

Jefferson Master Plan Community Survey Results

Written Comments For Question #44

“In 25 words or less, please describe your “vision” of what the town should be like ten years from now.”

June 9, 2020

Note: Comments are word-for-word from the survey with minor exceptions. Corrections were made in some cases to fix capitalization, punctuation and abbreviations.

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Question #44

In 25 words or less, please describe your "vision" of what the town should be like ten years from now.

44) In 25 words or less, please describe your "vision" of what the town should be like ten years from now.

A beautiful, rural community within 20-40 miles of retail/commercial centers

A better blend of young families along with the older population. The character of the town would remain the same with more job opportunities thru out the region. HIGH SPEED INTERNET

A charming community of beautiful views, people, and life free from excessive regulation.

A community that supports and protects the natural beauty and natural resources first and is friendly to residents and visitors

A few more businesses and perhaps a few more houses but nothing too crazy.

A healthy blend of forest & field, agriculture & hedgerows. Abundant wildflowers for pollinators & clear cold streams. Some growth in town okay, but not too much. Rural charm.

A hub for outdoor recreation, mountain biking, beer, skiing. So parents don't just come for Santa's Village but have something to do themselves as well.

A pedestrian friendly developed Town Center including provisions for small retail. Town MUST have adequate Internet and Cellular Services

A place where you can bring up children without worry of city influences brought by southerners who leave their area and try to promote likeness to towns like Jefferson from areas they left.

A prime recreation destination with sufficient services to satisfy visitors and enough taxable commercial property to keep property taxes affordable.

A quaint scenic rural community

A quiet sleepy town in the mountains with all the outdoor activities and restoring natures balance

A quiet, peaceful town (no ATVs anywhere) where an elderly population can live out their final years with dignity.

A quiet, close-knit community that retains its rural identity and commitment to families despite the influx of technology and out-of-state tourism dollars.

A safe and attractive community with recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. High speed internet and cell service access to be able to work from home.

A scenic, small town that promotes and protects the environment for recreational and limited agricultural use

A thriving small New England town with active residents, good culture, local activities including restaurants, pubs, and community activities.

A town that protects / helps animals, and offers a place to take children and teens (other than Santa's) like Chucky Cheese.

44) In 25 words or less, please describe your "vision" of what the town should be like ten years from now.

A town that welcomes and encourages young families to live. It would need to be able to provide adequate amenities for individuals to want to stay in Jefferson as a resident.

A town very much like what we have today. We all live here because it is "home" whether of a year or 50 years, we value what Jefferson is - beautiful, rural, private, friendly. Affordable housing does not mean low quality. We are a bedroom community. The loss of the school community and lack of organizational volunteers requires that we concentrate more on "events" to bring residents together. The challenge will be to improve without drastically changing what we all value.

A town w/ a vibrant residential and some second home population, served by good internet that promotes telecommuting. A community that has farms, small businesses and supports for elderly. Quality schools w/active non-motorized recreation. Spaces for bike riding, walking, hiking, x-country skiing - tied into network of healthy non-motorized recreation.

A variety of housing. Educational opportunities for K-12 and support of teacher & enrichment programs. Limitation on ATV activity. Conservation of forest land. Agricultural opportunity for young people

A village thriving on tourism - we should be providing ways to attract, and cater to those here to enjoy our natural beauty on vacation - ATV people, hikers, theme park attendees - more inns, restaurants all within walking distance in the village, with sidewalks or trails.

About the same as now except for maybe more businesses in Jefferson village and some sort of safe setup for people to cross the street at Santa's Village.

Affordable living for all people (especially the retired/elderly) and affordable property taxes for the services provided from the town of Jefferson. Taxes to be billed every 6 months versus annually.

Affordable living for the retired/elderly home owners. Lower property taxes. Tax bills to be every 6 months versus annually.

An integral part of the NC community not just a destination town with most properties as first homes.

As it is today

As it is with outdoor accessibility and pride similar to Randolph

ATV Trails in town

Better internet/cell service, more active arts and culture scene, more renewable energy, more small businesses/restaurants, better/bigger library, thank you!

Bring back the elementary school. Keep the close knit feel. Promote community.

By striking a harmonious balance between innovative ideas, economic & technological growth, preservation of natural beauty & rich heritage we create exciting advancement for Jefferson while remaining true to the spirit & core value of community upon which the town was founded.

close knit, involved citizens, dedicated to supporting art and keeping our natural beauty

Continue as a small village with fabulous views, but with up-to-date infrastructure.

44) In 25 words or less, please describe your "vision" of what the town should be like ten years from now.

Decrease in abandoned structures along route 2. Six Gun City revived to the like of Santa's Village. Hardware store in town. Economic revitalization. Better internet & cell service

Exactly the same!!

Expect the current trend of low income families and the elderly on fixed incomes to struggle to meet the increasing property tax burden. The need to expand the tax base with development of recreational housing will be evident.

Feel our library should be on Route 2 - where they planned town offices should stay where they are - need housing badly. If only one answer - both he & she want that answer. We could use a shooting range so gunmen would have a designated area to shoot instead of blazing away for hours at a time and driving us nuts! Some of the teens aren't even shooting safely.

For the town to attract young families to move here. To have the town thrive and not be a retirement town.

Grocery store and keep it small.

Growth is clustered to prevent sprawl. Conservation easements on private land allow for NON-MOTORIZED trail system open to public for recreational use.

High speed internet & cell phone service available town wide. Retain small town atmosphere

Higher property taxes. Less population.

Hope that properties could be cleaned up!! There are too many old vehicles, and junk and debris on properties. School should be used as a community center.

Hopefully to keep our small town feel, encouraging young families and offering ALL residents the opportunity for High Speed Access to both TV and Internet at affordable prices

I believe the town should remain very similar with renovations to older buildings to original state. New small retail that are family owned. Love this town BEST PLACE I can think of to live!!!

I enjoy the rural feel of the town but want to encourage zoning and business to develop along the route 2 corridor in the village. Have a long term plan to improve the roads. Bad roads add wear and tear on town trucks, private cars and school busses. Everyone benefits from a well built and maintained road.

I fell in love with this quaint little town and think it should always be a quaint little town. Growth is okay just not too crazy.

I hope it is still my "Happy Place"...peaceful, beautiful & still small enough that there is always a helping hand when needed.

I hope Jefferson retains its small town rural atmosphere with thoughtful development making sure it preserves all residents rights to privacy and a peaceful existence with attention to maintaining everyone's property values.

I like Jefferson just the way it is.

I like Jefferson to be the way it is now. I like quiet, private living with access to good jobs and outdoor recreation opportunities.

44) In 25 words or less, please describe your "vision" of what the town should be like ten years from now.

I like things as they are. Don't do too much development. Thanks for your work!

I like to see the town grow, but not in a way that the small town

I love Jefferson the way it is - that is why we moved here!!

I love Jefferson the way it is now. The views and people are wonderful.

I love the town the way it is if it could stay the same that would be wonderful maybe a restaurant or two

I think Jefferson is perfect just the way it is. I am very upset that the BEAUTIFUL VIEW AT GOLF COURSE HAS BEEN ALLOWED TO DISAPPEAR! I WANT TO CRY WHEN I TRAVEL BY! THAT SHOULD HAVE NEVER NEVER BEEN ALLOWED TO HAPPEN! EXCEPT FOT THAT, JEFFERSON IS GREAT JUST THE WAY IT IS! LEAVE JEFFERSON JUST THE WAY IT IS! I AM A NATIVE OF N.H. MORE IS NOT ALWAYS BETTER! LEAVE JEFFERSON JUST THE WAY IT IS!!

I think that the 2 acre zoning should be changed to allow for additional housing development. The 2 acre zoning that was established in the mid 2000's has more or less stopped further development and thus young families, retired people and others are no longer moving to Jefferson and we need new people and new families to add to the tax revenue and growth of the community. Development should still be planned and reasonable, but there is not really a necessity to have 2 acre zoning. Homes that were built and areas developed prior to the 2 acre zoning are fine and not an issue. Jefferson should be more inclusive rather than exclusive if it wants to grow and thrive into the future. Housing opportunities of all kinds are required for future growth not only in Jefferson but in the North Country.

I use my home in Jefferson as a second home soon to retire to. Seeing what the ATV industry has done to Gorham, maybe that will increase income into Jefferson. I just love the way it is right now.

I want to see people traveling to our town to experience the clean atmosphere established common where people can chat and enjoy Jefferson's magnificent views.

I would hope Jefferson would stay as is. The beauty of the town is being lost with tree growth. The beautiful view on RT. 2 - most of town by the golf course has been destroyed. Makes me sick to my stomach every time I go by. That was a Jefferson _____. On a scenic road we save a tree, but this beautiful view is allowed to be destroyed. BRING IT BACK PLEASE!!!

I would like it to retain its small town charm with thriving small businesses while protecting the natural resources

I would like Jefferson to have an adequate library, historical building, a well funded fire & rescue dept., more open hours for the transfer station, better marked town roads

I would like to keep things as is - but with growth - things will need to change.

I would like to see Jefferson maintain its rural type atmosphere with just a few additional "small businesses in the center of town".

I would like to see the small town atmosphere continue, with a strong sense of community. Current tourism businesses are a source of pride, and should be encouraged. Natural beauty and scenic views are valuable and should be preserved.

44) In 25 words or less, please describe your "vision" of what the town should be like ten years from now.
I'd like to see Jefferson the same as it is but with fewer 18-wheelers. No new houses, no big business and a reopened elementary school. And no widening on Route 2, Highlands to Randolph.
I'd like to see the town stay the same
If I could bring back the school I would start there! Really not much change is needed. We would like to see more community activities available or a place for the kids to get together.
In 10 years Jefferson needs to be seeing a ROI of community. Bring people to stay, work, play will build the economy, age diversity, and population
Independently owned and operated restaurants, rental cabins, campgrounds, craft shops, sporting goods stores (non franchised)
It has not changed much in 40 yrs. Don't think it will change much in the next 10!
It is important to keep the small town feel. Once it is gone, you will never get it back. I have seen this first hand. It snowballs. Don't let it happen to Jefferson. It is a gem. And a rarity.
It should remain rural with as little interference as possible from government entities
Jefferson already attracts lovers of the outdoors (hiking, hunting, skiing, etc.) I would love for Jefferson to capitalize on this by developing more mountain biking/multi-use trail systems and encouraging businesses that cater to those interests (brewery, outdoor recreation companies) to come to town.
Jefferson has the most beautiful landscape/views in No. Country. Let's keep it that way. Preserve the countryside. AND NO ATVS or large scale development.
Jefferson is a small town with helpful neighbors. I'd like it to stay that way and retain a rural, peaceful atmosphere. Jefferson's natural beauty of land and vistas should be retained for future generations.
Jefferson is so attractive as it is now as a small bountiful nature oriented town. Major changes would ruin the fell and the Beatty of the town. Please resist the urge to make any drastic changes.
Jefferson needs employee opportunities to be able to support young and working families. No work - no youth.
Jefferson should be a model that anyone could look at and say , " That is what a small town should be like. They got it right and kept it the way it should be."
Jefferson should maintain its small - town feel. It is ideally situated to take advantage of the most beautiful vista NH offers and, accordingly, the town should encourage open land that supports such views (i.e. Waumbek Golf Course). Development on such land would spoil the very reason Jefferson is "special".
Jefferson should remain as is.
Jefferson should remain the pristine Town that drew us here, yet allowing growth in Communication/Internet, agricultural and all outdoor activities. While avoiding at all cost. Urban sprawl!
Jefferson, in 2029, has sweeping views of the mountains surrounding this lovely spot. To support the town, small businesses, an industrial park, and a forestry based tax base. Solar power and geothermal for utilities are encouraged with tax credit or abatement. Hydro should be utilized where available for industry. Recreation and hospitality industry needs encouraging. Good industries located here include the Carlisle Place, Fuller Sugaring operation, trucking companies and owners, mulch producer, Water Wheel, Kid's Connections & Old Corner Store.

44) In 25 words or less, please describe your "vision" of what the town should be like ten years from now.
Just the way it is now
Just the way it is!
Keep it small. More community activities to keep people in town. Central gathering place.
Keep Jefferson a rural town, protect the views, keep valuable natural spaces open to the public. Make the school system our best resource.
Keep Jefferson rural - scenic - peaceful No place in NH or VT has Jefferson's mountain views Preserve its uniqueness - our greatest treasure Why become overdeveloped - & ugly - like elsewhere
Keep rural nature of town but create 21st century visions with regard to high speed internet / cell phone access to attract young professionals with potential for family friendly place to live and thrive.
Keep the town a country-type town
Keep views, outdoor activities, rural environment and small town feel.
Large hotels in the golf course area as in the past
Less development. Keep small town atmosphere
Littleton is a good example of how a town can grow and yet preserve the essence of its small town character. Keep industry and large scale retail on major routes and away from the heart of the town. Preserve the peaceful and rural character of the outlying neighborhoods.
Love it the way it is
Love it the way it is, small changes only
Maintain a small town feel but has a few more businesses like a restaurant, function space or activities to build community.
Maintain its small town presence and town offices in the village not on a side road.
Maintain small town identity with maybe a skate park for the children.
More business opportunities in town
More infrastructure to support more business and people. We need to invest in our town to help it to grow.
More like it was 100 years ago. Seriously I pay over 1/5th of my yearly income in taxes to this town. Wish someone would explain what I am getting for all that money.
More restaurants, small retail sales, grocery store, gas and repair station, affordable housing growing town and tax base
More trails, perhaps a solar farm and an industrial park

44) In 25 words or less, please describe your "vision" of what the town should be like ten years from now.
More vibrant community activities
Most importantly, safety and security. It's important to have the feeling of safety when hunting, hunting, biking, and walking.
Much the same is it does now. Hopefully some small businesses will consider Jefferson for their home.
My wife and I would basically like to see Jefferson in ten years, just like it is today. Thank you
No hostels or Air B&B units in Jefferson!
Not my problem
Our town should be able to support growth & continue to better improve the town budgets each year, as to provide for an ever changing community in the future.
Please keep it a small northern new Hampshire town. Keep the mentality simple and our children priority. Thank you
Possibly an industrial park to attract business to keep our taxes down. Have a grocery store. Try to keep tourism in mind when letting businesses come in. AND NO BIG BOX RETAILERS LIKE WALMART! They only hurt communities long term. I am very pleased with my town as it is and hope to move there all year round if more jobs become available.
Preservation of historical buildings - more landscaping - plant some trees along RT 2 - slow down traffic! How to get rid of - minimizing truck traffic? Fill in empty spaces with some commercial (shop/restaurants), but make sure architecture is town appropriate
Preservation of small town atmosphere with the addition of small businesses / cottage industries. Use of the school for community activities.
Preserve rural character
Preserve buildings that are important to town character. Preserve natural beauty. I hope there will be little change in visible development except an upgrade in quality and maintenance. We come to enjoy the solitude offered by WMNF (since birth).
Pretty close to what it is. I feel like this is a safe place to raise kids with a lot of nature and views to see every day of the year. Maybe some updates to some buildings so they last.
Pretty much as it is now. Increase lot size to greater than 5 acres and the town needs a new public works building. Limit building permits to a said amount of 5 per year on the greater than 5 acre lot parameter.
Pretty much as it is.
Pretty much the same as it is now, but with some sort of Community Center where people can come together for activities (re-purposed elementary school?). I would also like a noise ordinance so that residents may have quiet environment at their property.
Quaint-friendly-

44) In 25 words or less, please describe your "vision" of what the town should be like ten years from now.
Really would like Jefferson to not change too much, it's already a nice place to live in. Would like to see the population to stay the same.
Reasonable growth with modern services. Encourage small businesses. Minimize the negative impact on our natural resources while preserving the town's essential rural character and historic past.
Remain a small, rural town but see a population increase. More business and employment opportunities including restaurants and another gas station for competition. More business opportunities and a local school would draw young families and help build the sense of community. Some local businesses should focus on wildlife and recreation opportunities that would draw more seasonal tourism to the area and bring in revenue.
Remain the same
Remain the same, preserve and enhance what we already have. We need a town clean-up like all neighboring towns here in April. More enforcement of "no more than two unregistered vehicles". I would like to see the dead TREE by Soldiers Park removed.
Rural community with local resident and tourism based services
Rural enclave with top-notch services, limited noise, safer roads, darker skies, additional restaurant and service station, fewer dangerous and dilapidated buildings; stop ignoring state building and fire codes;
Rural energetic small town with updated amenities & a single designated area for accessibility to shopping needs & restaurant(s)
Rural recreational destination
Same
Same as it is now - school back in town
Same as it is now.
Scenic attraction but with modern comforts. Job opportunities to encourage residents.
Scenic. Low property taxes
Significant increase in secondary home ownership as elderly die or move away. Jefferson will become a community of fewer permanent residents. Young families will be far fewer than present and the number of children much less than presently. We will become more like our neighboring town of Randolph.
Similar character to what it is now. Town offices, library, and community center at old school building. Pedestrian underpass or overpass for Santa's Village and safer entrance/exits.
Similar to Mountain Village in Switzerland. Cottage industry - family focused - agriculture respected - quality thoughtful development - preservation of natural resources and heritage - sustainable local living - no ATV - healthy lifestyles. The lifestyle should be generational and families should be stewards of lands, resources and tradition
Similar to what it is now with a few more conveniences like a gas station, good cell service, etc.

44) In 25 words or less, please describe your "vision" of what the town should be like ten years from now.
Since I just own land and do not live in town, I do not feel fair to answer. As a biologist who has worked in the area for 20+ years concerning our natural resources, open space, travel corridors and sensitive areas (wetlands, riparian areas, steep slopes) should be priorities. I'd love to see Jefferson continue to work with adjacent towns to protect contiguous blocks of habitat. Love the rural character of Jefferson & scenic views.
Slow population growth, slowly increase property taxes, consolidated many of town services to former school building, upgrade fire department over time.
Slow population growth, slowly increasing taxes, relocation of many of the town's services to school building.
Small but growing & supporting its community.
Small mostly residential, pastoral with conserved natural resources, quiet without ATV intrusion, well-served by high speed internet access
Some change, but want to keep the small town feel and be able to live here without taxes going through the roof
Still very rural but with development to the "village" in town, upgrading buildings and creating a stronger central community capable of supporting businesses.
Stop fearing change and embrace the modern tourism of ATV/Snow machines and all associated industries: Rentals, campground, restaurants, gas stations, clubs/activities
Taxes that are lower than they are now. If not lower there will be no one living here.
The character and spirit of town should be preserved. Businesses that respect the town's character may broaden our tax base.
The glory of Jefferson is its quaintness, quiet surroundings, quiet recreation, farmland (although greatly diminished now) and spectacular views. Maintain these attributes by bringing in small scale businesses and resort atmosphere such as Mount Washington and Mountain View. ATVs on the rail trail would be detrimental and too noisy. Jefferson would be hurt by this type of recreation.
The property in Jefferson is our "go to" place for relaxation and recreation. I would like to see the overall character of the remain unchanged
The same as it is now
The same as it is now -
The same as it is now, a quiet peaceful place to live.
The same as it is now.
The same as it is now. Love it here.
The same. Keep people out. We are doing fine the way we are. Stop trying to change everything. We have plenty of tourist who come to OUR town vs any other town around to bring their families to Santa's who employs a bunch of people around the area as well as high school student in the summer which brings plenty of revenue to the town and the store. No need to change anything. Go change something in another town.

44) In 25 words or less, please describe your "vision" of what the town should be like ten years from now.

The small town and neighborly atmosphere should be preserved by maintaining Jefferson as a bedroom community with some cottage industry, small home based businesses and tourism.

The town is almost perfect. Just some quiet, environmentally-conscious employment opportunities that, in working those jobs, benefit the whole area. Maybe a small business district that is laid out like a neighborhood could be encouraged. Not fast-food places that cause littering and noise. Maybe a social service agency office. Or maybe an adult-education center (branch of White Mts Community College?) that would enable the region to improve job skills for the incoming opportunities. :)

The town should look and feel like it does now. Do not allow the quiet charm to be lost to development.

The town should remain as it is, quiet and beautiful. Santa's remains. Young families move in and the elementary school returns.

The town should retain its small town identity and continue to preserve the natural resources and scenic views within it.

The town should showcase the beautiful views and not spoil its natural resources.

The town will still be undiscovered but provide more economic and personal growth opportunities for residents.

Thriving.

To remain as is for once any change is made you can never get it back

Unchanged - you don't realize how wonderful it is - until it is gone - and you can never get it back - stay just as you are! We've seen change....stay the quaint town! We love it!

Upgrade older buildings in village area

Utopia with a couple speed bumps

Vacation destination keeping visitor dollars in town. Encourage vacation home development in selected areas to increase tax base.

Very minor changes from now.

We have been property owners and homeowners since 1976. Beautiful town totally. Do not do a thing to change this wonderful area. Nothing

We should become even prouder residents, sharing our heritage and environs sustainably for our children's children and visitors that seek such refuge.

We should focus on tourist related items and make Jefferson a destination instead of just a place to pass through. Cultivate our small town atmosphere to make visitors feel at home and that they want to visit. (and not feel like they are intruding) Our area is in the middle of a lot of the White Mountain Attractions and that needs to be promoted.

We would like to see it as it was 20 years ago. Less traffic - more community events - more sidewalk beauty...

44) In 25 words or less, please describe your "vision" of what the town should be like ten years from now.

Well connected to "outside" world with up-to-date technology. Really wouldn't change much except the above - we live here because of what it is now - so need to change in my opinion.

What it is now! Keep your nose questionnaire to yourself. Where's the opt out of the survey question. Who ever thought this up should be moved out of town.

Without losing the sense of our "small town" community we need to seek opportunities for younger people to stay in Jefferson - as well as current residents

Won't be much different, high taxes for sure. If we keep the school, we will spend, spend, spend! Too much upkeep. School system is way too much. Town will have a lot of back taxes.

Would like Jefferson to remain a bedroom community. Industry, energy projects would be detrimental to what the founders of Jefferson had in mind for the town. Beautiful views should be maintained. Small businesses that do not cause blights for our town. It is the peacefulness that has kept us here for many years!

Would like the Town of Jefferson to retain its small town atmosphere.

Would like to see Jefferson do something to generate revenue to help lower property taxes. Get rid of the school building.

Would like to think the town buildings issue will be behind us. Each year it's put off, more it's going to cost.

Would prefer the town to remain unchanged