

Community Survey Summary:

This summary presents key themes from community survey responses.

Key statistics: Survey participation was approximately 159–160 responses for the multiple-choice questions, with 60 written responses to the open-ended land-use question. Based on the visible charts, an estimated 70%–90% of respondents rated farmland, rural character, water resources, and open space/scenic views as important or very important. The majority also supported continuing current residential parcel-size standards and parcel-split timing limits, while responses on relinquishing Transfer of Development Rights appeared more divided.

Overall theme: Respondents placed strong value on preserving the Town's rural character, productive farmland, open space, scenic views, natural resources, wildlife habitat, and groundwater quality.

Land use and development: Many comments favored careful, limited growth that protects agricultural land and rural views. Roughly two-thirds or more of respondents appeared to prefer less or no additional large-scale utility, renewable energy, data center, or transmission-related development over the next 20 years. Respondents expressed concerns about large-scale energy, utility, data center, commercial, and industrial projects, particularly where they may affect farmland, roads, water resources, and future land-use options.

Transportation and infrastructure: Feedback emphasized maintaining local roads, managing heavy equipment impacts, and balancing trails or recreation opportunities with agricultural operations and landowner interests.

Residential and commercial growth: Respondents generally preferred slow, thoughtful development. Based on the visible charts, a substantial share appeared to favor the same or less business/commercial development, and an estimated majority supported keeping current parcel-size requirements and lot-split timing limits. Some respondents requested more flexibility for landowners, larger residential lots, or limited small-business opportunities.

Planning tools: Views on Transfer of Development Rights were mixed. The visible charts suggest no single position clearly dominated across all TDR-related questions, with support, opposition, and no-opinion responses all represented. Some supported directing development away from productive farmland, while others questioned how development rights should apply to land no longer used for agriculture or wanted more explanation before forming an opinion.

Public process and oversight: Several respondents requested clear communication, transparent decision-making, early public input, environmental protections, decommissioning expectations, and consistent enforcement of existing standards.

Conclusion: The feedback indicates a broad desire to preserve farmland, protect water and natural resources, maintain rural character, and evaluate future development carefully. The estimated statistics should be treated as approximate because they were read from the visible charts rather than calculated from raw survey data. The comments also point to the importance of continued public engagement and clear guidance for long-term land-use decisions.