



WILTON, CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

DECEMBER 2018

Prepared for:
The Town of Wilton, CT

Prepared by:
The Center for Research & Public Policy, Inc.



STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY AND OWNERSHIP

All of the analyses, findings and recommendations contained within this report are the exclusive property of the Town of Wilton, CT.

As required by the Code of Ethics of the National Council on Public Polls and the United States Privacy Act of 1974, The Center for Research and Public Policy maintains the anonymity of respondents to surveys the firm conducts. No information will be released that might, in any way, reveal the identity of the respondent.

Moreover, no information regarding these findings will be released without the written consent of an authorized representative of the Town of Wilton, CT.

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Survey Instrument
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1 INTRODUCTION

The Center for Research & Public Policy (CRPP) is pleased to present the results to a 2018 Community Survey for the Town of Wilton, CT. The survey was conducted to collect input about quality of life, and your opinions about open space, natural resources, business and residential development, and community facilities.

The research study included 404 completed survey responses from Wilton, CT residents.

The survey was conducted December 4 - 17, 2018.

The survey included the following areas for investigation:

- **Quality of living in Wilton;**
- **Managing Wilton demographics for success;**
- **Views on conservation and preservation issues;**
- **Support for new, higher density or diverse housing options;**
- **Support for developing along Route 7, Wilton Center and Cannondale;**
- **Views on improving traffic and pedestrian/bike opportunities;**
- **Perceptions of increasing economic development in town;**
- **Views on setting overall priorities for programs and projects; and**
- **Demographics.**

Section 2 of this report discusses the Methodology used in the study, while Section 3 includes Highlights derived from an analysis of the quantitative research. Section 4 is a Summary of Findings from the survey.

Section 5 is an Appendix to the report containing the composite aggregate data, cross tabulations and the survey instrument employed.

METHODOLOGY

Using a quantitative research design, CRPP received 404 completed phone surveys among Wilton, CT residents.

Survey input was provided by the Town of Wilton, CT.

Survey design is a careful, deliberative process to ensure fair, objective and balanced surveys. Staff members, with years of survey design experience, edit out any bias. Further, all scales used by CRPP (either numeric, such as one through ten, or wording such as strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree) are balanced evenly. Additionally, placement of questions is carefully accomplished so that order has minimal impact.

All telephone interviews were conducted during December 4 - 17, 2018. Residents were contacted between 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. weekdays and 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on Saturdays. Respondents qualified for the survey if they were a current resident or land owner of Wilton and were 18 years of age or older.

All facets of the study were completed and managed by CRPP's senior staff and researchers. These aspects included: survey design, sample plan design, pretest, computer programming, fielding, coding, editing, verification, validation and logic checks, computer analysis, analysis, and report writing.

All population-based surveys conducted by CRPP are approximately proportional to population contributions within states, towns, and known census tract, group blocks and blocks. This distribution ensures truly representative results without significant under-or-over representation of various geographic or demographic groups within a sampling frame.

CRPP utilized a “super random digit” sampling procedure, which derives a working telephone sample of both listed and unlisted telephone numbers. This method of sample selection eliminates any bias toward only listed telephone numbers. Additionally, this process allows randomization of numbers, which equalizes the probability of qualified respondents being included in the sampling frame. A “mixed access” sample of both cell and landline phone numbers was utilized.

Statistically, a sample of 404 completed surveys has an associated margin for error of +/- 4.8% at a 95% confidence level.

Results throughout this report are presented for composite results – all 404 cases.

Cross tabulations of data were developed and are included with this report. These compare core survey questions by demographic subgroups such as: number of years in Wilton, rent or own housing, age, residents with /without children, income and gender.

Readers of this report should note that any survey is analogous to a snapshot in time and results are only reflective of the time in which the survey was undertaken. Should concerted public relations or information campaigns be undertaken during or shortly after the fielding of the survey, the results contained herein may be expected to change and should be, therefore, carefully interpreted and extrapolated.

Each qualified resident who lives in Wilton had an equal chance for participating in the study. Statistical random error, however, can never be eliminated but may be significantly reduced by increasing sample size.

3 HIGHLIGHTS

ON QUALITY OF LIFE

The leading reason cited for choosing Wilton as home or continuing to live in Wilton was the community education system (43.1%). This was followed by location (13.4%), and birthplace/family (10.4%).

Impressively, 92.4% of all residents surveyed, reported their own quality of life living in Wilton as very good or good. Just 1.4% offered poor (1.2%) or very poor (0.2%). Some, 6.2%, were neutral in their view of their own quality of life in Wilton.

In an open-end format question opportunity to suggest issues or problems the Town of Wilton should focus on, 29.0% offered “taxes and spending are too high”. This was followed by the lack of amenities (18.6%), the need to revitalize appearance (6.9%) and more recreation (5.7%).

ON FUTURE TOWN DEMOGRAPHICS

There exists strong agreement for several initiatives related to Wilton’s population diversity. There was strongly agreement (strongly or somewhat) with the following:

- Wilton should do more to attract and retain families – 86.1%
- Wilton should do more to allow “empty-nesters” and seniors to retire in town – 84.9%
- Wilton should do more to attract and retain younger adults – 83.9%
- Wilton should do more to keep its population stable or growing – 83.4%

ON CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION

Majorities of respondents – ranging from 61.1% to 87.6% -- agreed with several statements related to protecting natural resources and open space within Wilton:

- The town should support improvements to open space and trails – 87.6%
- The town should do more to protect the quality and availability of aquifers – 76.7%
- The town should increase public education about natural resources protection and conservation – 73.3%
- The town should provide tax / zoning incentives for new development that includes energy conservation – 72.8%
- The town should engage in more conservation work programs – 67.3%
- The town should purchase underdeveloped available open space – 61.1%

There was strong agreement that the Town of Wilton should provide tax and zoning incentives to owners/developers who preserve historic structures (70.3%) and increasing regulatory protections for historic properties (64.9%).

Somewhat lower agreement was recorded for providing town funds to Historic Districts and the Properties Commission to promote preservation, grants, education and outreach (57.4%) and providing funding for the purchase of historic properties (43.1%).

ON RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

Three-fifths (60.6%) of all survey respondents supported (strongly or somewhat) adding higher density housing stock in town for younger residents, “empty nesters” and “age-in-place” residents.

Among the 60.6% in support of the higher density housing stock, levels of support for different locations varied somewhat. Strongest support was found for placing the new housing in Georgetown (86.6%), Wilton Center (80.8%), Danbury Road/Route 7 (79.2%) and transition areas abutting or adjacent to a village center or commercially-zoned areas (76.7%).

Less support was found higher density housing stock in Cannondale (71.8%) and rural or residentially-zoned areas (39.2%).

ON SPECIAL AREAS / ZONING DEVELOPMENT

Nearly two-thirds, 63.4%, suggested they agreed (strongly or somewhat) that they liked the way Wilton Center has developed to date.

The remaining respondents who disagreed, in an open-end format question, offered changes they would make to improve Wilton Center. The most frequently named suggestions included, in declining order: new shopping/businesses (39.5%), more vibrant and revitalized in New England tradition (10.8%), more walkable/sidewalks/pedestrian friendly (8.5%), new housing to attract residents (7.8%) and new diverse restaurants and bars (6.9%).

Those agreeing that they like the way three various sections of Danbury Road/Route 7 have developed to date ranged from 57.2% to 50.5%.

The remaining respondents who disagreed, in another open-end format question, offered changes they would make to improve Danbury Road/Route 7. The most frequently named suggestions included, in declining order: more economic development/fill empty spaces/more businesses/small businesses (27.0%), fix traffic/less traffic/traffic planning (18.9%), beautification (10.8%), and add housing (9.4%).

More than three-quarters of all respondents (78.0%), agreed (strongly or somewhat) with developing Cannondale with a mixture of more housing and more businesses in a village-type pattern with preservation in mind.

Those who would like to see further development in Cannondale were asked what they would like to see in an open-end format question. The most frequently mentioned development included, in declining order: adding retail businesses (33.1%), adding residential housing (19.9%), and adding restaurants (15.2%). Other mentions with less frequency included: restoration, beautification, fill up spaces, more enticing/inviting, more recreation, more family activities and more signage.

ON TRANSPORTATION

Residents offered their input on priorities for improvements to traffic, pedestrian, bike or rail/bus transportation infrastructure in Wilton.

Improving pedestrian connections topped their list (56.9%). This was followed by improving traffic and safety on Danbury Road/Route 7 (48.5%), improving bicycle connections (46.5%), improving the frequency and reliability of rail service on the Danbury branch (44.8%) and improving road maintenance (40.8%).

ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A large majority, 88.1%, strongly (69.6%) or somewhat (18.6%) agreed that “Wilton should encourage additional business development in town”.

Further, in some areas, mostly majorities supported a few potential economic development initiatives knowing that each may require additional property taxes to implement.

These included:

- Reviewing and revising land-use regulations to encourage appropriate development – 58.4%
- Improving telecom and wireless/cell infrastructure and services – 57.9%
- Extending water, gas and sewer service in appropriate areas – 55.9%
- Hiring experts to help plan development in key areas – 52.7%
- Implementing town-wide marketing, branding and or lifestyle programs – 42.8%

ON OVERALL PRIORITIES

Ten different projects and programs that have been considered for Wilton were offered by researchers to respondents. Each resident was asked which of these should become priorities for the Town. Among the ten, majorities of residents named seven as top priorities:

- **Maintaining adequate funding for public school facilities and programs – 69.3%**
- **Creating additional sidewalks, bike trails and pathways – 63.6%**
- **Creating a River Walk along Norwalk River in Wilton Center – 59.2%**
- **Managing traffic – 58.7%**
- **Improving town open space, forests, preserves and trails – 54.5%**
- **Expand town services and facilities for seniors – 51.5%**
- **Improve town energy efficiency and resiliency to interruption – 50.5%**

4 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Readers are reminded that the narrative throughout this report refers to composite aggregate data from 404 resident surveys. Text, tables and graphs throughout this report present these composite results.

QUALITY OF LIFE

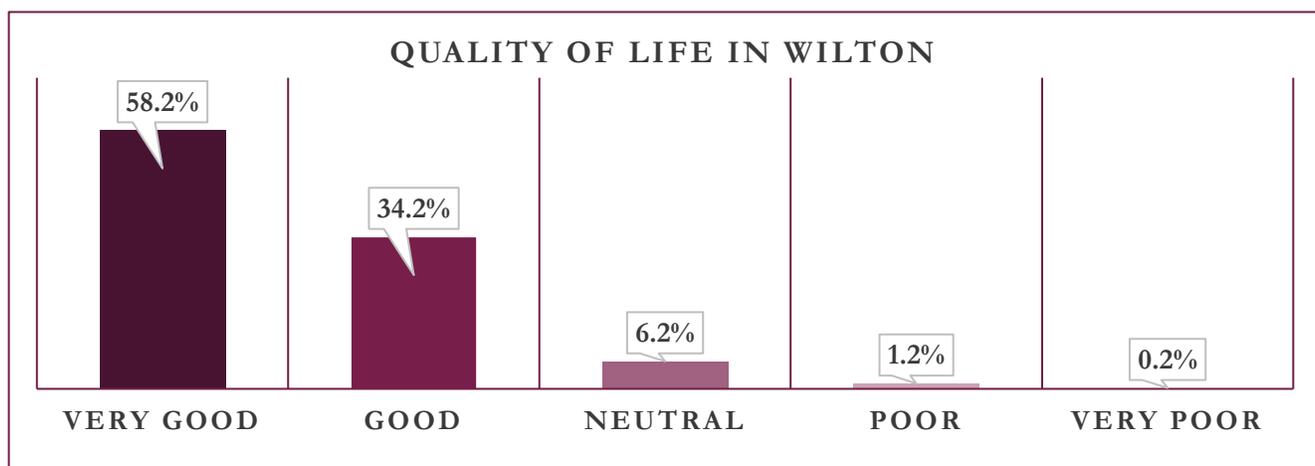
Respondents were asked to indicate the reason they chose to move to, or continue to live in, Wilton, CT. Over two-fifths of respondents, 43.1%, indicated the reason was for the community education system. Fewer respondents indicated location and Wilton as their birthplace or family nearby, 13.4% and 10.4%, respectively.

Results are displayed in the following table in declining order.

REASONS	PERCENT
Community education system	43.1
Location (close to work/close to highways/public transportation)	13.4
Other	11.6
Birthplace, family nearby	10.4
Housing (availability, quality, value, affordability, aesthetic)	7.4
Community appearance (town character / community feeling)	6.2
Community reputation	3.5
Natural environment, resources and open space	2.5
Community amenities and recreational facilities	1.0
DK/Unsure	1.0

Other, more infrequent, mentions included: special education, general affordability, employment, friends nearby, beauty of the area, lower taxes, quality of life, land for horses, more rural, town feel, athletics, and train parking.

Residents were asked to indicate their quality of life in Wilton. A large majority of respondents, 92.4%, indicated their quality of life was either very good or good. Just 1.4% indicated their quality of life was poor or very poor. Results are displayed in the following graph.



In an open-ended format question, all respondents were asked to provide two or three issues or problems the Town of Wilton should focus on in order to improve the quality of life in town. Almost one-third of mentions, 29.0%, indicated that taxes and spending are too high. The most frequently named responses are presented in the following table in declining order.

ISSUE OR PROBLEM	PERCENT OF 403 MENTIONS
Taxes and spending are too high	29.0
Lacks Amenities / needs businesses / needs restaurants / needs economic development	18.6
Revitalize appearance / needs village center / make more appealing / vibrant	6.9
More recreation / sports (family activities, skate rink, soccer, fields)	5.7
Improve public roads / lighting / clear trees	3.7
Senior housing needed, too expensive in town	3.5
Too commercial/overdevelopment/maintain character	3.4
Improve / maintain school quality	3.0
Improve traffic / traffic flow	2.7
Improve and support rail / train transit	2.5
Sidewalks / make more walkable /trails	2.5
Improve Route 7 – finish	2.2
More open space	1.7
Retain and attract younger residents / housing	1.7
Comprehensive Master Plan is needed	1.4
Zoning is too strict, complex, difficult	1.4
Town pool needed	1.2
Housing values and down	1.2
Costs of education keep going up	1.0
Dog park	1.0
Cost of living	0.7
Increase housing / rentals	0.7
Needs diversity	0.7
Bury power lines	0.4
Housing prices are up	0.4
Preserve historic buildings	0.2
Water issues	0.2
Night life lacking	0.2

FUTURE TOWN DEMOGRAPHICS

Respondents were asked how strongly they agreed or disagreed with several statements related to Wilton’s population. A large majority of respondents, 86.1%, indicated they strongly or somewhat agreed that Wilton should do more to attract and retain families with children in town.

The following table holds the cumulative totals, in declining order, for those indicating they strongly or somewhat agreed with each statement.

STATEMENTS	STRONGLY OR SOMEWHAT AGREE: PERCENT
Wilton should do more to attract and retain families with children in town	86.1
Wilton should do more to allow “empty-nesters” and seniors to retire or “age in place” in town	84.9
Wilton should do more to attract and retain younger adults (millennials, singles, young professionals)	83.9
Wilton should do more to keep its population stable or growing	83.4

CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION

Respondents were asked how strongly they agreed or disagreed with several statements related to protecting natural resources and open space in Wilton.

A large majority of respondents, 87.6%, indicated they strongly or somewhat agreed that the town should support improvements to open space and trails in terms of access, facilities, maintenance and usability. Just over three-fifths of respondents, 61.1%, strongly or somewhat agreed that the town should purchase undeveloped open space when it becomes available.

The following table holds the cumulative totals, in declining order, for those indicating they strongly or somewhat agreed with each statement.

STATEMENTS	STRONGLY OR SOMEWHAT AGREE: PERCENT
The town should support improvements to open space and trails in terms of access, facilities, maintenance and usability	87.6
The town should do more to protect the quality and availability of potable water and aquifers	76.7
The town should increase public education directed towards natural resources protection and conservation	73.3
The town should provide tax and/or zoning incentives for new development and building renovations to incorporate “green” measures such as energy conservation and open-space set-asides	72.8
The town should engage in more conservation work programs, like habitat restoration, invasive species management, greenway establishment and dam removal programs	67.3
The town should purchase undeveloped open space when it becomes available	61.1

Respondents were asked how strongly they agree or disagree with several statements regarding protecting historic properties and resources in Wilton.

Almost three-quarters of respondents, 70.3%, indicated they strongly or somewhat agreed with the statement that the town should provide tax and/or zoning incentives for eligible owners of historic properties and/or developers who preserve historic structures. Just over two-fifths of respondents, 43.1%, strongly or somewhat agreed with the statement that the town should provide funding for the purchase of historic properties.

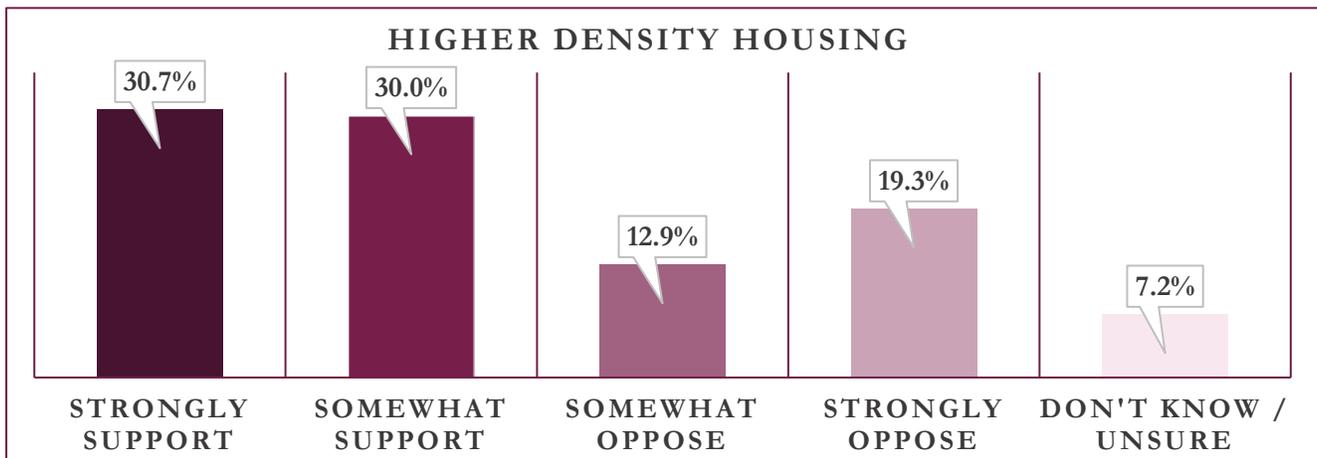
The following table holds the cumulative totals, in declining order, for those indicating they strongly or somewhat agreed with the statement.

STATEMENTS	STRONGLY OR SOMEWHAT AGREE: PERCENT
The town should provide tax and/or zoning incentives for eligible owners of historic properties and/or developers who preserve historic structures	70.3
The town should increase regulatory protections for historic properties (historic district designations, demolition delay ordinance increase, zoning restrictions)	64.9
The town should provide funding for the Historic Districts and Properties Commission to promote preservation, grants, education and outreach programs	57.4
The town should provide funding for the purchase of historic properties	43.1

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

Respondents were presented with the following: “Wilton may need more housing stock for younger residents, “empty-nesters” and “age-in-place” residents. This may include more diverse and affordable options such as apartments, starter/smaller homes and mixed-use developments. Respondents were asked how strongly they supported or opposed higher density housing to meet this need”.

Three-fifths of respondents, 60.7%, indicated they would strongly or somewhat support higher density housing, while just under one-third of respondents, 32.2%, indicated they would somewhat or strongly oppose the additional housing stock.



Respondents that indicated they would strongly or somewhat support higher density housing (N= 245) were asked whether they support or oppose the housing at different locations in Wilton.

Over three-quarters of respondents strongly or somewhat supported the higher density housing in: Georgetown (86.8%), Wilton Center (80.8%), Danbury Road / Route 7 (79.2%) and transition areas (76.7%). Support for higher density housing was lower for rural, residentially-zoned areas (39.2%).

The following table holds the cumulative totals, in declining order, for those indicating they strongly or somewhat supported higher density housing in each area.

AREAS OF WILTON	STRONGLY OR SOMEWHAT SUPPORT: PERCENT
Georgetown	86.8
Wilton Center	80.8
Danbury Road / Route 7	79.2
Transition areas abutting or adjacent to a village center or commercially-zoned areas	76.7
Cannondale	71.8
Rural, residentially-zoned areas	39.2

SPECIAL AREAS / ZONING DEVELOPMENT

Respondents were asked how strongly they agreed or disagreed with several statements related to development in Wilton Center and along Danbury Road / Route 7. Just under two-thirds of respondents, 63.4%, strongly or somewhat agreed that they like the way Wilton Center has developed to date, while one-half of respondents, 50.5%, indicated they agreed that they like the way Danbury Road / Route 7, from Cannondale, has developed to date.

The following table holds the cumulative totals, in declining order, for those indicating they strongly or somewhat agreed with the statement.

STATEMENTS	STRONGLY OR SOMEWHAT AGREE: PERCENT
I like the way Wilton Center has developed to date	63.4
I like the way Danbury Road / Route 7 , from Lamberts Corner to Cannondale, has developed to date	57.2
I like the way the southern section of Danbury Road / Route 7 , from Lambert's Corner (intersection of Route 33 and Route 7) to the Norwalk line, has developed to date	52.0
I like the way Danbury Road / Route 7 , from Cannondale, through Georgetown, to the Ridgefield line, has developed to date	50.5

Those that disagreed with the way Wilton Center (N=138) has developed were asked what they might change or do to improve the area in an open-ended format. Almost two-fifths, 39.5%, indicated interest in new shopping / businesses. The responses are presented in the following table in declining order.

CHANGES / WAYS TO IMPROVE WILTON CENTER	PERCENT OF 129 MENTIONS
New shopping / businesses (variety, smaller, retention)	39.5
More vibrant, revitalized in New England tradition	10.8
More walkable, sidewalks, pedestrian friendly	8.5
New housing to attract residents	7.8
New diverse restaurants and bars	6.9
Better traffic flow (rotary?)	4.7
Link to Route 7, access and connections	4.7
Lower lease prices to stop store closings	3.9
More family-friendly entertainment	3.9
Connect to the train station / footbridge	3.0
More mixed residential / commercial	1.5
Improve roads	0.7

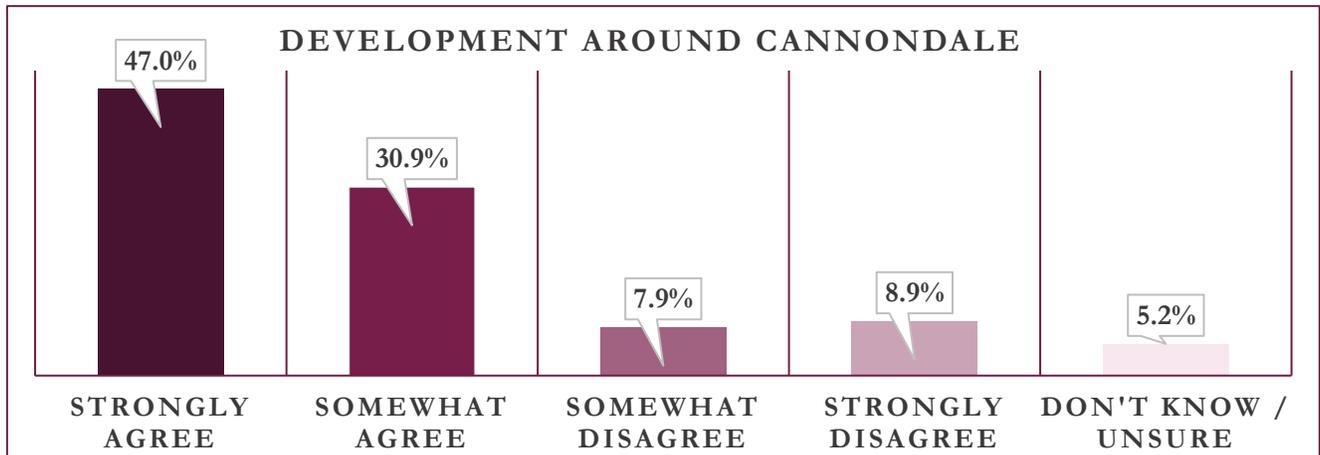
Those that disagreed with the way that Danbury Road / Route 7 (from any direction) has developed to date (N=241) were asked what they might change or do to improve the section of the road in an open-ended format. Just over one-quarter of mentions, 27.0%, indicated interest in more economic development / filling empty spaces / more business. The responses are presented in the following table in declining order.

CHANGES / WAYS TO IMPROVE DANBURY ROAD / ROUTE 7	PERCENT OF 148 MENTIONS
More economic development/ fill empty spaces / more businesses / small businesses	27.0
Fix traffic, less traffic, traffic planning, flow, unsafe speeding, have fewer lights	18.9
Beautification – esthetics, more attractive, too much is dilapidated	10.8
Add housing, add senior/affordable housing, populate Route 7	9.4
Pedestrian friendly, sidewalks, pathways, walkable	7.4
Widen / Super 7 / Finish Route 7	7.4
Limit and stop building / stop commerce growth	4.7
More restaurants	3.3
More New England character, charm	2.7
Better planning	1.3
More family activities, entertainment	1.3
Comprehensive planning	0.6
OK as it is	0.6
More signage	0.6
Increased density	0.6
Lower taxes / rents for business	0.2

Respondents were presented with the following: “*There has been discussion about development around Cannondale, possibly a mixture of more housing and more businesses in a village-type pattern that preserves the historical structures and character of the area*”. Respondents were asked how strongly they agreed or disagreed.

Over three-quarters of respondents, 78.0%, indicated they strongly or somewhat agree with developing Cannondale with a mix of additional or more housing and businesses in a Village pattern.

Results are displayed in the following graph.



In an open-ended format, respondents (N=315) were asked to indicate what they would like to see occur in Cannondale Village. One-third of mentions, 33.1%, indicated interest in adding businesses to the area. The responses are presented in the following table in declining order.

IDEAS FOR CANNONDALE	PERCENT OF 302 MENTIONS
Businesses – add more retail, shopping, small businesses	33.1
Residential housing – add more (including young families and seniors)	19.9
Restaurants – add more (include coffee shops and bars)	15.2
Keep it as it is / preserve it	10.2
Restoration, beautifications, keep New England Charm and village layout	6.3
More development, fill up spaces	3.6
Make more enticing, inviting, appealing	2.6
Recreation – more fields, trails, outdoor spaces	1.9
More family activities, family oriented	1.6
Signage, advertising	0.9
More walkable, more sidewalks	0.9
More parking	0.6
Village Green – second town center	0.6
Ice rink	0.3
More activity at the train station	0.3
Route 7 Expressway	0.3
Grocery store	0.3
Tax incentives for businesses	0.3
Do a master plan	0.3

TRANSPORTATION

Respondents were asked what improvements in traffic, pedestrian, bike or rail and bus/transportation infrastructure they would like to see the Town of Wilton pursue. Respondents indicated strong interest in improving pedestrian connections (56.9%).

Multiple responses were accepted. The following table holds the cumulative totals in declining order.

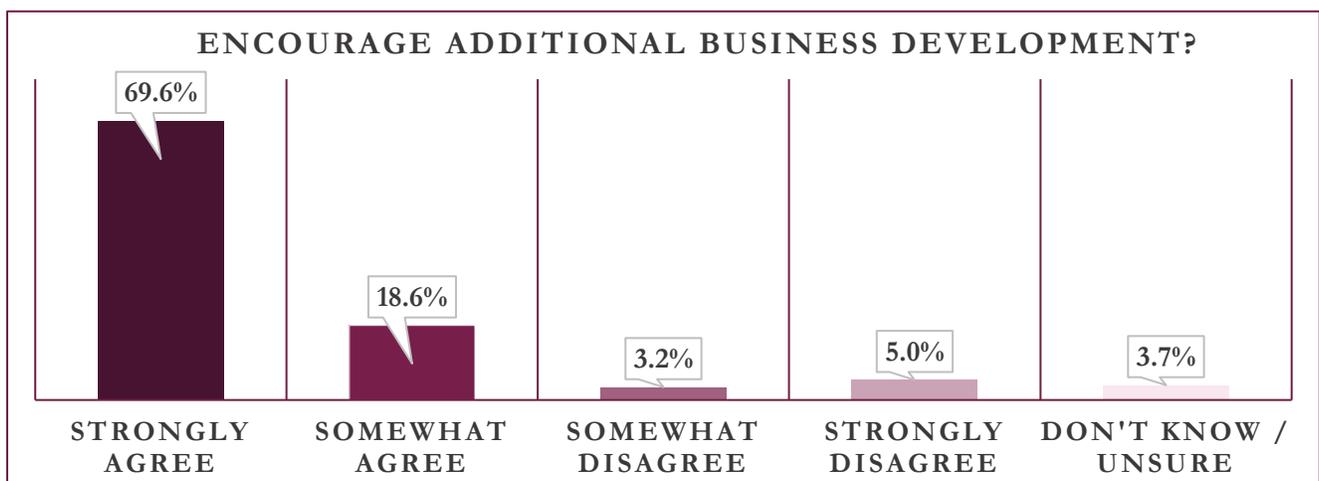
IMPROVEMENTS ON TRANSPORTATION	PERCENT OF CASES
Improving pedestrian connections (sidewalks, links to key places and trails)	56.9
Improving traffic and safety on Danbury Road / Route 7	48.5
Improving bicycle connections (building more trails, bike lanes, shoulders)	46.5
Improving frequency and reliability of rail service on the Danbury branch	44.8
Improve road maintenance	40.8
Improving traffic and safety on major secondary roads	37.1
Improving train station buildings and parking areas	32.9
Increasing level and availability of bus / shuttle transit service	25.7
Other	11.9
Unsure	9.7

Other mentions included in the appendix to this report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Respondents were asked how strongly they agreed or disagreed with the following statement: “Wilton should encourage additional business development in town.”

A large majority of respondents, 88.2%, indicated they strongly or somewhat agreed with the statement, while 8.2% somewhat or strongly disagree with the statement. Results are displayed in the following graph



Respondents were asked how willing they were to support several potential economic development initiatives that may require additional property taxes to implement.

Almost three-fifths of respondents, 58.4%, indicated they were strongly or somewhat willing to support reviewing and revising land-use regulations to encourage appropriate development.

The following table holds the cumulative totals, in declining order, for those indicating they were strongly or somewhat willing to support the initiative.

STATEMENTS	STRONGLY OR SOMEWHAT WILLING: PERCENT
Reviewing and revising land-use regulations to encourage appropriate development	58.4
Improving telecom and wireless/cell infrastructure and services	57.9
Extending water, gas and sewer service in appropriate areas	55.9
Hiring experts to help plan development in key areas, including Wilton’s villages and along Danbury Road / Route 7	52.7
Implementing town-wide marketing, branding and/or lifestyle programs	42.8

OVERALL PRIORITIES

Respondents were provided a list of new projects and programs that have been considered for Wilton and were asked to indicate which ones they would be most likely to support. Respondents indicated their strongest support for maintaining adequate funding for public school facilities and programs (69.3%).

Multiple responses were accepted. The following table holds the cumulative totals in declining order.

IMPROVEMENTS ON TRANSPORTATION	PERCENT OF CASES
Maintain adequate funding for public school facilities and programs	69.3
Create additional sidewalks, bike trails and pathways throughout Wilton	63.6
Create a River Walk along the Norwalk River in Wilton Center	59.2
Managing traffic	58.7
Improve town open space, forests, preserves and trails	54.5
Expand town services and facilities for seniors	51.5
Improving town energy efficiency and resiliency to interruption	50.5
Upgrade town recreation facilities	49.5
Upgrade town Hall and public safety facilities, such as the Fire and Police stations	44.1
Improve town protections of historical properties and resources	43.6
Don’t know / Unsure	3.7

DEMOGRAPHICS

YEARS LIVED IN WILTON	PERCENT
Less than 20 years	44.4
20 years or more	55.6
AVERAGE	22.2 years

RENT OR OWN HOME?	PERCENT
Own	94.8
Rent	3.5
Don't Know / unsure	0.2
Refused	1.5

AGE	PERCENT
Less than 35	3.7
35 to 44	11.6
45 to 54	29.2
55 to 64	33.7
65 to 74	10.1
75 or older	5.9
Refused	5.7

NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER 18 AT HOME	PERCENT
None	58.7
1	11.4
2	17.8
3	7.2
4	1.0
5	0.5
Don't know / Unsure	3.5

ANNUAL TOTAL FAMILY INCOME (BEFORE TAXES)	PERCENT
Under \$50,000	2.5
\$50,000 to less than \$100,000	7.4
\$100,000 to less than \$200,000	13.6
\$200,000 to less than \$300,000	9.2
\$300,000 or more	19.6
Don't know / Unsure	1.5
Refused	46.3

GENDER (BY OBSERVATION)	PERCENT
Male	43.8
Female	56.2

5 APPENDIX

INTERPRETATION OF AGGREGATE RESULTS

The computer processed data for this survey are presented in the following frequency distributions. It is important to note that the wordings of the variable labels and value labels in the computer-processed data are largely abbreviated descriptions of the Questionnaire items and available response categories.

The frequency distributions include the category or response for the question items. Responses deemed not appropriate for classification have been grouped together under the “Other” code.

Each frequency distribution includes the absolute observed occurrence of each response (i.e. the total number of cases in each category). Immediately adjacent to the right of the column of absolute frequencies is the column of relative frequencies. These are the percentages of cases falling in each category response, including those cases designated as missing data. To the right of the relative frequency column is the adjusted frequency distribution column that contains the relative frequencies based on the legitimate (i.e. non-missing) cases. That is, the total base for the adjusted frequency distribution excludes the missing data. For many Questionnaire items, the relative frequencies and the adjusted frequencies will be nearly the same. However, some items that elicit a sizable number of missing data will produce quite substantial percentage differences between the two columns of frequencies. The careful analyst will cautiously consider both distributions.

The last column of data within the frequency distribution is the cumulative frequency distribution (Cum Freq.). This column is simply an adjusted frequency distribution of the sum of all previous categories of response and the current category of response. Its primary usefulness is to gauge some ordered or ranked meaning.

Additional Responses:

Q34. IMPROVEMENTS ON TRANSPORTATION: OTHER

Add shelters for bus stops

Re-look at Super 7

Bike lanes on Dothan Hill Road and Route 106

Improve Danbury branch

Improve intersection. parking Grumman Hill Road

Improve the town lights where you have to wait and no one is around

Rail system

Quicker train to NYC

More trains

Widen Danbury Rd and put in Super 7

More sidewalks on main arterial roads, all roads leading into town

Norwalk Valley trail

Always people speeding through the lights on Route 7, and the intersection of Routes 7/106; more police presence would be helpful.

Traffic circle at Wolf Pit & Beldon Hill Rd -- Traffic Junction of 7

Expand the rail use

Sidewalk on Horseshoe Rd

It's hard to get to the train stations without a car

Better communication with the city

Traffic camera monitoring. Would like the town to institute that and improve rail service

Norwalk Trail

Designated bike path on Route 7 and other major secondary roads.

Development of Route 7 extension as pedestrian only area for biking.

More lanes

Dog park/ pet-friendly area.

A place for coffee and newspapers at the train station

Excitability from Wilton Center and the Wilton Center train station

Have a community pool

Build Super 7

More roundabouts instead of 4 way stops

More bus stops in the town, they don't have public transportation in the town

4-way stop on Belden & area by high school

Connection from the train station to the town center.

Additional traffic lights in trouble areas

Better police presence on Route 7 during rush hours and when schools are getting out

Sidewalks aren't major but it'd be good for them to look at

Connect train station to town, faster service like a Wilton express.

Left turn light at the corner of Grumman Hill and Route 7. too many accidents.

High School car backup on Route 7 during drop off & pickup, as well as Christine-Lilly Way, totally gridlocked

More traffic lights on Route 7.

Pedestrian bridge to get to the train station.

Walking bridge from train station over into town

Intersection of Beldin Hill/106 (there's a primary school up there). They were talking about a rotary to improve the traffic, but that would end up increasing the traffic to get to Route 7.

Intersection of Routes 33 and 7. two lanes going south.

Roundabouts in certain areas

Bring back the coffee shops in the Cannondale and Wilton train stations.

Maybe all one-way loops or something

Improve the train station scheduling

Q47: ADDITIONAL COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS, IDEAS

I do not believe that property taxes need to go up and they should look into and change the spending instead of raising the taxes too much and I would like to reiterate the need for a master planning for town center.

Attracting commercial properties to generate taxes

Veteran allowance, real estate taxes should be increased to account for inflation

Town needs to grow

Blue-zone project zone should be explored, longevity study

Something about plowing in the extreme areas like in North Wilton; we seem to be last on the list.

Elementary school there is more population of parents who work, and it is hard to find someone to watch the kids. Expand the amount of people to have more kids able to stay after school along with PTA meetings.

Keep the well system

Open space, less deer hunting- closed for 5 months in the winter.

More / better management of tax dollar and greater transparency in town government

Work within the means

Town needs to be more supportive toward small businesses.

School budget is too high more than private school way over the top

Need more communication about the survey

Appreciates the help from the officials in town and that the town is very well run

She enjoys the town very much.

I feel we need more business development and commercial income because our taxes are very high. built more facilities like the Norwalk River Valley trails.

I've lived here for a long time, and I believe they need to improve parking

Fix the traffic

We like Wilton and have no complaints

Increase in taxes is outrageous

I'd like to see them improve the traffic flow especially on Route 7 too much gridlock during rush hour in that area

Pet Peeve how traffic lights are timed. Smarter traffic lights to improve traffic flow and be energy friendly.

Make it more affordable for seniors

No, I feel like this town is a beautiful town. there're just some things they could do to make the town feel more like a town.

Keep the educational value up and there are too many people getting pushed out of town because of cost of housing and younger people are coming to town because of this issue so there are a lot of empty houses.

Stop spending too much money on schools and government and lower taxes

Critical to improve the self-service in town. need more high-density housing to maintain the vitality of the town

There is not enough cellphone service in town. Tax breaks for seniors.

Need to work on appearance and businesses in town

Stop paying consultants

Increase the tax base to try to lower property taxes

Reduce taxes, car taxes, and house taxes

We need to have more turf for sports, more lighted fields, an ice rink

Dog friendly places

Widen rt 7 and consider why there are so many houses for sale in town - we need more local businesses

Dog park, transportation, proper use of tax dollars, its time the community embraces change, we don't have to be colonial, in style of architecture, and in attitude about things

Improve garbage pickup, add sidewalks for those commuting from the train station

Improve hiring methods for teachers and other school employees. Improve the school in general. Also again, add something cultural to the town.

Reduce the tax rates, for seniors

Support local YMCA, much like library is a community center, great programs but awful gyms, pools, etc. lifeblood of Wilton is families raising children, young families, promote that & attract future families

Try not adding new things without improving what's there first

Lovely place to live. More senior living and younger people housing would be nice. More diversity as well.

Figure out a way to attract businesses as the town residents cannot fund the amount of taxes.

Not at this time

Fund public safety

More sidewalks, less taxes

Nope I covered all of them, maybe access to a beach.

Improving the downtown center and do more with bike paths and making it more walkable and accessible to the town.

Wilton should implement a blue-zone project.

Mentioned that the questions were a bit biased (one sided/ leading questions)

Need rt 7 expressway last year!

Get rid of all Democrats so taxes can go down

Wilton Center needs improvement

The town should take a good picture of itself and see what other towns are doing for success.

Interest the towns people to support small business.

A nice park where it is quiet and can sit and relax.

Somehow rein back property tax.

No development the land on rt 33

Grow the town get more diverse.

Must be aware of what other towns are doing and adjust

Just think they should find young people more involved. Instead of having a billion things for seniors and nothing for youth.

Need to focus more on economic development and focus on pedestrian access and plan for ways to attract younger families and will be looking at competing area towns that provide commercial business

Keep the taxes lower it's pushing people away.

Question the amount/allocation of school funding (the focus is more on adding administrators rather than teachers). Focus on programs that directly benefit the students.

Appreciates the hard work the officials do in the town. Very impressed for Public Works.

More generous taxes for seniors who have been in the town for decades

Community involvement, and sense of community and people meeting their neighbors

Store owners need to have leases not so expensive. Need for recreational facilities for the families and children. Town park needs to be updated and offer more.

Create their own internet service for residents as an alternative to the current internet (OPTIMUM)

Wilton needs to offer something to so it can become a destination place.

Just lower taxes and more business in town

Taxes are too high, do not increase or have a break for senior citizens. Use what money they have efficiently

Keep it country. Stop putting these big things in.

Have it for seniors who are struggling more to stay in town some sort of ways to help them.

Use the money for the schools more efficiently

Just to attract the medium and large businesses, in a nice/pretty way.

Unsure for the moment.

They should reconsider doing a better survey.

Reduce the taxes

Declutter Route 7 of the traffic lights, it is a nightmare because of the lights, enforce the laws you have instead of making new ones, spend too much money on school, DPW is the only agency that needs funding, stop cutting down the trees, it cost me \$20,000 t

The bonding for Miller - Driscoll was not well thought out. poor fiscal\ planning responsibility.

See the town center where you can park your car and walk to store. Push stores toward street with parking in the middle.

Taxes are too high need to bring more businesses

Not at this time. I think I summed it up in this survey. Thank you for your time

New turf field

Liked to improve retail already in town and increase rental availability

Route 7 is dangerous, put more money in the schools

I think the town needs managed growth and thoroughly think things out

town should ease up on the large sign regulations as there are already large signs in place. the business

owner in question is actually considering closing as his customers are having a hard time finding his business.

Whatever we do to town hall you preserve the facade

Better special education in schools.

Lower the taxes

Not at this time

Bench mark adjacent towns

Glad that the town is doing this questionnaire.

Lower taxes.

More citizen involvement with the conservation projects

Get more businesses for tax revenue, so it doesn't all come from having to increase property taxes

More stability

The town center has breached the residents trust with the spending. They sold land to the biggest private

developers, and made an excuse that they didn't know the plan was to develop all those condos on Horseshoe Pond, the \$50 spent on schools, but enroll

No more development

Not a lot wrong with the town more things wrong with state, state problem. More directed education and more jobs.

More options for people

More stores that are retail for clothing.

Thanks for survey

Promote business growth. see the town events improve.

New look at the tax relief program for seniors because of tax law change

The town was always family-driven and diverse. It always had corporations to help with taxes. I would like to see companies come back to help make the tax burden more affordable for families.

Attract new businesses

Keep the schools strong. and lower the taxes.

Keep the Parks and Rec Department open

Make restaurants and stores incentives to open and maintain in town center.

Elderly population additional

get a handle on what is good for everyone not just small groups of the town. Don't ask the entire town to foot the bill for small groups of people

No not really. just the tax bill business because you need to fix that and you get fined in unfair.

More public transportation and more green town services electric buses extra also solar to provide electric for town municipalities

Don't raise the taxes, and try to avoid too much commercialization

Have ability to walk more places with parking areas

Some small businesses have been driven out of town because of rent increases due to corporate land owners that are causing good small companies that citizens like to leave just because they can't pay the increased rents

Improving recreation facilities would be great but taxes should not have to be raised to do that. And more police when the school opens and closes. Too much speeding in front of high school why 40 miles

by

high school

Make more fields and open spaces

Anything that would increase the tax base without spending more money on the schools. Super 7

She thinks this questionnaire is a great idea and glad were doing it.

Respect the taxes burden that has already been placed on Wilton residents and tax payers. Education is plummeting in Wilton schools.

Skating rink would bring in many people

For far too long people believed we need to stop development we need to do a better job planning development rather than trying to stop development.

Make investments to attract commercial businesses/offices.

Bring in tax revenue without compromising the historical character

Use tax dollars wisely. increase revenue with businesses.

No, I think the town is great. Continue to focus on public education.

Would like to know who made this survey.

Consider the importance of building reconstruction before taking the building down or demolition them.

More businesses in town

I think we sent to much money to our police department like riot gear recently and i think that was not necessary. We need to do better with the tree removal and limbs by power lines and i would like to reiterate the need for better traffic management on

Affordable for young families

The questions regarding the school facilitates was a very poorly worded and senseless question – adequate

21st Century for transportation. more forward thinking how to tackle to do bring in innovation to the town

Wilton Center is lacking a lot of local business is going out of business. More small local businesses to attract more people

Wake it up, similar to new Cannondale

Support being a healthy community by supporting blue zones.

Focusing on change and improvement, and bringing in business is important for this change.

STOP WITH ALL THE MEETINGS!!!

Continue the maintain roads, keep the historic look and feel increase incentives for business to fill empty space

Need more jobs in town to offer more

Tax rebates for families who do not have children in the school district, families should pay more for extended school services for those with learning disabilities if they cannot prove financial hardship.

Become more fiscally responsible and stop throwing away money on stupid projects that cost too much

Morning traffic Route 33 intersection of Drumhill and Belden Hill of Wolfpit should be manned by traffic police

Encourage development downtown and use existing structures there are so many empty buildings.

Increased turf fields and gym space.

There are two spots in Wilton that desperately need rotaries or traffic lights (she prefers lights). The first intersection is Rt. 106/Beldin Hill. Second is at Wilton Center near Portocino's and Lang's Pharmacy. People run the stop sign all the time,

What do you hope to learn from this? these questions make me concerned about what you are doing.

We need encouragement for small business in an historical content. To lower taxes

Lower the taxes on property. He owns land with wet lands and because of that he is not able to do

anything to the land. He still has to make the taxes on the wetlands however.

Restaurants

Develop the town center and more housing for retirees and young families

Would be nice to get more business in town to help with the taxes.

Some encouragement of business development in town; that's what will produce the income to provide for these programs (versus from property taxes)

An adventure playground

Traffic is an issue and at stop signs they are always backed up.

Too much morning traffic.

Tax conditions are intolerable need better senior support

Lower the taxes, need more businesses

Create an opportunity for small businesses to open, set up an initiative where it is easier for average people who want to open up businesses can receive the support they need

Coffee shops in the train stations. more lighting for night life. more sports. ice skating rink. ice cream shop. open up another diner. MORE LOCAL BUSINESS EXPANSION.

They need to wake up and do something because is it a great town, so they need to replicate what other towns are doing to get businesses to come to town and thrive and we need to get a way to get kids to get out and around because that would get the parent

Adopt blue zones.

The town should figure out how to bring more revenue and make attractive for people to move and stay. Too expensive to live in town and empty-nesters.

Like the center light post and decorations, Halloween decorations, flower pots are a great idea. Anything to draw people to the town

Just filling the empty store fronts

Town of Wilton should focus on improving traffic and getting more clothing retail. better restaurants. maybe add like a McDonalds and a couple of good restaurants

Before raising taxes, they should always look for private partnerships.

No, I think this is a good survey

Dog park!

The planning and zoning don't put details in the agenda, in violation of freedom of info laws, labeling of Ridgefield Rd for affordable housing was snuck in, disrespectful how they are adding things to the agenda, open meeting laws need to be abided by

Pay more attention to the roads. they are deteriorating unnecessarily. no one respond when he calls to complain about the roads. clear the brush from the roads and stop signs so we can see them.

I wish this was sent around so I had more time to think about my answers.

Not to force development with outside agents (private sector)

Do a better job with what you have STOP raising taxes