

Results of
Georgetown Community Survey

Summary of “Other” Comments

Forward

There are a number of questions in the Community Survey where respondents were given the option of checking off “Other” and then inserting an open-ended text response. In total there were just under 500 such responses from respondents. This document provides a consolidated summary for each of these questions.

Each page in this report addresses one specific question in the survey. The question is identified in the page title by number and question category (e.g. “Georgetown Life”). Also on the title line it says “Other (XX)”. This is the number of open-ended responses in the specific category.

There is a bulletized list of phrases, each of which is a consolidated and/or summarized statement taken from the “other” comments. They are included in the list either because there were multiple comments with the same fundamental response or they are a unique thought about the category.

The bullets are not prioritized.

In some instances, a bullet statement has “(XX)” at the end where the number was felt to be important. This is the number of responders who made that particular comment.

4. Georgetown Life – Other (44)

- Protecting the character of Georgetown
- Georgetown is endowed with many conserved spaces - Conserved spaces are important, however we already have enough land conserved - We don't need any more land taken off the tax rolls
- High speed internet and accessible hot spots
- “More recreational boat/water access with parking please!! We're an island, after all, and our greatest resource is the ocean. It shouldn't just be for wealthy waterfront owners.”
- Co-housing options for elderly and low income families

5. b. Changing Demographics Seniors – Other (72)

- Transportation assistance for medical appointments, shopping, socialization, events, errands, etc.
- Support with home maintenance/housekeeping, especially shoveling
- Better communication systems - including improved internet, better cell phone coverage, a town bulletin board, and better access to the Tide
- Improved access to health care services - including tele-medicine, home-based healthcare services, and more caregivers that are affordable.
- Property tax reduction
- Better/other housing options once elders can't stay in their home
- Financial support, especially with heating costs
- Emergency support - power outages, extended cold snaps, heat waves, hurricanes
- Combine with Arrowsic and Bath – Create non-profit services for “Aging in Place”
- These services are not the Town's responsibility; should be done by family, friends, neighbors, or volunteers

6. Economy – Other (50)

- Cautioned against change, “We do not need to become Boothbay or Bar Harbor.” (7)
- Internet needs improvement (5)
- Focus on promoting already existing local businesses (4)
- Aquaculture (3), small scale farming (2)
- Encourage startup businesses and entrepreneurship
- Grow businesses that fit with the character of the town
- Encourage young families to live in Georgetown
- Maintain the school
- Attract service repair workers
- Desire for a gas station (3)
- “Too much change changes the feel of the community.”
- “Georgetown is fine the way it is.”

7. Land Use – Other (44)

- Survey did not have enough information to comment on this question (8)
- Recommended zoning regulations or ordinances (10) Recommended “guidelines” (2)
- Commercial land use ordinance should be specific to the type of commercial business (9)
- “Need to establish a process, with ordinance, that will ensure any new commercial activity wanting to reside in Georgetown fits into the existing culture/economic profile and will not harm the environment in any way.”
- Commercial land use should be sensitive to environmental issues (7)
- Highlighted importance of encouraging local businesses (4)
- Highlighted importance of waterfront access (3)
- “People should be allowed to do what they wish with their land. Not The towns business to decide.”

Marine Resources – Other (55)

- Numerous Commercial and Recreational Activities
 - Canoe, Kayak – Don't have good launch sites
 - Hiking the Trails, Viewing Shoreline, Wildlifing, Walking the Beach, Walking Mud Flats
 - Swimming
 - Scientific Study
- Eating at Marine Oriented Restaurants – the Wharf
- Reid State Park

9. a. Housing – Encourage Other (63)

- No Significant Commitment to Affordable Housing – However, See Question 5 a Concerning School Demographics
- Smaller lot size in built up areas – Validate water and waste treatment suitability
- “Denser development standards in existing villages and more strict restrictions in rural areas.”
- Zone limited areas for greater population density
- Keep 2 acre lot size for new houses
- Cluster housing with adjacent conserved lands (subdivision ordinance)
- Small, multifamily apartment buildings
- Incentives to Rehab abandoned houses – Zoning to address houses that should be condemned
- Continue protection of shoreland
- Concern for Water Supply (wells) and Waste Treatment (Septic) – Investigate developing town public services (water, sewer)
- Property Tax consideration for long-time families

9. b. Affordable Housing – Opportunities - Other (54)

- Single Family Units and Single Level Housing for Seniors Rate Highest but Less than 50%
- Cluster Housing – ECO Friendly Small Houses – Townhouse Development – Apartments – Condos - Thoughtful Zoning Strategies
- Build ECO Friendly Small Houses which will honor the character of Georgetown and Provide Cost Efficient Housing
- Apartments Big Enough for Families
- Hydrology Survey to Determine How Many People can be Supported by Private Wells
- If Georgetown's Average Housing Cost is Highest in the County, that indicates No Changes are Necessary – Keep Georgetown as it is – Do not try to attract low income families
- “Do not, do not, DO NOT encourage denser population.”
- Incredibly Poorly Worded Question – Georgetown's Index is on Par with other Coastal Communities

10. Infrastructure – Other (33)

- Need to improve Route 127 and Town roads (8)
Widen shoulder/breakdown lane for bicycling, walking, and jogging. Roads are not designed or engineered for either pedestrian or bicycle traffic. At least add signage to alert drivers. No one should ride a bike on 127. Make bikes illegal.
- Waste management was good until they stopped 1-7 recycling. (7)
Keep informing residents about recycling. What about single stream?
- Pave road from Sequinland cutoff to Five Islands wharf. Why hasn't this section been paved in years?
- Fresh water supply is not a municipal service or part of Town infrastructure, nor should it be.
- Should look into a trash to electricity power plant at old dump.
- Internet service is barely adequate. Need better cell phone coverage.

12. Town Assets and Facilities – Other (38)

- Add: Reid State Park, Store, Community Center, Post Office, Historical Society, Fire Stations, Town Office all of which are considered by many to be important Town assets.
- GCS is more than a “school”.
It’s a Community gathering place, cultural center and potential shelter in the event of a bad storm.
- First Church – Numerous comments. No valid use. Competes with GCC and the Meeting House. Convert to apartments. Sell it and remove from the tax roles.
- Todd’s Landing – “Town with this shoreline should have more than 100 feet of boat launch ability.”
- Transfer Station – More days or trash pickup like Arrowsic.
- Community Opportunities – gathering spaces, cooperative child-care
- Double Checks – Todd’s Landing, Wharf commercial, Transfer Station

13. Fiscal Capacity – Other (38)

- Depends – On the Project and What Other Funding Sources may be Available
- Bonds – Backstop for Bank Loans for Special Projects Like Broadband
- Community Fundraising
- Philanthropy from Some Residents
- User Fees – People Who Want a Service Pay for It
- Do NOT Increase Property Taxes
- “Re-evaluate the town like it should have been done years ago and you’ll have plenty of money from waterfront property owners instead of putting that financial burden on the people who can’t afford it.”
- Not In Favor of Objectives that Require Additional Funding
- Identify the Objectives First – Then See What Residents are Willing to Fund