Agenda Summary

March 25, 2019

Agenda Item No. 7

Annual Meeting Survey Results

Summary: Enclosed are the Annual Meeting Survey Results. This time has been set aside to discuss them. There were 500 respondents, of which 97 were on-line responses. While the population of respondents wasn't controlled, a majority of respondents were voters at Annual Meeting.

Town Plan Impact: Local Planning Process Policy #3: Public opinion will be solicited on a regular basis.

Fiscal Impact:

Recommendation: No action is necessary at this time.

2019 TOWN MEETING SURVEY

500 Respondents (includes 97 Survey Monkey)

		Yes	No	Not Sure
	Housing			
1	Do you think that the availability of affordable housing for low to moderate income households is a problem in Stowe and the region?	383	61	53
2	The Town of Stowe currently annually contributes \$5,000 to the Lamoille Housing Partnership, which is a non-profit affordable housing developer? Do you think the Town should increase its contribution?	256	133	105
3	Should the Town purchase land in Stowe to offset the cost of developing low to moderate income households in Stowe?	166	198	127
4	Do you think businesses should bear any financial responsibility for creating work force housing in Stowe or the region?	194	194	95
5	Inclusionary zoning requires developers to build a certain percentage of low to moderate income housing as part of their development. Do you think the municipal government should implement <i>inclusionary</i> zoning? Traffic	224	139	123
6	Do you think traffic is a problem in Stowe?	262	188	29
7	Do you think the Town has reached the point that it should limit the number of road races or other events that require closing public roads?	91	357	53
8	Do you think a large satellite parking facility should be developed in Stowe?	207	171	111
9	Would you personally use a satellite parking lot and take a bus to ski rather than parking at Stowe Mountain Resort?	140	257	71
10	Do you support the installation of a traffic signal at the Mountain Road / Luce Hill Intersection?	177	243	67
11	If so, do you support the Town of Stowe paying for it entirely (\$1.5 +/- million dollars, rather than waiting for the State to cost share its installation?	46	309	69
12	Do you support the installation of a traffic signal at the Stagecoach Road/Rte. 100 Intersection? Cannabis	120	306	56
13	Should the Town of Stowe permit the retail sale of cannabis if legalized by the legislature?	257	184	50
	Plastic Bags			<u> </u>
14	Would you be in favor of a statewide ban on single use plastic bags?	359	110	22
15	Would you be in favor of a statewide fee for single use plastic bags at retail outlets?	315	146	24

Comments:

Comments on Question 1:

Morrisville and Hyde Park, etc. might have appropriate locations for more affordable housing

I think the problem is scalable housing. I don't think Stowe has a 'low cost' problem. I think the problem is the next tier up. For example, a young couple moving in together, a young family, a young professional.

Property taxes are too high to pay for unnecessary goods and services making rents high. Start cutting down on high priced skating rinks and unneeded underground utilities to lower property taxes. The lower rents will follow.

It's a problem everywhere.

As well as seniors.

Question I need clarification – Problem that low-income housing exists or problem that low income availability is low? I think problem that is exists.

There will always be a housing problem in towns like this.

Comments on Question 2:

Slight increase to stay ahead of inflation.

A directed donation towards exploring an additional affordable mixed use housing community like Sylvan Park.

\$500,000. Would be more appropriate.

depends on other options

It's not up to Stowe taxpayers to support every non profit in the county and State. If they want more money they need to apply for grants like everyone else.

What is the level of municipal (vs. private) investment in communities that do successfully increase low-moderate housing?

Why would you increase the amount? What is the return you get on spending our tax \$'s? Please act like you are spending your own money

It would be important to know how these fund would be used, if it helps the need for affordable housing in Stowe makes sense.

What has the partnership accomplished with the funds? Is a development in Stowe?

Comments on Question 3:

I think rent caps or rent control is more important than building new housing to designate as "low to moderate income housing

How about some of the miscellaneous real estate currently held by our school district that's up for grabs pending the merge? One of the articles mentions selling land back to town for \$1 if said school were to close? Can we move that up?

There is low cost housing already available in close by towns that are on public transport

If there is land available and the Town has adequate funds . . . many of the people who work here can't afford to live within a reasonable distance of their places of employment.

Taxpayers pay enough already. No. If the State wants to develop something, let them pay and spread the cost to ALL taxpayers, not just those in Stowe. Plus, the town does not need to own anymore land. The Town already doesn't maintain what it owns.

Same as the financial contribution question above

Please just run the town and stop trying to run a social experiment that aligns with certain vocal political agendas

More information needed, but if it contributes to affordable housing which helps those who can live and work in Stowe.

Not 100% sure that town buying land to offset affordable housing is correct. Might talk to the State about State lands.

the State and Town need to develop zoning and tax breaks for developers to incent workforce housing and not penalize.

Comments on Question 4:

The ski resort and the Stowe mountain lodge absolutely should be responsible for providing safe, respectful housing for any visa workers. They are flying in foreign seasonal workers who realistically have no hope of finding reasonable housing on their own and who are expected to live in ridiculously unsafe or crowded facilities.

I own a business in town, pay enough taxes to the town & state and am about to pay towards family leave. Make the taxes stop.

It is up to the business to decide whether it makes economic sense to them. This cost should not be paid by the tax payer or town.

Stowe Resort definitely should. Smaller businesses should have opportunities to offer this.

I think the businesses that employ seasonal workers should offer the employees an option: 1) job with housing for wage A or 2) job without housing for wage B. I think businesses with full-time low paying jobs should assist the employees with paid sick leave for them and their family, gas cards, and bonuses for jobs well done. Unsure about work force housing for longer term employment.

Probably some

In cases of larger businesses, yes

I think they should provide it! And not dumps either, these people deserve decent housing. I'm talking about those that are here on visa's. Businesses also need to pay a living wage.

not if they can't even afford to pay their employees a decent wage . . .

Yes, especially bigger businesses like Vail

If the business brings in transient help, they need to provide room and board. It is a case by case situation. If they can't provide for their help, then they need to hire local.

Business should be encouraged, but not required, to assist with workforce housing.

If there is a labor shortage, the economic model is self correcting through higher wages. This concept is time proven so the town of Stowe does not need to interfere with that

There was a time in Stowe that seasonal employees had housing at MT Mansfield. Collectively if businesses wanted to set up a cooperative living space they should contribute. This was dorm living with an opportunity to have a meal or two pending where you worked and your work schedule. This benefit guaranteed employees would be at shifts and usually work more than one, sometimes three because you were close during peak seasonal times.

Vail should supply housing.

No developers & tax break incentives, tax freeze, etc.

Comments on Question 5:

Again, I think rent caps or rent control on what's already here is more helpful. But sure inclusionary zoning could work.

This would further increase costs. Find ways to reduce permitting costs and utility hookups.

I think the buildings that are being approved are terrible and have ruined the small town Vermont feel Stowe had and made tourist want to come. There is already low income housing and poverty in Stowe. Let's deal with what we have already before bringing in more.

Need more information

Ask Aspen – it is a Band-Aid.

Comments on Question 6:

Only during peak seasons

Some times.

Particularly during commute hours....

If there wasn't traffic, there would be an economic problem. That being said, the traffic flow at 4:45 is challenging

i don't travel the roads during peak times

if you are out during rush hour or on weekends it is. otherwise, off peak times and weekdays have little traffic or parking problems

During commuting hours especially

only at certain times of the day and during specific holidays and on weekends

The mountain road in the winter is a significant challenge.

but only in peak times

At certain times of the year..., but traffic is becoming more consistently busy in even the slow periods.

In certain areas - Mt Road and Luce Hill interesection. Nobody goes thru the village any more. Moscow also. These areas could certainly use police presence!

Are you kidding? The traffic on Barrows Road and Luce Hill has increased exponentially. Did you know there are two stop signs by Ten Acres? No? Neither does anyone else. Have you tried to get to or off from the Mountain Road via Luce Hill? It's taking your life in your hands. Also, try driving by the High School just before school starts or just as it ends. Jokes on you, you can't because the traffic is so backed up. Remind me why we are paying for empty buses? And that three way stop in Town? Out moded, outdated and dangerous. Put in lights already. You want low income housing, add some lights while your at it.

Traffic to/from Stowe Mountain Resort on snow and vacation days is extreme and will ultimately diminish visitors' expectations of a carefree vacation. Offsite parking should be considered. The town could also station rescue/tow trucks near Harlow Hill to quickly clear stuck vehicles on snow days.

Yes-At certain peak times.

Parking availability is better than ever, but still too limited for peak visitation periods. Traffic is backed up routinely at the intersection of 108 and 100. The hill at Notchbrook needs to be mitigated better to avoid slowdowns behind unprepared cars. Perhaps install a bypass lane in the direction of the resort?

It would be fixed with a few traffic circles but I guess a local farmer who drives a cow shit truck through town too fast has successfully used front porch forum to remove traffic circles from the plan. Way to go!

At times but it also means town is busy and contributing to the local economy. Being patient is important and knowing how to avoid certain routes at certain times, those who travel route 100 need updates and news of events.

There is a severe safety concern at the Moscow turn during heavy traffic periods. The other area is the west Hill Rd and Rt 100 intersection.

At times. Mountain road on holiday weekends is a nightmare.

Just spotty traffic. A light at West Hill will help. figure out Moscow Road

In general, however there are weekend days where shuttle buses should be heavily utilized. In winter and summer through foliage.

This is so easily solved. Vail needs to buy plow truck through the State. A full time State employee to them keep Harlow Hill open. Vail can bear the brunt of any and all costs for the investment they made.

Comments on Question 7:

As long as traffic has a viable drive-around route races should be okay.

Lacrosse camps have become a problem.

No way! More heads in beds!

i haven't experienced them so can't say one way or the other

hasn't been a problem for us.

Yes, who do these people think they are to close public roads - making it impossible to leave and get back home. As well as creating a traffic nightmare. So glad to see that awful Antique Car Rally go!!!

YES. LAX is a NIGHTMARE.

Comments on Question 8:

Does this mean a parking garage? I think it'd be nice to have a park and ride parking area somewhere for people taking the route 108 or route 100 shuttles.

Would transportation to and from this satellite parking be available and free? That would be key.

Doesn't seem to be a great problem but addl public parking near the rec path or similar ground with proximity would be advantageous.

That's what is preventing the success of a shuttle program. Offsite parking and a direct to mountain shuttle.

with adequate public transit to/from parking facility and ski mountain & event fields.

Seems like public parking combined with a shuttle service with frequency based on demand/expected demand (e.g. leaf peepers, weekends, special events, etc.)

But where? Limited land availability.

I would only be in favor of this if it were made of proper materials to prevent run-off and damage to waterways. Some sort of absorbent, non-asphalt type material.

Only if you it's part of a larger public transportation place.

Who is going to pay to maintain it? I do think it would be nice to have a Park and Ride, but I'm not willing to have my tax dollars go towards it. Let them use Shaws parking lot like everyone else.

several smaller lots around the village should be developed, not a single large facility.

My opinion on this would 100% depend on where it is constructed, how large it is, what the purpose is, etc. I need more details.

Invest in one just out side village

Would need more information. I think Stowe has tried to encourage park & walk and use shuttles but may need to encourage this more. Rec path is very important to Stowe.

Provided that there is frequent and reliable shuttles

Comments on Question 9:

Ski satellite parking is the responsibility of the Vail Mtn Co.

Heck yes!

i don't go to the Stowe Mountain Resort

Yes if the timing worked and it was convenient.

don't currently ski at stowe mountain resort

I don't ski at SMR

If the buses were reliable and ran on time, yes. Also they should consider running at night to allow tourists to get around and decrease drunk driving.

bus system is a nightmare and inaccurate

Pending the time it would take to get to MT yes.

If frequent and reliable shuttles

If on a weekend.

Comments on Question 10:

I would if it would unduly delay the flow of traffic proceeding up/down the Mountain Rd.

flashing traffic when cars are present. I've never experienced a problem there.

should be a traffic circle to keep traffic flowing

Only if it is timed to only run at busy times, or has sensors to determine when there is no traffic coming and can let traffic from the other direction go.

Possibly but if so they should remove the small triangle that creates the two entry points for Luce Hill.

Yes, Yes, Yes, and fix that intersection - Stowe should have purchased the Church property when it had the chance. So pursue purchasing the River Side B&B.

You've got to fix it. Some one is going to get seriously hurt. I highly recommend also not recommending/steering people through Moscow. You're shooting yourself in the foot by having them skip town and those businesses

Reconfigure the intersection and use all-way stops, just like in the village at the 100/108 intersection

Currently this is a messy, unsafe intersection and perhaps just as busy as the 108/100 intersection. There are near misses routinely, because it is abnormal and confusing.

Would need more information how this would impact traffic

Or doing whatever works

Rotary

Comments on Question 11:

State needs to contribute

Don't support

not sure what other items are on the agenda that need \$ as well

A light is not logical - a traffic circle would be more logical and cost effective for this particular intersection.

The State scan pitch in and they can do it NOW! This is a very dangerous intersection and needs to be rectified before someone dies there.

We are already paying for unnecessary and expensive to maintain underground utilities, what's another million or two

How long will it take to get state money?

We have waited this long, we can wait longer.

State should share cost

Wait for the state.

Comments on Question 12:

Turn/merge lanes would be adequate.

That is a deadly intersection.

perhaps change the angle of the turn from stage coach road onto 100. The traffic on 100 would be significantly backed up because of a few cars turning onto or coming from stagecoach road

Something needs to be done for cross traffic. The area is now too heavily traveled for it to be the way it is still. It is surprising there aren't more accidents there with as many visitors as we get.

I don't live on that side of town.

Put in a roundabout. This intersection is less concerning than the one at Luce Hill, but also occasionally has issues. Allow the traffic to continue flowing but control it with a roundabout.

But maybe some flashing lights and bigger signs to stop Stagecoach traffic signal – versus a T yes.

Comments on Question 13:

https://www.forbes.com/sites/nickkovacevich/2018/08/16/the-next-big-thing-in-cannabis tourism/#65a7b2b65d9b

in my opinion, it is less dangerous than alcohol . . . also, when it is illegal, it creates a black market

There should be a cost benefit analysis comparing additional cost of policing and medical care vs tax revenue generated.

Do we really need to draw in more drug addicts?

Missing out on retail \$\$ if you don't.

Stowe openly invites people to come here and consume as much alcohol as they desire and I would rather have a bunch of high massholes in town than drunk massholes

Legalization of CDB & cannabis is a huge mistake. The State jumped into this without any research whatsoever on health and financial impacts on the State. There is no regulation, no understanding of what a therapeutic dose or toxic dose is, and it is extremely expensive to grow. Let's focus on tourism as a solid source of income to this town!

Despite current support for cannabis, please read the research that definitely shows a debilitating drug with severe negative side effects. Please do not allow retail sale of cannabis in Stowe.

Comments on Question 14:

But collecting a price per bag would be of interest

In grocery stores, yes. But we do need plastic bags to pick up dog poop and many of us recycle the plastic bags we get at the stores. I do take recyclable bags to Shaws.

Supports our town's mission and statewide environmental stewardship. Let's make reusable Stowe shopping bags and make available to retailers for purchase at cost.

i line my waste basket with them. what is the difference between these and the bags that are bought in the store to line waste baskets???

OMG. Is it 1970 again? What are you going to provide the tourists with for their purchases? Especially on rainy days?

bring your own bag . . loser

I bring my own bags everywhere

Comments on Question 15:

Yes, but I think people using food stamps or similar assistance programs should be exempt from it. Most of them have enough to worry about without adding reusable bags to the mix. The rest of us should pay though.

Shaws doesn't charge for using plastic, but they do give a 3 cent credit if you bring your own re use bags.

Let's just regulate the heck out of plastic bags and make them go away except for a couple of uses whether it's meat/deli counter, bulk foods.

Ban them!

Just ban plastic bags

Depending on what the money from the fee would be used for.

ban em

If we get some of taxes to help our infrastructure

What would a statewide fee for plastic bags be used for?

General Comments:

Yes to the environment! No plastic bags. Yes to affordable housing. Need more diverse population!

I think charging for plastic bags may be better than banning them outright for the town of Stowe due to the many tourists who visit and likely won't being their own bag. We badly need satellite parking (Mayo Field in the winter?) but bus service has to be more frequent. People won't use it unless it is convenient.

Stowe Mountain should have parking at Spruce for their skiing customers – it is short sighted not to have a large parking facility at Spruce and for the Town to permit housing and recreation without adequate parking.

While traffic lights are useful they really slow traffic on the main highway! Is it possible to use lights that are "smart?" meaning if no side traffic is waiting the light stays green on the main highway. There are too many times on my commute from Colchester when I wait at a red light and no cars are coming through the intersection.

Lower property taxes in Stowe! The normal income individual can't afford to live here!

I think it's a state issue but a light at Weeks Hill Road and Route 108 is VERY Important. Yes – ban plastic! Stowe is a great place to live!

We love living in Stowe!

Would like a light at intersection of West Hill and Route 100, Worked great when it was temporary – no accidents. Thanks to all Town workers!

Affordable Housing – check out what Vail has done, my daughter in law now owns a home in Vail as Vail built and subsidized their home, making it affordable. Satellite parking – if there were cheap lockers. I go to the mountain daily by car. If Vail constructed cheap lockers I would travel by bus. My partner, Bob DiMario rides the bus to work every day.

The intersection of West Hill is almost a blind intersection for traffic entering Route 100 and, in my opinion, more important at this time than stagecoach road.

Regarding traffic: Eventually the Town will have to consider a limit on commercial building permits. We are nearing a limit as to what the Town can handle safely.

Traffic circles not lights

Intersection of Park St. and Main St. very dangerous because of parked cars on Main Street limit vision of oncoming cars.

Isn't it time for term limits for selectboard members – need new blood!

Thank you for doing this survey each year.

The ski area parking is a big problem (weekends/holidays) and needs to be addressed.

The Stowe Land Trust should get involved in providing affordable housing.

Traffic light or stop signs at corner of Route 100 and West Hill Road or wait until someone dies.

State and local governments could lower costly regulatory burden on affordable housing projects. VT has targeted landlords with laws that favor tenants, making rental property ownership less desirable and more expensive. There are more affordable towns in the Stowe area that would be able to provide more affordable housing.

Install satellite parking lot and bus depot where GMT parks the mtn road buses on Moscow Road.

Roundabouts are a simple solution to keep traffic flowing but not the huge roundabouts that VT AOT builds. Take a look at Europe's roundabouts.

A light at the tee of West Hill and Route 100 and 108 and Weeks Hill would serve the public.

Traffic light at West Hill Road/Route 100.

Something needs to be done to the Moscow/Route 100 turn!!

Round About!!! Moscow/Route 100 traffic

Traffic Light!!! Route 100/Shaw's Grocery intersection

Should the Town Purchase Land: Build on Mtn Road, no to Mayo Farm

Do you think businesses should bear financial responsibility – I would pay the tax

Do you think Traffic is a problem – Certain times of the year

Stagecoach Road intersection - not needed

Cannabis – with trained staff professionals on staff

Ban plastic bags – and plastic straws. Businesses need to donate reusable (free) bags to those who need them. Many Stowe workers are seasonal and need access to bags

The intersection that needs to be redone are West Hill/100 and Moscow/100

Give priority parking to electric vehicles/plug in hybrid cars and carpools at Stowe Mountain Resort. The future of Vermont winter sports is 100% dependent on a healthy climate. Stowe should be leading the way.

We own an electric car which should have priority! Canada has a great policy – plug in hybrids and electric vehicles get priority parking and placement. If a satellite lot was created this should be for gas cars. Incentivize electric vehicles & hybrids by allowing them to park at SMR.

Need a solution to West Hill Road and Route 100. Need sidewalk continued to Shaw's.

Traffic lights by Route 100 & weeks Hill (by Shaw's)

Add 3rd lane to Mountain Road on Steep portion.

100 and Moscow Road needs a roundabout

Stowe has lost so much with the car show leaving and winter carnival being non-existent... we need to think, as a town, of how to replace these.

Why isn't the 100/West Hill Rd and Moscow turn questioned?

Too many questions lack context.

Route 100/Moscow Road Traffic Circle!

More important to have traffic lights at Moscow and next to Shaw's!

Less Government!

I think Cape Cod Road intersection needs help.

Good Questions!

Purchase property necessary to connect Luce Hill with Cape Cod and install a roundabout. Install a roundabout at Stagecoach/100 Intersection.

Traffic light at West Hill and Route 100 by Shaw's is the most priority.

A more holistic approach to traffic / mass transit needs to be considered. Stowe has an opportunity to review how other similar communities (Aspen, Park City, etc.) have managed. Buses are wonderful, include pull offs so that traffic continues to move!

Traffic is an issue. Condition of roads is more of an issue. Moscow Road is falling apart, and Barrows is soon to follow. Satellite bus & satellite parking will only work if regular service (every 10 minutes). Also,

why not put a traffic director, auxiliary police officer at 100/108 at peak times?! Works well and adds character. See Greenwich Ave in Greenwich, CT.

I believe the intersection of 100/West Hill is MUCH more dangerous than Mountain Road/Luce Hill.

School Merger makes sense! Stop the elitism and fear mongering. All children matter. Not just the ones in Stowe!!!

Thank you for using this survey to better understand these issues! All important!

There should be a traffic light @ Weeks Hill and Route 100!

Light at Moscow/100

The traffic signal should be placed at Route 100 and Moscow Road and another at Route 100 and Shaw's Grocery Store.

Low income residents need a year-round commuter bus, no just in the winter months.

Public events at the events field impact local homeowners with noise & traffic. I would like to see some consideration/compensation for homeowners close to the Events Fields (Mayo Farm Road, Weeks Hill Road area)

Parking garage in the Rec Path Parking area behind the Community Church would be great!!

Please ban single use bags. We need a traffic light by West Hill Road/100. This worked well in the past. Town can pay for Mtn Rd/Luce Hill light if it is done before State \$ comes through, but State should pay it back!

I would like to see buildings repurposed to affordable housing vs building new and using up land. I would like to see incentives for private businesses to build vs government involvement.

A traffic light by Shaw's and Route 100 is the most critical.

Stowe REALLY needs to do something about the traffic hazards at the Moscow turn. People take crazy risks there and we all know the results.

thank you!

Speaking of low-income residents: I think the commuter bus should operate year-round, not just in winter!

We should promote entreuprenership and professional services in the state rather than making Vermont into a welfare state

Great survey.

TRAFFIC LIGHT AT MOSCOW RD. AND RT. 100 NOOOOO ROTARY

Affordable housing is vital!

No lights, more round-abouts

Please lower property taxes.

I would support a traffic light at the Shaw's intersection (West Hill and Route 100).

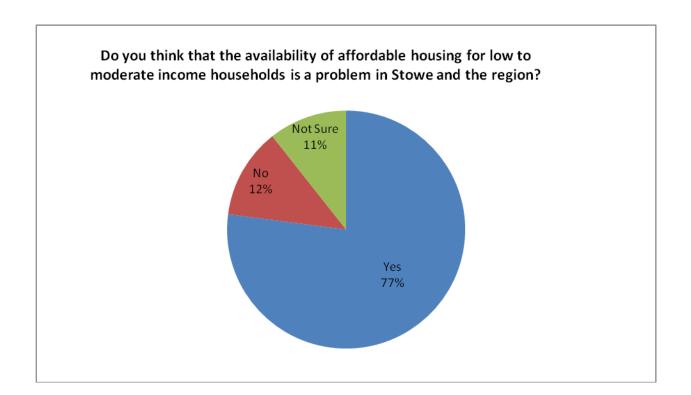
A light at 100 and West Hill Rd

Speaking of low-income residents and work force: We really need a transit bus that runs year round, not just in winter.

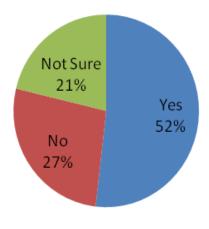
Please remember that the tax burden is town is extremely high and unsustainable. I choose to raise my kids here but I will choose to retire somewhere else solely because of the taxes.

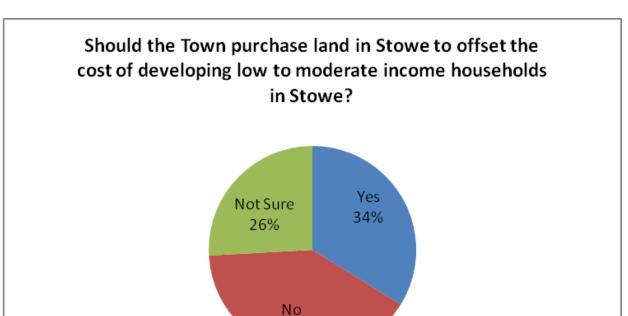
We should be supporting the social services budget at least another 50% on top of current allocation

Survey Monkey lends itself to people choosing yes or no when they really need more information. Or sets things up for where one small piece of additional info from a discussion could lead to a 'oh, wait, then i change my vote'. Its a fun way to gather data, but for many/most topics, the data should not be taken seriously. Every topic in this survey warrants discussion, at the town meeting and/or prior, and not casting of votes prior to the discussion, but instead afterwards. People want to answer. People tend to choose yes or no, not 'not sure'. And for those that do answer yes or no, it's a statement of having made a decision without town meeting discussion. Without giving others a chance to be heard, and to learn from what they hear. Please don't ask me my opinion before I've heard the discussion.



The Town of Stowe currently annually contributes \$5,000 to the Lamoille Housing Partnership, which is a non-profit affordable housing developer. Do you think the Town should increase its contribution?





40%

