

Appendix E. SURVEY RESULTS

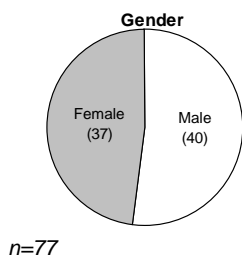
This appendix compiles the results of the public opinions survey distributed to Machiasport residents in the January 2009. Surveys were mailed to Machiasport residents from a list compiled by the Town Clerk’s office that combined registered voters and property owners; additional copies of the survey were made available at the Town Office. The survey was also made available online through the Washington County Council of Governments website at www.wccog.net. The Comprehensive Plan Committee received 80 responses (including 21 online responses) for an overall response rate of approximately 20%.

Survey respondent were asked questions regarding a wide range of town affair. Survey responses are reproduced below and summarized in relevant chapters of the Comprehensive Plan. In addition, many survey respondents submitted written comments, reproduced at the end of this appendix. Responses and comments submitted by Machiasport residents guided the Comprehensive Plan Committees development of goals and strategies.

Overview of Survey Findings

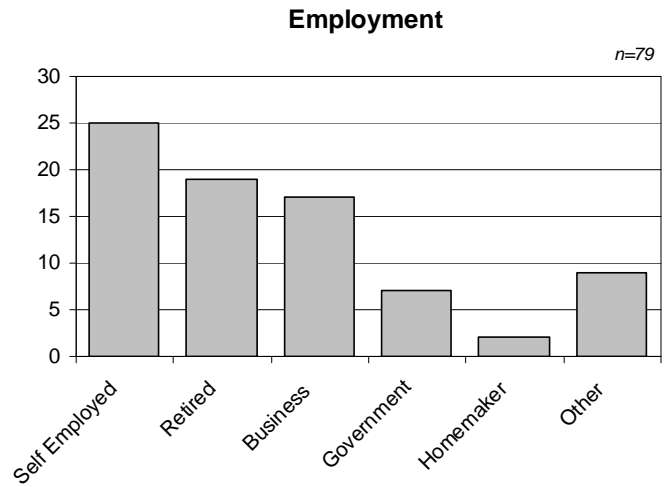
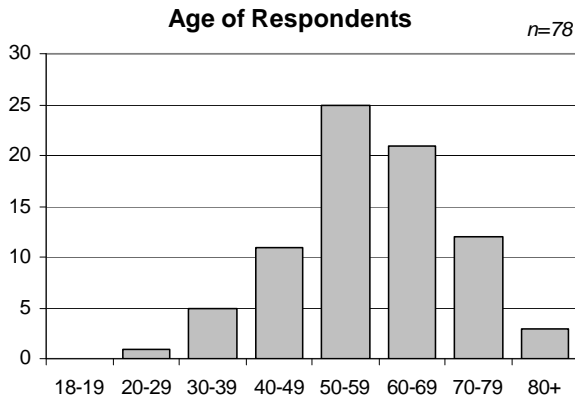
- Respondents were strongly in favor of encouraging the types of land use that currently exist in Machiasport: single family homes, home based business, fishing and aquaculture.
- Respondents were strongly opposed to the development or expansion of land uses such as bars/bottle clubs, casinos, hazardous materials handling operations, and tire/junk/salvage yards.
- Respondents showed a very high level of support for town efforts to acquire and preserve public access to the shore and to develop improved recreational facilities (such as hiking trails).
- Respondents indicated support for a wide variety measures to preserve Machiasport’s scenic beauty and rural character including: development of zoning ordinance, regulation of junk yards, limits on development in scenic areas, public investment preservation of historic buildings and scenic views.
- Overall, respondents indicated a high level of support for efforts to coordinate with neighboring communities in order to improve the delivery of public services.
- Overall, respondents were generally satisfied with town facilities and services, although respondent expressed some dissatisfaction recycling services, recreational facilities, and K-8 Education.

GENERAL RESPONSES/DEMOGRAPHIC



Key Findings

- Respondents were more likely to be and self-employed than the population as a whole; respondents were also older on average than the general population.
- The majority of respondents have lived in Machiasport more than 10 years and nearly 40% have lived in Machiasport more than 20 years.
- Respondents included seasonal and year-round residents.
- Respondents included home-owners and renters, those who live in state, town and private roads and occupants of all types of housing present in Machiasport.



Employment (n=72)

Part time 8 (11%) Full time 50 (69%) Seasonally 2 (3%) Retired 11 (15%) Other 1 (1%)

Live in Machiasport (n=72)

Year-Round 59 (82%) Seasonally 9 (13%) Other 4 (6%)

How many years have you lived in Machiasport

Year round (n=60)

5 years or less	7	12%
6 to 10 years	9	15%
11 to 20 years	16	27%
21 to 50 years	18	30%
More than 50 years	10	17%
Average	27	-
Median	20	-

Seasonally (n=16)

5 years or less	4	25%
6 to 10 years	4	25%
11 to 20 years	3	19%
21 to 50 years	4	25%
More than 50 years	1	6%
Average	16	-
Median	10	-

Home Type (n=76)

Mobile Home 7 (9%) Modular 3 (4%) Site-built 60 (79%) Log 1 (1%) Other 4 (5%)

Own/Rent (n=75)

Own 73 (97%) Rent 2 (3%)

Home is on: (n=76)

Town road 39 (51%) State road 22 (29%) Private road 15 (20%)

Water Source: (n=79)

Drilled Well 69 (87%) Hand dug 7 (9%) Cistern 1 (1%) Other 2 (3%)

Water quality: (n=78)

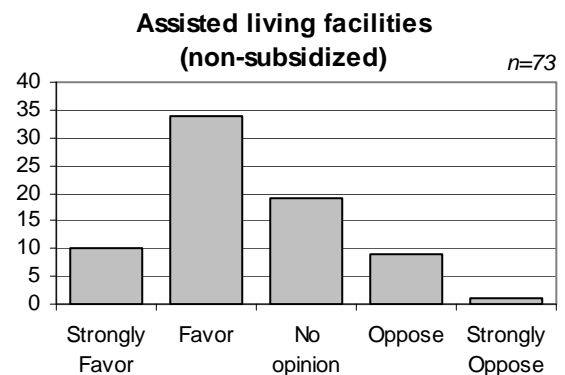
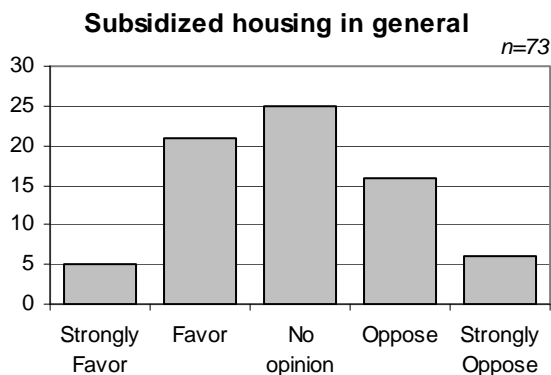
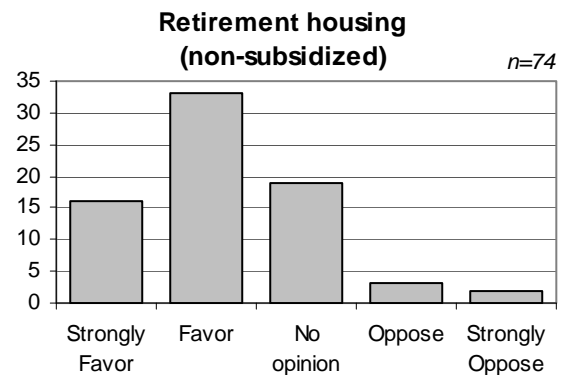
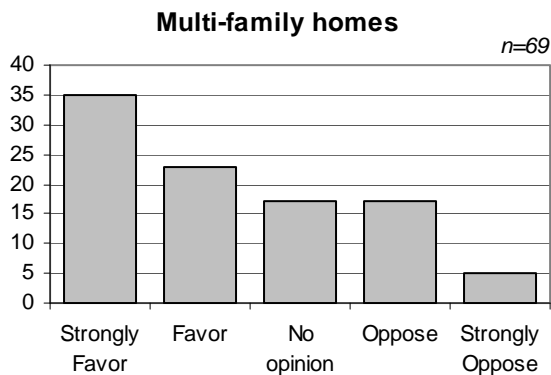
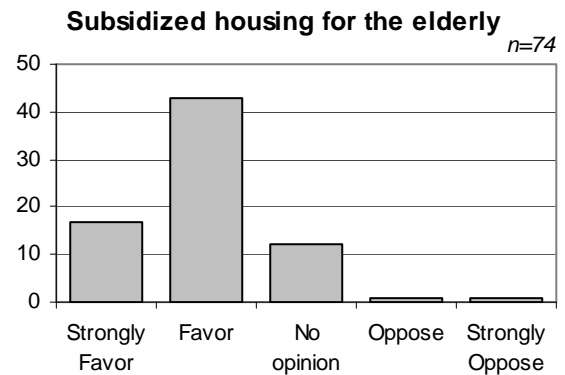
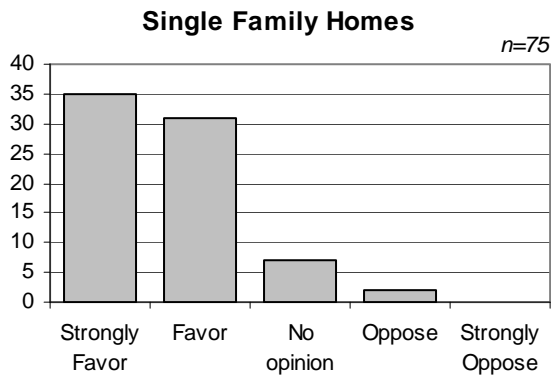
Excellent 28 (36%) Good 33 (42%) Fair 11 (14%) Poor 6 (8%)

HOUSING

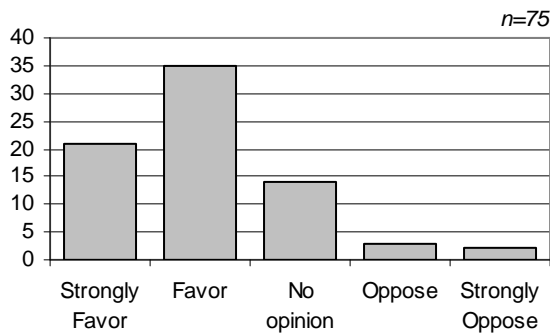
Respondents were asked whether they favored or opposed the development/expansion of various types of housing in Machiasport. The lower case “n” indicates the total number of responses for each question.

Key Findings

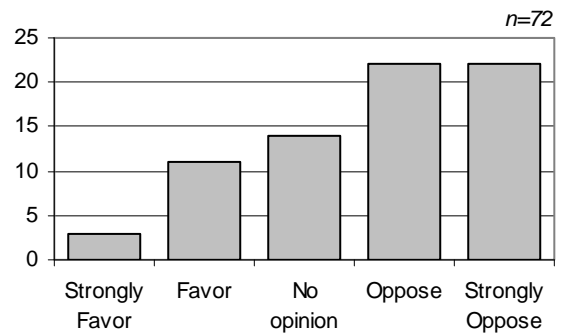
- Survey respondents were strongly in favor of developing single family homes and affordable housing lots.
- Survey respondents strongly opposed development of mobile home parks.
- Survey respondent were generally in favor of subsidized housing for the elderly, retirement housing (non-subsidized), multi family housing, and assisted living facilities.
- There was mixed opinion among respondents regarding development of subdivision with a notable minority strongly opposed.



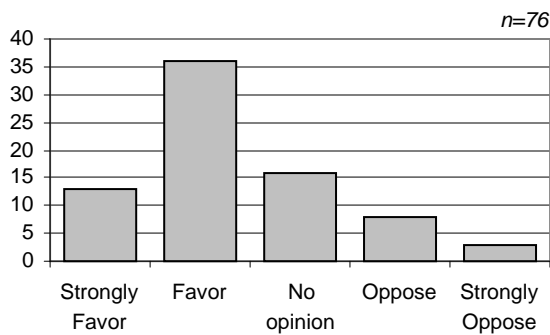
Affordable housing lots



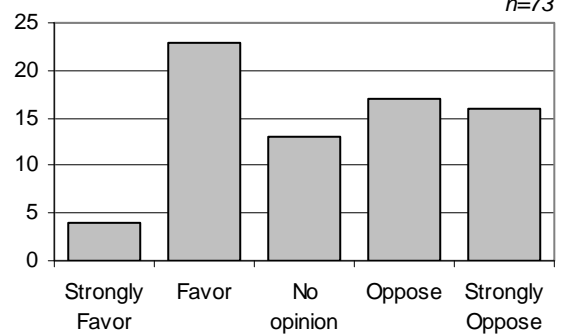
Mobile Homes Parks



Affordable rentals



Subdivisions

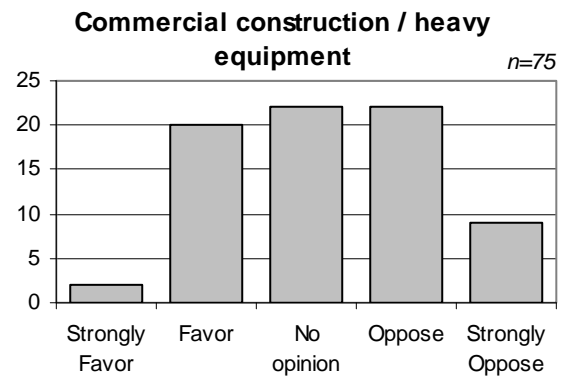
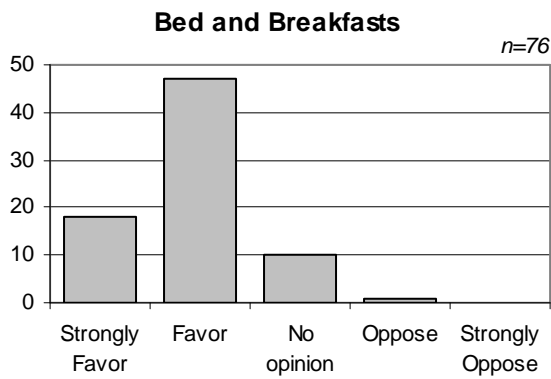
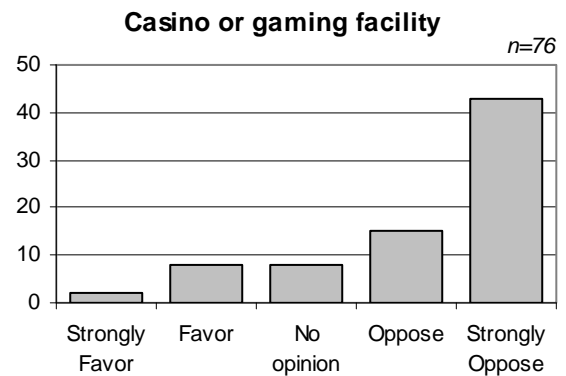
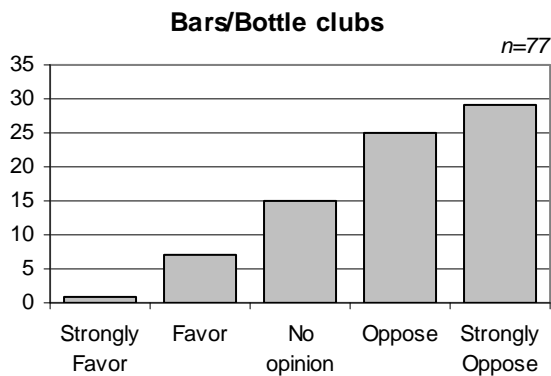
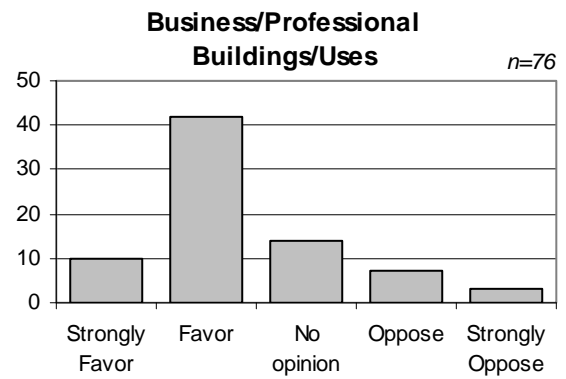
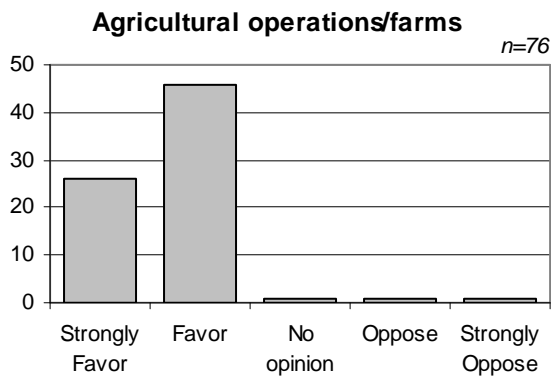
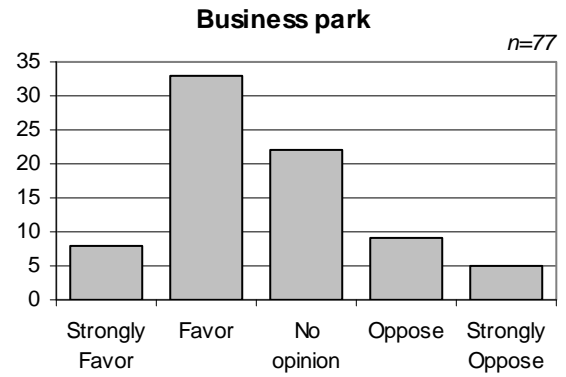
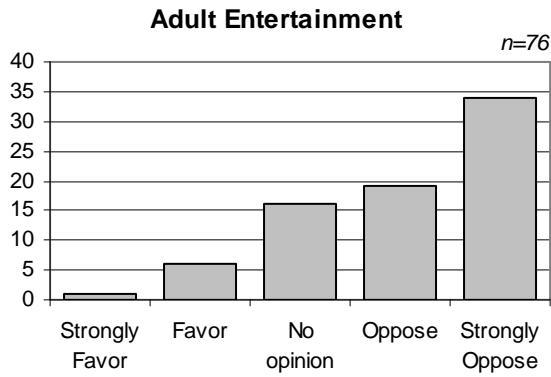


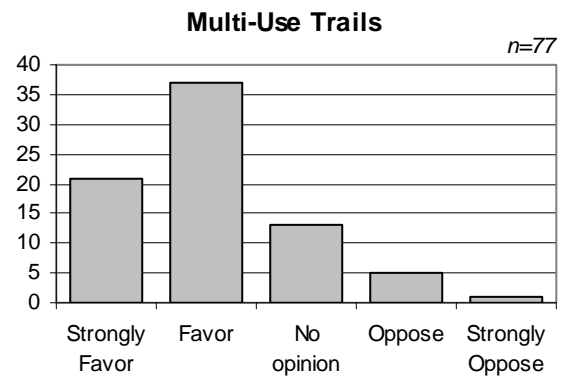
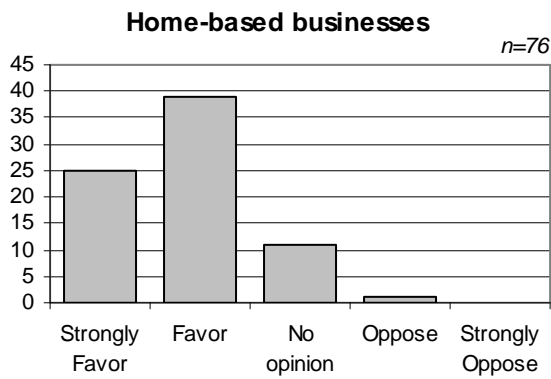
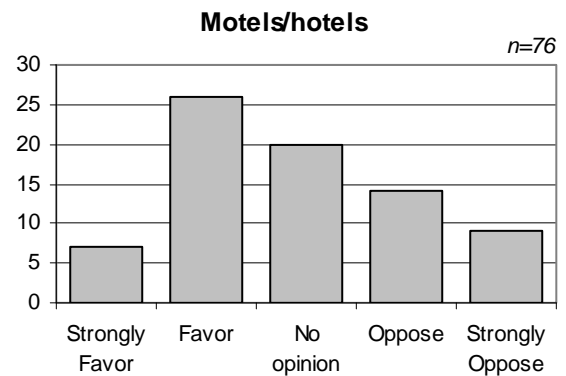
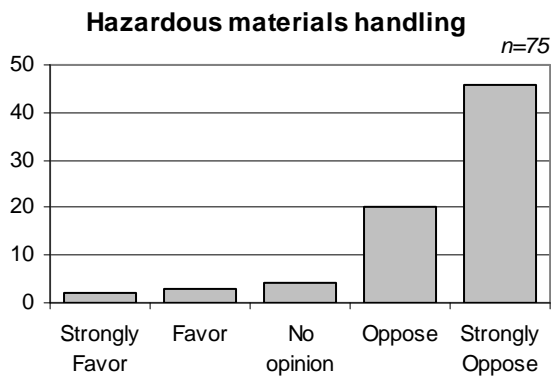
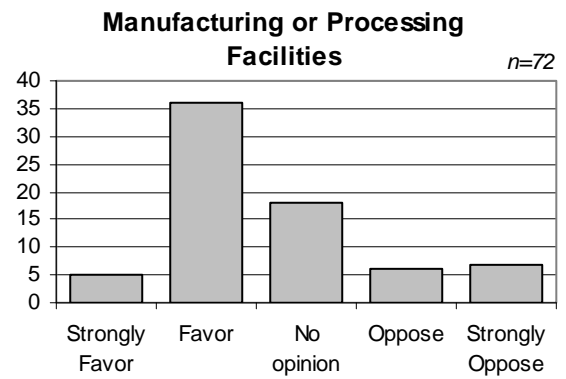
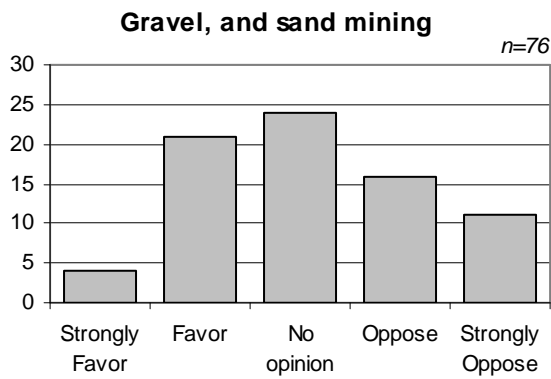
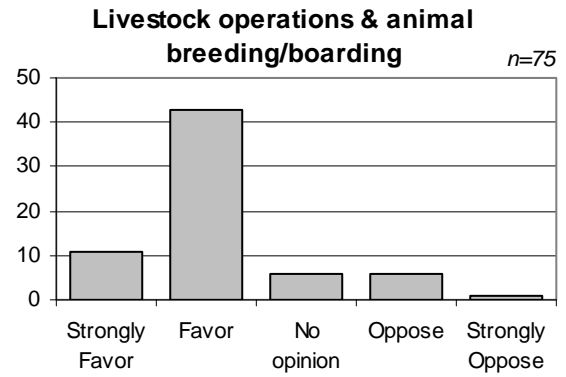
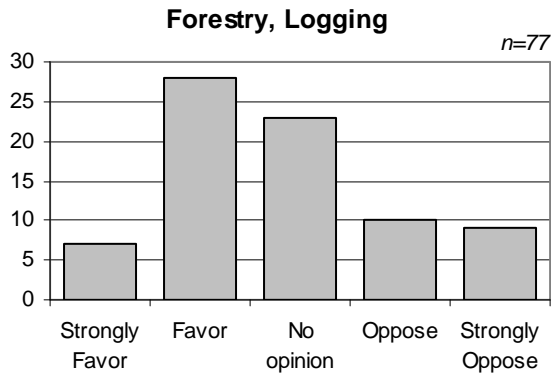
DEVELOPMENT

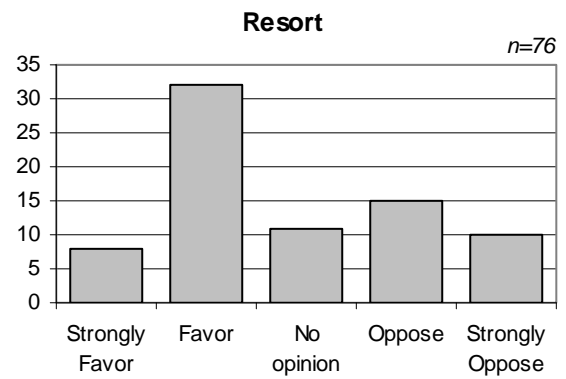
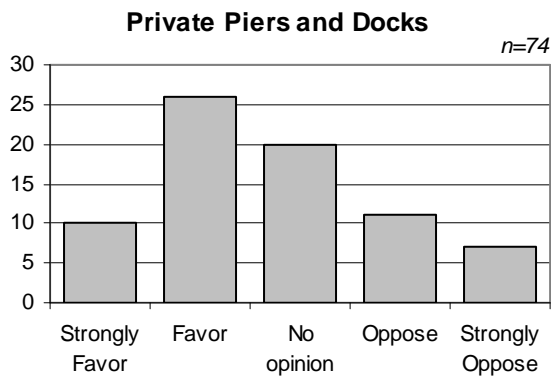
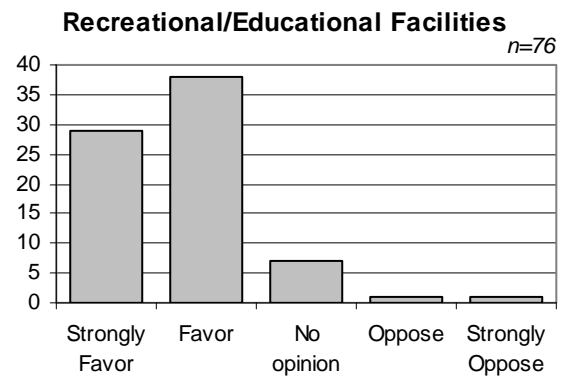
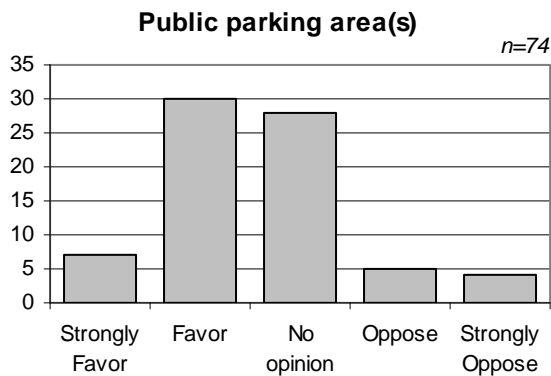
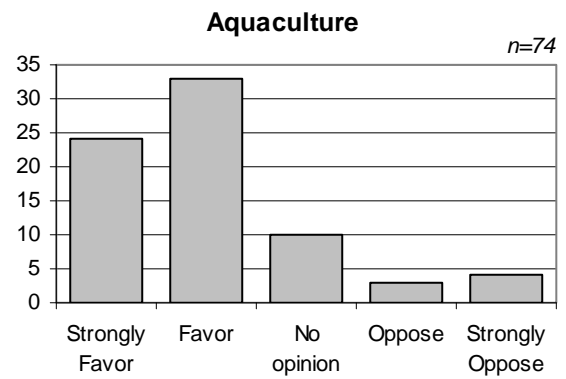
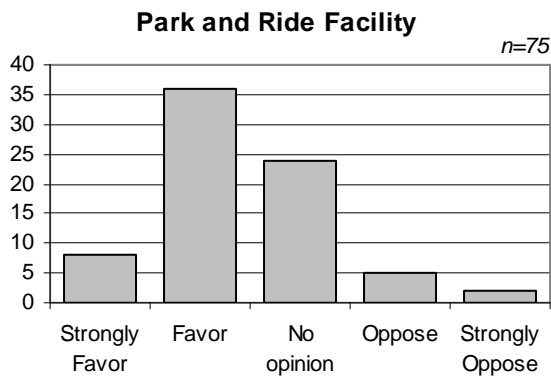
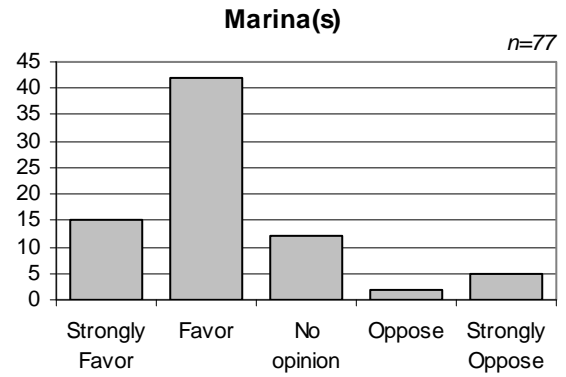
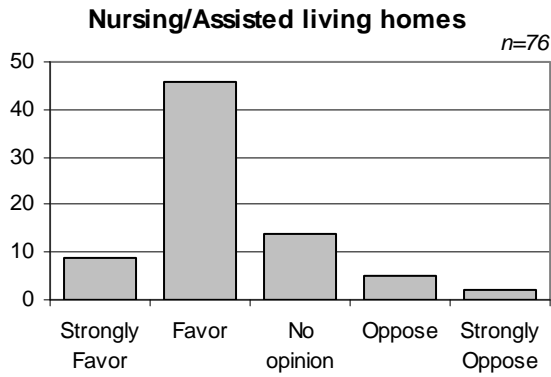
Respondents were asked whether they favored or opposed development/expansion of various types of land uses in Machiasport. The lower case “n” indicates the total number of responses for each question.

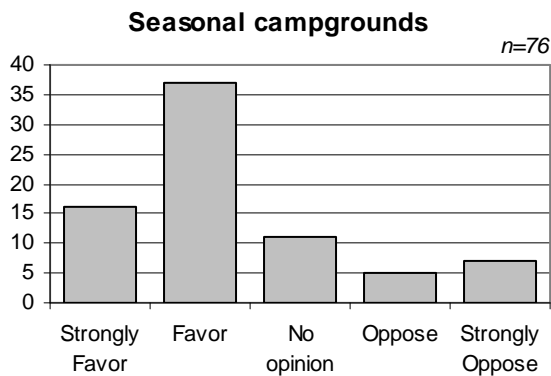
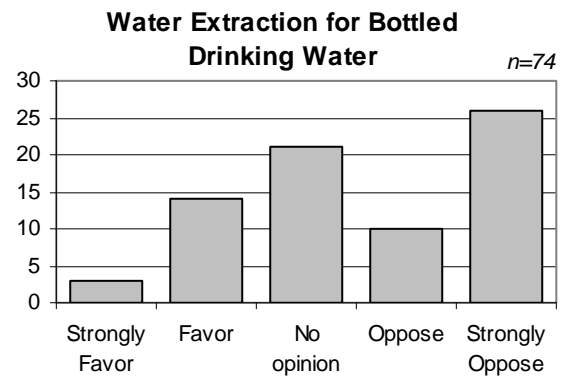
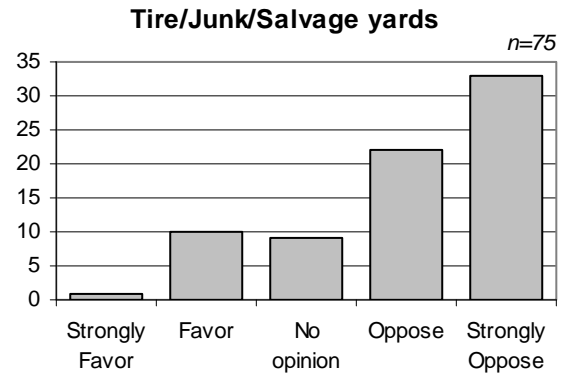
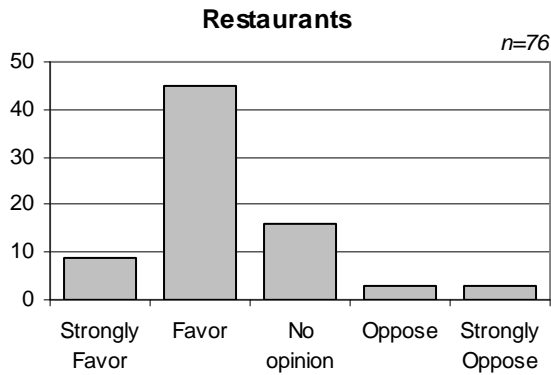
Key Findings

- Among the land uses listed, survey respondents indicated the strongest support for agriculture/farms, home-based businesses, aquaculture and recreation/educational facilities.
- Among the land uses listed, survey respondents were most strongly opposed to bars/bottle clubs, casinos, hazardous materials handling operations, and tire/junk/salvage yards.
- Respondent were generally in favor of the types of land use that support improved transportation options (park and ride & public parking) and business development (business park, professional buildings, manufacturing).
- Respondent were generally favorable to the development the types of facilities that support small scale tourism (bed and breakfast, restaurants, multi-use trails, marinas and resorts), but neutral with regard to the development of hotel/motels.
- There were mixed opinions among respondents regarding development of natural resource based industries. Respondent were generally favorable toward the development of forestry and livestock operations, more neutral vis-à-vis sand and gravel extraction, and generally opposed to water extraction.







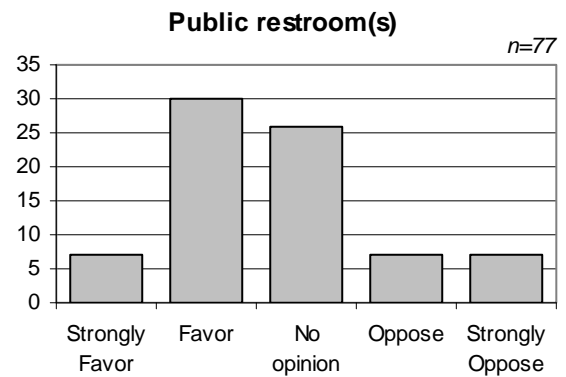
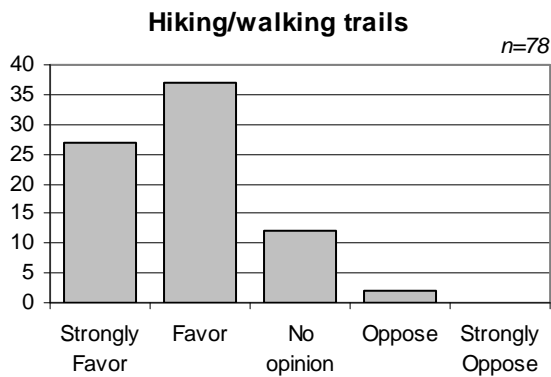
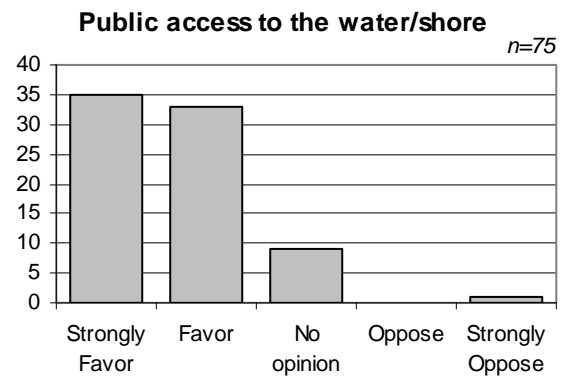
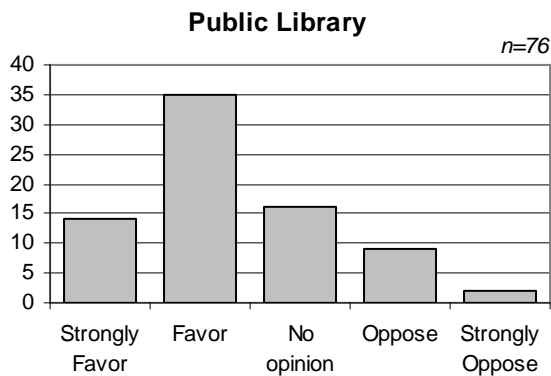
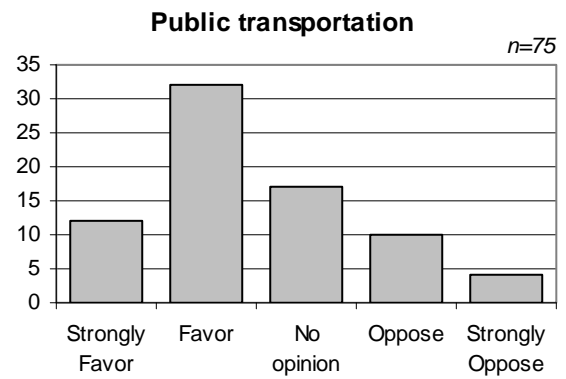
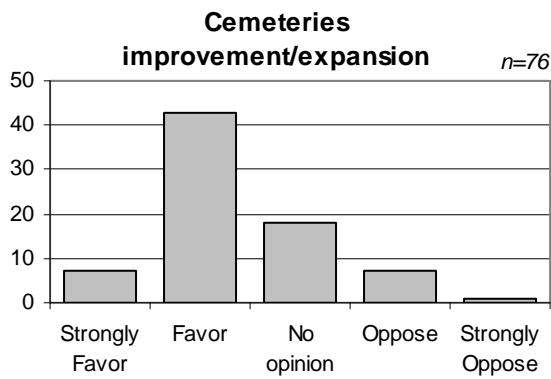
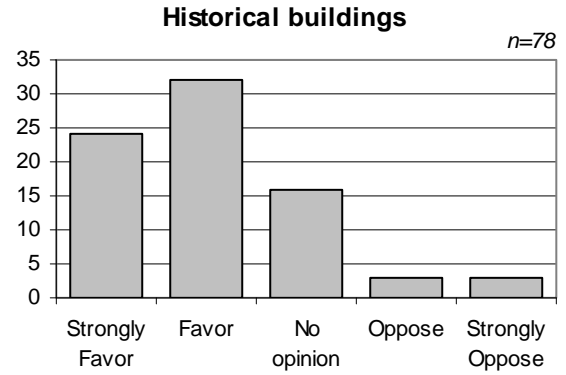
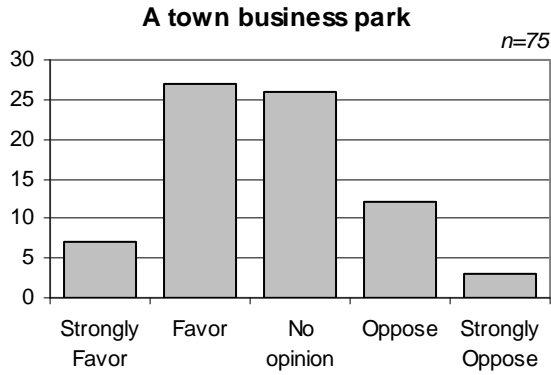


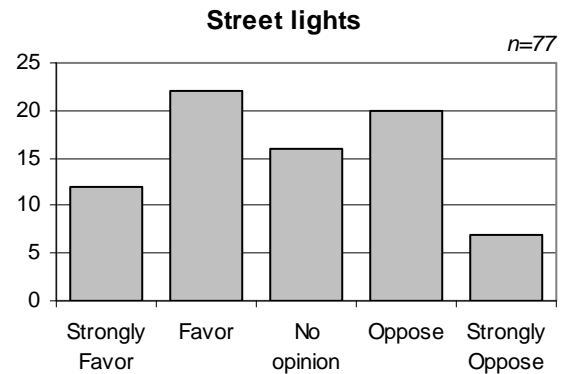
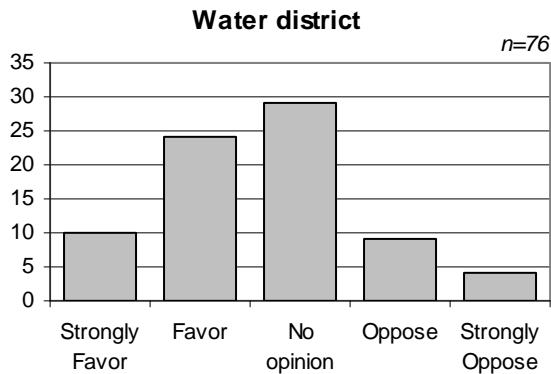
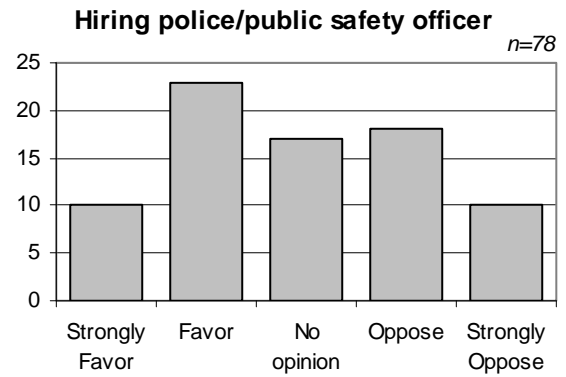
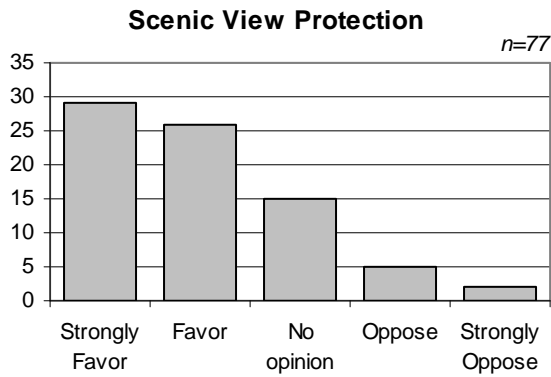
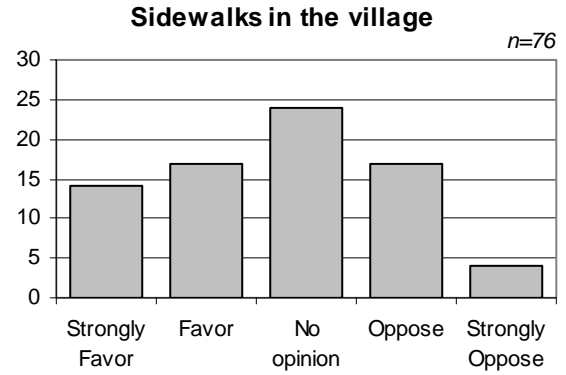
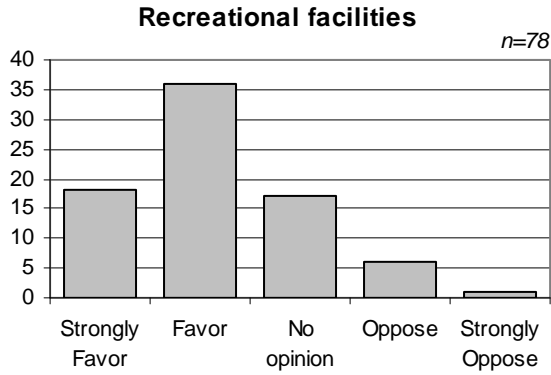
PUBLIC INVESTMENT

Respondents were asked whether they favored or opposed public investment by the Town of Machiasport in various public improvements and services. The lower case “n” indicates the total number of responses for each question.

Key Findings

- Respondents were strongly in favor of public investments to preserve public access to the shore, develop hiking and walking trails, protect scenic views and preserve historic buildings.
- Respondents were generally favorable toward new public investment in a business park, public library, public transportation, recreational facilities and public restrooms.
- There were mixed opinions among respondents regarding public investment in sidewalks (with some strongly in favor), a water district, police protection and street lights.



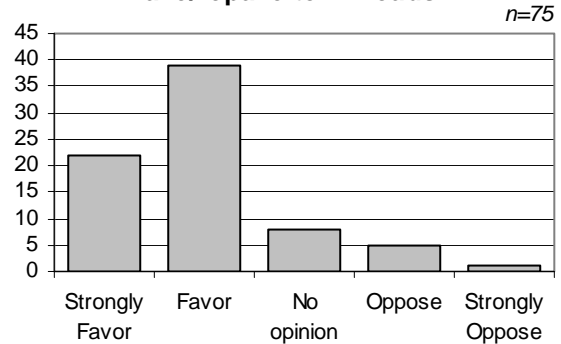


Road Maintenance/Improvements

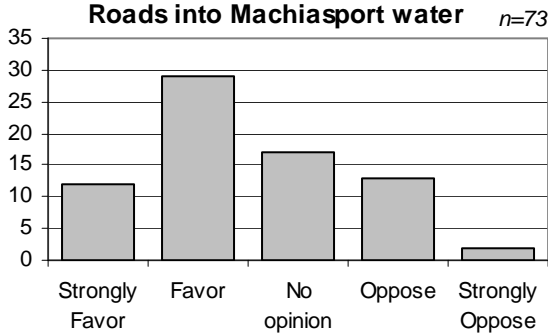
Key Findings

- Respondents were strongly in favor of public investment to pave/repave town roads and to add shoulders in future road repaving projects.
- Respondents were generally in favor of public investment to improve stormwater management along town roads.

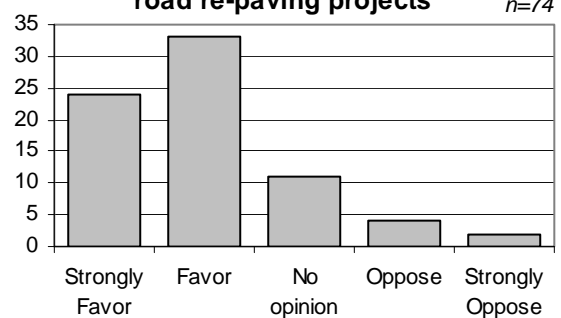
Pave/repave town roads



Stormwater run-off from Town Roads into Machiasport water



Add/include shoulders in future road re-paving projects

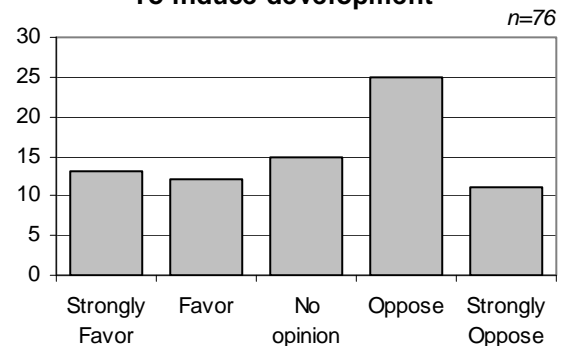


Public Acquisition of Subdivision/Private Roads

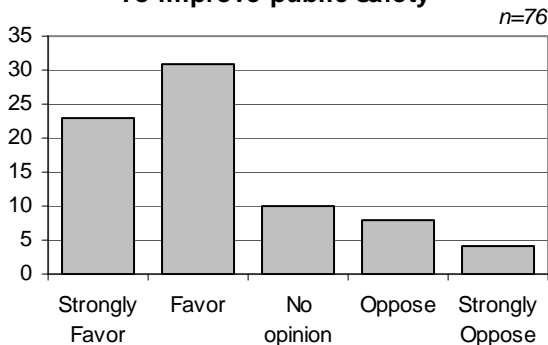
Key Findings

- Respondents were strongly in favor of acquiring subdivision/private roads to improve public safety, and somewhat in favor of the same to improve water quality.
- However, there was a mix of opinions among respondent regarding acquisition of private/subdivision roads to induce development.

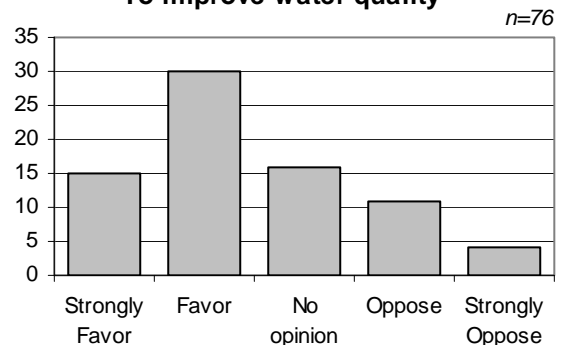
To induce development



To improve public safety

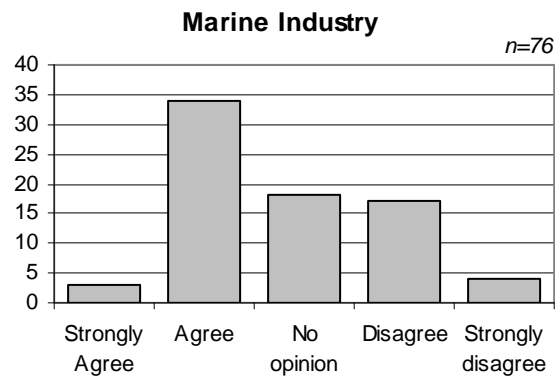
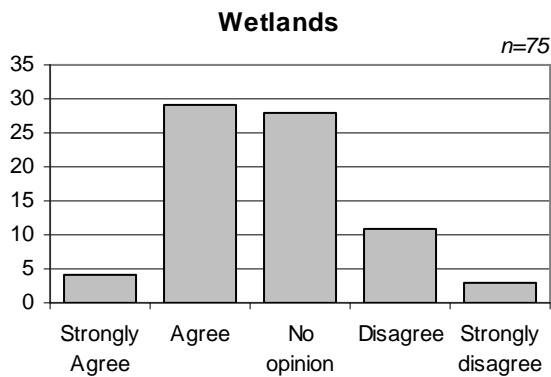
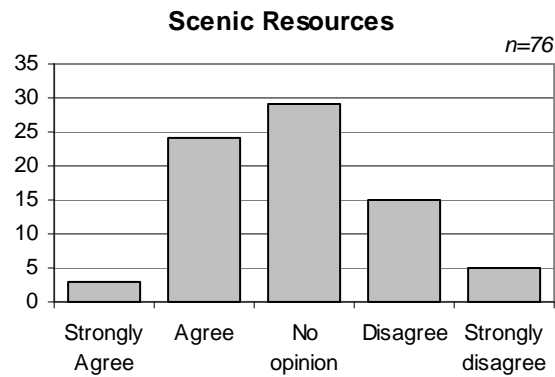
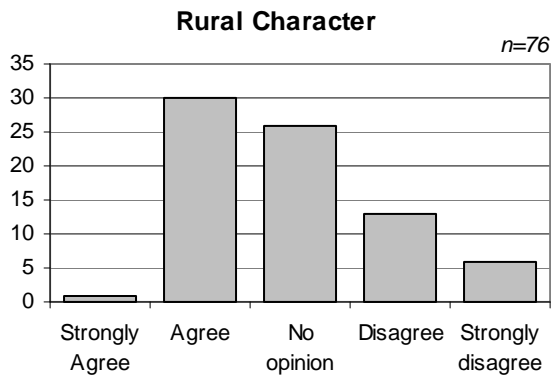
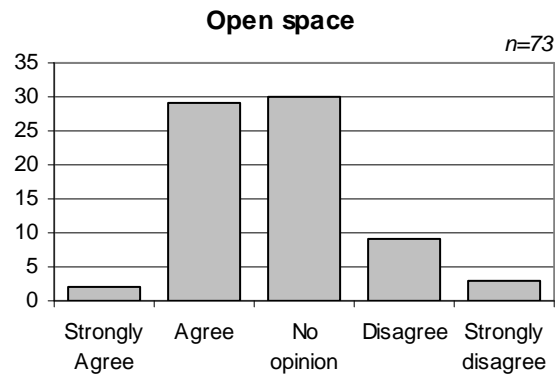
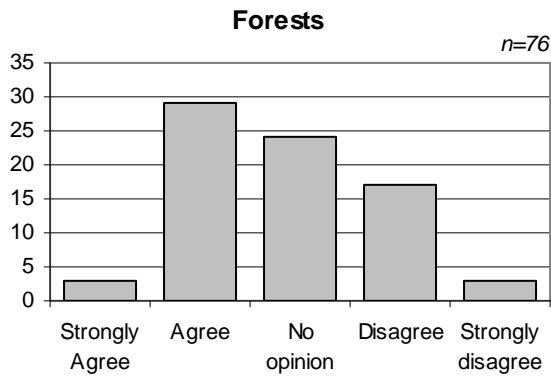
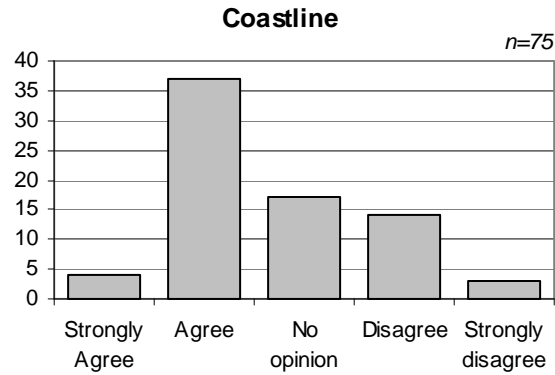
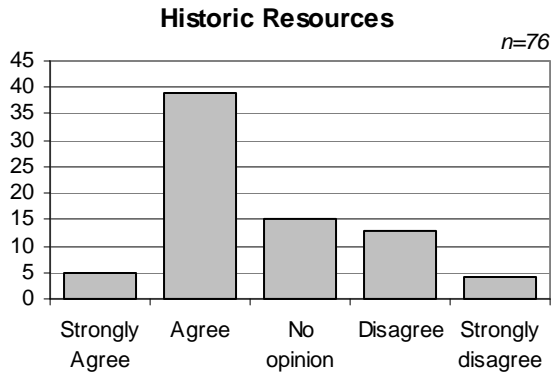


To improve water quality



TOWN EFFORTS TO PRESERVE KEY RESOURCES

Respondents were asked whether they agreed that the town is doing enough to preserve various resources.

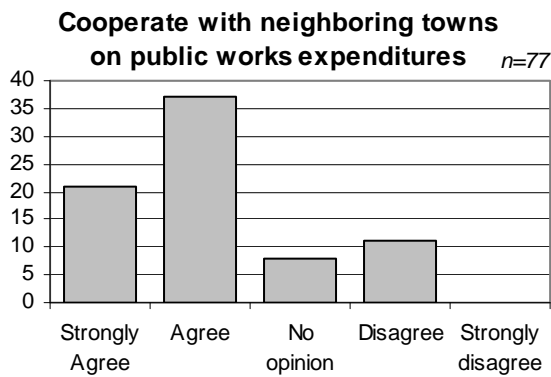
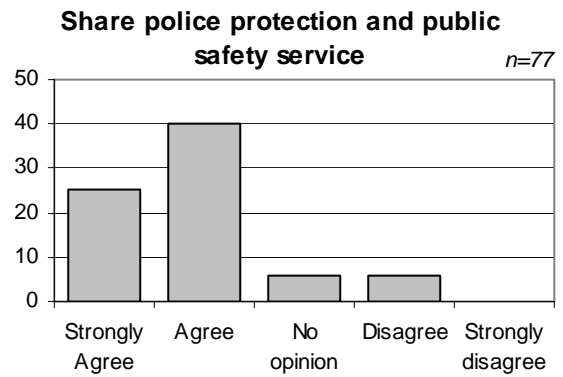
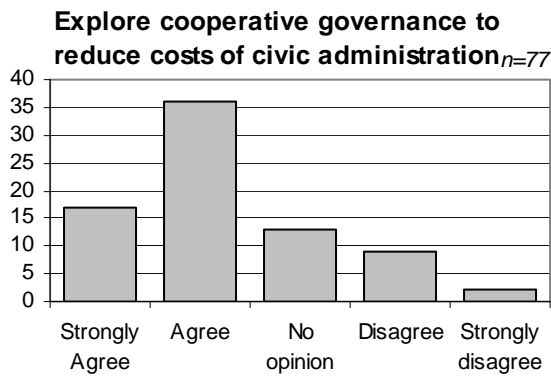
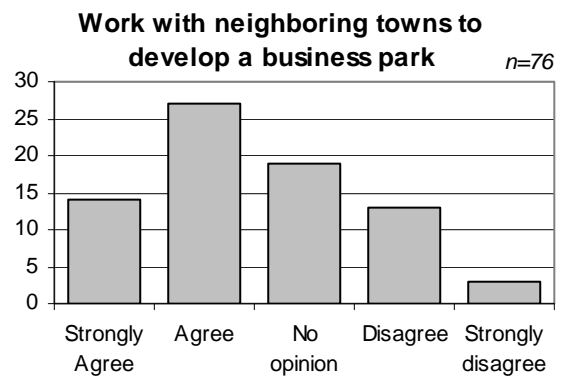
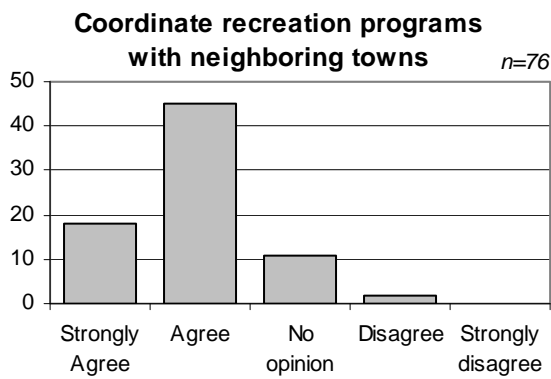


INTER-MUNICIPAL COOPERATION

Respondents were asked whether or not they thought Machiasport should cooperate with neighboring communities to improve delivery of the following public services. The lower case “n” indicates the total number of responses for each question.

Key Findings

- Overall, respondents indicated a high level of support for efforts to coordinate with neighboring communities in order to improve the delivery of public services.
- Respondents strongly favored coordinating recreations programs with neighboring towns, sharing police protection and public safety services, and cooperating with neighboring towns on public works expenditures.



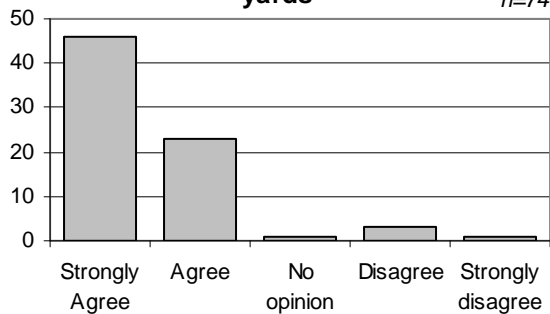
PLANNING AND LAND USE

Respondents were asked whether or not they thought the town should adopt land use regulations and/or offer tax incentive to encourage certain types of land use. The lower case “n” indicates the total number of responses for each question.

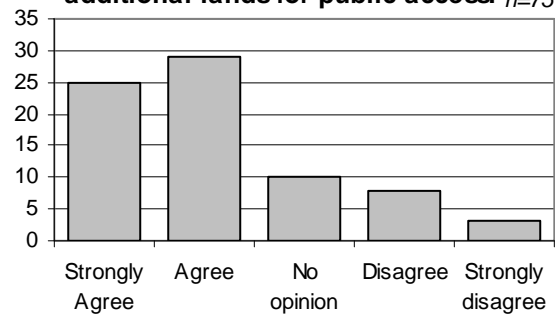
Key Findings

- Respondents strongly agreed with the statement that the Town should create a fund for purchase of additional lands for public access.
- Respondents were strongly in favor of development land use controls that would regulate junk yards, require site plan review for subdivision.
- Most respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the town should develop a zoning ordinance.
 - When asked what provisions should be included in a zoning ordinance, most respondents agreed or strongly agreed that it should limit development in the town’s scenic areas.
 - Respondent generally agreed (though less strongly) that a zoning ordinance should attract business to Machiasport, encourage commercial development in concentrated areas.
 - Though a majority of respondent agreed or strongly agreed that a zoning ordinance should encourage residential development in concentrated areas, there was a greater mix of opinion than with regard to other provisions that may be included.
- Most respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the town offer tax incentives to discourage development in scenic areas of the town. Respondents were generally (though less strongly) favorable toward tax incentive to revitalize the village area(s), to attract business to Machiasport, and to encourage commercial development in concentrated areas. There was a mix of opinions regarding tax incentive to encourage residential development in concentrated areas.

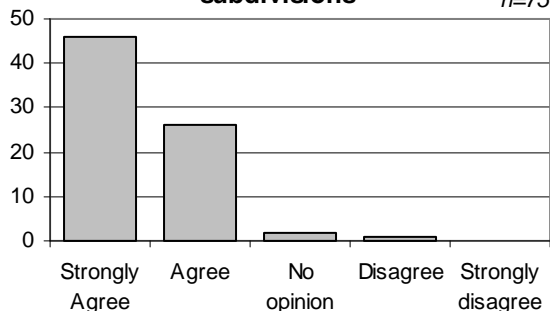
Adopt standards to regulate junk yards n=74



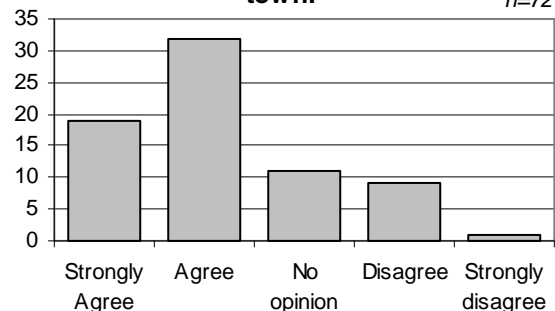
Create a fund for purchase of additional lands for public access. n=75



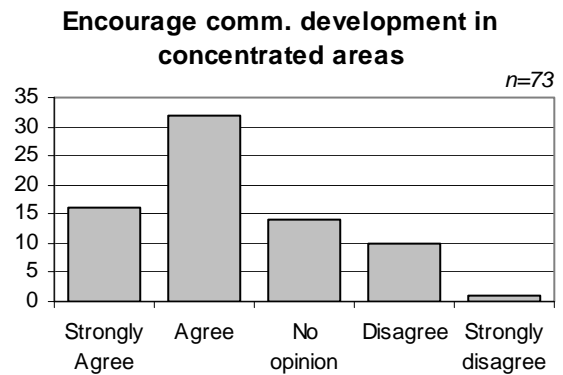
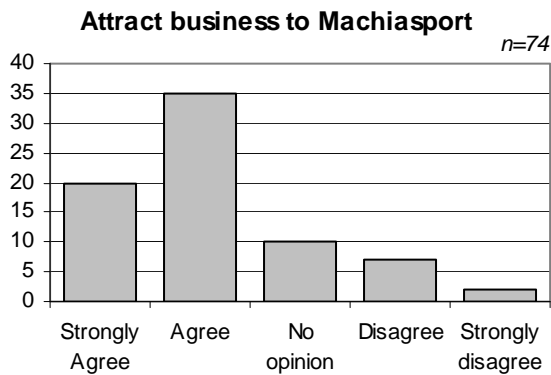
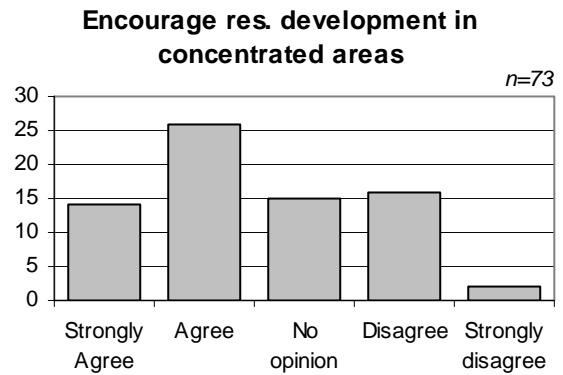
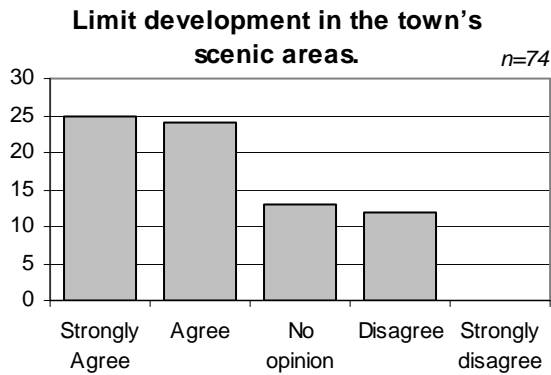
Require site plan review for subdivisions n=75



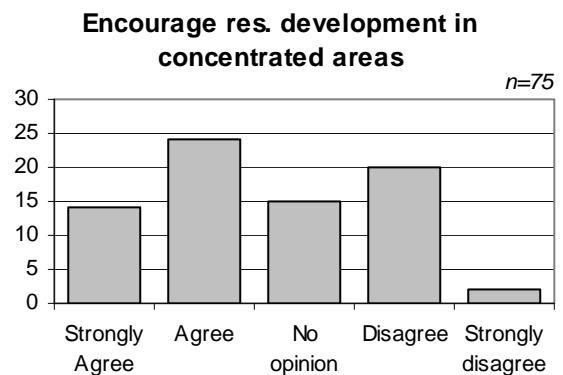
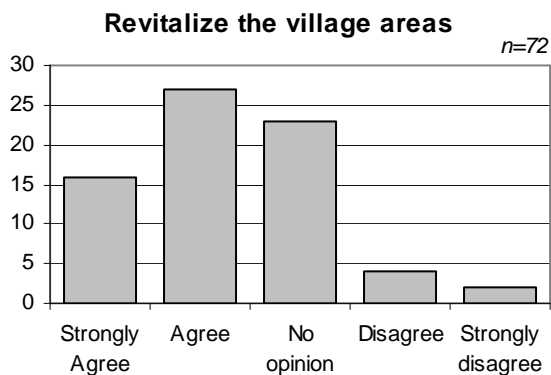
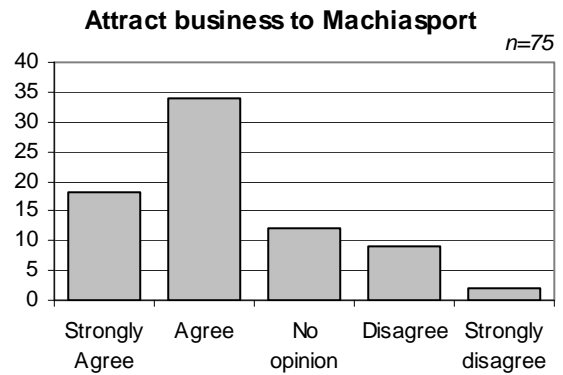
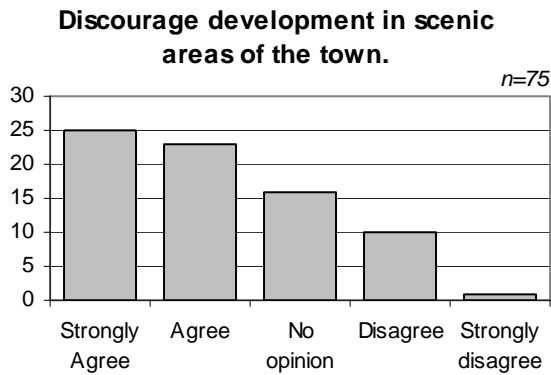
Develop a zoning ordinance for the town. n=72



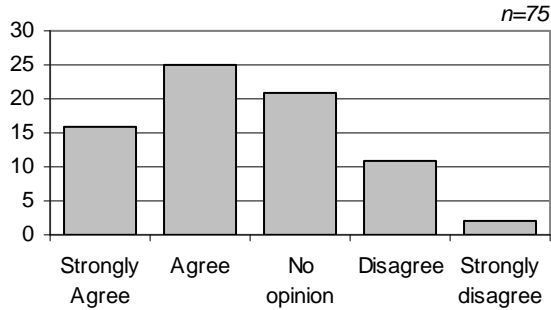
Zoning ordinance provisions Respondents were asked if a zoning ordinance should:



Tax Incentives Respondents were asked if tax incentives should be offered to:



Encourage comm. development in concentrated areas



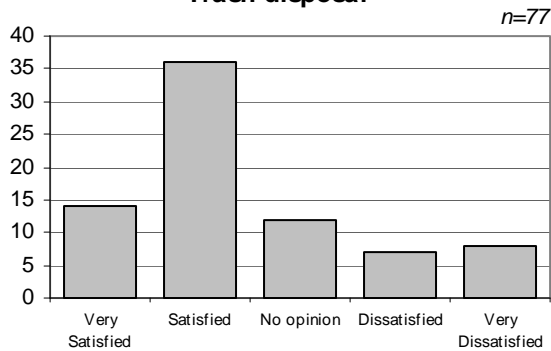
FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Respondents were asked to indicate their level of satisfaction with the following town facilities and services. The lower case “n” indicates the total number of responses for each question.

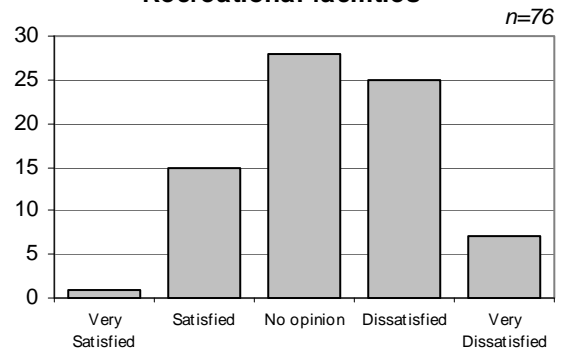
Key Findings

- Overall, respondents were generally satisfied with town facilities and services.
- Respondents indicated the highest level of satisfaction with the town office (facilities, hours and staff) and with road plowing.
- Among respondents, the lowest level of satisfaction was indicated with regard to recycling services, recreational facilities, and K-8 Education.

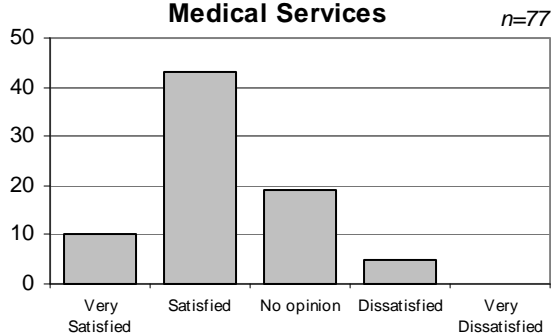
Trash disposal



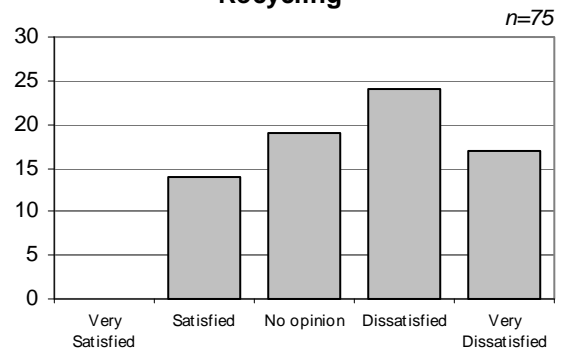
Recreational facilities



Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services

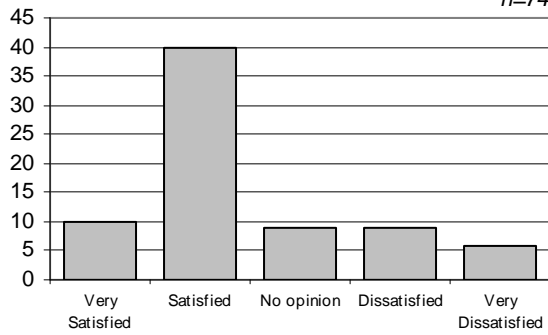


Recycling



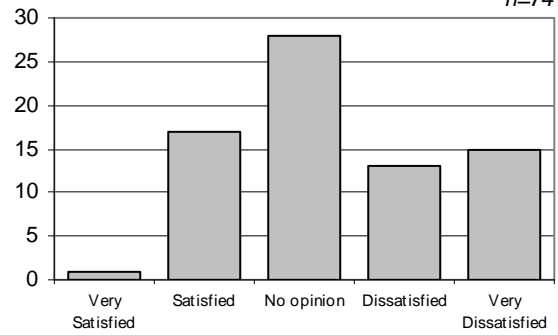
Road maintenance

n=74



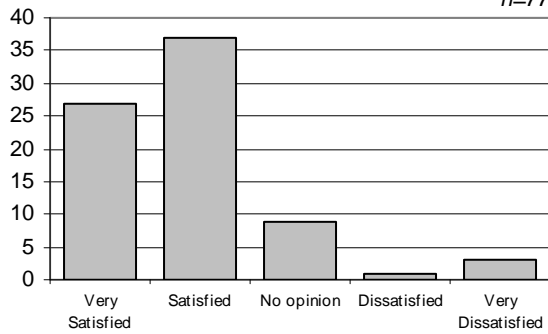
K-8 education

n=74



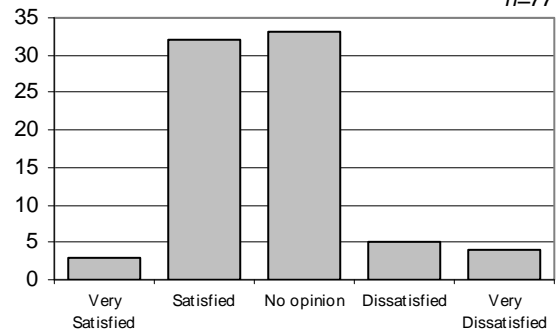
Road plowing

n=77



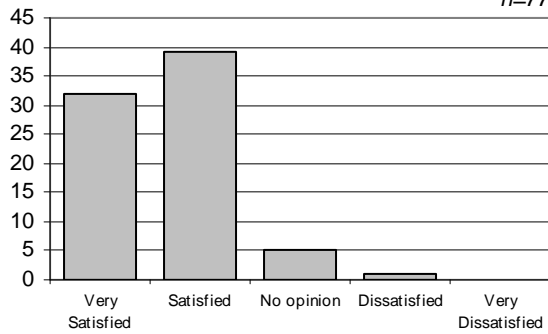
Ambulance Services

n=77



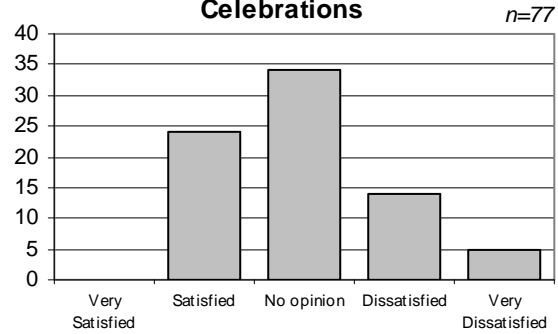
Town office services

n=77



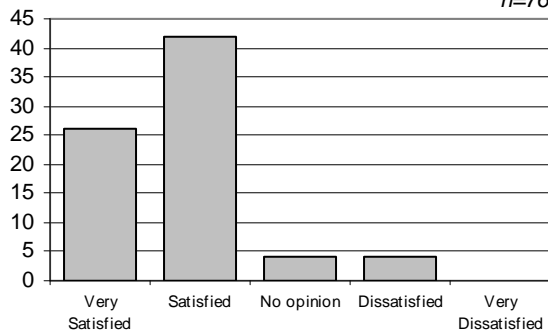
Community-wide Events and Celebrations

n=77



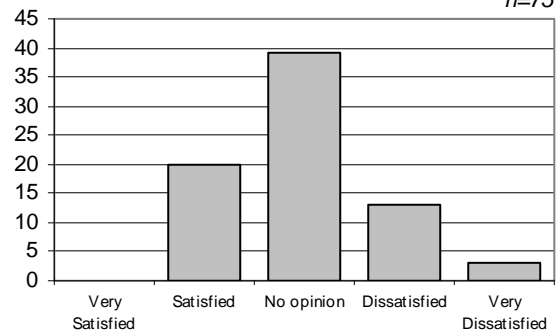
Town office hours

n=76

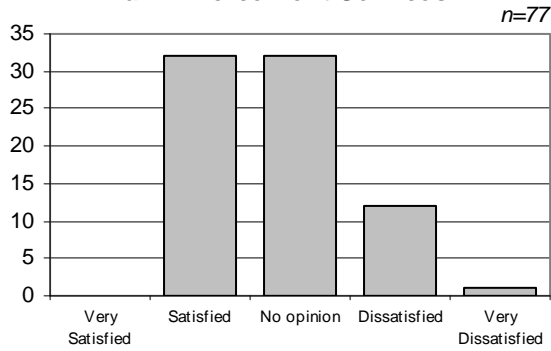


Health Services

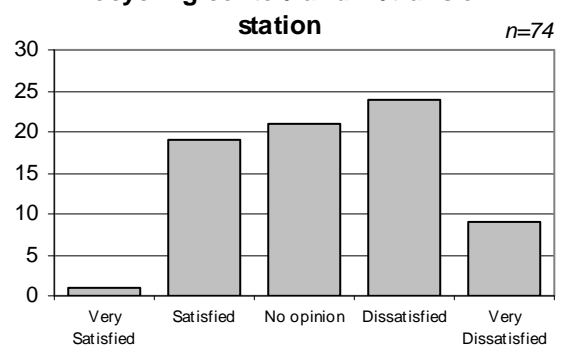
n=75



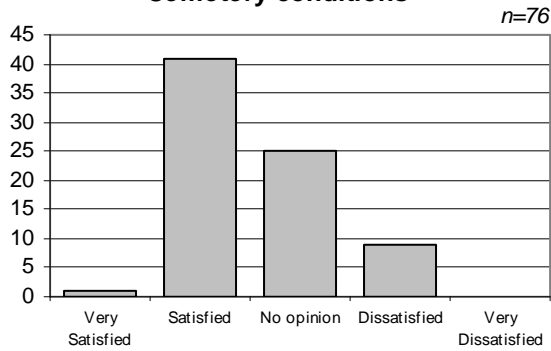
Law Enforcement Services



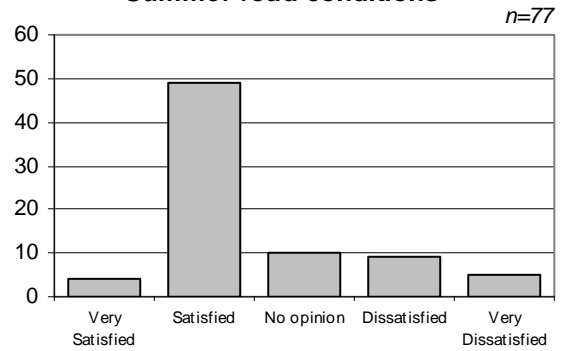
Recycling center/landfill/transfer station



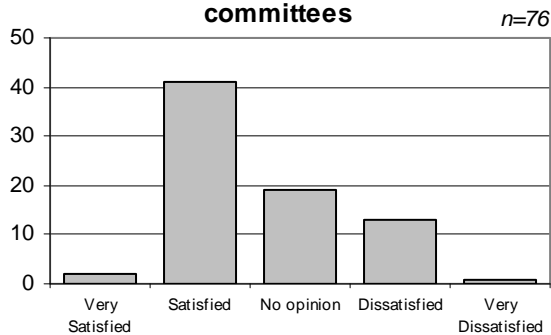
Cemetery conditions



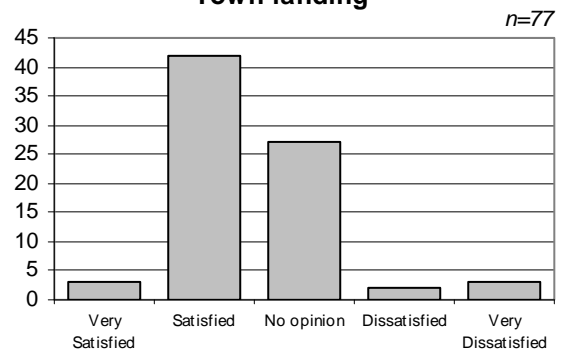
Summer road conditions



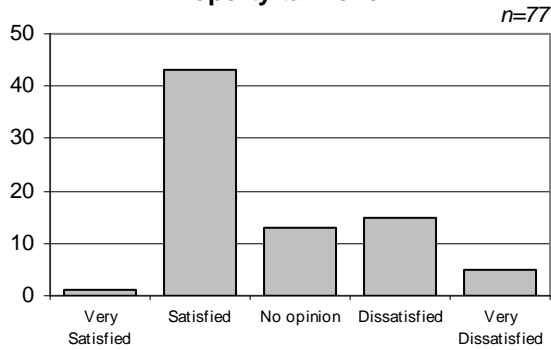
Elected officials and town committees



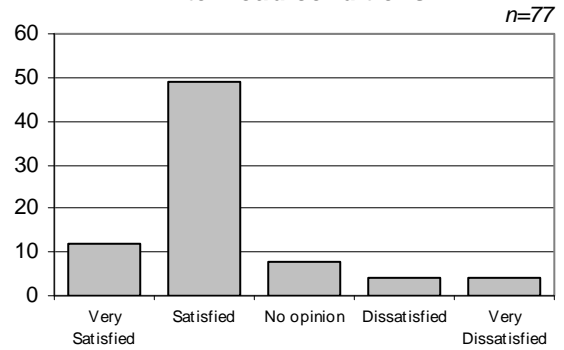
Town landing



Property tax level



Winter road conditions



OPINION POLL

Respondents were asked to respond to the following questions. Complete responses are reproduced below.

What are the things about the town of Machiasport that you like and would preserve?

1. The fascinating historical background 2. Scenic beauty 3. Friendly nature of the citizens 4. Closeness of good health facilities 5. Efficient fire protection 6. Low level of crime
A cooperative not overly regulated community - continue to support the preservation of the town's historic structures and public access to the waterfront.
Access to walk in town beaches. Boat launch sites. Scenic beauty.
Basic character of town.
Beautiful scenery
Commercial fishing, keep business and housing apart, camping areas at Jaspers Beach and possible other areas. A place for kids to play games indoors & outdoors.
Commercial businesses would bring economic growth to the hurting area. It's difficult to imagine a change to the town being positive but for preservation sake, some sort of enrichment needs to take place- bring more jobs, more stability.
Downeast character. Our marine industry!
Everything - don't change a thing.
Focus on water/shore
Historic buildings, employment opportunities, fishing.
History, people, businesses, marinas, villages, historic sites, local economy, scenic areas coastline, natural areas.
Hunting and fishing.
I like Machiasport just the way it is, a very nice town, also excellent town officials & road crew. Our roads in winter are kept up better than any towns, I know I travel to many towns with my business.
I like that its small, not over developed.
I like that we have space enough to live our lives as we chose, with room to utilize the resources on our own property to continue that lifestyle, and to get in and out of town we pass by some of the most beautiful scenery in Washington county. We also have a great volunteer fire department that makes me feel safe, and some nice neighbors.
I like the quiet, slow pace, supportive way of life I feel here. No matter where I have lived, I have always thought of Machiasport as home. I know my neighbors, and there is always help when it is needed.
I like the rural atmosphere, the views and access to the water. Where I used to live in Midcoast you can't even see the water on road right next to it because of houses. And everywhere there are no trespassing signs.
I like the small town, rural feel to the place.
Its natural beauty, its historical and cultural sites.
Its rural setting and simple lifestyle. Accessible waterfront. Decent neighborhoods and great people. Need better cell phone coverage (Bucks Harbor & Starboard) town communities.
Just about everything. We should always do whatever it takes to have access to the salt water.
Keep small community feel and limit change being pushed by people "from away" that left the city and then try to change us to their way of thinking.
Landmarks, building, wooded areas. Keep the forest and no clear cutting; replant the tree, etc. The wildlife needs to survive, too.
Liberty Hall, coastal access
Love the mix of people. Natural beauty / rural.

Machiasport has small communities – Bucks Harbor, Larrabee, Starboard - which should be preserved. I moved here because of the small community atmosphere and a working waterfront. I like the fact that my neighbors can work where they live - fishing, prison, etc. I would preserve the scenic and waterfront areas. Sick of rich people buying up land & then restricting it.
Machiasport should strive to preserve its rich historical maritime roots.
Mainly that it is a town that looks to the sea. So we need to ensure & protect access to the water and the shore as well as scenic views. Also that it is a town with a great deal of rural open space.
No comment.
Open-Ended Response
Original architecture of Liberty Hall & historical society. Natural beauty. Post Office is well run.
Our scenic beauty is our big attraction.
People are attracted to the town for scenic beauty and historical qualities. More tourist/travel dollars could come to the town if additional open spaces and historical areas (e.g., the village area) if more effort were given to their preservation.
Public access & marine resource & support.
Public access to beaches
Resource based economy - fishing, aquaculture, agriculture & forestry activities. Promote and support these!
Rural atmosphere & small town feeling (neighborliness)
Rural character & cultural diversity (clammer, lobstermen, university professors, business people, etc.)
Rural character, friendliness/caring, scenery
Rural nature of area.
Rural residential development, emphasis on local resources (fishing), home based self-employment.
Rural scenic character. Affordability for local residents.
Semi-remote, quiet
Sense of "a nice place to live" and community. "Community" is going away with the split between those "from away" who want no change and no commercial uses and "locals" who want jobs and family opportunities for their kids. We can not afford to become another Bar Harbor where the average locals can't afford to live and work.
Small town, low crime rate.
Small town. Local control.
The air/water quality.
The historical and scenic character of the town
The rural setting and the beauty, scenic views
The scenic beauty. The fishing industry.
The scenic views.
The small town feel and the open rural character.
The Town should put a fund together to purchase at market value prime oceanfront land that might start the creation of integrated walking paths, open space. No property owner should be harmed by zoning that reduces use of existing use for a home. The town needs to purchase with grant money etc. open space to preserve the water view and future recreational areas for the community.
Town landing, Bucks Harbor Pier, coastline vistas, town office staff.
town landing, town office, postal service
Traditional uses of the waterfront (fishermen, wrinklers, clamming, etc.) Liberty Hall, Jaspers Beach, The Picture Rocks - all unique aspects that exist only in Machiasport - should be preserved, protected, and exploited for their tourism potential.
Waterfront access. Community activities (dinners, historical society). Winter road care. Tree cover. Neighborliness.
Waterfront access.
We are a fishing & rural community.
We love the small town feel and would like to see this fostered more than it is.

What are the things about the town of Machiasport that you like and would preserve?
When I found the Point of Maine (Machiasport), I was intrigued with the unspoiled, natural beauty, the historical nature of the village, and the low taxes. Since I have bought a house here, and lived here for a number of years, I have come to realize that the things I value that lead me to invest in this town are not the same things that are valued by various other interested parties who have been residents of the area for a long time. My taxes have doubled in the time I have lived here, and I see no appreciation for the historical/architectural aspects of this area by the local government. This does not include everyone, thank God. There is hope.
Would like to preserve the rural quality, friendly people, working harbor, the natural areas that are still available.

What are the things about the town of Machiasport that you would like to see changed?

Improve the elementary school system while maintaining local control. Continue to support employment opportunities in agriculture, logging and fishing.
1. Enforcement of ALL laws regulating junk yards and excessive accumulation of "unused-unlicensed" vehicle on personal property. 2. Fort O'Brien School become a well managed viable institution.
1. The town should be more proactive in preserving open spaces and historical qualities, buildings. 2. Heavy vehicles should be eliminated and general traffic slowed in the village area. The heavy vehicles/trucks should be routed via Kennebec Road. Traffic slowing should be added to the village area. The narrow and winding stretch of Rt. 92 through the village is dangerous now, with too much traffic at high speeds and with a road not meant for trucks.
Again I think the town is fine just the way it is. I would approve anything to help our elderly & education for our children.
As approximately 1/4 of the town acreage is now in trust with ME Coast Heritage Trust or Nature Conservancy and now out of our taxes. Something should be addressed in the way of open-space fees or tree growth taxes to these outfits because the rest of us are paying for there free ride.
Better roads even though I know its mostly state roads. Shoulders or walking trails.
Better school. Safer road walking: shoulders/sidewalks.
Bring in more family orientated centers. More employment opportunities to draw people to visit in order to boost economy.
Clean drinking water guarantee.
Clean-up Port Road. Recycling. Wastewater treatment facility - Downeast Correctional needs to be updated, overdue maintenance.
Consistent/fair treatment of all inhabitants when it comes to property.
Development of a town center - recreation center. A focus on environmentally friendly business development.
Elementary education quality needs huge improvement. Affordable hi speed internet for all.
Failure to enforce laws about junk cars, etc, in yards. Failure to enforce leash laws for dogs.
Haphazard, anything goes, commercial development with no regard for roads' carrying capacity and maintenance expenditures. Absymal school business and operations.
Hours of P.O. & town office challenging for couples working. 8-5 (even one a week?). School board attitude - elections monitoring. Overview documents re: building permit regulations. School consolidation - FOB as a rec center. Tax relief for elderly/long-term residents.
I think the junkyard needs to be cleaned up, completely fenced by high privacy fence, or better yet, closed. I don't want anymore gated rich communities. The people of Bucks Harbor used to be able to bike ride, walk, cross country ski on the roads and go down to the water. The locked gate causes animosity. The school should be closed. We are paying \$18,000/yr for each student. 50% of our taxes go to that under populated school.
I think the town could use a library & public walking trails. I would like to see more older buildings preserved and less land being cleared to build new houses when there are houses next door for sale. I don't think this is the place for exclusive gated communities.

I wish more people would support the town meetings. We need to make a change in the management of the school, so that all of our children will be together in Fort O'Brien School. We need to do something about the truck traffic through town. We should promote our positive areas... Fort O'Brien, small boat water activities, Jasper Beach, Point of Maine, Historic areas, etc.
I would like a good education system in our town.
I would like to see a greater appreciation for the things that lead to site tourism (people from away who are willing to spend their money), to be immersed in historical/architectural surroundings as well as people who enjoy the beautiful, downeast coast of Maine, through hiking, camping, etc. These are examples of low-impact tourism that would bring money to our town without leaving a large footprint on our lifestyle.
I would like to see an article restricting decision by the selectmen concerning amounts of money above (25-50 thousand) calling for a town vote in such matter. It borders on criminal misconduct to have given away a half million dollar pier to a Canadian company.
I would like to see better roads and a few other amenities, such as a good restaurant.
Immediate needs - we need reliable ambulance service, and better road maintenance (our cars have had so many parts rattle loose!) more than anything. What would be nice? Sidewalks and leash laws (oh, and a police officer to enforce such laws), having a solid phone number to call in case of emergency (we have been told by the State police that we need to hang up and call the Sherrif's Dept. as they are on duty one day, and the same with the Sherrif's Dept. saying that the State Police are on duty - and there's no SET schedule!), and a trash contract with Machias rather than Marion, as it stands we are forced to drive far away to the dump in Marion and they take very little in the way of recycling, and again law enforcement, we really need our own officer patrolling this town. If there are public access sites to the water a big sign would be great, I feel very uncomfortable tromping around on folks' property down here looking for the right spot.
It hasn't changed much since I was a child. Just more people. But a library and other recreational things might be an improvement.
Junk yards cleaned up.
More attention to the historic and scenic character of the town; make more pedestrian-friendly; heavy trucks on Rt 92 to be moved to the Kennebec road -- essential for pedestrians, traffic, housing along Rt 92 and for expense of upkeep of Rt 92 resulting from wear and tear.
More business development that is not tourism! Real jobs building or creating real things should be the goal.
More community events, publicly funded recreation events and facilities.
More economic opportunities, more recreational growth. Better K-8 school.
More places to work.
More recreation, community events, library or have town pay for Library privileges in Machias.
Need more housing for low income family and single adults as well. The school should offer classes that would help in High School and onto college. They need to be prepared for the future.
Need recycling agreement. Port-a-potty or restroom in Finns Beach / Public pier area.
No comment.
No more housing developments or gated communities. Zero industrial growth. Maintain rural type living.
No more subdivisions, i.e. Yoho Head, Pettegrow Point, etc. People build multi-million dollar homes on these lots, the State re-assesses the Town and taxes go up. My house is over 100 years old and for the last few years the value of my house has risen.
Not much.
Open up reasonable uses of resources and job opportunities and find that happy medium between people that want no progress in commercial uses because they moved here to retire and don't need an income and those that need jobs to stay here. Anyone with a college degree probably will be underemployed in this area!
Push harder to have the sewage problem (Machias) and old septic systems in town corrected so that the clam diggers can regain access to clam beds up as far as the bridge.
Recreational facilities. Tour businesses - beyond passive pursuits such as viewing scenic areas, walking trails, etc.
Recycling.

Refer to question 1.
Removal of heavy trucks from Rt 92 Reduction of traffic speeds to make historic sites pedestrian friendly. Greater commitment to historic preservation
Road improvements. Office hours @ town office - open at least one night per week. More active strategies for economic development. More recreational activities and facilities. Improve school.
Snow plowed. Road maintenance.
Split into 2 parts.
Take down Yoho Gate. Gated community is just rubbing it in our face. They still want fire protection and plowed road to the gate.
Taxes are too high.
The need to provide more opportunities for young people to find good paying jobs in the community. The need for improved communications: cell phone, high speed wireless are needed to support both business and educational opportunities.
The Town made an agreement with us Aschettino/Town of Machiasport regarding a Town ROW over an existing 16ft way on Port Road, the old Proctor House. I want the Town to honor its legal commitment and build out the road it has neglected for many years. I have met with the Board of Selectmen this past Fall 2008 Don't make us go back to court and cost the town more money. Maintain the Superior Court Decision.
The town should take itself in hand re Fort O'Brien, cost to maintain the school, incompetent school board, etc., and close the school.
To have a nice boat landing in Machiasport and to have more and better access to clam flats.
We don't like the fact that residents of Machiasport do exactly what they want without consideration or knowledge of their neighbors and the limits of who owns what and where to stay. Where are the limits?
We need to encourage more recycling. Also more hiking trails and bike lanes on the roads. (This ties in with planning for tourism).
What are the things about the town of Machiasport that you would like to see changed?
Wider roads, shoulders
Would like to have a dumpster at docks.
Would like to see cable in Starboard to improve internet service. It stopped at the prison and we could never get a straight answer if it was to be continued! YoHo subdivision has cable, but not Starboard!!

Describe how you see the town of Machiasport of the future.

With the constant changes in the control of our fisheries, we need to start preparing for the time when our young people might not be able to make a living on the water as we know it now. The development of a Marina would be attractive, encourage artist visitation, develop nature trails, maybe encourage boat rides to the islands. I hope to keep it a "quiet life" place to live.
1. Complete restoration of Liberty Hall thus providing a "Community Center" available for cultural and social events involving local as well as area residents 2, A Fort O'Brien School functioning as a place of learning rather than a forum for intra-mural bickering as apparently exists today
A basket case.
A major site for historical (Liberty Hall, Gates House, Round Island) and cultural tourism (Petroglyphs). Tourist destination for walkers, kayakers and cyclists.
A nice working community with commercial fishing and land based commercial activities that are working with the local environment to stay as clean as possible. Change is needed to provide a decent quality of life for both the retired and the young working families. My kids will have all moved away to have any chance at a fruitful life using their skills as there is no chance of a professional job opportunity here. Unless you want to be a fisherman you are going to have trouble finding a decent professional position with benefits here. There are a few but far too few for the numbers of people that would need a good job with benefits. Fishing is in trouble too and may not be in the future for many.
A quaint, scenic, picturesque small town.

A rural community with resource based industry. Not overdeveloped with motels and tourists relied on for jobs & income like the rest of the Maine coast. Develop eco-tourism, bed & breakfast, etc.
A school with a happy and well-educated staff, offering a variety of programs. Walking trails, well marked and maintained, and bicycle paths. Liberty Hall fully renovated, and serving as a center of town social activities. Aquaculture and land farming thriving, with products available to residents.
A thriving town proud of its historic past and its scenic, historical and cultural resources. Could be a great center for tourism.
A town with adequate zoning, selected development, and protection of natural and historical areas, and with light industrial and office development in very selected areas for greater tax base.
A vital Liberty Hall. School closed as number of students unable to support. Planning board continued to learn & be pro-active.
A wind project on Howard Mountain. Move Bucks Harbor Shopping Mall to a place on the harbor - together with a local craft coop outlet & lobster restaurant. Put these small businesses together with a kayak guide service and a lobster boat experience business & we would have enough draw to bring tourist money.
Around the village center, around the Gates house & Liberty Hall and around town office, PO and fire station.
As a place like Bar Harbor, full of vacationers
Basically the same, if anything, more vacant houses.
Comfortable small town with small businesses and job opportunities without "ticky-tack" of tourism and strict zoning that shuts out the average local family.
Commercial development in limited areas - around Bucks Harbor & town office area business park. Municipal development of wind energy farm at miller mountain - to benefit residents. Affordable retirement community w/assisted living.
Describe how you see the town of Machiasport of the future.
Don't like city life, but would like to see a store and place to get gas and everyday things. We need a Walmart or some type of clothing store, etc around here.
Flat broke. Full of poor people!
Ghost town for businesses if nothing changes. School closure due to lack of \$ & resources.
Hopefully, drawn into the future where businesses are accepted and encouraged.
Hopefully it won't change too much only for the better.
I hope not another Bar Harbor, keep a good working waterfront, some new businesses that don't change our way of life and to limit if not stop gated development and developments that limit if not stop our access to land that is used for hunting. Keep it to the west of us and leave us be.
I hope that it will retain is "old Maine" flavor and that working people can still afford to live here.
I see it retaining its rural atmosphere. I don't want it becoming Machias' suburb; nor do I want it to become a retirement village for the rich. The purchase of shoreland property should be prioritized for our fishermen, local businesses (salmon factory & pens and lobster purchases & retailers). Prime land shouldn't go to wealthy people from away who want to "citify" us!
I see Machiasport looking more like present day small mid coast towns with a more diverse population mix which will include more retired folks from away. Traditional fishing, aquaculture, recreational and tourism together with environmentally friendly and cultural business will be the major local industries of the future.
I would hope much like it is today. Maintain its rural peaceful setting and leave the industry to other surrounding towns.
I would like to see a small shopping complex. A thriving town. But nothing that would destroy the natural beauty of the town. We are a New England town and it would be nice to keep a New England feel so we are not like everyone else. We could use business so people could continue to live here & raise families.
I would like to see a town with it's prime importance it's natural beauty. Tourism will be the future. I feel working with Machias to create the arts, small shops, fishing and bed and breakfasts, good beach facilities is important. To have a marina with shops and a few good restaurants, provide jobs is important.

I would like to see Machiasport with a safe water supply for domestic usage. To see cable service to all communities within the town. To see better cell phone reception in remote areas - even if it means working with neighboring towns with erection of towers. Would also like to see an area for recreation such as safe biking, walking and a safe play ground for young children.
I would love to see a town celebration every year!
If things keep going the way they are, your M'Port residents are going to be forced to move and M'Port will be a resort town for the rich. The tax base is atrocious. The elderly on fixed incomes are being hurt.
Increased population of senior citizens and retirees (part year) residents. More activities and facilities for 55+ population. Additional aquatic / marine businesses like salmon plant.
It is growing.
It's hard to say, I would like to see a real general store, one or two annual community events, sidewalks and safety personnel. However the reality here is that there is widespread generational poverty and mistrust of "outsiders" that perpetuates this "you keep to yours and me to mine" attitude so prevalent amongst our residents. Drug abuse is a huge problem throughout Washington County and Machiasport is currently very hard hit, I wouldn't trust half of my neighbors to be anywhere near my home and that has been a sad and sudden change. So I think that as long as there are fish in the sea Machiasport may just remain as is...
Less mobile homes and junk-filled yards. Ability of local young families to build or buy frame houses on affordable land.
Marina catering to recreational boaters. A renewed emphasis on historical sites. Cooperate on "historical tour" of the Machias area in collaboration with area towns (Machias, Marshfield in particular)(Margaretta planning, battle, hiding the ship up the river).
More local jobs. More small businesses.
More people.
Much the same.
No comment.
Open-Ended Response
Preservation of economy so local people can make a living on existing work such as fishing , tipping, building garages, piers and homes. Preservation of ecosystem, scenic areas and local historic sites .
Pretty much as it is now.
Rejuvenated - not rotting and falling down. Revitalize. Develop waterfront areas and marine areas.
Retain woodland and scenic coast with ltd. residential development and little comm'l development
Rural/friendly.
Slow, planned growth.
Stay just the way it is, not try to look like a tourist town.
The predominant economic activities in town will probably be from ocean & shoreland based activities and from tourism. There will probably be continued growth in the number of retired people, plus 2nd homes, also growth as bedroom community to Machias. It will have hiking/walking trails and bike lanes, beautiful village areas with community activity centers with adequate parking and even volunteer transportation services for those unable to drive!
The same.
There is no denying that Machiasport is one of the most unspoiled coastlines in Maine. We need to embrace and appreciate this asset, as people from away do. Having said this, I would like to see a greater appreciation by the people who live here who are long-term residents and who take these things for granted, of what we have to offer, such as, the unspoiled history and ecology of this beautiful place. We have very few resources that we can profit from, the major two being our history and our scenic beauty which go hand in hand, one complimenting the other. Having said that, I realize and value the fact that Machiasport draws substantial revenue from its fisheries. These businesses should be encouraged and preserved for the long term. Machiasport should not become so overextended that it loses its sense of community, where most people here know each other whether they are from away or have lived here all of their lives.

Thriving summer haven and stable winter town. The only thing different I would like to see is the town making an effort to bring people together in an effort to create a stronger community (more service days, for example) and for the town to do as much as it can to look after its longtime residents rather than courting new ones who would not infuse the economy as much, or as long-lasting.
Too much controlled by those from away who have retired here. As fine a people as they are, they on the whole have no real understanding of the native needs and talents.
We are seeing a fairly steady influx of out-of-state people moving in. We are going to have to learn how to co-exist so that both sides benefit. I am sure that both sides have plus and minuses but we should be able to work together for the benefit of the town.
Would like to see it change a whole lot.
Would like to see some development, business, etc. But not over developed like Bar Harbor, Boothbay, etc.

The Growth Management Act requires that local Comprehensive Plans include a land use map that designates areas of the town for growth and for rural development (there can be more than one growth and/or rural area in the town).

In your vision of the town’s future, where should growth areas be located?

1. Machias-Machiasport townline to town office, 2. In the harbor (Bucks Harbor).
3000 ft from scenic areas including promontories, wildlife, coast, wet lands, bogs, streams waterways, islands, historic sites, homes, harbors, preserves, etc
Along Port Road.
Along Route 92. Base housing complex. Downeast Correctional facilities if prison is moved.
Anywhere inland for commercial, and water based business on the shore.
Area near town office / post office. Area where base housing / prison are located.
Around center by the fire house or school.
Around the town office.
Around Unity Sq & Bucks Harbor & maintenance lot & near Machias.
as close to Machias as possible - along state roads
Away from ocean front
Business – It should be located in the town center, in land behind the town office.
Closer to town, as the already overtaxed roadway cannot support more traffic.
Concentrate growth in areas that are already developed.
Do not believe that growth and rural are mutually exclusive.
Don't know enough to comment.
East Side.
Honestly? Wherever we can positively grow!
I really don't know where it would be best - logically in the center of the town – for something other if manufacturing where suitable.
In all areas of our town to include services such as street lights, cable service and cell phone usage so that all can be treated equal for the taxes that we pay.
In built up areas.
inland areas that are suitable for commercial uses
Kennebec Road, near intersection of Rt. 92 and road leading into the correctional facility.
Limited by being on a peninsula, not a lot of land for sale that local young people can afford.
Near PO and municipal bld. Replacing present junk yard.
Near town center & Larabee.
Near town office. Near Cook aquaculture facility bucks harbor and on Port Road.

No comment.
No opinion
north of the Rim Road intersection with Port Road
On the Kennebec Road and or new Gray's Beach Road.
On town owned land.
Only residential single family homes. No growth development areas.
Out of town or within existing operations.
Provided Kennebec Road can be opened to truck traffic, growth area could be located around present town offices
The entire town area.
The growth can take place wherever our homes, property will not be touched or we have to give it away. I think our taxes should be lowered near the shore according to income.
They should be where current concentrations are located: 1. From Rim Road to Fort O'Brien, 2. Bucks Harbor, 3. Starboard.
There should be commercial zoning around the area of Liberty Hall in Machiasport and in the area between Dogtown and Bucks Harbor on Route 1.
This should be up to the residents of that area.
Tough question - Is there much land left to develop!
Towards Machias beyond Liberty Hall.
Town hall, P.O. area
Town office and north end of town road to Machias
Where already exists commercial development
Where there are already houses, so that neighborhoods can develop - not isolated housing strung out.
With Machias nearby, there is little need for retail except maybe a small market .
Yoho Head for business & economic attraction. Coastal areas to draw in needed \$.

Where should rural areas be located?

Along the shore and in historic sites.
Any other areas. Historical area should be supported but not allowed to restrict growth around it. It can be just as nice as a pocket within a modern area.
Are we anything but rural as a whole? Our biggest employment area is in Bucks Harbor, lobstering and salmon. Located in the very midst of rural.
Below Liberty Hall.
Blueberry fields and woodlots
Bucks Harbor.
Bucks Harbor/Starboard/East Side.
Does this mean farming/aquaculture/recreation? - Where soil is good, water for fishing or fish farming are good. Protected areas? -the most beautiful places that tourists and local residents will want to visit.
Don't know enough to comment.
East Side
Evenly between coast and woodland, maybe at least 6 miles in.
Everywhere
Further along peninsulas.
I guess along the town roads.
including the village proper south to Starboard
Kennebec Road. Hickey Road. Smalls Point. Pettegrow Point. Starboard.
Leave rural areas alone, where they are is fine. Let the rich pay for a change.
Maintain sufficient areas to preserve existing wildlife and ecosystems.

Most of the rest, some of it residential rural and some larger lots & open space.
Most of town
Most remaining area not identified in 4a above.
Near shorelands and ocean views.
No comment.
No opinion.
On the outskirts of town.
On the water should have more protection except for a marina area .
On town owned land that is suited and the former air base housing.
Places inland and on the shoreline not suitable for development
Scattered throughout the town
Starboard, Cutler Rd.
Tax maps. Part of Maps, 1, 3, 6, 9, 12/14.
The remainder.
The rest of the town. Businesses already located in rural area should be grandfathered (except junk yard – disgraceful eyesore!)
This too should be up to the residents of that area.
Throughout the town - protect the shrinking waterfront do not turn it over to a business developed environment.
Throughout the town.
Too much is already taken by C.F.A.'s but they have the money.
Try to preserved the areas that are natural.
We have enough parks & Maine Coast Heritage.
West side of peninsula.
Where should rural areas be located?
Where they are now.

Other Comments

Balance between providing continued local employment and not compromising on preserving ecosystem. Ecosystem and local economy brings local employment.
By virtue of living here year round we have taken a layman's vow of poverty so although I would love to see these changes I do not have the resources to bring them about, nor do I have a great deal of "free time" with which to donate to the cause since I am often working or shift tagging with my husband to avoid the childcare costs that unaffordable. That said we do have a tiny bit of time to dedicate to our future, and if there are ways to bring about positive changes we would love to know how to join that effort as this is where we have chosen to make our home and raise our children.
I am unenthusiastic about more conservation easements within Machiasport. Many people are forced into these easements due to high property taxes and development pressures. Property taxes should be based on current use not development potential. The Town taxes everyone the same no matter where they live. We pay very high taxes and receive no benefit whatsoever on road maintenance and plowing because the town treats our road as "private". The town MUST get the situation at Fort O'Brien under control. The taxes/cost of maintaining that school does not comport with a student body of under 40 students. The school should be closed and the building turned into a business incubator. The metal yard on R92 is a hazard and a terrific eyesore and should be fenced if not closed. What a disaster! It's only a matter of time before there's a traffic accident there due to cars/people on both sides of the road near the entrance. Liberty Hall is an architectural treasure that must be preserved and brought back into use for public purposes.
Please do whatever you think is in the best interest of the town. The Town Office hours are excellent!
Regarding trash disposal - to have to make a 20-mile round trip excursion to Marion to dispose of my household trash is absurd.

Thank you for giving us a chance to think about these things, and be able to respond.
This really requires town meetings
Tourism is not going to give the average person a liveable situation. Unless you already own the land or the property for a tourist based business you will be shut out and end up working as a low wage employee for those that can afford to invest in tourism. Commercial activities within reasonable limits is the only way to assure a decent living for the average local young family. We have gone too far with tourism and restrictions on property in shoreland areas to be able to encourage commercial activities and job opportunities and we don't have the attractions for a thriving tourist trade. It is a "catch 22" that we have to get away from.
Town office should have one evening per week for working people to have a time for needs outside of normal work day.
We do need to protect our wetlands. Regulations must be in order. The junkyard on Rt. 92 needs to be removed before it contaminates ground water. I would like water testing for problems from the military site done on all homes at the end of Port Road. This should have been part of the water study done years ago.