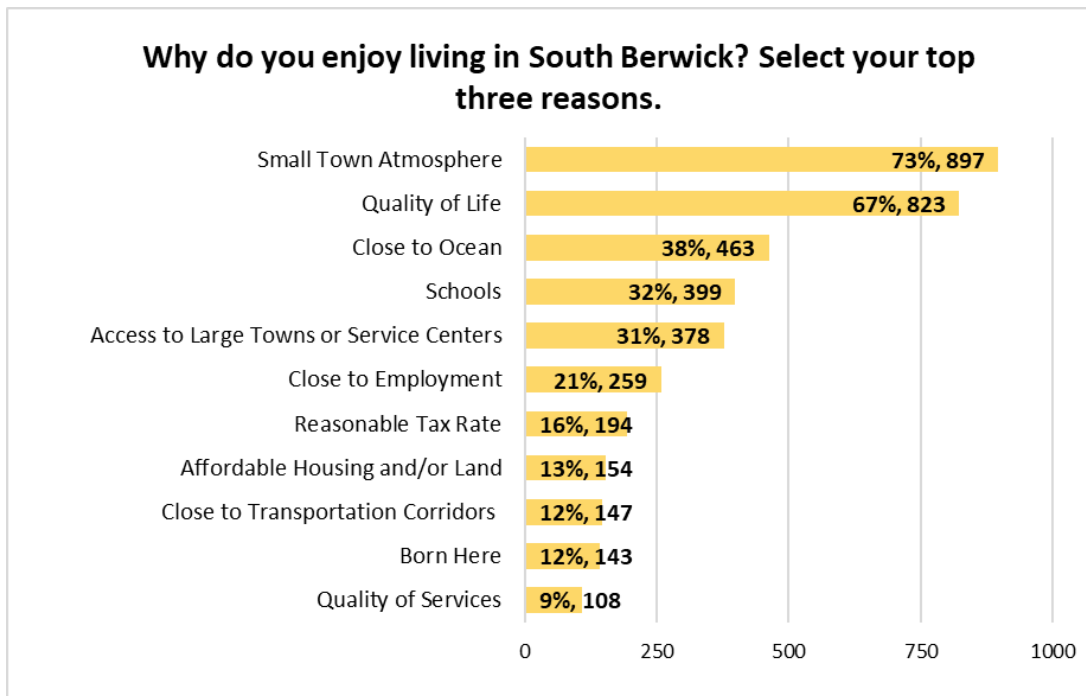
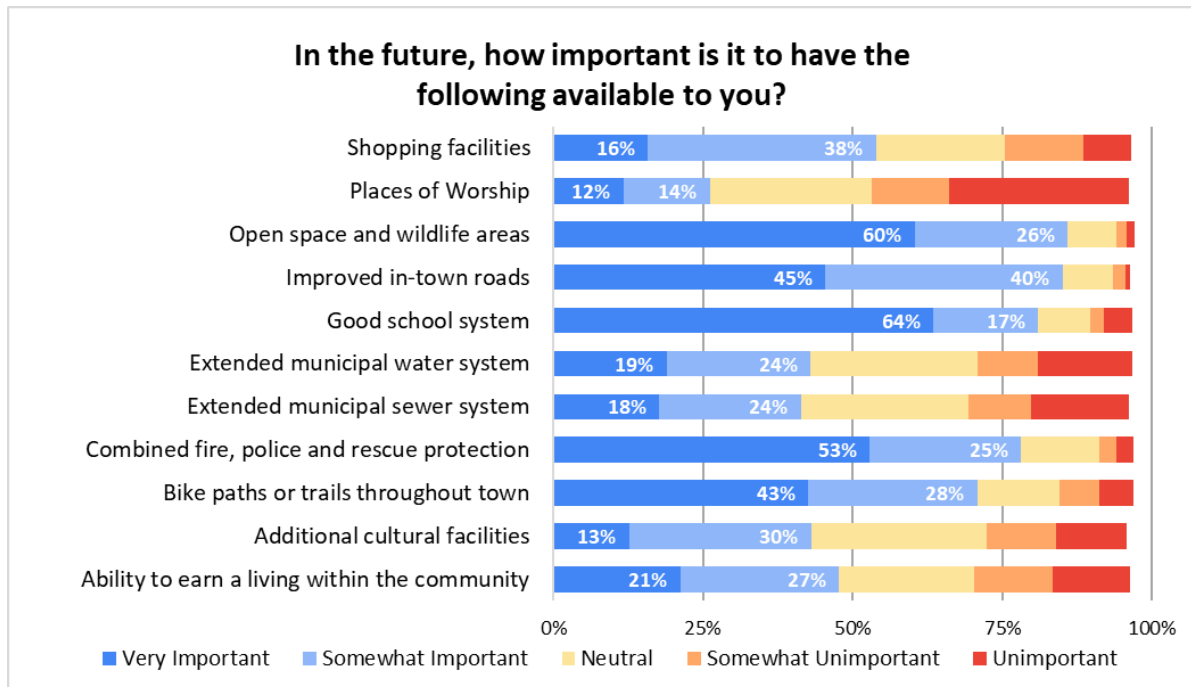


**South Berwick Community Opinion Survey  
Results Summary 1.3.2023**

**General Opinions**



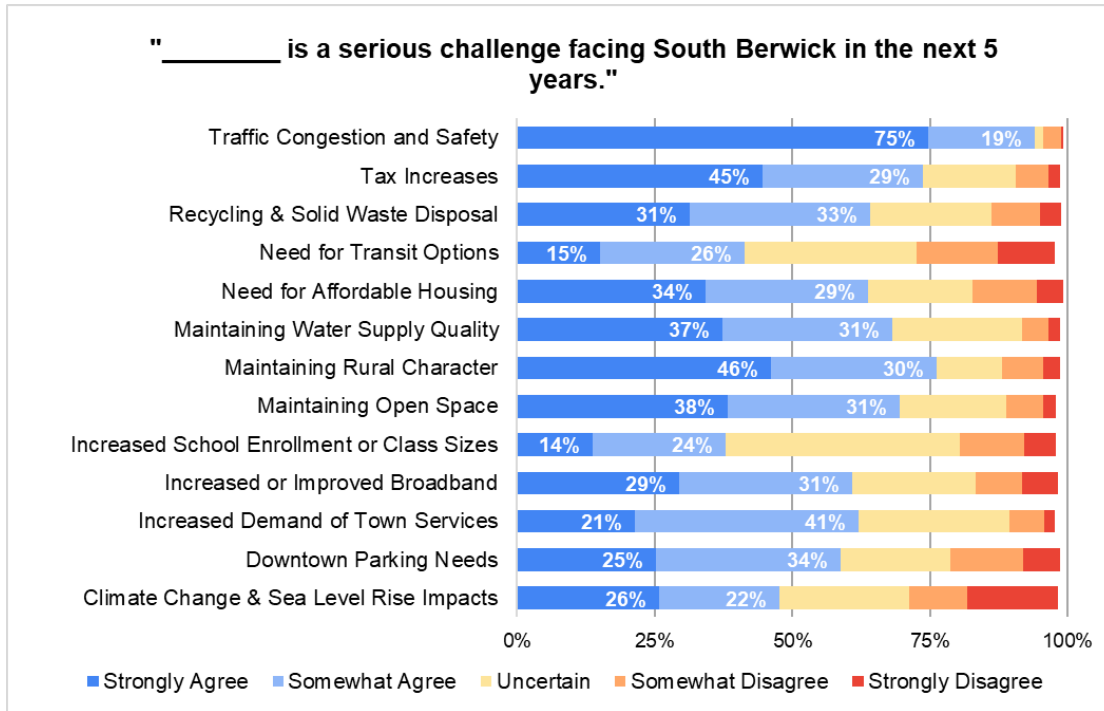
- The reasons respondents enjoy living in South Berwick is almost exactly the same as it was in 2003, with the top 5 reasons ranking in the same order both years.



- In the 2003 survey, top items were **1) Good Fire Department (78% VI)** **2) Good Police department (72% VI)** **3) Good School system (72% VI)** **4) Open space and wildlife areas (51% VI)** and **5) Combined fire, police and rescue protection (44% VI)**

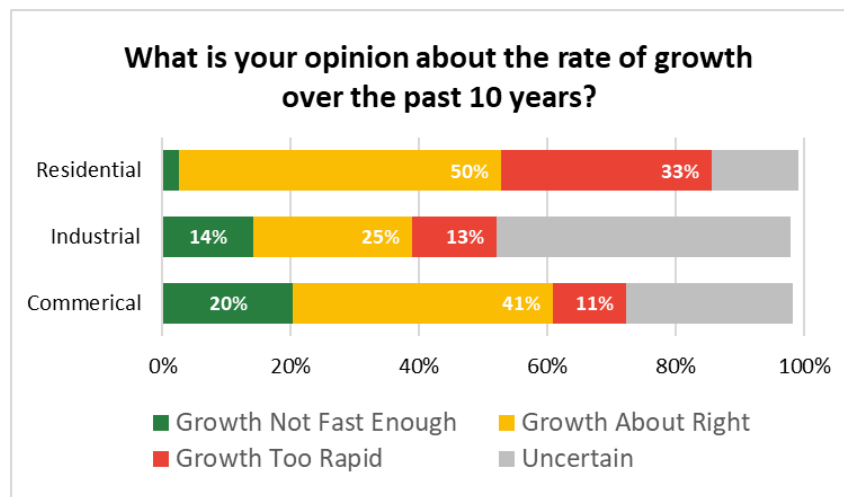
**South Berwick Community Opinion Survey  
Results Summary 1.3.2023**

- **Improved In-Town Roads** jumped from 23% saying it was very important to 45%



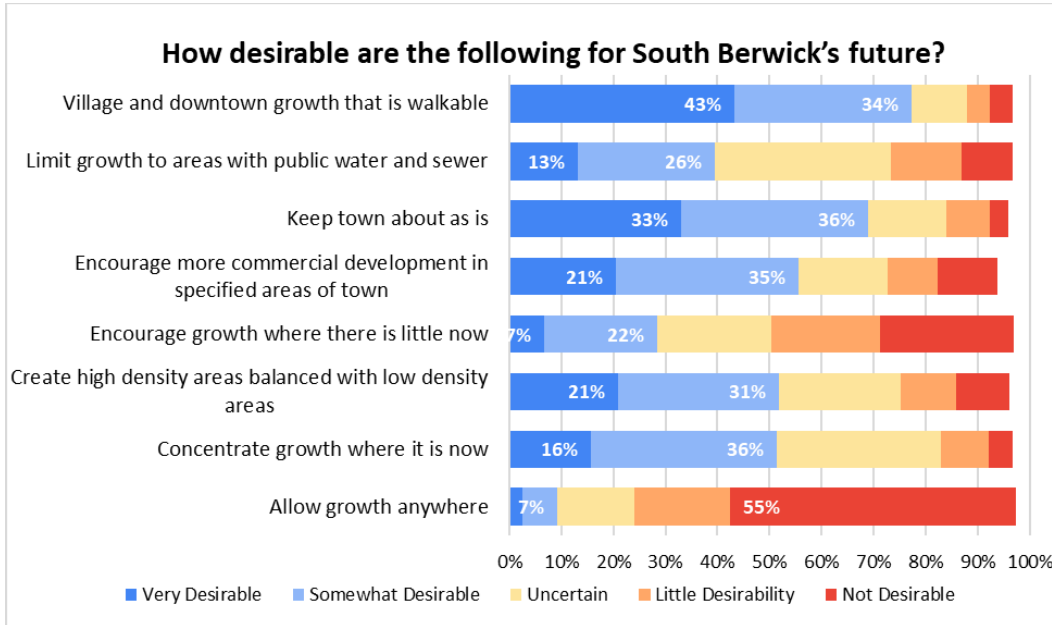
- In 2003, 80% of respondents strongly agreed that **Traffic** is a serious challenge. Another 15% somewhat agreed. Clearly, concerns about this have not been swayed.
- In 2003, 60% of respondents strongly agreed that **Tax Increases** were a serious challenge, this has dropped to 45%
- Concerns about **Maintaining Rural Character** have stayed the same, with 46% of respondents strongly agreeing in both the 2003 and 2022 surveys, and 27% and 30% somewhat agreeing respectively.

**Development & Growth**



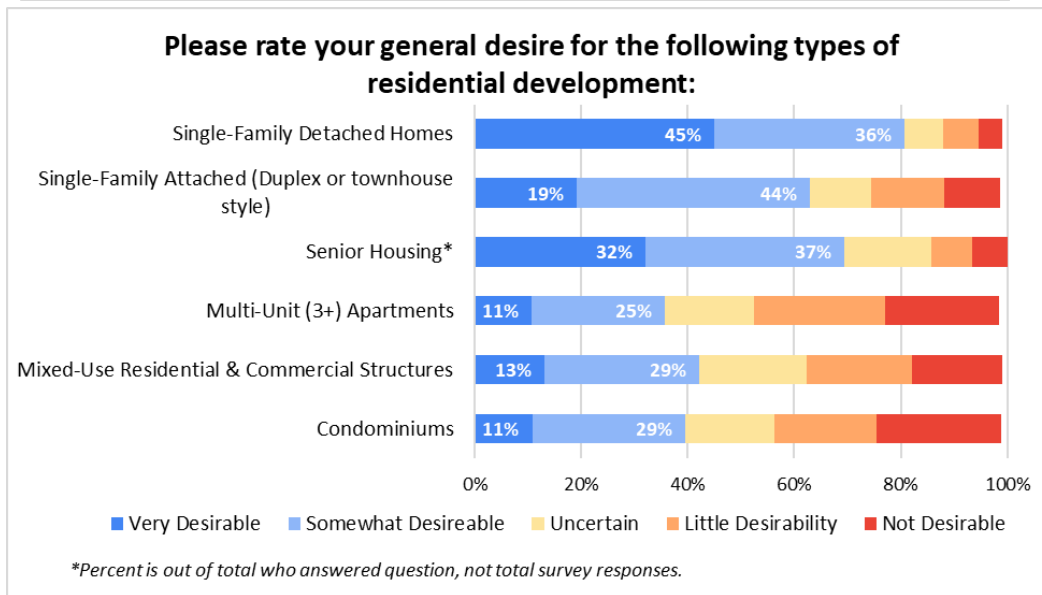
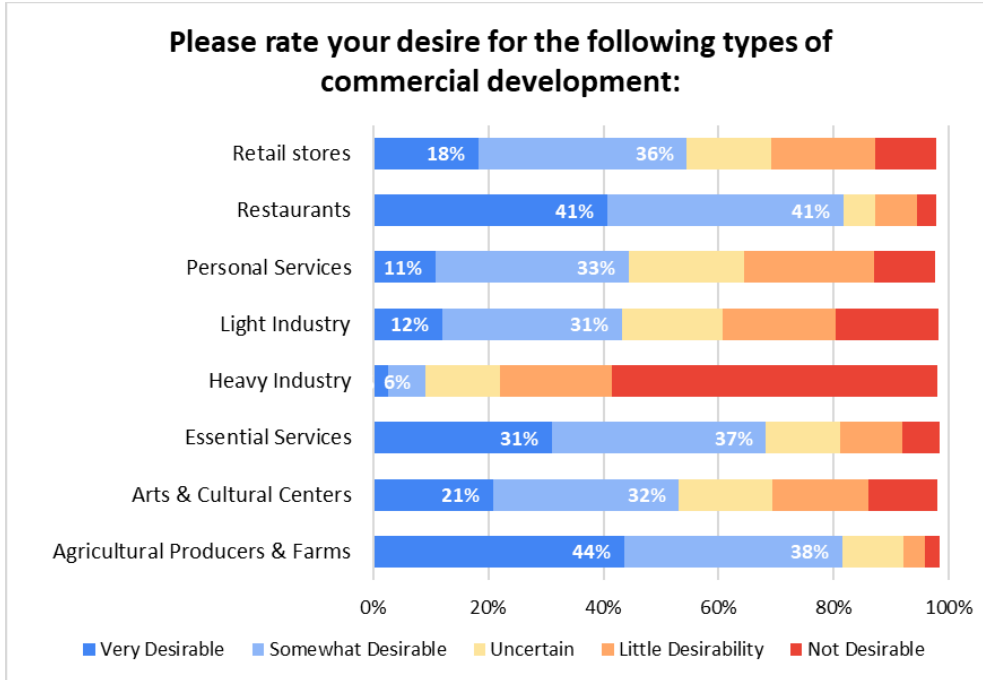
**South Berwick Community Opinion Survey  
Results Summary 1.3.2023**

- In 2003, 63% of respondents said **residential growth was too rapid**, that has dropped to 33%.
- In 2003, over 30% of respondents **thought that commercial and industrial growth was not fast enough**. Sentiments are similar for commercial growth in 2022, but desire for industrial development has dropped by almost half.

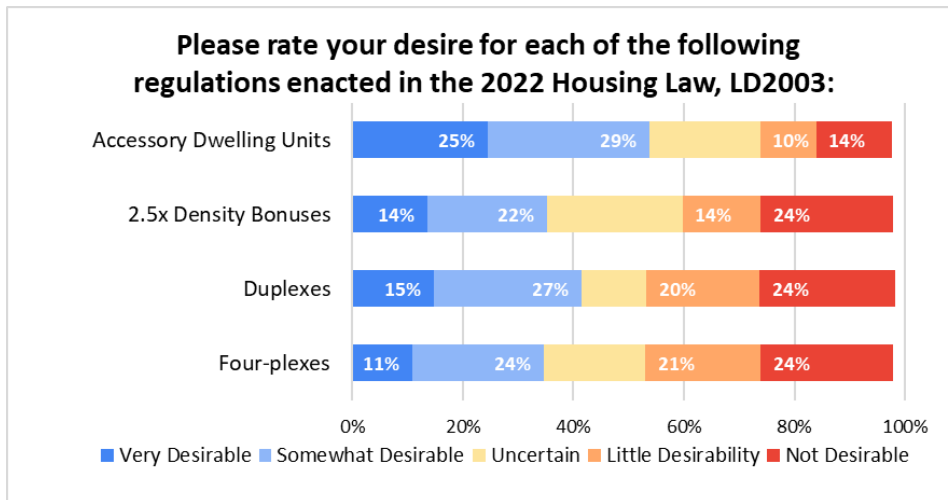
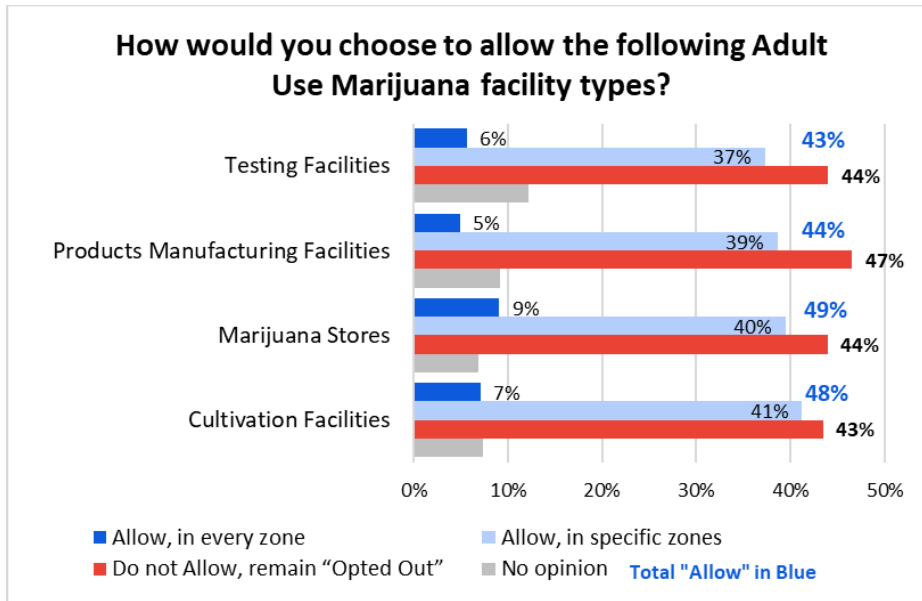


- Sentiments about development patterns are similar to 2003.
- **Keeping town about as it is** was most desirable in 2003 (40% VD) but has decreased slightly in 2022 (33% VD).
- 19% said **limiting growth to areas with public water and sewer** was very desirable in 2003, which has also decreased to 13% in 2022. In both years, about 25% saw it as somewhat desirable.
- **Encourage growth where there is little now**, and **allowing growth everywhere** were undesirable in both surveys.
- New options **“village and downtown growth that is walkable”** and **“encourage more commercial growth in specified areas of town”** both were perceived as more desirable than most other options.

**South Berwick Community Opinion Survey  
Results Summary 1.3.2023**

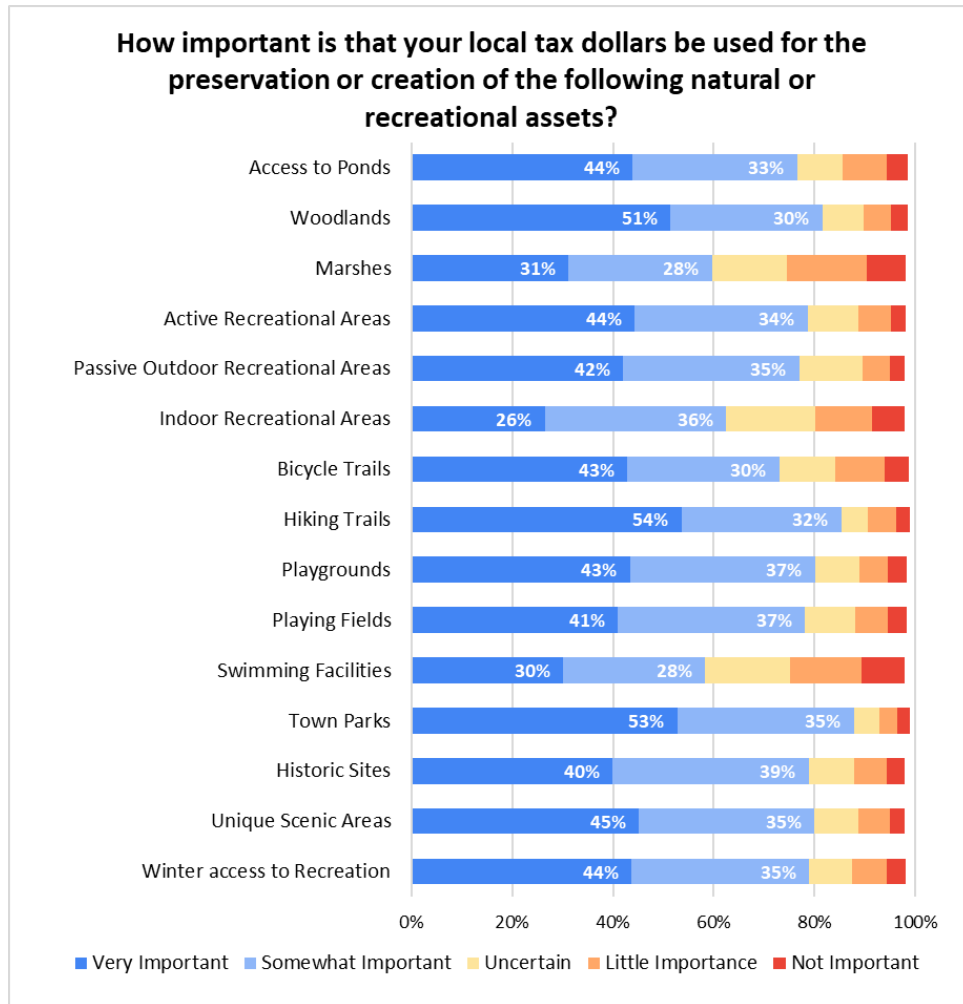


**South Berwick Community Opinion Survey  
Results Summary 1.3.2023**



**Town Services & Taxes**

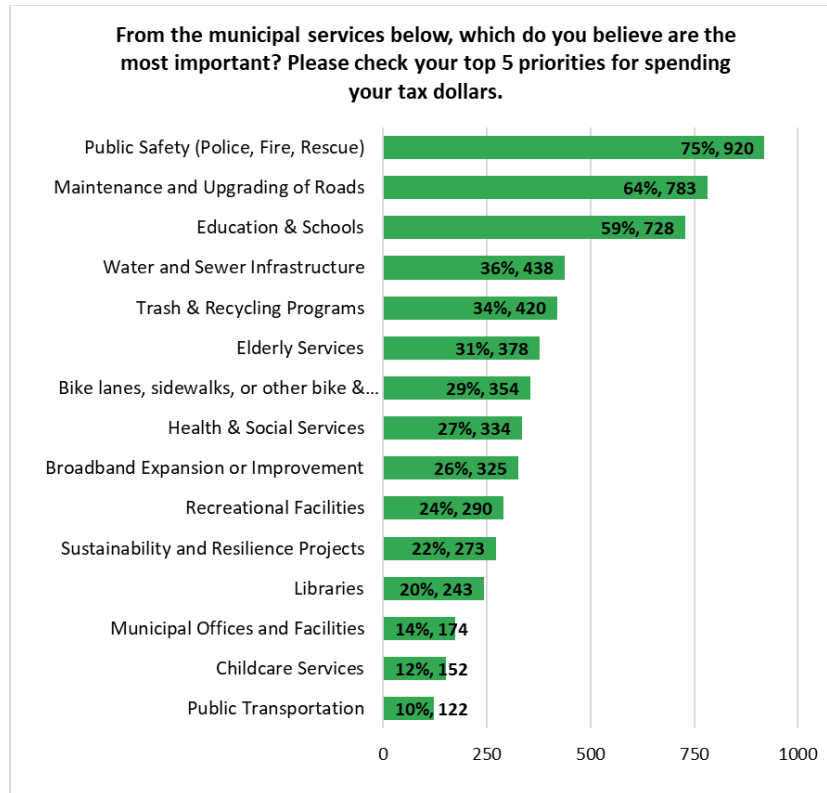
**South Berwick Community Opinion Survey  
Results Summary 1.3.2023**



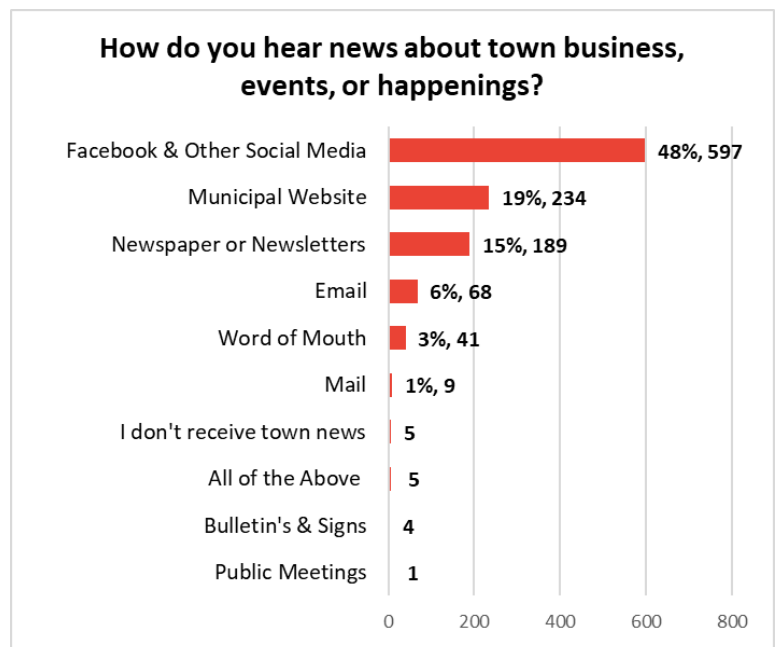
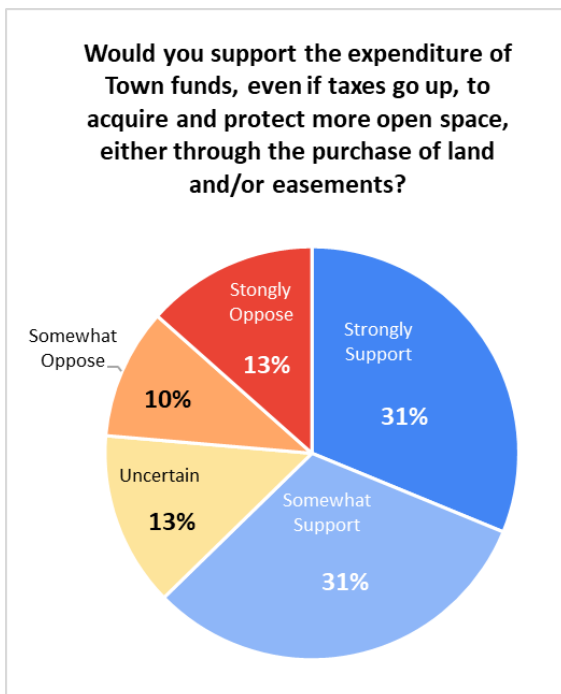
Natural or Recreational Asset	2003 % Very Important
Access to ponds	17%
Woodlands	31%
Marshes	16%
Active recreational areas	19%
Passive outdoor recreational areas	22%
Indoor recreational facilities	12%
Bicycle trails	21%
Hiking trails	22%
Playgrounds	23%
Playing fields	21%
Swimming facilities	15%
Town parks	29%
Historic sites	22%
Unique scenic areas	26%

- Since 2003, the importance of spending tax dollars on the preservation & creation of natural and recreational assets as increased across the board. –
- For almost every asset, the number of respondents who think the preservation and/or creation is very important has almost doubled.

## South Berwick Community Opinion Survey Results Summary 1.3.2023

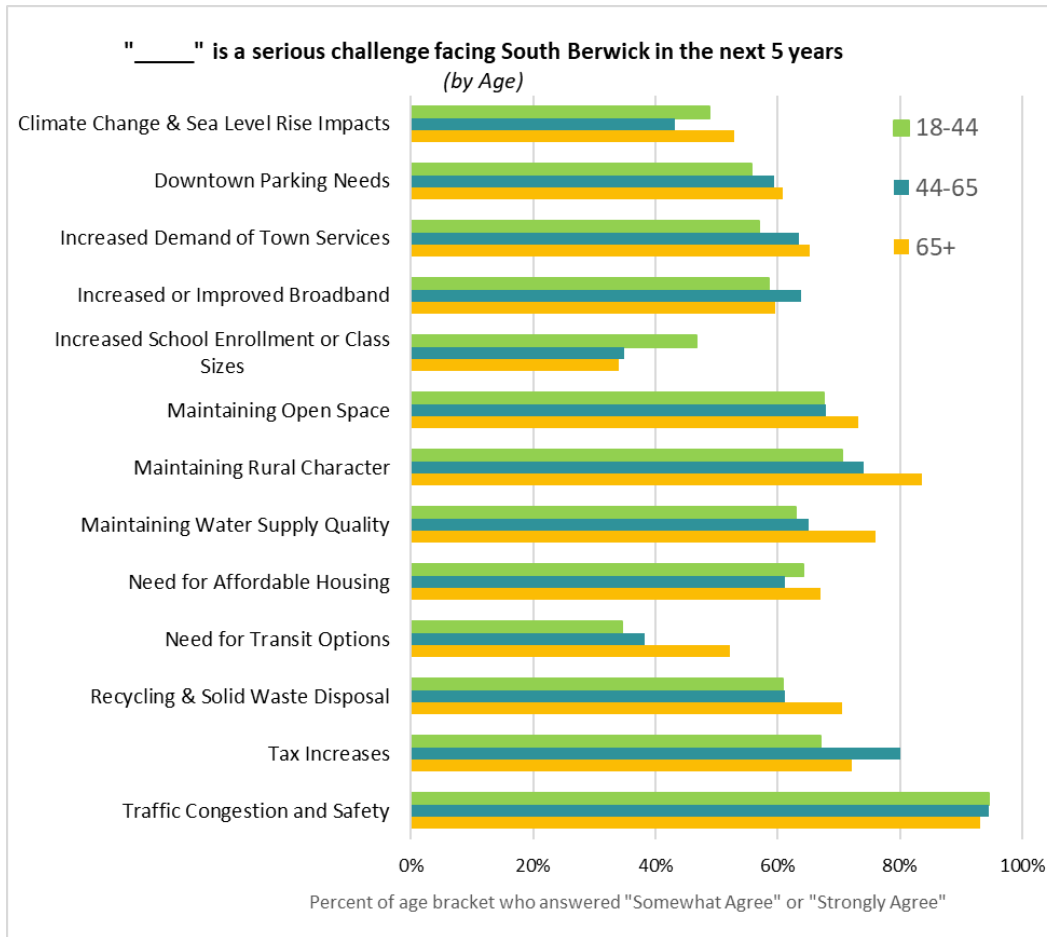


- Sentiments were similar in 2003, with Public Safety and Maintenance and upgrading of roads ranking highest in both surveys. **Water and Sewer infrastructure** ranked higher than **Schools** in 2003.



**South Berwick Community Opinion Survey  
Results Summary 1.3.2023**

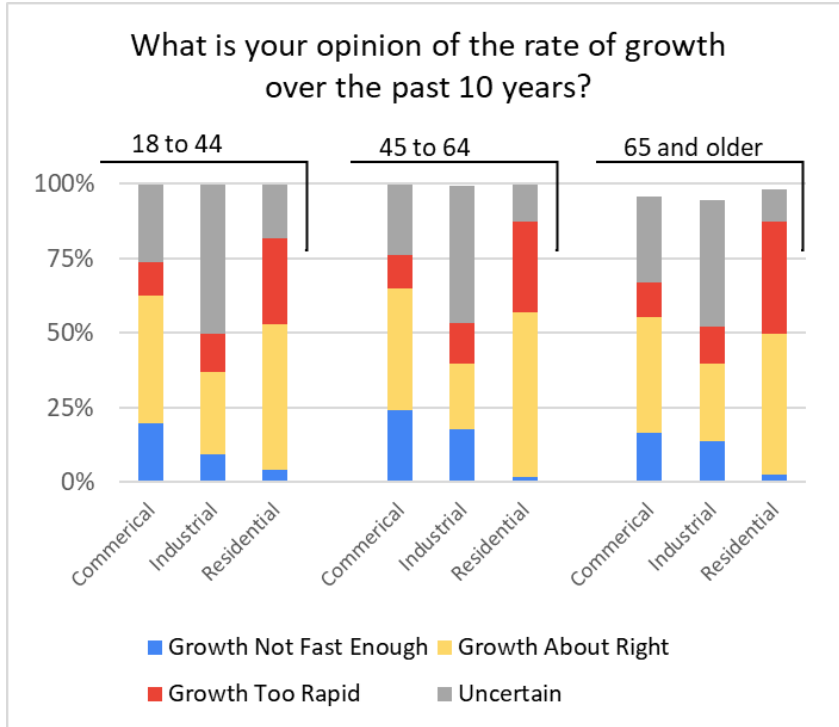
**Responses by Age**



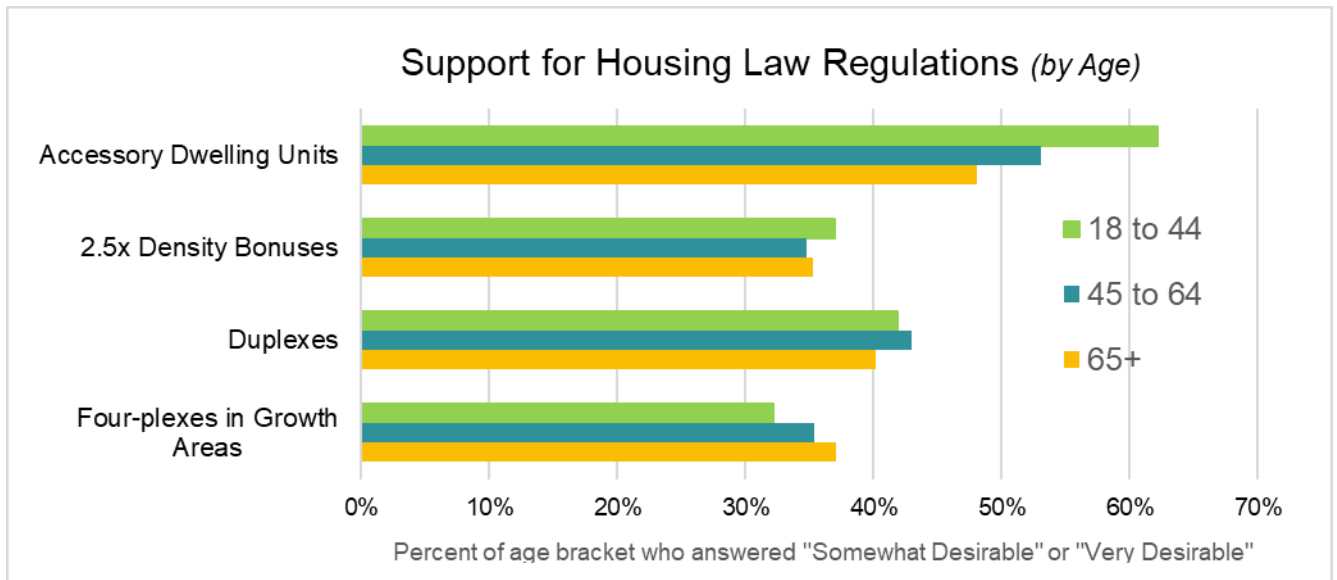
- Almost all respondents agree that *Traffic Congestion and Safety* is an issue, regardless of age.
- Respondents over 65 are more concerned about *Maintaining Rural Character* than other age groups
- Respondents over 65 are more concerned about the *Need for Transit Options* than other age groups, pointing to the need for transit for other populations without access to vehicles or drivers.



**South Berwick Community Opinion Survey  
Results Summary 1.3.2023**

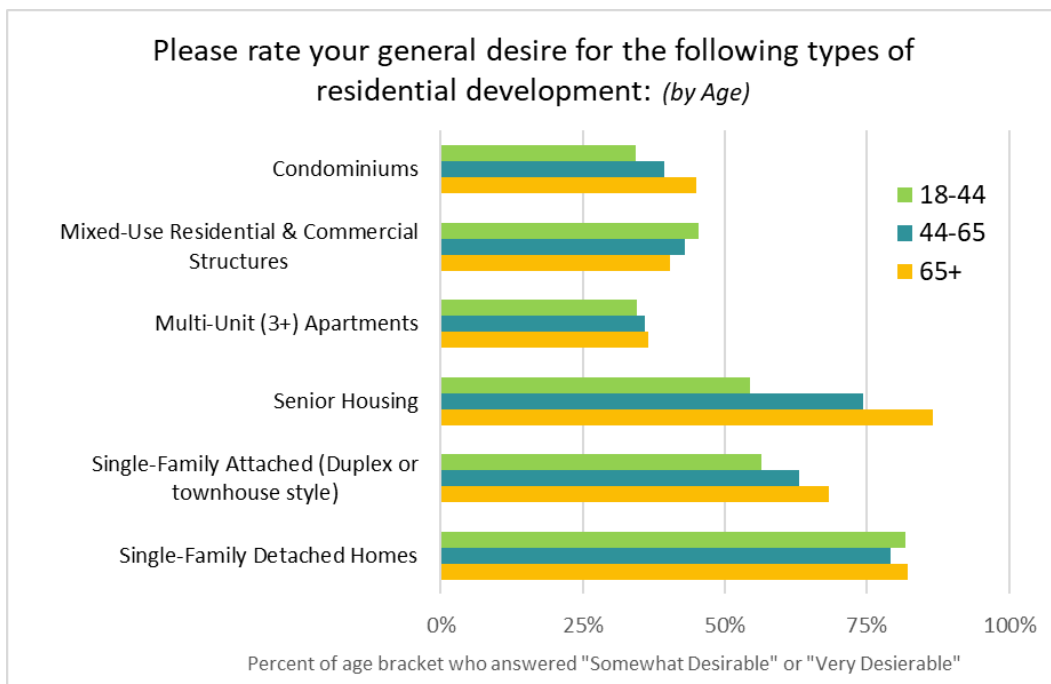
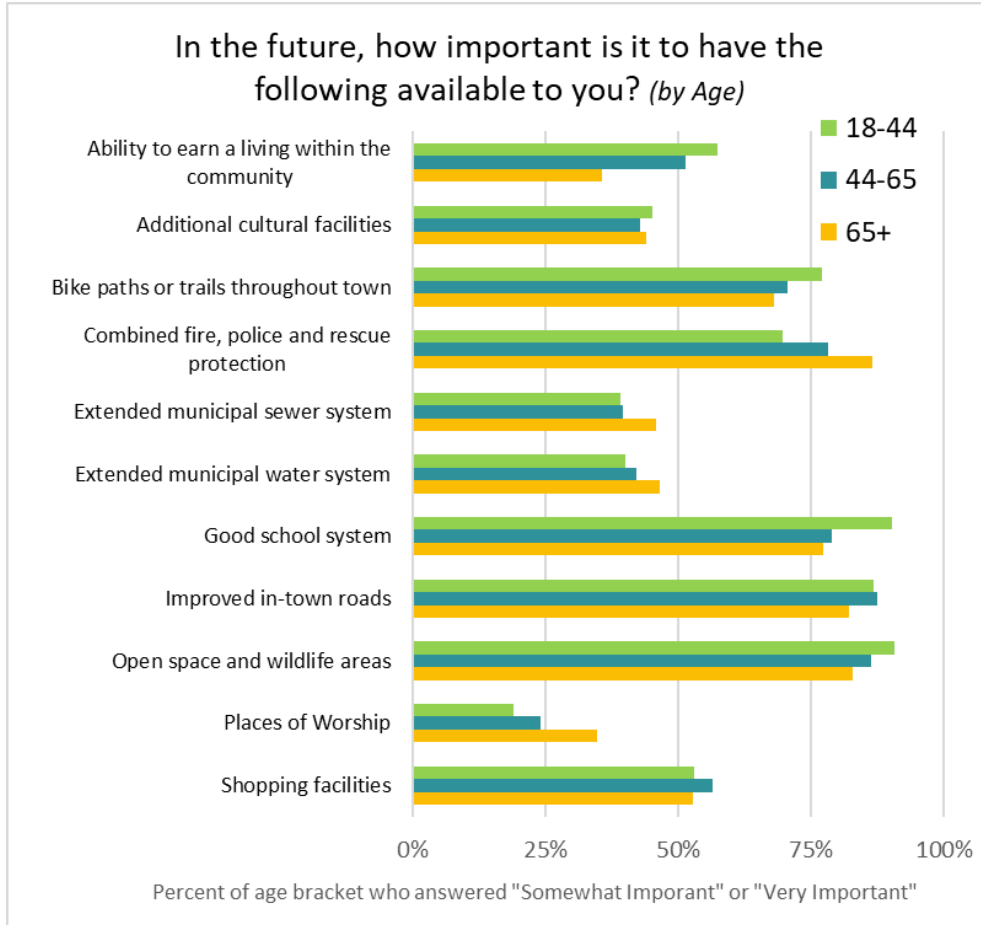


- Opinions about the rate of growth are similar across age groups. Those under 65 had a slightly stronger desire for more commercial development.

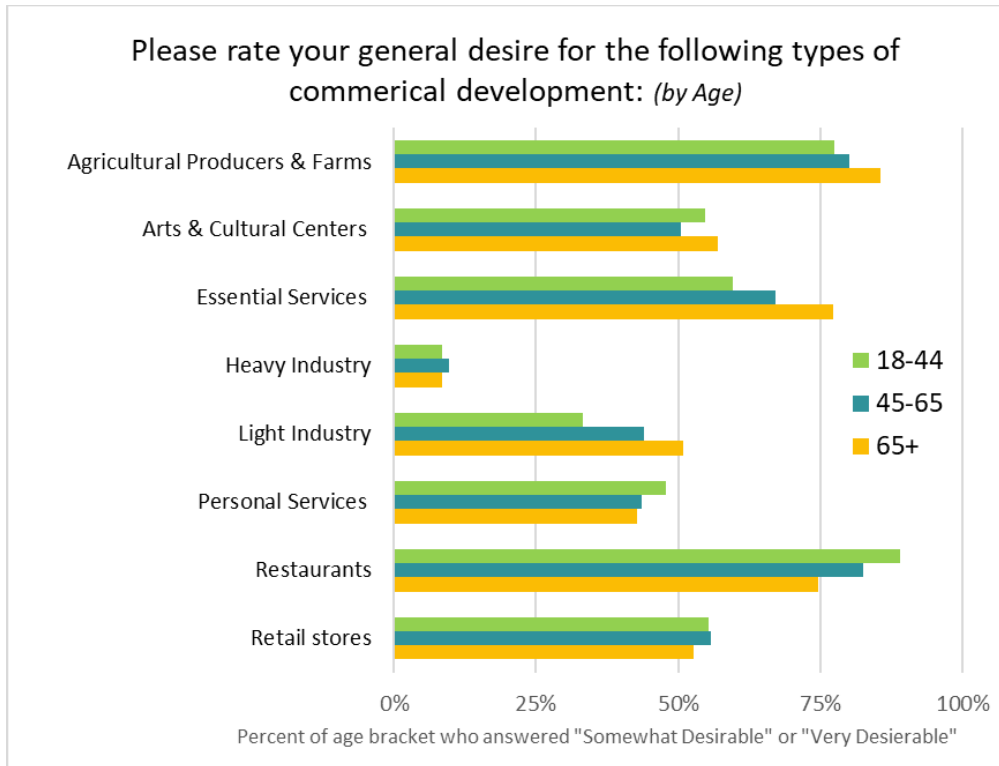


- Those ages 18-44 had the strongest desire for accessory dwelling units allowed throughout the community.
- Less than half of all respondents through the rest of the housing regulations were desirable, with little difference regardless of age group.
-

**South Berwick Community Opinion Survey  
Results Summary 1.3.2023**



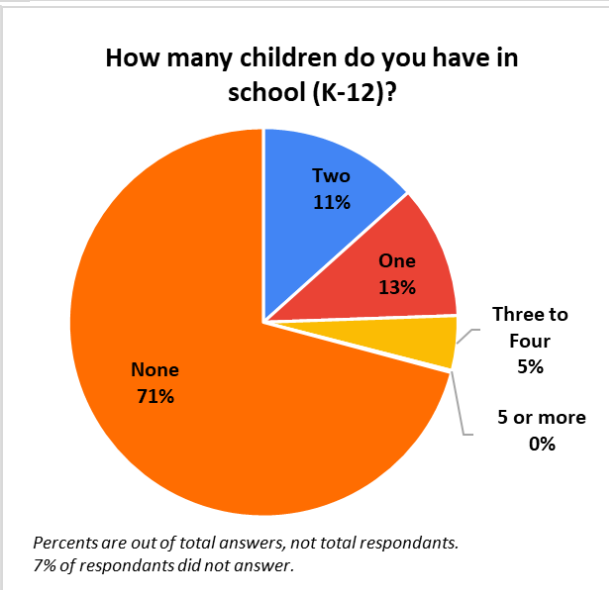
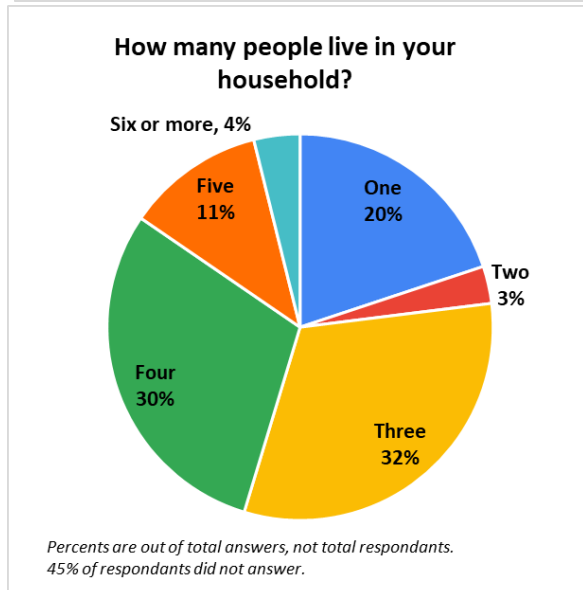
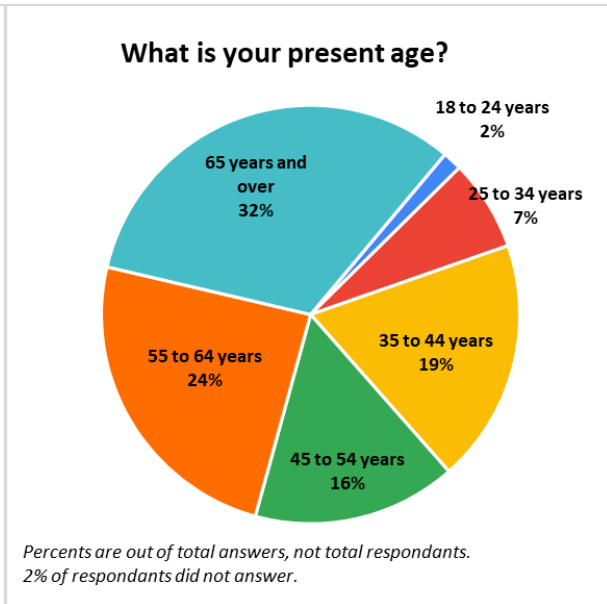
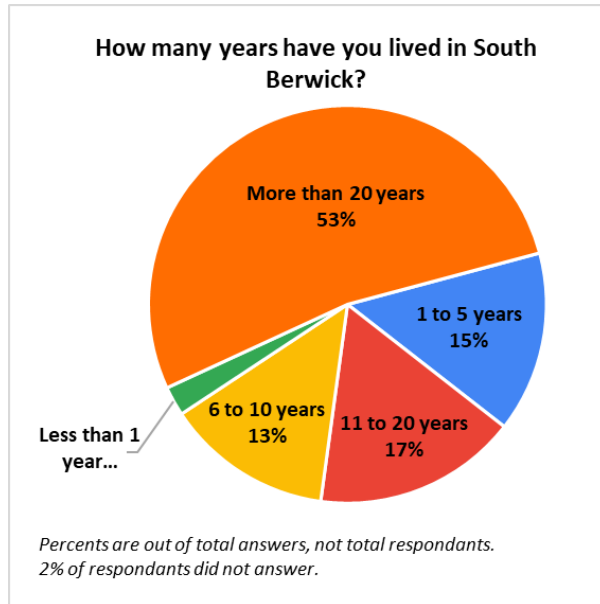
**South Berwick Community Opinion Survey  
Results Summary 1.3.2023**



**South Berwick Community Opinion Survey  
Results Summary 1.3.2023**

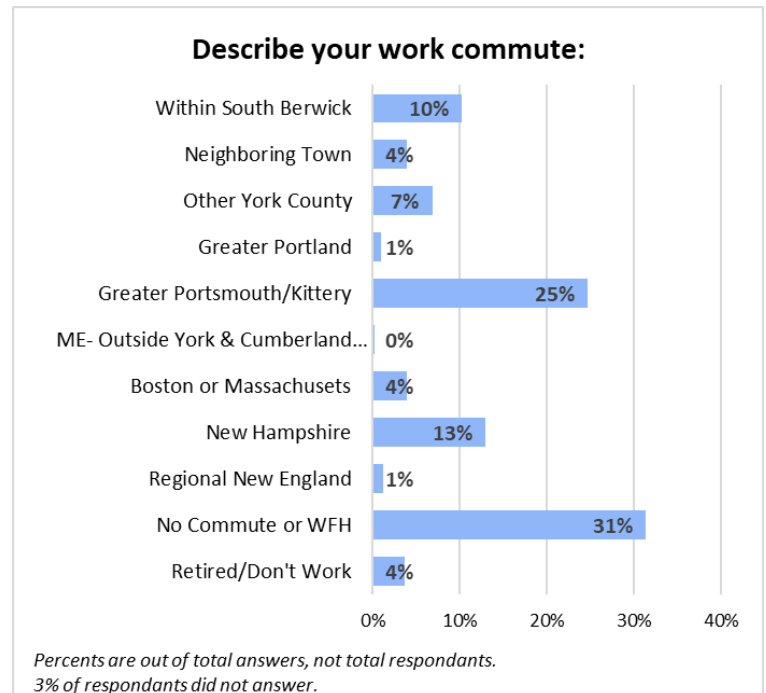
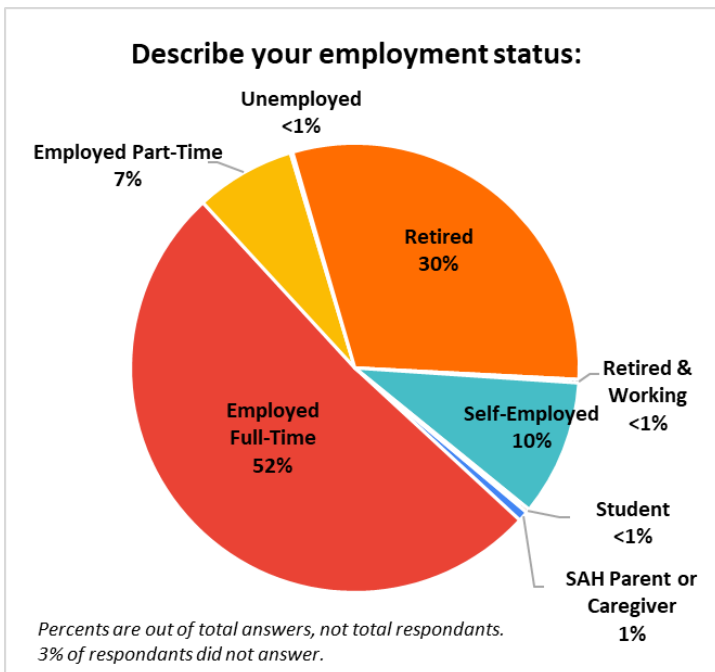
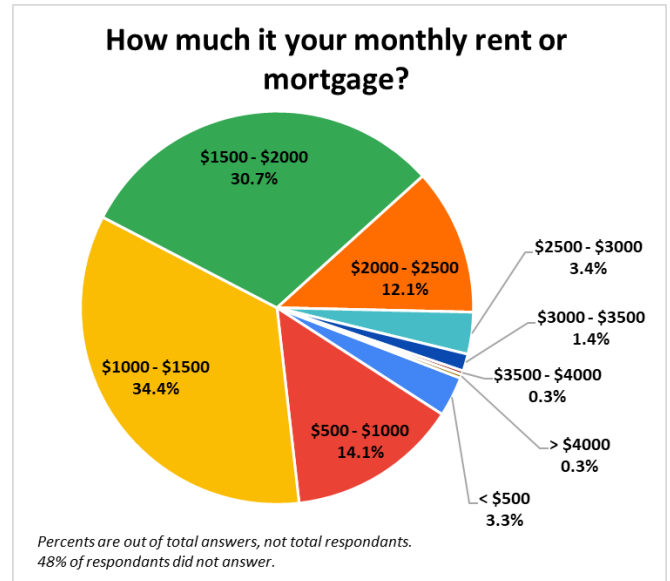
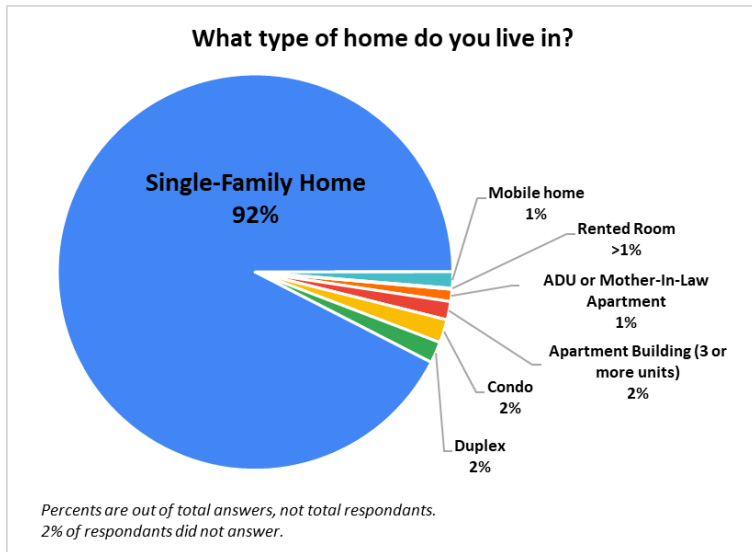
**Demographics**

Residency Status	Count	Percent
Year-round resident (more than 6 months/year)	1170	95%
Seasonal resident (less than 6 months/year)	23	2%
Non-resident property owner	18	1%
Non-resident business owner	2	0%
No Answer	18	1%



**South Berwick Community Opinion Survey  
Results Summary 1.3.2023**

Do you own or rent your primary residence?		
Own	1160	94%
Rent	45	4%
No Answer	26	2%



- **Describe your work commute:** Low number of “Retired/Don’t Work” responses compared to the employment status question is due to “Retired” not being an option in

**South Berwick Community Opinion Survey  
Results Summary 1.3.2023**

the work commute question. Some respondents entered “Retired” as an “Other” option, but many likely responded “No Commute/WFH” which was intended for working adults with no commute.

