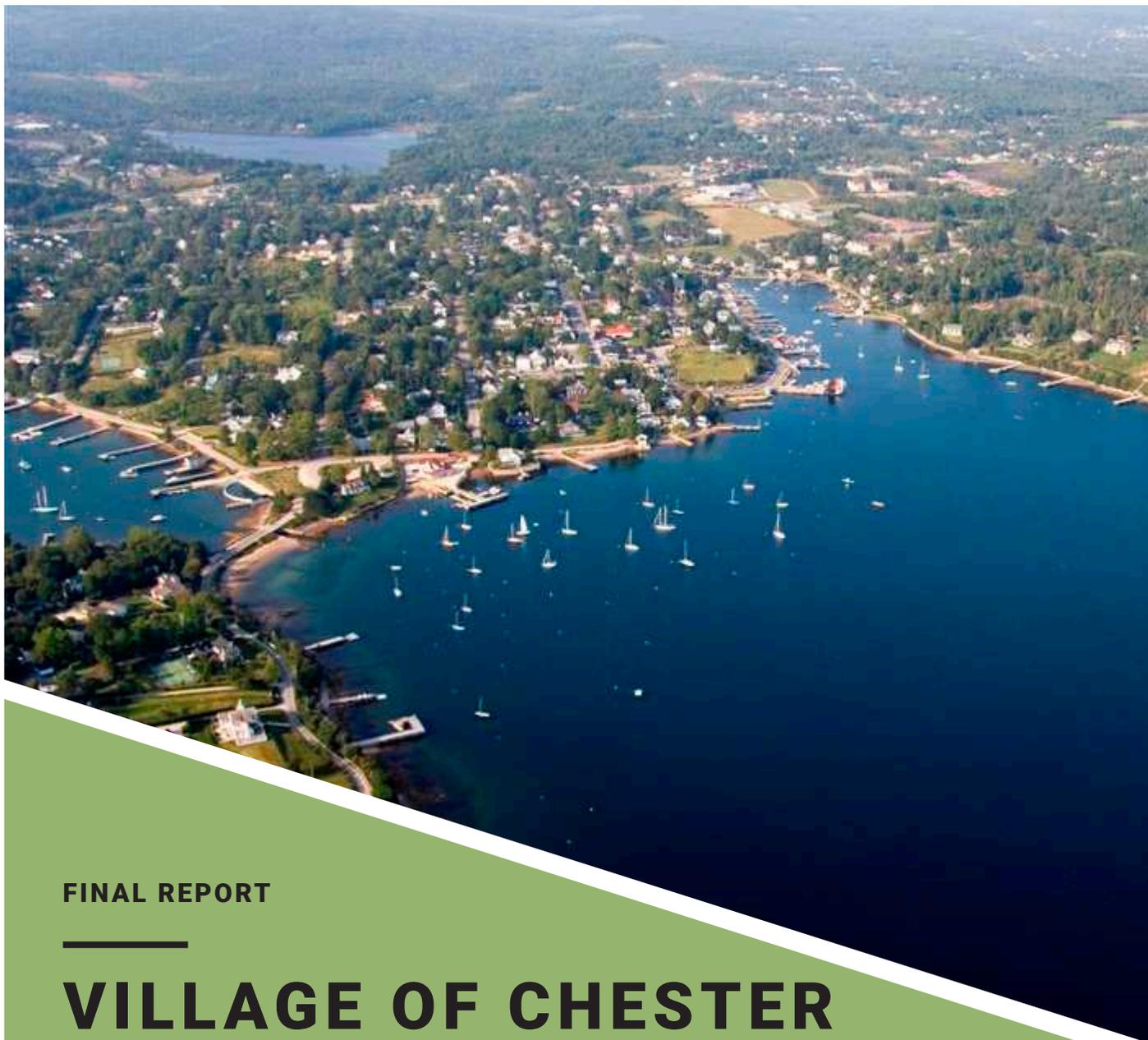


EDM Planning Services Ltd.  
2111 Maitland Street  
Halifax NS B3K 2Z8  
902 425 7900



**FINAL REPORT**

---

# **VILLAGE OF CHESTER PRIORITY PLANNING**

## **ASSESSING PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER VIEWS ON CURRENT AND FUTURE SERVICES**

Prepared by **EDM Planning Services Ltd.**

Prepared for the **Village of Chester**

May 2019

# CONTENTS

---

<b>PART 1: VILLAGE POWERS</b>	<b>3</b>
1.0 Introduction	3
1.1 Summary of Status, Role and Governance of Villages	3
1.2 The Village of Chester	3
1.3 Summary of Village Bylaws and Policies	3
1.4 General Overview of Spending Powers	3
1.5 Other Provisions Affecting Village Priorities	5
<b>PART 2: GAUGING PUBLIC PERCEPTION</b>	<b>6</b>
2.1 Process	6
2.2 Stakeholder Interviews	6
2.3 Survey and Results	9
<b>PART 3: RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>28</b>
3.1 Immediate Priorities	28
3.2 Strategic Planning	28
3.3 Conclusion	29
<b>REFERENCES</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>APPENDIX A: SURVEY</b>	
<b>APPENDIX B: WRITTEN COMMENTS</b>	

## PART 1: VILLAGE POWERS

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

EDM Planning Services Ltd. has been retained by the Village of Chester to engage with Village stakeholders and the public in order to assess the public's view on current services, identify opportunities to improve services or the provision of other services not currently offered or managed by the Village. This memo report summarizes the review of background information, including our understanding of services provided today, as well as a summary of stakeholder feedback and public survey results.

Our review is focused on provision or potential provision of services only. It is not a complete summary of the powers available to villages or the obligations, duties and responsibilities of the Village or Village Commissioners. The findings are based on the information available to EDM through public records and provided to EDM by the Village of Chester Village Clerk. The information presented in this report is intended to provide the information necessary to develop a strategic plan for the Village of Chester.

### 1.1 SUMMARY OF STATUS, ROLE AND GOVERNANCE OF VILLAGES

The legislative authority and responsibility of villages in Nova Scotia is outlined in Part XVIII of the Municipal Government Act.<sup>1</sup> Within the Act, a village is part of a municipal government, but are not municipalities. A village is a part of a larger municipality and municipal government. Villages may generally provide certain municipal services to a defined area within the larger municipality.

Villages are governed by a village commission. The commission may have 3-5 members. The number of commissioners is established by the village bylaw. Elections may be held at an annual meeting or on an election day. Terms are for 3 years, but overlap, meaning there is an election every year.

### 1.2 THE VILLAGE OF CHESTER

The Village Commission of the Village of Chester is composed of 5 commissioners tasked with representing the interests of electors within the village boundary. They are responsible for ensuring that services provided by the Village are done so in accordance with the Municipal Government Act and the Village Bylaws. Working with Village staff, the commission oversees the provision and maintenance of key assets of the Village of Chester, including the Chester Volunteer Fire Department, the Chester Lido Pool, Public Washrooms and the Jib Lot Park. The Village of Chester also provides and/or maintains street lights, seasonal garbage collection, and street beautification (hanging flower baskets, wreaths, etc.).

### 1.3 SUMMARY OF VILLAGE BYLAWS AND POLICIES

In addition to the Election Bylaw, the Village Commission has adopted the following administrative policies:

- Meetings and Procedures
- Operating Reserve
- Fire Apparatus Use
- Purchases (Tenders and Quotations)
- Reimbursements

The Municipality of the District of Chester established a Chester Village Area Advisory Committee (Policy P-39), which includes members of the municipal Council, the Warden, members of the public and 1 member nominated by the Village Commission. This Committee is tasked with advising the Citizen Planning Advisory Committee on planning matters that have been referred to it by Council. While the Village Commission does not generally deal with land use matters, the Planning Advisory Committee allows for Village input on matters that potentially affect the Village area.

### 1.4 GENERAL OVERVIEW OF SPENDING POWERS

The MGA allows villages to oversee a wide range of services or establishes where the Commission may spend money (MGA, S. 423). This is not a complete list, but a summary of S. 423 of the MGA, with focus on the most relevant topics.

**Administration**

Election expenses	Contribution to a pension fund
Insurance premiums	Annual association fees
Salaries and expenses of commissioners, officers and employees of the village	Lands and buildings required for any purpose of the village
Expenses incurred by the commission relate to meeting attendance and conferences, only when permission of the commission is obtained prior to the meeting or conference and the attendance is approved by resolution of the commission.	Furnishings and equipment for any village facility

**Fire and Emergency Services**

Emergency response systems	Fire alarm system
Procuring and providing a suitable system of fire protection or emergency services. This includes purchasing, equipping, repairing and maintaining apparatus, and other related machines. It also includes equipping and maintaining fire departments or other emergency services providers. The Village may provide honoraria and pay for training expenses for fire and emergency services volunteers.	Water retention and redirecting flow of water to be used in extinguishing fires

**Public Works**

Snow and ice removal	Purchasing of equipment, materials, vehicles, etc. for any village purpose
Lighting, street or otherwise	Undergrounding municipal and telecommunication services
Flood mitigation	Wastewater facilities and stormwater systems, water systems, electrical light and power system. The village may extend, alter, construct, improve and maintain and operation these systems outside of the limits of the village and may enter into an agreement to support the services outside the village.
Solid waste collection and management facilities	With permission from the owner, construct, maintain and repair streets, sidewalks, curbs, gutters and other street improvements

**Community and Recreation**

School crossing guards	Bicycle and active transportation paths
Recreational programs	Swimming pools, ice arenas, other recreational facilities
Advertising opportunities in the Village for business, industrial and tourism purposes. The Village may grant funds to a non-profit to carry out this work.	Halls, museums, community centres
Public libraries	Tourist information centres
Providing buildings suitable for use as a medical centre to encourage doctors, dentists and other health professionals to locate in the village	Parking lots
Parks, playgrounds, public spaces	Wharves and public landings

## 1.5 OTHER PROVISIONS AFFECTING VILLAGE PRIORITIES

In addition to specific services, other powers related to service delivery are available to Villages. These include:

- **Fire and Emergency Services** - A fire department may exist as a service provider to a municipality or as a fire department of a municipality, village or fire protection district. A municipality may grant money or assets to fire departments and emergency service providers and make policies respecting full-time, volunteer or composite fire departments and emergency service providers within the municipality [MGA S. 296(1)]. These may also include policies on the manner of accounting to the council for the use of the funds, annual meeting to report to the public, etc. A village may assist at fires and other emergencies outside of its boundaries [MGA, S. 425(1)]. An agreement to assist may be made with other municipalities and agencies.
- **Tax Collection** - A village commission has the powers of a municipality to collect taxes.
- **Borrowing Money** - The village may borrow money necessary to carry out services. Borrowing of money must be approved by a meeting of the electors and by the Minister. [MGA, S 438]
- **Service Agreements** - A Village may enter into an agreement with municipality, another village, a service commission, Provincial government or Federal, department or agency, band council, to provide or administer village services [MGA, S. 60]. The agreement may include the delegation of the power to provide the service to a committee representing each of the participating municipalities or villages. Agreements may include provision of a service or capital facility that the municipality or village is authorized to provide [MGA, S. 61].
- **Creating Bylaws** - A commission may make bylaws for regulating [MGA, S. 426]: commission meetings; elector meetings; management of village property; management of streets, sidewalks, public spaces, etc; protection of drains, sewers and watercourses; other purposes and matters within the powers, duties and control of the commissioners. Bylaws can assign responsibility to property owners or persons in charge of a property to clear snow and ice from the sidewalks adjoining the property.[MGA, S. 427(1)]. They can require removal of ice from a building and the maintenance of the vegetation between property and streetline [MGA, S. 427(3)]
- **Building Services Connections** - A village may manage service connection inspections and approvals. [MGA. S. 329(1)]. As noted above, they may also establish bylaws to control wastewater and storm water Controlled through a bylaw. [333(2)] Bylaws can be used to require owners to connect to the system if available and remove or close existing on-site systems [S. 337(4)]
- **Public Works** - The Village may make bylaws providing methods of payment of charges for [MGA, S. 428]: wastewater and stormwater facilities; village portion of capital costs of installing water syste.; maintenance, constructing and improving streets and sidewalks, cuverts, retaining walls; village portion of capital costs for undergrounding electrical distribution system; special purpose tax for future expenditures related to wastewater, stormwater and water systems, transportation or other capital requirements. The village may also establish a redevelopment charge based on building type to cover improvement or upgrading costs to sanitary or storm stsems[MGA, S. 428(2)]
- **Borrowing for Village Commission** - A municipality may borrow money at pay it to the village commission for any of the purposes for which the commission has the authority to expend money [MGA, S. 85(1)]. The municipality may lend money to a village or service commission with interest based on agreed upon terms [MGA, S. 85(2)]
- **Representation on Land Use Planning Issues** - A municipality may establish Planning Advisory Committees (PACs) to advise on planning matters. A PAC may include a representative appointed by the Village Commission [MGA, S. 200(3)]. If a PAC is created to advise on planning issues that include all or part of the Village, it must include at least 1 member appointed by the Village Commission [MGA, S. 201(3)].
- **Right to Appeal** - A Village may appeal to the Board the approval or refusal by a Municipal Council to amend a land-use bylaw if the subject property is situated within the Village.
- **Power to Expropriate** - A Village has the same powers of expropriation as a municipality and must follow the same procedures [MGA, S. 424]
- **Protection of Scenic Views** - in accordance with the Public Highways Act, a village commission may recommend the protection of scenic views. This is done by designating a portion of the a highway within the village as a “no-sign” zone.

## PART 2: GAUGING PUBLIC PERCEPTION

The primary intent of the work is to assess public perception on the Village Commission, including feelings on the range and quality of services offered today, as well as possible changes to services delivered in the future.

### 2.1 PROCESS

In the strategic planning process, understanding the state of the organization in the eyes of its members is a fundamental step. This can be done through a variety of techniques, such as workshops, focus groups, interviews and surveys.

In consultation with the Village Clerk, EDM carried out interviews with stakeholders and collecting information and feedback through a public survey. The stakeholder interviews are an important tool to help understand the workings of the commission, relationships between groups they interact with, current priorities of the commission, as well as possible obstacles to carrying out current objectives. These conversations provide insight into state of affairs of the organization direct from those in decision making roles.

The survey, on the other hand, casts a wider net to gauge public opinion on the perceived effectiveness and efficiency of the organization. There are many benefits to strategic planning surveys. They offer anonymity and encourage candid feedback. They help us understand need, service and program satisfaction, and are vital input for the commission to guide the setting of funding priorities and strategic planning goals.

### 2.2 STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

In coordination with the Clerk Treasurer of the Village of Chester, interviews were conducted with representatives of seven organizations. Fourteen individuals were spoken with, most of which were in-person interviews. The following is a summary of the Stakeholder interviews conducted by EDM during July and August of 2018 with the following organizations:

Organization	Representative(s)
Village of Chester Commission	Bill Nauss (Chair), Nancy Hatch, Tom Mulrone, Ann Westhaver (Clerk Treasurer)
Chester Volunteer Fire Department	Chief Everett Hiltz, Deputy Chief Bill Zinck, Assistant Deputy Chief Greg Conron
Red Cross Swim Program, Lido Pool	Darcy Stevens
Municipality of the District of Chester	Danielle Barkhouse, Councilor - District 3, Warden Allan Webber, Tammy Wilson, Chief Administrative Officer
Lordly Park/Chester Heritage Society	Carol Nauss
VOCTATDA and the Chester Merchants	Suzie Fraser and Nicola Boyd

#### Interview Summaries:

The following is a brief summary of the stakeholder feedback that was received.

#### Village of Chester Commission

- The commission is not currently working well or well respected by the public
- There is declining interest in being involved with the Commission
- The need for better communication between the Commission, the Clerk Treasurer, the Fire Service, and the Municipality
- There is confusion over areas of responsibility, procedures, policies (Need to follow the Municipal Government Act)
- There have been tensions with the Fire Service and the Red Cross regarding the operational details of the use of fire apparatus, new fire equipment, and the Lido Pool (hours of use/utilization)
- The Commission has changed the honorarium funding for the FD as well as adopted a new apparatus use policy
- The role of the Clerk/Treasurer needs to be better defined

- Possible future projects/ideas for the Commission could include:
  - public potable water supply and fire hydrants
  - garbage pickup
  - streets – snow clearing, street cleaning, maintenance, and vegetation clearing
  - tax collection
  - cooperation with the Municipality on the Lido/Freda's Beach/Bandstand area (Signage, trash cans)
  - ways to assist community organizations (economic development and tourism)
  - holding a "town hall" meeting once per month
  - improve relationships with MODC; cooperate in overlapping areas such as recreation
  - establish a 5 year plan
  - construct additional sidewalks and establish bike lanes
  - construct a new Fire Hall

### **Chester Volunteer Fire Department**

- The relationship with the Commission is complex
- FD is its own society under the legislation
- There is no formal framework for the cooperative operation of the Fire Department:
  - The Commission own and pay the maintenance of the apparatus, gear, training, and hall
  - The Fire Service provide the actual emergency response
- There is no contract or formal agreement on the areas of responsibility or mechanisms for how the FD and the Commission are to interact for the public good
- The FD does have an agreement with the MODC for the "outside areas" of the FD service area. There is nothing in place for the Village
- Commission meetings have no present Mechanism for the FD to provide input. There is a sign up sheet for Village residents, but the Chief has no mechanism to speak at a Commission meeting
- The Chief provides an annual budget, but is not involved in the consideration or discussion on the budget. Decisions are made on the budget without consultation of any kind with the FD. This is true as well for new apparatus purchases.
- The Commission is slow to respond to time sensitive maintenance issues effecting serviceability of apparatus. Everything currently goes through the Clerk Treasurer
- FD Training is well funded by the Commission.
- FD would welcome better communication to work together with the Commission.

### **Red Cross**

- There has been Red Cross instruction at the location of the Lido Pool predating pool construction (Red Cross Beach)
- The pool was constructed from Federal centennial grant money
- The MODC used to maintain the Lido, then handed to the Village
- There is no other pool with as much free and lane swim times in NS, to the Red Cross's knowledge
- Adult lane swim from 8-9 am, lessons 9-12, public swim 12-2, lessons 2-5, adult lane swim 5-6, and public swim from 6-8pm
- Class sizes are limited to 4 students for the younger classes (2 for toddlers), with up to 6 for middle school age to meet red Cross regulations. Two classes run simultaneously
- Total enrollment of 60 children this summer
- At its height in the 1970s and 80s, there were 245 kids in the program
- Pool building and physical plant are excellent and the Village does a great job in this area
- Village provides the Lifeguards (3 on rotating shifts) to cover the public swim times
- Red Cross provides the instructors
- The primary concern of the Red Cross is interference in how the program is delivered. Any further reduction in teaching hours will make the program unsustainable
- There should be better cooperation with the Municipality on Freda's Beach (signage, publicity)

- There should be better public awareness on the pool hours (website, signage – Note that some has gone up recently)

### **MODC**

- The Commission is not currently functioning well
- Lack of transparent processes (e.g., tendering, policies, procedures)
- There has been some slow improvement – full time staff have helped this
- There are poor relations with the FD, but could be improved with clear understanding of areas of responsibility
- There is opportunity to expand on what the commission does:
  - Economic Development
  - Tourism
  - Promotion of the community businesses, artists, merchants
  - Foster community spirit (i.e, Canada Day Fireworks)
- Opportunity to cooperate with the Municipality of the Village PAC, Joint Fire Advisory Committee, Water Supply, and the Municipal Plan review
- There is also opportunity to work together on the Lido/Fredas Beach area to improve visitor experience
- There is a good staff to staff relationship that has been built between MODC and the Commission

### **LordlyPark, Heritage Society**

- The Commission is not currently functioning well
- Poor relations with the FD, Lido (Red Cross)
- The Commission could take on projects to promote the community:
  - wayfinding and interpretive signage
  - Fireworks
  - Visitor Information Centre (VIC has been shut down by the Chamber of Commerce)
  - Promote the merchants
  - Streets, vegetation clearing, and snow clearing are terrible, and the Village could advocate for better
  - Promote tourism
- The Commission historically has been run with an “open meeting” format, and did not have formal procedures – it was an all volunteer organization
- Currently, it is not run as an open meeting and is run formally, but without a clear understanding of the rules being used
- Non-village residents are not allowed to speak, and residents must sign up in advance
- There is a need for bigger thinking that considers the Village’s place within the whole of the Municipality
- Commission currently does a good job with the Lido property
- Relationship with the FD has been strained over the past 3-4 years
- The Commission should work with the Municipality on the Freda’s Beach/Lido area

### **VOCTADA/Chester Merchants**

- The Commission is not currently functioning well
- Relationship with the FD is strained
- Lido is fine, but the public swim schedule needs review and it is felt that the Lido could be better utilized by the public
- Possible projects for the Commission include:
  - Potable water, especially for businesses
  - snow clearing
  - traffic calming of the downtown
  - coastal erosion
  - one way streets
  - Establish a pedestrian walk
  - Parking for visitors

- Re-establish the VIC
- Examine AirBNB's and what can be done to regulate them – unfair to licensed Inn's and B&B's
- Examine economic opportunities such as Marina's and services for Nautical Tourists – Chester as a destination on the South shore for boast moving to/from the Bras d'Or Lakes
- Generally promote the Village

### 2.3 SURVEY AND RESULTS

In August/September of 2018, an online survey was conducted on two main topic areas: 1) Is the Village Commission the appropriate level of Government to administer/mange the services it currently provides and, 2) What is the public's felling on possible new services (See **Appendix A** for a copy of the survey). The survey was opened on August 17th and closed on September 10th. Over that period of time, 242 surveys were submitted. There were a number of hard copy surveys that were dropped of to the Village Commission, but the majority were submitted online.

The 2016 Census of Canada states that Chester has a population of 1,458.<sup>2</sup> According to the District 3 Councillor, there are just over 1,200 electors in the Village. Out of the 242 surveys, 200 were submitted by full time or seasonal village residents, a full 17% of the electors – a high level of response. In addition to the number of responses, the quality of responses was high as well. In all, we have received thirty nine pages of written comments (See **Appendix B**). The survey was anonymous in order to make it as accessible as possible as well as to yield the most honest results. Following the closing of the survey, the data was reviewed for potential duplicate entries.

To provide an overview of the Survey responses, the following sections summarize the Survey. The raw survey results have been provided to the Village as a separate excel format file.

#### Who took the Survey?

#### How would you best describe your relationship with the Village of Chester?

242 responses

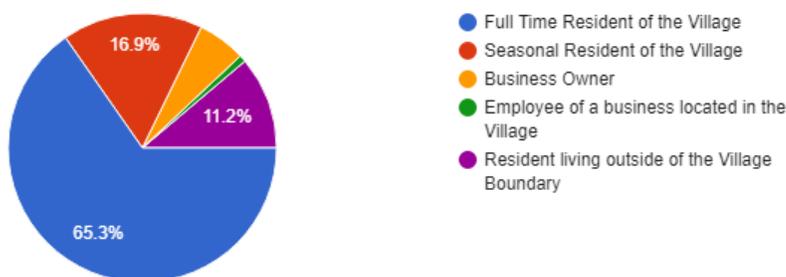


Figure 1: Summary of Survey Respondents

#### Where do they live?

*Nova Scotia:*

- Big Tancook Island
- Canaan, NS (2)
- Cape Forchu
- Chester Basin (4)
- East Chester (7)
- East River (2)
- Halifax (6)

Hubbards

Live in the Village (2)

Marriotts Cove (6)

Robinsons Corner (3)

Westchester Village

Windsor Road (2)

Chester Just on the other side of the line

*Canada:*

Ottawa, Ontario

Toronto, Ontario (6)

Vancouver, British Columbia

*United States:*

Boulder, Colorado

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Greenwich, Connecticut

Hamden , Connecticut

Los Angeles, California

Manchester Center, Vermont

New York City, New York

Palm Beach, Florida

Radnor, Pennsylvania

St. Louis, Missouri

Stonington, Connecticut

*International:*

Bermuda (2)

Holland

Lisbon, Portugal

London, United Kingdom

Sussex, United Kingdom

*Other:*

Hammond Height's

Current Services

After the introductory section, the second section of the survey focuses on the current areas of service that the Village provides. These currently are:

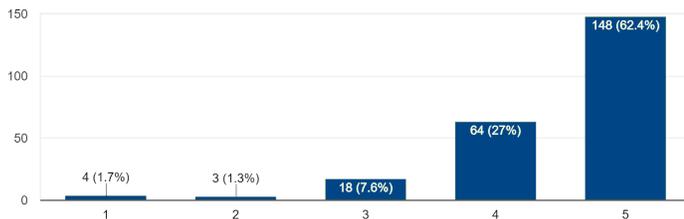
1. Chester Volunteer Fire Department
2. Lido Pool
3. Public Washrooms
4. The Jib Lot
5. Street Lighting
6. Street Beautification
7. Additional Green Bin Collection

The results for each item in the list above are as follows:

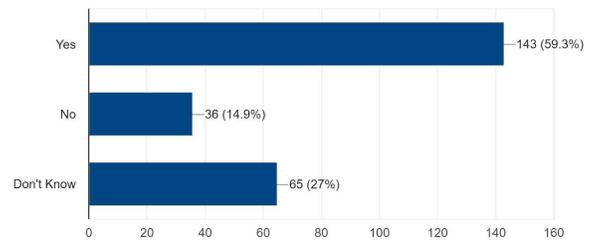
**1. Chester Volunteer Fire Department**

Below are graphs showing the overall survey responses to the questions.

What is your opinion of the service provided?  
237 responses

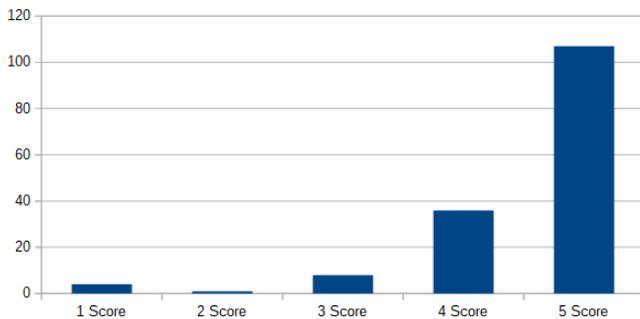


Do you feel it important that the Fire Service be provided and/or managed by the Village Commission?  
241 responses

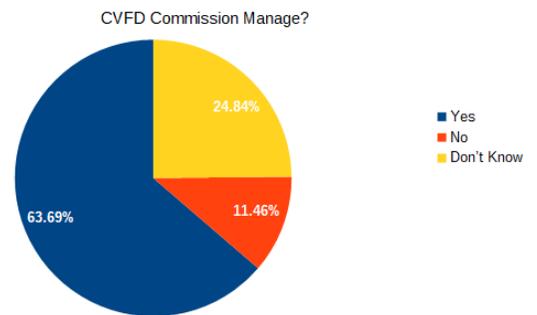


The following graphs show the same results broken down by Villagers, Seasonal Residents, Business Owners and Outside Residents.

Villagers CVFD

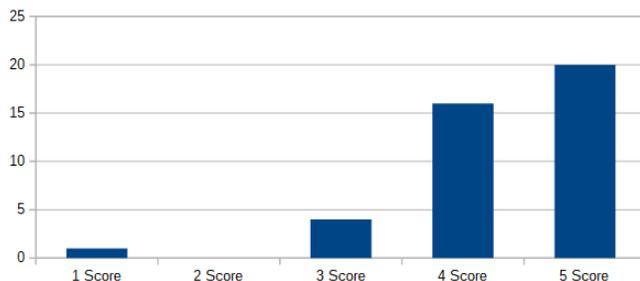


Villagers



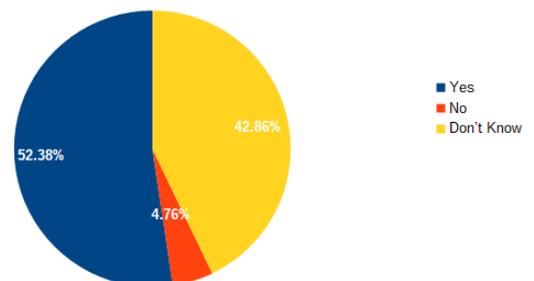
Seasonal Resident

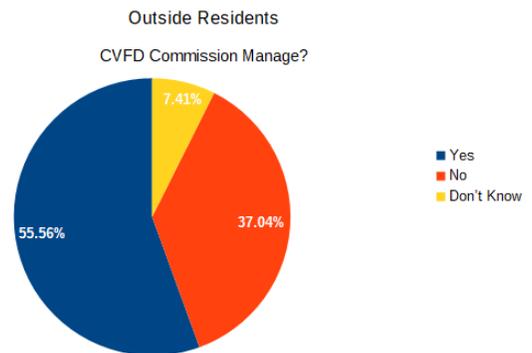
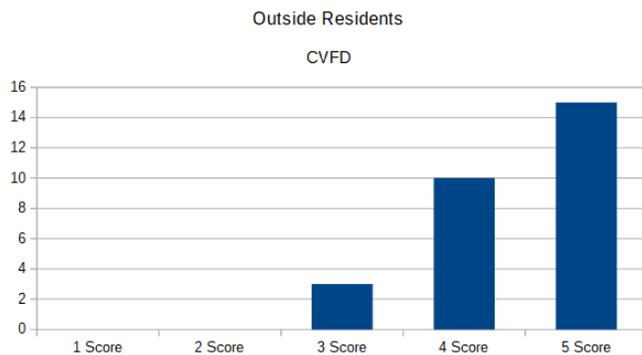
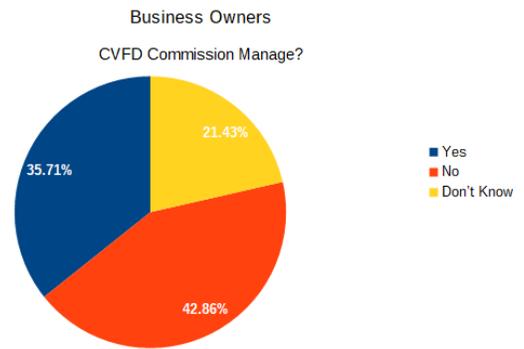
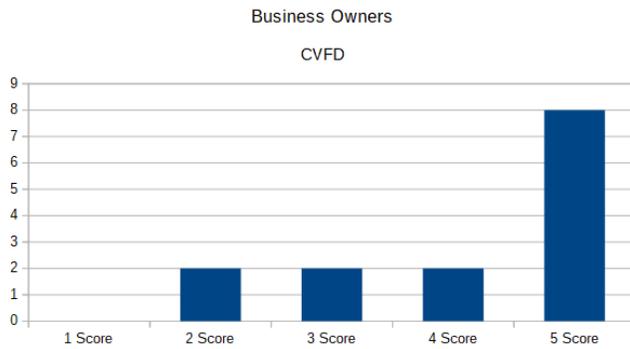
CVFD



Seasonal Resident

CVFD Commission Manage?





### Representative Comments

We are fortunate to have received a large number of thoughtful comments in response to the questions posed regarding current services. We have included all comments in **Appendix B**. In order to make this large number of comments more digestible, we have provided a number of representative comments, again broken down by the residence categories.

#### Villagers

- I think there needs to be a contract between the fire services and the commission to define clear roles.
- the CVFD should be directly involved in decisions that affect their activities
- I feel that village commission is best suited to carry out the needs for the residents rather than some outside body ,better under our control
- I think the fire service is important but not sure that it needs to be managed by the village commission - I wonder if it would be better integrated within the full municipality
- The present service is excellent!

#### Seasonal Residents

- It is a vital Chester service that needs protecting from other Municipality priorities
- Excellent, professional service
- The fire department service does not seem to be in keeping with all other responsibilities of the Commission

#### Business Owners

- To me it seems strange that this isn't done by the Municipality.
- There is no evidence that local control is beneficial
- The oversized fire engines have difficulty maneuvering the narrow village streets
- to[o] much conflict

#### Outside Residents

- Fire and emergency services are a critical function of the Commission.
- It's not essential the village do it; other models exist where other governance entities provide fire service. It is best to have this

service managed as close to the people it serves as possible. But all receivers of the service should be considered as equals, regardless of where they live. Whatever body does provides the service must be prepared to do it well and to the fullest capacity, not simply provide the service in name and then nickel and dime the service, and dismissing the volunteers who provide the human resources and are the heart and soul of the service.

- Seem(s) like a lot of conflict

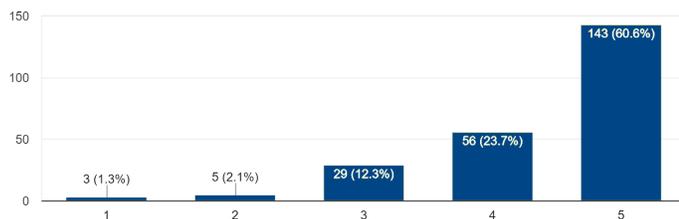
**Commentary on this section**

Overall, respondents have a strong favorable view of the Fire Department, and the majority of respondents feel that the Village Commission is the appropriate entity to manage it. Residents of all types agreed on this point. Seasonal Residents had more uncertainty, and outside residents were more evenly split yes/no. Business owners were the only group to feel that either the Village Commission was not the appropriate entity to manage the Fire Department, or were uncertain.

**2. Lido Pool**

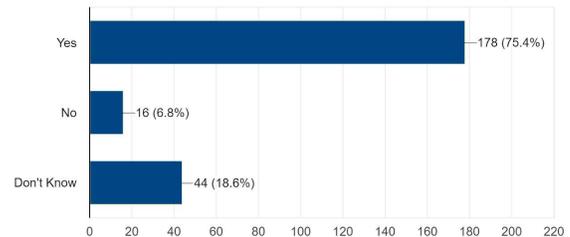
What is your opinion of the Lido Pool?

236 responses



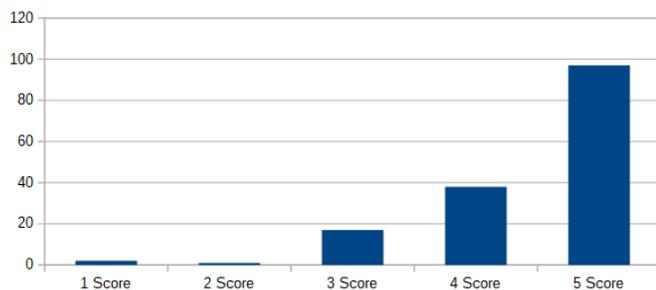
Do you feel it important that the Lido Pool be provided and/or managed by the Village Commission?

236 responses



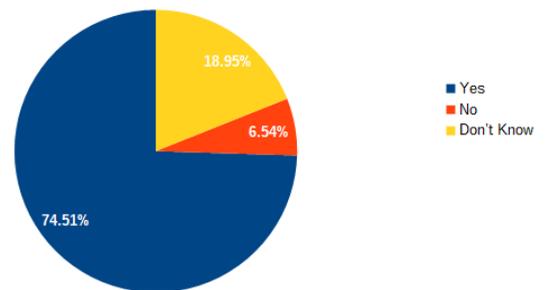
Villagers

Lido Pool



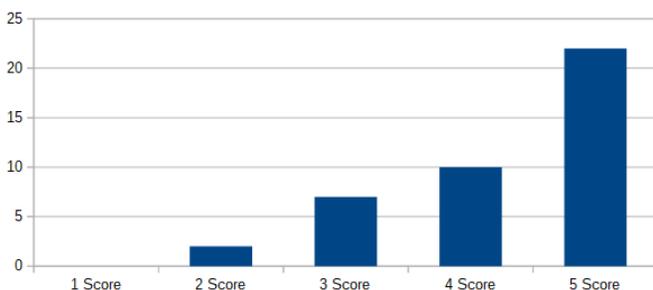
Villagers

Lido Pool Commission Manage?



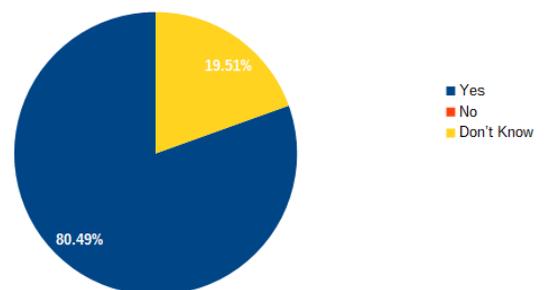
Seasonal Residents

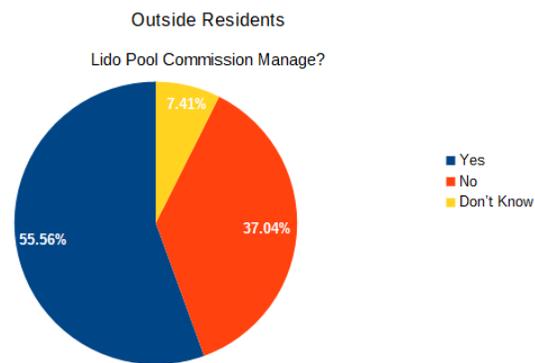
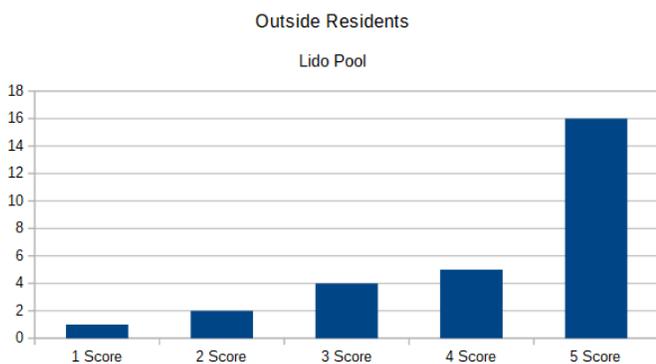
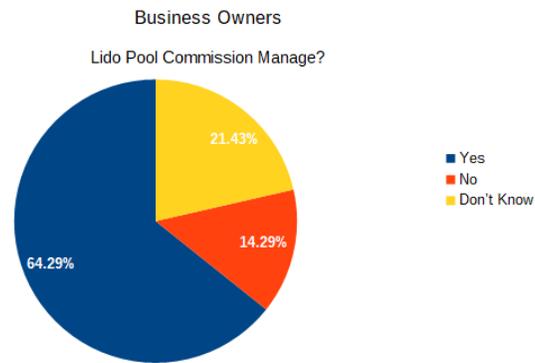
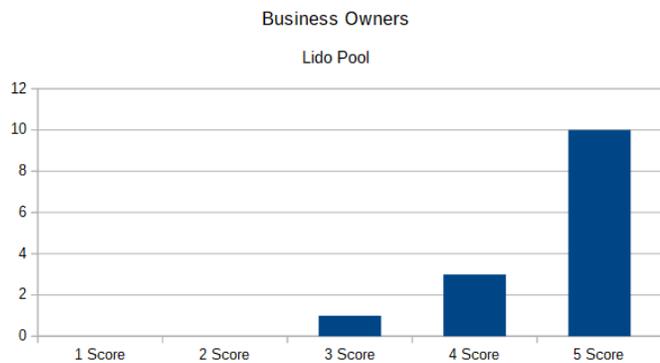
Lido Pool



Seasonal Residents

Lido Pool Commission Manage?





**Representative Comments**

**Villagers**

- Needs to be utilized better... Commission should be taking over the management of the swim program
- Co-operation between the Village Commission and the Red Cross Swim Program would be beneficial to both entities.
- I think it should be managed by MODC
- It's great for residents and visitors alike
- The lido pool is vital for our community and for visitors. It helps put Chester on the map. It needs to be advertised more in tourist handouts.
- Seems like a natural fit for the Commission
- Would like more public swims. Would like access for the handicapped

**Seasonal Residents**

- My assumption is that the times/needs of area residents
- This is a community facility that is well used and adds to the village.
- The Lido is a wonderful asset for the village and should be kept up.

**Business Owners**

- the pool is used by many people in the Municipality therefore the Municipality should contribute to the operating expenses
- Could be managed by a volunteer society or MODC.
- Both my kids learned to swim there. Very important for safety as well as seasonal fun

**Outside Residents**

- Very good addition to the amenities in the village
- The lido pool should be managed by the municipality of Chester not the village commission

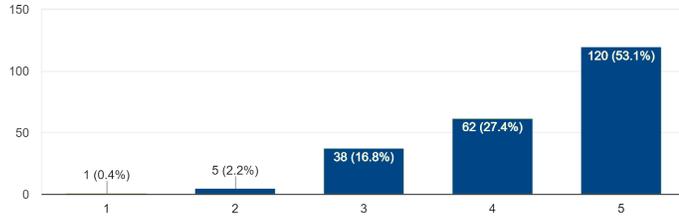
**Commentary on this section**

Overall, again, respondents had a strong favorable view of the Lido Pool and respondents felt that the Village Commission was the appropriate entity to continue managing it. Support was strong across residence groups, with the strongest support from Seasonal Residents and the weakest from Outside Residents, although their support was still over 55%.

### 3. Public Washrooms

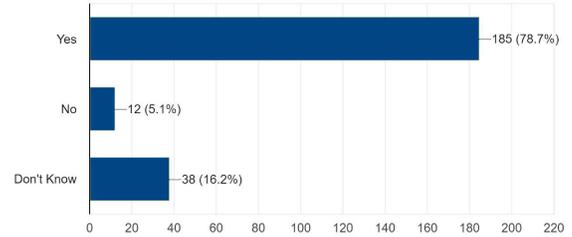
What is your opinion of the Public Washrooms?

226 responses

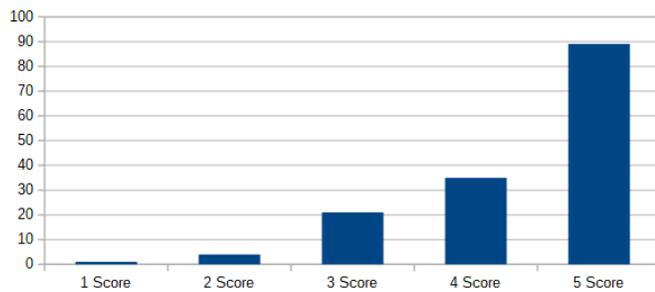


Do you feel it important that the Public Washrooms be provided and/or managed by the Village Commission?

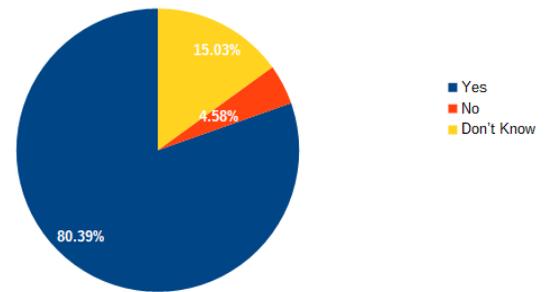
235 responses



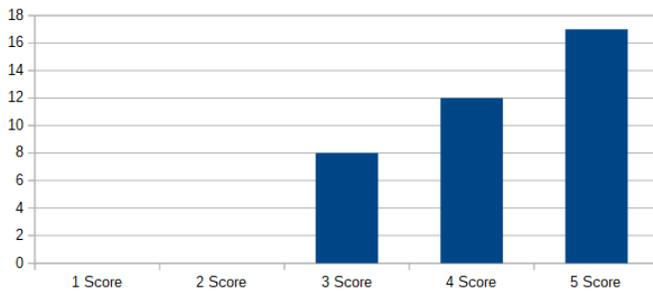
Villagers  
Public Washrooms



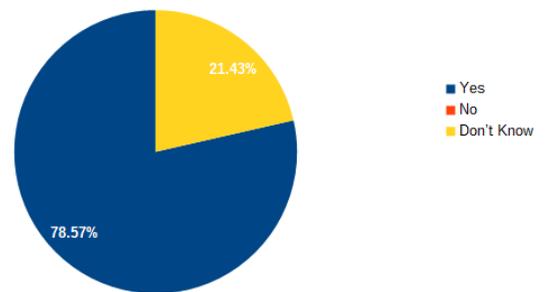
Villagers  
Public Washrooms Commission Manage?



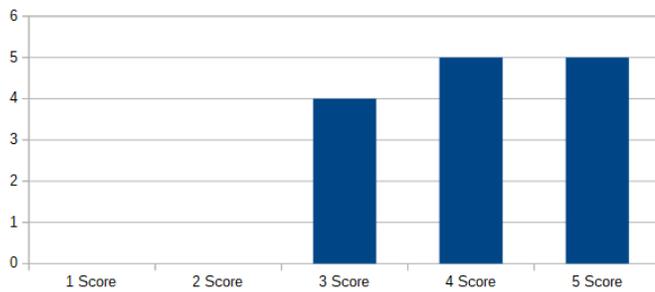
Seasonal Residents  
Public Washrooms



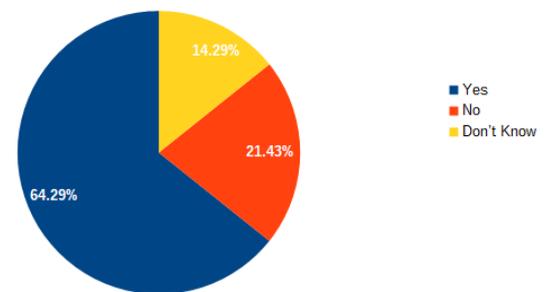
Seasonal Residents  
Public Washroom Commission Manage?

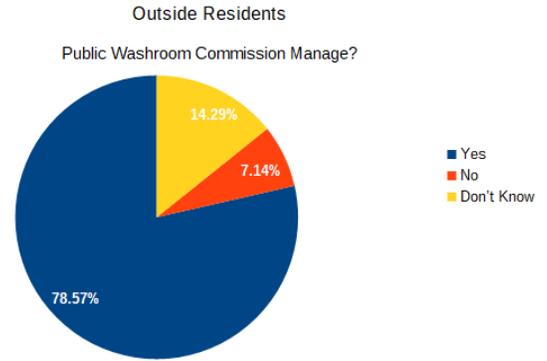
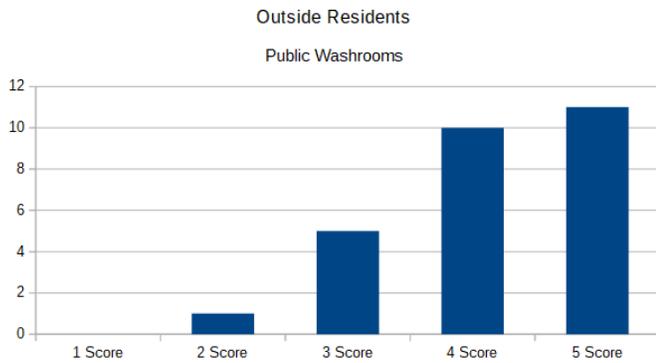


Business Owners  
Public Washrooms



Business Owners  
Public Washroom Commission Manage?





**Representative Comments**

*Villagers*

- These are a huge asset of the village
- The doors should be unlocked more often. More temporary toilets should be around the village during the summer or Race week.
- This one is quite fine, though I think a second facility somewhere near the opposite side of the village could be helpful.
- Every pool needs a washroom. Also very useful for the many visitors or locals walking in the village area.
- They are great but hours maybe should be extended to 8:30pm especially to accommodate music goers at the bandstand and to allow people to change after the lido closes.

*Seasonal Residents*

- If you have a pool and nearby beach you need washrooms.
- It seems to be run well, is clean and usually running
- local authority is more responsive

*Business Owners*

- Customers have made very positive comments
- Could be managed by MODC, they already have a public works department to do this type of work.
- They are not located near the business district.

*Outside Residents*

- There are no others available.
- Good for tourism.
- Better signage for where the washrooms are located.

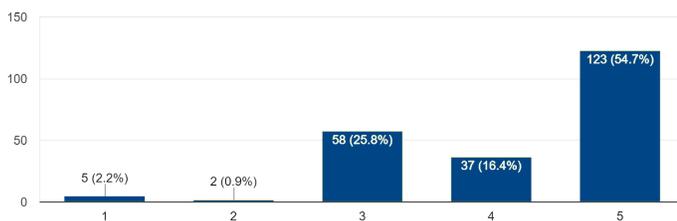
**Commentary on this section**

Again, respondents had a strong favorable view of the Public Washrooms and respondents felt that the Village Commission was the appropriate entity to continue managing them.

**4. Jib Lot Park**

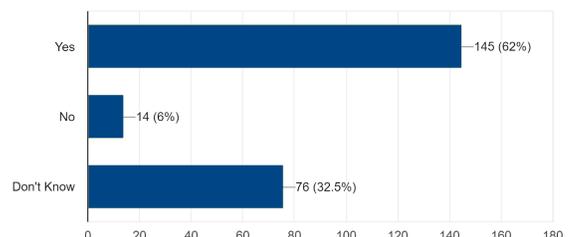
What is your opinion of the Jib Lot?

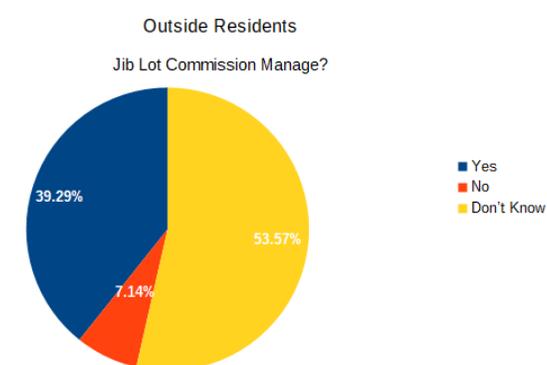
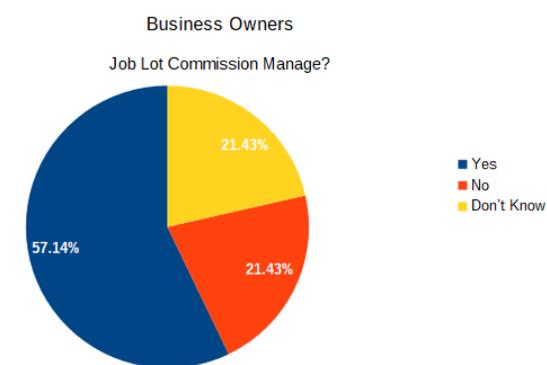
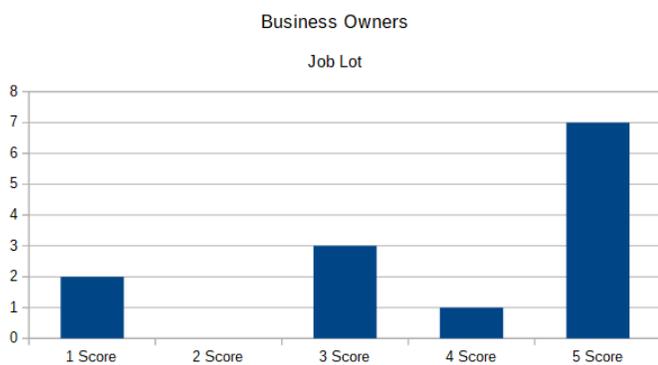
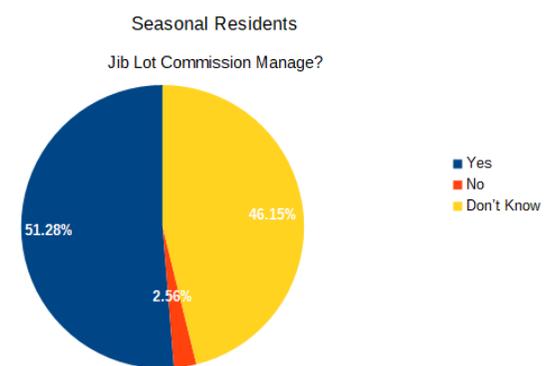
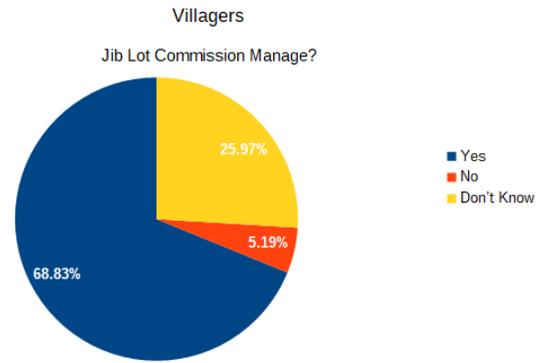
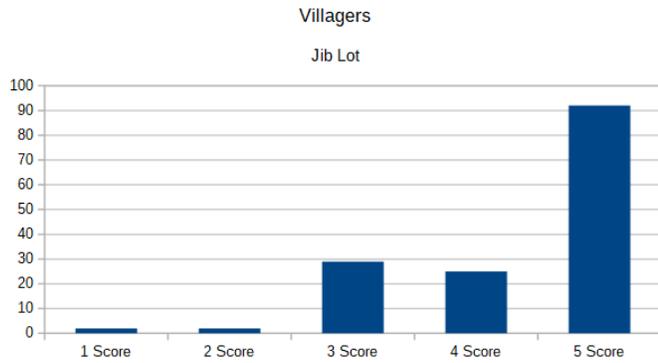
225 responses



Do you feel it important that the Jib Lot be provided and/or managed by the Village Commission?

234 responses





**Representative Comments**

*Villagers*

- Excellent spot for sitting looking over the harbor and having a picnic lunch
- Perhaps the Village Commission could provide a mooring for overnight guests ... 24 hours or maybe a few days ... not the entire

summer.

- Don't know much about the Jib Lot
- It was donated to the village so we should take care of it.
- it's not obvious that this is a public space

**Seasonal Residents**

- Mrs. Gibbs left it to the Village
- Don't know what this is
- It's important that the village has control over recreational areas.

**Business Owners**

- I have no idea where this piece of property is or how people use it!!!
- The Jib lot is a village asset and should be managed by the village commission

**Outside Residents**

- Nice property and view, but could be a better park.
- what does it do and who uses it

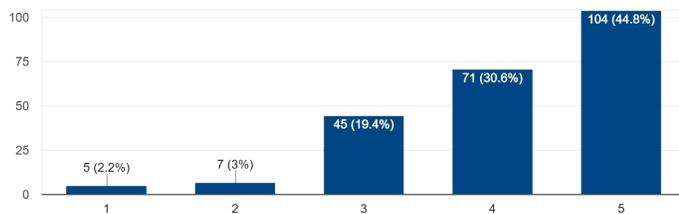
**Commentary on this Section**

The Job Lot Park is the one area where survey results are less cohesive. We believe this is due largely to the lack of public presence in the eyes of the Public. Many respondents were not sure where or what the Jib Lot is. The respondents still had a largely favorable view of the Jib Lot and they felt that the Village Commission was the appropriate entity to continue managing it.

**5. Street Lighting**

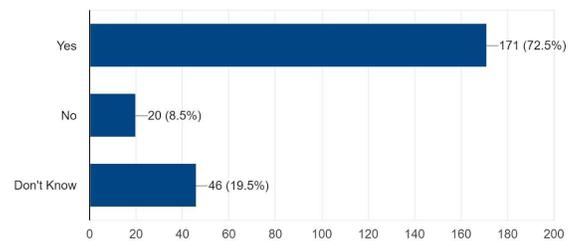
What is your opinion of the street lighting?

232 responses

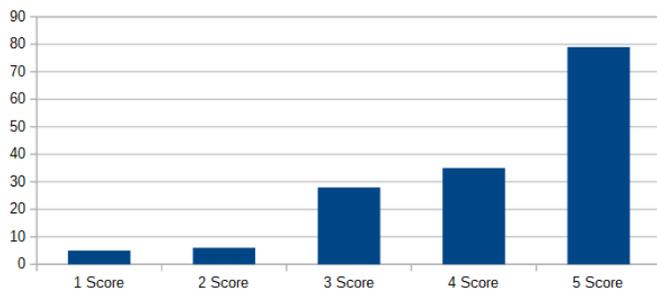


Do you feel it important that the street lighting be provided and/or managed by the Village Commission?

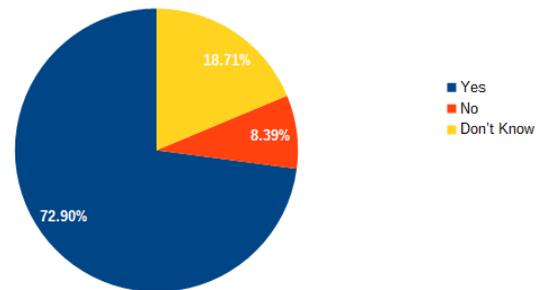
236 responses

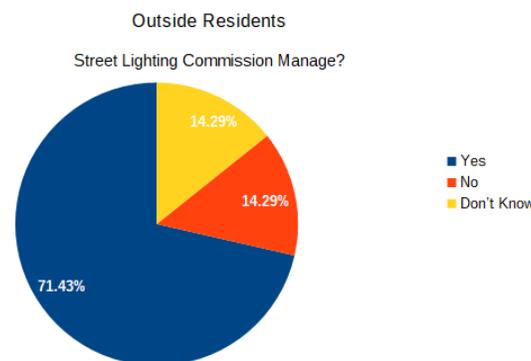
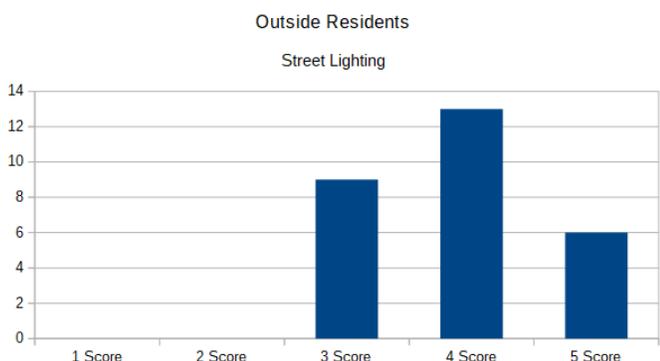
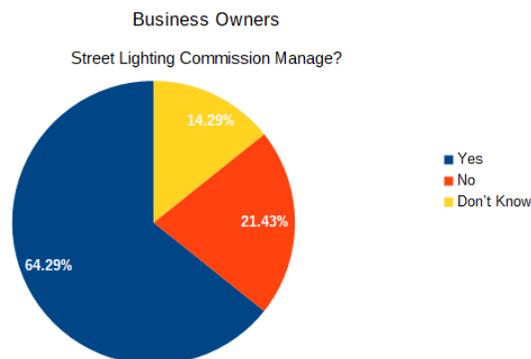
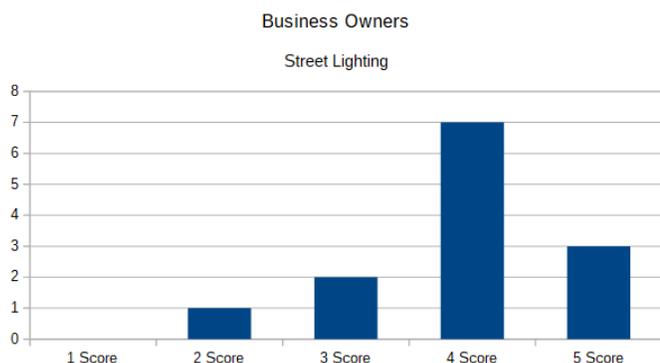
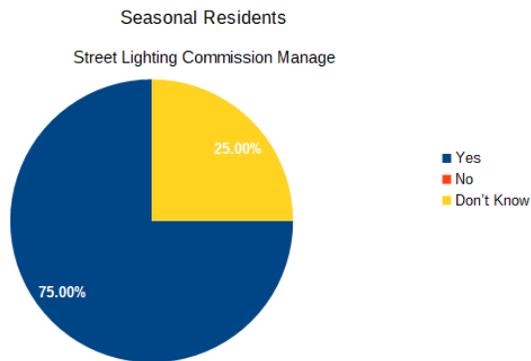
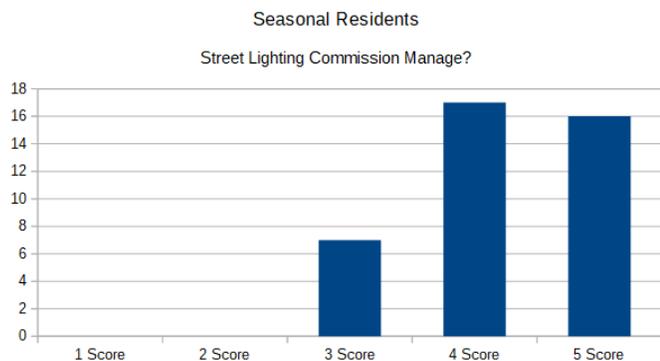


Villagers  
Street Lighting



Villagers  
Street Lighting Commission Manage?





**Representative Comments**

*Villagers*

- street lighting is an excellent aspect of what the village does
- need to have lights for safety
- I don't know why the lighting is only provided for this one street - who manages the rest of the lighting?
- The village could use more street lighting overall.
- Why is the Commission only doing Water Street? Lighting on streets very important, I am not sure if Village Comm. should be responsible?

*Seasonal Residents*

- what is the best model re servicing this?
- Well used and needs to be lit for pedestrian traffic and safety.
- The historic light posts are part of the beauty of the village and add to the charm and character of the Front Harbour. It is important that the village has control over them so that they are maintained by village so that they are not let to fall into disrepair and/or replaced by characterless posts.

*Business Owners*

- Water st should have more lighting since one was taken out
- the street lighting of the village should be both provided and managed by the commission, as the commissioners represent the village residents who are the principal users.

**Outside Residents**

- Should be more of them on other streets.
- Street lighting and associated municipal beautification/maintenance are precisely why a village commission should exist.
- Working well so why change it

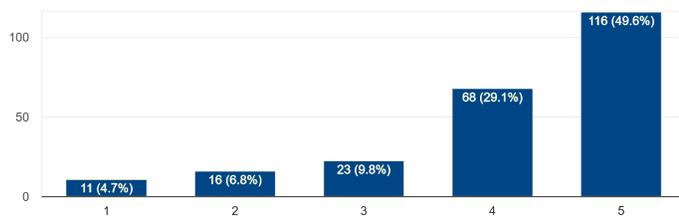
**Commentary on this section**

Overall, respondents have a favorable view of the Street Lighting, and the majority of respondents feel that the Village Commission is the appropriate entity to manage it. From the comments, we believe that there is some confusion around street lighting in general, and who provides it throughout the Village.

**6. Street Beautification**

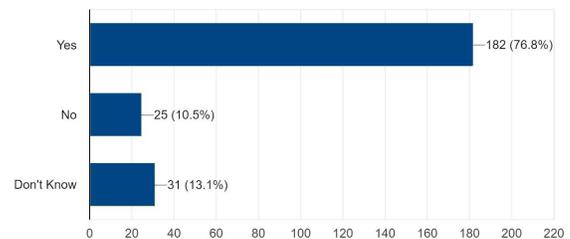
What is your opinion of the street beautification?

234 responses



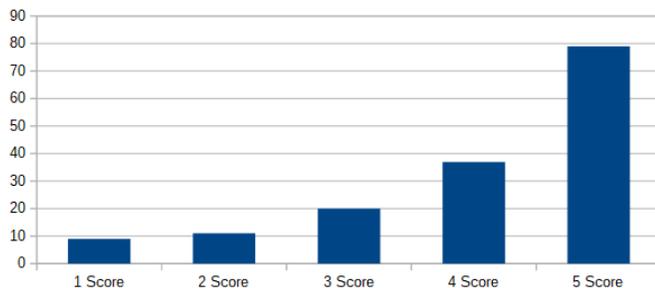
Do you feel it important that the street beautification be provided and/or managed by the Village Commission?

237 responses



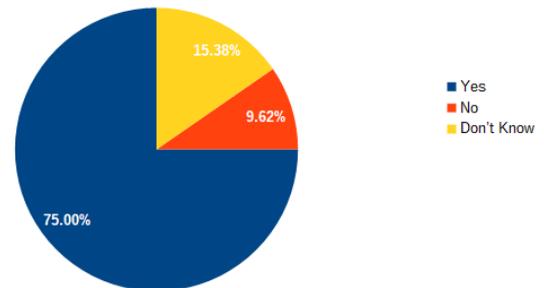
**Villagers**

Street Beautification



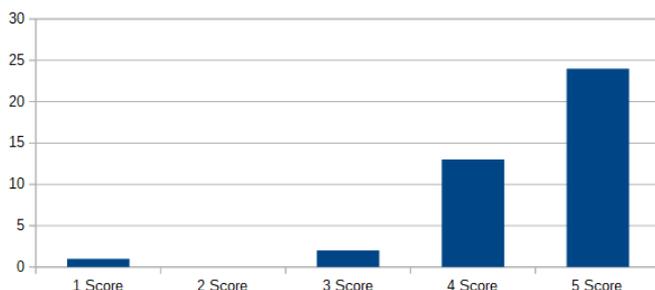
**Villagers**

Street Beautification Commission Manage?



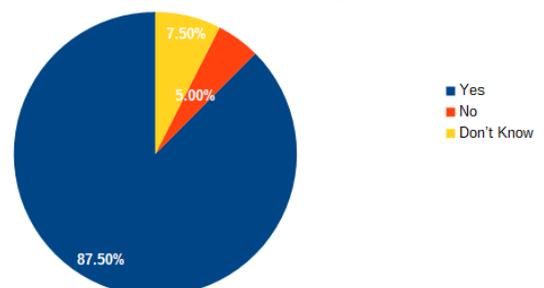
**Seasonal Residents**

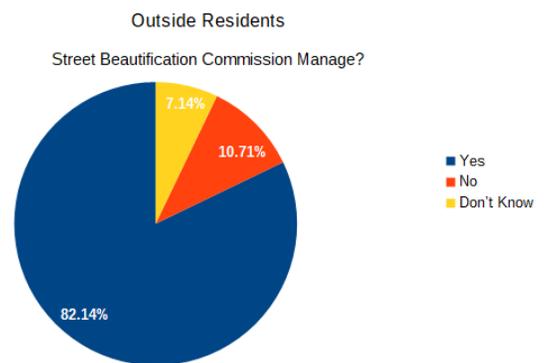
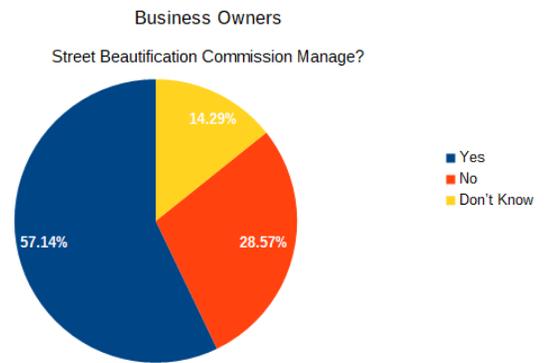
Street Beautification



**Seasonal Residents**

Street Beautification Commission Manage?





**Representative Comments**

*Villagers*

- Would like to expand on some other areas to hang flowers
- I wish there were more baskets on other streets
- Is it the best use of funds?
- The flowers really do look beautiful. Same with the wreaths.
- Very important to me. Keep The Village as beautiful and appealing to Tourists as possible. I like to be proud of where I live.
- Helps give community a sense of pride

*Seasonal Residents*

- Important
- Welcoming and Shows Chester is not a “backwoods” community
- We could use more
- The hanging baskets provide a special touch to the village appearance.

*Business Owners*

- generally well done
- Why have a paid government to look after this?

*Outside Residents*

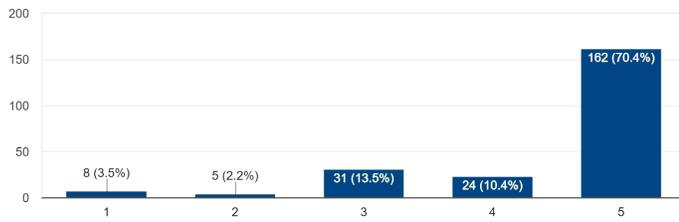
- Village beautification is precisely why a village commission should exist.
- Working well so why change it

**Commentary on this section**

Overall, respondents have a strong favorable view of the Street Beautification, and the majority of respondents feel that the Village Commission is the appropriate entity to manage it. Residents of all types agreed on this point, with Seasonal Residents have the strongest support for the Village Commission’s ongoing management, and Business Owners being the least supportive (the majority of Business Owners still agreed that the Commission is the appropriate management entity.)

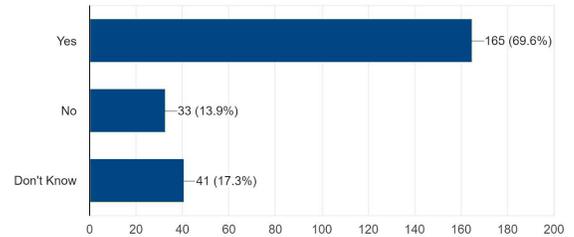
What is your opinion of the additional Green Bin Collection?

230 responses

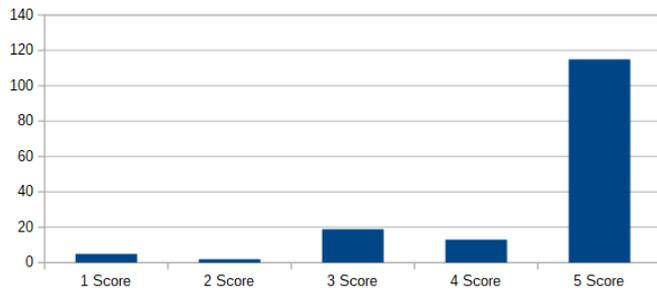


Do you feel it important that the additional Green Bin Collection be provided and/or managed by the Village Commission?

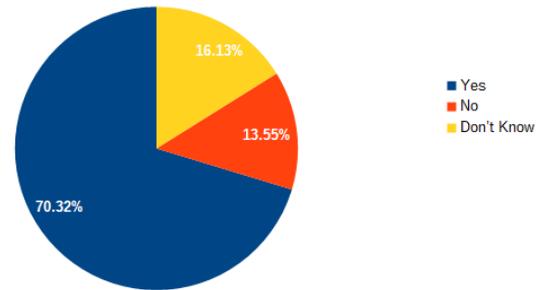
237 responses



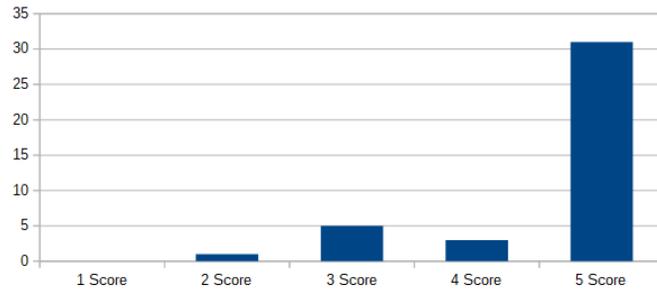
Villagers  
Green Bin Collection



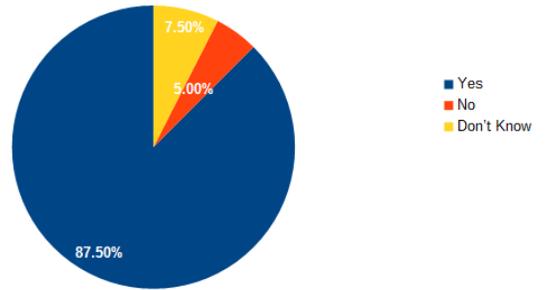
Villagers  
Green Bin Collection Commission Manage?



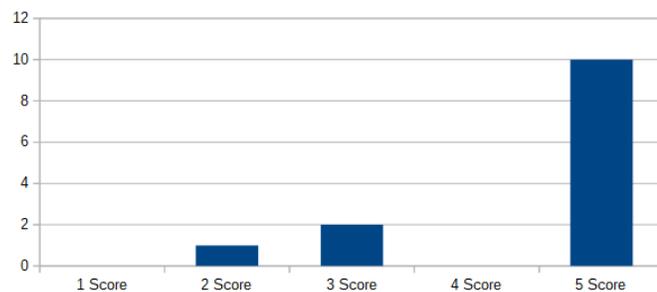
Seasonal Resident  
Green Bin Collection



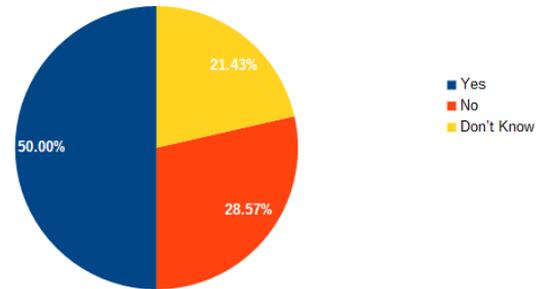
Seasonal Resident  
Green Bin Collection Commission Manage?

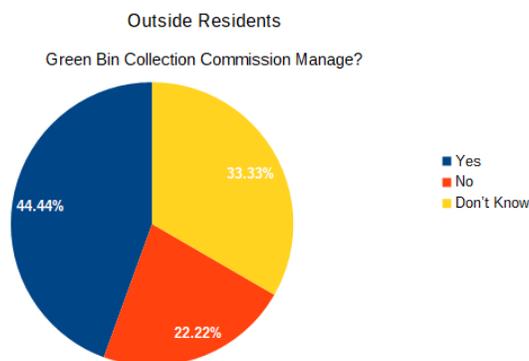
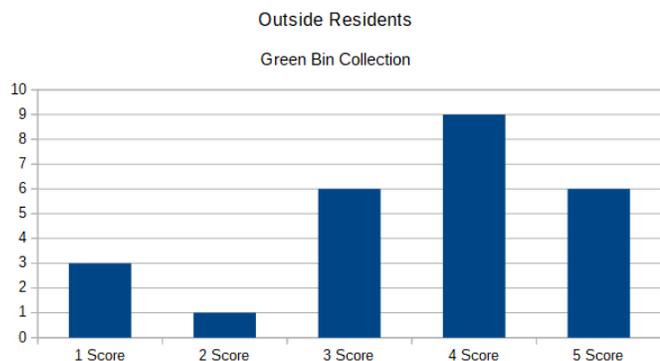


Business Owners  
Green Bin Collection



Business Owners  
Green Bin Collection Commission Manage?





**Representative Comments**

*Villagers*

- Absolutely necessary during the summer months.
- Great asset to add! Was needed! Glad the village commission took this on.
- Service should be consistent under Municipal contract.
- Not sure that additional collection is necessary
- Much appreciated

*Seasonal Residents*

- Don't really care . I am fine with two weeks between collection.
- Keeps the smell of garbage under control and prevents dum,ping in the ocean
- In the summer with the heat and the increased population, there must be weekly service.

*Business Owners*

- the village should handle garbage collection
- The municipality could provide this service equally as well but would they? I like the weekly pick-up as opposed to bi-weekly during the summer for obvious reasons but do believe it could work the same if managed by the municipality.

*Outside Residents*

- Doesn't affect me
- I am unaware of this...

**Commentary on this section**

Overall, again, respondents have a strong favorable view of the Additional Green Bin Collection, and the majority of respondents feel that the Village Commission is the appropriate entity to manage it. Residents of all types agreed on this point. Business Owners had more uncertainty. Some Outside Residents did not understand that the additional collection was paid for by Villagers and not out of Municipal funds, which led to some confusion in responses.

**Future Priorities**

The survey asked that the respondents rank a list of possible areas/items that the Commission is able to take on under the MGA. Each item was ranked using 1 for unimportant and 5 for important. We have analysed the responses and have used the average score for each item, by each of the categories of respondents (Villager, Seasonal Resident, Business Owner, and Outside Resident.) The result of this analysis was further summarized into the table shown below.

The table ranks each MGA area/item by the preference of Village residents (both full time and seasonal). The ranking is achieved using the combined average score for each area/item. In the table, we have also examined the ranking of each area/item by Business Owners who, throughout the survey responses, have had a unique perspective compared to the other respondent categories. As Business Owners do have a unique ranking, we have also presented a comparison of where Residents and Business owners have areas of agreement.

**Colour Key**

 = Top 5 ranking

 = Divergence in Ranking between Residents and Business Owners (>3 Rank Positions)

**Bold Text** = Agreement within Top Five Ranking (i.e., Agreed Priorities between Residents and Business Owners)

Future Priority Item	All Village Residents Priority Rank	Business Owners Priority Rank	Rank Trend (Divergent by 3 or more)	Difference in Ranking Between Categories
<b>Procuring and providing a suitable system of fire protection or emergency services. This includes purchasing, equipping, repairing and maintaining apparatus, buildings, and other related machines. It also includes equipping and maintaining fire departments or other emergency services providers. 1</b>	1	2	<b>Consistent</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Solid waste collection and management facilities, collection of garbage, compost, or recycling. This includes household pickup, as well as public spaces, such as the Lido Pool or Jib Lot.</b>	2	1	<b>Consistent</b>	<b>1</b>
Water retention and redirecting flow of water to be used in extinguishing fires. (e.g, fire hydrants)	3	9	Divergent	6
Snow and ice removal on sidewalks and/or public streets or spaces.	4	10	Divergent	6
<b>Construct, maintain and repair streets, sidewalks, curbs, gutters and make other street improvements.</b>	5	3	<b>Consistent</b>	<b>2</b>
Parks, playgrounds, public spaces.	6	12	Divergent	6
Lighting on public streets, trails, parks, etc.	7	11	Divergent	4
Providing buildings suitable for use as a medical centre to encourage doctors, dentists and other health professionals to locate in the Village.	8	14	Divergent	6
Swimming pools, ice arenas, other recreational facilities.	9	13	Divergent	4
Wastewater facilities (sewage) and storm water systems, water systems, electrical light and power system. This could include offering these services to areas outside of the Village boundary.	10	7	Consistent	3
Wharves and public landings.	11	16	Divergent	5
Support businesses, industries, and tourism in the Village. This can include advertising, marketing, and promotion.	12	4	Divergent	8
Purchasing of equipment, materials, buildings, vehicles, etc. for any Village purpose or community need.	13	17	Divergent	4
Flood mitigation within the Village.	14	21	Divergent	7
Recreational programs.	15	18	Consistent	3
Bicycle and active transportation routes.	16	19	Consistent	3
School crossing guards.	17	8	Divergent	9
Public Libraries.	18	5	Divergent	13
Tourist Information Centres.	19	6	Divergent	13
Halls, museums, community centres.	20	20	Consistent	0
Public parking lots.	21	15	Divergent	6
Under-grounding municipal and telecommunication services.	22	22	Consistent	0

A number of conclusions can be drawn from this analysis of the future priorities. While there are many areas where Business Owners and Residents disagree, there are a number of items where they do agree, or are very close in ranking. What is intriguing is that, for the top five items for both categories (cells shaded green in the table), three of the top five items in both categories do agree: The Fire Service, garbage collection, and street improvements. This would seem to indicate areas to examine closer for possible future initiatives.

In order to measure how closely Residents and Business Owners agree on the item ranking, we have shaded cells orange where a given MGA area/item is further than three ranks apart when compared between the two categories. Once the comparison goes beyond the top five priorities of Residents, there is much disagreement with Business Owners’ priorities. In fact, the fourth and fifth priority items for Business Owners rank twelfth and eighteenth, respectively, on the Resident ranking. This trend indicates that businesses have different priorities than residents and that an attempt should be made to better understand business needs moving forward.

We have also looked at the top ranked priority areas within each of the three themes that were used in the survey. The three themes were: Fire and Emergency Services, Public Works, and Community and Recreation, and these themes were also used for the Final Thoughts section of the Survey. The top ranked item by theme is as follows:

Theme	Villager	Seasonal Resident	Business Owner
Fire and Emergency Services	Procuring and providing a suitable system of fire protection or emergency services. This includes purchasing, equipping, repairing and maintaining apparatus, buildings, and other related machines. It also includes equipping and maintaining fire departments or other emergency services providers.	Same	Same
Public Works	Construct, maintain and repair streets, sidewalks, curbs, gutters and make other street improvements.	Solid waste collection and management facilities, collection of garbage, compost, or recycling. This includes household pickup, as well as public spaces, such as the Lido Pool or Jib Lot.	Solid Waste
Community and Recreation	Parks, playgrounds, public spaces.	Tie between Questions 39 and 40: 39. Providing buildings suitable for use as a medical centre to encourage doctors, dentists and other health professionals to locate in the Village.  40. Parks, playgrounds, public spaces.	Support businesses, industries, and tourism in the Village. This can include advertising, marketing, and promotion.

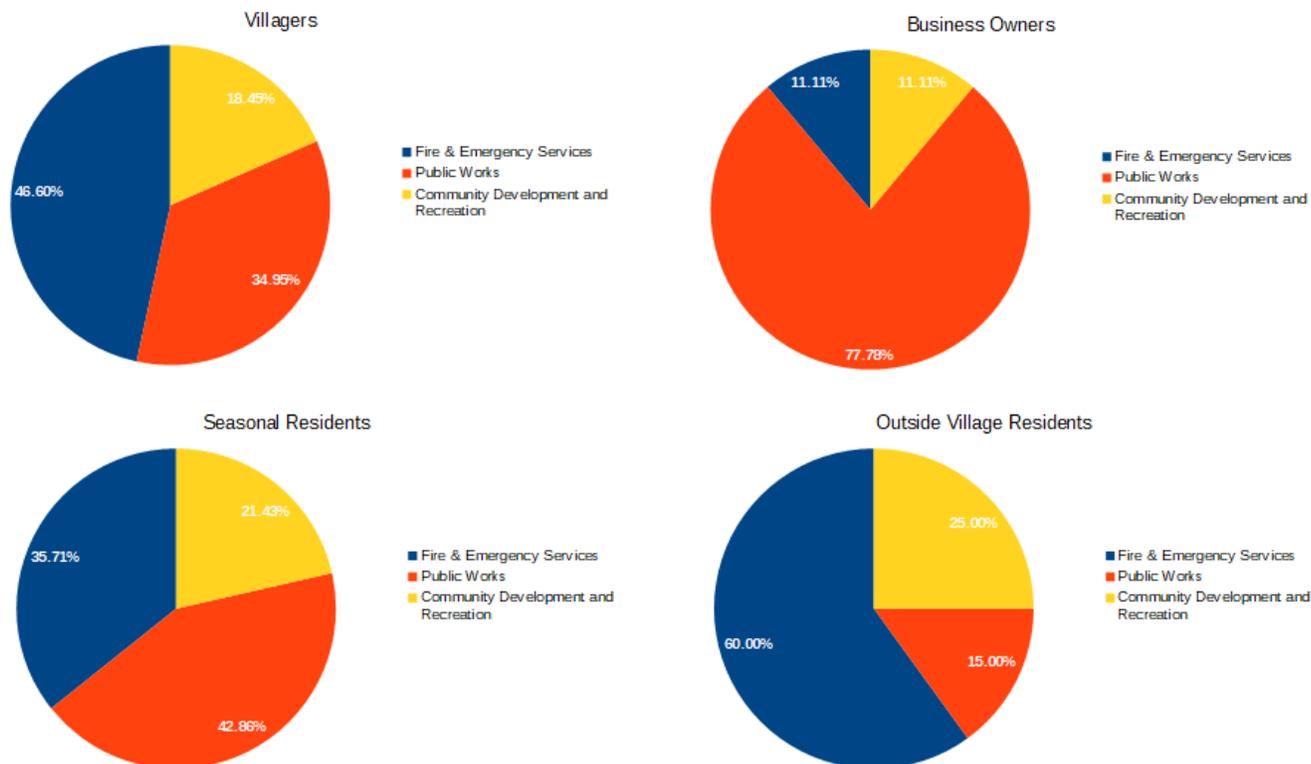
The table shows some difference in priority between the three groups, and is an interesting outcome; however, the table contents should not be used as stand alone guidance on priorities, but should be used in concert with all of the survey results.

**Priority Choice**

One of the final questions of the survey was a question that was deliberately difficult. Respondents were asked to pick one of the three areas (Fire & Emergency Services, Public Works, or Community Development & Recreation) as the priority for the Commission moving forward. The following show the results of that question, broken down by Respondent Groups.

The results of this question indicate a clear distinction between the four respondent categories, with Business Owners, again, having a distinct preference. With respect to Village residents (full time and seasonal), responses are split between the three choice areas. Villagers and Seasonal Residents believe that the lowest priority is Community Development and Recreation. Indeed, Community Development is third place for three of the four respondent categories, with the highest being Outside Residents showing Public Works as a distant second place. Villagers and Seasonal Residents are split between Fire & Emergency Services and Public Works.

Business Owners have a distinct preference that is different from the other three categories. Business Owners are overwhelmingly of the opinion that the highest priority for the Village Commission moving forward is Public Works. It is important to note that the number of respondents in this category is fairly small compared to the others, but the pattern is clear.



**Final Thoughts**

In addition to the Priority Choice, respondents had opportunity to provide written comments as the final input to the survey. We received excellent feedback, and present an excerpt of those comments below. For the full list of comments made by the public for this survey, please see **Appendix A**.

**Villagers**

- I was uncomfortable with some of the questions regarding services. MODC does a very good job providing many of the services mentioned and I see no need for the Village to assume responsibility for them. We are paying taxes to MODC to provide those services. If the Village also provided them we would be paying twice for the same service
- The Village Commissioners are volunteers and do a great job managing the business of the commission. There is no need to burden them with more responsibility. The fire department, the Lido pool, the Jib lot and street lights are enough to look after.
- We need more surveys so as to get the average persons opinions instead of certain outspoken or wealthier peoples opinions
- Chester needs water despirately and a tourist bureau
- stop wasting money on silly surveys as nothing is ever followed through.
- The Village Commission should be the governing body over the village of Chester. The municipal structure is not working and has not over the years. Often opportunities are miissed because there was always the challenge that one Councilor will not support something for Chester because their area was not suitable for it.
- I am not in favour of a Village Commission. I believe these services are better provided by other means. This is a costly way of doing business. The commission doesn't advertise their meetings that I am aware of and I didn't know they existed until a year after I moved the the Village. They seem hesitant to provide a financial statement and having seen a brief version I understand why.
- I think that it is very important the Village concentrates on what they are really doing. What they are doing is done very poorly aand they have been for years. It is also important that the Fire Services are looked at..anyone knows that the Village and the Commissioners are running it and the other things very poorly. Government money is being wasted.
- Providing services to a scale that fit the needs of the Village

**Seasonal Residents**

- Keeping the Property Tax dollars that come from the property owners in the village in the village of Chester. Many of our roads are getting pretty bad and need to be addressed.
- The Village of Chester should be actively planning and working towards a self sustainable, viable governing model in order to maintain much of what we have and to work towards a much improved future. The Village Commission Act provides the tools to do that. We would have available to us everything that is now possible through the Municipality, with the exception of our zoning (which I must admit has never made much sense to me). It has always been difficult, read impossible, to find out exactly what the population and the tax base for Chester is from MODC however it would be an educated guess that if the Village of Chester chose the most workable choices of governing from the Villages Act We could be masters of our own future, rather than be one vote amongst seven from MODC.
- Public water system needs thorough discussion

***Business Owners***

- we should take more control of our Village and not the municipality
- Water...water...water. You can't have fire hydrants or growth without town water. Will you guys ever wake up?
- The Village Commission is redundant. Why does it even exist?!

***Outside Residents***

- Work as a team. Put petty conflicts aside and work for a better community.
- Municipality can provide these services
- I would like to say that on the times that I have been here in winter, your snow/ice removal on the streets has been embarrassingly poor

## PART 3: RECOMMENDATIONS

The input gathered through stakeholder interviews and the survey demonstrates strong support for a Village Commission, and provides an excellent basis for moving forward with additional strategic prioritization and planning.

### 3.1 IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

The following items have been brought forward from the consultations and survey responses for consideration of the Commission. These are not projects so much as action items/areas that commission may wish to address.

**Governance** - Throughout the work, we repeatedly heard concerns around governance of the Commission including: how it functions, transparency, communication, and value for taxpayer money. While there may be many issues that contribute to governance issues, a notable challenge for the commission is the perceived lack of focus and mandate. More on this topic is found in Section 3.2 on Strategic Planning.

**Access to Information** – Another common theme throughout the work was the perceived lack of clarity on the role of the commission from the perspective of the public. Both the commission and the public will benefit from any improvements to the overall communication of the responsibilities and activities of the commission. Establishing a simple website that outlines the commissions mandate, responsibilities and provides access to meeting agenda's and minutes is an important first step in improving communication. If available, the website should provide a summary a current strategic plan and action items. While the task of setting up and maintaining a website was onerous in the past, there are many options available today that significantly reduce the effort and costs required. As well, such websites can be easily updated with minimal training.

**Relationships with Volunteer Organizations and levels of government** – The Commission deals with volunteer organizations ranging from a fairly close and complex relationship with the Fire Society, to the Red Cross at the Lido, and other community advocacy and business development organizations. These relationships are an important facet to building a strong, vibrant, and successful community, and the Commission may wish to explore how it can bolster these relationships.

Similarly, the working relationship between the Municipality and the Village Commission should be strong and effective, given that both governments serve the Residents and Businesses of the Village at a municipal level. Building a close working relationship will demonstrate through action the distinctions between what the Commission is responsible for as opposed to the Municipality, and will also demonstrate how each provide unique governance. This will assist in addressing the concern raised that taxpayers are paying twice for the same service by demonstrating how the two governments are working together collaboratively on their behalf within each government's mandate.

**Economic Development** – The results of the survey indicate that the Commission may wish to establish a working group with business so that a better understanding of how the Commission can support local businesses can be achieved. The reestablishment of the Visitor Information Centre may be an easy and low cost initiative that could be explored as a collaborative enterprise.

**Recreation Programming** – The Commission may wish to work more closely with the Municipal Recreation Department to ensure events and details on the Lido are published in the Municipality's recreation guide to ensure that this information is widely available.

### 3.2 STRATEGIC PLANNING

While the information gathered through this study provides the Commission with guidance in future decision-making, the real value is in establishing a longer-term strategic plan. A strategic plan will help the Commission define its long-term strategy or direction, and in turn, its priorities over a period of time. Once established the plan provides the necessary guidance for decision making and allocation of resources in pursuit of the overall objectives, while clearly articulating to the public what the Commission's vision for the future is.

We recommend that the Village Commission use work carried out in this study as a basis to prepare a Strategic Plan. The current

study provides an evaluation of the Commission's current role from the perspective of the commission itself, stakeholders and its electors. We envision a three Phase Strategic Plan process. Within the Strategic Plan, the first evaluation Phase would generally include a review of any current plan and measures of successes and failures, but in this case, no formal plan exists.

The next phase of work should be the development of the Strategic Plan. The plan will allow the Commission to better define its mandate and strategic direction (goals and objectives), using the public and stakeholder input for guidance. The plan should be supported by an implementation plan, measurable targets, and a schedule for regular plan review. The final phase is implementation. This means putting the structure and processes into place, carrying out an annual review. The review should focus on the evaluation and updating of priorities and allocation of resources that help achieve the goals and objectives of the plan.

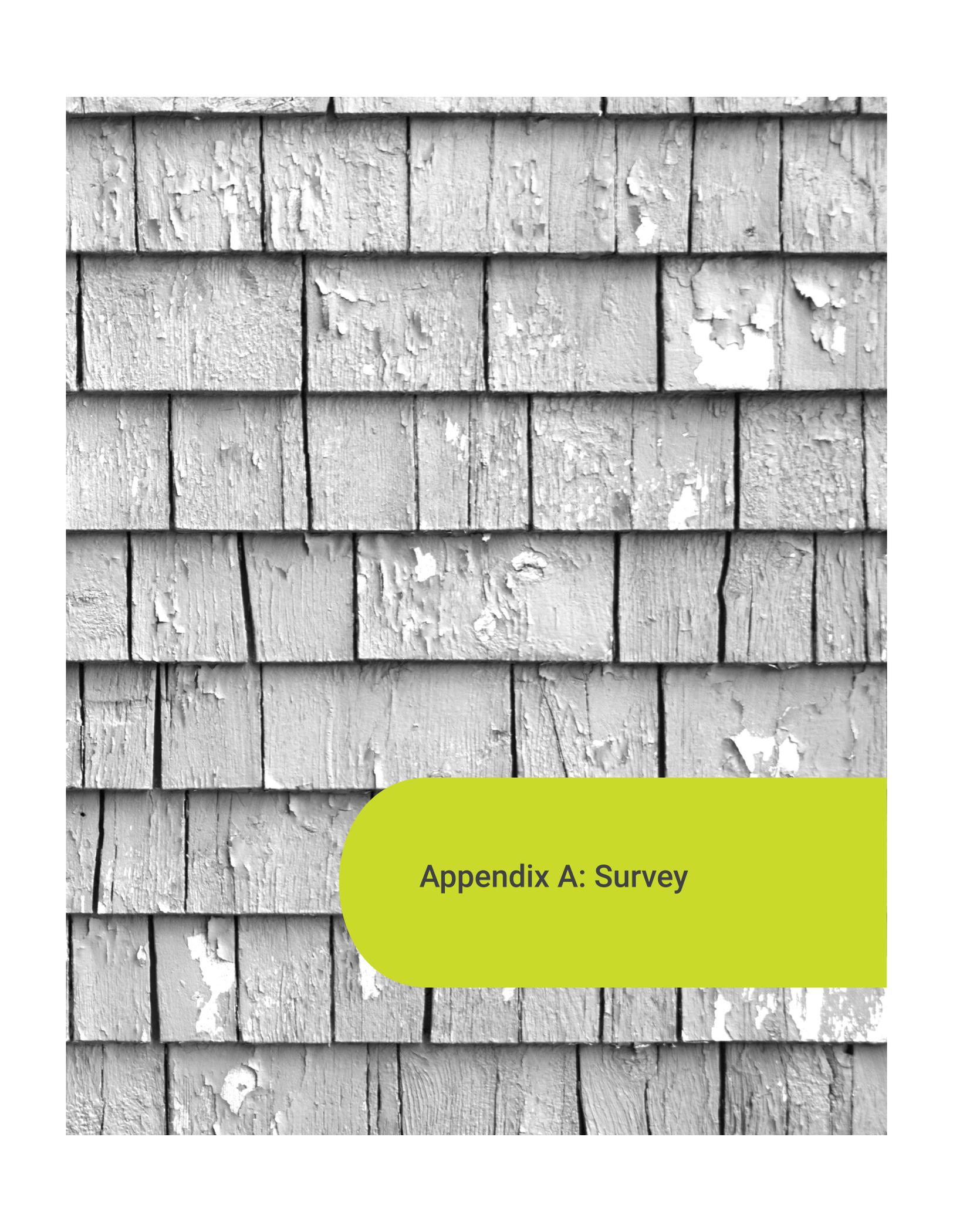
### **3.3 CONCLUSION**

The information gathered and documented from stakeholders as well as the online survey provide an excellent starting point to proceed to more detailed planning initiatives like the Strategic Plan. The Commission now has a good idea of how the public feel about the Commission, how good a job it has been doing, and areas to explore more deeply in the future.

## REFERENCES

1 Municipal Government Act, SNS 1998, c 18, <<http://canlii.ca/t/52vmg>> retrieved on 2018-07-17.

2 Statistics Canada. "Census Profile, 2016 Census." Government of Canada, Statistics Canada, 13 Aug. 2018, [www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E&TABID=1](http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E&TABID=1).



**Appendix A: Survey**

# Village of Chester Commission Priorities

EDM Planning Services Ltd. has been asked by the Village of Chester Commission to conduct a survey to assist it in setting priorities moving forward. We are examining the powers of the Commission, services currently provided, and areas that the Commission might consider taking on in the future.

The point of survey is to collect public input on existing services provided by the Commission, potential changes or modifications to what the Commission does, and other related issues.

We appreciate your input!

It should take you between 10 and 20 minutes to complete this survey.

For your reference, below is a map showing the boundary of the Village.

\*Required

## Village of Chester Boundary



## Privacy Notice

Participation in this survey is completely voluntary and you may choose whether or not to participate and therefore disclose this information. Information requested includes demographic information (such as Postal Code, residency). Survey information will be used for purposes of providing the Village of Chester Commission feedback on services that it currently provides or could provide. We are the sole owners of the information collected on this site. We only have access to collect information that you voluntarily give us. We will not sell or rent this information to anyone. We will not share your information with any third party.

# A few questions about you

1. How would you best describe your relationship with the Village of Chester? \*

Mark only one oval.

- Full Time Resident of the Village
- Seasonal Resident of the Village
- Business Owner
- Employee of a business located in the Village
- Resident living outside of the Village Boundary

2. What is your Postal Code? \*

---

3. If you live outside of the Village, or are a seasonal resident, please provide your home community name.

---

## The Village Commission's Current Areas of Responsibility

The Village Commission is currently responsible for providing and/or funding the following:

Chester Volunteer Fire Department

Lido Pool

Public Washrooms

The Jib Lot

Street Lighting

Street Beautification

Additional Green Bin Collection

## Chester Volunteer Fire Department

---

The Chester Volunteer Fire Department provides emergency fire and medical response for the Village of Chester and areas along the Windsor Road and Route 3 that fall within the fire district and outside of areas covered by Chester Basin and Blandford/Hubbards Fire Departments.

4. What is your opinion of the service provided?

Mark only one oval.

1      2      3      4      5

---

Unfavorable                  Favorable

---

**5. Do you feel it important that the Fire Service be provided and/or managed by the Village Commission?**

*Tick all that apply.*

- Yes  
 No  
 Don't Know

**6. Thinking of your answers above, please provide reasons for your answers or other comments on the service.**

---

---

---

---

---

## Lido Pool

The Lido Pool, Chester's iconic saltwater public pool, is situated on Chester's Waterfront near the Bandstand, Freda's Beach, The Chester Yacht Club, and the Municipal Wharf. Current Public Swim Pool hours are:

Lane Swim

Monday – Friday

8:00 am – 9:00 am

Saturday & Sunday

11:00 am – 12:00 noon

Public Swimming

Monday – Friday

12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Saturday & Sunday

12:00 noon – 8:00 pm

The Red Cross currently runs a swim program at the Lido weekdays from 9:00am – 12:00am and 2:00pm – 5:00pm

**7. What is your opinion of the Lido Pool?**

*Mark only one oval.*

1      2      3      4      5

---

Unfavorable                  Favorable

---

**8. Do you feel it important that the Lido Pool be provided and/or managed by the Village Commission?**

*Tick all that apply.*

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

**9. Thinking of your answers above, please provide reasons for your answers or other comments on the Lido Pool.**

---

---

---

---

---

## Public Washrooms

Public washrooms have been installed in the Pool Building situated at the Lido Property.

**10. What is your opinion of the Public Washrooms?**

*Mark only one oval.*

1      2      3      4      5

---

Unfavorable                        Favorable

---

**11. Do you feel it important that the Public Washrooms be provided and/or managed by the Village Commission?**

*Tick all that apply.*

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

**12. Thinking of your answers above, please provide reasons for your answers or other comments on the Public Washrooms.**

---

---

---

---

---

## Jib Lot

The Jib Lot was a bequest from Clarissa Gibbs Estate to the Village Of Chester Commission in June of 1990. The gift included a piece of land on the Front Harbor and a water lot also on the Front Harbor. That piece of land has come to be known as the Jib Lot. The Commission has committed to maintain the land for recreational purposes for the Village residents. It is also home to a Memorial erected by the Chester Volunteer Fire Department.

**13. What is your opinion of the Jib Lot?**

*Mark only one oval.*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Unfavorable	<input type="radio"/>	Favorable				

**14. Do you feel it important that the Jib Lot be provided and/or managed by the Village Commission?**

*Tick all that apply.*

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

**15. Thinking of your answers above, please provide reasons for your answers or other comments on the Jib Lot.**

---

---

---

---

---

## Street Lighting

The Village Commission provides Street Lighting for a section of Water Street.

**16. What is your opinion of the street lighting?**

*Mark only one oval.*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Unfavorable	<input type="radio"/>	Favorable				

**17. Do you feel it important that the street lighting be provided and/or managed by the Village Commission?**

*Tick all that apply.*

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

**18. Thinking of your answers above, please provide reasons for your answers or other comments on the street lighting.**

---

---

---

---

---

## Street Beautification

The Village Commission provides 73 Hanging Flower Baskets during the summer months, primarily on Duke and Queen Streets in the Village. In winter, the Village Commission also provides wreaths.

**19. What is your opinion of the street beautification?**

*Mark only one oval.*

1      2      3      4      5

---

Unfavorable                  Favorable

---

**20. Do you feel it important that the street beautification be provided and/or managed by the Village Commission?**

*Tick all that apply.*

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

21. **Thinking of your answers above, please provide reasons for your answers or other comments on the street beautification.**

---

---

---

---

---

## Green Bin Collection

The Village Commission provides additional weekly Green Bin Collection during the Summer months. The usual collection is every two weeks.

22. **What is your opinion of the additional Green Bin Collection?**

*Mark only one oval.*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Unfavorable	<input type="radio"/>	Favorable				

23. **Do you feel it important that the additional Green Bin Collection be provided and/or managed by the Village Commission?**

*Tick all that apply.*

- Yes
- No
- Don't Know

24. **Thinking of your answers above, please provide reasons for your answers or other comments on the additional Green Bin Collection.**

---

---

---

---

---

## Future Priorities

The Village Commission is looking for input to help identify future priorities. The Municipal Government Act provides a range of powers to Villages and Village Commissions to provide services.

Some services that the Village may provide and/or manage are currently provided by the Municipality. The Village may choose to provide these services instead through an

agreement with the Municipality. We have organised these services using the following themes:

- Fire and Emergency Services
- Public Works
- Community Development and Recreation

## Next Sections

---

In the following sections, thinking about the future identity and health and sustainability of the Village, please rank how important it is that services falling in these three themes be provided and managed by the Village.

### Fire and Emergency Services

Please rank the following items that are allowed expenditures under the Municipal Government Act. The ranking should reflect how important these items are to you that the Commission manage/provide them. Please note some of these items may not currently be provided by the Commission.

25. **Procuring and providing a suitable system of fire protection or emergency services. This includes purchasing, equipping, repairing and maintaining apparatus, buildings, and other related machines. It also includes equipping and maintaining fire departments or other emergency services providers.**

*Mark only one oval.*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Unimportant	<input type="radio"/>	Important				

26. **Water retention and redirecting flow of water to be used in extinguishing fires. (e.g, fire hydrants)**

*Mark only one oval.*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Unimportant	<input type="radio"/>	Important				

### Public Works

Please rank the following items that are allowed expenditures under the Municipal Government Act. The ranking should reflect how important these items are to you that the Commission manage/provide them. Please note some of these items may not currently be provided by the Commission.

**27. Snow and ice removal on sidewalks and/or public streets or spaces.**

*Mark only one oval.*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Unimportant	<input type="radio"/>	Important				

**28. Lighting on public streets, trails, parks, etc.**

*Mark only one oval.*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Unimportant	<input type="radio"/>	Important				

**29. Flood mitigation within the Village.**

*Mark only one oval.*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Unimportant	<input type="radio"/>	Important				

**30. Solid waste collection and management facilities, collection of garbage, compost, or recycling. This includes household pickup, as well as public spaces, such as the Lido Pool or Jib Lot.**

*Mark only one oval.*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Unimportant	<input type="radio"/>	Important				

**31. Purchasing of equipment, materials, buildings, vehicles, etc. for any Village purpose or community need.**

*Mark only one oval.*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Unimportant	<input type="radio"/>	Important				

**32. Under-grounding municipal and telecommunication services.**

*Mark only one oval.*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Unimportant	<input type="radio"/>	Important				

33. **Wastewater facilities (sewage) and storm water systems, water systems, electrical light and power system. This could include offering these services to areas outside of the Village boundary.**

*Mark only one oval.*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Unimportant	<input type="radio"/>	Important				

34. **Construct, maintain and repair streets, sidewalks, curbs, gutters and make other street improvements.**

*Mark only one oval.*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Unimportant	<input type="radio"/>	Important				

## Community and Recreation

Please rank the following items that are allowed expenditures under the Municipal Government Act. The ranking should reflect how important these items are to you that the Commission manage/provide them. Please note some of these items may not currently be provided by the Commission.

35. **School crossing guards.**

*Mark only one oval.*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Unimportant	<input type="radio"/>	Important				

36. **Recreational programs.**

*Mark only one oval.*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Unimportant	<input type="radio"/>	Important				

37. **Support businesses, industries, and tourism in the Village. This can include advertising, marketing, and promotion.**

*Mark only one oval.*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Unimportant	<input type="radio"/>	Important				

**38. Public Libraries.**

*Mark only one oval.*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Unimportant	<input type="radio"/>	Important				

**39. Providing buildings suitable for use as a medical centre to encourage doctors, dentists and other health professionals to locate in the Village.**

*Mark only one oval.*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Unimportant	<input type="radio"/>	Important				

**40. Parks, playgrounds, public spaces.**

*Mark only one oval.*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Unimportant	<input type="radio"/>	Important				

**41. Bicycle and active transportation routes.**

*Mark only one oval.*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Unimportant	<input type="radio"/>	Important				

**42. Swimming pools, ice arenas, other recreational facilities.**

*Mark only one oval.*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Unimportant	<input type="radio"/>	Important				

**43. Halls, museums, community centres.**

*Mark only one oval.*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Unimportant	<input type="radio"/>	Important				

**44. Tourist Information Centres.**

*Mark only one oval.*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Unimportant	<input type="radio"/>	Important				

**45. Public parking lots.**

*Mark only one oval.*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Unimportant	<input type="radio"/>	Important				

**46. Wharves and public landings.**

*Mark only one oval.*

	1	2	3	4	5	
Unimportant	<input type="radio"/>	Important				

## Final Thoughts

**47. Thinking of your responses to the previous questions on the three themes, which of the three themes do you feel is most important to the future of the Village of Chester?**

*Mark only one oval.*

- Fire & Emergency Services
- Public Works
- Community Development and Recreation

**48. This is the first step to help the Village Commission better understand residents views on services offered today and what are possible priorities for the future. Do you have any other comments that you wish to be considered?**

---

---

---

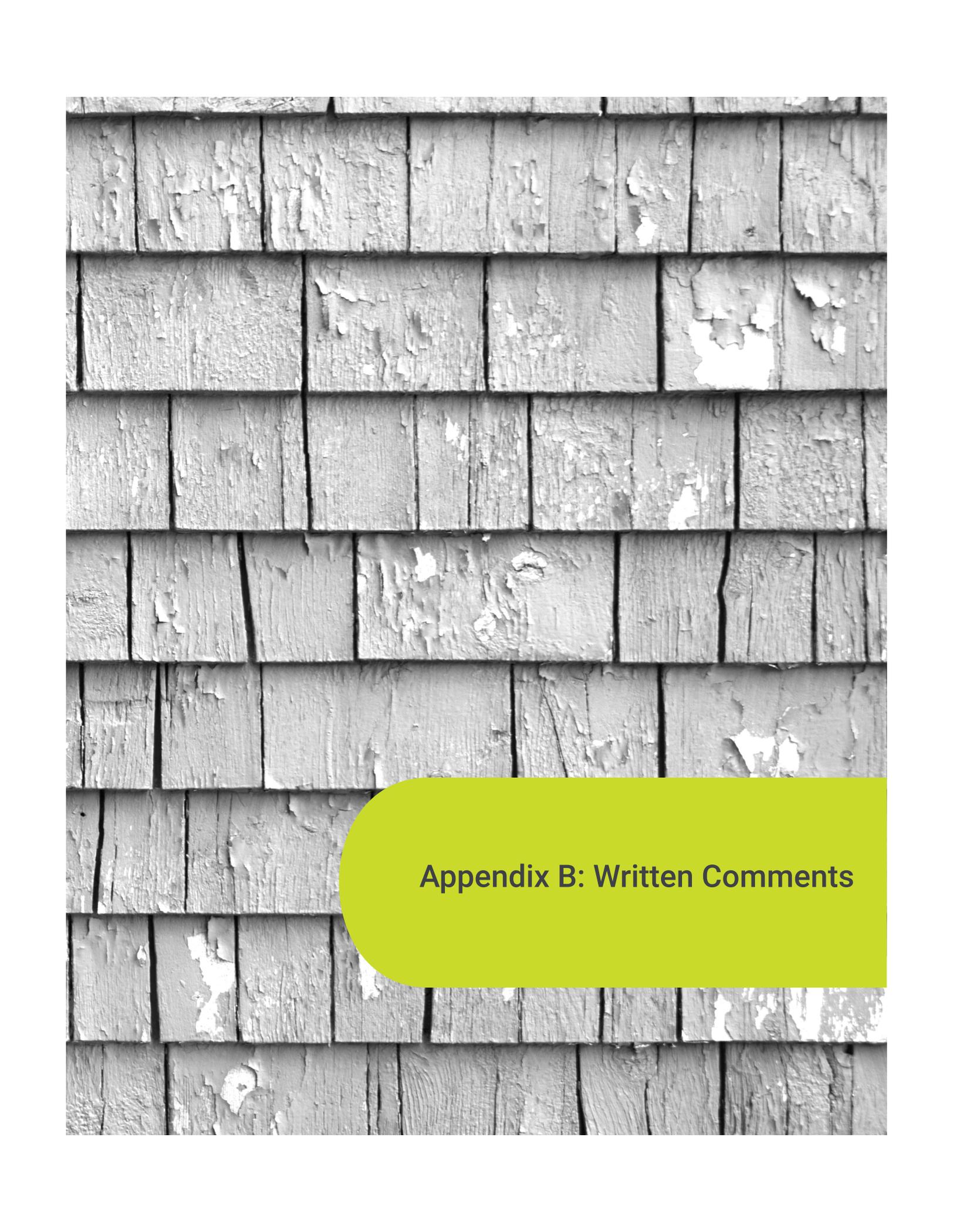
---

---

## All Done!

Thank you for participating, and please press submit to send us your survey!





**Appendix B: Written Comments**

Comments. Each Table Row is an individual response.

Fire Service

*“Thinking of your answers above, please provide reasons for your answers or other comments on the service.”*

**Villagers:**

I think there needs to be a contract between the fire services and the commission to define clear roles.
Provided? Yes. Managed? That depends on what you mean by "managed".
I believe that there would be more benefit for our tax dollar if the Fire Service was taken over by the Municipality or Province. There must be better economics of scale for purchasing that could be achieved by purchasing supplies a/o trucks through the Municipality or Province instead of by ourselves. There is proportionately too large a tax burden on the Village residents for the services provided. The outside area that is serviced under contract has the same level of service at a fraction of the cost to the Villagers.
the CVFD should be directly involved in decisions that affect their activities
With disagreements and arbitrary decisions by the Commission this is not working well and has led to a number of frustrations on the part of the department.
I feel that village commission is best suited to carry out the needs for the residents rather than some outside body ,better under our control
The residents of Chester own the fire equipment and have paid for it through their taxes. The outside areas have paid for the service, not the equipment. The Village Commission is well experienced in administering the service. No need for a change as the service is excellent.
The Village is the core service area.
What does the village know about the fire service? Do they take the same training as the firefighters?
Direct oversight management
I don't know what other option you are positing and how it relates to financial support. I support how the Village Commission has supported it so far.
The Mun. as ultimately responsible for fire departments in the Mun. however they recognize the unique needs of individual services and provide support for the various governing bodies. Along with this is the case, I am satisfied .
I think the fire service is important but not sure that it needs to be managed by the village commission - I wonder if it would be better integrated within the full municipality
Fire dept. info and interesting stories could be broadcasted locally in hopes of attracting young new members.
Meets my needs on current services and I like having the FS in the village
The Municipality along with the Village Commission jointly fund fire protection.
This question is not clear. Are you saying that if the Fire Service were not managed by the Village Commission it would be disbanded? Or are you presuming survey recipients understand that these services would be managed by another organization (the Municipality, or other?) Unclear.
It's local and involved with the village, they pay attention to training and they are excellent
Fire service supports a bigger area than just the village
Don't know pros and cons of Village Commission vs. municipality managing fire service.
Current services are well managed
The VC should manage the Chester FD, as it is the village's fire dept. although the majority of FD members actually live outside the village. This creates problems as those outside members do not feel their concerns are not well respected by the VC. There has been several issues over the years because of this situation for which I see no quick cure. The VC seems to take issues with providing enough funds for the FD to do its job. This may just be in a small way just rumours however there is lots of evidence of the rocky relationship between the 2 parties, this needs to be resolved !!
The services that are provided are great! Keeps the village looking great for visitors as well as residents. Fire Service should be managed by the Village Commission as the fire department is under our jurisdiction.
Who might other providers be?
The present service is excellent!

Is it a shared project with the municipality? much of area is outside village
What other body would do it? Commission appears best placed , at least for those in the Village
do not know enough to answer intelligently
Local residents need to support and control local emergency services
I don't know enough to comment - however I feel we need a more muscular Commission to counterbalance the lack of power at the municipality level as I do not believe Village interests are well looked after. Danielle does a great job but she is always pushing string up hill and given the significant amount of tax revenue that comes from us (same percentage of value that I paid in downtown Ottawa where I got water!) I think we need to be looked after.
The commission does not work properly
The provision of the service for the community and its funding is incredibly important, and the managing of tax funds to be appropriated for this service is required. However, commissionaires with no knowledge of fire department training, equipment, or procedural requirements should not be "managing" the department. This should be relegated to trained volunteers and provincial departments, with independent oversight already currently available in the fire fighting field.
A well organized and efficient service.
My reason for my opinion is about 18 years of reading reports about the CVFD, attending meetings when they report to Commission, making myself informed about the extent of their training and activities when I moved here, seeking information about insurance coverage effects, attending two of their 'inform-the-public' events, asking 3 other near-by fire department personnel about CVFD performance. I am not competent to assess their performance in responding to fires and accidents, however I have received very positive feedback about the latter because of my involvement in the health care board in our area (before the current changes were implemented). I hold the view that a sound fire and emergency service is critical to the health and safety of a rural community, and we are very unlikely to ever be able to afford a professional fire department.
I haven't had any interaction with any of the services, including fire, so am only going by what I hear - which is "no complaints".
Have a problem with the lack of recognition by the Commission of the firefighter volunteers who live outside of the Commission's District.
don't know enough about it to comment
The fire dept. serves the whole municipality
Not sure of pros and cons of the Commission handling fire service
O have lived in Chester 15 years now and feel safe on this village
For coordination and planning allocation of \$\$ resources
Very proud of our Fire Department and the level of commitment.
Service is excellent - cost is high - but a necessary service- is presently being used as a first responder which is an overuse of our fire department -it is a fire department- not an emergency service.
For a village with the population of Chester and the many beautiful residences it would be a great loss not to have protection of these places and the surrounding neighbourhood. If the Municipality took over this responsibility, I am sure the taxes would elevate and this would be a concern and upset for many full time residents.
CVFD may be volunteer, but provides professional service. The fire fighters are Chester residents who have the interests of Chester at heart.
As-is service is good
Fire support needs to be in the village because of the age of buildings , we have A lack of hydrants and no water pressure.
I am assuming that this is closest to the status quo.
Volunteer fireman do a great service
Can it be provided by the Municipality, I know it is a necessary service
A service functions better closest to what it serves
Could the municipality provide this service instead?
Don't know the particulars in the running of the fire service enough to have an opinion.
The firefighters provide the service without them their would be no service.

Sense that commission is unfairly represented by fire dept. special interest folk
A fire occurred. The fire department extinguished it. The Village Commission should be responsible for all aspects of village services.
New to the community and don't have experience to have opinion on the service provided.
Yes as long as the Commission governs in as as it should. The only thing wrong with the fire department is the Village Commission not respecting the tax payer. Maybe the village should have a full time fire service and not be involved in providing service to the outside area except for mutual aid. Right now the fire department is running the Village Commission with regard to fire service.
I want to see the Village Commission engage the services of a qualified consultant to determine what equipment we need to be providing to our fire service. As a tax payer for more than forty years I have come to realize we are purchasing equipment based on want (to have bigger and better than other fire departments) and not need. Other fire departments in the municipality do not have a fire budget like the Chester Village Commission. I would also like to see this review to look at providing fire service to the village only with a full time department.
our VFD has over the yrs. has been proactive, community involved & professional
This is an essential service to keep the village and surrounding area viable for year round residency, especially with an older/aging population, but also to support or attract an increase in population. If it's even partly funded by local taxes, it should be administered locally.
The service is excellent now, so why change it
direct contact with residents
to focus priorities on Chester Village
Fire service should be managed by firefighters
Have had no experience concerning the fire department
If it can be provided in a more efficient and less costly manner it should be.
need to do better job clearing trees and limbs from power lines. too many outages
Signage not adequate for Tancook Island Ferry, I get asked directions frequently.
I elected the Commissioners who use tax money to buy equipment etc so I want them to watch over my money.
very responsive
we need this protection to live securely in Chester
Can't imagine why the Commission, rather than a Municipal Department, should manage/provide a fire service, or any other service.
If they don't manage it, who will?
Keeping the Dept. accountable to the Com. I feel is important & allows community input.
Link this service with the Municipality.
I think that they have been doing a great job. I am not in favour of village taxes going up. (ie) paid firefighters
Fire service is a local requirement so best managed by local government body
I feel that volunteer firemen are dedicated and responsive.
Important to maintain a proper fire department. However, I do not know why the commission is part of garbage collection. The additional green bin pickup had been very inconsistent.
It's a volunteer fire department. Management by someone other than another member of the fire department eases the burden..
The village commission maintains reasonably good oversight of the fire service although it is important to keep in mind that most fire fighters live outside the village core and therefore coverage should be maintained and or enhanced in the areas outside the village
Necessary to have very local response to fire and emergencies
The fire department serves MODC, largely, not just the Village. Seems therefore that MODC rather than the Village Commission who should be accountable for the service.
The ultimately should (that is the Fire Dept) have a large input on decision-making.

it is clear to me that they do a good job
The Fire Department knows best and should be the expert on what they need.
Way too much money being spent in Fire Service Too many trucks Government body must be in control over operations There needs to be a complete professional consultation/review done on the Village Fire Service
I have followed the fire service for many years. This service the way it is run and has been run over the years is a complete waste of taxpayers dollars. The Commission only has themselves to blame for the monster they have and the spoiled rotten men they have created. The money and budget for the fire service in the village is way out of control. Very poor if any management. More controls need to be put in place. This government body is not making decisions for the betterment of the village but bases decisions on wants not needs, biases and intimidation. What should our fire service look like, what level of service are we trying to provide. Too much equipment, too many trucks, A fire boat that sits at a wharf that should not be a service we provide. I am 100 percent in favour of a paid service, get rid of cvfd.
I would prefer it be taken over provincewide by the province
I think that th village should have an audit done on the fire department. It should clearly define th level of service and what is required in terms of manpower and equipment to provide this service.
I think the service should be for the village only. Offering Mutual Aid as required
We strongly need fire services
They do an excellent job.
I thought the Fire Department was owned by the village. who currently runs it? Is the Village Commission prepared to guarantee manpower, etc.?
No need for fire alarms at all hours there are other means of contacting volunteer firefighters

**Seasonal Residents:**

Q1 should be "The Village Commission *IS* currently responsible/provideSSSS for the following:"
what is the most efficient model to deliver effective service?
It is a vital Chester service that needs protecting from other Municipality priorities
I have not experienced the service. It is important to me they have the amount of equipment, training and experience to handle fire and emergency events quickly and efficiently.
I live in The municipality of Chester. But I do not live in the Village.. so I am in rural Chester and the municipal rules do not apply even tho there are over 10 plus or more properties ... my particular concern is fire!! Especially in these drought conditions ... it may be raining in New Ross or Chester but not in the rural area... and no one is taking responsibility for Halfmoon Cove Rd or Walkers Cut extended properties...
I have little knowledge of the efficiency or cost of the service but I do feel it is extremely important that we have fire service
Fire hurts everyone, and spreads very quickly. I am a non resident for much of the year.
Excellent, professional service
I thought the fire department was run and funded by the municipality.
I dont see why things should be changed
The fire dept is spectacular. We saw the house fire in May from a distance and could not believe how the firemen kept it from spreading. I think it important to have a base in the village.
I have no experience with the volunteer fire department, but want them there if needed.
The fire department service does not seem to be in keeping with all other responsibilities of the Commission
What would the volunteer fire fighters like to see?
It seems too be working.
Not familiar with alternatives
Fire Dept is responsive and professional. Should be accountable to the Commission
Appears excellent
I believe the FDept serves the village and mandated areas well, but over the past 60years as a resident as well as a

business owner I have felt that the FD sees its responsibilities as the tail wagging the dog, rather than one of the services that should be available to a village with the population, tax base and future potential of Chester.

It works very well

Fire very efficient & effective

The Commission does a good job with keeping the village clean and inviting. I feel it's important that we manage our fire service to ensure that we can a reliable and local fire department.

NEED TO HAVE LOCAL CONTROL TO INSURE PROPER SERVICE

Local services are best monitored by local authorities in my opinion

Somebody has to manage the fire department. Local control should be most responsive.

safety/protection

If the firemen don't hear the siren after 2 or 3 blows, they're never going to hear it. Ease off on 10 plus blows. Tone down the length of the siren.

Get other communities that are served by the fire station to pay their fair share.

**Business Owners:**

To me it seems strange that this isn't done by the Municipality.

As the Chester Volunteer Fire Dept does not just service the Village of Chester, the Fire Dept should be overseen by the Municipality of the District of Chester.

you got my answeare

There is no evidence that local control is beneficial

A Village Commission is not required. A simple Fire Commission would be sufficient to manage the fire service. All other fire services in the Municipality are managed by a simple fire commission!

I am not totally familiar with the working or efficiency of the Fire Service....never having had to experience their service. I am also not sure who would manage this service if the Village Commission did not....so don't feel qualified to render an opinion at this time.

Chester fire dept primary responsibility is to insure the village has adequate equipment and personnel to fight fires within the Village at all times. If the fire service is managed by the Village Commission they can and will insure that sufficient equipment and personnel remain in the village in case of fire.

If managed by others ie the municipality there is no assurance the same level of care would be taken.

The Commission needs even more responsibilities, because they do such a great job!

The oversized fire engines have difficulty maneuvering the narrow village streets

to much conflict

**Outside Residents:**

Fire and emergency services are a critical function of the Commission.

It's not essential the village do it; other models exist where other governance entities provide fire service. It is best to have this service managed as close to the people it serves as possible. But all receivers of the service should be considered as equals, regardless of where they live. Whatever body does provides the service must be prepared to do it well and to the fullest capacity, not simply provide the service in name and then nickel and dime the service, and dismissing the volunteers who provide the human resources and are the heart and soul of the service.

The fire service is very important but I do not believe it should be managed by the village commission

Live outside the service area.

A fire commission, dedicated to oversight and guidance of the fire department, would be more beneficial. As it stands now, village commissioners are not required to have insight into proper firefighting guidelines and responsibilities - this is poor design for an oversight committee.

This is the only practical option given our current municipal structure. Centralized management on a county basis results in unfair and risky coverage as evidenced in HRM and how areas like Hubbards are covered by Black Point rather than by the station in Fox Point which is outside HRM.

Seem like a lot of conflict
It provides an independent and objective filter on managing the department
The village commission does not understand the fire service and should of left well enough alone rather than controlling all
Local service tends to be efficient and effective and less bureaucratic.
The fire department is a volunteer organization and most of the members live outside of the village boundaries it should be managed by the municipality of Chester like all other departments in the municipality and have the same guidelines as the others it should not be run by the village commission
I value the service, but I don't mind who oversees it. It seems that there would be a great deal of expertise and understanding of how a fire department ought to be run and I don't know off hand if the Village Commission has such expertise.
Important and needed service
THE MAJORITY OF THE CVFD RESIDENTS PROTECTED RESIDE IN THE VILLAGE.
There should be a fire district not inside and outside.
Best knowledge of community need
-We need a new Fire Station -We need a Ladder Truck -We need new equipment -You do not have the expertise to run that kind of protection

Lido Pool

*“Thinking of your answers above, please provide reasons for your answers or other comments on the Lido Pool.”*

**Villagers:**

Needs to be utilized better... Commission should be taking over the management of the swim program
Co-operation between the Village Commission and the Red Cross Swim Program would be beneficial to both entities.
The Municipality of Chester has it's own recreational department and they could easily administer this facility. Recent surveys have indicated that 70% of pool users are from areas outside the Village, yet the Village of Chester pays 100% of the cost of this asset. Further, if the Recreation Dept took over this facility, perhaps there could be more public swimming . The current programs allocate too much pool time to the Red Cross swimming program. Although this program is important, it is allowed to monopolize pool time. Perhaps the attention of professionals could free up this facility to be used by a wider sector of the population at convenient times. Why couldn't swimming lessons be concluded by noon to allow free swim times for others?
I think it should be managed by MODC
It is a well recognized area for teaching children to swim a necessity in a village situated by the ocean.
same reason as for fire
Don't know who uses it and if they are only from the Village.
Great for the kids!
Direct oversight focused management
Because it is in the Village
of no interest to me
Seems well managed
It's great for residents and visitors alike
People have been known to thank the teachers in later years for giving the skills for them to have saved their own lives after falling overboard.
Its important that kids have a safe place to learn to swim. The pool could be managed by anyone else as long as they valued the pool. It think it is fine with the VC.
The Lido Pool has and does provide a very valuable service to the community not only for recreational swimmers but as a place to learn to swim by qualified instructors.
This question is not clear. Are you saying that if the Lido were not managed by the Village Commission it would be closed? Or are you presuming survey recipients understand that these services would be managed by another organization (the Municipality, or other?) Unclear.
Again, it is local, it appears to be well managed , it is part of the summer fabric of the village.
Again, don't know arguments for and against management by Village Commission versus Municipality. This would have been useful background info to provide for people to read before taking survey.
I don't know if the Village Commission is best positioned to manage this facility.
The pool is owned by the residents of the village ,it makes sense that we maintain control of the pool.
The Lido Pool is a great asset to the community. Red Cross programs are great for the youth. Under the village commission, is perfect as the lido has to be managed, looked after.
Doing a good job.
Very good relationship to date
It provides a wonderful opportunity for all children affordable and safe. How fortunate we are
Do not prefer fragmentation of responsibilities amongst other groups. Commission has taxing authority.
The lido pool is vital for our community and for visitors. It helps put Chester on the map. It needs to be advertised more in tourist handouts.
should be looked after by the Municipality as 99% of people who use the pool do not live in Chester
excellent community use and well supervised and teaching is a draw for many who come for the summer.
The pool provides great service for the children of the entire municipality and its future needs to be protected . This is best done by the neighbours who live closest to the pool.
I think the Lido is important - I have never used it because of concerns re its cleanliness with all of the kids in it (plus

when I would like to it is teaming with kids). Not complaining because I love to see them enjoying it.
The commission wanted to take hours from the swimming program
Similarly to the previous question, the provision of this facility is of huge benefit to the community as we are a sea-side village. Having somewhere visitors and residents can learn to swim at a young age is a huge benefit to everyone - it literally saves lives. However, again, the influence of the commissionaires seems to be of an interest to a minority of the village with the continual push to increase public swim time. Too much increase, resulting in the reduction of swimming lesson time, reduces the ability for young residents and visitors to learn to swim, and makes it difficult to feasibly run the Red Cross program as there must be enough hours to accomodate income being brought in, in order to hire instructors.
Splash pad for young children.
Well organized and excellent facility for the Village of Chester.
The alternates for the program(s) and upkeep of the Pool are to leave it fully in the hands of a small, committed board which is invested in the Red Cross program, or to set up a separate body from the Commission, to ask the Municipality Parks & Recreation to take it over, and - perhaps - to close it. The latter would be stupid and short-sighted (you can tell I don't have an opinion about that.) The limitations I observe have to do with the possible difference in views of the times and use of the Lido by the Red Cross and the public swim parts of the program. I have insufficient information from the Provincial-level Red Cross about the requirements for a competent swim program. From experience elsewhere, I am aware that the organization and the implementation of the RC swim program takes time, knowledge, money and commitment of the organizers and "implementer" of these programs. On the other hand, there are some (number unknown to me) others in our community who think the Red Cross program prevents the open use of the facility. I think if the Commissioners are aware of any tension about this (and they are), it would be sensible to actually do a properly designed, research-based study of the issue instead of over-the-coffee- opinion-based recommendations.
Again, I haven't actually used the Lido, although I think it is a good idea for both children (lessons) and adults (swimming) who don't have other access to water for recreation - pools or ocean.
We are extremely fortunate to have such a unique outdoor pool. The swimming lessons are essential to continue and even expand. There are thousands of children that have had the privilege to learn to swim through the Lido swim program.
it is in the village. makes sense for them to manage it.
I have never used this pool.
Seems like a natural fit for the Commission
Great place for children and parents of the Village to interact.
Same as previous
What a gem. Love the renovations and public washroom.
A village asset - should be overseen by the Village
I am not sure what the villages commissions mandate actually is
Having the Lido is definitely a plus for the Village, but it would be a plus to have a year round swimming facility, and this would I am sure become a Municipality responsibility.
It is important for youth and seniors to be able to swim.
While we haven't used the Lido since our children were young, it provides value to the community and should be governed by the community.
seems to work well as-is
I would like to see money for the costs of running the pool come from the municipality , most of the people using the pool live outside the village. The pool has aged out and will need to be replaced or a proper indoor pool built to meet the needs of future generations. A new arena should be incorporated into one facility.
to be in charge of any needs that might arise
Assume this is status quo.
Local management works well
Can it be provided by the Municipality
Do not use the pool
We love the lido. Have been swimming there 35 yrs.... must say I font remember the bottom getting as slimy as it

does now... thought I remembered there being a mid summer drain and scrub??
I believe the lido is a heritage property to the village
Swim instruction should not be predominant use of pool. More public time and condensed instruction time to allow more use by public during sunshine hours.
I have never used the pool. I have no opinion about it.
An important facility here for both older adults and families with young children.
Learn to swim program is very important but should be limited to the morning only. The afternoon should be available for open swimming.
active hands on management & supervision is imperative
Seems underused. It is iconic, but maybe a little more publicity to attract donations would help cover costs (rather than user fees or diversion of taxes.)
It's for local use and therefore should be managed locally(or as locally as possible
Only warm water available in most years
provide swimming instruction to local kids
Excellent
It should be managed by whoever can provide the most cost effective manner.
n/a
I do not enjoy public pools
The Lido has been around since I was a boy. At one time some people's wanted to destroy it and most likely put a house there. The Commission of the day saved it. Leave things alone or I should say, don't change a thing.
awesome location, an addition to the village, great for kids
Love having the Lido here for my grandchildren
Don't understand why we incur the extra cost of having a Village Commission.
Do all the swimming lessons in the morning and save the afternoons for the public
To ensure the continuing programs & maintaining the property with proper safety.
The Lido and the Pew Memorial Rink could be managed under the recreation department.
Our pool is unique in its' self. As long as it its possible? Red Cross training should be available to all, children and adults.
As above
valuable asset that is affordable and accessible.
The Lido is important to the families of Chester
My children learned how to swim in this pool and would not have had access to an alternate without great imposition on our time as parents. Many users are from outside the village (correct me if I am wrong!) so it should be a shared responsibility with the municipality.
Again, the pool is there for many more users than just the Village and I think that MODC & the Recreation Dept. are a more likely candidate to manage it, assuming that the level of funding and oversight are not diminished.
Again, I think those who know & understand the workings of the pool, should have a large input.
while we do not use the pool, we have heard from others that it is excellent
I don't currently use the Lido pool, but think it's a great option to have in the village. A year round, indoor pool would be even better.
Don't use it.
Would like more public swims Would like access for the handicapped
Needs to be fully operated by the Village When Viola died the Village should have resumed control Taxpayers paying for a pool they can barely use Less time allotted to swim program More programs like aqua fit or aqua spin bikes

More floaty toys for the kids Village again doing a very poor job at management needs to fully be responsible and manage it for betterment of the community and not for 1 person
It is one of the most focal points of the village and must be kept to a standard of which the Village of Chester is perceived to be known for.
There are no other options to manage the Lido Pool as the municipality in the Lido Pool.
I think the pool and swim program should be run by the Village Commission, because they can provide a better program that would suite the needs of residents of the Village of Chester . The people paying the cost of the pool.
Someone needs to manage the Lido, beautiful site been in Chester for ever
my children took lessons at the lido, over 40 yrs ago, look at the service provided all these years great
The Municipality should bear some of the cost as children from other areas use it.
Who else would look after it? What is the cost? How many Chester residents use the facility?

**Seasonal Residents:**

"What is your opinion of the Lido Pool provided?" doesn't make sense
My assumption is that the times/needs of area residents
I never feel it is a service we can use. The hours are too restricted.
Pool should be managed and funded by a body best positioned to fully appreciate and best able to respond to the day to day issues and challenges of operating and maintaining the pool.
This is a community facility that is well used and adds to the village.
All Local children should learn to swim
It is a Village facility
The Lido is a wonderful asset for the village and should be kept up.
It seems to be run well
It is local and I think the municipality would have trouble staying on top of it.
It is a draw to the community.
I think the Lido provides a good place to swim for young people.
Not sure who runs it now but I think it is good for the Village and would like to keep it running well.
Good for guests in the summer, would be nice if it was open more frequently
Don't use the Lido Pool.
Local authority is more responsive
I don't know enough to render an opinion
I believe the Lido serves a very important service , in particular, for a village surrounded by water. In the future it may even want to consider a fee structure for persons outside of the Village.
A salt-water pool!! Wow!
great asset for kids
For health and safety reasons the pool should be monitored by local authorities who can "jump on" complaints, problems etc. quickly
The lido provides warmer, cleaner swimming water for the back harbor. Better than a beach for swimming instruction, a vital skill for seaside living.
we live on the ocean. it's important for all our kids to learn to swim/be comfortable on and around the water. And it provides a safe (slightly warmer) place to swim for all.
Is the demand justifiable for the large blocks of the Red Cross program? It's currently most of the prime time for pool enjoyment.

**Business Owners:**

the pool is used by many people in the Municipality therefore the Municipality should contribute to the operating expenses
Who else would manage it?? It is a major asset to the village
you got my answer
It is a small concern overall
Could be managed by a volunteer society or MODC.
I would like the pool hours offering to be reviewed...there is no opportunity for an adult only swim at this point.
The lido pools' prime purpose is to provide swimming lessons to children throughout the municipality. I believe if the management was by anyone else our swim programme would be compromised
Both my kids learned to swim there. Very important for safety as well as seasonal fun
I have never used it, but think it is important for children to have access

**Outside Residents:**

The Lido provides an unprecedented free public swim experience.
Again, the other governments, agencies, or societies can manage the pool, but if the commission is going to do it, it must be prepared to run it properly.
No answer based on no use of facility and live outside the village.
The Lido pool is an asset that can be managed by municipal politicians
We have used the Lido pool several times with our granddaughter. We like the fact that lifeguards are present at all times and there is plenty of open swimming times. Having no charge for use makes it accessible to all town residents no matter what their economic situation may be. My only suggestion is that the bottom be repainted to create a smoother surface for young children.
Very good addition to the amenities in the village
Seems simple to run board of directors for example
It provides an independent and objective filter on managing the pool
I have never had anything to do with the Lido pool, although our family were property owners in Chester some years ago
could be improved
Distant management is usually not optimum and tends to be less responsive to local needs.
The lido pool should be managed by the municipality of Chester not the village commission
Teaching swimming to children is of the utmost importance
We need a swim program on weekends
I do feel that it is important that the Lido be managed by the Village Commission. It is a long standing part of village life and should be overseen by people who understand and appreciate its ongoing significance in our community.
THE POOL IS LOCATED IN THE HEART OF THE VILLAGE.
Best knowledge of community need
-The pool is old -It is open to anyone that wants to have a drink or defecate in it. -It needs a fence around the whole area -It needs to be enclosed - Can only be used for two months a year.

Public Washrooms

*“Thinking of your answers above, please provide reasons for your answers or other comments on the Public Washrooms.”*

**Villagers:**

These are a huge asset of the village
I've never used the public washrooms. It's important they are there, though.
Chester is a tourist destination with few public facilities/necessities available to visitors. The need for supplying this basic service should not fall to business unless the visitor(s) is using the business services.
few alternatives in the Village
It provides a public service which is part of the mandate of the Commission.
decision making should remain at local level
My only concern is that they are not open 24/7. One time at the Sunday concert I heard people saying that the toilets were closed. Absolutely ridiculous. The goodwill generated by these toilets (and potentially more around the village, even if composting units) has to FAR outway any feared vandalism. We are WAY behind on 'welcoming ' facilities.
Village residents and visitors are users.
Public washroom are always great. Growing up here that was something always lacking in the village.
Direct accountable oversight
Who else would?
Thy are nessary
If the commission manages the pool it should manage the washrooms as well - and they are a big asset for anyone visiting, or spending time by the water when they are any distance from home. They also reduce demand on the washrooms at businesses who are struggling with water shortage.
The doors should be unlocked more often. More temporary toilets should be around the village during the summer or Race week.
The village needs a public toilet and the VC does a great job managing it
It's essential for tourists and residents alike.
This question is not clear. Are you saying that if the public washrooms were not managed by the Village Commission they would be closed? Or are you presuming survey recipients understand that these services would be managed by another organization (the Municipality, or other?) Unclear. We need public washrooms.
Probably it is best to have it managed very locally, it is an important facility and again, part of the fabric of the village.
I think all these things are worthwhile - Lido, public washrooms and of course the fire service. Just don't know enough about rationale for who manages them.
Whoever is best suited to manage the pool should be responsible for the washrooms.
The washroom seems to be an essential piece of infrastructure for our residents and our visitors.
Great to have public washrooms for the visitors that come to our community.
Washrooms are necessary and we know that they are necessary.
Located on Commission property, economies of scale with Lido also under management.
They are continually used
should be looked after by Municipality
We need to erect several more as the village relies on tourism and toilets are a must for visitors
never used them but they are important
Although they need to keep them open longer when a band is at the bandstand, or if there's a special event
This one is quite fine, though I think a second facility somewhere near the opposite side of the village could be helpful.
Need more
Might be more washrooms strategically located throughout the Village.
The area attracts a significant number of visitors. From a health & safety perspective it makes sense that our community provide a safe level of cleanliness, and prevent bush-based or swimming-area toileting.
We expect lots of summer visitors and should provide clean public washrooms for them. The Village Commission

seems the most likely group to take on such a mission.
Public Washrooms are necessary and the cleanliness is very important whoever is responsible.
makes sense for the village to over see it
This is a service finally provided for the village public
I have never had the need to use these washrooms.
Important for tourism and for use when accessing the Lido and Fredas beach
So convenient to have the washrooms there. Great when we are picnicking or at the beach or pool with our grandchildren.
I never used the Bathrooms of Chester
Same.
Access to public washrooms is important and so is proper sanitary maintenance.
Again, a public asset and convenience, someone must manage and oversee them
Never been in one
Chester is always advertising attractions in the Herald that take place throughout the season and it is important to provide this facility as Retailers in the Village are not required to let people use their facility and even restaurants have enough traffic that they, I am sure, would be happier if people would stop and purchase something instead of just using the facility and leaving.
Easy access to people down by the pool.
I have never used a public washroom in Chester but they must be a great asset to tourism. Again, it would make common sense for the community to manage them.
If VOCTADA had not pushed for them they would never have been built. The Commision is able to monitor them very easily?
I assume that it is the village responsibility to keep them clean as a reflection on the village itself
Local management works
Can it be provided by the Municipality
Municipal spreads attention to other areas.
Someone has to buy the supplies and clean them.
To set and regulate standards
No comment on this. Who else would administer this facility. Where did this question come from?
Needed for visitors and local workers
Getting redundant. The Village Commission should have responsibility for all village services.
Every pool needs a washroom. Also very useful for the many visitors or locals walking in the village area.
If the Commission didn't provide them there wouldn't be any. The Village cannot count on the municipality to help because they have very little interest except collection our taxes.
local management & knowledge is a must for LOCAL WASHROOMS
Same as Lido, very useful and welcome for tourists, but costs can't be trivial. It's important to not charge a fee, but encouraging donations should be part of the set-up.
We have a lot of visitors + children and it is important to have a toilet nearby
Easy access in an area the is frequented by the entire village and visitors
to maintain focus on Chester facilities
More are needed
A good service
I don't use them and from eating in local establishments, and shopping in the area I frequently see customers asking to use the washrooms or coming in and just using them without a purchase. They are not well located for anyone not nearby or at the pool.
n/a
Village will care more about public opinion
They are great but hours maybe should be extended to 8:30pm especially to accommodate music goers at the

bandstand and to allow people to change after the lido closes.
We needed washrooms for the public, visitors etc. We should have others strategically placed.
good location, friends and family say clean
We need to have this facility so we can change and use the toilets when we are at the Lido and the Freda beach and the bandstand
Should be provided, but not necessarily by a Village Commission.
If they don't, who will?
A service that is beneficial to both residents & visitors.
Same reason as above.
I spend quite a bit of time here and realize how much it is used. Certainly a lovely location.
As above
Valuable for children and wanderers
The public washrooms are a huge benefit for the entire community and given that a lot of folks come to use the Lido from outside areas it should be a shared responsibility with the municipality.
They are there for beach & lido users, for tourists and others passing through. Again, I wonder why such a responsibility can not be assumed by MODC.
I don't use them, but I think it's important to have them for visitors.
n/a
I have not used these washrooms, but it seems appropriate to have at the pool.
It's important to have public washrooms in Chester for visitors and users of the pool. I've never used them.
Great asset
Excellent service, nice and clean
It is a necessary facility and again needs to be operated at a high level of standard. All of these facilities are an example of pride of our village and what most visitors see and take away as positive memories.
Th municipality has no interest in providing this service.
If the Village Commission is paying for the public washroom, I think the Municipality should pay for them as they are doing for the ones in Western Shore for example.
Actually need more public washrooms in the village.
Same as above the Municipality should bear some of theses, costs
Who else would or could provide the service? It appears to only be used during the summer season. What is the cost?

**Seasonal Residents:**

:)
ability to be responsive and maintain a high degree of cleanliness
Have not used a public washroom.
If you have a pool and nearby beach you need washrooms.
Cleanliness and control of smell
A village facility
The washrooms need to be well maintained.
It seems to be run well, is clean and usually running
Chester needs public washrooms.
Important to provide public restrooms for tourists and people using freda's and the lido without relying on private establishments.
local authority is more responsive
I think the village will be more diligent

It's an expected service in any village of our size and capacity.
So long as it works as well as it does today, it should continue as is
What other option is there?
Needed resource
It's important that we have clean and safe public washrooms in Chester that the village has control over.
I have never used them so cannot comment
Chester has few public washrooms. Unfair to tag merchants with expensive water bills. We probably need more public washrooms in front harbor.
Never used them
The Lido requires the facility. All (kids and adults) need a place other than the pool ;)

**Business Owners:**

Customers have made very positive comments
y g m a
Same
Could be managed by MODC, they already have a public works department to do this type of work.
There need to be more of them, instead of relying on the Kiwi.
They are not located near the business district.

**Outside Residents:**

There are no others available.
It's important that a public washroom be available in the village core, if the commission is able to manage this service great, but it must manage it from the perspective of offering the convenience to the public, rather than running at the convenience of the commission.
Should be more in line as a changing facility for the pool
Good for tourism.
It's part of the Lido - would not make sense to break this out to another group.
Business could supply washrooms
It provides an independent and objective filter on managing the washrooms
didn't even know they were there, sorry
Easy to find someone to complain to if maintenance becomes a problem.
The washrooms are there now and the village commission can maintain them
Better signage for where the washrooms are located.
I don't know of any reason why it would be important the the Village Commission manages our public washrooms. However, the new facilities at the Lido were very well done.
THE MAJORITY OF USERS ARE VISITORS TO OR RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGE.
I feel it is a need facility
Working well so why change it
Can be used by Tourists and swimmers rather than going to the Kiwi or Focsyle.

Jib Lot

*“Thinking of your answers above, please provide reasons for your answers or other comments on the Jib Lot.”*

**Villagers:**

Excellent spot for sitting looking over the harbor and having a picnic lunch
Perhaps the Village Commission could provide a mooring for overnight guests ... 24 hours or maybe a few days ... not the entire summer.
Although the land has dubious value for recreation, public green spaces are a necessity.
it is a lovely area for viewing the Back Harbour and honoring our firefighters
It is a public space and contains the Fireman's Memorial
keep control local
I think it is on the Back Harbour. Water lot is news to me!
Taken the children here for picnics many times while walking. Nice spot but unaware the village maintained it over the municipality.
An important legacy. Needs focused accountable management.
Don't know much about the Jib Lot
Mowed, tidy and pleasant public space
Chester really benefits from having public spaces with access to water and water views. It's one of the things that makes it unique.
Always looks nice and the VC needs to keep it as it is a feature of the village
The Jib Lot is a valuable green space in our little village where tourists and residents and relax and enjoy the wonderful views of the back harbour.
Is the front harbour??????? THOUGHT IT FACED THE BACK HARBOUR
This question is not clear. Are you saying that if the Jib Lot were not managed by the Village Commission it would be closed? Or are you presuming survey recipients understand that it would be managed by another organization (the Municipality, or other?) Unclear. Sadly, the memorial to members of our precious volunteer fire department is quite unsightly.
It's local,
same as preceding answers.
It was donated to the village so we should take care of it.
Green space is important to any community. All these things required to be maintained and the village commission is the best to look after these assets
What recreational activities are there?
Terms of gift must be honoured.
It's never used to it's potential
the Jibb lot is in the back harbor not the front harbour
We need public space on and near the water so the average citizen can enjoy the beauty of our harbour
again I don't know much about it but think it is important to have green space like that in the village
Again the commission does not work properly
This location is fine as is.
I lived here my whole life and I have no idea what it is
Good viewing spot for the Back Harbour.
The 'yes' is because it is the one of the few areas of the water-front that is publicly owned and demonstrates what a thoughtful gift can do to protect access and be a positive addition to the Village. The "don't know" is because I have not informed myself about the costs and benefits as seen by other Villagers. I do think it would be a thoughtful act for the Commission to include an annual note, at least on web-site, about the background of the gift. Who knows, it might engage others in making gifts.

I don't know how much, or in what way, it is used by anyone so have no info on which to base an opinion.
someone has to 'manage' it. I don't really have an opinion as to who that 'should' or shouldn't be
What is the jib lot?
A lovely open space but, due to the steep hill, can't be used for much other than open park space and to admire the view
Not familiar with the Jib Lot but will now learn more about it.
Dont know
Same
A beautiful area for all to enjoy.
A public space and responsibility, necessary to be taken care of by someone
We have enough beautiful vistas that already serve as a place to appreciate our beauty.
If the Commission did not maintain this property what would happen to this beautiful green space, that I have seen many people taking time to stop and enjoy, sitting on the bench etc.
I know nothing about the Jib Lot. Seems like a great idea for all residents of Chester to enjoy the waterfront.
Green space is precious and it sets a example for others.
I was unaware of this lot as a newer resident. Important for those not having direct access to the water.
Status quo?
As previously stated
Same answer as above
Keep it local.
Not a boat owner so not a user
It is a village green space with a great view
For its proper upkeep
I haven't seen the Jib lot used for anything other than the Memorial and the people who mow the grass
Someone has to be responsible for it
Redundant.
It is a wonderful park in a spectacular location, part of what makes Chester special.
Undeveloped prime municipal spaces dotted around the village are good for stability of the look of the village and to keep development in some check.
It's part of the village, so it should have prime responsibility, otherwise the Municipality would have to assume responsibility.
nice but not much use
Not exactly sure where the Jib Lot is
I have never heard of the Jib Lot or what it is used for. I have been in the area for 20 years!!!
didn't know it existed
I am not that familiar with the lot and do not feel comfortable proving comments
Nice place to go sit and relax.
it's not obvious that this is a public space
carry on
this lovely spot adds to the beauty of Chester
Jib Lot seems OK, but don't see why the Commission is needed for any function.
If they don't who will?
It's an amazing, beautiful place for watching boats, the sunset & having a picnic. It would be wonderful to have more spots like this. The continued upkeep has been great.
THIS IS THE KIND OF JOB FOR THE Village Commission.

Why fix - what's not broken These park add to the beauty of the village and are enjoyed by many
Needs frequent garbage collection in "High" (tourist) season
green space is very important
I believe the maintenance is important provided the expense is minimal
It is local and benefits the village.
Needs to be promoted for better and increased use
Wasn't even aware of it
There are other public spaces throughout the village and I would like to know how they are managed. Could this parcel be included in the management of those?
It's a place by the water where people can go without being chased away.
Great to have a public green space in the village; especially on the water.
It's a beautiful lot and should be maintained.
Nice Park Area
Nice place to picnic or just sit and look over water
A beautiful property with a fantastic view, often enjoyed as a rest spot and relaxing lunch area. Again a visual of pride of village. We are an aging community with volunteers starting to be spread to thin. It was given to the village and should be protected.
A beautiful piece of property which provides a beautiful view of the harbour and in particular the sunsets.
Would be nice to see more benches or chairs in this area and better advertising of this space so residents and travellers know that this is a green space to use for all
The corner on Victoria St joins it. There was suppose to be at street going to pleasant St. Why not take the bushes away and make more parking.
For what use?

**Seasonal Residents:**

Intro: not "job lot"
I had no idea about this, just see the memorial every day walking by. Not sure how it is really a community asset thast is leveraged. But of course you have to maintain the lot.
I dont what its for or where it is
Should be managed by a body best positioned to appreciate day to day issues of the facility.
I know nothing about this beyond the information above.
Do not know where this is? Is the former path up from Victoria? Many apple trees. What is it for? For who's use?
Mrs. Gibbs left it to the Village
ts seems tobe run well
I'm not sure I've ever seen someone on the Jib Lot but I appreciate it being there.
Not sure that I like what they have done here, the fencing is useless and the monuments are ugly.
Nice to keep some waterfront open to the public.
Don't know what this is
see above
Village will take more pride
I am assuming that you mean the Jib Lot on the Back Harbour! It was an invaluable gift to the village by Mrs. Gibbs and should be maintained.
Because 'they' are doing a good job.
Diden't know it was a park
It's important that the village has control over recreational areas.
While I know where this is I don't know what it's used for so cannot comment

I don't see that the Jib Lot adds much value to Chester. Maybe moorings on the water lot could be rented out.  
great place for all to enjoy the sunset and have access to the water.

**Business Owners:**

I have no idea where this piece of property is or how people use it!!!

ugma

People should pay to park

Just make this another park to be managed by the Municipality. Why would another government be required to take care of this small piece of land?

The Jib lot is a village asset and should be managed by the village commission

Very nice tribute

**Outside Resident:**

Nice property and view, but could be a better park.

Good for walking guests to the village.

I indicated "don't know" as I need more info on options. In its current form, the land is not effectively used. Though it could be sold to a private developer to raise money for the needed new water system, I don't think that is the right use either. I'd prefer that the memorial be moved to a different location and the entire block of land be repurposed to something that will get more use by residents. Right now it is just a wide open green space with limited purpose.

It provides an independent and objective filter on managing the Jib Lot

I might have an opinion if I knew exactly where it is

what does it do and who uses it

It is disrespectful of the donor to use the lot for anything other the purpose for which it was donated. As a corollary to this why would a future donor trust the Village with a donation if it were to use the lot for a different purpose such as a sale to raise revenue. Also it forms part of Chester's history.

It is to beautify the village they can manage it

I have no idea where this is and we have lived here for 17 years.

NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE PROPERTY.

Firefighters monument

Working well so why change it

We need green areas. We need spots to remember past heroes. Not used enough. You need more exposure.

## Street Lighting

*“Thinking of your answers above, please provide reasons for your answers or other comments on the Street Lighting.”*

### **Villagers:**

street lighting is an excellent aspect of what the village does
The Village showed visionary insights when it converted the streetlights to LED long before the Province mandated such conversions.
need to have lights for safety
Streetlights provide more safety for people who walk and live within the village
Am glad we went LED but sadly believe we went with too many lumens and due to bulb longevity it's probably what we will be left with. Light pollution along with sound pollution (heat pumps etc) should be on our radar more.
Everything in the Village should be controlled by the Village as much as possible.
I don't understand how they maintain them? Do they change the bulbs? What does NSP do?
Has improved but requires ongoing assessment
Seems good so far
local service,local management
I don't know why the lighting is only provided for this one street - who manages the rest of the lighting?
Lighting should not be limited to wealthier areas. We could also use easier access to video surveillance or have more live cams with history access for when theft has occurred.
The lighting is attractive and makes a statement but why could it not be maintained with the rest of street lighting by D of Transport
The street lighting in the village needs to be more focused and directed towards the road for proper illumination. Too many street lights are not directed towards the road and are intrusive towards private residences. Also known as light pollution. The lights on the Lodi Pool are also not neighbor friendly.
Would like to know what the alternatives might be...
This question is not clear. Are you saying that if the lighting were not managed by the Village Commission it would be closed? Or are you presuming survey recipients understand that the lighting would be managed by another organization (the Municipality, or other?) Unclear. Some of the lights are absolutely blinding, particularly in the winter when there is no benefit of tree cover. The one that shines into my bedroom window is beyond annoying. The Municipality has made no attempt to dim the type of fixture as per my request and it seems nothing short of black-out curtains will enable me to sleep. I live in Chester so that I can enjoy nature and the beautiful morning and evening sky, but the lights are way too bright.
Why not?
Street lights are too bright. dimmer bulbs should have been purchased.
maintenance
Could be more lights.
just have to be careful of super bright new LED lights that many towns/villages are using
This could be managed by NS power who likely have greater expertise
could be more of it for all those darker months
I think this should be done by the municipality
Public safety is absolutely paramount
someone has to look after street lighting - Over time it would be wonderful to get rid of electric lines but I know that burying them is expensive
They do not have the appropriate lighting in Chester. The lighting should point down
The village could use more street lighting overall.
Village is reasonably well lit.
Not sure what body other than the Commission would keep streets lit in an informed way - which I do think is important to a number of us for safety and security. The responsiveness of the Municipal or Provincial orders of

government is likely to be less well informed (hence the 'don't know' above). I happen to live beside one of the very bright street lights (shines into bedroom) and I haven't any objection to that- and feel safer when out walking in the dark.
I think the Village Commission would have the most at stake in providing street lighting to keep villagers safe, working in a cooperative relationship with NS Power.
I'm not completely following. The village commission as opposed to who? What are the other 'options'?
Certain street like to Peninsula and Walker Road are very poorly lit. Lighting should be improved.
Poor lighting for take walk outside at night
Safety, coordination, resources
Necessary
obvious a public service
What is the division of Village Commission and Municipality's responsibility?? I really do not understand how it works.
Not sure of my response to this as I am not sure why only a section is provided, who looks after the street lights in the rest of the Village??
Safe walking along Water St.
Street lighting is a safety issue. There are many residents who walk and who walk their dogs. Of course we need street lighting.
I like the low light concept even if it costs more.
Important Chester "looks alive" at night
Status quo?
As stated
same answer as above
Some services are better maintained at the municipal level.
Need someone to pay for the service
Who else!
This is a narrow question. We need street lighting and someone needs to manage same. This questionnaire is beginning to look hokey.
Still redundant.
New here ... are they modern enough to stop light from radiating upward?
Same as washrooms
The street lighting really is pretty offensive. It's much too white and bright and shines right in pedestrians' eyes. All street lights should have shades over them like domestic lamps so the light shines down onto the road where it's needed, and not up into the sky. I would so love to see something done about this.
for reasons stated above
Some lighting for safety is important, however, the progression should be towards LED and direct downward lighting to limit light pollution and annoyance (to residents) and glare (to traffic),
It should always have prime responsibility but could subcontract it out to the municipal or provincial authorities
Night time security
better Chester focus by local commission
As long as it is not too bright ( about 3000 Kelvin ) the whole village should have street lighting
I'm sure we don't need a Village Commission to do this.
safety
It is very dark walking in the fall and winter, I would love to see more lighting as it would make walking at dusk and dark safer
There should be more downward lighting for walkers.
Within the village.

feel streetlamps should be more directional casting down to the street. We live close to the street where lights shine directionally in to bedrooms. Also need to protect night sky.
the lights provide security and safety for residents and visitors
Should be provided, but not necessarily by a Village Commission.
If they don't who will?
This is a good idea, but there could be many more places that could benefit from lighting as well. We don't want the whole village lit up, but high traffic areas do benefit.
Why is the Commission only doing Water Street? Lighting on streets very important, I am not sure if Village Comm. should be responsible?
Many dark areas in the village. Don't like LED lights
I appreciate the lighting while walking, especially since my area lacks sidewalks and has very narrow shoulders (and much traffic)
For safety purposes
It primarily benefits the local community.
Are there savings to be had for MODC to handle all street lighting?
I live on a dead-end street, so I appreciate the street light provided.
appears fine
Important for safety reasons.
Not important believe these types of things should be handled by MODC
The village has been very proactive in keeping up with and ahead of provincial standards, saving our tax payers a lot of money.
The village looks after all street lighting within the village.
More lights in could be installed in strategic areas of the village
The lighting is great, if there are any black spots in the Village I think maybe lighting should be put up
Popular tourist area, good lighting keeps is safe and friendly
We the Village Commission pay for it now.
Who looks after the other lighting What is the cost of Water St Lighting vs the other lighting

**Seasonal Residents:**

what is the best model re servicing this?
There are areas unlit (Central between Pleasant and Union) but what is lit is well lit.
Should be managed by a body best positioned to appreciate day to day issues of the facility.
Well used and needs to be lit for pedestrian traffic and safety.
It is a very dark part of the town, and the street lights are only just enough for safety
Area of concern, certainly not the Municipality
Why only part of Water St?? Shouldn't all street lighting be overseen by the municipality?
They are fine
Is street lighting a municipal service or a form of "beautification".
I would like to see lights that shine down and are motion activated not on all the time.
it is important as a safety issue, many residents walk it at night. A well as all the out of town fishing that goes on.
see above
no response
By the people for ALL of the people
It works!
safety at night pedestrians

The historic light posts are part of the beauty of the village and add to the charm and character of the Front Harbour. It is important that the village has control over them so that they are maintained by village so that they are not let to fall into disrepair and/or replaced by characterless posts.
Local issues are best managed locally in my opinion
Street lighting in highly trafficked areas such as the Parade Ground is important. Again, someone has to manage it.
Street lighting in Chester is a good balance between enough light to walk the dog and not too much light pollution.
safety
Have someone take a walk around the Village after dark to evaluate where additional lighting may be needed.

**Business Owners:**

Water st should have more lighting since one was taken out
ugma
Bigger issues to deal with
MODC is already equipped to manage this type of infrastructure, not that it requires more management at all!
the street lighting of the village should be both provided and managed by the commission, as the commissioners represent the village residents who are the principal users.
Just enough light
Important for walking at night.
Less Leds

**Outside Residents:**

Should be more of them on other streets.
It's not, like the previous questions, whether it is important the commission manage or provide street lighting. If it didn't street lighting could still be offered by the municipality through an area rate. Can the village government manage the asset is the question.
It is really necessary.
Street lighting and associated municipal beautification/maintenance are precisely why a village commission should exist.
Municipality could
It provides an independent and objective filter on managing the street lights
who else would manage it?
This survey seems intent on finding reasons and support for removing all services from the Village domain. Better question is why would you move those services elsewhere - there usually are increased costs consequential upon doing so and the assumed savings rarely materialize.
Not sure if it would make any difference who managed them
THE LIGHTING IS PROVIDED FOR VISITORS TO OR RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGE.
Working well so why change it
Should be managed and maintained by MODC They would have the required boom truck and trained personnel. Storage of equipment?

Street Beautification

*“Thinking of your answers above, please provide reasons for your answers or other comments on the street beautification.”*

**Villagers:**

Would like to expand on some other areas to hang flowers
The petunias aren't as good this year as they have been in the past. The wreaths were spectacular.
I think the street beautification should be concentrated in the downtown "T" commercial area and the costs for same borne by the merchants who would stand to benefit from the anticipated increase in foot traffic. Perhaps this would help to revitalize the "T" area
I wish there were more baskets on other streets
I would suggest the flowers which are expensive be replace by permanent hangings that do not require flowers.
I think the beautification send s the message that the residents care what our village looks and the image we portray to residents and visitors alike.
Those purple petunia blobs are so lame! Even Wolfville had some baskets of petunias that were a variety of colour in one basket and looked WAY better than ours. I have always thought we could intersperse something more permanent or original without wanting to copy other tourist spots. What about a few boating signal flags on the waterfront? something dynamic that moves and doesn't demanding intense watering etc Can be used year after year.....
Is it the best use of funds?
What does this cost per year? Would it not be more prudent to use a more permanent, reusabale solution.
Good : Important that it be overseen by the Commission or a committee of.
The flowers really do look beautiful. Same with the wreaths.
What happened to petunias on North St. this year?
It is one of the things that gives the village a little extra beauty - but if it means that other important services aren't available, then I would let this one go because for the most part there is a lot of natural beauty here
Too expensive considering many people don't notice flowers. Need cooperation with other branches of government to clear out discarded floating docks that are tied to moorings winter and summer. Shipping containers could be allowed to help the local business economy along hwy 3, if they are invisible from streets.
Wouldn't be done if the VC didn't do it
The hanging flower baskets and wreaths are attractive and add to the village feel and ambiance. The hanging baskets have been taken down much too early in previous years even when they are in perfect condition in full bloom.
Very important to me. Keep The Village as beautiful and appealing to Tourists as possible. I like to be proud of where I live.
Street beautification is important. Beautification mentioned above is less than minimal. We should Show ourselves off big time.
Love the wreaths at Christmas. The flower baskets are a little hokey (maybe a different colour, or some variety?) I really appreciate these efforts to beautify.
It's local
More requested
I think the flower baskets are a frivolous and unnecessary use of taxpayers' money. Chester is beautiful enough as is.
An important item to be managed
The street beautification is important to our village.it makes the village look nice and shows that we care about what outsiders think of the village. First impressions count a lot today when you want to welcome visitors and locals to our village.
Village pride in our community
Time to update Hwy 3 and there was a plan maybe 4 years ago, but never carried out. What a waste of money!
This is not a game changer for me.
We need more sitting areas
beautification is essential.

We need to have more, not less and we need to police the garbage and littering within the village especially as are a tourist destination...and on the ocean where there is already far too much garbage
again it needs to be done - we need to be conscious of the little touches like that in the community
They need to do more. I also feel they pay too much. This could be handled by putting metal signs up and find a cheaper florist to supply the baskets. Not to mention, someone cheaper to water them as well
I have no opinion on these.
Who provides the "street beautification" for Chester Basin? Is the MODC doing that? Then perhaps MODC should be doing the Villiage as well.
Clutter of bushes at street intersections could be improved on.
The "yes" has to do with the current Commission flowers and wreaths - and I think it is the appropriate body to be 'informed' as other groups undertake street beautification. For example, for several years VOCTADA planned, funded and carried out planting of trees in selected areas in the Village "T", as well as arranged to obtain trees at the same time for people who requested/purchased them for their own properties. The "no" is the fact that for the Commission to have sole authority in this area wouldn't work unless it saw various groups as partners in that endeavor.
The Village Commission is the closest bureaucratic group to the residents of the village proper and should thus be most attuned to their with needs and wants. As a resident, I think it is important to present the village as an attractive seaside community with lots of greenery, attractive streets, and pleasant vistas - for ourselves and for our visitors. Residents in other parts of the Municipality may not see the importance of beautification in the village, which might well have a negative affect on the budget of the Municipality.
it is lovely, can switch it up every now and again. I love what Lunenburg has done with their permanent art. Perhaps a 'cheaper' option
I was delighted to see the village comm install the seasonal decor
Village is kept very lovely.
Very nice in summer and at XMas!
Beautifying the Village never hurts.
It gives the village a [pleasant atmosphere
There is more to street beautification than hanging baskets and wreaths. Both look wonderful and are appreciated but what about cleaning up the ditches and cutting back the growth on corners. And then there are a few unsightly properties whose owners are never fined.
Adds to the beauty and appeal of our village
some organization needs to clean up the mess on almost every street that has overgrown vegetation generally the overgrown mess detracts from the villages appearance
Another question that leaves me wondering why we do this, and even though as full time resident I notice when these things items are put up, I wonder if visitors trying to find their way around even notice??
Beautification of the Village
Again, sidewalks are a safety issue, and sidewalk development should be extended. Remember, Chester businesses rely heavily on tourism, and tourists want to feel safe and secure as they walk the Village ... and they want their photos to reflect the beauty of Chester.
We need something to say this is a village with pride.
Helps give community a sense of pride
Status quo?
As stated
Same answer
Expressions of the season help Chester retain its small town charm and the feeling of acknowledgment of special events, seasons.
Where I live I don't see the benefits
Love and proud of our street beautification
If your village needs cosmetics to attract folk, then you have missed the mark. I think the hanging plants are an unnecessary expense and present a traffic hazard to larger delivery vehicles.

Someone needs to do it, just a question of how many. Kerry Keddy peering into houses early a.m. is a bit ... odd
Still redundant.
A really attractive feature of the village which helps give the village its sense of a caring community.
The annual purple petunias are dull and unimaginative. It would be lovely to see some diversity of colour and shape in our planters. Or forego them entirely and put up some cheery, colourful pennants
see above reasons
Lovely, but not sure it's a high priority that needs to be provided by the village, at least not without subsidy or offset by donation (or even with promotional consideration for local provider).
This program is uniquely for the village so should be its responsibility
nice but unnecessary
who else would do it?
The cost of beautification is just too expensive and a waste when you see all the long grass and trash around the village. They aren't doing a good job and the baskets are very expensive to maintain for such a small village. Maybe fewer and smaller baskets would suffice. Hire summer students to clean up the trash and mow the areas in the business areas at a minimum.
thanks
Others might not care as much about beautification.
Makes the Village more inviting for visitors.
Both well maintained. Looks pretty. consider leaving wreaths up longer.
we love looking at the beautiful flowers and wreaths, they add beauty and joy to the village and makes me proud to live here
Should be provided, but not necessarily by a Village Commission.
It's important for the village to look its best
Please consider the rest of the village, like Pleasant, North, Central & Victoria St. and the Valley Rd.
I look forward to seeing all the plants and wreaths each season. I am sure its' costly, if you can afford it wonderful
Need better colour in hanging baskets - too much of the same purple hues!
Old Route 3 does not have any...that would be lovely
Important provided there is \$ reasonable budget in place
I could do without the wreaths!
The flowers help make the village more appealing.
The roadsides should be kept clear from grass,weeds and shrubs to improve visibility for motor vehicles
looks nice
These seem like an unnecessary use of funds collected from tax payers. The flower baskets in particular are somewhat of an eye sore. Additionally, the really creepy man who waters the baskets seems to have little respect or regard for morning traffic and joggers. I can honestly say that in my years of living in Chester, I have never noticed the winter wreaths.
It's nice but not necessary if the money is needed elsewhere such as the fire department.
Love the flowers
Wonderful, great job would like to see some added baskets to areas of the #3
Those services were initiated and run for years by a volunteer group who fund raised from the same businesses annually. It was later suggested that everyone should contribute to this as they also enjoy it. This was taken over by the village as this project had provided itself in a positive way, again showing pride of village. I do however think that the seasonal decor along North St. could be changed to something safer to tend to. Plantings that possibly could be lit, as an example.
It is important to the residents of the village (civic pride). It also attracts visitors to the village .
Both flowers and wreaths should stay up longer than they do now
someone needs to do this, its very nice to see all other communities do this so we should keep doing it

60 hanging baskets is sufficient. More than one colour in each basket.

We do not need as many baskets, wreaths on Duke and Queen St.

At what cost?

**Seasonal Residents:**

Important

Should be managed by a body best positioned to appreciate day to day issues of the facility.

Greatly enhances the streets .

Welcoming and Shows Chester is not a "backwoods" community

They add to the village ambience

I assume it wouldn't happen if not for the village commission

Better use of the money else where?

While not necessary, it looks very nice.

It brightens our pretty town and they maintain them very well.

Parade ground gets heavy use - needs more attention

We could use more

It gives the village an aura of caring for it's environment, and it's guests and citizens.

I would suggest the commission should be given the budget and mandate to enable them to do a lot more in this area. ie. a big effort on the Welcome to Chester areas as you enter the village.

They seem to know what they are doing.

Flowers look good in summer!

They are in Town

This adds to the village charm for both locals and visitors.

The village does look lovely with all the hanging baskets. If the Village Commission doesn't do it, who would?

The baskets add a nice note to our streets.

I assume street beautification refers to the hanging baskets. I think it is a good idea for the town to manage such efforts.

The local Garden Club or another volunteer group should take this over

shows we care. we all enjoy it

The hanging baskets provide a special touch to the village appearance.

**Business Owners:**

generally well done

Who looks after the beautification of Chester Basin? If this is part of the Municipal, then the village should also be the responsibility of the municipality.

ugma

Same

Why have a paid government to look after this?

IF the street beautification is not managed by the Commission does it go away entirely?

Residents of the village are more apt to get what they want.

Another victory for the Commission

**Outside Residents:**

Changes could be made to this program, but the idea is sound.

Hanging baskets in the summer and wreaths in the summer hardly seem worth the effort.

Good to make the area appealing for tourists.
Village beautification is precisely why a village commission should exist.
Lots of intersections that are dangerous, not well maintained
Garden club
It provides an independent and objective filter on managing the street beautification
again, who else would be doing it? it is hard to give the answer
Its not being well managed now so question how does Chester get to a better place. Don't know the local situation well enough to offer a useful suggestion.
Again it is beautification of the village let them do it
I think that the Village Commission would be in a good position to reflect the sensibility of the community.
THE STREET BEAUTIFICATION IS PROVIDED FOR VISITORS TO OR RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGE.
Make's the area more tidy.
Working well so why change it
This would free personnel and equipment from MODC.

Green Bin Collection

“Thinking of your answers above, please provide reasons for your answers or other comments on the additional Green Bin Collection.”

**Villagers:**

Excellent service
Absolutely necessary during the summer months.
Little cost associated with this additional service. It helps keep away the smells of decaying food wastes and helps with the disposal of trimmed vegetation from my property.
if the VOC didn't oversee weekly collections, it would not happen
It eliminates odor and makes the town more pleasant to live in
Don't use the bin.
One of you most brilliant ideas. Thank you.
The Municipality should fund this in all high density areas.
Regular household should not need weekly green bin collection. I could see this being a huge benefit to restaurants during the summer but it seems like a huge expense for little gain. The trash outside the village doesn't stank any more or less than ours inside the village.
Directly accountable
Keeps down flies and smells
Unnessary expense
Particularly as there is additional warming we need to be able to dispose of organics more frequently.
should be managed by the MoDC along with other garbage collection services
We are all so grateful for the additional green bin collection during the hot months. We wish the owner of the tavern would disinfect the tavern green bins often as they are extremely smelly in the downtown core of the village.
Green bin and garbage collection is something we could offer businesses. Such a gesture would encourage new businesses to locate here.
Don't really care. I don't eat meat so am not bothered by smells.
Very important to the village!
Not sure if it fits their mandate.
Great asset to add! Was needed! Glad the village commission took this on.
It's not consistent. Some weeks are missed.
Very necessary to be picked up as the weather has been so hot.
This is a wonderful service and helps keep odour down and pests away
Service should be consistent under Municipal contract.
village doesn't look after bins they are contracted out
we have no garbage collection on our road, a significant irritation for us.
Should be covered by the municipality
smell/disease/are two giant reasons
I manage without using it much (never think of it) but on the other hand I suspect it is important for many
Green bins do not need to be collected every week
This additional garbage collection in the summer months is very helpful, so long as the cost to taxpayers does not become excessive for the benefit. It would have be calculated against how many bins are being collected on these second weeks proportionate to regular weeks.
A MUST!
The "yes" has to do with the simple fact if not the Commission, then who? While I very rarely have used the service (, I think it is important from a healthy environment and esthetic perspective, and I'm more than willing to have my tax money support it for those reasons.

It is very important that the green bins be emptied every week in warm weather and the Village Commission is to be commended for taking on this task. Many of us in the village do not have the facilities to maintain personal compost piles (as is possible on larger properties outside the village) and thus having the Village Commission provide this service for the villagers is a practical solution.
The extra pick is important because once every two weeks is not enough because they start to smell.
less stink. grateful for this
Not sure that additional collection is necessary
Not weekly in my neighborhood (The Commons). Not necessary elsewhere
Modc
Green bins are a breeding ground for maggots in the summer. It's so good that we can put it out every week.
nice to get rid of unpleasant odours from some gree bins
Much appreciated
why is it not included in normal collection?
It is wonderful that we compost, but the green bin left for two weeks in the summer heat, especially with the climate change and the hot humid days, there is potential for health concerns and luring nature to invade the bins.
Helps reduce comparable waste in the Village
Thank you, thank you, thank you for providing "Stink Relief" in the hot summer months!
Works well, keeps odors down
Control of vermin and smell very important.
This is appreciated. It is necessary.
Status quo
As stated
Same
Green bins must be collected more often in summer to counter vermin, odor and insects.
Helps prevent rodents etc
It helps to keep the smell down!
Who wrote this? Maggots are unpleasant.
Essential in summer. A great service.
Why?
In the heat of this summer it was essential.
It's delightful to have weekly green bin collection in summer.
who else would manage it. The Municipality, I don't think so
especially in summer
increased population and summer heat rotting potential warrants the increased collection to avoid vermin and smell.
Recycling is a major factor in helping to reduce pollution
difficult to dispose of organics without it
who else would do it?
Do not stop this
I appreciate the additional collection but the cost of maintaining a Village Commission for a small village is simply not cost effective.
unnecessary expense, keep regular schedule
I live in Shoreham apartments, the location and stench is overpowering and very annoying when I invite guests.
The Commission put the extra collection in place. It was a great idea.
carry on

so nice to have the smelly and fly encased bins cleared up each week especially since we had such a long stretch of hot weather this year
Weekly collection is imperative in the summer
I am not sure it should only be summer time The villagers may find a year round pick up more often and or, could be more after the special pick ups annually.
Summer weekly pickup is essential to control unpleasant odours in "Downtown" area
Old route 3 does not have this
It's important to have weekly pickup of green bins but the cost and control should be part of the regular garbage collection
Again, local benefit
This summer, especially I've appreciated the extra bin collection.
good idea
This is fantastic!
Very helpful during hot weather and lots of yard waste.
Keeps down the smell in the summer heat
This is a very important service but should be done in the entire municipality and could be done by modc. HRM offers this service during the summer months
I would like to see this extended until the end of Oct.
It was established if the village looked after all curb side garbage it would be a saving of \$85,000 to the commission.
The extra bin collection should for at least six months. I would like to see the Village Commission take over the collection of garbage in the Village
Very thankful that this is provided during the summer months, if the weather keeps staying warm into September maybe bin collections should be done weekly during September also
Big supporter of recycling and composting, more pick ups help that. Especially in the heat of the summer.
Because of rats and mice.
At what cost? Who benefits the most? It is probably not required by most residents. Consider a business pick up paid for by the businesses using it.

**Seasonal Residents:**

Q2: remove "beautification"
critical to have the collection
It is very useful. I guess it might disappear if it was part of all the other collections.
Don't really care . I am fine with two weeks between collection.
Bin collection once a week in the summer
Fine but we need weekly in the summer.
Keeps the smell of garbage under control and prevents dum,ping in the ocean
In the summer with the heat and the increased population, there must be weekly service.
Imprtant to be done weekly because of the heat
In summer the garbage stinks if every two weeks.
especially in the summer months.
It is critical that the green bins get picked up weeking in the summer and I think in July and August we need weekly trash pick up. In Florida we have bi weekly trash pick up and it is crazy that we have to store all of our trash for 2 weeks. Given friends and family and entertaining we end up with over twenty bags of recycling and trash and don't have enough protected storage.
Garbage pick up should also be every week in the village area in the summer
Huge improvement and well appreciated
Municipality can't be counted on to do anything for village (other than collect ots property taxes).

the more local the authority the better
The village will be more diligent
It's not really an option but a necessity I should think.
Pick up on my street is too early. Pick up should be after 9 AM
Important to do!
The members of commission have to live here
This is important to keep the smells down and rodents and raccoons away during the busiest time in the village.
A good service
Speaking for myself, once every 2 weeks is sufficient, but folks with large families or nowhere to store smelly bins in between collection might disagree
Nice to be able to dispose of garden trimmings. Also to get rid of food waste before too much odor.
The population of the town increases materially during the summer and the level of organic garbage increases proportionately. Without weekly green bin service, the risk is that Chester itself would smell like a dump.
not necessary
We were told that the additional pick ups would actually cost less than the previous arrangement. Isn't this a no brainer?

**Business Owners:**

the village should handle garbage collection
keep down the summer smells
ugma
Not really environmentally beneficial... a politically correct waste of money and time
MODC could do this easily.
The municipality could provide this service equally as well but would they? I like the weekly pick-up as opposed to bi-weekly during the summer for obvious reasons but do believe it could work the same if managed by the municipality.
Great initiative

**Outside Residents:**

Not a Village resident.
Why does the village get additional collections but outside do not
Doesn't affect me
Same as noted before re:village maintenance
As I am just outside the Village I can't comment on the additional collection other than to say that it is disappointing that my taxes are used for a purpose that only serves part of the community when we all have the same needs.
Not necessary
It provides an independent and objective filter on managing the green bin collection
same as before
I don't use the collection service because it is so user unfriendly. And it costs me \$300 per year for nothing.
Downtown stinks after collection
I am unaware of this...
THIS EXTRA IS PROVIDED FOR VISITORS TO OR RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGE.
Working well so why change the process
Why do you have the additional Green Bin Collection when everybody else in MODC is getting along perfectly fine with one. Waste of money and it is favoritism.

## Final Thoughts

*“This is the first step to help the Village Commission better understand residents views on services offered today and what are possible priorities for the future. Do you have any other comments that you wish to be considered?”*

### Villager:

jfhahsygowangjdfopgfjasedjgpa
I was uncomfortable with some of the questions regarding services. MODC does a very good job providing many of the services mentioned and I see no need for the Village to assume responsibility for them. We are paying taxes to MODC to provide those services. If the Village also provided them we would be paying twice for the same service.
The fire department
no
The Commission should be focused on promoting the village for tourism, supporting local businesses, providing assistance to groups who work to promote the arts and other services to the villagers.
since I am new to chester and nova scotia it has become very obvious to me that once local control has been lost to other government levels services are greatly reduced or cut with little thought to the tax payers.Local government is best to run chester!!!
The Village Commissioners are volunteers and do a great job managing the business of the commission. There is no need to burden them with more responsibility. The fire department, the Lido pool, the jib lot and street lights are enough to look after.
Can I just put ALL OF THE ABOVE rather than select one of the three?
I don't understand the point of directing people to choose between fire / public works / community development. They are all equally important in their own right. Community development is necessary for the future of the village. Public works is handled by the municipality and they have been done my a fine job. Fire and emergency services is detrimental to the village now and in the future. God bless the men and women who respond when the siren blows, although I don't know how they hear it now that it's been silenced.
rec services, libraries, museums
The Village requires a WATER system, a professional review of traffic flows and speed calming solutions.
It was hard to understand the questions where there was no option such as "who should maintain the wharves, the Village or the ....."
This survey doesn't give enough information about the issues relating to each question so it's difficult to make good recommendations. Perhaps I've missed it, but I don't feel that I've been given the pros and cons of the various options.
We need more surveys so as to get the average persons opinions instead of certain outspoken or wealthier peoples opinions
I think the VC should provide funding for a community festival such as fireworks on July first and a street fair/festival not unlike the one the Arts Centre put on for 150.
We already pay a lot of property taxes and do not need duplicate levels of governments. Our municipal government is already administration heavy and we need less government not more. The roads in the Village are horrific and desperately need repair. Too bad we were not a town.
We need water for the village. We also need a recreational facility.
Chester needs water despirately and a tourist bureau
I forgot the three themes. I believe that the smaller community of Chester Village which is within the greater Municipality of Chester would be better served if it looked after its own affairs.
Appreciate you asking our input
Water, sewer, streets, garbage, fire protection, police protection all seem to be the most important responsibilities of the most local government for the village
Planning should encourage density and affordable housing in the village. smaller set-backs, for example.
Land use restrictions should be revisited. Too restrictive. Municipal water, despite the costs, should be debated.
THis survey appears to be leaning towards the village taking over many services now provided by MODC,are we heading for towards Chester being a town? Some of the services that MODC provides are cheaper for us if we allow

them to continue with the status quo,we have a small population, it may not be possible for such a small number of residents to cover all the costs unless of course we,village residents want taxes to go up,which as you is never popular. One of the area's you mention is road repairs I cannot see this small population being able to pay for road repairs, but at this point we are paying the province for road work however not much seems to get done,the roads in the village are a disgrace. Could we do better perhaps so but it would be very expensive. Chester is becoming a village that only people of wealth can afford to live in ,this is in my option where we are heading and that is unfortunate.

Municipal Water...nothing else matters

Water has not been discussed and this is a crucial issue

The Commission needs to address matters uniquely Chester and without regard to other districts of the municipality. The fire department reality is that we do not need multiple fire departments, most of the members come from outside the Village but, the Commission appears best suited to manage this on a contract basis for other districts. This is an exception . Your survey avoids the thorny issue of Central water - something for which the Commission would also have authority under its legislative umbrella. Residents of the Municipality need to embrace the notion that what is good for Chester is also good for the Municipality as a whole. I do not mind paying an area rate for services that we get and others do not. I certainly do nor mind paying for services like the Lido that we share with others.

I believe a constant tourist bureau is vital to informing tourist traffic. I'm very interested in how many new visitors used the pop up as compared to the train station.

stop wasting money on silly surveys as nothing is ever followed through.

We absolutely need to have a water system...this is priority one.

I answered that everything was important because I don't know enough of current state to judge what needs more or less attention. I remain overall concerned at the lack of concern at the municipality level (other than Danielle B who is doing a great job) for the health and welfare of the Village. A strong Village is good for the municipality but as an example this ridiculousness about shipping containers was an example of why we need a group muscular and engaged enough to look after the interests of the Village

The commission needs to start figuring out how to do what is in their mandate well before they start taking on other ventures.

Independent professionals should always be consulted and listened to regarding particular services which are taxpayer funded. Such as fire department, emergency services, sewage treatment, anything regarding waterworks, etc. Too often the commissionaires seem to have private interests in mind in the past few years, and this should be carefully watched over by the public as well as each commissionaire being aware of this for themselves and fellow commissionaires.

Serious need of a side walk from the independent grocer to the chester mall.

The Fire Department and the EHS should be located on North Street, Hwy 3 where there is better snow plowing and access to whatever emergencies may occur. Those unrefined, commercial-style buildings do not fit in with the residential style surroundings of the museum, library, churches, houses in the neighbourhood. Aside from the safety issue of removing these buildings from the top of the hill, there could be a greater potential for tourism, taxation, etc. if the properties could be utilized for residential, hotel, artistic/historic structures. How about another tower?

Village should have more involvement in overall public planning.

(Note to Matt Neville: Thanks for listening this a.m. /Joy Calkin I wrote this before I spoke with you.)This last set of questions is not constructed so I can be helpful or, perhaps, useful. That is, some of these items (e.g. winter streets) are the funded responsibilities of another order of government. However, I do think it important that the Commission monitor whether they are being properly done and organize us to bring pressure to bear on those funded for the work to be more responsive - or do it ourselves at that point if it is clearly important to us and low on the priority list of the Muni or Province or Federal governments. I stopped answering after the first 3 items because I can't deal with them. So the ones after that are answered only if I think I can be clear in my own mind that it makes sense to answer them without explanation. ( Aside: I went back and moved things to #1 to show I couldn't figure out how to say important that we assure the service but not be responsible for it.)

Would like to see a public water system within the village under the management of the Village Commission.

The Village Commission should be the governing body over the village of Chester. The municipal structure is not working and has not over the years. Often opportunities are missed because there was always the challenge that one Councilor will not support something for Chester because their area was not suitable for it.

The checks that I have checked 1-4 is because I feel they are the responsibility of the mun,

I enjoy the green spaces, parks playgrounds and trails but we do not need additional. We DO need our roads paved! Worst roads in the province.
The Commission must take the lead on water supply for the Village. Also, the state of roads in the Village is poor and needs to be addressed
Acquire transportation for seniors
Chester although beautiful in certain areas needs rebranding as a vibrant healthy sustainable community. There is huge potential for it to become a center and destination for healthy living but that requires changing mindsets. It is ideal for retirees, young people to create infrastructures to support a diverse population, and a community model as a destination point for healthy living. There are so many great and untapped resources within the residents yet the community appears stuck in time and resistant to change. Chester, other than sailing offers little to attract visitors and we are bypassed in favour of Lunenburg and Mahone Bay. We could be better and definitely do better but leadership must be visible to make this happen. The time has come to create a new way of being for Chester living. The best way to predict Chester's future is to create it with a new attitude that welcomes new ways of thinking, diversity, and energy. The status quo is no longer good enough. Fear of change and negative power dynamics are holding this beautiful community in "safe mode". Risk taking, flexibility, innovation and creativity must guide our actions toward a better future for all!
Without a solid infrastructure and priorities the village cannot grow and maintain itself. We need control over our own destiny to develop a solid Village.
Village drinking water supply!
I think the decision to close the Train Station as a tourist bureau is a mistake; tourists need to know there is a location they can go to and find knowledgeable staff to assist them.
Infrastructure is one of the most important pieces of the puzzle to keep a community alive. People need to feel safe in their community.
Chester desperately needs a water source for all immediately.
Too many layers of government with the Village, Municipality, County and Province
I cannot emphasize the deplorable state of our roads in Chester village. If the Municipal doesn't have the money to pave them, how will the Village pay for them? Because of the deterioration, ploughing in winter is a problem. The village can barely afford salt and sand.
Our roads are an embarrassment, #3 has deteriorated to the point of being dangerous
People on the village commission should not be fire department agenda focused.
We do need water. Global warming is real, and lack of a water supply inhibits commercial developments and limits property values and marketability. Also need information plaques or storyboards for visitors eg. Explaining Camp Norway and the Norwegian monument, the history of the war memorial, including the granite base, the sculptor, and the identity of the person who is immortalizedetc.
I want to see a Village Commission govern in a responsible way to the tax payer. I want to see some leadership from our commission. However, like most elected bodies I guess we get what we deserve. Maybe if this commission did function in a better way we would attract better people.
I wish I could have answered better the questions about how important it is for the Village of Chester Commission, but I simply don't know who should run them, or how or why. I'm afraid I'm not schooled enough in the matter to answer with any authority.
Priorities are a toss-up between public works and fire/emergency services, but the public works are key to preventing the village becoming a ghost town; retaining and attracting population. Without supports for permanent residents, seasonal residents will have fewer services in the village. Capital costs (real estate prices) for seasonal residents still seem fairly low, so some surtaxes on out-of-town owners could support services and perhaps increase salability of properties at higher prices (a potential return on out-of-town investment with overall benefits for the village).
No
Public water system is a must.
Community Development
I am not in favour of a Village Commission. I believe these services are better provided by other means. This is a costly way of doing business. The commission doesn't advertise their meetings that I am aware of and I didn't know they existed until a year after I moved the the Village. They seem hesitant to provide a financial statement and having seen a brief version I understand why.

don't understand why you can't be combined with MODC. Get a public water system in place!!
A healthy village is important to the growth
Some item really are the Municipality responsibility and they basically do a good job but, I feel it would be a good thing to partner up on some projects. Like recreational endeavours.
Water water water and sewage (protecting environment)
water sourcing for the village is a key to growth and development of the village
Fire and Public works are equally important
I hope that there is no underlying issues trying to be addressed here.
Strive to eliminate redundancies in mutual areas of responsibility. Get out of bricks and mortar and concentrate on uses, beautification, planning parking.
Parking Sidewalks in the village, is causing unsafe, 2 way driving. More 1 way streets, certainly would help!
Why is the VIC closed this year? Would rank priorities 1 for Fire, 2 for Public Works, and 3 for Community Dev. Thanks for all that you do do so well! Lucky to have you!
Please consider providing sewage and sidewalks to old route 3. This area has many young families and offers affordable housing. It should be respected and encouraged.
The municipality should have control of most major issues rather than the village commission. Otherwise budgets and supervisions may over lap between the commission and municipality and budget overruns will happen
The other two are also important and in the order you have them in your questionnaire
All are important. Most important is that as the most significant tax base in the County that Chester take control of its rights as a Village including a fair proportion of the taxes paid with the additional control of its destiny. Currently our fate is controlled by others as we do not have a proportional vote relative to our tax contribution. Villages such as New Minus and others are examples we must follow.
Simply impossible to pick one of these over the other. It is time for the Chester Village Commission to use its legally granted power to guide and manage the Village as is seen in other village communities such as New Minas etc. so that we can function strongly within the Municipality
I'm afraid I am not a fan of too many layers of government and I don't know why there needs to be a Village Commission at all. Chester is an integral and important part of MODC and there is already a strong management structure in place there. To expect the Village Commission to have the expertise to manage fairly complicated infrastructure (in the case of fire services, public works, even the Lido Pool) with only a single staff person and a few Commissioners, is unrealistic.
Having said this, street maintenance is equally important to me.
Without a safe and secure water supply none of these other issues will matter. No water means the end of the village.
Water sources - other than wells - work with province and federal gov's - central supply - our most important resource
I do not feel public water is necessary in all areas of the the village and residents should be given the opportunity to op out.
I think that it is very important the Village concentrates on what they are really doing. What they are doing is done very poorly and they have been for years. It is also important that the Fire Services are looked at..anyone knows that the Village and the Commissioners are running it and the other things very poorly. Government money is being wasted.
All the items are very important but not important for the village to do and must be done by MODC. The Village needs to concentrate on the things they are doing and doing very bad. They need to clean up their house before taking others priorities on. The Village could look at adding some tourism initiatives once they get their house in order. The Village should completely stay out of the public works and leave this to the professionals at MODC. 25. If the Village is going to provide this service they need to manage it more efficiently. They need to run it like a proper business and not bases on biases. 30. Very important to be done 33. The Village cannot even do what they do now good they should never even consider getting into water 42. Excellent asset and if managed correctly would be great under Village management 44. With MODC not interested in managing or operating a Vic this would be an excellent project for the Village 45. Very important because parking is a huge issue in the Village 46. The Municipal wharf could be something the Village could oversee along with Freda's Beach If the Village cannot get some controls in place they should be shut down as a dysfunctional group and MODC take over.
I understand that the municipality wants to keep control over the services they presently offer the village. We are a

densely populated area with a high assessment, so not only are we creating revenue flow we are also costing less to provide these services. In a lot of cases we the tax payers would either see a decrease in their taxes if provided by the village or they could have those monies directed to assets or services that would be beneficial to the village that are not presently offered because of the cost or lack of man power that would need to be increased to provide those services. At any rate it would be an interesting exercise to study.
It is important that the fire department be managed professionally. If this cannot be achieved then the service should be given to the Municipality. And the village should concentrate on public works and community development.
Providing services to a scale that fit the needs of the Village
The Village Commission needs to have more input from the residents from all of the Municipality
Better advertising and promoting of Chester would be great more thing on weekend for families to do. I feel Chester does very little to none to keep people here to do things. If there is nothing to do here people are going to take there money else where and spend it. Look at all the things Mahone Bay does to promote the community, why can't Chester do some things.
The questions I have answ unimportant should be the counties, provincials or federal governments responsibility
Question on Lighting (28): should be streets only Question on Flooding (29): not a village responsibility. Find out how Mahone Bay got the money to do their waterfront. Question on TIC (44): But only at our Train Station where trailers can park to receive information Re: More Parking. 1. If the gutters had culverts installed and covered, it would help. 2. If you or whoever would take the widths of our streets back from the properties that think they and put logs, rock plants, cones, & other things, the roads would be wide enough for cars to pass 3. But no more sidewalks, if they have to be as wide as Queen & Duke St. 4. The corners, especially on South St are waiting for an accident to happen.
Chester should become its own master free from the municipality residents. The law can be changed if a proper plan was developed. Because of its makeup, Chester can be and is self sustaining. Water supply should be our next priority

**Seasonal Resident:**

This was definitely the best survey I've ever taken.
Fire services for rural Chester Municipality rules that apply to rural Chester... enforcement of rules in rural Chester. We are in no mans land...!!! no one takes any responsibility for any regulation in this area. The fire dept.. needs to check every street for access in the Village and in the entire municipality... the rural areas... also. I think a fire truck would struggle to get up to Halfmoon Cove. This is Chester. Not Chester Basin... and the other side of Halfmoon cove accessed by Walkers Cut extension ... we pay taxes... we need consideration as part of the Village...
The village does a great job, with limited resources and a large area. Why do the summer Chester resident have to look after BLANDFORD and NEW ROSS?
Please also consider the sewage system as a part of the village commission responsibility, since it is really not supposed to be in a residential area, is grossly overtaxed in the summer months and stinks on occasion during said months.
I've listed a number of public works that I think are important, I'm just not sure what body should be overseeing this. More importantly, Chester should not try to compete for tourism. Parking is a real issue and the benefits to local residents is limited.
I would like to see the streets kept the same, no widening, traffic slowed down within the village maybe through speed bumps or electronic ticketing.
Keeping the Property Tax dollars that come from the property owners in the village in the village of Chester. Many of our roads are getting pretty bad and need to be addressed.
Maybe have police around to curb street racing cars making a lot of noise in the village at night. Garbage collection to pick up tim hortons cups that are littered around the side of the roads. More frequent garbage collection in summer. Lower chester village property tax.
more transparency in zoning
WATER WATER WATER. This village will not grow and remain desirable without public water. I understand that it will be a hardship for some, but progress is expensive, and ways can be developed for those who can prove financial hardship.
The Village of Chester should be actively planing and working towards a self sustainable, viable governing model in order to maintain much of what we have and to work towards a much improved future. The Village Commission Act

provides the tools to do that. We would have available to us everything that is now possible through the Municipality, with the exception of our zoning (which I must admit has never made much sense to me). It has always been difficult, read impossible, to find out exactly what the population and the tax base for Chester is from MODC however it would be an educated guess that if the Village of Chester chose the most workable choices of governing from the Villages Act We could be masters of our own future, rather than be one vote amongst seven from MODC.
Public parking, Tourist information
Chester has to provide strong resistance to Municipality financial dominance
Fix the Roads... They are terrible
I feel that for the growth of the village as well as for the enjoyment and safety of both local and summer residents, street traffic and parking must be addressed. We need to enhance the visitor's experience and make them want to stay longer and consider moving here. In the summer, when the visitors come here to stroll the streets and shops and take in the ocean views, the village and the Front Harbour are overrun with parked cars and traffic pushing pedestrians onto the busy streets and destroying the views. We need more benches along the water not parked cars.
Public water system needs thorough discussion.
Thank you for asking! And please repair the roads...they are terrible!
The above (47) answer was marked because we need to get a better handle on what appears to be a run away effort to develop a community water system. There will be serious ongoing costs for maintenance and a brand new bureaucracy if this is developed.

**Business Owners:**

we should take more control of our Village and not the municipality
Of all the expenditures, why has no one brought back the ball field near the tennis courts? I'd trade a year of hanging petunias to see that money put into sports facilities. There should be more support of the tennis club as well.
The Village Commission should not be looking after departments that are already established in the Municipality. For example, the recreation dept now has 4-5 employees who look after the needs of all the members of the Municipality. Why would we need more paid employees, that would drive our taxes up, to cover an area that is already well looked after.
ugma
Water....water....water. You can't have fire hydrants or growth without town water. Will you guys ever wake up?
The Village Commission is redundant. Why does it even exist?!
Bring back the VIC!!!
What about our drinking water? Why is that not addressed here?

**Outside Residents:**

Work as a team. Put petty conflicts aside and work for a better community.
The fire dept is the most important service! It is often overlooked until it's needed it is also a service that relies 100% on volunteers perhaps some thought should go into better looking after these individual that risk everything to help when needed
Other comments: I believe that the village should focus more on commercial development of the Hwy 3 corridor, with appropriate infrastructure, sidewalks, improved roadways, etc so as to attract businesses that would support additional visitors, increased tourism dollars and encourage residents to buy locally rather than drive to Bridgewater, Mahone Bay or Halifax. The rest of the town should retain its quaint village feel. From a building permit perspective, new builds and rebuilds should be focused on what fits our community. (A few recent approvals don't fit the feel.) Homes that are not being properly maintained and have junk and garbage on the property should be fined and forced to clean up. For example, there is a trailer on Valley Road that is a disgrace to the community.
Municipality can provide these services
“What stands out in the high-achieving community is not so much the characteristics of the leaders as their number ... The high-achieving community had ten times more people providing leadership than communities of comparable size. This [high-achieving] community is “leaderful”; that is, nearly everyone provides some measure of initiative. And its leaders function not as gatekeepers but as door openers, bent on widening participation.”
I would like to say that on the times that I have been here in winter, your snow/ice removal on the streets has been

embarrassingly poor

Chester has not managed its commercial centre and as a consequence it is not competing with nearby communities. Perhaps this is a good thing as it keeps Chester pretty quiet all summer unlike Mahone Bay and Lunenburg. The Village allowed its core businesses to move to the number 3 thereby gutting the commercial heart of the village. And it has done nothing to educate passers-by that it is worth stopping as the #3 segment through Chester has none of the charm of the main part of the village. A plan was prepared by Ekistics to incorporate the #3 into the village but the one councillor I spoke with about implementation seemed to think it was the private sector's responsibility - that the village just set the rules; and, not surprisingly, given that kind of thinking, nothing has happened. Hopefully the repaving project in 2019 will move this integration along.

I do not agree that the village commission should be able to make decisions about the fire department or the pool or anything else that the municipal tax payers pay for that should be handled by the municipality and the elected officials.

Fix the roads. Stop zoning

I would like to see consideration on purchases of a ariel truck .

I would like the Commission to consider purchasing land for older residents who would like to down size yet live independently, i.e., condos, town houses

(Water) There are areas of your questions that require serious thought as they need engineers, technicians, and inspectors to fulfill the necessary requirements. You cannot take this lightly. These are expensive issues, such as the Fire Dept. I saw the pictures of a Fire truck being held together with a chain "Disgraceful".



**EDM Planning Services Ltd.**  
2111 Maitland Street  
Halifax NS B3K 2Z8  
902 425 7900

**[www.edm.ca](http://www.edm.ca)**