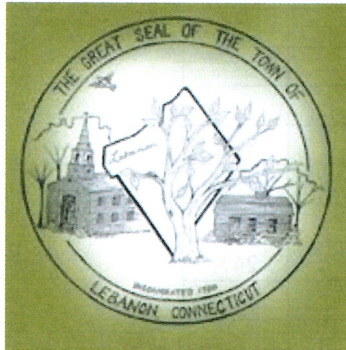


TOWN OF LEBANON CONNECTICUT

Assessment and Conservation Survey



*Funding provided by the Connecticut Department of
Agriculture through the Community Investment Act.*

Methodology

The Siena College Research Institute used a listed sample to call residents in the Town of Lebanon from April 15 – May 6, 2019. Three hundred and thirty- three (333) people completed the survey. The study has a margin of error of +/-5.4 percentage points.

The survey instrument has both close ended and open ended questions. The cross tabulations for the data can be found in Appendix 1 and the verbatim from the open ended questions can be found in Appendix 2.

Below is the nature of the sample:

Nature of the Sample	
Town of Lebanon Residents	
Gender	
Male	44%
Female	56%
Age	
Less than 55	32%
55 and older	63%
Education	
Less than Bachelor's degree	52%
Bachelor's degree or higher	47%
Child in Household	
Yes	24%
No	75%
Income	
Less than \$100,000	53%
\$100,000 or more	37%

The strongest support but still only a plurality was for offering tax incentives such as a reduction in property taxes to developers to develop senior housing (49% support/44% oppose). With those over 55 years old supporting the initiative at a 52%/40% rate.

The allocation of up to \$250,000 to construct multi-purpose recreation fields at Aspinall Recreation Complex was evenly split at forty-five percent (45%) to forty-five-percent (45%). The biggest difference in the demographics was found in the age group. Fifty-five and under supported this at fifty-eight (58%) while the fifty-five plus group only supported it at thirty-six (36%).

Support fell for the town to use local taxes to coordinate with a curbside trash provider for residential trash and recycling 38% to 55%. There were differences within the demographic variables with more females supporting this idea.

The least amount of support was given to the idea of offering tax incentives to promote economic development and/or multi-family housing at Exit 22 with only twenty-eight percent (28%) of the respondents supporting it.

When asked about other recreational activities that the respondents would like to see added to the town, water activities were mentioned the most. Including extending the hours of the swimming pool, adding an additional pool, and creating public beach access. One respondent left provided a lengthy message;

“I would like to have a multi-sports complex in town such as the Mansfield community center where **families can go to swim (big pool to swim laps)**, lift weights, run on an indoor track, partake in fitness classes, dance classes and do arts and crafts. I would love for the town to partially fund the facility and for citizens to pay a membership cost. **We could open up the two small lakes to have a beach that has public access.** There would need to be parking added. There could be something science-related (besides Legos) for people who are not sports-oriented. The science-related activities should be more geared toward middle school and high school students. I would like to have the ability to use open space for hiking and mountain biking purposes.”

Paths and trails were the next most mentioned recreational activity to add including more biking and hiking trails.

Activities for youth, additional sports activities and activities for adults were mentioned. (For all verbatim see Appendix 2.)

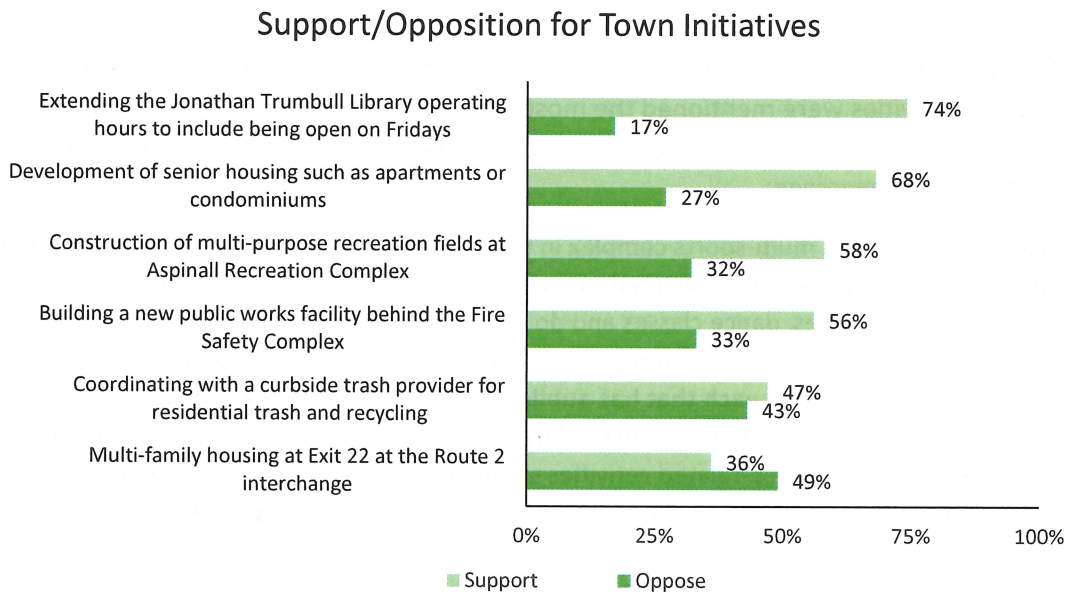
The last question was which one of the following five choices should be the main focus of the Town of Lebanon’s planning efforts over the next ten years and by far respondents said the focus should be on preserving farmland and open space (52%). Focusing on commercial development was second to that at eighteen percent (18%).

Findings:

When asked, “What do you think the most important issue is facing Lebanon today?” twenty-percent (20%) said high taxes and sixteen percent (16%) said school and education issues.

Almost everyone, ninety-four percent (94%) said that it is somewhat or very important that the town have working farms and open space and similarly eight-seven percent (87%) said that the town should continue to fund farmland and open-space preservation. When asked if the town should continue to fund the preservation of working farms and open space sixty-four percent (64%) said it was very important. Of those who said the town should *not* fund working farms and open space (36 people) sixty-five percent (65%) of those (23 people) said that it was very to somewhat important to them to not fund the working farms and open space. Twenty-two percent (22%) said it was not too or not at all important to them.

The respondents were asked their support for or opposition to several possible initiatives.



When asked about how to fund the initiatives, whether you supported them or not, the respondents' answers varied.

Town of Lebanon
conducted by the Siena College Research Institute
April 15 - May 6, 2019
333 Town of Lebanon Residents - MOE +/- 5.4%

Q2. What do you think is the MOST important issue facing Lebanon today?											
		Gender		Age		Education		Child in HH		Income	
	Total	M	F	<55	55+	Less than Bach degree	Bach degree or higher	Yes	No	<\$100K	\$100K+
Budget issues	4%	5%	3%	6%	3%	5%	4%	7%	3%	3%	6%
Economic development	5%	4%	6%	7%	4%	3%	7%	5%	5%	5%	6%
Energy prices	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Government	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%	3%	1%	2%	2%	3%	0%
Health care	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%
High taxes	20%	21%	19%	9%	25%	23%	17%	10%	24%	20%	17%
Land preservation/open space	8%	10%	6%	6%	10%	9%	8%	5%	9%	7%	10%
Managing growth and development	2%	3%	2%	0%	4%	1%	4%	1%	3%	2%	3%
Municipal services	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%
Preserving town character	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%
School/Education issues	16%	9%	21%	23%	13%	11%	21%	28%	12%	12%	22%
The economy	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Transportation/Road maintenance	3%	5%	2%	5%	2%	3%	3%	4%	3%	4%	2%
Zoning	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%
Other	19%	21%	17%	19%	19%	17%	21%	20%	18%	20%	17%
Don't know	17%	16%	18%	19%	15%	22%	11%	15%	18%	21%	13%
Q3. How important is it to you that Lebanon have working farms and open space?											
		Gender		Age		Education		Child in HH		Income	
	Total	M	F	<55	55+	Less than Bach degree	Bach degree or higher	Yes	No	<\$100K	\$100K+
Very important	78%	73%	83%	78%	79%	79%	77%	78%	78%	80%	76%
Somewhat important	16%	18%	14%	16%	15%	14%	18%	15%	16%	16%	16%
Not too important	3%	4%	2%	3%	3%	3%	2%	2%	3%	2%	4%
Not at all important	3%	4%	2%	3%	3%	3%	2%	4%	2%	2%	4%
Don't know/Refused	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%

Q4. Lebanon has contributed funds to preserve 2,600 acres of farmland and open space since 2007. Ninety-five percent of funds to preserve this land comes from State and Federal sources, and the remaining 5% comes from local taxes. Do you think the town should or should not continue to fund farmland and open space preservation over the coming decade?

		Gender		Age		Education		Child in HH		Income	
	Total	M	F	<55	55+	Less than Bach degree	Bach degree or higher	Yes	No	<\$100K	\$100K+
Should	87%	82%	91%	86%	88%	88%	86%	85%	88%	90%	85%
Should not	11%	16%	7%	11%	10%	9%	12%	12%	10%	7%	15%
Don't know/Refused	2%	3%	2%	3%	2%	3%	1%	2%	2%	3%	1%

Q4A. (If town should fund farmland) How important is it to you that the town fund farmland and open space preservation?

		Gender		Age		Education		Child in HH		Income	
	Total	M	F	<55	55+	Less than Bach degree	Bach degree or higher	Yes	No	<\$100K	\$100K+
Very important	64%	69%	62%	66%	65%	63%	66%	67%	64%	62%	70%
Somewhat important	29%	26%	31%	30%	29%	28%	30%	29%	30%	32%	25%
Not too important	5%	3%	6%	4%	4%	7%	2%	3%	5%	5%	5%
Not at all important	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%
Don't know/Refused	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%

Q4B. (If town should not fund farmland) How important is it to you that the town not fund farmland and open space preservation?

		Gender		Age		Education		Child in HH		Income	
	Total	M	F	<55	55+	Less than Bach degree	Bach degree or higher	Yes	No	<\$100K	\$100K+
Very important	36%	48%	15%	42%	38%	50%	26%	40%	36%	38%	39%
Somewhat important	39%	22%	69%	50%	24%	19%	53%	50%	32%	23%	44%
Not too important	8%	9%	8%	8%	10%	6%	11%	10%	8%	15%	6%
Not at all important	14%	17%	8%	0%	24%	19%	11%	0%	20%	15%	11%
Don't know/Refused	3%	4%	0%	0%	5%	6%	0%	0%	4%	8%	0%

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Next, I'd like you to tell me if you support or oppose several possible initiatives within the Town of Lebanon. [Q5A-Q5F ROTATED]										
Q5A. Development of senior housing such as apartments or condominiums										
	Gender		Age		Education		Child in HH		Income	
	Total	M	F	<55	55+	Less than Bach	Bach degree or higher	Yes	No	<\$100K \$100K+
Support	68%	61%	72%	50%	75%	67%	67%	51%	73%	70% 65%
Oppose	27%	32%	23%	44%	20%	27%	28%	43%	22%	23% 33%
Don't know/Refused	5%	6%	4%	6%	5%	6%	5%	6%	5%	7% 2%
Q5B. Multi-family housing at Exit 22 at the Route 2 interchange										
	Gender		Age		Education		Child in HH		Income	
	Total	M	F	<55	55+	Less than Bach degree	Bach degree or higher	Yes	No	<\$100K \$100K+
Support	36%	32%	38%	40%	33%	33%	37%	35%	36%	34% 41%
Oppose	49%	54%	45%	47%	50%	49%	49%	48%	50%	48% 47%
Don't know/Refused	15%	14%	17%	13%	16%	17%	14%	17%	15%	18% 12%
Q5C. Construction of multi-purpose recreation fields at Aspinall Recreation Complex										
	Gender		Age		Education		Child in HH		Income	
	Total	M	F	<55	55+	Less than Bach degree	Bach degree or higher	Yes	No	<\$100K \$100K+
Support	58%	56%	59%	69%	52%	54%	63%	70%	54%	55% 65%
Oppose	32%	36%	29%	25%	34%	33%	29%	22%	34%	33% 27%
Don't know/Refused	11%	8%	12%	6%	13%	13%	8%	7%	12%	12% 7%
Q5D. Extending the Jonathan Trumbull Library operating hours to include being open on Fridays										
	Gender		Age		Education		Child in HH		Income	
	Total	M	F	<55	55+	Less than Bach degree	Bach degree or higher	Yes	No	<\$100K \$100K+
Support	74%	71%	77%	70%	77%	76%	74%	74%	75%	78% 73%
Oppose	17%	18%	17%	19%	16%	16%	18%	17%	17%	14% 19%
Don't know/Refused	8%	11%	5%	11%	7%	8%	8%	9%	8%	8% 9%

Q5E. Building a new public works facility behind the Fire Safety Complex									
	Gender		Age		Education		Child in HH		Income
	M	F	<55	55+	Less than Bach degree	Bach degree or higher	Yes	No	
Total									
Support	56%	53%	59%	58%	60%	54%	52%	58%	<\$100K \$100K+ 60% 56%
Oppose	33%	37%	29%	30%	30%	35%	37%	31%	30% 35%
Don't know/Refused	11%	9%	12%	12%	10%	11%	11%	11%	10% 10%
Q5F. Coordinating with a curbside trash provider for residential trash and recycling									
	Gender		Age		Education		Child in HH		Income
	M	F	<55	55+	Less than Bach degree	Bach degree or higher	Yes	No	
Total									
Support	47%	38%	55%	46%	45%	50%	44%	48%	<\$100K \$100K+ 47% 50%
Oppose	43%	53%	36%	46%	45%	41%	43%	43%	44% 41%
Don't know/Refused	10%	9%	10%	8%	10%	8%	12%	8%	9% 9%
Regardless of your support or opposition for the initiatives we've discussed, we would like to hear your views on funding options for these projects if they were to be approved. Would you support or oppose: [Q6-Q9 ROTATED]									
Q6. Offering tax incentives, such as a reduction in property taxes to developers, to develop senior housing?									
	Gender		Age		Education		Child in HH		Income
	M	F	<55	55+	Less than Bach degree	Bach degree or higher	Yes	No	
Total									
Support	49%	45%	52%	52%	48%	50%	38%	52%	<\$100K \$100K+ 50% 48%
Oppose	44%	50%	39%	40%	43%	46%	59%	39%	42% 48%
Don't know/Refused	7%	5%	9%	7%	9%	5%	2%	8%	8% 3%
Q7. Offering tax incentives to promote economic development and/or multi-family housing at Exit 22 at the Route 2 interchange?									
	Gender		Age		Education		Child in HH		Income
	M	F	<55	55+	Less than Bach degree	Bach degree or higher	Yes	No	
Total									
Support	28%	20%	34%	25%	28%	27%	32%	26%	<\$100K \$100K+ 28% 27%
Oppose	62%	69%	56%	65%	59%	65%	54%	64%	61% 64%
Don't know/Refused	11%	11%	10%	10%	13%	8%	14%	10%	11% 9%

Q8. The town using local taxes to coordinate with a curbside trash provider for residential trash and recycling?									
	Gender		Age		Education		Child in HH		Income
	Total	M	F	<55	55+	Less than Bach degree	Bach degree or higher	Yes	No
Support	38%	29%	44%	41%	36%	34%	41%	40%	37%
Oppose	55%	63%	48%	51%	56%	56%	53%	49%	56%
Don't know/Refused	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%	9%	6%	11%	7%
Q9. The allocation of up to \$250,000 to construct multi-purpose recreation fields at Aspinall Recreation Complex?									
	Gender		Age		Education		Child in HH		Income
	Total	M	F	<55	55+	Less than Bach degree	Bach degree or higher	Yes	No
Support	45%	47%	43%	58%	39%	42%	48%	56%	42%
Oppose	45%	48%	43%	32%	50%	48%	41%	32%	49%
Don't know/Refused	10%	5%	14%	9%	11%	10%	10%	12%	9%
Q12. Which one of the following 5 choices should be the main focus of Lebanon's planning efforts over the next 10 years: [CHOICES ROTATED]									
	Gender		Age		Education		Child in HH		Income
	Total	M	F	<55	55+	Less than Bach degree	Bach degree or higher	Yes	No
Commercial development	18%	19%	17%	17%	18%	16%	21%	23%	16%
Industrial development	8%	8%	7%	4%	9%	9%	6%	2%	9%
Farmland and open space preservation	54%	57%	52%	56%	56%	56%	54%	53%	55%
Tourism development	8%	6%	9%	11%	6%	8%	7%	7%	8%
Residential development	8%	7%	8%	8%	6%	7%	7%	9%	7%
None of these	2%	2%	3%	3%	2%	2%	3%	4%	2%
Don't know/Refused	3%	1%	4%	1%	3%	3%	2%	1%	3%

Nature of the Sample	
Town of Lebanon Residents	
Gender	
Male	44%
Female	56%
Age	
Less than 55	32%
55 and older	63%
Education	
Less than Bachelor's degree	52%
Bachelor's degree or higher	47%
Child in Household	
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No	75%
Income	
Less than \$100,000	53%
\$100,000 or more	37%