

B. COMMUNITY SURVEY

A total of 742 direct mailings were sent to every address in July of 2021. The direct mailings indicated that the survey could be taken online, or respondents could obtain a paper copy at the Jonesport town office. A total of 102 surveys were completed online with an additional four paper surveys submitted to the Comprehensive Planning Committee by mail or in person for a total of 106 surveys, a 14.3% response rate. The survey also contained questions related to broadband accessibility, literacy, and utilization. As an incentive to participate in the survey, respondents were offered the opportunity to separately submit their name and contact information to enter a drawing for a chance to win one of two 50-dollar gift cards.

Respondents were encouraged by the Comprehensive Planning Committee to speak their minds to make the survey as valuable as possible. There were many responses to the seven open-ended questions at the end of the survey and other written responses throughout. The original survey and all the written responses can be found in Appendix A - Community Survey. Input from middle school students is included in Appendix B - Youth Vision. Raw survey data can be found at the Jonesport town office. Brief summaries of written comments are noted with the charted data and throughout the document as the issues they address are raised.

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

Jonesport strongly supports the fishing industry, but many respondents cited the need for more businesses provided they were not “big box” stores and would not detract from the charm of the town as a fishing village. Many respondents noted the town’s need for diversification in the types of businesses and industries relative to the warming waters of the Gulf of Maine and the impact it will have on commercial fishing.

The single most desired type of business was dining establishments including restaurants that serve local foods. Forty-one of the 87 written responses contained the word “restaurant.” Other desired economic activity included “clean” industries that are environmentally friendly, eco-tourism including whale watching, puffin tours, and sport fishing. Written comments note the need for service-based industries such as beauty salons, electricians, and plumbers. Survey respondents were divided on the desire for hotels/motels but generally supported bed-and-breakfast establishments.

Survey respondents generally expressed satisfaction with existing conditions in the community however, many respondents cited considerable discontent related to abandoned mobile homes and automobiles, and “junk” accumulated on some properties. Curbside trash removal and new sidewalks are also desired by many respondents.

Jonesport respondents were divided on the desire for town water/wastewater. Lack of public water/wastewater hampers economic growth due to lot sizes and distance requirements between wells and septic tanks, but some respondents expressed concern about the cost of public utilities. Respondents have a strong desire to maintain the small-town atmosphere and encourage a vibrant working waterfront. The survey revealed an emphasis on improving community development, preserving open space and other natural resources, small locally owned businesses, and little support for unregulated growth. Survey respondents generally oppose a town manager

form of government with opponents citing related costs to hiring a town manager and proponents citing full-time dedication to the town and its needs.

SURVEY RESULTS

General

Survey respondent demographics reflect a comparable proportion of males and females in the general population who are generally in the 70 – 79 years old age range, followed by the 50 – 69 years old age range, with 19 respondents in the 30 – 49 years old age range, three in the 80 – 89 years old age range and one in the 18 – 29 years old age range. Seventy-five percent of respondents indicated that they live in Jonesport year-round and over 98% own their homes. Survey results seem to be under representative for the 19–29–year–old age range.

Town Growth and Development

Nine questions were posed regarding whether survey respondents oppose or favor certain types of housing development. Questions focused on various types of housing, building codes and new home sizes. Twenty-five additional questions focused on general town development including whether respondents favor marine-based industries and non-marine based industries, retail businesses, road and other infrastructure improvements, and recreational opportunities. Eleven questions were asked regarding preservation, planning and land use and focused on various ordinances and natural resources. Further questions were posed regarding water supply and wastewater disposal as well as the level of satisfaction with town facilities and services. Jonesport also surveyed residents on internet use and satisfaction. Responses to the questions are included in the charts on the following pages.

A sample of written comments for each survey category is included below the related chart. Written comments, in their entirety, may be found in Appendix A - Community Survey.

Jonesport Comprehensive Plan Community Survey					
HOUSING					
Do you favor...?					
Answer Options	Favor	Oppose	Unsure	Rating Average	Response Count
Single Family Homes	102	0	2	1.04	104
Multi-family Homes	54	22	23	1.69	99
Subsidized Housing in general	42	29	33	1.91	104
Subsidized housing for the elderly	95	3	6	1.14	104
“Affordable” house lots	72	9	21	1.50	102
Mobile home parks	27	48	27	2.00	102
Restrictions on mobile homes	60	13	30	1.71	103
Maximum size on new homes	33	42	29	1.96	104
Stricter building code	43	31	30	1.88	104

SELECTED WRITTEN COMMENTS:

“It is getting too expensive for natives of this town to stay!”

“Jonesport needs housing for everyone...every year the costs rise.”

“We need more affordable housing for the elderly. We might also need this for low-income folks.”

Jonesport Comprehensive Plan Community Survey GENERAL DEVELOPMENT					
Should the town support...?					
Answer Options	Encourage	Discourage	Keep as is	Rating Average	Response Count
Marine-based industries	87	0	15	1.29	102
Value-added/ processing of marine products	80	4	14	1.33	98
Aquaculture	68	12	18	1.49	98
Boatbuilding/ Outfitting	89	0	12	1.24	101
Shore access for residents	87	1	16	1.32	104
Shore access in general	74	5	24	1.51	103
Harbor maintenance/restoration	95	2	6	1.14	103
Dredging of boat anchorage	63	7	30	1.67	100
Expand Maritime Activities District to protect current fishermen's rights	80	2	21	1.43	103
Nonmaritime-based industries	78	8	14	1.36	100
Group homes for special needs	53	14	30	1.76	97
Retail store(s)	86	7	10	1.26	103
Business/professional buildings	80	5	17	1.38	102
Home-based businesses	90	2	11	1.23	103
Nursing/assisted living homes	87	2	13	1.27	102
Bed and breakfasts	84	7	12	1.30	103
Motels/hotels	59	22	21	1.63	102
Seasonal campgrounds/RV parks	67	11	25	1.59	103
Public parking area(s)	74	5	23	1.50	102
Historical building/museum	86	0	16	1.31	102
Community Youth Center	83	2	18	1.37	103
Recreational facilities	81	3	19	1.40	103
Town road improvement	91	0	13	1.25	104
Cemeteries improvement	59	1	43	1.84	103
Computer resource center	73	6	24	1.52	103

SELECTED WRITTEN COMMENTS:

“Jonesport is of course known as a fishing community...but a diversity of businesses and community opportunities should also be encouraged.”

“If we are to attract new residents and keep our youth here, we need more activities, business opportunities etc.”

“Jonesport is in need of a commercial fish pier where fishermen can load/unload gear...”

“I do have concerns about waste management and septic systems with development growth...”

“We feel this town can offer so much more. And can benefit from tourism. There’s no need for big box retailers or franchises...Would be great to add sidewalks and a biked trail so people can be active.”

“There is a dire need for a restaurant/pub in the center of town area.”

“Work on a priority list.”

Jonesport Comprehensive Plan Community Survey PRESERVATION, PLANNING AND LAND USE					
Should the town...?					
Answer Options	Yes	No	Unsure	Rating Average	Response Count
Have site plan review for any development	81	5	15	1.35	101
Adopt a locally written town-wide zoning ordinance	71	10	21	1.51	102
Adopt a junk vehicle removal ordinance	81	6	15	1.35	102
Adopt a general junk removal ordinance	85	7	10	1.26	102
Should the town do more, less, or the same to preserve...?					
Answer Options	More	Less	The Same	Rating Average	Response Count
Marine based economy	63	0	39	1.76	102
Rural character as a fishing community	67	5	30	1.64	102
Scenic resources	75	0	27	1.53	102
Wetlands	51	6	44	1.93	101
Forests	52	4	44	1.92	100
Coastline	73	0	29	1.57	102
Open space	57	6	39	1.82	102

Survey respondents expressed a strong interest in preserving the fishing industry and support of maritime-related activities. At front and center of desired preservation efforts is the coastline, scenic resources, and harbor restoration. Jonesport survey respondents continue to show strong support of a junk vehicle ordinance (79%) and a “general” junk ordinance (83%). These

numbers have changed little since the town’s 2003 community-wide survey which showed 83% of respondents favored a junk vehicle ordinance and 78% favored a “general” junk ordinance and the town-wide ordinance does address automobile graveyards and junkyards.

Jonesport adopted a town-wide zoning ordinance in 1988 with amendments adopted in 2015, 2018, and 2019. The ordinance does address the state standard definition of an automobile graveyard as being prohibited but the definition of “general junk” is undefined as attempts to define the term is often met with resistance from residents who are concerned that fishing gear may be termed as “general junk” as the following statement is echoed in the written comment section of the community input survey:

“Have to be careful about the definition of junk – one man’s junk is another man’s treasure.”

Jonesport Comprehensive Plan
Community Survey
WATER & WASTEWATER

Jonesport does not have public water or wastewater utilities so as part of the community survey, the town asked residents to answer questions related to their water supply and sewer systems. As previously noted, there is a dearth of eating establishments as 41 of the 87 written responses contained the word “restaurant.”

Nearly 73% of respondents stated that their water comes from an artesian well and over 97% of respondents reported that the source of their water supply comes from their own property. More than 74% of survey respondents rated their well water as “Excellent” or “Good” however more than 29% of respondents reported their well water as having an “odor” and/or “brackish” and/or “rusty.”

Nearly 82% of Jonesport survey respondents stated they have a leach field while just over 16% reported having a chambered system or a holding tank. Over 90% of respondents reported that their septic system “works well” while nearly 5% stated that they were “unsure” of the condition of their septic system, almost 3% are aware that their system “has a problem.”

The survey revealed that 1.92% of respondents declared their sewer system consists of “overboard discharge” and the exact same percentage reported that their septic system “needs replacement.”

The survey posed the question “Would you like to have the town build a downtown public water system if it could increase the opportunities for new businesses to open?” Respondents were mostly in favor of a downtown public water system but those opposed expressed concern over the cost and who would pay for the infrastructure and usage. A few respondents were in favor of *town-wide* public water, citing the need for fire hydrants to battle house fires and wildfires.

SELECTED WRITTEN COMMENTS:

“I think this is well worth considering because any more development might stress the water system. Also, with sea level rise, there may be salt-water inundation of private wells...”

“Most of the population of the town’s taxes would be paying for this will not benefit from it at all because they live outside of the ‘downtown’ area.”

“Absolutely! Like...yesterday!”

“ABSOLUTELY!!!! This has prevented many business opportunities thus far. In my opinion, this is the number one thing that has to happen!”

“Private water system is better for independent opportunities. Each person responsible for own upkeep.”

Jonesport Comprehensive Plan Community Survey FACILITIES AND SERVICES						
What is your level of satisfaction with...?						
Answer Options	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	No Opinion	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Response Count
Police Protection	9	26	30	27	11	103
Fire Protection	21	46	29	7	1	104
Ambulance	23	51	21	7	1	103
Health Services	3	39	26	27	8	103
Adult Education	1	15	56	24	8	104
Public Schools	7	38	38	15	6	104
Town Office Services	19	65	15	3	2	104
Town Office Hours	17	58	15	13	1	104
Town Office Building	23	59	17	5	0	104
Recreational Facilities	0	12	33	42	17	104
Recycling Center	2	7	26	35	32	102
Trash removal	3	14	31	29	25	102
Road Conditions	2	32	15	39	15	103
Snow Plowing	8	40	31	21	2	102
Property Tax Level	3	34	21	29	17	104
Community-wide Events & Celebrations	15	52	23	12	1	103
Town Marina	9	37	39	15	4	104
Town Pier	6	40	42	12	4	104
Peabody Memorial Library	43	47	12	2	0	104

Although survey respondents were generally satisfied with town services and facilities, written comments speak to the need for commercial fishing infrastructure, lack of access to the recycling facilities, and the tax burden of the town schools.

SELECTED WRITTEN COMMENTS:

“There is no local police presence.... No recreational services or adult ed. that I know of. Medical care provider presence is limited and frequently changing... Schools are a huge issue. No one wants to lose local schools but the cost to taxpayers is extremely high for the number of young people in the schools. It's difficult to give our young people a quality education under

these circumstances. There needs to be a reevaluation on how to do this better at a more reasonable cost.”

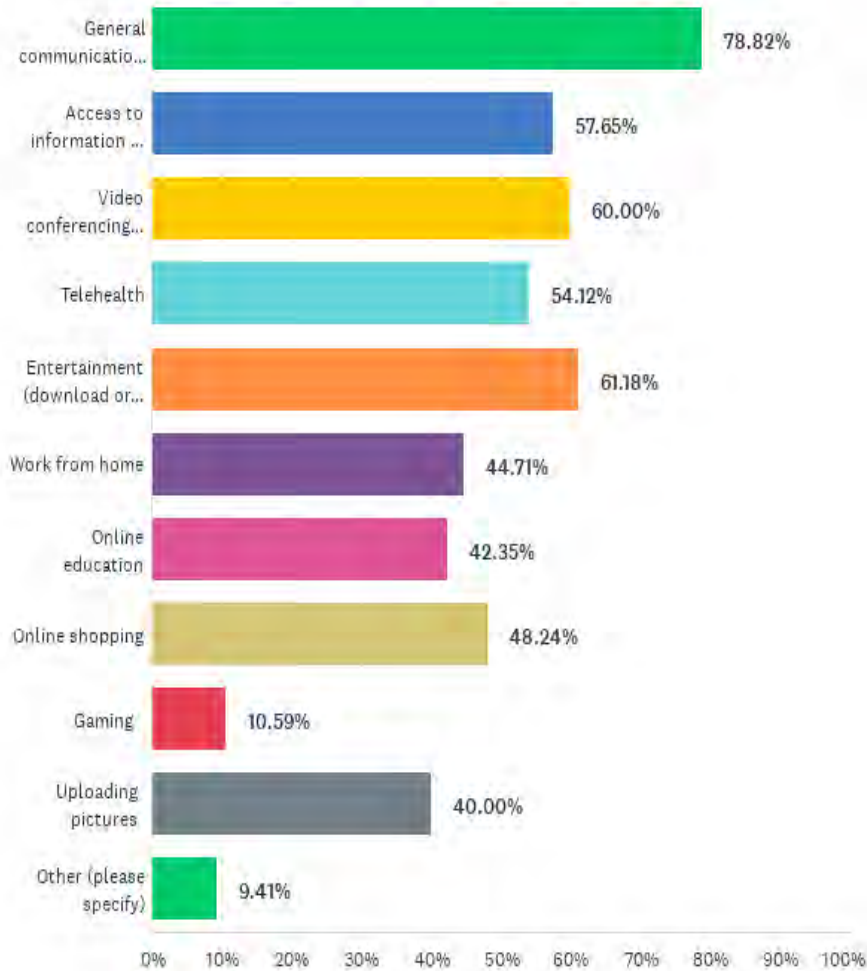
“Town pier needs to be enlarged to serve the needs of a water based economy- current fisherman, recreational boaters and visitors There is no reliable recycling facility in Jonesport that is near the population center – people will only recycle if it is easy- collection in blue cans or a recycle by the grocery store There is no visible recreation facility where locals can play basketball, baseball or any county tournament where town talent can be in competition, outside of the schools- Younger adults should be able to do sports locally- Recreation facilities show that a community cares about its physical well-being”

Jonesport Comprehensive Plan Community Survey INTERNET USE AND SATISFACTION						
How satisfied are you with...?						
Answer Options	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	No Opinion	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Response Count
The overall internet service at your home	23	49	1	22	3	98
Reliability/consistency of the internet connection at home	24	45	4	23	2	98
Internet speed of your current connection at home	23	46	7	16	6	98
Customer service when you call your internet service provider	17	39	20	19	4	99
Capacity of the internet service for business or telecommuting	11	26	39	17	6	99

Over 94% of survey respondents have internet at their home, nearly 5% stated that they do not have internet, and less than 1% of respondents reported that they have internet at their place of business. For respondents who are connected to the internet, over 68% use high speed cable and nearly 32% utilize a smartphone or cellular hotspot. For the respondents who reported that they do not have internet at home, nearly 44% cited the cost of internet connection as being prohibitive.

More than 50% of the respondents to the internet survey stated that they or their family members use the internet for educational purposes. Over 60% stated that the internet is “extremely important” to have fast, reliable internet access in their homes and for the town of Jonesport however only 30% of those respondents would be willing to pay more for faster, more reliable internet service. Many respondents reported that would like training in productivity tools such as spreadsheets and word processing and a substantial number of respondents would like more training/knowledge on streaming content as opposed to traditional cable television options.

Q49 B14. How would you benefit from improved internet service? Please select all that would apply if you had improved internet service.



The above graph demonstrates how respondents would utilize improved internet speeds and connectivity. Of note is the 40% of respondents who desire faster upload speeds which reflects a desire for more symmetrical internet speeds not currently available in Jonesport.

The town of Jonesport expressed to residents the importance of forthright input during the community survey process. The respondents provided a plethora of written comments which can be found in Appendix C - Broadband & Internet Survey.

WRITTEN COMMENTS:

What would you NOT change about Jonesport?

Working waterfront; small town atmosphere; scenery and shoreline; tight-knit community; the library; quiet living; good neighbors; town spirit.

What would you change about Jonesport?

More restaurants and retail, new sidewalks; junk removal; public water/wastewater; shore access; more activities for children; “clean up the drug situation.”

What kind of businesses would you like to see in Jonesport?

Restaurant; pharmacy bakery; recreational facilities; bed and breakfasts; environmentally safe businesses; childcare/after school center; maritime related businesses; cottage industries; ecotourism; value added seafood businesses; art galleries/cultural offerings.

Do you have any suggestions for improving the land use ordinances?

Address geographically vulnerable areas; prevent pollution causing elements; enforce current ordinances; preserve/increase public shore access; fair enforcement of existing ordinances.

How do you see Jonesport in the future?

Safe; fishing village; more services for the young and elderly; well-kept roads, houses, and sidewalks; friendly; tight knit; alcohol and drug rehabilitation services; modernized with small town atmosphere; more diverse businesses and population; “dying.”