

FAIRLEE COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS – SUMMER, 2006

Total number of surveys sent: 980
 Total responses received: 294 (as of November 1, 2006)

HOUSING

1. About 5 to 8 new homes are built in Fairlee each year. Would you like to see Fairlee grow:
 30% more slowly 58% the same 7.1% more quickly 4.9% without limits

2. Should Fairlee support the creation and development of:

Type	Strongly agree	Agree	No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Apartments or town houses	11.5%	19.3%	19.7%	32%	17.5%
Housing affordable* to working families	24.8%	45.7%	11%	12.1%	6.4%
Assisted living for elderly people	33.6%	42.6%	14.4%	4.3%	5.1%
Nursing home(s)	9.4%	22.3%	37%	22.6%	8.7%
Single-family houses on individual lots	24.5%	52.3%	10.8%	9%	3.2%
Cluster homes**	15.4%	26.6%	14.6%	24.7%	18.7%
Multi-family homes on individual lots	7.1%	18.8%	19.9%	35.7%	18.4%
Seasonal housing	11.2%	34.8%	19.5%	22.5%	12%

*Affordable housing is typically defined as housing that costs no more than 30% of the household income.

**Cluster homes are single-family houses on individual lots which are designed to be situated close to one another while preserving and sharing common open space.

LOCAL ECONOMY

3. What businesses are needed in the Village?

Business	Needed	Not Needed	No opinion
Pharmacy	41%	42.5%	16.4%
Dentist	36.2%	38.4%	25.4%
Doctor/Physician	45.4%	33.8%	20.8%
Restaurants	42.2%	43.7%	14.2%
Retail	51.9%	30%	18.1%
Daycare	43%	18.5%	38.5%

Comments:

Need a local health clinic

Bakery

Source for local groceries that is clean and offers fresh produce (market for local farm produce)

TOWN SERVICES

4. How do you feel about these town services?

Service	Excellent	Good	Needs improvement	No opinion
Ambulance / EMS	67.1%	24.8%	0.7%	7.3%
Fire	60%	29.8%	0.7%	9.5%
Police	23.9%	43.3%	22.5%	10.2%
Town administration	23.6%	49.6%	14.9%	12%
Schools	10.3%	37.6%	25.2%	27%
Library	37.2%	46.1%	5%	11.7%
Recreation	15.9%	51.6%	16.2%	16.2%
Solid waste management	8.1%	52.8%	19.4%	19.7%
Recycling	14.1%	53.9%	23.6%	8.5%
Town roads / maintenance	8.17%	60.1%	25.7%	5.4%

Comments: need to increase hours or number of days at the recycling center; need better speed limit enforcement; need increased recreation opportunities, such as an indoor gym and programs for adults

5. What is your opinion on the following projects?

Project	Favor	Do not favor	No opinion
Sidewalks in Fairlee Village	56.1%	29.6%	14.3%
Village revitalization	60.4%	18.5%	21.1%
Better parking in the village	33.2%	31.4%	35.4%
Traffic calming around Lake Morey	45.5%	24%	30.5%
One way traffic around Lake Morey	10.2%	73.7%	16.1%
Increasing access to the CT River	63.5%	13.7%	22.8%
Reuse of the RR Station	77.1%	8.5%	14.4%
Resumption of passenger rail service	59.6%	19.5%	20.9%
Sewage Treatment Facility for the Village and Lake District	34.4%	37.6%	28%

LAND USE

6. What types of land uses should be encouraged in Fairlee?

Type	Agree	Disagree	No opinion
Tourist oriented businesses	62.1%	19.5%	18.4%
Small businesses	93.3%	3.5%	3.2%
Retail stores	62.2%	24.8%	12.9%
Large businesses	12.4%	73.4%	14.2%
Agriculture / forestry	79.9%	10%	10%
Manufacturing / Industrial	20.6%	65.1%	14.3%
Home occupations	78.2%	4.4%	17.5%
Residential	78.5%	6.5%	15.1%

7. What type of development is appropriate for these areas of Fairlee?

Area	Residential	Commercial	Industrial
In or near the Village	179	221	14
North of the Village along Route 5	179	183	60
South of the Village along Route 5	184	175	59
Around Lake Morey or Lake Fairlee	252	17	1
In or near Ely	182	153	62
Along existing Class 3 roads (plowed by town)	239	51	18
Along existing Class 4 roads (not plowed by town)	197	17	9

8. Which areas of town should not be developed?

172 Forest lands	181 Ridgelines or scenic views
153 Farm lands	164 Recreation areas
116 Open fields/meadows	162 Lakeshore

9. Is too much land being changed or cleared in order to create residential housing? **Yes** 26.5% **No** 45.6% **No opinion** 27.9%

10. Would you support a small tax (one cent or less – about \$10 or less per \$100,000 of your property’s value) to establish a fund to conserve land in Fairlee for future generations? **Yes** 61.1% **No** 30.2% **No opinion** 8.8%

TRANSPORTATION/INTERNET/ENERGY

11. Do you use any of these shared transportation services? **Car pool** 24 **Park & Ride lot** 20 **Stage Coach bus service** 11

12. What kind of public transportation would you use if it were available? Rail, Bus. Esp to Leb/Hanover/WRJ

13. Is speeding a problem in town? **Yes** 45.9% **No** 37% **No opinion** 17.1%
 If so, where? Main Street, Route 5 North and South of town, around the Lakes

14. Is access to high speed Internet important to you? **Yes** 66.1% **No** 25.6% **No opinion** 8.3%

15. Should the town do more to promote energy conservation and/or development of private renewable energy systems? **Yes** 54.9% **No** 25.7% **No opinion** 19.4%

a. *comments*
 wind turbines, hydroelectric, solar systems

TOWN CHARACTER

16. How important to you are the following “special places” in Fairlee?

Special Places in Fairlee	Very important	Important	Not important
Cross Rivendell Trail	26.4%	29.8%	33.7%
Hulbert Outdoor Center	29.6%	45%	25.4%
Glens Falls	35.3%	39.4%	25.3%
Town Beach	52.2%	37.4%	10.4%
Town Forest	46%	36.5%	17.5%
Fairlee Village Green	52%	41.5%	6.5%
Fairlee Marsh Wildlife Management Area	31.6%	44.2%	24.2%
Railroad Station	27.2%	49.4%	23.4%
Orford-Fairlee Bridge	50%	41.1%	8.9%
Fairlee Palisades / Cliffs	47.5%	40%	12.5%
Church	24.3%	52.9%	22.8%
Town Hall	39.9%	51.8%	8.3%

17. Fairlee has many different natural resources. Some feel they add to the quality of life in our town. How important are these resources to you?

Fairlee’s Resources	Very important	Important	Not important
Hiking and skiing trails	46.6%	38.8%	14.6%
Open fields and meadows	47.2%	43.8%	9.1%
Agricultural lands	47.2%	44.9%	7.9%
Wetlands	40.7%	43%	16.3%
Unpaved roads	26.7%	43%	30.2%
Scenic views/roads	46%	44.9%	9.1%
Unbroken forests	49.4%	39.7%	10.9%
Wildlife areas	51.5%	42%	6.5%
Rare plants and animal habitat	45.7%	41.7%	12.6%
Streams	56.8%	39.4%	3.8%
Lake Morey	71.9%	24.9%	3.2%
Lake Fairlee	65.4%	30.9%	3.7%
ATV/snowmobile trails	9.5%	30.6%	59.9%
CT River shoreline	40.1%	46.5%	13.4%

INFORMATION ABOUT YOU

18. How would you describe yourself?

- 70% Year-round Resident
- 24.7% Seasonal Resident
- 4.2% Non-resident Landowner
- 1.1% Non-resident Business Owner

19. In which age-range are you?

- 1.1% 25 years or younger
- 9.1% 26-40 years
- 31.6% 41-55 years
- 38.6% 56-70 years
- 19.6% older than 70 years

20. How many years have you lived or owned property in Fairlee?

- 4.9% 2 years or less
- 9.4% Between 2 and 5 years
- 11.2% Between 6 and 10 years
- 27.6% Between 11 and 25 years
- 46.9% Longer than 25 years

21. Your commute to work or school is:

- 14.2% under 5 miles
- 18.4% 6 - 20 miles
- 17% 21 - 35 miles
- 4.6% 36 - 50 miles
- 2.5% more than 51 miles
- 43.3% this does not apply to me

22. Where do you live or own property?

- 8.9% Village
- 24.5% Residential
- 29.4% Rural Residential
- 33.7% Lakeshore
- 3.5% Don't know

23. Your connection to Rivendell schools:

- 14.2% child / children in school
- 5.7% grandchild / grandchildren in school
- 6.4% relative / relatives in school
- 73.7% no relatives in school

SUMMARY QUESTIONS

24. What is the single most important issue for Fairlee?

Milfoil in the lakes: eroding quality of natural resources, basis of our local economy, future of the town

Taxes are too high! Especially school portion of tax bill

School quality at Rivendell is poor

Increase the tax base slowly, sustainable local economy

Slowing, planning and balancing development, esp. large homes around the lake

Leave the town as it is, small and scenic. Maintain town character and sense of community.

Affordable housing, esp. for seniors

Affordable living for seniors, full time residents, young families

Town beautification, revitalization

Property values, valuing land like money leads to exploitation

25. If there are other issues important to you but not covered in this survey, please list them below:

Zoning should be fair and appropriate, to slow growth and sprawl

Eliminate zoning: people should be able to do whatever they want with the land they own

Traffic control in front of Wings

Improving safety bikers for pedestrians

Need a good town plan that is executable and smart for our town, developed by town people

Fair, balanced, representative town governing that reflects needs and interests of all people who live and own land in town. Smaller government, less spending

Replace old signs around town

Town water tastes and smells awful

Fair taxes for nonresident landowners

More cultural events

ATVs should be able to use roads

Conservation, open space preservation, hunting