs.  
The friends I have made there over the past 30 years.  
The people  
its a small town that like a big family  
It's not, has no services besides Groton forest run by the state.  
Friendly people and there when you need them. Small town attitude.  
Been a non-resident homeowner in Groton for over 30 years. Came to the town for the great deer  
hunting and have since greatly enjoyed all types of outdoor recreation that the town and the state has to  
offer. WQe hunt,fish, snowmobile , ski, shop eat, etc. all over the state. Raising my 2 sons allowed us to  
show them the positive sides to being able to visit a town like Groton.  
We have made so many friends and consider Groton our second home  
Groton is a small town where everyone care about one another and is very helpful  
Family & frennds  
The rural life  
small friendly  
Small town rural quite area.  
small town feel, people take care of one another  
Beautiful and affordable land; access to hiking trails and presence of state-protected land. Friendly  
neighbors and business people. A place to get away from it all.  
State Forest, small town, snowmobiling and the Lakes and campgrounds.  
Quiet, state forest, people in town get together to make a project happen without raising taxes.  
I enjoy Groton for its small town features, I would prefer to travel to places then to be forces to live in an  
area with to much congestion.  
Proximity and access to natural settings; privacy; the Library; the multitude of state campgrounds; a  
strong core of residents dedicated to being of help to the town; active resident involvement in town  
meeting; small size; creative residential population (artists/builders/musicians/craftspeople/gardeners,  
etc.)  
It really is true, "It's like a large family" When a known family is in need, the town pulls together to help.  
This is a bit less with the apartments coming in as people don't always know one another as much  
anymore. But Fall Foliage Day says it all to see that play out is what Groton is all about.  
My roots are here.....Growing up here and then choosing to raise my own family here as well says it is  
a special place for me:)  
It still feels like small town America.

## **24. If you could change ONE thing about Groton, what would it be?**

Answered question: 112 Skipped question: 53)

### **Open ended responses by category:**

### **Need for beautification (18 responses): Examples:**

I would have standards for how houses/yards should look in the center of town.

The community could create/enforce an ordinance for unsightly property in town limits.

Clean up the junk around houses

Trees along Main Street.

Doing something with the derelict properties

Trash, refuse, wreckage, junk in the occasional yard.

For the Town of Groton to be able to prevent clear cutting of trees to people who purchase land. The cutting of trees on Goodfellow Road looks terrible and I wish the Town of Groton could have had a say in not allowing this to happen.

Trees along Main Street.

### **More businesses and employment opportunities in town (18 responses): Examples:**

We could have more stores and more things to do here.

Have a grocery store again.

Spread the word to attract new homeowners and businesses.

Having space to have a second hand shop for buying needed items.

More local employment opportunities, most people have to leave town for work.

More food and some retail options.

I would love to see a hardware store

Add a general store.

Add a restaurant

That there was more employment for our towns people.

I would encourage limited industrial businesses to locate in Groton - this would assist in lowering taxes - i.e. businesses pay taxes but have not children - school taxes continue to rise and the taxes on business would help offset the cost to the residents/non-resident taxpayers.

A small grocery store needed. There were three of them when I moved here many years ago.

### **More recreational and social opportunities in town (10 responses): Examples:**

More social opportunities for families, singles, etc. Classes (fitness, etc.) Dances

Would love to see an ice skating rink in the winter.

I think that fees for the state forest properties e.g. Lake Seyon should be waived for town residents.

ATV or UTV use

Developed public and free access to the Groton and Ricker Ponds, especially for residents.

There would be a teen/family place available like a YMCA:)

it would be nice to have an activity like mini golf or ice skating near the village for families to use.

more fitness classes/wellness activities.

### **More or better services (13 responses): Examples:**

No sidewalks! Parking for community building -- events, etc. and fire dept members. Access to fire station when there is an emergency. Needs to be addressed. (Sidewalks mentioned three times)

There should be more attention shown to the backroads. They are sometimes, knowingly left in terrible condition. (roads mentioned twice)

Postal service

Streetlights in the Village limits.

An in-Groton place to dump brush. We have no such place on our property, and miss the stump dump.

transportation

Community building moved to new location or just build a new big public safety building that could do function of community building and fire station. Other issues: Municipal water system, residential sprinkler ordinance, need for volunteers for EMS and fire.

More Saturday library hours

Have a recycling drop-off just outside town.

Parking for events Groton has the most unsafe practices when it comes to large events and does little to enforce safety during these times. Our little town is not so little anymore

### **Lower taxes (12 responses):**

### **More involvement, especially with local governance (7 responses): Examples:**

Make the decision process more inclusive

transparency from the Selectboard and wish people got more involved in the town issues.

Increase in number of people involved in working for the town and its future.

The politics.

Improve volunteerism

More organization, pushing to include all of Groton residents and not just a select few.

## **Better cell service (5 responses)**

### **Concerns about low-income housing (4 responses) Example:**

Less low income housing. Too many subsidized housing opportunities create an unstable tax base and a greater burden is placed on the backs of property owners.

### **School concerns (3 responses) Example:**

Information is untimely, poorly researched and vague/not useful for strategic decisions.

School choice

School taxes are out of control (This response was also categorized under taxes.)

### **Social inclusiveness (3 responses)**

Not everybody has or wants a computer so what are they (the other people) suppose to do to find out? Let's have some more face-to-face communications.

Encourage our people to bring a wider range of activities to the town using their skills and interests perhaps by making facilities such as the community buildings, parks, and library easily available.

Racial bigotry