

APPENDICES TO THE MASTER PLAN

**Town of Cheshire,
Massachusetts**

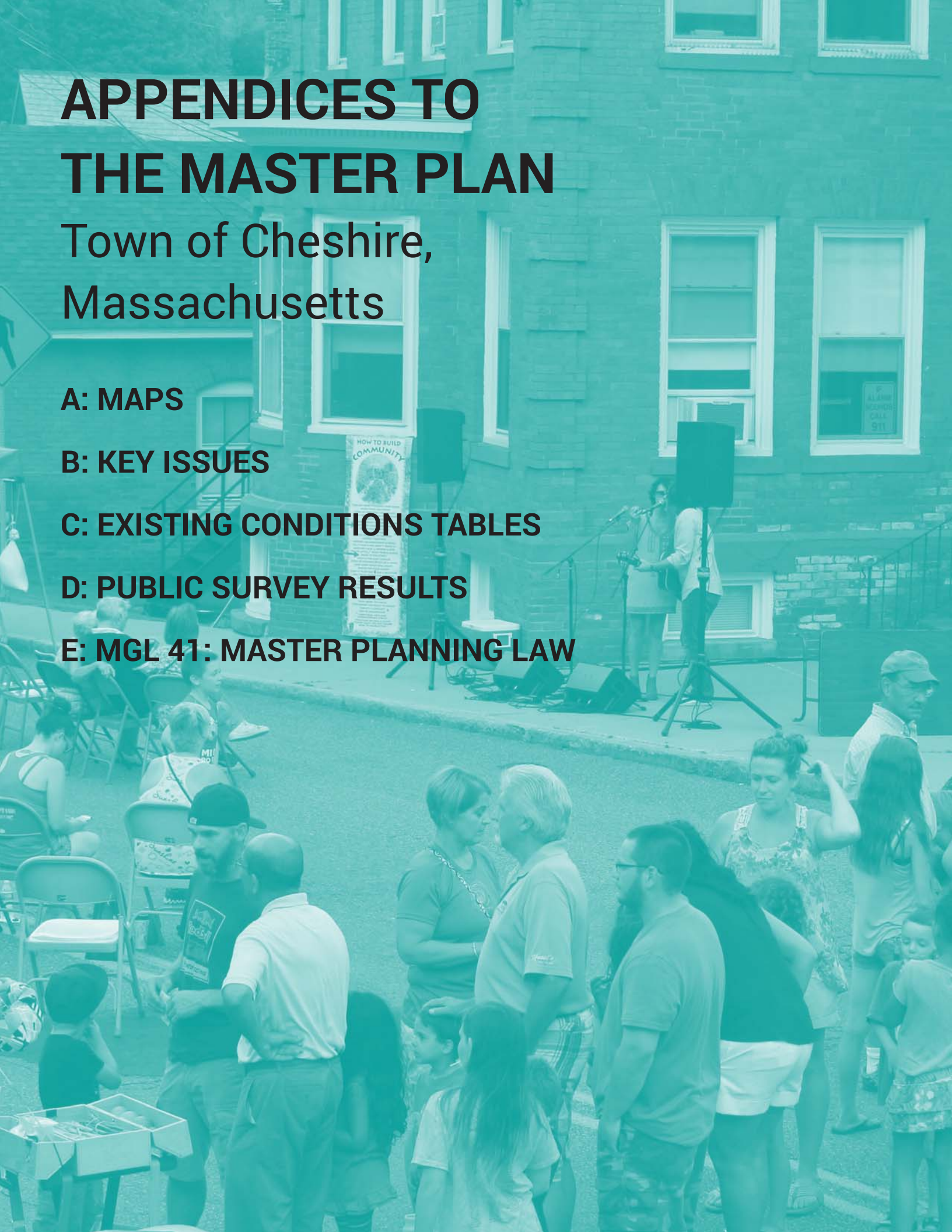
A: MAPS

B: KEY ISSUES

C: EXISTING CONDITIONS TABLES

D: PUBLIC SURVEY RESULTS

E: MGL 41: MASTER PLANNING LAW



APPENDIX A: MAPS

LIST OF MAPS

Map 1—Regional Context

Map 2—Infrastructure

Map 3—Road Jurisdiction

Map 3a—Traffic Accidents

Map 4—Current Land Use

Map 5—Zoning

Map 6—Development Trend

Map 7—Soils and Geologic Features

Map 8—Unique Features

Map 9—Water Resources

Map 10—Vegetation and Fisheries and Wildlife

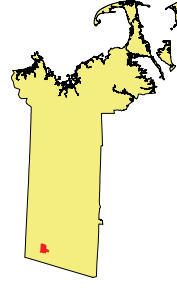
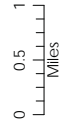
Map 11—Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

Map 12—Historic Resources

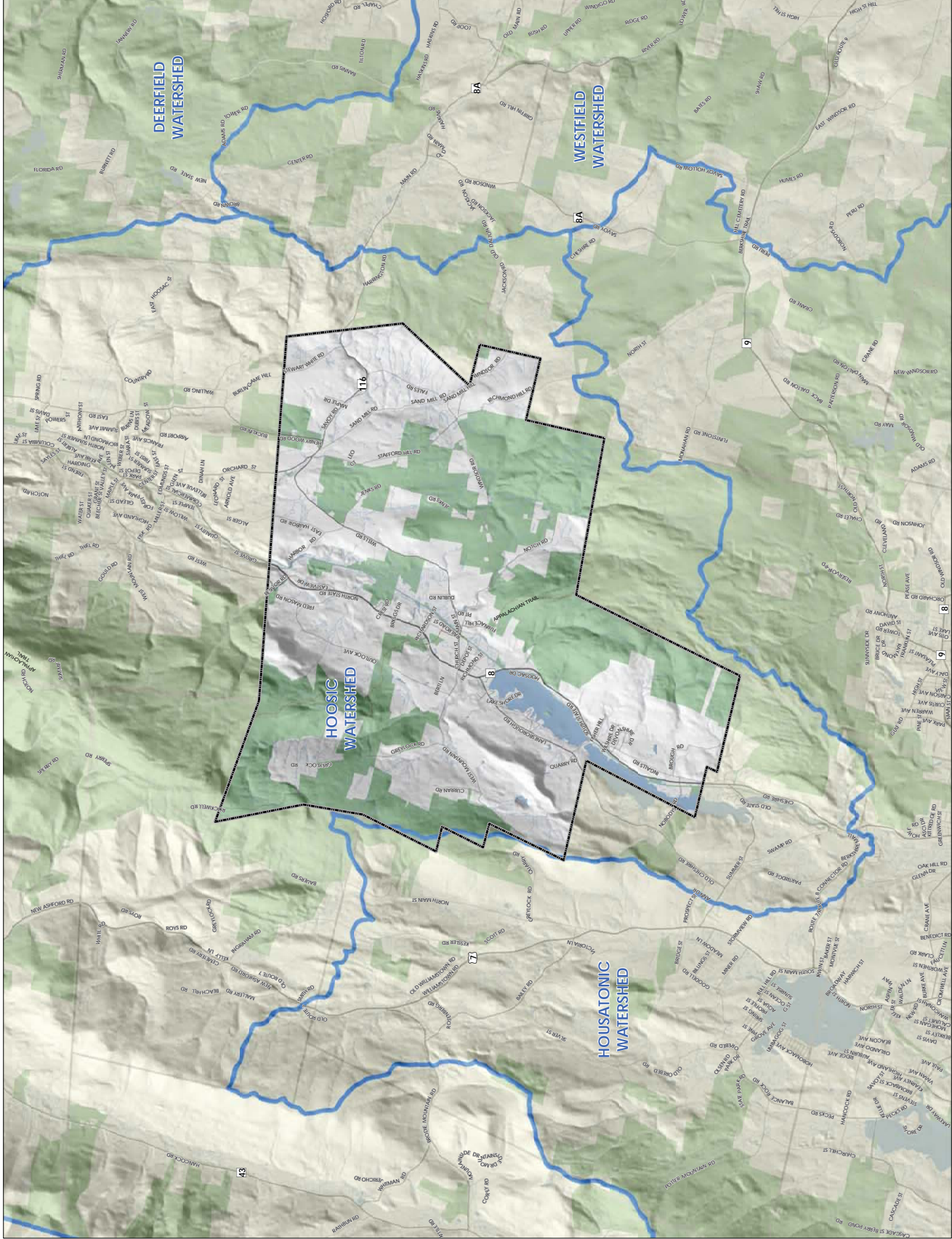
Town of Cheshire Master Plan

Map 1. Regional Context

-  Major Watersheds
-  Towns
-  Interstate
-  Major Road
-  Minor Road
-  Local Road
-  Appalachian Trail
-  Stream
-  Wetland
-  Open Water
-  Protected Land

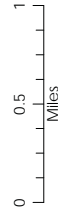


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Town of Cheshire Master Plan Map 2. Infrastructure

-  Water Pipes
-  Towns
-  Interstate
-  Major Road
-  Minor Road
-  Local Road
-  Appalachian Trail
-  Stream
-  Wetland
-  Open Water



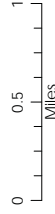
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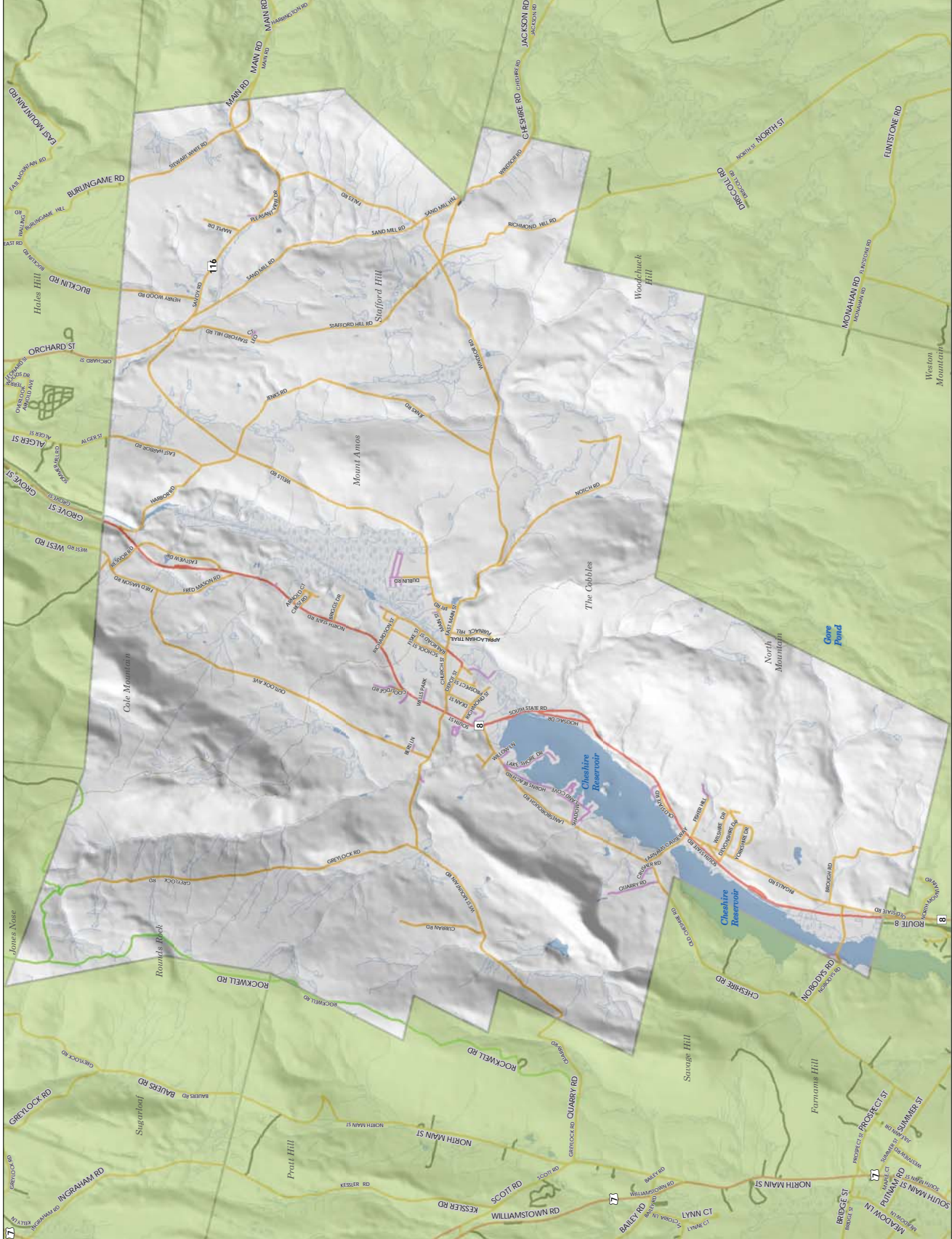
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Map 3. Road Jurisdiction

- Jurisdiction**
-  MassDOT Ownership
 -  Town Ownership
 -  Private Ownership
 -  DCR Ownership
 -  Towns
 -  Appalachian Trail
 -  Stream
 -  Wetland
 -  Open Water



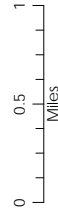
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Town of Cheshire

Master Plan Accidents

- Accidents
- ☒ Towns
- ↗ Interstate
- ↘ Major Road
- ↘ Minor Road
- ↘ Local Road
- ~ Appalachian Trail
- ~ Stream
- ~ Wetland
- ~ Open Water



























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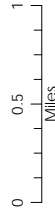


Town of Cheshire

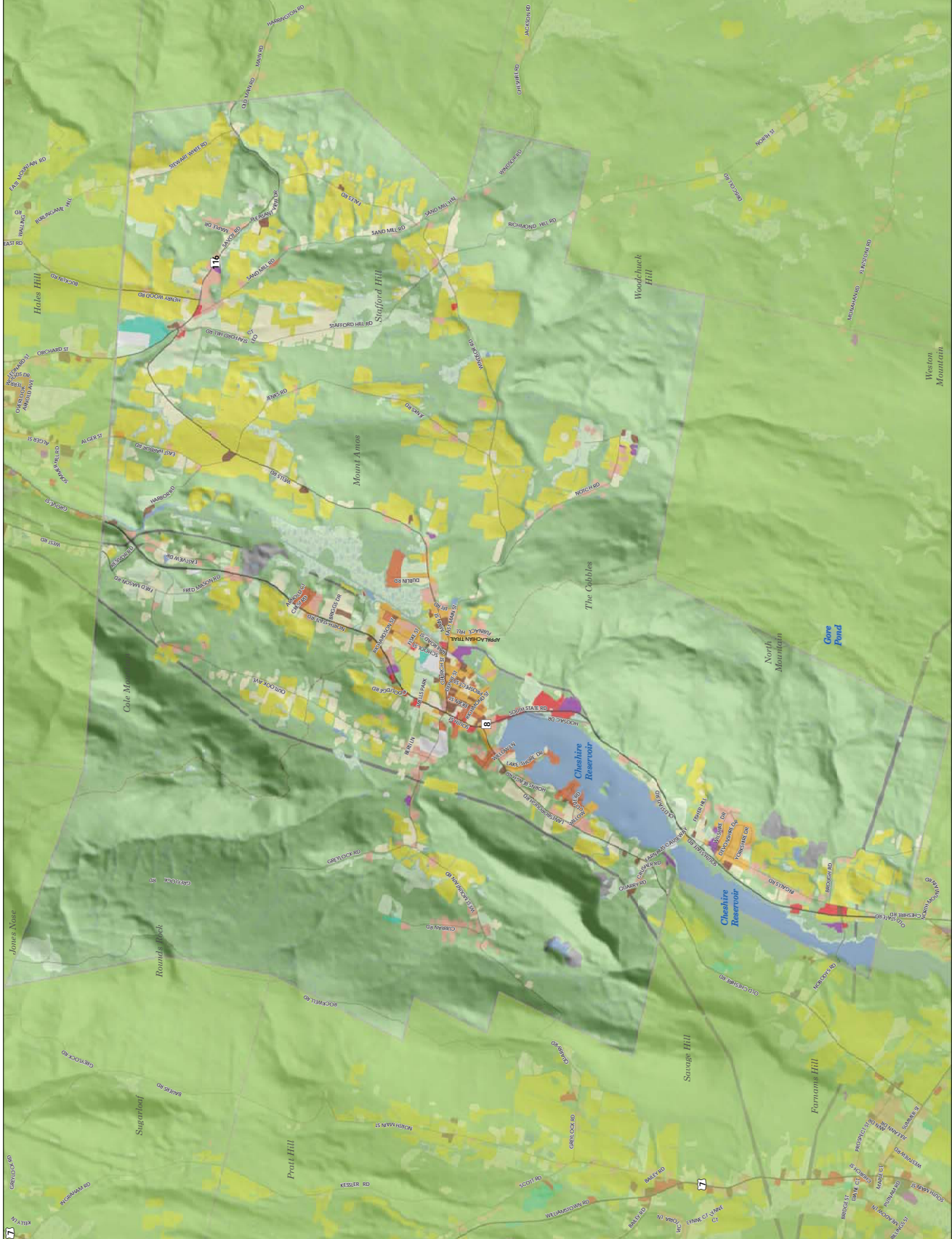
Master Plan

Map 4. Current Land Use (2005)

-  Agriculture
-  Forest
-  Commercial
-  Industrial
-  Mining
-  Multi-Family Residential
-  High Density Residential
-  Medium Density Residential
-  Low Density Residential
-  Very Low Density Residential
-  Recreation
-  Open Land
-  Urban Public/Institutional
-  Utilities / Transportation
-  Water
-  Towns
-  Interstate
-  Major Road
-  Minor Road
-  Local Road
-  Appalachian Trail
-  Stream
-  Wetland
-  Open Water



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Town of Cheshire Master Plan Map 5. Zoning Map

- Zoning**
- Agricultural Residential (A-R)
 - Residential (R-1)
 - Business (B)
 - Towns
 - Interstate
 - Major Road
 - Minor Road
 - Local Road
 - Appalachian Trail
 - Stream
 - Wetland
 - Open Water



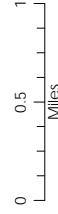
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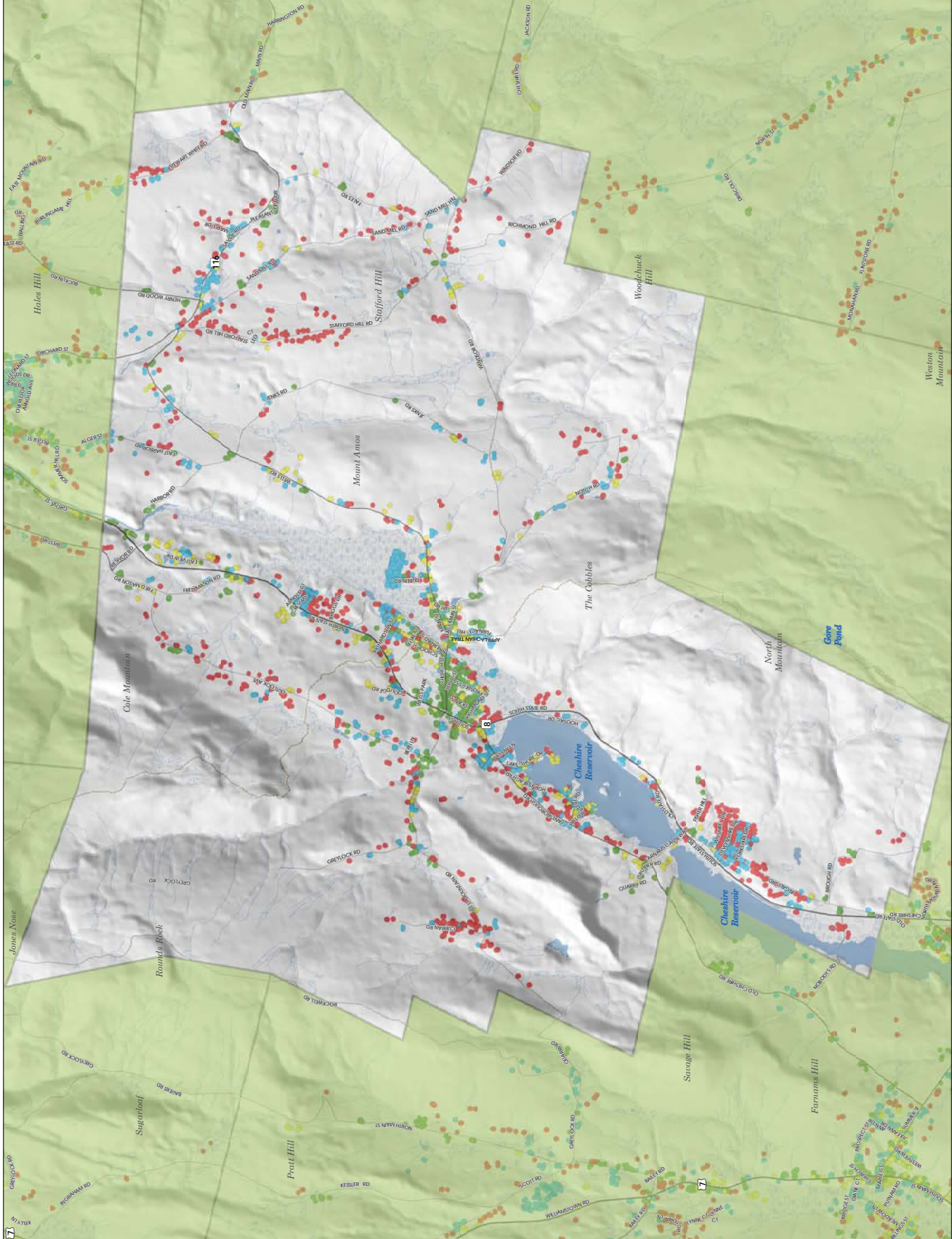
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Map 6. Development Trend

- Building Age**
- Pre 1900
 - 1901 - 1950
 - 1951 - 1975
 - Post 1975
- Towns**
- ⊕
- Interstate**
-
- Major Road**
-
- Minor Road**
-
- Local Road**
-
- Appalachian Trail**
-
- Stream**
-
- Wetland**
-
- Open Water**
-












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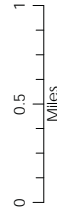


Town of Cheshire

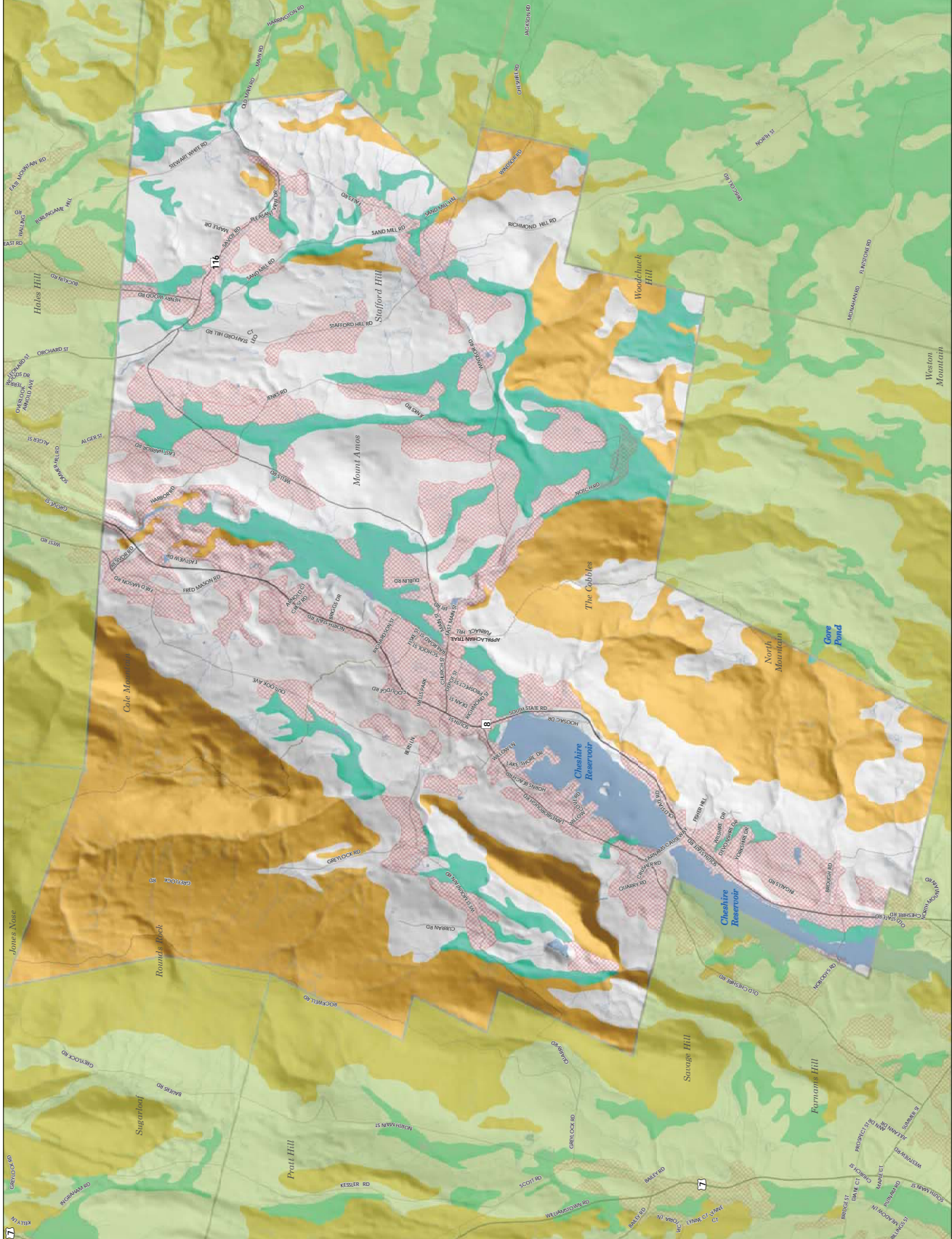
Master Plan

Map 7. Soils and Geologic Features

-  Prime Agricultural Soils
-  Poorly Drained Soils
-  Excessively Drained Soils
-  Towns
-  Interstate
-  Major Road
-  Minor Road
-  Local Road
-  Appalachian Trail
-  Stream
-  Wetland
-  Open Water
















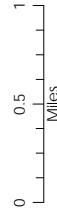
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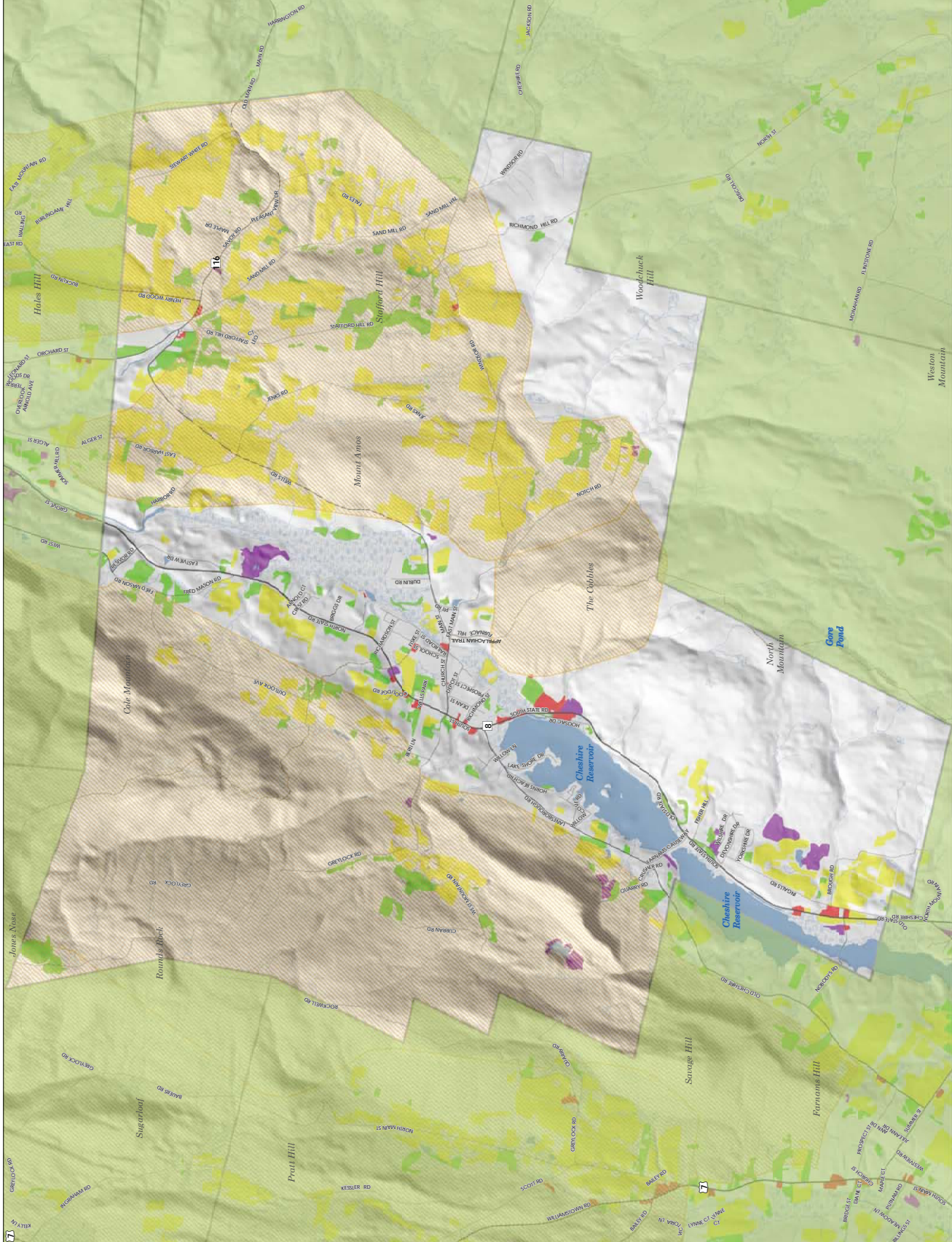
Map 8. Unique Features

-  DCR Scenic Landscapes
-  Open Land
-  Agricultural Land
-  Commercial Land
-  Industrial Land
-  Towns
-  Interstate
-  Major Road
-  Minor Road
-  Local Road
-  Appalachian Trail
-  Stream
-  Wetland
-  Open Water



Berkshire
Regional
Planning
Commission

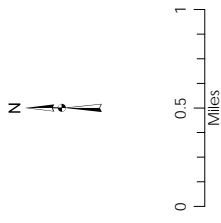
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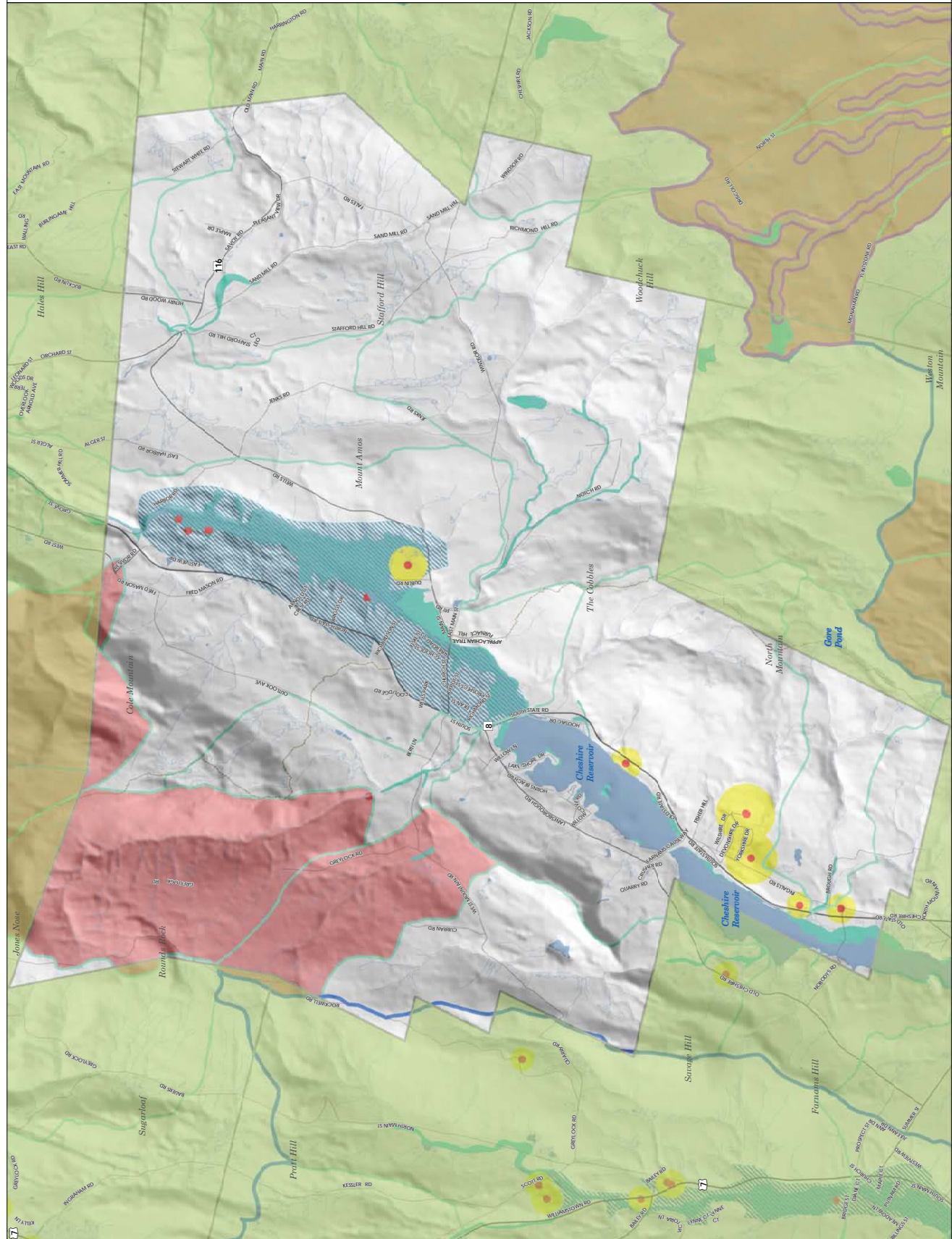
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Map 9. Water Resources

- Public Water Supplies
- Interim Wellhead Protection Area
- Water Supply Zone II
- Surface Water Protection Zone
- Outstanding Resource Waters
- FEMA 100yr Floodplain
- Watersheds
- Subwatersheds
- Towns
- ↔ Interstate
- ↔ Major Road
- ↔ Minor Road
- ↔ Local Road
- ↔ Appalachian Trail
- ~ Stream
- ~ Wetland
- ~ Open Water



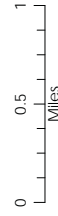
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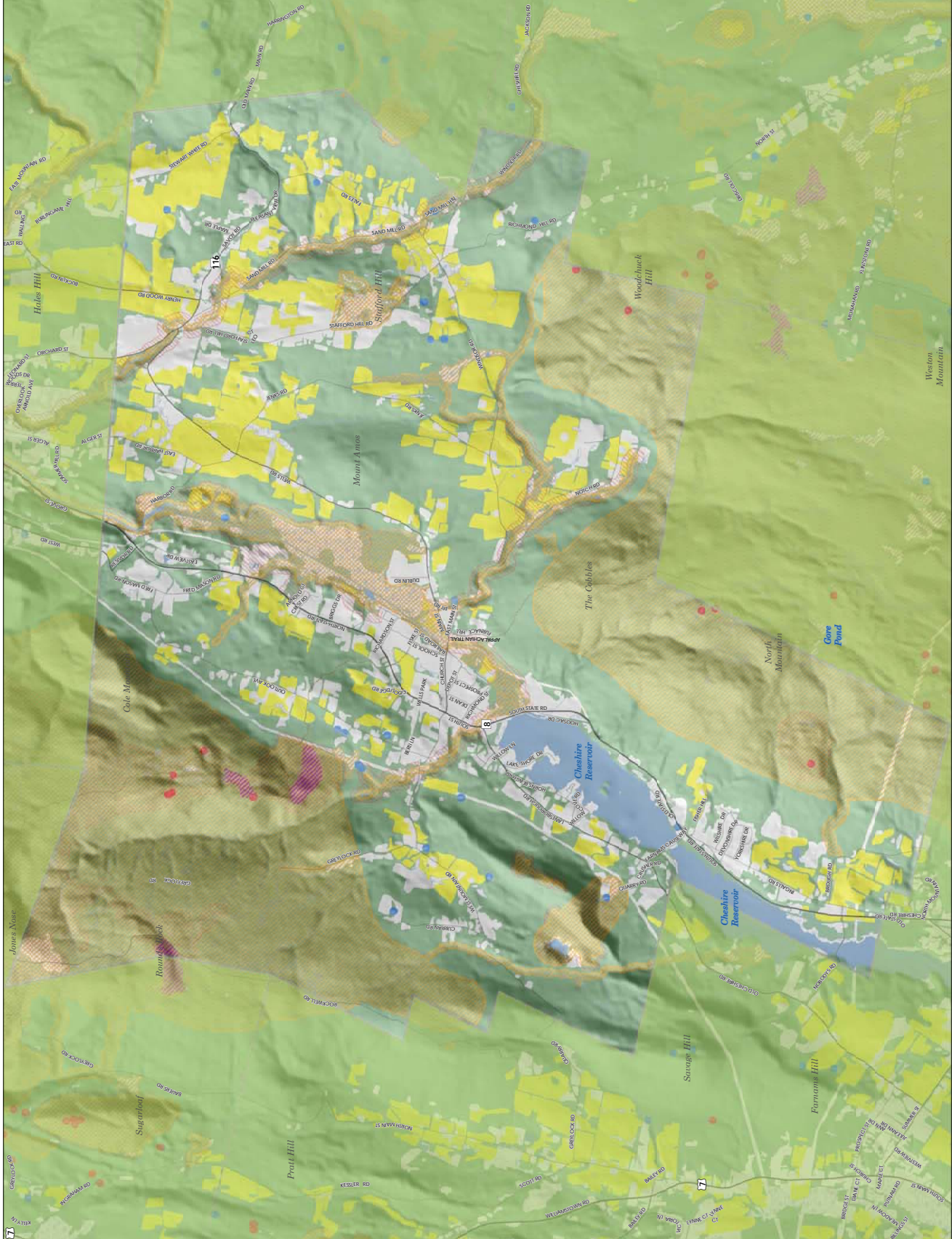
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Map 10. Vegetation, Fisheries and Wildlife

- Certified Vernal Pool
- Potential Vernal Pool
- NHESP Priority Habitats of Rare Species
- BioMap2 Core Habitat
- Natural Communities
- Agriculture
- Forest
- Towns
- Interstate
- Major Road
- Minor Road
- Local Road
- Appalachian Trail
- Stream
- Wetland
- Open Water



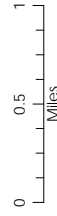
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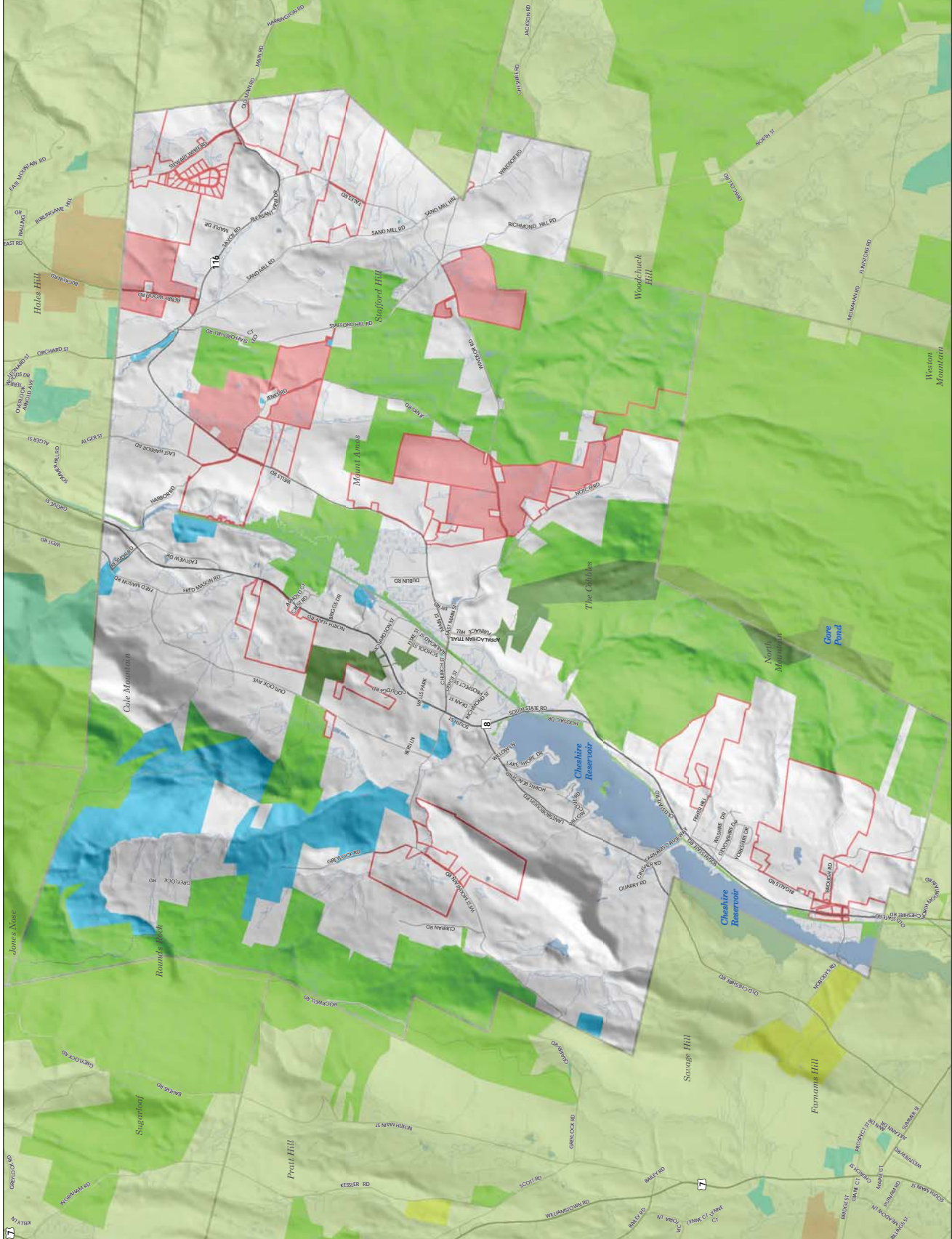
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Map 11. Inventory of Land of Conservation and Recreation Interest

- Federal
- State
- Municipality
- Land Trust
- Private
- Chapter 61, 61A, 61B
- Towns
- Interstate
- Major Road
- Minor Road
- Local Road
- Appalachian Trail
- Stream
- Wetland
- Open Water













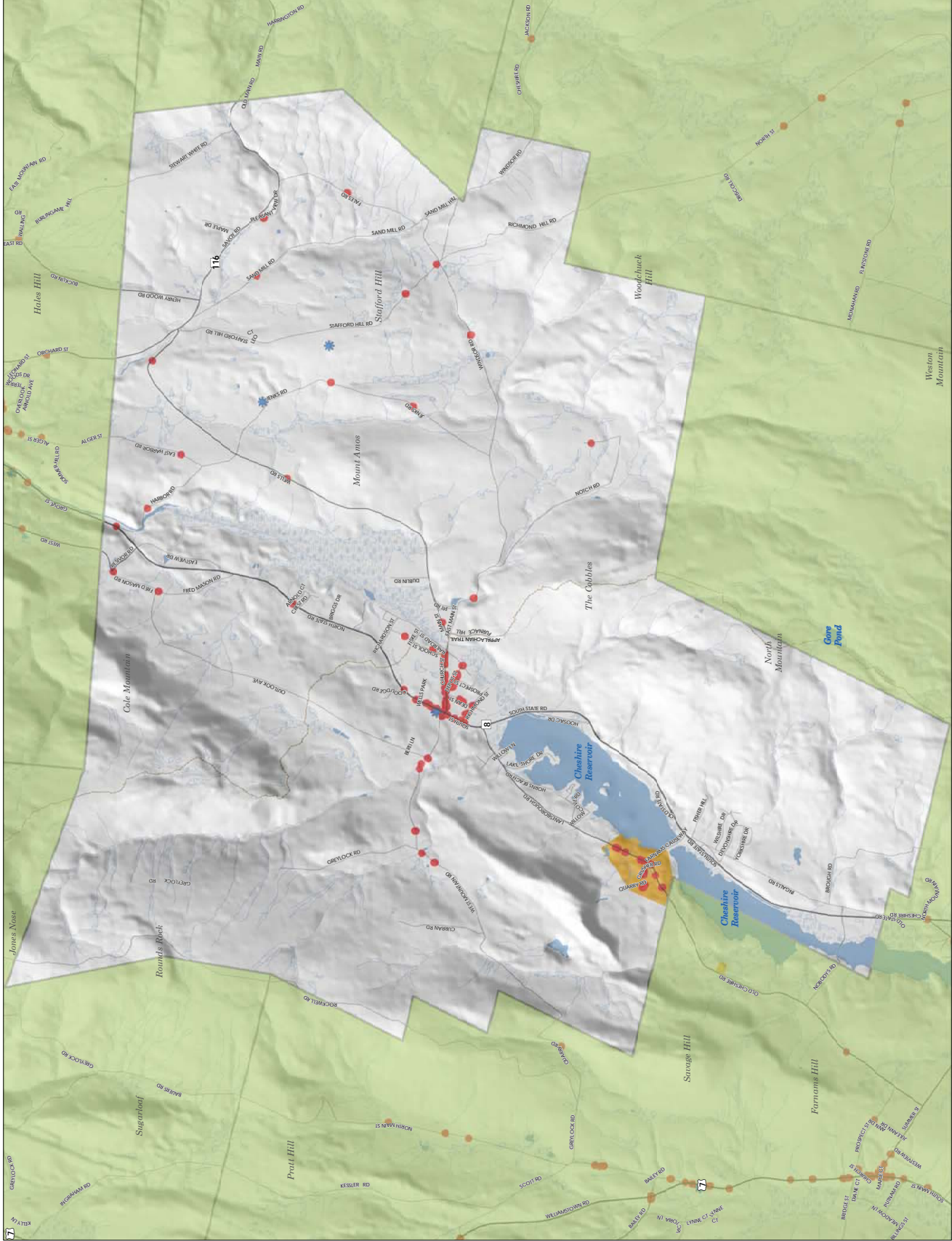
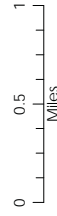
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Map 12. Historic Resources

-  Historic Properties (NR)
-  Historic Site (NR)
-  Historic Properties (MACRIS)
-  TOWNS
-  Interstate
-  Major Road
-  Minor Road
-  Local Road
-  Appalachian Trail
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-  Open Water



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APPENDIX B: KEY ISSUES

KEY POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHIC ISSUES

Aging Population

The residents of Cheshire are increasingly older, a trend that is found in most communities in the Berkshires.

Declining Population

Cheshire's population peaked in 1990 and has been decreasing since. Most communities in the Berkshires face this same trend.

KEY ECONOMY ISSUES

Economic Vitality

The Master Plan Committee felt that economic vitality in Cheshire, including encouraging and recognizing small and local business was a key issue in the town.

Farmer's Market

Committee members felt that organizing a farmer's market in the town would be a way to encourage the local economy and help to build community.

Leveraging Assets to Strengthen the Economy

The town should capitalize on its beautiful natural and manmade resources to strengthen the economy. These include the vast areas of state land, Cheshire Lake and the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail.

KEY INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUES

Comprehensive Assessment of Town Buildings/Facilities

The town has many needs for its aging buildings and facilities. The town should comprehensively examine these to determine what improvements or repairs are necessary and generate a spending plan to address

them. This assessment should also determine if town needs could be better addressed through new or expanded municipal facilities.

KEY SERVICES ISSUES

Five-member Select Board

The Master Plan Committee felt that the town should transition to a five-member Select Board, as expressed by town votes.

In-Town Collaboration

The town should continue and expand its good work to collaborate with local organizations (such as the Lion's Club, etc.) on projects and other opportunities.

Communications to the Public / Public Participation

Over half of respondents to the public survey said they received news about the town from local media outlets such as Iberkshires.com or the Berkshire Eagle, rather than from the town itself. The Master Plan Committee felt that the town should improve and expand communications to its citizens to include improved digital communication. The town should also seek new ways to simplify public participation and make it more convenient.

Schools

Cheshire's school system presents a significant financial and organizational challenge. Moreover, perception and quality of the town's schools could have an impact on the attractiveness of the town to new families, which could affect demographics within the community. The increasing number of students moving to out-of-district schools is a sign that schools in the town should be addressed comprehensively. Additionally, survey respondents said that school issues were one reason they planned to move from Cheshire. The town must work to improve school quality and performance, while reducing education costs.

Long-Term Financial & Staff Planning

The town should engage in long-term financial planning, to include a review of all town expenditures and staffing. As part of this process, the town would review benefits and salaries for all town employees and officials, and develop job descriptions and performance review practices. As taxes are the main source of revenue in the community, the town should identify and apply for relevant grant opportunities to supplement its existing resources.

Age Inclusive Planning and Support

Cheshire's aging population should prompt planning for a more age inclusive community and spur the creation of new support mechanisms and services for its older population.

KEY EDUCATION ISSUES

Education Quality

Local schools must provide the highest quality of education to students to ensure they have opportunities in future higher education or as part of the workforce. Providing a quality education is not only essential to residents and their children, but is a key way that new residents and school choice students may be attracted to the community.

Keeping Cheshire Elementary Open While Preparing for the Worst

The town should explore all feasible measures to fund the elementary school to allow it to remain open and provide education to students. However, the town should also prepare for contingencies should the school not remain open. If the school cannot remain open, the town should explore ways to reuse the facility to its benefit.

KEY HOUSING ISSUES

Building Capacity to Address Housing

The town should increase its own local capacity to

address housing by forming a housing committee and ensuring that members have access to trainings and other educational opportunities.

Housing for Seniors and Young Families

In the long term, the town should create a strategy to address housing for seniors and young families. Creating more housing opportunities for individuals at either end of the age spectrum will help create a town where residents can age-in-place and remain for a lifetime.

KEY TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

General Road and Bridge Maintenance

Cheshire residents were generally in favor of increased road maintenance, and the Highway dept. acknowledged repair and maintenance needs for all town roadways. The town should develop a repaving and maintenance plan that will prioritize these efforts. The town should also provide preventative maintenance for bridges and monitor all bridge inspections to remain aware of needs for this critical infrastructure.

Participation in the Regional

Transportation Planning Process

Cheshire should take full advantage of federal highway funding by examining needs for federal aid eligible roadways and funding design and engineering to reconstruct these roadways.

KEY LAND USE ISSUES

Reinvigorating and Reactivating Cheshire Village Center

Cheshire's village center is home to residences, businesses, town hall, and other aspects of civic life. The area has many low to moderate income residents according to the latest ACS information. The town should explore ways to reactivate this area, expand housing opportunities for residents allow for business

growth, and provide a space for civic engagement.

Protecting Rural Character

Cheshire Village is surrounded by scenic and rural areas beneath the Commonwealth's highest peak—Mt. Greylock. The town should explore mechanisms to protect its rural character and small-town look and feel. The town should explore an updated and strengthened sign bylaw, enhanced commercial design requirements, as well as other land use protections, such as the Berkshire Scenic Mountain Act.

should promote these areas and work closely with the state to advocate for improved amenities.

Open Space and Recreation Plan

An approved Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) would allow the town to access several state grant programs that could fund improvements on town owned recreation areas.

KEY NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES ISSUES

Cheshire Lake

The town should continue to coordinate with the Cheshire Lake Association on lake management issues, such as invasive species that threaten water quality, ecological integrity, and recreation. The town should collaborate with the Cheshire Lake Association and the state in the long term to update a lake management plan that will help address water quality and recreation on the lake.

Continuing Historical Commission Work

The Historical Commission has spearheaded efforts to recognize, protect, and educate about historic and cultural resources in the community. It should continue its good work and develop plans for a possible National Historic Register District in the village center area.

KEY OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION ISSUES

Leveraging and Promoting Town

Recreation Areas

Cheshire has many recreation areas, including Cheshire Lake, the Ashuwillticook Trail, Appalachian Trail, and thousands of acres of state land. The town



APPENDIX C: EXISTING CONDITIONS TABLES

Table C1 - Current "Doing Business As" Licenses in Cheshire, MA*Source: Town of Cheshire*

BUSINESS NAME	OWNER/OWNERS	ADDRESS	EXPIRES	CATEGORY* (See Table X for detailed category descriptions)
A Bit of Everything	Joel Pekosz	97 Ingalls Rd	2019	Unknown
Alicia A. Gwozdz Photography	Alicia Gwozdz	500 Fales Rd	2019	Arts
Bedard Bros. Auto Sales Inc.	Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep	391-393 South State Rd	2019	Retail
Berkshire Bathworks	James and Victoria Witherell	630 Outlook Ave	2019	Construction
Berkshire Carpentry	James Hansen	708 Lanesboro Rd	2017	Construction
Berkshire Radon Technologies	Justin Zieminski	128 Fales Rd	2019	Construction
Bilrite Construction	Thomas Barnes	180 Curran Rd	2017	Construction
Bleier Home Improvement	Andrew Bleier	16 Eastview Dr	2016	Construction
Boombaks Entertainment	Robert J. Bak	21 Daniels Terrace	2016	Arts
Brazeau Masonry	Vincent Brazeau	601 Savoy Rd	2019	Construction
Bucolic Woods	Bryant Turner	223 Lakeshore Dr	2018	Unknown
Cheshire Autobody	Robert Freitag	10 Main St	2019	Other
Cheshire Cat Book	Jan Kuniholm	61 East Main St	2016	Unknown
Cheshire Glassworks	Jill Balawender Reynolds	24 South St	2019	Retail
Chic's Auto Repair	Charles Lewis	6 Railroad St	2019	Other
Chris Lawson Drywall & Paint	Christopher Lawson	478 West Mountain Rd	2019	Construction
Cruise One	Susan Traub	197 Lakeshore Dr.	2019	Professional
Delmolino & Sons Inc.	Delmolino Family	275 North St	2019	Professional
Diane's Twist	Alison Warner	13 Main St	2019	Arts
DLS Trucking	Daniel Speth	88 Hutchinson Lane	2017	Transportation
EL Martin Farm	Everett L. Martin	594 Windsor Rd	2017	Agriculture
Equipment Sales & Service	Frank Piekos	1251 Windsor Rd	2019	Retail
Future Homes Co.	John Daniels	155 Lanesboro Rd	2019	Construction
Global Montello Group Corp	Eric Slifka (Convenience)	173 North St	2020	Retail
Green Acres Package & Variety	Christopher Gian	1613 South State Rd	2016	Retail
Hands, Heart and Health	Deborah Dunlap	44 Richmond St	2016	Health
Harry Auto Sales	Harry, William, Josie Lewis	239 North St	2019	Retail
Healing Center-One Spirit	Dawn Schmidt	805 Lanesboro Rd	2019	Health
Insights In Automation	Shawn Tierney	44 Briggs Dr	2019	Professional
Interior Design	Laiken Rapisarda	22 Wilshire Dr	2017	Professional
J & M Geary Construction Inc.	James Geary	165 Eastview Drive	2019	Construction
J. Edward Dery Inc. Funeral Home	Frederick Dery	North St	2019	Other
Jamie Zdon Income Tax Prep.	Jamie Zdon	53 Wells Rd	2019	Professional
JMZ Property Management	Jeffrey Zocchi	504 Lanesboro Rd	2019	Finance
Klammer Plumbing & Heating	Patrick Klammer		2018	Other
Lewis' Servicer	Josephine Lewis	239 North Street	2019	Other

**Table C1- Current "Doing Business As" Licenses in Cheshire, MA—Continued**

LRB Auto Sales Inc.	Ronald and Brian Bedard	391 South State Rd	2019	Retail
Massage Therapy	Jenifer Smithers	105 Quarry Rd	2017	Health
MVP Promotions	Jamie Zdon	53 Wells Rd	2017	Arts
O'Connell Convenience Plus	O'Connell Oil Inc. Pittsfield	173 North St	2019	Retail
Old New England Property Maint.	Kurt Scholz	93 North St	2017	Finance
Outlook Builders	Nicholas Mirke	836 Outlook Ave	2017	Construction
Pete's Vintage Automotive	Peter Fournier	580 Fred Mason Rd	2019	Other
Photo Baks Photography	Amy Bak	21 Daniels Terrace	2020	Arts
Prime Tools	David Prime	880 West Mountain Rd	2020	Unknown
Proper Home Improvement	Myron Proper Jr.	93 Furnace Hill Rd	2019	Construction
Quality Home Improvement	Patrick Pettit	136 South St	2016	Construction
Republic Services	out of Texas		2017	Professional
Simple Blessings	Philip Winnard	65 Church St	2019	Unknown
Stafford Hill Wildlife Control	Lawrence Worth	1454 Windsor Rd	2018	Professional
Superior Spring & Mfg. Co.	Kenneth Mard III	11 Ingalls Rd	2019	Manufacturing
The Cheshire Salon	Kathryn Schaffrick	118 Church St	2019	Other
The Farm in East Cheshire	Nancy and Joseph Gwozdz	500 Fales Rd.	2019	Agriculture
The Third Act Project	Sam Bittman	70 Crusher Rd	2019	Other
Traditional Acupuncture	Jeffrey Gordon	805 Lanesboro Rd	2018	Health
Trance Works Hypnosis	Paul Therrien	805 Lanesboro Rd	2019	Health
Trout One Charters	Bryan Kopala	310 Sandmill Rd	2017	Arts
Trudeau Enterprises	Gary Trudeau	595 Outlook Ave	2016	Unknown
White & Son Landscaping	David J. White	22 2nd Ave	2016	Professional
Whitney Farm Market LLC	Eric Whitney	1775 South State Rd	2019	Agriculture
Winter Brook Farm	Eugene Gebarowski	450 North State Rd	2019	Agriculture
Wonderfully Made Masterpieces	Renee Wlodyka	68 North Street	2020	Arts
Zepka Apiary & Farm	Sherry and James Zepka	150 Furnace Hill	2019	Agriculture

Table C2 — MACRIS Records for Town of Cheshire, MA*Source: Mass. Historical Commission 2016*

Inv. No.	Property Name	Street	Year
CHS.A	Cheshire Town Center		
CHS.B	Farnams Village Historic District		
CHS.C	Mount Greylock State Reservation		
CHS.D	Old Church-yard Cemetery		
CHS.59	Capen - Ross - Curtiss House	Church St	
CHS.901	Cheshire Cheese Monument	Church St	1940
CHS.920	Cheshire World War I Memorial	Church St	1921
CHS.921	Memorial Revolutionary War Watering Trough	Church St	1914
CHS.78	Tanner - Chapman - Brown House	22 Church St	c 1858
CHS.79	Cheshire Old Baptist Parsonage	27 Church St	c 1849
CHS.76	Martin, George House	28-30 Church St	1885
CHS.77	Reed, Moses - Cole, Dr. L. J. House	41 Church St	1815
CHS.75	Wolcott Store	52-54 Church St	c 1844
CHS.73		77 Church St	
CHS.74	Cheshire Town Hall	80-90 Church St	1898
CHS.72	Brown, Henry House	93 Church St	1843
CHS.69	Foster, E. D. Store	100-106 Church St	c 1845
CHS.68	Dean, J. B. House	108 Church St	
CHS.67	Mechanics Hall	116-120 Church St	c 1850
CHS.70	Wood - Harkness - Martin House	123-125 Church St	c 1843
CHS.66	Fairfield, Paul Blacksmith Shop	136-140 Church St	c 1840
CHS.63	Rider House	142 Church St	
CHS.65	Chapman - Wood House	175-177 Church St	c 1858
CHS.58	Jenks House	180 Church St	c 1858
CHS.64	Bliss - Jenks - Chapman House	185 Church St	c 1858
CHS.62	Cheshire United Methodist Church	197 Church St	1848
CHS.61	Methodist Church Parsonage	203 Church St	c 1848
CHS.60	Foster, Capt. Edmund House	221 Church St	c 1858
CHS.104	Farnam-Cheshire Limestone Company Worker Housing	54 Crusher Rd	c 1910
CHS.101	Farnam-Cheshire Limestone Company Worker Housing	70 Crusher Rd	c 1910
CHS.43	Bulfinch - Reynolds House	43 Dean St	1858
CHS.42	Stowell House	50-52 Dean St	
CHS.41	Bryant - Fish House	64-66 Dean St	
CHS.40	Brown - Leonard House	99 Dean St	



CHS.40	Brown - Leonard House	99 Dean St	
CHS.52	Jenks - Archibald House	42 Depot St	c 1858
CHS.51	Brown - Mason - Harner House	52 Depot St	c 1858
CHS.50	Brown, Werden House	66 Depot St	c 1876
CHS.54	U. S. Post Office - Old Cheshire Branch	67-69 Depot St	c 1845
CHS.53	Northrup House	75-79 Depot St	c 1858
CHS.49	Bennet - Ingalls House	78-84 Depot St	c 1858
CHS.48	Bliss - Martin House	98-100 Depot St	
CHS.47	Tomkins - Nickerson House	105 Depot St	c 1845
CHS.45	Pristol - Olin - Haskins House	113 Depot St	c 1858
CHS.46	Brown - Trotier House	114 Depot St	c 1858
CHS.8	Campbell House	127 Depot St	c 1863
CHS.17	Buffington - Jenks - Harrington House	247 East Harbor Rd	c 1858
CHS.907	East Main Street Bridge over South Brook	East Main St	1939
CHS.806	Fales Road - Sand Mill Road Cemetery	Fales Rd	c 1799
CHS.36	Smith, Capt. Daniel House	306 Fales Rd	1805
CHS.910	Farnams Road Causeway	Farnams Rd	c 1858
CHS.911	Cheshire Reservoir	Farnams Rd	c 1866
CHS.912	Berkshire Street Railway Railroad Bed and Trestle	Farnams Rd	c 1900
CHS.10	Cole, Dexter Farm	Fred Mason Rd	c 1830
CHS.33	Mason House	265 Fred Mason Rd	c 1858
CHS.34	Browning - Brown House	456 Fred Mason Rd	c 1858
CHS.16	Edmonds - Edmunds House	Harbor Rd	c 1858
CHS.15	Wells - Richmond - Briggs House	273-275 Harbor Rd	c 1858
CHS.808	Ingalls Road Cemetery	Ingalls Rd	c 1813
CHS.23	Coman, Daniel - Bennett, Joseph House	Jenks Rd	c 1768
CHS.803	Old Church-yard Cemetery	Jenks Rd	1785
CHS.922	Old Church-yard Cemetery Perimeter Stone Wall	Jenks Rd	1913
CHS.923	Old Church-yard Cemetery Wood Sign	Jenks Rd	r 1970
CHS.924	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Carpenter, Amey Stone	Jenks Rd	1785
CHS.925	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Hathaway, Phoebe Stone	Jenks Rd	1785
CHS.926	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Willmarth, E. Stone	Jenks Rd	1785
CHS.927	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Hoskins, Hannah Stone	Jenks Rd	1792
CHS.928	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Brown, Lucey Stone	Jenks Rd	1794
CHS.929	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Jenks, Dr. W. Stone	Jenks Rd	1794
CHS.930	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Flack, Melindy Stone	Jenks Rd	1796
CHS.931	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Hathaway, Isaac Stone	Jenks Rd	1798

CHS.932	Old Church-yard Cemetery -	Jenks Rd	1807
CHS.933	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Fisk,	Jenks Rd	1807
CHS.934	Old Church-yard Cemetery -	Jenks Rd	1808
CHS.935	Old Church-yard Cemetery -	Jenks Rd	1809
CHS.936	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Goff,	Jenks Rd	1812
CHS.937	Old Church-yard Cemetery -	Jenks Rd	1812
CHS.938	Old Church-yard Cemetery -	Jenks Rd	1812
CHS.939	Old Church-yard Cemetery -	Jenks Rd	1813
CHS.940	Old Church-yard Cemetery -	Jenks Rd	1814
CHS.941	Old Church-yard Cemetery -	Jenks Rd	1815
CHS.942	Old Church-yard Cemetery -	Jenks Rd	1815
CHS.943	Old Church-yard Cemetery -	Jenks Rd	1815
CHS.944	Old Church-yard Cemetery -	Jenks Rd	1816
CHS.945	Old Church-yard Cemetery -	Jenks Rd	1818
CHS.946	Old Church-yard Cemetery - Fisk,	Jenks Rd	1819
CHS.947	Old Church-yard Cemetery -	Jenks Rd	1820
CHS.948	Old Church-yard Cemetery -	Jenks Rd	1821
CHS.949	Old Church-yard Cemetery -	Jenks Rd	1822
CHS.950	Old Church-yard Cemetery -	Jenks Rd	1829
CHS.951	Old Church-yard Cemetery -	Jenks Rd	1830
CHS.952	Old Church-yard Cemetery -	Jenks Rd	1832
CHS.953	Old Church-yard Cemetery -	Jenks Rd	1835
CHS.954	Old Church-yard Cemetery -	Jenks Rd	1843
CHS.955	Old Church-yard Cemetery -	Jenks Rd	1848
CHS.20	Brown, Nicholas House	411 Jenks Rd	c 1770
CHS.21	Low, Capt. Samuel House	800 Jenks Rd	c 1768
CHS.99	Carney, H. - Curtis, Seth Barn	Lanesborough Rd	c 1870
CHS.909	Farnams-Cheshire Limestone	Lanesborough Rd	1909
CHS.914	Farnams-Cheshire Limestone	Lanesborough Rd	1916
CHS.102	Farnam-Cheshire Limestone	668 Lanesborough Rd	c 1920



CHS.103	Farnam-Cheshire Limestone Company Worker Housing	678 Lanesborough Rd	c 1920
CHS.93	Farnams-Cheshire Limestone Company Worker Housing	708 Lanesborough Rd	c 1910
CHS.96	Farnams-Cheshire Limestone Company Worker Housing	766 Lanesborough Rd	c 1910
CHS.91	Curtis, Henry H. House	778 Lanesborough Rd	c 1865
CHS.97	Bliss, Orrin House	790 Lanesborough Rd	c 1850
CHS.98	Farnam Village Fire Station	790 Lanesborough Rd	c 1900
CHS.90	Farnum Brothers Lime Company Stock Room	805-839 Lanesborough Rd	c 1880
CHS.92	Farnams-Cheshire Limestone Company Power House	805-839 Lanesborough Rd	c 1915
CHS.94	Farnams-Cheshire Limestone Company Carpentry Shop	805-839 Lanesborough Rd	c 1920
CHS.100	Farnam-Cheshire Lime Company Processing Mill	805-839 Lanesborough Rd	r 1915
CHS.107	Farnam-Cheshire Limestone Company Paymaster Office	805-839 Lanesborough Rd	1921
CHS.105	Farnam-Cheshire Limestone Company Worker Housing	858 Lanesborough Rd	c 1910
CHS.108	Jenks, Frank J. House	931 Lanesborough Rd	c 1880
CHS.956	Main Street Bridge over Hoosic River	Main St	
CHS.71	Brown - Martin House	137-139 Main St	
CHS.802	North Street Cemetery	North St	1775
CHS.900	Berkshire Volunteer Monument	North St	1932
CHS.4	Cole Brother's Store	11 North St	1808
CHS.5	Hall's Tavern	31 North St	1804
CHS.84	First Baptist Church	32 North St	1849
CHS.82	Morgan, Roxey House	43 North St	c 1920
CHS.83	Lockwood House	61 North St	r 1904
CHS.89	Brown, Werden House	64 North St	c 1870
CHS.85	Brown - Wood House	68 North St	c 1876
CHS.86	Slade - Brown - Foster House	78 North St	
CHS.87	Dean, Alanson P. House	120 North St	1853
CHS.88	Jarvis - Dean House	121-123 North St	c 1858
CHS.6	Bradford - Cole House	North State Rd	1790
CHS.11	Cushing - Martin House	North State Rd	1791
CHS.7	Richardson House	725 North State Rd	c 1792
CHS.9	Jenks, Elisha Cotton Mill	1490 North State Rd	r 1825
CHS.37	Brown, William - Stafford, Richard	867 Notch Rd	c 1792
CHS.12	Miller - Card House	54 Pleasant View Dr	
CHS.903	Farnum, A. S. Lime Kilns	Quarry Rd	r 1895
CHS.913	Quarry Road	Quarry Rd	r 1850
CHS.915	Northup, Stephen Small	Quarry Rd	c 1840
CHS.916	Farnum, A. S. Lime Kilns Dyamite	Quarry Rd	c 1840
CHS.917	Farnams Limestone Quarry	Quarry Rd	c 1874

CHS.95	Farnams-Cheshire Limestone Company Worker Housing	84 Quarry Rd	c 1910
CHS.106	Farnam-Cheshire Limestone Company Worker Housing	103-109 Quarry Rd	c 1910
CHS.44	Cheshire Railroad Station	6 Railroad St	1849
CHS.957	Cheshire Harbor Trolley Bridge	Reservoir Rd	r 1896
CHS.55	Bowen, H. C. House	Richardson St	c 1860
CHS.38	Burt - Farnum House	27-29 Richmond St	c 1860
CHS.39	Saunders House	36 Richmond St	c 1845
CHS.805	Burt Cemetery	Rt 116	c 1817
CHS.905	Pumpkin Hook Bridge - Hook Arch Bridge	Rt 116	1929
CHS.906	Choquettas Bridge	Rt 116	1940
CHS.35	Lincoln, S. L. House	920 Sand Mill Rd	
CHS.57	Cheshire Old Grange Hall	56-64 School St	r 1920
CHS.56	Wheelock, Jerome M. House	200 School St	r 1880
CHS.3	Barker, Ezra Farm	South St	c 1785
CHS.904	South Street Bridge	South St	1901
CHS.2		12 South St	1795
CHS.1		38 South St	1790
CHS.81	Turtle, Owen House	57 South St	c 1876
CHS.80	Brown, Luther House	81-101 South St	c 1858
CHS.902	Stafford Hill Memorial	Stafford Hill Rd	1927
CHS.18	Bowen, Valentine House	10 Stafford Hill Rd	c 1776
CHS.19	Richardson - Brayton House	184 Stafford Hill Rd	c 1775
CHS.804	Jenks - Wells Road Cemetery	Wells Rd	1841
CHS.809	Bucklin, Jerusha Grave	Wells Rd	1776
CHS.24	Jenks, Jesse Farm	761 Wells Rd	c 1791
CHS.22	Jenks, Jabes House	1524 Wells Rd	c 1825
CHS.800	Cheshire Cemetery	West Mountain Rd	1859
CHS.918	Jenks Family Memorial	West Mountain Rd	
CHS.919	Dumont Memorial	West Mountain Rd	1897
CHS.25	Cole, R. M. House	18 West Mountain Rd	1820
CHS.26	Mason - Tanner - Cropper House	195 West Mountain Rd	1815
CHS.27	Whitmarsh, Toleman House	198 West Mountain Rd	c 1780
CHS.29	Mason - Coles - Lamb House	231-233 West Mountain Rd	
CHS.28	Whitmarsh, Toleman Forge	232 West Mountain Rd	c 1800
CHS.30	Weskit - Cole House	478 West Mountain Rd	c 1770
CHS.31	Northrop, Stephen Jr. House	550 West Mountain Rd	c 1858
CHS.32	Wood - Lamb House	612 West Mountain Rd	c 1858
CHS.807	Wells - The Notch Cemetery	Windsor Rd	c 1773
CHS.13	Nestle Down	77 Windsor Rd	c 1858
CHS.14	Bloody Brook Tavern	1015 Windsor Rd	



Table C3 - Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

Source: Mass. GIS Open Space 2016

Site Name	Fee Owner	Owner Type	Primary Purpose	Public Access	Level of Protection	Other Organization Interest	Interest	Acres
Appalachian Trail Corridor	National Park Service	Federal	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity			21.93
Appalachian Trail Corridor	National Park Service	Federal	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity			10.44
Appalachian Trail Corridor	National Park Service	Federal	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity			38.90
Appalachian Trail Corridor	National Park Service	Federal	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity			22.18
Appalachian Trail Corridor	National Park Service	Federal	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity			16.46
Appalachian Trail Corridor	National Park Service	Federal	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity			139.10
Appalachian Trail Corridor	National Park Service	Federal	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity			0.79
Appalachian Trail Corridor	National Park Service	Federal	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity			7.75
Appalachian Trail Corridor	National Park Service	Federal	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity			51.12
Appalachian Trail Corridor	National Park Service	Federal	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity			0.21
Appalachian Trail Corridor	National Park Service	Federal	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity			0.88
Cemetery	Town of Cheshire	Municipal	Historic	Yes	Limited			10.83
Cemetery	Town of Cheshire	Municipal	Historic	Yes	Limited			6.99
Cheshire Cemetery	Town of Cheshire	Municipal	Historic	Yes	Limited			0.80
Wells Avenue Parcel	Town of Cheshire	Municipal	Unknown	Yes	Limited			0.76

Cheshire Water Company Land	Town of Cheshire	Municipal	Water Supply	Limited	Perpetuity			312.99
ADAMS FIRE DISTRICT LAND	Town of Adams	Municipal	Water Supply	No	Perpetuity			1.99
ADAMS FIRE DISTRICT LAND	Town of Adams	Municipal	Water Supply	No	Perpetuity			0.88
ADAMS FIRE DISTRICT LAND	Town of Adams	Municipal	Water Supply	No	Perpetuity			13.04
ADAMS FIRE DISTRICT LAND	Town of Adams	Municipal	Water Supply	No	Perpetuity			2.58
ADAMS FIRE DISTRICT LAND	Town of Adams	Municipal	Water Supply	No	Perpetuity			6.90
ADAMS FIRE DISTRICT LAND	Town of Adams	Municipal	Water Supply	No	Perpetuity			13.36
ADAMS FIRE DISTRICT LAND	Town of Adams	Municipal	Water Supply	No	Perpetuity			4.65
ADAMS FIRE DISTRICT LAND	Town of Adams	Municipal	Water Supply	No	Perpetuity			2.22
Adams Fire District Land	Town of Adams	Municipal	Water Supply	No	Perpetuity			0.97
STAFFORD MEMORIAL TOWER	Town of Cheshire	Municipal	Historic	Yes	Perpetuity			1.60
CHESHIRE WATER COMPANY LAND	Town of Cheshire	Municipal	Water Supply	Yes	Perpetuity			212.22
CHESHIRE WATER COMPANY LAND	Town of Cheshire	Municipal	Water Supply	Yes	Perpetuity			314.98
CHESHIRE WATER COMPANY LAND	Town of Cheshire	Municipal	Water Supply	Yes	Perpetuity			17.01
Ayrhill Farms APR	Ayrhill Farms Inc	Private	Agriculture	No	Perpetuity	Department of Agricultural Resources	APR	2.76
Ayrhill Farms APR	Ayrhill Farms Inc	Private	Agriculture	No	Perpetuity	Department of Agricultural Resources	APR	28.55
Ayrhill Farms APR	Ayrhill Farms Inc	Private	Agriculture	No	Perpetuity	Department of Agricultural Resources	APR	94.67



Toporowski Farm APR	Casimer Toporowski LT	Private	Agriculture	No	Perpetuity	Department of Agricultural Resources	APR	114.83
Moore Farm	Moore Donald H and Eileen F	Private	Agriculture	No	Perpetuity	Department of Agricultural Resources	APR	46.61
Martin	Martin Everett L and Doris M	Private	Agriculture	No	Perpetuity	Department of Agricultural Resources	APR	64.56
Martin	Martin Everett L and Doris M	Private	Agriculture	No	Perpetuity	Department of Agricultural Resources	APR	126.56
Martin	Martin Everett L and Doris M	Private	Agriculture	No	Perpetuity	Department of Agricultural Resources	APR	81.52
Martin	Martin Everett L and Doris M	Private	Agriculture	No	Perpetuity	Department of Agricultural Resources	APR	45.85
Martin	Martin Everett L and Doris M	Private	Agriculture	No	Perpetuity	Department of Agricultural Resources	APR	9.80
Janowycz	Janowycz Michael W and Lubow M	Private	Agriculture	No	Perpetuity	Department of Agricultural Resources	APR	6.54
Janowycz	Janowycz Michael W and Lubow M	Private	Agriculture	No	Perpetuity	Department of Agricultural Resources	APR	119.54
Moore Farm	Moore Donald H and Eileen F	Private	Agriculture	No	Perpetuity	Department of Agricultural Resources	APR	67.16
Ashuwillticook Rail Trail	DCR - Division of State Parks and	State	Conservation and	Yes	Perpetuity			3.28
Mount Greylock State Reservation	DCR - Division of State Parks and	State	Conservation and	Yes	Perpetuity			172.23
Mount Greylock State Reservation	DCR - Division of State Parks and	State	Conservation and	Yes	Perpetuity			0.97
Mount Greylock State Reservation	DCR - Division of State Parks and	State	Conservation and	Yes	Perpetuity			14.51

Mount Greylock State Reservation	DCR - Division of State Parks and	State	Conservation and	Yes	Perpetuity			12.39
Mount Greylock State Reservation	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	State	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity			85.37
Mount Greylock State Reservation	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	State	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity			68.09
Mount Greylock State Reservation	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	State	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity			558.93
Mount Greylock State Reservation	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	State	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity			32.07
Mount Greylock State Reservation	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	State	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity			25.71
Mount Greylock State Reservation	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	State	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity			62.22
Mount Greylock State Reservation	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	State	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity			47.71
Mount Greylock State Reservation	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	State	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity			149.71
Mount Greylock State Reservation	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	State	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity			37.02
Mount Greylock State Reservation	DCR - Division of State Parks and Recreation	State	Conservation and Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity			61.95
Cheshire Reservoir Island	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	State	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity			2.35
Cheshire Reservoir Island	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	State	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity			0.21
Cheshire Reservoir Island	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	State	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity			0.12
Cheshire Reservoir Outlet	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	State	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity			4.20
Chalet WMA	Department of Fish and Game	State	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity			481.32
Cheshire Reservoir Boat	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	State	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity			1.34



Chalet WMA	Department of Fish and Game	State	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity			121.58
Chalet WMA	Department of Fish and Game	State	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity			426.96
Chalet WMA	Department of Fish and Game	State	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity			7.74
Chalet WMA	Department of Fish and Game	State	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity			179.68
Chaltet WMA	Department of Fish and Game	State	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity			227.67
Chalet WMA	Department of Fish and Game	State	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity			6.27
Stafford Hill WMA	Department of Fish and Game	State	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity			109.08
Stafford Hill WMA	Department of Fish and Game	State	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity			93.14
Stafford Hill WMA	Department of Fish and Game	State	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity			53.52
Stafford Hill WMA	Department of Fish and Game	State	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity			157.39
Stafford Hill WMA	Department of Fish and Game	State	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity			64.43
Stafford Hill WMA	Department of Fish and Game	State	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity			22.48
Stafford Hill WMA	Department of Fish and Game	State	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity			330.67
Chalet WMA	Department of Fish and Game	State	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity			175.31
Chalet WMA	Department of Fish and Game	State	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity			11.95
Chalet WMA	Department of Fish and Game	State	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity			74.30
Stafford Hill WMA	Department of Fish and Game	State	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity			222.24
Stafford Hill WMA	Department of Fish and Game	State	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity			182.38
Stafford Hill WMA	Department of Fish and Game	State	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity			151.81
Stafford Hill WMA	Department of Fish and Game	State	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity			72.13
Stafford Hill WMA	Department of Fish and Game	State	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity			17.91
Stafford Hill WMA	Department of Fish and Game	State	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity			107.80

Stafford Hill WMA	Department of Fish and Game	State	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity			1.57
Chalet WMA	Department of Fish and Game	State	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity			85.60
Stafford Hill WMA	Department of Fish and Game	State	Conservation	Yes	Perpetuity			1.47
RAIL TRAIL	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	State	Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity			4.65
RAIL TRAIL	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	State	Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity			3.65
RAIL TRAIL	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	State	Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity			7.22
RAIL TRAIL	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	State	Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity			8.55
RAIL TRAIL	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	State	Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity			2.71
RAIL TRAIL	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	State	Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity			0.96
RAIL TRAIL	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	State	Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity			2.88
RAIL TRAIL	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	State	Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity			11.93
RAIL TRAIL	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	State	Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity			27.31
RAIL TRAIL	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	State	Recreation	Yes	Perpetuity			10.82



Table C4- Chapter 61 Parcels in Cheshire, MA				
<i>Source: Mass GIS Open Space 2015</i>				
Property ID	Chapter 61 Type	Address	Owner	Acres
202-014	Chapter 61A	25 INGALLS CROSSING	Whitney, Eric	2.28
216-100	Chapter 61, 61A	233 FISHER HILL	Wrenn, Margaret Trustee	86.45
214-001	Chapter 61A	612 WEST MOUNTAIN ROAD	Field, Roger P	109.89
214-034	Chapter 61A	627 WEST MOUNTAIN ROAD	Field, Roger P &	11.39
217-078	Chapter 61A	221 INGALLS ROAD	Whitney, Eric & Michelle M	7.97
225-020	Chapter 61A	743-749 NORTH STATE ROAD	Daniels, John &	123.77
228-021	Chapter 61A	850 WELLS ROAD	Jajko, Emelia	26.07
230-004	Chapter 61A	346-500 WELLS ROAD	Joppich, Karl A (Estate of)	93.43
230-028	Chapter 61A	594 WINDSOR ROAD	Martin, Everett L & Doris M	4.39
230-029	Chapter 61A	262 WELLS ROAD	Grimshaw, Dale A & Patricia	49.23
231-003	Chapter 61A	245 NOTCH ROAD	Balawender, Robert W & Dale C	11.14
231-019	Chapter 61A	0 NOTCH ROAD	Martin, Everett L Jr &	85.60
235-024	Chapter 61A	1322 WINDSOR ROAD	Winterpast Farm LLC	119.54
237-001	Chapter 61A	800 JENKS ROAD	Goldfarb, Miriam D	67.16
240-022	Chapter 61A	1181 SAVOY ROAD	Clairmont, Edwin	34.62
240-023	Chapter 61A	1285 SAVOY ROAD	Clairmont, Edwin	96.05
241-011	Chapter 61A	306 FALES ROAD	Gwozdz, John J & Sophie	107.66
228-012	Chapter 61A	1051,1053 WELLS ROAD	Jayko, Theodore F	32.89
240-025	Chapter 61A	1192 SAVOY ROAD	Clairmont, Edwin	72.42
112-005	Chapter 61A	73 COOLIDGE ROAD	Kittler, Emil & Eleanor (LE) &	32.13
216-035	Chapter 61A, 61	179 FISHER HILL	Parker, Robert &	61.46
214-035	Chapter 61A	0 WEST MOUNTAIN ROAD	Kruszyna, Ronald A & Virginia Trustees	141.15
201-013	Chapter 61A	0 SOUTH STATE ROAD	Whitney, Eric	1.20
202-013	Chapter 61A	0 SOUTH STATE ROAD	Whitney, Eric	2.19
228-016	Chapter 61A	801 JENKS ROAD	Goldfarb, Miriam D	46.61
239-002	Chapter 61A	0 STEWART WHITE ROAD	Alibozek, Wanda & Barbara J	2.03
241-019	Chapter 61A	0 FALES ROAD	Gwozdz, Joseph J & Nancy	119.44
201-007	Chapter 61A	0 SOUTH STATE ROAD	Whitney, Eric & Eileen	0.74
201-014	Chapter 61A	0 INGALLS ROAD	Whitney, Eileen & Eric	98.53

202-002	Chapter 61A	0 SOUTH STATE ROAD	Whitney, Eric & Eileen	4.84
213-018	Chapter 61A	0 OUTLOOK AVENUE	Kittler, Emil & Eleanor (LE) &	6.23
214-038	Chapter 61A	0 WEST MOUNTAIN ROAD	Field, Roger P &	8.49
225-021	Chapter 61A	0 NORTH STATE ROAD	Daniels, John &	20.98
228-019	Chapter 61A	0 JENKS ROAD	Jayko, Theodore F	35.47
230-014	Chapter 61A	443 WINDSOR ROAD	Martin, Everett L & Doris M	64.56
230-015	Chapter 61A	0 WINDSOR ROAD	Martin, Everett L & Doris M	126.56
230-032	Chapter 61A	0 WINDSOR ROAD	Martin, Everett L & Doris M	81.52
231-035	Chapter 61A	0 NOTCH ROAD	Martin, Kim I	45.85
231-038	Chapter 61A	0 NOTCH ROAD	Martin, Everett L & Doris M	9.80
231-040	Chapter 61A	0 NOTCH ROAD	Balawender, Fred S	6.70
235-006	Chapter 61A	0 WINDSOR ROAD	Winterpast Farm LLC	6.54
237-091	Chapter 61A	0 HENRY WOOD ROAD	Ayrhill Farms Inc	2.76
238-019	Chapter 61A	45 HENRY WOOD ROAD	Ayrhill Farms Inc	28.55
238-020	Chapter 61A	190 HENRY WOOD ROAD	Ayrhill Farms Inc	94.67
239-001	Chapter 61A	0 STEWART WHITE ROAD	Alibozek, Wanda & Barbara J	1.01
239-005	Chapter 61A	0 STEWART WHITE ROAD	Alibozek, Wanda & Barbara J	113.29
239-007	Chapter 61A	0 STEWART WHITE ROAD	Alibozek, Joseph & Theresa	50.29
239-018	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin	1.38
239-019	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin	2.13
239-020	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin	1.97
239-021	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin	2.28
239-022	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin	1.53
240-022.01	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin	1.36
240-022.02	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin	1.60
240-022.03	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin	1.83



240-022.04	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin	1.87
240-022.05	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin	1.79
240-022.06	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin	1.53
240-022.07	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin	1.49
240-022.08	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin	1.95
240-022.09	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin	2.08
240-022.10	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin	2.04
240-022.11	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin	1.47
240-022.12	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin	1.43
240-022.13	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin	1.37
240-022.14	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin	1.74
240-022.15	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin	1.94
240-022.16	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin	1.98
240-022.17	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin	2.10
240-022.18	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin	1.92
240-022.19	Chapter 61A	0 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE	Clairmont, Edwin	4.26
241-009	Chapter 61A	0 FALES ROAD	Gwozdz, John J & Sophie	61.41
228-009	Chapter 61A	0 WELLS ROAD	Jayko, Theodore F	120.46
202-015	Chapter 61A	0 INGALLS ROAD	Whitney, Eric & Eileen	2.69
202-028	Chapter 61A	0 INGALLS ROAD	Whitney, Peter I &	299.91
242-016	Chapter 61B	0 WINDSOR ROAD	Kirk, Alice M	1.43



APPENDIX D: Public Survey Results, Notes from Listening Sessions, and Stakeholder Interview Responses

CHESHIRE MASTER PLAN STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEW SUMMARY - BRPC 10/12/16

ECONOMY

Comment: *"I want to establish a Farmer's market in town. We are engaging in a discussion with that community."*

Comment: *"There is opportunity for a Business Association. We should be connecting business community and the town. They should be one and the same."*

Comment: *"We need to be leveraging local resources. Leadership does not think about these things. The lake is a huge resource. Rail trail is a huge resource, as well as Appalachian trail. Comes through our streets. State land is another resource, but we don't interact with the state."*

Comment: *"This is a beautiful place. A lot to offer – scenic - trails. Need to get people here. Need to encourage local business, instead of chasing people out. Anyone who watched the dollar general process is probably very discouraged."*

Comment: *"Look at how many people at Whitney's. Tons of people there. I think that if people were drawn here, we would have more people coming in and buying homes or looking to build. We need more attractions."*

Comment: *"Need more restaurants in town. Need to encourage restaurants, and other draws. Rail trail is benefit to the town, but there was a lot of skepticism initially."*

Comment: *"When you go to NY state, there are community areas. School fields could be transformed into a multiuse field to attract teams and families into town. Create draws and attractions in town. If there were more business choices in town, we would support them."*

Comment: *"Town is not very business friendly."*

Comment: *"Need to bring in jobs. Generate revenue through business. How do we accommodate, and attract new business? Need to bring in growth, need to be more business friendly. Farming in this town is done."*

Comment: *"Need to provide opportunities for business and recreation-based tourism"*

Comment: *"Cheshire has portions of Mt. Greylock Reserve, Appalachian Trail and Rail Trail. Town needs to celebrate these resources. Cheshire should cater to people who come to visit these resources. Small retail or small restaurants or specialty stores."*

Comment: *"We could do better to get businesses in town. There is distaste for chain stores. Cheshire has a lot to offer. It would be great to see businesses work together on projects, work to increase tourism. It's an absolutely beautiful location. We are fortunate with the lifestyle we have here. Not a lot of vacant homes, that says something about what we have here."*

Comment: *"Up in Ashfield, they have Elmers. Its remote, but gets a ton of business. But its unique. We should work to attract unique businesses. Something that makes the town unique and special. Locally grown is starting to take off in places, maybe we should capitalize on that."*

Comment: *"Businesses need help with signage. Signage could be improved. Improve promotion of events in town, so that everyone knows about them."*

INFRASTRUCTURE

Potential Sewer System

Comment: *"10 or so years ago, got state funding to reconstruct Church Street. Burying utilities underground was proposed. State said that utilities could be buried, but meeting was like a lynching. People were upset that there would be additional costs to run the utilities underground, but it would have raised property values."*

Comment: *"When rail trail was constructed, we know we need to implement sewer. When rail trail was constructed, there was an opportunity to connect to sewer in Adams."*

Comment: *"The town will eventually have to go to a sewage treatment plant."*

Town Buildings and Facilities

Comment: *"Fire station needs a roof. Town hall needs new gutters. Senior center needs new cabinets"*

Comment: *"Town does not spend money on anything that is not essential. Town Hall is falling apart. Do put a roof on occasionally though."*

Comment: *"Need new town hall and fire station. Town buildings are getting old. Way too small. Records storage is a problem."*

Comment: *"Fire dept bldg. is falling apart. Back wall is sinking. Police dept. is not handicap accessible."*

Comment: *"We need one municipal building. There are grants available."*

TOWN SERVICES

Selectboard

Comment: *"We are trying to move from a 3-person to a 5-person Select Board. It would provide more opinions as to the direction of the town."*

Comment: *"I think the town needs 5 Selectmen"*

Comment: *"Expanding BOS from 3 to 5 members is a priority"*

Comment: *"There is a movement to go from 3 to 5 on SB, but town buildings cannot accommodate these extra members"*

Comment: *"Tuesday night is busy for town boards. Not enough room in Town Hall for 5-member board to meet."*

Comment: *"We need 5 person Selectboard. Was voted at town meeting and nothing was ever done about it"*

Comment: *"I am personally not in favor of the 5 member Selectboard. I think that personal issues with the board is why this has been pushed forward."*

Comment: *"We need term limits on the Selectboard"*

Comment: *"People are in office too long – need to explore term limits"*

Comment: *"The town needs term limits, things get stale. Right now we have a good ol' boy situation."*

Comment: *"There was a town meeting vote on Selectboard changes but there was no follow through"*

Comment: *"We need to put term limits on Selectmen. You can't allow people to be in charge for 20 years. They have done a great job, but they need to let other people have a turn. I think this is more important than the 5-member Selectboard issue. We need new blood and new ideas. Lack of term limits makes people possessive and defensive about their positions in town. No one can know it all and do it all forever."*

Town Outlook/Leadership/Communications

Comment: *"We need more proactive behavior and to be looking forward. Looking out, seeing what the town needs and identifying how things might be. We need to be visionary and proactive in planning. Changing the culture will be difficult. One thing the town needs is leadership. Town is much more disconnected, symptom of society, there is no feeling of community. Less passion about community involvement and participation. From a leadership standpoint, everything is reactive, its survival mode all the time, as opposed to visionary behavior with leadership to a better future. We have to look at future in a hard way and be honest with ourselves."*

Comment: *"Boards and committees don't do anything they don't have to."*

Comment: *"Need to get young people on boards. People don't feel like their voice will be heard. Everyone says they don't have time, but you make time for what is important."*

Comment: *"Voter apathy is an issue. If no hot topic, then hard to get people to vote."*

Comment: *"Selectboard is a reactive board, not a proactive board. Don't look toward the future at all"*

Comment: *"We need to get younger people involved in town."*

Comment: *"There is a lot of apathy, people complain but won't help out to fix things. There is a core group that is vocal about things. Need to get other people to help out. Getting volunteers is tough."*

Comment: *"There are real issues facing town we need long term planning not knee jerk management"*

Comment: *"Out of 3000 people in town, few vote and few come to town meeting. A small amount of voters and others make all town decisions. People just seem not to care. People who have been in control of the town do not want any change. That has kept us in limbo. We don't have the vision. We can't keep going on like we have. They want to leave the town as it is and not make waves. We will fall behind if we don't implement changes."*

Comment: *"Lack of involvement - only 117 voters at last town meeting. Don't get good turn-out at town meetings."*

Comment: *There is a core group that is interested and involved in politics. People are starting to take town gov't seriously."*

Comment: *"Our bylaws call for meetings of the SB and all other boards, but we don't have an all boards meeting."*

Comment: *"Goal is to have all boards functioning in unison with set of goals in mind."*

Comment: *"There is no all boards meeting"*

Comment: *"Leadership never meets with town hall staff. Everyone works in silos"*

Comment: *"This is a closed community. You hardly dare ask a question"*

Comment: *"Town doesn't like open meetings. People want open govt. Meeting minutes are scanty and vague by design. There is an unwillingness to share info. it often feels like a top secret gov't. Unwillingness to steer the town."*

Comment: *"Part of it is educating the public. Need to get message out to older members of the public about items on the budget so they don't always get shot down. Need an open budget process. Maybe the town could hold short coffee hour meetings to educate folks about this. People get pitted against each other and that benefits no one."*

Comment: *"they do what they do and you don't have a say in anything. We have to pay for the mistakes that are made by them"*

Comment: *"People come in to town think that everything we do here is wrong. Somethings can't be changed. Sometimes change can't work."*

Comment: *"If we don't get new younger families, town will not prosper."*

Comment: *"Outsiders expect amenities they would find in a larger area"*

Comment: *"Been having regular turnover in town. There is no longer the old family network in town. Nothing for them here in the Berkshires. Some of the people that move here have no kids, puts more burden on school system. Don't know who your neighbors are anymore."*

Comment: *"Town has been doing a lot with community. If you look out - A lot of people attend the senior center. Block Party is popular. The town has the peoples best interest at heart."*

Comment: *"Block parties started about 2 years ago with activities for kids, ice cream, local businesses etc. We need to get people out to start building community, as with the block parties."*

Comment: *"Block party was fun, it was great for kids. It's nice to see the town together. Life is busy and we don't do those sorts of things anymore."*

Comment: *"Block parties are helping to bring the town together."*

Comment: *"Leadership is a bit of a problem in Cheshire. It seems that things don't get done - get overlooked. I hate to be a thorn in someone's side and keep asking for things. Maybe a bigger board could help. The town fathers mostly do a good job but more could be done. Miss out on financial advantages, such as grants. infrastructure is one example of this."*

Comment: *"People are our biggest assets, it's a close knit town."*

Comment: *"Why does the Berkshire Eagle have so much news about Boston? The media could be a big plus for the area if handled properly. Local reporting is done after the fact. There is no promotion done. People don't know what's going on in town."*

Town Budget/Finances/Procurement/Investment/Grants/Taxes

Comment: *"We are very separate here in Cheshire. Good example is town meeting. There are problems with budget numbers but no communication. In other towns, from beginning to end, many people are involved. In Cheshire, only one or two people work on budget at a time."*

Comment: *"Accountant and treasurer should work together."*

Comment: *"The town just bought some trailers & never asked for a price. We need a strategy and policies around always seeking local business first and giving them an opportunity to support the town"*

Comment: *"We are trying to move the town forward, but don't have the funds. Town is living from day to day. Rarely get a chance to put money into stabilization, or rainy day funds."*

Comment: *"We don't have money to maintain what we have & town is not going to grow. Tax base is not going to improve infrastructure schools and roads. We need money."*

Comment: *"I don't want to pay more taxes, but there is a cost to keeping the town up and running. There is a certain amount of money needed to keep things going. If we don't invest, we will fall behind."*

Comment: *"Memorial in front of town was funded through volunteer contributions. Town does not spend a lot. Little league wanted a restroom. Town would not vote for it."*

Comment: *"We can't wait any longer on these issues."*

Comment: *"Free money is out there, but town did not seek it out. Town does woeful job of securing grants. We need an aggressive grant seeking program for everything and every dept. in town"*

Comment: *"Finances are a huge issue in town. Since I have been working with the town, budgets have decreased across the board. Funding for town depts. have been decreased. People don't realize this just makes everyone have to work harder because things are being taken away."*

Comment: *"Tax rate is low, but it can't stay low forever."*

Comment: *"We need to go through the budget line by line and examine every item"*

Comment: *"So much need in town, but no money to pay for it"*

Comment: *"Town asked for funds for a new police cruiser. It passed at town meeting but got shot down at the ballot box."*

Comment: *"They are not giving us anything for the taxes we pay, but nobody wants to hear about it."*

Comment: *"The infrastructure of the town needs funding; the tax rate would have to increase to provide funds for new projects or just to simply repair what already exists."*

Comment: *"Need to invest in infrastructure. Need to maintain what we have."*

Comment: *"People move to Cheshire for low taxes, but we need services that can only be provided by raising taxes. Balancing that is the struggle."*

Insurance

Comment: *"Insurance plan needs to be examined. Elected officials all have insurance. Cemetery Committee gets full time insurance; the fees are astronomical."*

Comment: *"We need to bid out our insurance costs to ensure greater savings to the town"*

Town Staffing / Employment

Comment: *"We need a salary study in upcoming budget, a plan other than what we do now for elected and appointed employees,"*

Comment: *"They have got to come up with a salary structure for all town dept's. There are many underpaid people in all dept's. We need to compare what other towns around us are paying. I was assured that the town is putting a committee together to examine this, but I'm not sure it's happening. We have both grossly underpaid and overpaid town staff."*

Comment: *"The mentality is that these are all volunteer positions here in town. Need to pay people for time – in all town depts. Can't expect people to work for free."*

Comment: *"We need a succession planning for town officials"*

Comment: *"We need to put together a succession plan for town staff and officials"*

Comment: *"There are no performance reviews for appointed employees"*

Comment: *"There is a lack of a human resource function. Perhaps this could be integrated with an expanded Town Admin. position"*

Comment: *"We need to stop hiring from within and instead start looking for those with experience from outside of our little area."*

Comment: *"The Town should consider making the Assessor and other positions be appointed vs. elected"*

Comment: *"Town hires politically – not always best candidates. They don't advertise all jobs they hire for."*

Police Dept.

Comment: *"Police dept. needs to be looked at. Police dept. is costly. Return for what they do is poor. There are a lot issues. Police budget is ridiculous. We don't need a full time police dept."*

Comment: *"People don't realize what the Police do. Crime creeps in on us from both sides."*

Comment: *"There is push and pull with the Police, they are part time but could possibly be full time"*

Highway Dept.

Comment: *"Highway Dept. could be redefined and reorganized into a true DPW. Could take on Water Dept., maintenance, cemetery, and mowing."*

Comment: *"We need to transform Highway Dept. arrogance into pride"*

Comment: *"There should be more written analysis from the Hwy Dept. on time and work performed by all employees. One piece of paper with handwritten notes on weekly tasks should not cut it."*

Comment: *"We need a highway foreman position"*

Comment: *"Lots of issues on Highway dept. lots of needless spending."*

Comment: *"Highway Dept staff don't adequate certifications for work they do or equipment they use"*

Water Dept.

Comment: *"town wants to sell land and get out debt, but it's our emergency water supply. They want to close the reservoir. I think it's stupid."*

Comment: *"Water Dept. is controlled by everyone in town, non-water system users too. Let water users who support it decide its fate."*

Comment: *"Water Dept. is too commingled w other aspects of town govt. The Dept should be responsible for the dept. We should switch to a water district model."*

Comment: *"There is discomfort between Water Dept and town. System is fairly well run, but there is a lack of communication that we are trying to improve. Only 600 users in town, but everyone gets to vote on water issues. In summary, there are many unresolved issues with the water department."*

Comment: *"About 600 acres of watershed land, that abuts the Greylock reservation. Town had totally mismanaged it. Magically wanted to sell the watershed land to pay for the lawsuit. Town has voted against this every time. Town does not have many assets."*

Comment: *"Water Dept. and Selectboard battle over jurisdiction of watershed land. Whether that land should be used is up for debate. Is very pretty area, could be used for recreation, trails, skiing. I Would prefer to have this under town control. Occasional tree harvest provides some income to the town. These Lands should belong to the water dept."*

Comment: *"Whole town votes on water system that serves a small number of people"*

Comment: *"Sell watershed land to pay off debt. This would free up tax dollars to pay for roads or other investments. This is a logical consideration to make."*

Council on Aging

Comment: *"We hired an outreach girl through a grant. She works in Ashfield, Savoy, Lanesborough, and other towns. Senior and Community Center also offers meals on wheels and a brown bag lunch for seniors."*

Comment: *"With aging population, there is often talk of cutting Council on Aging funding. Services for older people is a huge issue. Last 3 years there has been talk of cutting COA budget, specifically the van they use. How do you think that makes people who already feel neglected and unwanted feel?"*

Comment: *"Council on aging van – it doesn't always work for me and can be inconvenient."*

Master Plan

Comment: *"Only 10% participated in survey, master plan committee should not be making decisions based on this."*

Comment: *"We need to have good plans to be able to implement things, to make these things worth the money."*

Comment: *"Some people on master planning committee are working hard, but they will be discouraged if they don't get buy in from the people who will make it happen. They should take the top priorities and try to make them happen. Pick what will provide the biggest bang for the buck and get some return from it. We can't take on everything all at once. Get people who are committed and who want things to happen."*

Schools

Comment: *"The biggest issues is our schools".*

Comment: *"Schools are a huge expense, and have created a lot of unhappy people"*

Comment: *"Unless you have a good school system, you are not going to attract people to town."*

Comment: *"We need more parent participation at school committee meetings – need more participation in schools"*

Comment: *"School costs have increased at an alarming rate (insurance) with no reimbursement from state for transportation"*

Comment: *"School issues are biggest thing"*

Comment: *"Schools are huge part of town identity, school uncertainty looms over everything"*

Comment: *"Possibility of closing of Cheshire school is biggest issue. If school is closed, it would be a detriment to the community. I would be devastated if it were closed. We need to band together to keep the school open. De-regionalizing may be an option, but I don't know if that would be the answer."*

Comment: *"Schools are very important. It pits us against Adams. The Cheshire school is ideal to keep open because of the campus alone. The Adams school has no parking."*

Comment: *"People are very concerned about schools. No one knows what is going to happen. It's like cutting off the roots of the town if the school is closed."*

Comment: *"Right now we need the school to stay here in Cheshire. Don't want our kids to have to go to Adams."*

Comment: *"There is a chance the school could close. We are outvoted by school committee by 4-3. We need to work to keep school open - Keep school out of regional system."*

Comment: *"Student flight is an issue with the potential that the school will close."*

Comment: *"There are way too many standalone schools in this area. We can't pay to keep school going. Operational costs are huge."*

Comment: *“General feeling is that there is more school space than students. Can’t move from Plunkett into Cheshire, not enough space. Both facilities need infrastructure repairs. We feel that Cheshire is the tail and Adams is the dog- Cheshire gets wagged. On a cash flow basis, Adams has more underprivileged families. It costs Cheshire 2200 more per student to send them to school.”*

Comment: *“Don’t think Cheshire is getting the best that it can from the school district. Kids are transferring with the presumption that the school is going to close.”*

Comment: *“School is our biggest weakness right now; we don’t have the money we should. Town doesn’t have it and state isn’t contributing like it should. I want my kids to have what everyone else had growing. Did prop 2 ½ override to get specialists. Now it’s gone due to cuts. Daughter has 26 kids in class because they can’t pay for another teacher. Gym class only once a week. Teachers work hard and do so much with so little. Statewide problems with school funding – state is not paying for transportation. Why is it we pay \$12,000 to charter school but if I send my kid to Lanesboro it’s so much cheaper? Funding Formula needs to be corrected. School choice is hurting public schools. If parents move their kids, they should make up the difference. All the parents are jumping ship from Cheshire, and families are looking elsewhere to buy homes. Town members should understand needs for the school. So many act like the school gets too much, but kids need to be educated if they are going to grow up to be beneficial members of society.*

Comment: *“School system costs keep going up. Declining number of students. I hope we will find a way to keep school open. For people with young families growing up here, It’s good if students stay locally.”*

Comment: *“Major issue is the school system. Every year it’s the “sky is falling” - it’s never here is what we have done to change our situation. School system has been mismanaged. Superintendent was asked to resign, but was kept in position for the rest of the year.”*

Comment: *“Crossing my fingers that Cheshire Elementary is the school that remains open.”*

Comment: *“District is poorly funded, Cheshire is more willing to fund things than Adams, but tax rate constrains things. We are in a bit of tough slug for things especially if town population is declining. Collins Center Study will be finalized by December. Tax rate and debt burden from lawsuit make things difficult. A lot of centralized overhead that could be saved across the county. There is a larger countywide study [Education Task Force] that could centralize administration. Preliminary study released this fall. Schools are one of the biggest priorities”*

Comment: *“Potential to lose the school is huge. Most towns have their own school. Maybe we just need to raise taxes, or look for more federal or state funding.”*

Website

Comment: *“Town website is weak.”*

Library

Comment: *“Library has a public computer. Library is a real town treasure.”*

Comment: *“Library is always trying new ways to get new community members into the library. Ways to boost circulation. Events for the public, authors to talk to the community. Do community outreach. We want to increase the preschool story time hour.”*

Comment: *"Library has gotten grants from Northern Berk. Cultural Council. We are developing a program for entertainment. Want to see library as a place to get more than just books. Want to add one more facet to Cheshire. We would love to be able to expand the library."*

Comment: *"Pushing more for audio for adults and youth. New computer system for patrons. Cant expound on our space. Modifying space that we do have. Sponsor book-house free through United Way."*

Community/Town Collaborations

Comment: *"Lion's Club is putting up a sign to welcome people to town"*

Comment: *"Lion's Club fund raising goes to help COA, Cheshire Elementary and new playground"*

HOUSING

Comment: *"Senior housing is needed. It seems sad that people who live here all their lives have to go somewhere else to live when they get old"*

Comment: *"No elderly housing, People have to leave and go to Adams."*

Comment: *"Housing for elderly is another thing needed in town"*

Comment: *"If the school is closed, one possibility is that it could become senior housing. We need to research this"*

Comment: *"What to do with our town buildings? One possibility is senior housing if the school is closed. However, if we accept federal funding we would have to open this up to everyone. It would be better if potential senior housing could be limited to Cheshire residents only."*

Comment: *"Senior housing has not been addressed, these things concern me"*

Derelict properties/Dilapidated Housing

Comment: *"There are some eyesores in the center of town. Town should have a way to make itself attractive. If you go into a place for the first time, first impressions mean a lot. There are some unattractive houses in town."*

Comment: *"Dilapidated Housing is an issue"*

Comment: *"Unkept houses are an issue"*

Comment: *"Derelict properties are not being addressed, there are properties that could be renovated"*

TRANSPORTATION

Comment: *"Maintaining roads is going to be the biggest problem in town. The longer they wait the worse they get, need bigger investment. Need to begin with engineering."*

Comment: *"Crucial issues are our roads and bridges"*

Comment: *"we need to develop a long term plan for improvement of town roads"*

Comment: *"Road maintenance plan – town needs a detailed road plan"*

Comment: *"Sand mill bridge is out – some have to go eight miles around because bridge is out."*

Comment: *"Our roads are falling apart. A lot of the roads are suffering."*

Comment: *"Road condition needs to be addressed. Bridge on Sandmill road needs to be fixed."*

Comment: *"Town does what it can with roads, they have a limited budget."*

Comment: *"Trying to apply for grants and assistance for roads. Only way we got Stafford Hill constructed"*

Comment: *"Getting roads taken care of. Have in the past worked on the TIP and TAC, but no money for engineering. Need to make changes - make it easier for towns to get projects in the works."*

Comment: *"Roads are one of the biggest priorities"*

Comment: *"The superintendent told me that there isn't a road in our town that doesn't need work. Why has it gotten this bad?"*

LAND USE

Comment: *"Would like to keep minimal commercial development, such as the dollar general, would like to see small local businesses."*

Comment: *"Would like the character of the town to stay the same"*

Comment: *"State required a traffic study, that was paid for by Dollar General. We need to change bylaws. Tell them you want a third party analysis, to do a traffic study and have them pay for it. BRPC did independent traffic study. Refuted what was in the Dollar General traffic study. Town should protect itself, to make sure decisions going forward that are the best for the town."*

Comment: *"Downtown development. There were several businesses in the center of town. Commercially zoned. There is opportunity to initiate downtown development. Establish a town center where people can gather. Change culture. We need to make a town center - Cultural arts and historic district. Ways to get there. Need to put things in place. Need sponsor businesses, historic/arts/cultural district in downtown area. Masonic hall, many historic businesses are there. State designation could a catalyst for other things to do some."*

Comment: *"Planning board is reviewing town zoning and bylaws for clarity"*

Comment: *"We need to reexamine our zoning laws. We are a Right to Farm town. We have some large farms in town. To keep rural character we should zone to keep these farms. We need to be very careful about commercial zoning."*

Dollar General

Comment: *"Town is against the dollar general, very few people in town want it."*

Comment: *"The town resisted the dollar general, but we can't exclude business. They have been granted a permit to build. Local liquor store in town. There is fear the Dollar General might apply for a beer and wine license.*

Comment: *"I'm all for Dollar General - will keep people in town doing their shopping. Don't think it will be as bad as some make it out to be."*

Comment: *"Dollar general. People are opposed to it, but I think the fit is right."*

Comment: *"There was backlash over Dollar General."*

Comment: *"I am totally, 100%, against the Dollar General. How can the town not find a way to keep it from happening? They always find a way to keep everything else from happening. Dollar General horrifies me."*

Comment: *"If I had dictatorial powers, I would have kicked the Dollar General to the curb."*

NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES / OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION

Historic Resources

Comment: *"Town Hall complex is being listed on State List of historic properties. Also will be listed on National Historic Register. Could open the door for some grants. Town got voted money 3500 to pay historian to facilitate everything. He compiled the report to get it listed."*

Comment: *"Hist. Comm. investigates old homes. We have plaques, for recognition of historic homes. We have provided about 15 plaques to homeowners at their request. We are working on a project regarding history of dairy farms in Cheshire - hopefully will be published. We collect artifacts. We have permission from SB to put displays in lower area of town hall itself. "Catholic Church is approaching 90th anniversary, want some sort of display for this. We have displays in the Post Office."*

Comment: *"Want to establish historic district in town, but we need more support and to educate people."*

Natural Resources

Comment: *"Weed control is a split cost between Lake Mgmt District and the town"*

Comment: *"Cheshire Lake is really popular with fisherman and for other recreation. It could be an incredible asset to the town. There are some maintenance and mgmt. requirements for the lake. Town should do more to coordinate access to lake. Activities and events that could be better managed. Needs better access - perhaps dock on Farnham's road"*

Comment: *"When state took ownership, they moved boat ramp to north end. Rest of the facilities remained. Public Beach was never created. Not much land, and parking is a problem. State come in a few years later, made 4 fishing piers. West of this area there is still room for a public beach. However, there is little space for parking. Northern side of public area is town land. Beach could be built on town land."*

Comment: *"Town mows area to public area, state owns Ashuwilltocook. Maintains restrooms. Joint ownership for public use. When they have an event on the Ashuwilltocook there is very limited parking."*

It gets so busy that people will start parking up a route 8 from Farnham's road. Becomes a safety concern. Space is an issue for the beach. Old US gypsum mill is still there, owned by Farnham's good life. Suggested that someone might use that land for house. Across the street from picnic area is some land, used to have bands and music there. That is sitting there, could be used for parking. Used to have a hotdog stand there."

Comment: "Hiking trails could be improved by DCR."

Listening Session with the Cheshire COA, December 7, 2016

Participants: 23

Facilitators: Peter Traub

Other Master Plan Committee members & consultant attending: Eileen Quinn, Eammon Coughlin

Notes: Prepared by Eammon Coughlin and Eileen Quinn

PARTICIPANT DISCUSSION RESPONSES

What is most important about living in Cheshire?

- Bus Route is important
- Safe quiet town is valued
- Friendly people
- Centrally located between North Adams and Pittsfield
- Excellent emergency response

What's needed in town?

- Like school system, don't want our kids to have to go to Adams. School choices should be up to us. If they combine schools – have Adams come to Cheshire. There is more space. especially outdoor space.
- Need more small businesses – if we have them residents need to change their thinking and habits, and patronize these businesses to keep them alive.
- Need senior housing
- Fix the bridge on Sandmill Rd.
- Berkshire Eagle does not cover North County very well. Town should put pressure on them to cover this area more, and sales would increase.
- COA Van – very important to keep. Not utilized enough by seniors.
- Senior Center – very important
- How about a Farmer's Market? Could use the COA parking lot.
- A doctor / clinic office would be very good
- Bring back concerts at Lulu's place – the causeway. Add beach, concession & bandshell. Better utilize the lake
- Cheshire could use a pharmacy
- Sidewalks in bad condition
- Senior housing would help get old folks out of big houses where they live alone. Might free up space for new families.
- Small office space to bring business and professionals (doctors, lawyers, etc)

What if lost would fundamentally change the town?

- School
- Senior Center
- Don't change the character of the town, make improvements work with character

PARTICIPANT WRITTEN FILL-IN-THE-BLANK RESPONSES

1. What is most important about living in my town is

Small town

- Small town atmosphere. Everybody know everybody. You know your neighbors. Good emergency services.
- Everyone is like a family to each other - helping all. It's just a nice quiet area for families too.

Centrally Located

- It's easy to go south of Cheshire or to the north for important appointments
- Access to elementary school, BRTA, COA transportation, thoughtful growth

2. What I want to change most in my town is

Senior Housing

- Housing most important
- Have elderly housing

Better Senior Services

- More senior services.
- More time for the van services for appointments & to let others know about having more meals for the seniors for 5 days. And to get the Selectmen to do more for seniors to help those in need.

Other/Misc.

- Attract small business. We need young people.

3. What I want to most remain the same in my town is

- Emergency services
- More water hookups for town members, a clean environment,
- farm fresh vegetables, a farmer's market would be nice from summer to fall at the senior center
- Village atmosphere
- School

4. The best way to enhance my town is

- More businesses
- Have the Police Dept. be more accessible to people living in Cheshire for vandalism and speeding on Lanesboro Rd. and Wells Rd. and actually from Bedard's going north traffic is heavy.
- Save our school

5. My big idea for my town that would have the most impact is

- We need a Pharmacy
- Better communication – Berkshire Eagle does well for Southern Berkshire, but not Northern Berkshire

Sandmill Bridge

- Fix the bridge on Sandmill rd.
- Fix bridge now on Sandmill rd.

Notes from Gardening Club Listening Session

December 16, 2016

Facilitated by: Eileen Quinn & Atalanta Sunguroff

8 Members Attended

What has changed?

- Don't know neighbors
- Low membership at the senior center
- Less volunteering

What keeps you here?

- Location in the county going north to south
- Rural atmosphere
- Good 1st responders

What if lost would change the town?

- School

Ideas to improve town living

- Increase venues to find out what is going on in the town
- Welcoming packet/basket to newcomers
- Close Dollar General
- Improving and adding well marked signs to state and federal lands (i.e. the Appalachian Trail)
- More Town walking accessibility – sidewalks on both sides of streets
- Not only 5 select board members, but also term limits in order to give new ideas to the town
- Have Town select board meetings in larger space
- Continue block parties, more opportunities like this
- Utilize existing buildings, fixing up buildings
- Small and affordable assisted living place
- No industrial park (as it would change small local rural atmosphere and there are lots of current buildings)
- Town beach (with picnic area, no smoking)
- Full mail delivery to all parts of town

- Sidewalks on both sides extended throughout downtown
- Ambulance services within town
- Holiday gathering of all churches (something like)
- Pro-activity of town to get grants for upkeep, school, arts, culture
- Communication for events
- Opportunities to get together, meet each other
- Use the cheese recipe of Cheshire to bring attention to the town
- Cheese Festival
- Utilizing historic values of the town
- Clean roads (too much litter)
- Downtown local businesses (cafe, etc.)

Summary of Responses from the Form (6 forms filled out)

What is most important about living in my town is ...

- ~Cheshire is a low crime area, also important that Cheshire is an affordable place to live and would like that to continue.
- ~Location to Pittsfield & North Adams
- ~Peaceful, friendly, family safe
- ~Rural life
- ~Family feeling

What I want to change most in my town is ...

- ~Would like to see senior housing. Also more restaurants
- ~Possibility of Senior Center Housing
- ~Senior Housing
- ~Size of Selectman's meeting room
- ~Size of Selectman's meeting room – maybe meet at Community Ctr.?
- ~Sidewalks – instead of walking on the street

What I want to most remain the same in my town is ...

- ~Cheshire School
- ~To keep our school, and Block Parties
- ~Elementary School
- ~Elementary School / All Churches get together
- ~Picturesque

How I would best protect and improve my town is ...

- ~Better street lighting, side walks
- ~More community activities
- ~More communication
- ~More communication, signage, sidewalks
- ~Keep active and volunteer – an idea for a “Town Souvenir” – a cutting board in the shape of the town and cheese.

My big idea for my town that would have the most impact is...

- ~Change in Officers – Would term limits be effective?
- ~Senior Housing
- ~Picnic area beach
- ~Senior Housing / Our own ambulance
- ~Have a welcome basket for new residents – giving hours businesses are available, etc.
- ~Effective signage for the Cobbles and Appalachian Trail (more inviting)

Listening Session with the Cheshire Parent Teacher Group (PTG), January 3, 2017

Participants: 8

Facilitators: Ed St. John IV

Other Master Plan Committee members & consultant attending: Eammon Coughlin

Notes Prepared by: Eammon Coughlin

PARTICIPANT DISCUSSION RESPONSES

What is most important about living in Cheshire?

- School – lots of apprehension about school closure potential
- Clean, safe
- Know everyone

What scares you about the future?

- Fear about lack of school
- Potential loss of property value
- Without school, potential loss of community.
 - Town will no longer be a draw for families.
 - Fact that schools are “up in the air” is already keeping families away

Beyond the school, what draws people and families here?

- Low taxes
- Clean, safe
- Low crime
- Community – feeling that others in town “have your back”

Where do you get info about town?

- Town website is tough to navigate
- Get info from facebook,
 - some people get all news from facebook, but difficult to verify truth from this source
- Read town reports
- More robust/active facebook page possibly needed, or more professional webpage
- Fire station sign is a good source of news
- Maybe volunteers or retirees w/ small stipend could help improve town website

What if lost would fundamentally change the town?

- Library
 - Library is great but hours make it challenging to use
 - Better promotion of library is needed before any possible expansion
 - Lots of great programs, but need more patrons
- School
- Lake
- Fire dept. / emergency responders

Should the town market itself?

- We should let people both inside and outside of town know what happens here
- We need a direct link to local media
 - publicity of the town is often bad
 - Should actively get messages about town out to media
 - Adams/Cheshire School Facebook page is helpful, gets good message out about school
- Maybe publish a calendar of events
- If we market town, need to determine what specific aspects to market
- Need more activities for kids at block party
 - Maybe open library during block party to promote this service
- Promote Cobbles and Appalachian Trail / outdoor rec. /natural resources
 - Maybe have rental boats or kayak for lake
 - Get beach back at lake

What would you like to change most in town?

- School should not close – elephant in room
 - Will impact property values
 - Must educate younger generation or else they will end up dependent on public assistance
 - Free meals at school enable parents to be irresponsible and detract from education mission
- Need new businesses in town
 - Possible business directory on website, links to existing businesses
 - Most people don't actually know what's here, such as Reynold's Store
 - Attract small business – don't need Dollar General
- Need more housing options for younger families
 - Lots of folks want to get out of North Adams or Pittsfield to more rural area but can't because of housing prices
 - Housing is difficult to find
 - Town should possibly seek grants to address housing – if there's money out there we should get it

How should we best protect the town?

- Keep school open
 - Would likely pay higher taxes to keep school open
 - Maybe high school could be combined with elementary in same building
 - Maybe better communications from high school could help
 - High school has parent online portal, but awkward to get access to it
- Need to get more parents/people involved in town and school
 - Huge societal change as one parent used to stay home with children – has led to less involvement
 - Lack of attendance at open house
 - Parents go to sporting events, but not to other activities

Notes From 2-2-17 Fire Department Listening Session

What is best about living in Cheshire?

- School
- Safety
- Fire department
- Tax rate (low but assessments are high)
-

What Is Best About The School?

- Motivating factor for families to move to Cheshire
- Tight knit community where everyone knows everyone else, including knowing the kids as well as whose kids they are. * Two respondents admitted that they send their children to St. Stan's because of the school uncertainty.

What Do You Want Changed?

- Make a plan for the future. Too much in the past (and present) has been reactive.
- Volunteers are not valued appropriately. Many people have volunteered in the past and it feels like citizens *expect* those volunteers to continue working hard because, hey, they volunteered.
- Town official salaries are determined without rhyme or reason. Why are some assistants paid more than department heads? Salaries should be determined by the responsibilities required in the expected performance in the job. Review pay scales and write job descriptions.
- More communication between boards. Could they meet quarterly, together, in the same place?
- When board chairs/selectmen say "We'll look into that", the review is internal with no transparency. Can reviews be done with participants who are not a selectman or on a certain board? Can a specific (informative) report out become a standard practice?
- Change select board from three to five members.
-

What Do You Want To Remain The Same?

- School - It has ample parking, off street traffic control, fields.
- Keep reservoir property. Do not sell the town well.
-

Big Ideas

- Solar farm owned by the town.
- Get grant money to take down dilapidated homes.
- Create assisted living for the elderly. Some older folks want to stay in their own home even though they are not capable of staying there (maintenance, taxes, health issues, nutrition, etc.). Assisted living can allow many to stay in town while possibly freeing up the vacated properties as available real estate. Is grant money available to refurbish these vacated properties to make them more attractive?
- Modernize current system to allow for on-line applications for building permits, etc. Use software that allows all departments (planning board, health inspector, building inspector, fire department...) access to ongoing business and actions.
- Form a water district separate from the town, giving more control to residents in the water district and allowing the water district to access grant funding.
- Create quarterly board meetings to promote efficient progress of projects that involve more than one board.
- Update the website.
- Establish and maintain good roads.
- Separate from the regional school district
- Organize all departments in one facility (easily done if CES closes).

- Attract small businesses to contribute to the tax base. Give temporary, discounted tax rates as an incentive.
- Establish and maintain a town beach as one way to attract non-residents and perhaps inspire them to become residents.

Cheshire Master Plan Public Forum / Listening Session

January 26, 2017

Participants: 50+

Facilitators: Ed St. John IV

Other Master Plan Committee members & consultant attending: Eileen Quinn, Peter Traub, Eric Whitney, John Bianchi, Deborah Dunlap, Bob Ciskowski, Eammon Coughlin

Notes Prepared by: Eammon Coughlin

PARTICIPANT STICKER BOARD RESPONSES

What is most important about living in Cheshire?

- Highway, Police, Fire Dept.
- Better Service @ Compactor
- Low Taxes
- Safe
- Keep taxes low and school open
- Peace
- Remote
- Rural nature
- Quiet, safe, & friendly neighborhoods to raise a family
- Quiet, safe community & people looking out for one another
- Peace and quiet
- Very peaceful and easy to live here
- Historic New England town in the heart of the Berkshires with real farms
- Safe, close community, great people
- Safe place to live and raise a family
- Peaceful community, close knit neighbors
- Rural life
- The people
- Rural charm
- Country living, access to travel to other towns, great neighbors, and everyone helps one another
- My family has been here since 1790
- Supporting, safe community, small businesses, quality of life
- Small town friendly atmosphere
- Bike path is a tremendous asset
- Rural landscape, wildlife
- My family, my community, my home, my family business that's in town
- Develop an aggressive plan to engage and leverage our farming / agricultural industry and potential

What I Want to Remain the Same in Cheshire is...

- Everything. Peace and quiet, keep school open, small tight-knit town.
- Everything

- The small town feel. The friendliness of the small businesses. The bike trail. The local school.
- The Cheshire school. A new access for boats on the lake. Make sure they de-weed the lake.
- Close community, safe school. Keep elementary school open.
- Small, safe, close knit school
- Sense of community – being that its small. Keeping elementary school open.
- Build on the good things here and improve the quality of life for all. We need our roads fixed
- The historic architecture – preserve it.
- Elementary school open. Small quiet and safe neighborhoods. Walking/hiking trails.
- The elementary school.
- Cheshire elementary school
- Cheshire school
- Rural feel, school, friendly.
- Small picturesque community
- Cheshire school remain open – rural community
- Small town feel
- Small town look and feel
- Maintain town rural character
- To remain a rural, peace & quiet town. No Dollar General – but it's here.
- Our school
- Cheshire school. Preservation of rural land. Limit big corporations
- Summer concerts, seeing community work together on projects.
- Preserve historic buildings, repair them, maintain the rural agrarian quality of the town.

What I Want to Change in Cheshire is...

- Clean up litter. Clean up or demolish homes or properties that need it. There are a handful of homes and properties that need major cleanup or demolition.
- Open communication and community engagement form town leadership
- Preserve our historic buildings
- Get control of school budget – other than that nothing
- The speed limit currently unmarked in Cheshire hills (Hutchinson) specifically. Ingalls Rd. Police say it is 45 since it is unmarked. Should be 35.
- Preserve historic buildings.
- Add small business
- More industries and jobs
- Beautification, help older buildings, senior housing, small businesses – coffee shop
- Government moves slower than the tectonic plates in the Earth's crust below us. Not good
- Slow down the trend to turn beautiful pastoral and pristine forest and pasture land into building lots. Restrictions on this trend sorely needed.
- Bring in more business. Creative (out of the box) money management.
- Institute a master plan to protect our community as we know it.
- Fix up the Beechwood inn and make a historic bed and breakfast or a retirement home.
Community garden.
- Keep control of our school. Add more DPW vehicles

- Beautification and zoning issues
- There needs to be a small scale elderly housing for people to stay in town.
- Nothing
- More selectmen. More business near town hall
- Forms of communication to encourage more community involvement. Add a small business district
- More little stores and businesses
- Repair roads. Have more small businesses like pizza place a restaurant like country charm and no chain stores.
- We need a wider range of ages and more families. The town needs more substantive vision for the 21st century. It needs to be open to workable ideas. We need diversity in our population.
- Better care of the roads. Potholes are awful on side streets.
- More funding for town maintenance
- More mom and pop stores
- Improvements needed. Need new guardrails in areas along Wells rd. Have trail signs at major points leading to the Appalachian Trail areas north and south. Lower speed limits along Wells Rd, West Mountain Rd. and others. Enjoy the rural beauty and quietness.
- Attract young families. Provide and keep school. Parks and recreation. Rural feel. Transportation – bus and share rides. Activities for youth. Help support groups that involve kids (4H, Boy and Girl Scouts, Birding, camping, ski clubs, hiking, boat club). Involvement with neighboring communities for growth.
- Government must be nimble and move forward more quickly to assess opportunities and adapt those that will improve quality of life, especially through grants.

How I Would Best Protect and Improve Cheshire is....

- Restrict commercial development to a commercial district
- Better access to police and animal control
- Create a town charter
- Keep school in town, more community grants, support small business in town, preserve historical property
- Get grant money whenever it can be found
- Continue to care for our lake
- Bring hardworking families into the area to live and work
- Make sure the façade of the dollar store is nice – landscaping, siding
- Keep the school functioning in town
- Fight to keep it a bedroom and rural community
- No pipeline & repair blight
- Support school, fight pipeline
- Work diligently to get more residents engaged in planning the town's future
- All state-owned land should remain intact, Non pipelines anywhere in town, Cheshire lake as one of our most attractive and valuable resources should be maintained. Wells Road needs help at east end
- Protect the wetlands and open land

- Easier to contact Police dept., and especially the animal control officer
- The natural resources, the town governance, clean water, the educational system, the forests, citizens involved in more voting decisions
- Create a town charter, keep our elementary school
- Save the elementary school
- Save the school
- Keep the school, stop developing our land, no more franchises
- Post more signs to slow speeders down along roads leading into and out of town
- Establish a small business district, support schools, community involvement, utilize the community center for more family activities, utilize the town website for information, meeting information, and town activities
- Get our elementary schools ranking higher & keep us open
- More community education and engagement
- Increase tax base, more funding for school district, keep small town feel, fix roads
- Enlarge Board of Selectmen, enlarge Fire Dept., full time Police 24-7
- Have a town sewer so you can have smaller building lots, more of a business friendly attitude, have new blood in the Selectmen's office so we can get new and energetic ideas
- Adopt a long term perspective in making decisions, rather than being reactive or openly fixated with keeping short term costs down.

My Big Idea for Cheshire is....

- Dog park
- Dog park, more activities for community
- Senior housing
- Put up a fence (just kidding) – could be better at keeping clean
- Get out of regular school district
- Upgrade services, rail trail, restroom near boat ramp
- Work with state on a plan for additional uses of state owned land in town
- Elder housing
- Make our elementary school one district only instead of ACRSD
- Better signage for hiking trails in town. Promote natural resources
- Affordable housing for seniors
- A cultural district from the Hoosic river to Route 8 directly through the center of town
- Turn the town forest into a playground with swimming hole in the brook
- Small business district, refurbishing historic buildings for use – personal, community, or business, farmer's market, community involvement for all ages
- Be welcoming and invite families of diversity to be a part of our town. Encourage small home-based businesses and help them thrive.
- Light manufacturing area
- Hotel on lower lake with golf course
- Encourage small business and support them. Town beach
- Senior housing for Cheshire residents
- Affordable housing, senior housing

- We need a centrally located dedicated elderly housing facility offering both subsidized and unsubsidized housing for elders and disabled. We also need a more modern, bright, and airy town library. If elementary school is closed, perhaps some space within the building could be used for more spacious library facility.
- Create public beach area at town lake
- Small business or tradesman's park
- One centrally located building for police, fire station, town hall. Cheshire school to stay and close Plunkett School
- Develop the former trail station property on Depot St. into a cultural destination as the owner is close to retirement
- Take control of our school – leave Adams
- More business to increase tax base, senior housing
- Greylock Rd. to Mt Greylock access road, town beach, year-round access on Quarry Rd.
- Tree committee & stop cutting old trees. Senior housing, litter enforcement and cleanup
- Turn the town forest into a park with zip-lines, hiking trails, picnic areas, create building standards, so boxy chain stores will in the future, have to comply with architectural design standards in certain areas.
- Middle and school students getting involved to put the history of our town into a board game video or geo-cache event. History ambassadors to help learn & spread the history of the town. Make school projects aimed at having input from students to plan a "Cheese Day" in Cheshire like the Lenox Apple Squeeze
- Secure grants in support of developing a complete plan for refurbishment of the town road infrastructure

PARTICIPANT DISCUSSION RESPONSES

What I Want to Remain the Same in Cheshire is...

- Historic, cultural, rural – preserve our heritage
- Firehouse great way to communicate to public
- Keep school – important to community

My Big Idea for Cheshire is....

- Use town forest as a town park – don't sell
 - Zipline
- Get young families here
- Preserve what we have and show off what's here
- Promote town
- Get together and promote natural resources
- Get high school students involved
- Better utilize town website
- Community group of kids
 - Kids leave and don't come back
 - Work closely with high school

- Responsibility to get involved at county level
- We have failed the trades jobs – promote trades
- Recruit slightly older “out of college” folks to live here
- Website will outstrip its usefulness soon
- Aggressively go after grants
- Fix up Route 116
- Develop leadership, get involved, be the squeaky wheel
- Develop kids that are here
- Increase communication – need to know what’s here
- Support and publicize community groups
- Promote history of town – examine creation of a Mass. Cultural District – better utilize train station building, Appalachian trail, and historic buildings
- Need strategy to pursue grants and regularly apply for them
- New municipal building that could house all departments
- Need to figure out way to increase school rating level.
- Adams and Cheshire use to be like one town
- Break off from school district - Got to fight for our kids
- Need to get higher school rating – families only consider school rating when looking at where to live
- Get more school choice students to attend local school instead of leaving district
- Engage town more
- Shift culture to work as a team – will help facilitate other things.
- Frustration at not being able to meet in a bigger space for SB meetings – hold SB meetings in different room
- Need more interactive SB meetings – televise them
- School is heart of community – can’t lose school
- Need community building events
- Need town beach
- Engage students
- Bring new technology to help town
- Promote businesses that are here on website
 - Need a lot more info on town website
- Utilize school more to help address town issues
- Find a niche for school programs
- Mentor program for students
- Our citizens are “intelligent, powerful, and generous”
- We can be solution based citizens
- Need to hear from young people more
- For public meetings – tell folks to “bring a friend” to get more people involved.

Other Items

- Give master plan presentation to high school students?
- Find outreach avenues beyond internet to help address master plan items
- Examine use of emergency call system to get word out about town events and meetings

Cheshire Master Plan Survey Summary

Introduction

This report presents and analyzes the results of a survey available to residents of Cheshire regarding the master plan of the Town of Cheshire. This survey, hosted by SurveyMonkey, included various questions about the respondents' preferences and desires for the future of Cheshire. The survey was open from March 14, 2016 to April 8, 2016.

A total of 341 residents responded to the survey, at least in part; respondents were not required to answer every question, so any question could be skipped or left blank. Below are the results of this survey, including information on the amount of respondents that answered the survey, and the appropriate numbers and percentages of how those respondents answered each question. Any important or recognizable trends in each question were made note of below the charts.

The survey was promoted through a full-page flyer posted throughout the Town of Cheshire, the Fire Department sign on Route 8, a newsletter for the Council on Aging, and an oversized postcard that was sent to every postal address in town, and through a full page flyer that was mailed to all property owners who live out of town. The postcard was distributed using a service of the U.S. Postal Service called Every Door Direct Mail, which is a cost-effective mechanism to deliver a mailing to every postal customer on a given route. The postcards were brought to the Cheshire Post Office on Wednesday, March 16th, 2016 and were then distributed to the three carrier routes and all P.O. Box customers in Cheshire, totaling 1,561 addresses. The flyers for the 190 out-of-town property owners were mailed on the same day through the regular mail. In total, 1,751 mail pieces were sent, resulting in a 19.5% response rate.

The postcard and flyer succinctly explained the purpose of the survey and the target audience, and listed the four ways to access the survey: going to the town website and clicking the link to the survey; going directly to the web address for the survey; picking up a paper copy of the survey at one of several locations around town; or scanning the QR code on the postcard/flyer with a smartphone or tablet. Overall, 305 respondents used took the survey electronically, and 36 responses were received via paper copy and manually entered; it is unknown how many people used each of the three methods to access the electronic version of the survey.

Living in Cheshire

Q1. How would you rate the quality of life in Cheshire?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excellent	23.03%	76
Good	57.58%	190
Average	16.97%	56
Poor	2.42%	8
Very Poor	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>		330
<i>skipped question</i>		11

A majority of participants rated the quality of life in Cheshire as *Good* (57.58%, 190 respondents) or *Excellent* (23.03%, 76).

Q2. What aspects of life in Cheshire do you like the most? (Check all that apply)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Small town atmosphere	74.03%	248
Natural and scenic beauty	72.84%	244
Rural setting	72.54%	243
Close to nature and wildlife	69.85%	234
Peace and quiet	68.66%	230
Low Crime Rate	68.06%	228
Safety	57.91%	194
Close to Ashuwillticook Rail Trail	56.42%	189
Privacy	50.15%	168
Affordable cost of living	45.37%	152
People and community	43.28%	145
Relatives and family live nearby	42.99%	144
Close to Cheshire Lake	37.91%	127
Close to Appalachian Trail	34.93%	117
My life history is here	32.24%	108
Proximity to work	31.04%	104
Sense of history	30.15%	101
Ability to participate in town government	23.88%	80
Weather and climate	23.28%	78
Affordable housing	22.09%	74
Church life	18.51%	62
Recreational facilities	11.94%	40
	<i>answered question</i>	335
	<i>skipped question</i>	6

This question allowed participants to select as many qualities listed that they most liked about Cheshire. The most common response was *Small town atmosphere* with 248 respondents or 74.03%. Many qualities associated to qualities of small towns, such as *Safety* and *Peace and quiet* were highly rated. In addition, those qualities related to nature were also highly liked (*Natural and scenic beauty, Rural setting, Close to nature and wildlife*).

Q3. What is the single greatest aspect about living in Cheshire? (List only one)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Small Town Atmosphere	19.79%	57
Natural Beauty	14.58%	42
People and Community	13.98%	40
Rural Community	10.76%	31
Peace and Quiet	7.99%	23
Safety	6.25%	18
Low Cost of Living	4.51%	13
Life History	4.51%	13
Low Taxes	4.17%	12

Q3. What is the single greatest aspect about living in Cheshire? (List only one)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Close to Family	3.47%	10
Close to Neighboring Cities	2.78%	8
Cheshire Lake	2.43%	7
Outdoor Recreation	2.78%	8
Rail Trail	2.43%	7
Convenience	1.74%	5
Other	1.74%	5
Privacy	1.39%	4
Government	1.04%	3
Authenticity	0.69%	2
Schools	0.69%	2
Sense of History	0.69%	2
Church	0.35%	1
Culture	0.35%	1
	<i>answered question</i>	288
	<i>skipped question</i>	53

This open-ended question asked respondents to select only one characteristic that they liked most about Cheshire. Analysis of the write-in responses revealed that *Small town atmosphere* once again was the most listed quality (19.79%, 57 respondents). *Natural beauty* was the second most listed (14.58%, 42 respondents), and *People and community* was third (13.98%, 40 respondents).

Q4. What do you like least about living in Cheshire?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
School Uncertainty	16.67%	45
Small Town Politics	13.70%	37
Little Commercial Development	9.63%	26
Town Government	7.04%	19
Transportation	6.30%	17
None/No Comment	5.56%	15
Nothing to Do	5.19%	14
Lack of Economic Development	4.81%	13
Appearance of Town	4.81%	13
Other	4.55%	12
Everybody Knows Everybody	4.07%	11
Small/Closed Mindedness	4.07%	11
Sewer	3.33%	9
Water Related	2.59%	7
Increasing Tax Rate	2.59%	7
Too Much Change	2.59%	7
Location	2.22%	6
Zoning Laws	2.22%	6
Housing Issues	1.48%	4
Town Hall Hours	1.11%	3
Winter	1.11%	3
Too Low of Taxes	0.74%	2

Q4. What do you like least about living in Cheshire?	
<i>answered question</i>	270
<i>skipped question</i>	71

This open-ended question asked respondents to select only one characteristic that they liked least about Cheshire. Analysis of the write-in responses revealed that *School Uncertainty*, a category including all responses that identified school quality and concerns over its administration, was the most common response as the least-liked aspect of life in Cheshire (16.67%, 45 respondents). Qualities related to small town life, such as *Small Town Politics* (13.70%, 37), *Everyone Knows Everyone* (4.07%, 11), and *Small/Closed Mindedness* (4.07%, 11) also earned a lot responses.

Q5. What would you like for the Town of Cheshire in the next 20 years? (List up to five)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Preserve the beauty of the town	67.17%	223
Encourage development of small local business	56.02%	186
Remain rural	54.82%	182
Low taxes	53.61%	178
Slow and controlled growth	39.16%	130
Strong sense of community	36.14%	120
Implement town sewer service	24.40%	81
Increased business development	20.48%	68
Encourage tourism	19.28%	64
More cultural activities	18.37%	61
Retirement community	16.57%	55
Expand town water service	14.46%	48
Other	14.16%	47
More jobs	12.65%	42
Discourage growth	8.43%	28
No change	6.93%	23
Don't know	1.20%	4
If you answered "Other" to the question above or have additional comments, please explain.		73
	<i>answered question</i>	332
	<i>skipped question</i>	9

This question allowed respondents to select up to 5 goals that they would like Cheshire to pursue in the next 20 years. Four responses earned a disproportionate number of responses: *Preserve the Beauty of the Town* (67.17%, 223 respondents), *Encourage Development of Small Local Business* (56.02%, 186 respondents), *Remain Rural* (54.82%, 182 respondents), and *Low Taxes* (53.61%, 178 respondents). Seventy-three additional comments were received – please see the appendix for a complete list.

Q6. Do you think you might move from Cheshire in the next 5 years?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
No	69.44%	225
Unsure	18.83%	61
Yes	11.73%	38

Q6. Do you think you might move from Cheshire in the next 5 years?	
If you plan on moving from Cheshire in the next five years, what would be your reason for the move, and where are you likely to move to?	88
<i>answered question</i>	324
<i>skipped question</i>	17

Only 38 respondents (11.73%) stated that they might move from Cheshire in the next 5 years, while 69.44% or 225 respondents said no, and 18.83% or 61 respondents said unsure. In the comments section of this question, respondents were asked to cite a reason for their potential leaving. Nineteen respondents commented that issues relating to schools were their reason for considering leaving the town.

Services and Conditions

Q7. Please indicate your level of satisfaction with the following conditions or services.					
Answer Options	Excellent	Satisfactory	Poor	No Opinion	Response Count
Fire Department services	188	98	4	13	303
Emergency Medical services	161	100	9	33	303
Police Department services	135	132	19	16	302
Recycling/waste disposal services	68	165	42	28	303
Drinking water quality	67	119	20	93	299
Cleanliness of the town	65	182	51	4	302
Library services	57	144	23	73	297
Appearance of the town	49	175	75	2	301
Public transportation specifically for the elderly or disabled	40	97	24	132	293
Recreational activities	40	139	70	49	298
Town website	39	159	55	44	297
Council on Aging services	37	114	10	138	299
School facilities	37	127	89	46	299
School programs	34	118	78	65	295
Programs for seniors	31	104	26	136	297
Town governance	31	159	65	42	297
Town government communication to the public	31	116	126	25	298
Building permitting & inspection	30	157	47	67	301
Water Department services	29	93	45	133	300
Board of Health services	25	129	36	109	299
Conservation Commission services	25	113	34	123	295
Public transportation	24	116	60	97	297
Recreational facilities	24	111	77	86	298
Town-wide activities	23	144	86	39	292
Condition of existing town buildings	21	182	84	13	300

Q7. Please indicate your level of satisfaction with the following conditions or services.					
Answer Options	Excellent	Satisfactory	Poor	No Opinion	Response Count
Education offerings for all ages	19	100	95	81	295
Condition of sidewalks	19	174	51	57	301
Planning Board services	18	129	35	113	295
Cultural resources	18	95	89	87	289
Condition of town roads	18	148	126	6	298
Zoning enforcement	13	114	65	107	299
Other (Please specify)	8	5	15	38	66
If you answered "Other" to the question above or have additional comments, please explain					54
<i>answered question</i>					306
<i>skipped question</i>					35

Fire Department Services earned the most ratings of “Excellent” with 188 respondents or 62.05%. *Town Government Communication to the Public* (42.28%, 126 respondents) and *Condition of Roads* (42.28%, 126 respondents) received the most ratings of poor.

Q8. What conditions or services do you believe need to be kept the same, reduced, expanded or improved?					
Answer Options	Keep service or condition the same	Reduce service or condition	Expand or improve service or condition	Don't Know	Response Count
Condition of town roads	79	8	196	10	293
Town government communication to the public	99	3	159	31	292
School programs	65	14	158	54	291
Town-wide activities	89	5	153	41	288
School facilities	77	16	152	45	290
Education offerings for all ages	61	9	152	65	287
Recreational activities	85	6	148	46	285
Condition of existing town buildings	115	5	142	26	288
Appearance of the town	134	10	141	6	291
Recreational facilities	85	6	134	59	284
Cleanliness of the town	158	9	116	7	290
Town website	133	5	106	45	289
Condition of sidewalks	129	9	103	50	291
Cultural resources	95	6	102	81	284
Town governance	137	11	96	45	289
Recycling/waste disposal services	175	5	88	24	292
Drinking water quality	115	3	86	89	293

Q8. What conditions or services do you believe need to be kept the same, reduced, expanded or improved?					
Answer Options	Keep service or condition the same	Reduce service or condition	Expand or improve service or condition	Don't Know	Response Count
Water Department services	91	15	86	100	292
Zoning enforcement	97	10	83	101	291
Public transportation	118	4	81	82	285
Programs for seniors	97	4	80	106	287
Library services	151	4	77	61	293
Public transportation specifically for the elderly or disabled	106	2	73	109	290
Council on Aging services	102	3	72	114	291
Conservation Commission services	114	11	66	101	292
Building permitting & inspection	141	12	64	77	294
Planning Board services	116	7	60	106	289
Board of Health services	121	9	58	105	293
Police Department services	201	22	51	21	295
Emergency Medical services	211	4	46	32	293
Fire Department services	235	9	30	21	295
Other (Please specify)\	2	6	14	36	58
If you answered "Other" to the question above or have additional comments, please explain					32
<i>answered question</i>					301
<i>skipped question</i>					40

Almost all participants did not want to “Reduce Service or Condition,” with no service earning more than 10% of these responses. The service most participants wanted to expand or improve was *Condition of Town Roads* (66.89%, 196 respondents).

Q9. What conditions or services not on the list in Question 8 do you believe need to be kept the same, reduced, expanded or improved?		
Categories of Written Answers	Response Percent	Response Count
N/A	10.34%	9
Reduce Government Waste	10.34%	9
Improve Schools	10.34%	9
Beautification	9.20%	8
Other	6.90%	6
Business Growth	5.75%	5
Road Improvements	5.75%	5
Water Services Improved	5.75%	5

Q9. What conditions or services not on the list in Question 8 do you believe need to be kept the same, reduced, expanded or improved?

Categories of Written Answers	Response Percent	Response Count
Improve Environmental Conditions	4.60%	4
Activity Programming	3.45%	3
Clean Cheshire Lake	3.45%	3
Combine Adams & Cheshire Fire Depts.	3.45%	3
Expand Sewer Lines	3.45%	3
Housing Issues	3.45%	3
Refuse Pipeline	3.45%	3
More Access to Info	2.30%	2
Expand Town Hours	2.30%	2
Improve Voting System	2.30%	2
Recreation	2.30%	2
Trash Disposal	2.30%	2
<i>answered question</i>		87
<i>skipped question</i>		254

Only 87 participants answered this question, as it was intended to capture any other issues besides the typical ones listed in question 8. No categories earned more than 10 responses.

Q10. If you have any additional comments about services provided by the town, please explain below.

This question further inquired on any comments about the services of the town, and specific responses were not grouped in order to respect each very individualized comment. Comments from the 65 respondents to this question can be found in the appendix below.

Q11. Would you favor an increase or decrease in property taxes to expand or reduce the general level of services listed above.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Keep taxes and services the same	52.43%	151
Increase taxes to increase services	35.42%	102
Decrease taxes and reduce services	12.15%	35
Depending on how you answered the above question, which services should be expanded or reduced?		124
<i>answered question</i>		288
<i>skipped question</i>		53

The majority of (52.43%, or 151) participants desired to keep taxes and services the same. In the comments section of this question, respondents were asked to identify which service should be either expanded or reduced, and 56 respondents reported that schools should be the main focus of expansion.

Q12. Should the town explore options to provide services more cost effectively?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes - share services with other towns	52.38%	154
Yes - subcontract services	24.49%	72
Yes - other	9.86%	29

Q12. Should the town explore options to provide services more cost effectively?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
No	8.16%	24
Unsure	27.55%	81
Please explain your response, for instance, which services should be subcontracted or shared or what other options should be pursued?		92
	<i>answered question</i>	294
	<i>skipped question</i>	47

A majority of participants favored the option to share services with other towns (52.38%, 154 respondents) in order to be more cost effective.

Q13. Which of the following information sources do you use when learning about town issues and events? (Pick your top 3 choices)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
The Berkshire Eagle	57.10%	173
Fire station sign	56.77%	172
iBerkshires	54.13%	164
Friends and neighbors	52.15%	158
Town website	25.74%	78
Facebook / social media	25.08%	76
The Berkshire Courier	19.14%	58
Postings around town	17.16%	52
Radio	11.88%	36
Gatherings at social organizations	9.24%	28
Local gathering place (for example a local diner)	7.59%	23
E-mail	4.29%	13
	<i>answered question</i>	303
	<i>skipped question</i>	38

There were four answer options that garnered a larger share of responses: *iBerkshires* (54.13%, 164 respondents), *The Berkshire Eagle* (57.10%, 173), *Fire Station Sign* (56.77%, 172), and *Friends and Neighbors* (52.15%, 158).

Q14. Do you feel you are adequately informed about town government affairs?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
No	44.78%	133
Yes	33.67%	100
Unsure	22.2%	64
If you answered no to the above question, what more could be done to help you be more informed?		93
	<i>answered question</i>	297
	<i>skipped question</i>	44

Responses to this question were not overwhelmingly weighted to one side or the other, however slightly more people said that they do not feel they are adequately informed. Many people provided open-ended responses on what can be done about this, and those comments can be found in the appendix below.

Open Space, Recreation, and Historic Resources

Q15. How important is it to conserve the following types of open space or historic resources in Cheshire?				
Answer Options	Important	Neither important or unimportant	Unimportant	Response Count
Waterfront areas along rivers, ponds & Cheshire Lake	253	25	5	283
Farmlands	250	26	4	280
Wildlife Habitat	248	30	4	282
Open space for drinking water needs	237	34	8	279
Forest Parcels	236	37	8	281
Open space for recreational needs	229	44	6	279
Historic sites or buildings	219	49	15	283
Open Meadows	215	56	10	281
Ridgelines	210	61	8	279
Wetlands	210	52	20	282
Vernal pools	163	88	22	273
			<i>answered question</i>	286
			<i>skipped question</i>	55

All categories received around 70% to 90% of respondents identifying the space as important for conservation, except the category *Vernal Pools*.

Q16. What is Cheshire's single greatest open space need? (Specify only one)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Farmlands	16.88%	27
Cheshire Lake	13.13%	21
Recreation Space	12.50%	20
Water Drinking Needs	11.88%	19
Forest Lands	6.88%	11
Watershed Health	6.88%	11
Wildlife Habitat	4.38%	7
Historic Sites	3.75%	6
N/A	3.75%	6
Town Beach	3.75%	6
None	3.13%	5
Ridgeline	2.50%	4
Waterfront Areas	2.50%	4
Other	2.50%	4
Preservation/Conservation	2.50%	4
Community Center	1.25%	2
Education	1.25%	2
No Wind Facilities	1.25%	2
Scenic Character	1.25%	2
Sewage	1.25%	2

Q16. What is Cheshire's single greatest open space need? (Specify only one)	
<i>answered question</i>	160
<i>skipped question</i>	181

Respondents identified *Farmlands* (16.88%, 27 respondents) as the single greatest open space need. A variety of categories related to water were also highly ranked: *Cheshire Lake* (13.13%, 21), *Water Drinking Needs* (11.88%, 19), *Watershed Health* (6.88%, 11).

Q17. Do you or your family use the following recreational areas or facilities?					
Answer Options	Use regularly	Use infrequently	Never use	Don't know about it	Response Count
Ashuwillticook Rail Trail	189	86	8	1	284
Cheshire Lake	111	114	56	0	281
Private Land	107	45	90	30	272
Farnam's Causeway	106	116	52	10	284
Mount Greylock State Reservation	91	154	31	3	279
The Cobbles	74	134	51	19	278
Appalachian Trail	73	121	82	3	279
Cheshire School Playground	60	90	121	3	274
Cheshire Elementary School Grounds	58	99	116	2	275
Boat Launch	53	78	141	3	275
Stafford Hill Wildlife Management Area	43	87	113	34	277
Hoosac Valley Middle & High School Fields	35	98	137	7	277
Fishing piers	35	71	154	15	275
Senior / Community Center	23	118	120	16	277
Watershed / Old Reservoir Land	20	46	142	63	271
Chalet Wildlife Management Area	13	53	97	104	267
<i>answered question</i>					287
<i>skipped question</i>					54

The Ashuwillticook Rail Trail was the open space most used regularly by the participants (66.55%, 189 respondents).

Q18. What priority would you set for future recreational facilities? (Answer all items)				
Answer Options	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority	Response Count
Running / walking trails	183	66	27	276
Bicycle trails	164	76	37	277
Hiking	160	93	20	273
Playgrounds	139	86	44	269
Canoe / kayaking/ boat launch	137	98	40	275
Picnic areas	130	111	34	275

Q18. What priority would you set for future recreational facilities? (Answer all items)				
Answer Options	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority	Response Count
Playing fields	123	98	49	270
Fishing	118	99	52	269
Town beach	115	92	65	272
Indoor recreation / fitness activities	109	88	56	253
Swimming	106	92	78	276
Snowshoeing	101	110	62	273
Cross country skiing	93	112	70	275
Ice skating	82	116	78	276
Hunting areas	75	90	105	270
ATV / snowmobiling	73	88	107	268
Sledding	68	121	82	271
Tennis	39	87	143	269
Golfing	33	62	173	268
Skateboarding	23	86	160	269
<i>answered question</i>				282
<i>skipped question</i>				59

Trails were most often identified as the highest priority for the participants: *Running/Walking Trails* (66.30%, 183 respondents), *Bicycle Trails* (59.21%, 164), and *Hiking* (58.61%, 160).

Q19. How satisfied are you with existing recreation areas in Cheshire?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	48.04%	135
Satisfied	38.08%	107
Dissatisfied	13.88%	39
<i>answered question</i>		281
<i>skipped question</i>		60

Although many respondents (48.04%) did not have strong feelings regarding existing recreation areas in Cheshire, a considerable percentage (38.08%) are satisfied and relatively few are dissatisfied (13.88%).

Q20. What is Cheshire's single greatest recreation need? (Specify only one)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Town Beach	16.76%	29
Improve Lake	15.03%	26
Hiking/Walking Trails	10.98%	19
Indoor Facilities	10.98%	19
ATV Trails	6.94%	12
Swim Spaces	5.78%	10
Youth Center	5.20%	9
Biking Trails	4.05%	7
Family Activities	4.05%	7
Picnic Areas	4.05%	7
Maintenance	3.53%	6

Q20. What is Cheshire's single greatest recreation need? (Specify only one)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Open Space	3.53%	6
Other	3.53%	6
Unsure	2.89%	5
Improve Rail Trail	2.31%	4
Better Information	1.73%	3
None	1.73%	3
Sports Facilities	1.73%	3
Tennis Courts	1.73%	3
Boat Launch	1.16%	2
Dog Park	1.16%	2
Town Park	1.16%	2
	<i>answered question</i>	173
	<i>skipped question</i>	168

Respondents identified improvements to *Cheshire Lake* (15.03%, 26 respondents) and associated facilities, such as *Town Beach* (16.76%, 29), and *Swim Spaces* (5.78%, 10), as the recreation improvements most needed in Cheshire.

Economy

Q21. Which types of businesses or services do you currently use in Cheshire versus elsewhere in Berkshire County? What types of businesses or services would you like to see encouraged or discouraged in Cheshire? (Answer all items)				
Answer Options	Currently use Cheshire business	Business to encourage in Cheshire	Business to discourage from Cheshire	Response Count
Gas Station / Convenience store	204	43	49	274
Financial services – such as a bank	155	99	38	271
Automotive sales and service	146	66	52	253
Restaurant	143	170	2	275
Farming / agriculture / farms stands	136	177	5	272
Locally owned small businesses	112	206	3	273
Trade services – such as plumbers, electricians, etc.	90	181	17	266
Farmers market	69	209	6	270
Country Store	68	205	6	264
General services – such as landscapers, handymen	63	197	16	263
Construction (includes trucking and hauling)	52	73	126	247

Q21. Which types of businesses or services do you currently use in Cheshire versus elsewhere in Berkshire County? What types of businesses or services would you like to see encouraged or discouraged in Cheshire? (Answer all items)				
Answer Options	Currently use Cheshire business	Business to encourage in Cheshire	Business to discourage from Cheshire	Response Count
Eco-friendly services	44	188	27	247
Personal services – such as hairdresser, fitness trainer, healing services	36	213	27	264
Professional services – such as architects, engineers, accountants, attorneys	32	187	45	258
Grocery	31	135	92	254
Tourism and recreation related business	25	199	30	245
Inn / B&B (tourism lodging)	10	223	25	257
Regional / National chain stores	9	53	210	269
Commercial – such as Unistress	5	67	183	254
Light Industrial – such as a plastics injection molding plant	3	109	149	261
Other (please specify)	3	20	3	26
If you answered "Other" to the question above or have additional comments, please specify or explain.				26
				<i>answered question</i> 282
				<i>skipped question</i> 59

Gas Station/Convenience store (74.45%, 204 respondents) was identified as the current Cheshire business most used by the respondents. Respondents wanted to encourage businesses related to tourism and attracting visitors: *Inn/B&B* (86.77%, 223), *Country Store* (77.65%, 205), *Tourism and recreation related business* (81.22%, 199), and *Farmer’s Market* (77.41%, 209). A high proportion of respondents wanted to discourage *Regional/National chain stores* (78.07%, 210) and “Commercial businesses” (72.05%, 183).

Q22. Which of the following statements best describes how you feel about economic development in the town of Cheshire? (Select only one)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Development of new businesses and services is good for the local economy, we should encourage it.	49.46%	138
Cheshire should focus on retaining and supporting existing business, rather than encouraging more.	24.01%	67
Unsure about economic development in Cheshire.	9.32%	26

Q22. Which of the following statements best describes how you feel about economic development in the town of Cheshire? (Select only one)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
The town's economy is growing at a good rate, but we need to do a better job at managing its development.	8.60%	24
None of the above statements describe my opinion.	7.17%	20
There is too much economic development in Cheshire and we should discourage it.	1.43%	4
If you answered "none" to the question above or have additional comments, please explain.		33
	<i>answered question</i>	279
	<i>skipped question</i>	62

The most commonly chosen statement to describe the economic development of the town was *Development of new businesses and services is good for the local economy, we should encourage it* with 49.46% or 138 respondents.

Housing

Q23. How important is it for Cheshire to have the following types of housing options?				
Answer Options	Important	Neither important nor unimportant	Unimportant	Response Count
More options for young families (starter homes)	183	60	26	269
Adaptive reuse or re-development of older / historic properties	175	70	24	269
More options for seniors /elderly (single story or assisted living)	165	74	32	271
More single-family homes	128	110	28	266
More high-end homes	65	99	104	268
More second homes	54	109	104	267
More apartments and rental units	53	85	131	269
More housing for low income families	51	70	148	269
More multi-unit/multi-family housing such as condominiums	34	74	161	269
Are there other housing options for Cheshire?				36
			<i>answered question</i>	280
			<i>skipped question</i>	61

More options for young families (68.03%, 183 respondents) and adaptive reuse (65.06%, 175) were rated as important housing options for Cheshire residents. Multi-unit housing (59.85%, 161) and housing for low-income families (55.02%, 148) were primarily rated as unimportant.

Land Use

Q24. Which of the following statements describes how you feel about housing development in Cheshire? (Select only one)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Development in the community is good for the economy, we should do everything we can to encourage it.	34.06%	94
This community is growing at an appropriate rate, we should keep it at the same rate it has been at.	31.88%	88
Unsure	20.29%	56
None of the above statements describe my opinion.	9.42%	26
There is too much development in the community, we should do everything we can to discourage more development.	4.35%	12
If you answered none to the question above or have additional comments, please explain.		28
	<i>answered question</i>	276
	<i>skipped question</i>	65

Most respondents were either satisfied with the current rate of growth and want to either maintain that rate (31.88%, 88 respondents) or to expand at a quicker rate (34.06%, 94).

Q25. Towns can take certain steps to manage or control development, such as through zoning, wetlands permitting, etc. Please rate the current level of control for the following uses or resources in Cheshire. (Answer all items)					
Answer Options	Too much control	Controls are at the right level	Too little control	Don't know / Need more information	Response Count
Residential Development	29	118	33	93	273
Environmental Resources	28	87	49	110	274
Commercial Development	23	85	61	107	274
If you have any additional comments or questions about land use or land use regulation, please include them below.					23
				<i>answered question</i>	275
				<i>skipped question</i>	66

The distribution of responses to each of the subsets in this question mostly align with each other. The majority of respondents stated that the controls are either at the right level or that they did not know and needed more information.

Transportation

Q26. What road, or section of road, is most important to improve in your opinion? (List up to 3 roads)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count

Wells Road	36.79%	78
Sandmill Road	20.28%	43
Depot Street	18.87%	40
Lanesborough Road	10.38%	22
Route 8	10.38%	22
West Mountain Road	10.38%	22
Route 116	9.43%	20
Other	7.55%	16
Stafford Hill Road	7.55%	16
Outlook Road	7.08%	15
Windsor Road	6.60%	14
Church Street	5.19%	11
All Roads	4.72%	10
Cheshire Hills Road	4.72%	10
Ingalls Road	4.72%	10
Main Street	4.25%	9
None/Unsure	4.25%	9
Richmond Hill Road	4.25%	9
Jenks Road	1.89%	4
Maple Drive	0.94%	2
Route 9	0.47%	1
<i>answered question</i>		212
<i>skipped question</i>		129

Wells Road (36.79%, 78 respondents), Sandmill Road (20.28%, 43), and Depot Street (18.87%, 40) were identified as the roads that are the most important for improvement.

Q27. What is the most important transportation issue for you or a suggestion you might have regarding transportation in Cheshire?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Public Transportation	28.80%	36
None	21.60%	27
Road Maintenance	21.60%	27
Better Bus Service	13.60%	17
Senior Transportation	9.60%	12
Speeding	7.20%	9
Other	6.40%	8
Traffic Issues	5.60%	7
Side Road Maintenance	2.40%	3
Unsure	2.40%	3
<i>answered question</i>		125
<i>skipped question</i>		216

Responses identified *Public Transportation* (28.80%, 36 respondents) as the most issue. A good portion of responses identified no issue as important using the category *None* (21.60%, 27), or cited general *Road Maintenance* (21.60%, 27).

Town Initiatives and Services

Q28. Please indicate your level of support for the following possible initiatives or service changes. (Answer all)					
Answer Options	Support	Neither support nor oppose	Oppose	Never heard of it / Not enough info	Response Count
A Farmer's Market in town	215	45	6	4	270
Energy efficiency upgrades to existing town buildings	191	53	12	12	268
Rezone land to promote agriculture	165	65	15	17	262
Hold an annual town festival	165	82	8	12	267
Create a town beach on Cheshire Lake	149	79	32	10	270
Create a space for a community garden	140	94	25	8	267
Create a Youth Center with gym facilities	136	81	35	13	265
Establishment of a town center	135	72	30	28	265
Beautification of Church Street	134	90	31	12	267
Change zoning to allow for accessory apartments (mother-in-law apartment)	134	73	39	22	268
Expand town hall hours	125	107	29	8	269
Pursue development of an elderly housing project	118	87	45	20	270
Develop a new, energy efficient Town Hall / Police Station	111	81	53	24	269
Split off the Water Department from the town to a user-only controlled water district	100	54	43	73	270
Pursue underground wiring in the center of town to eliminate overhead wires	96	79	71	23	269
Create a new multipurpose town building including administrative offices and space for community activities	94	76	77	23	270
Create a town sewer system	92	64	82	31	269
Add a light industrial park somewhere in Cheshire	88	50	102	28	268
Expand the area served by public water	77	94	48	46	265
Re-zone land to promote commercial / business use	64	73	101	25	263

Q28. Please indicate your level of support for the following possible initiatives or service changes. (Answer all)					
Answer Options	Support	Neither support nor oppose	Oppose	Never heard of it / Not enough info	Response Count
<i>answered question</i>					278
<i>skipped question</i>					63

More than 70% of respondents supported initiatives to establish a Farmer’s Market in town (215 respondents) and provide energy efficiency upgrades to existing town buildings (191 respondents). No initiative was opposed by more than 40% of respondents, with adding a light industrial park and re-zoning land to promote commercial use facing the most opposition, by around 38% of respondents (101-102 respondents).

Q29. Please indicate if you or agree or disagree with the following statement: The town should keep the current Cheshire Water Department structure.		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
No opinion	47.3%	122
Disagree	36.4%	94
Agree	16.3%	42
<i>answered question</i>		258
<i>skipped question</i>		74

Many respondents (36.4%, 94) disagreed that the current water department structure should be kept as is, however even more respondents (47.3%, 122) did not have an opinion on the matter.

Q30. What is your opinion about the future of education in Cheshire? (Check only one)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
The Adams Cheshire Regional School District should continue but with modifications to the existing agreement	27.14%	73
The Adams Cheshire Regional School District should continue to exist as it is	23.42%	63
Cheshire should pursue combining with another school district	20.45%	55
Cheshire should pursue other educational options	17.10%	46
Other	11.90%	32
If you answered "other" to the question above or have additional comments, please explain.		53
<i>answered question</i>		269
<i>skipped question</i>		72

Each option in this question received around 20-25% identification from respondents, with no clear favored strategy.

Demographics

Questions 31 through 40 are demographic in nature and describe the characteristics of the population that responded to the survey. These help to correctly understand and place the results in the survey in further formulation of the master plan. The results from this section reflect the

demographics of those who responded and are not necessarily representative of the town and general.

Q31. How many years have you been a resident of Cheshire?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
0 - 5 years	8.12%	22
6 -10 years	8.86%	24
11 - 20 years	12.92%	35
20 - 30 years	19.19%	52
30 plus years	50.92%	138
<i>answered question</i>		271
<i>skipped question</i>		70

Q32. What is your age range?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
6 – 13 years old	0.0%	0
14 - 17 years old	0.37%	1
18 – 24 years old	1.11%	3
25 - 35 years old	11.85%	32
36 - 49 years old	18.52%	50
50 - 62 years old	33.33%	90
63 – 75 years old	27.78%	75
76 plus years old	7.04%	19
<i>answered question</i>		270
<i>skipped question</i>		71

Q33. Please indicate the number of people (including yourself) in your household in the following age brackets.							
Answer Options	1	2	3	4	5	6	Response Count
0 to 5 years old	23	15	3	0	0	0	41
6 – 13 years old	25	10	2	1	1	0	39
14 - 17 years old	22	2	1	0	0	0	25
18 – 24 years old	31	8	1	0	0	0	40
25 - 35 years old	23	31	0	0	0	0	54
36 - 49 years old	37	31	0	0	0	0	68
50 - 62 years old	55	63	2	0	0	0	120
63 – 75 years old	37	52	0	0	0	0	89
76 plus years old	11	10	0	0	0	0	21
If more than 6 please specify age and number.						0	
<i>answered question</i>							273
<i>skipped question</i>							68

Q34. Please indicate the number of people (including yourself) in your household by gender.							
Answer Options	1	2	3	4	5	6	Response Count
Female	170	61	22	1	0	0	254
Male	161	54	29	1	0	0	245

If more than 6 please specify gender and number	0
<i>answered question</i>	270
<i>skipped question</i>	71

Q35. Please indicate the number of people (including yourself) in your household by race or ethnicity.							
Answer Options	1	2	3	4	5	6	Response Count
White	37	111	53	33	19	5	258
African American	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Asian	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Hispanic	3	0	0	0	1	0	4
Multi-cultural	1	3	0	0	0	0	4
Other	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
If other, please specify and indicate number.							5
<i>answered question</i>							263
<i>skipped question</i>							78

Q36. Please indicate the number of people (including yourself) living in your household by employment status.							
Answer Options	1	2	3	4	5	6	Response Count
Currently working as a full-time employee and working in Cheshire	35	1	0	0	0	0	36
Currently working as a full-time employee and working outside of Cheshire	88	72	7	4	0	0	171
Currently own a business in Cheshire with other employees	15	2	1	0	0	0	18
Self-employed as a sole proprietor working from home	19	1	0	0	0	0	20
Currently working part-time	28	2	1	0	0	0	31
Partially retired, but still working part-time	25	8	0	0	0	0	30
Fully retired	44	46	0	0	0	0	90
If other employment situation or if more than 6 please specify employment status and number							12
<i>answered question</i>							274
<i>skipped question</i>							67

Q37. If you are employed outside of Cheshire, how far do you commute to work one way?				
Answer Options	0-10	10-50	Greater than 50	Response Count
Number of miles	86	96	9	191
<i>answered question</i>				191
<i>skipped question</i>				150

Q38. Do you own your home or rent?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Own home	96.68%	262

Rent	3.32%	9
<i>answered question</i>		271
<i>skipped question</i>		70

Q39. What is your source of drinking water?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Private well	55.61%	152
Town water	43.49%	117
<i>answered question</i>		269
<i>skipped question</i>		72

Q40. If you have school age children, please indicate the number of children attending by type of school.							
Answer Options	1	2	3	4	5	6	Response Count
Public school – non-school choice	23	13	6	1	0	0	43
Public school – school choice	9	2	1	0	0	0	12
Home school	2	3	0	0	0	0	5
Private school	5	0	2	0	0	0	7
Other	10	2	1	0	0	0	13
If other, please specify the school type and number.							19
<i>answered question</i>							72
<i>skipped question</i>							269

Index: Full List of Responses for Open Ended Questions, and Open Ended Comments of Multiple Choice Questions

Q3. What is the single greatest aspect about living in Cheshire? (List only one)

Peace and quiet
its rural nature beautiful views, hiking opportunities, Cheshire lake Housac river, the jungle and all outdoors
Small town atmosphere
Clean air and water
My life history is here
Small town atmosphere
peace and quiet
Natural beauty
Quiet and friendly
relatives and family live nearby
Rural setting
Scenic beauty
Scenic beauty
Living on the lake and close to the AT.
Rural Setting
Small town and some neighbor still have that home town feeling.
Nature
It is ten times better than Adams
Close community.
Geography
My life history is here
The beautiful mountains!
small town
Location
Nature.
Proximity to amazing natural resources, i.e. the A.T., Greylock, Hoosac Lake, Hoosic River,etc.
Rural setting and nature.
Small
rural setting
To still be able to live in an area where people know one another, and where there is plenty of open land and small meandering roads and lots of wildlife.
Small town atmosphere
The beautiful Berkshires are in the top ten tourist destinations in the world. cheshire is at the epicenter of nature, with the Appalachian Trail and bordering the Mount Greylock Reservation
rural setting
Sense of community
history of my family
Close to nature
It is a rural setting with no fast food restaurants or entertainment
Rural setting
Central to all nearby facilities
Safety
Rural setting
Small town atmosphere

Q3. What is the single greatest aspect about living in Cheshire? (List only one)

I love the rural atmosphere and yet proximity to shopping, cultural attractions, gyms, etc. within the boundaries of Berkshire Cnty.

Affordable, safe, and nature at its best

Small town atmosphere

Small town atmosphere

Low taxes

The people

I enjoy the small town feel and the sense of community.

Nature

Rural character

Safety

The people

The natural environment, lack of development.

friendly community

Life history

Family

Peace and Quiet

Away from city life.

It hasn't been commercialized and ruined by large companies and big box chains.

low tax rate

Quite

rural setting

Its beauty and out-of-the-wayness

Having good cycling and hiking trails right out our front door.

Small town atmosphere

Everybody knows everybody

My children were raised here and we have made it our Home

Low cost of living and relatively low intrusive regulation

Affordable cost of living.

Natural and scenic beauty

It is a safe, small town atmosphere.

Peace and quiet

Owning lake property

Small town atmosphere

Safety

Rural Setting

Small town

Community

Life history is here.

Scenery

It's far enough away from Pittsfield and North Adams and the problems that come with the larger towns and cities. Yet we can still access and enjoy the many things that also comes with larger towns and cites.

People and community

Small town

Idyllic New England small town setting

Small Town atmosphere

Comfortable and affordable living

close to Ashuwillticook Rail Trail

Q3. What is the single greatest aspect about living in Cheshire? (List only one)

centrally located in western MA

Rural Setting

The small town atmospher and the lake

The view from my property

Peaceful small town with little low income housing

small town living

natural and scenic beauty

Community

Sense of community

Affordable cost of living

Natural and scenic beauty

Small New England town that is unspoiled

By poor retail planning

Summer cultural offerings

Natural beauty: The lake, the cobbles, mountains, streams, etc.

Living close to family.

small town, rural life

Sense of history.

small town atmosphere

Always lived here.

lake activities

Cheshire lake

low taxes

Away from work

Low property taxes

peace and quiet

Low tax rate.

Low crime rate

Low crime rate

Nature

The mountains

Some very good people who do care about the town and the people

the people

Peace and quiet

family nearby

Safety

Sense of peaceful space.

Rail Trail

Small town community

Small town community

Low taxes

Small town atmosphere

Safety

The Rail trail with the lake

Close to nearby businesses but overall quiet place to live

Affordable cost-of-living

I love living in the country but close to everything I need

Peace and quiet

Q3. What is the single greatest aspect about living in Cheshire? (List only one)

When we moved to cheshire it was a great little town, but now it is changing becoming a little town with people who want big city government .

Small community

I don't live there yet, but I am looking forward to it, especially all the hiking and biking.

community (including Cheshire Elementary)

small community

Tranquility

Close to the heart of the Berkshires, but in a private setting.

Natural and scenic beauty

Home

Small town atmosphere

Small town atmosphere

The Rail Trail

Small town, Natural Beauty

located between to cities

Scenic beauty

Farm land

A reasonable cost of living.

People and community.

Peaceful small town in the beautiful Berkshires

status quo

People and Community

Country living

It's a really nice small town with a small town feel and it's QUIET.

Authenticity

Authenticity

Low taxes

Peace and quiet

Natural and Scenic beauty

Small town community

Small town

Low taxes

My family's history dates back to the early 1900's - My roots were planted here long before I was old enough to know what that term meant. I hope that my children will continue this love of Cheshire.

Smallness

Need help?? Everyone is there!!

Reasonably central in the county but rural in character.

Safety

Close to work

Low crime rate

Being close to family in a peaceful atmosphere

Rural but close to shopping

Small, close community

Rural community

small government

Rural setting

Safety

IT'S BEEN 'HOME' FOR 50 YEARS

Q3. What is the single greatest aspect about living in Cheshire? (List only one)

Right to farm

Privacy

Relatives and family live nearby.

Small town life, no crime to speak of. Caring tight knit community..

The support our community shows for one another. How it pulls together when it matters most.

Quiet small town

low tax rate

Safety

peace and quiet

The Small town atmosphere

Individual representation at town meetings.

peace and quiet

Cheshire Lake

Privacy

Neighbors look out for each other

Quiet

Living near Cheshire Lake

Natural beauty

Familiarity

Peaceful

Safety

people and community

The Community

Close to work

Living near Family

The people

Rural setting

Small town atmosphere while reasonably close to Pittsfield

Low taxes

Family is close by

Low crime

Rural beauty

Privacy

small town close to family

Low crime rate due to inconvenience of criminals moving here. NOT due to progressive, modern day policing by local PD.

Small, intimate community

Access to lake.

Natural open land and resources

rural setting close but to Pittsfield and North Adams for shopping, entertainment, health care

Small town atmosphere

The natural beauty

small town atmosphere

Small town America within a natural setting.

Small town community, lower tax rate

No crime yet

Schools-Church-nature wildlife!

Close to family

Q3. What is the single greatest aspect about living in Cheshire? (List only one)

Like many residents, I work in Pittsfield. Coming home to Cheshire at the end of the day is such a relief. I can't really explain what the single greatest aspect is...more of a holistic well being feeling.

Rail Trail

Natural and scenic beauty

Its simplicity

The people

small town feel

Small town

Private, safe, and a fair tax rate- Hard working honest people build a great community.

The people

Safety - can walk streets and trails day and night

Sense of Community among our residents.

Cheshire is slightly removed from everything else, giving it a greater sense of nature as well as community.

Beauty of the area

rural setting

rail trail

I enjoy the lake and the rail trail that are in the center of town.

The small town, community oriented atmosphere in a beautiful (nature) setting.

Small town atmosphere

Small Town

I have lived my whole life here and enjoy the sense of community.

Small town like

My ability to enjoy the privacy of my property.

Peaceful community

the school for our children

The people of Cheshire are very friendly and approachable.

The country aspect.

Rural Setting

small quiet town

People and community

Rural Setting

Small town feel

It's a very laid back town

affordable cost of living

Affordable

Rural setting

Close to major shopping locations in Berkshire County

Class A gun permit

Affordable

Where I live

Small town, small fram life.

Close to nature & wildlife

Natural and scenic beauty

affordable living

Nature

low cost of living

The lake

Q3. What is the single greatest aspect about living in Cheshire? (List only one)

good government

friendly townf

Enjoy the small town atmosphere.

Small Town Atmosphere.

Living on the lake

Small town atmosphere

Nature

small town living

There are plenty of outdoors activities to do in all seasons of the year.

It is still a small town that has a decent road system and access to larger cities and towns without the big costs of living int the city.

Nature and Wildlife

It hasn't really changed in 50 years.

Convenience of location to commercial amenities while still being able to have a home and lifestyle totally removed from those commercial items.

Cheshire is where I have called home for nearly my entire life.

Q4. What do you like least about living in Cheshire?

Road maintenance

Condition of the east end of Wells Rd is appalling. Roads in general are not upgraded until nearly impossible

zoning

educational agreement with Adams

Bumpy streets with potholes

Quiet

Three person select board

60 to 5 or have term limits

working with some of the own boards especially planning board

proximity to work

uncertainty of school district

3 Man selectmen - need 5

term limits for selectmen

All the rules, regulations, laws, by-laws ordinances that are not enforced. Lease law, dog poop law, cleaning sidewalks of snow. Should have the town highway dept. to clean sidewalks of snow.

The disconnection between north and south Cheshire

some homes not kept up well. As you drive into town and main part of town

Some homes not well kept

Need for a septic holding tank on the lake. Very Expensive

Zoning that allows a Dollar Store and the ability of absentee owners to deforest and mutilate property (lower Windsor Road, for example)

the not enforcing of rules and people having to be told time and time again about certain situations that could have been avoided.

Losing a historic and architecturally beautiful building like the Cheshire Inn made me very sad.

Nothing - love it here

Mail is not delivered to my house

Stuck

current concerns about elementary school closing

The Selectmen, two of whom run this town like it was their private little kingdom!

Nothing negative!

no senior housing

Small town politics

Dirt bikes.

The way the town has been governed for the last 20 years.

Lack of EPO enforcement on state land.

Nothing

selectman have their own agenda and do not listen to the residents

It would be nice to have more of a community feeling about the town, places to gather.

Traffic

It is very hard to actually participate meaningfully in town government because, especially at the Selectman level, two people have held onto power for decades by having their voting blocks keep them in office. With only three on the Board, the third person is always outvoted because the first two never disagree with each other, not even one time, in the memory of long time Cheshire residents. If that were not bad enough, the two longest serving members have opposed expanding the Board to five, and seem to have no interest in sharing power and decision making.

relatives and family do not live nearby

Q4. What do you like least about living in Cheshire?

Lack of businesses

Too much nepotism in Cheshire's Depts. and governing bodies and committees.

Too much nepotism in Cheshire's Depts. and governing bodies and committees

leadership to long in office

Too many family members and the family and friends running town

Certain townies reluctant to change

Living on Sand Mill Rd has become stressful and in order to go anywhere, one has to travel almost 7 miles round trip to get to Route 116 because the bridge is out. Hopefully it will be fixed soon!

Bridge is out on Sand Mill RD The town could care less

Water & sewer

Having to own a septic system

Gossip

No small store/ or coffee shop restaurant

Lack of gyms, theaters, and rapidly rising taxes

nothing to do, no restaurants

The tax rate

Some of the inevitable clashes in small town politics.

nosy neighbors

Lack of thriving town center, community events

Low grades given to the educational system and lack of shopping venues.

The school district

The sense of a conservative "in-group" in town government resisting progressive and creative thinking.

real estate taxes

Road conditions

Very little in return for taxes paid

Not much for kids to do.

I feel that there is always a threat of those who are willing to ruin Cheshire by allowing in chains and threats to our peaceful way of living.

lack of store for simple supplies

Roads

small town politics

The abandoned and run down houses, and how people continue to litter.

There is never anything to do!

Small town politics

Everybody knows everybody

Lack of diversity

Clicky people - same handful of people run everything

Sharing the school district with Adams who tends to make unilateral decisions

Town Government that has the same people in their positions for too long!

Taxes keep going up

Lack of small town businesses (such as mom and pop specialty shops).

Close to Cheshire Lake

Possibility of Cheshire School closing

Lack of activities for kids

Lack of a master plan

Small town

Possible school closing

Q4. What do you like least about living in Cheshire?

As a new resident - feeling unwelcomed by people that have been here for years. We're a younger family looking to get involved in the community but it seems every time we try it doesn't work... almost clique like.

I can't think of any.

Some people don't appreciate what they have here in Cheshire

small town politics

Lack of regional jobs driving the youth and working class away putting ever increasing financial pressure on local residents who are increasingly becoming the retired majority

Town government does not invest in town

Lack of officials follow through on things such as concerns over building near someone else's property- and lack of support and assistance concerning land erosion due to waterway and drainage issues-

Appearance of the old house on route 8 that is falling apart.

Associated with Adams School District

n/a

the fact that I don't live there, only able to visit my property a few weeks each year

some of the small town politics-postings on votes not always apparent-keep having votes until something previously turned down, now voted in...

Archaic way of handling Town Government (inaccessibility, lack of progressiveness, lack of knowledge)

Nothing

Changes

Lack of openness by Town Government. Little trust that they are tell all and the truth

The town's appearance on route 8

Need to travel for stores, grocery shopping, etc.

Weak local economy

Town of Adams

Town government

I don't think the town is very caring to local business's and doesn't give said businesses any support.

Rt 8 traffic

Lack of respect for property by snow mobilers.

top secret town government

lack of apparent zoning

Good old Boy Syndrome

arrogant town government boards and taxes

The "good old boy" syndrome for school and town positions.

Town hall hours

Town hall hours

Lack of legal off road motorcycle trails

Small town politics, people who have their own agenda who have positions in town only to promote their own interests and who do not do what is best for the overall town.

the town is beginning to look run down

Downtown Cheshire needs a face lift. There are too many homes and buildings falling down.

It is not an appealing town to drive through.

Nothing

When we first decided to move to the area, the school system was well recommended. In the past 3 years it has diminished greatly. Unfortunately, my young children are in the schools and have seen this first hand.

Q4. What do you like least about living in Cheshire?

Run down, beginning to look like the slums

Not enough jobs within town

Not many job opportunities within town

distance to Pittsfield

School system needs to be upgraded

Lack of social entertainment.

Isolated

Board of selectmen connection not understanding why they been elected.

limited access to internet, tv and cell phone service

The elementary school's economic (in)stability.

No good restaurants and now loss of Best Buy, Macy's

Taxes keep going up for no big reasons !

Town Government

I wish that there were a coffee shop and a couple businesses to walk to.

Fiscal policy (unwillingness to spend money on just about anything!) Taxes are too low to support the community as a whole.

Jobs

The lack of commitment to the public school district.

Some road work needed

Competition

Elementary Education is underperforming.

Regulations

school crisis

Old buildings and properties that are not maintained ruining the esthetic beauty of our town!!!

No jobs

The cost of the school system.

Nothing

Non-stop route 8 traffic servicing the North Adams / Adams / Pittsfield communities and only leaving us noise and pollution. In-town businesses who let their property become eye-sores, and lots of services for seniors but nothing for middle aged folks and a lowly level 3 school for the kids :-)

lack of retail options

Whitney's Farm Stand!

Fr. Guidi - the new administrator at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church

Atv & snowmobile trails all closed

Outside influences and people that want to change things and take away from the small town feel. Also Andy the grumpy guy at the landfill.

Quality of education for children

Quality of education

Nothing

No affordable housing for senior citizens

The constant financial issues with schooling and the impact it is having on children

The budget cuts in the school district

Peace

Not enuff places to eat / things to do for kids(besides Cheshire school play ground & Whitney's PG)

Politics

School System and the Maintenance of our buildings - When we neglect our School Buildings and Continue to cut teachers, our Children suffer. I would rather pay a small amount of money

Q4. What do you like least about living in Cheshire?

to keep services for our children and maintain our buildings every year. We end up doing this anyway but always as a last resort and what seems to be a cry for help. We all have to pay it forward!

Services

Gossip!!!

Downtown could use more quality small business.

No privacy

School system is failing.

Little employment opportunities

The lack of SMALL FAMILY OWNED businesses and the feel of a true small town

Good old boy politics (fire dept.)

Everyone knows everything

The deteriorating school district

I would like to see a vibrant town center with small business owned restaurants, coffee shop, sporting goods/camping supply etc.

Education -I wish cheshire elementary was more funded and higher rated.

Nothing

NO SEWER SERVICE

Schools have poor funding and low scores

poor roads, repairs needed

Everybody knows everybody else's business.

Love it here. Lived here my whole life. Never want to leave.

The "it's all in who you know" way in which things are run. Not enough fresh new blood and perspectives.

No town ambulance

trailer parks with corporate landlords

School system is going downhill

our residents not upkeeping property

Funding for school system.

Winter

Inferior school system

Hard water

Not having a board of five selectmen to make the process of matters in the town more fair.

Lack of support for schools.

Route 8 traffic

Local politicians

Lack of communication between town officials and residents.

The collective mindset of many people in the town that prohibits growth, change, expansion, and the ability to utilize the town's "selling features" in an effort to make the town a desirable place to live.

School financial trouble, constant threat of losing CES.

No sewer

I am concerned that the school building will no longer be used. It is unreasonable that so much money is spent on building new buildings for the area high schools. Collages such as Williams and others do not tear down buildings to build others. It makes no sense.

the people

Lack of community togetherness working towards improvement/ disjointed- same few people seem to dictate/ control everything in town ("political"), no downtown life, few jobs not appealing to younger population (see Williamstown, Lenox, Great Barrington),

Q4. What do you like least about living in Cheshire?

Politics

Conflict of interest is happening to much. We are paying town workers to do work that should be going out to bid. These bids need to be sealed bids and opened up at public meetings.

Complicated water district structure

Cost of living. Increase in taxes, compactor fees for single seniors, water cost, and lack of affordable senior housing. Need sewage treatment

Cheshire's inability to progress as a town. It's not 1960 anymore.

Nervous about the elementary school closing

Lack of businesses, places to shop.

Too much openness to developments and commercial establishments.

rough roads

Lack of availability to some kind of market in town - groceries, over the counter drugs, greeting cards, etc. Reynolds is not able to meet this need.

Lacking a town center. A cafe or coffee shop where people could come together to share ideas would great. Also the idea of our elementary school closing is terrible.

being associated with Adams schools

Limited competitive utility services.....fiber optic, natural gas, solar discounts, sewer.....

Needing a septic system and most on wells for water.

water bills

Hours of the town hall.

The uncertainty with the elementary school and performance of the high school.

Not much offered socially & housing is one extreme of very low cost or very high cost. Very little for mid range houses for growing families.

The uncertainty with the school system. Our daughter will be starting kindergarten next school year and we are very concerned about the stability and performance of the school system.

Distance to airports

Small town politics

The lack of a sense of community, lack of opportunities to get together as a community.

Lack of businesses.

n/a

I can't think of anything !

Adams Cheshire School district is unable to manage funds. Keep berkshire housing authority out of the town!!!!!!!!!!!!!!Crime, domestic violence, disorderly conduct, ect will force us the town to have a full time police department. in turn tax increase.

Jan and Feb weather

Small-town politics, can't have a say, coach, lead without being lifelong resident

None of my friends live nearby

There are not many gathering places in Cheshire. I would love it if there were more businesses such as book stores and coffee shops that encouraged people to stay for a while.

Small mindedness

increasing tax rate

no jobs; wasteful spending

Lack of zoning laws.

Zoning should be more strict.

no enough to do for kids

Solitude... the history

The lack of activities for all age groups. The Cruz Night is a great event that gets alot of the towns folks together. Maybe it could be expanded or other venues added.

Hard to make a living

Q4. What do you like least about living in Cheshire?

Lack of enforcement of zoning and land use laws.

Reluctant to change

The lack of dining options. There is a very limited selection of places to go.

Town Politics

school system seems to be going downhill fast

Not enough jobs/business in town.

School System

No town sewer where we live

Lack of water pressure

no retail close by

The homeowners that do not care for or take pride in their property.

Urban blight on rte 8

No natural gas service in my neighborhood (Hutchinson/Cheshire Hills).....also, the deplorable street condition in this neighborhood.

A.C.R.S.D.

no personal history

If the pipeline goes in...not happy

The maintainance of the town buildings has been neglected.

Difficulty in funding & general support for education.

The fact that 2 of the 3 selectmen have been parked in those seats for way too long and no longer have the ability to move the town forward. We have some serious issues on the horizon with the school district in dire need and they're worried about where they're going to sit if they go to a five member board. Perhaps they could move their big heads upstairs? How about moving over to the smaller building which sits empty 6 out of 7 days a week.

new residents that want change to everything and anything

Winter

people who are new to Cheshire always wanting change

Lack of shopping

Small minds.....

Small mindness.

Resistance to change

Speeders

Town government

close-minded attitudes

Seems to be some micromanaging from certain town entities. Also, the elderly population has a more fiscally conservative approach to running the town.

The school system. The regional school system has become increasingly costly with little or no improvement in the education provide to "our" (Cheshire's) children. It seems that Adams administrators are more and more demanding of the Cheshire population to support the system fiscally but are willing to deny the town the benefit of better a better education for our kids.

the "Good Ole Boy Network" that exists

Being tied to Adams in the school district

We salt, sand, and plow the roads to extreme excess. We should only salt Rte 8, and maybe Wells/Lanesboro Rds if it makes commuters feel more comfortable. It is a total waste of resources, money and time to salt every single road every time it snows. Besides, salted roads ruin our cars and just look ugly.

The hostility or division between the schools and some of the residents.

Q5. Comments Section: Comments about what respondents would like for the Town of Cheshire in the next 20 years?

Would like to see more public and private solar installations

Two outside tennis courts on school property

Having our own water district

South Cheshire more involved in the town

Promote the fact that the AT goes right through our town. Support hikers with appropriate small local businesses

Consider adding a sewer connector to the Adams sewer system for downtown and mobile home developments.

Establish a proactive culture in town government pursuing creative ways to generate income and reduce cost, i.e. aggressive research and application for grants, renewable energy (for example, solar panels on town shed), networking with other towns and accessing best practices, etc.

we have 2 liquor stores and only one restaurant seem out of proportion

There is a need for sewer service in the downtown area, but an opportunity was missed when the rail line was up for sale years ago. Having purchased that line would have made running a sewer connector to Adams easier, , and then building the Rail Trail that now exists.. While it is still possible to follow this route, it may be more costly but should be considered, especially if downtown residential properties are to be restored and if they are to remain viable places to live.

The most visionary act that the Town has done was to purchase the Cheshire Lakes. Town ownership of that lake system ensures recreational and cultural attractions will be part of Cheshire life perpetually. The opportunity to use watershed land for similar purposes should be explored.

The "other" big question for the town to consider in the next 20 years is the future of the School District. The ACRSD has become dysfunctional because Adams has nmore votes than cheshire, and Adams is a spending alcoholic. Adams is at or near its levy limit while cheshire ihas spent carefully and has a low tax rate. Adams Selectmen drive the Adams Board members to make decisions based on what brings more revenue into the District from Cheshire as much or more than what is good for the children of the district as a whole.

The ACRSD was a good idea back when the Towns had industry and money. It has degenerated into a dysfunctional marriage where the husband, the partner with the deciding votes, has become a spending alcoholic within its borders and is abusing the less powerful wife, Cheshire, and all of their children by starving the schools. While Cheshire has little appetite for higher taxes, it has been more amenable to additional schols pspending than drunken, hung-over Adams!

The push to close the Cheshire Elementary School is the most recent and most flagrant example le of this abuse. Cheshire needs to revise the District Charter to either give both Towns "home rule" final say on the existence of elementary schools in their Towns, or have the District cover only the Middle / High School, abolish the district altogether, or merge with another District.

Student enrollment projections for the County long term are downward. any temporary need for more capacity in the District needs to be examined carefully.

Strategically, Cheshire needs to keep the Elementary School which is perfectly situated in the epicenter of the Town. Even Savoy has an Elementary School. A Town of any size without an Elementary School is not a Town. there ceases to be a common focus for developing a sense of community without such a school. There is nothing that will bind children and their parents together with common activities and interests, be they educational, school related social, or sports without an Elementary School.

I did not check low taxes because I believe SOME MODERATE increase may be needed over time to care for better schools, deteriorating roads and infrastructure and possibly a sewer connector.

We also need to restore older, historic buildings rather than lose them. This requires creative and ongoing Securing of grant money for that purpose. There needs to be a rigorous effort to accomplish this through people who know what they are doing in this regard.

Q5. Comments Section: Comments about what respondents would like for the Town of Cheshire in the next 20 years?

Relax our frontage back to 150' and not 200'

Support, improve and modernize the school system.

Reinvigorate agricultural community

I would like to see more support for a more robust school system.

Cheshire is doing a terrible job with road maintenance, whether that means local responsibility or tie-in to state opportunities for resurfacing and improvement.

Upgrade water system with better pressure on Eastview Drive

should sell the land to the State to add to the Mt. Greylock Reservation.

Treat others as you would like to be treated - bring change into the town. Allow more voices to be heard.

I would like the to see the town marketed toward people who live near larger cities and work from home and are looking to move to more rural towns and continue to work from home.

Control development of wetlands along with sensitive areas

Downtown Cheshire is the main asset of the town for the towns people. Find a way to attract compatible (to the Rural atmosphere) businesses that makes downtown attractive to both residents and surrounding communities who might be attracted to spending time in Cheshire to enjoy a nice restaurant, visit a general store, or some other unique boutique-type store, or perhaps a bed and breakfast type place if there are other amenities for the patrons of a B&B to enjoy. No heavy industry or too much light manufacturing that dearest from a quality atmosphere, which seems to be getting lost in Cheshire.

Strengthen Cheshire Elementary

Taxes are increasing to fast. The school budgets have to stay within there means and stop the I wants in stead of the I need.

A Master plan will not determine the next 20 years

We need to develop a manufacturing site to not only provide jobs or are Children, but also take pressure off propert taxes. Especially for the Elderly

Get rid of the town police and combine services with town of Adams for fire and police. Make town employees pay for a portion of health insurance to cut costs. Improve roads. Lower taxes for business 's in hopes of seeing the town prosper.

increase quality of school. The communities with the best schools have the housing values

Clean up abandoned properties and junk

honest town government and control spending

Cheshire to become a thriving bedroom community.

I would like to see solar lights along the bike trail at least from Church St to the Farnams Rd.

By keeping taxes as controlled as possible it might encourage others to relocate here and do business here thus expanding the base.

Implement some laws that property owners need to abide by

by checking "implement town sewer service" I mean that basic infrastructure could be added when repairing/repaving roads because sooner or later the State will require Cheshire to provide sewer services and the piecemeal cost of doing it slowly in advance will be much less than waiting for a mandate. It should be a consideration, anyway.

better communication between town offices

MAKE MAIN STREET LOOK MORE APPEALING LIKE ADAMS PARK STREET TO ENCOURAGE SMALL BUSINESS AND LOCAL SHOPPING

We have a wonderful small town filled with friendly people and in a beautiful part of the country. Let's do everything possible to keep it that way and still grow by encouraging eco-friendly, nature friendly businesses to come here, and let other towns have the malls, factories, traffic, and pollution. Let's also

Q5. Comments Section: Comments about what respondents would like for the Town of Cheshire in the next 20 years?

encourage businesses and residents to make our town beautiful, and insure the taxes the town collects benefits ALL our citizens.

Atvs & snowmobiles I grew up here riding them. Cheshire was a main hub for this. All gone now.

Preserve farmland

Encourage young people to remain/move back

Improve quality of education

Improve the quality of education

Better financial management. Cheshire has a great sense of community and the community cares about our youth..but the yearly worries of layoffs and impacts in our schools is tiresome.

Maybe an annual fair or somthing like adams aggie fair but Cheshires version. Somethin more the cruz night thats all. / And not co op with adams for kids football , be nice to have our own teams

Strong school

Update Cheshire elementary school, fix the financial mess the school system is in.

A town beach is what i miss most about Cheshire

Do not want businesses like dollar general

Cheshire should have petitioned the state as the planned Ashuwillticook Trail was in planning to install a sewer main in the old rail bed utilizing the perfect grade to the Adams Sewage Treatment Plant.

Residents of Cheshire could have saved many thousands of dollars not having to upgrade to Title Five Septic upgrades over the years.

Invest in education

More emphasis on education more taxes going to school system

Make natural gas available to more areas

Good schools - surprised that isn't a listed option. Families that will keep the town alive and growing won't come if the schools continue to decline.

lights on the ashuwillticook trail

Stronger support for schools.

It would be nice for the town to have a picture of what it should and could look like in 20 years and then take the necessary steps, in a controlled and decisive manner, to move forward to achieve the atmosphere we are looking for. We should create a usable framework of policies and practices that encourages continuity of the aspects of town life which are currently enjoyed by many, while gradually eliminating the aspects which we do not like.

I'd like to see us plan to allocate funds for and create a public park-nature reserve of pretty good size, that is accessible to all, as the town grows in size. Also plan for some smaller public park and recreation areas in town as the town grows.

Appeal to more younger people to move here and settle.

No large business (No dollar General!)

develop our energy independence by harvesting our solar, hydro, and possibly wind resources

NO PIPELINE PLEASE!

Keep the main focus on our school system

We need to have senior housing ,people live in Cheshire most of there lives, Then when they can't take care of there homes they have to move out of the town they love because there is no senior housing .I want to always live here in Cheshire ,the little town I love .

I would like to see 12 south street leveled turned into a farmers market

Maintain and renovate historic buildings, but money must come from new business and definitely not more personal taxes. Add historical markers, plaques, and pictures of places once and still existing.

Create a historical tour in the form of a hiking trail throughout whole town limits (Stafford Hill, Wells rd, Nobody's road, etc.). Promote historic trail in form of geocaching like or internet/GPS tracking information. Add far more history to website. Create business district in area different than old town so

Q5. Comments Section: Comments about what respondents would like for the Town of Cheshire in the next 20 years?

history can be maintained but business tax revenue can increase. Build or create indoor and outdoor activities for kids, and not just little kids but also teens and pre-teens. The town must become a town perfect for raising families, where parents are encouraged to be more involved with kids and kids are more active in general (which CAN include electronics and arts and music and nature/farming). The town must not become a retirement community exclusively, but have ALL ages.

I'd love to see the causeway at Cheshire Lake cleaned up the rest of the way and a beach area created there. It would be a great place for families and tourists. A concession and non motorized boat rentals along with charging a couple dollars would pay for upkeep.

Spruce up the town by adding flowers on the bridge on South St..... flowers lining the street up to the 4 corners light. The town driving through is looking pretty bad. We need to make Cheshire look charming and old fashion again. Solar Lights on Church Street would be a total asset. Cheshire is the only community in Western Mass without Colonial Lighting. Solar Lamp Posts would really enhance the appearance of our charming town with HISTORY. Arrange to have flowers put around the Cheshire Cheese Press and make it a "Show Place" for tourist. Reynolds Store is an asset to the town.

Significant improvement in student success rates in all schools within the Adams-Cheshire School District.

Not to close the school

Repave streets in the Hutchinson/Cheshire Hills neighborhood

An open town for small local business and a community market.

Focus on improving the school system to attract younger families. Regarding business development, if I'm not mistaken, some of the members on your board chased out a business attempting to establish itself here in town.

Preserve the beauty of the town. Save/Restore the few older buildings in town. I am sick over the loss of The Cheshire Inn. It breaks my heart everytime I think of it. A part of History that was lost to us forever. I feel the strongest about this.

With the surrounding wildlife preserves and Mt. Greylock, maybe outdoor conservation and outreach should be developed. Cheshire is in the middle of a lot of great places to explore!

Some town officials are not doing their jobs. I speak directly of building and board of health issues.

There are and have been too many derelict and dangerous buildings in town that blight the neighborhoods and no one seems to do anything about them.

Develop stronger youth programs to show the children what a great place this is to live. This can be athletic, outdoor activities, Fine Arts etc.

Q6. Comment section: If you plan on moving from Cheshire in the next five years, what would be your reason for the move, and where are you likely to move to?

School system - possible closing of Cheshire School

small town politics

Maybe northern VT

I have concerns about the financial viability of the town due to the lack of forward thinking. The total tax bill continues to rise while services are flat or declining. If our municipal management culture doesn't change people on fixed incomes will be at significant risk. I would move to a place with culture, natural beauty, and a more transparent and welcoming government.

Out of state to be closer to family

Downsize-retire

Health issues or deteriorating infrastructure might cause me to rethink the need to move in five or more years. Right now I have no such plans. Remaining family members of my generation are few and our children do not live nearby.

Town is governed by too many family and friends. Rules and regulations apply to some residents but not all. No consistency. Move to a warmer climate.

Town is governed by too many family and friends. Rules and regulations apply to some residents but not all. No consistency. Move to a warmer climate.

Because town is run by too many family and friends and they don't have the same rules as the rest of us do.

I think Cheshire is great the way it is now. I think when new people move into town, they want changes for example new buildings to replace Town Hall and Police Station. That to me means increase in taxes. We do not want that. Keep the town rural and support local farmers and small businesses

Age & weather being the factor. Warmer & more stable climate.

It all depends upon whether or not the Kinder Morgan pipeline is implemented. I do not want to live anywhere near it.

Move closer to the grand children in Virginia.

Our existing home is too small for our growing family. We wish to move to another part of Berkshire County with better school district ratings.

warmer climate

College.

Health/age

I'm getting older and the care of my property is becoming more difficult for me. I feel I'll need to move into a town where I have less to care for and where the roads to work, doctors, grocery stores etc. are better maintained and closer.

The lack of a bridge on my road for about a year now has greatly influenced my decision.

Taxes unnecessarily continuing to go up, Hancock

currently only a property owner from another state, hope to move their permanently one day

Reason - job instability in region, move to location with more job stability

Elder housing not available in Cheshire

The School system is out of control and cost. they need to consolidate

Services with North Adams and Lanesboro. also municipal services need to be shared with mother communities

There is nothing here. Few opportunities and no new growth. Taxes keep increasing without any benefits. The schools are being run improperly.

Might move to FL upon retirement for a lower state tax rate

Loss of property value due to declining area employment

Decrease in property value due to lack of community growth.

To an area with more job opportunities

Q6. Comment section: If you plan on moving from Cheshire in the next five years, what would be your reason for the move, and where are you likely to move to?

Would like something warmer and something with more of places for community gathering to get to know people.

Savoy

We need to downsize, house is simply too big requiring too much work. We are considering a number of options but would most likely move someplace that we do not have to drive everywhere, closer to medical facilities, entertainment, dining.

Career, more opportunities

My family and I are disappointed with the school and lack of funds to help educate the young residents. How else can you encourage young families to move to Cheshire if the local education is inadequate.

South County where people take pride in the appearance of their homes and property.

smaller home

We are unsure, but if the elementary school closes it will weigh heavily on our decision to leave Cheshire.

warmer climate

We live in New York City, but we hope to spend more and more time in Cheshire.

Likely closing of Cheshire Elementary. Town government only interested in keeping taxes as low as possible, usually costing everyone more in the long run. All sense of community will be lost if the school is closed.

Born and raised in Cheshire, owned my own home in Cheshire for 5 years, upon selling, have not found a new home to meet needs in Cheshire. Worried about the future of Cheshire Elementary as well.

Always planned on sending my children there, but now it seems questionable if it will remain open.

The elementary school needs improvement. The landscape is competitive and since school choice is not guaranteed, moving might be the only option.

Retirement

work and family reasons

Not enough land for sale

I may leave Cheshire if it continues to have an underperforming school, route 8 traffic continues to grow with Cheshire as the "pit stop," and we continue to lose our small town / home town quality. Other towns have much lower taxes but more community spirit and level 1 schools.

Privacy

South county where the kids can ride their motorcycles & snowmobiles

Some place quieter or warmer.

Senior housing in Pittsfield

Better schooling

Not sure

Go to warmer weather

better services

The school system has shown poor growth and I'm worried my pre K age son will not be given the education he needs

I would love to go somewhere with more of a community, and more things to do. Family nights, adult nights, just more activities!

Loss of rural, natural, open air space

Somewhere new, new places and new people. Boston.

Escape the cold winters, south to a small community like Cheshire

I love North Berkshire, Cheshire especially - but there are too few quality job opportunities for the middle class in the \$50-75,000 dollar range in the immediate area, with poor highway system for commuting. Unfortunately the quality of life will diminish over the near future for all, as the tourism industry only provides service jobs that pay poorly.

Q6. Comment section: If you plan on moving from Cheshire in the next five years, what would be your reason for the move, and where are you likely to move to?

School system -and Lanesboro because of their school system

North is all heroin, Pittsfield is all violence and people making bad decisions that would effect life in a negative way.

Who would want to leave

The school system. We will move to Williamstown or Lanesboro.

Lived here since July 2014 and love it!!

Warmer climate - no idea

Dollar General mentality of town to get tax dollars

More sustainable economy, more attractive community to raise children

Again, this town's inability to move forward and progress into the 21st century.

I like other countries more than america.

Always a possibility. Dependent upon control of crime and drugs in surrounding communities.

Deterioration of school system and lack of discussion re: district consolidation. Change is constant and adaptation is a must. There is too much "more of the same" from a political standpoint in the Berkshires and it's getting old

Be near grandkids.....

South County where they have good restaurants and home owners take care of their homes and privacy. So UNLIKE Cheshire.

tax increases or housing authority/section 8

Small town politics. Horrible school that is more concerned about rewarding family than kids. State politics that destroy the community and state but people continue to vote in and for the very same people. Town is very anti-business. Berkshires has so few restaurants and entertainment options. Businesses are closing everywhere. Population is decreasing. All taxes and regulations push businesses away. New people not treated the same as lifers. Town seems very run-down.

I often dream about picking up and moving out of the area, however, i love my house, i love Cheshire, and i love my job in the area, so i don't know if i really want to mess any of that up. I have lived in the Berkshires pretty much my entire life and in Cheshire for the last ten. There is so much more to the world than what i am getting living here, and part of me wants to experience that.

no jobs in area; low pay in area; lack of services/options

NY / eastern MA / NH / elsewhere

We would only move if the town continues to be shabby looking when driving through Rt 8 into town.

We want a town to new proud of..... well kept..... cared for with TLC

If more development came in.

1. If Cheshire elementary school actually closes it would be difficult to commute our kids to another school while living in town.

Downsizing

After retirement we are considering North Carolina area for shortened winter and a longer summer.

TAXES, a town without regional school.

Florida

Only part time. I plan on getting a second home for the winter.

School system

lack of services and activities for retirees, plus an large older house to maintain, but not sure if or where to move to.

High cost of education. It seems as if the town is ceding control to Adams administrators. Often times things are happening in the school system that Cheshire officials are not even aware of.

Would move from town if unable to find a suitable property in town.

Q7. Comment section: Additional comments related to satisfaction with conditions or services

Animal control

old school playground better for kids to play on

The full time police officer should be the chief. We don't need two police cruisers, let them use their own vehicle for extra duties. Why do we have so many in the police department and only three work and the others work when they feel like it Get people that want to work

Need sign to inform south Cheshire of Community activities

Anything to be done about old Cheshire Inn? Other old buildings?

Water is well.

Compared to other towns we have an excellent snow removal team. When you consider water contamination problems in nearby states it doesn't make sense to lose our secondary water source

It would be helpful to have trash cans around town, especially by the bus stop and along rest areas on the Ashwilticook trail.

Some of the buildings are in tough shape, and I think the town could be greatly benefited by having trash cans

placed near the bus stop and along the Ashwilticook trail, and possibly other sites.

I have no knowledge of all the "No Opinion" categories I checked. I am not familiar with them.

Town personnel do not return phone calls or emails with answers to inquiries.

I believe there should be laws and enforcement of the laws that there should be no roosters in residential areas due to the noise or also chickens should be contained in the homeowner's yard not in the neighbor's yards.

We are not always informed when there is some emergency in town.

Regarding the schools, there should be more emphasis put on the quality of education rather than sports and field trips.

Many homes and mobile homes have excess junk in their yards and next to their homes. When a person strives to have a nice yard but a neighbor seems to "collect" stuff in their yard, it's pretty annoying.

Delighted to have this survey opportunity. Thank you. Cheshire feels like there has been no "vision" for years. Hope this is a new path.

Could sweep up debris (nails, etc.) from time to time

Town St- Depot St-need repair. Could use the sidewalk on church St expanded. Why don't we advertise the doorway to the Appalachian Trail- It's on the hikers maps -they use our Post Office- But there are no signs showing townfolk and visitors how to get there.

Add tennis courts

Lack tennis courts

Taxes going up to help fund Adams schools and their rising problems with section 8 housing students

Would like to see more small businesses such as restaurants, specialty shops (crafts or other things related to the cultural history of the area).

The Town need to have a new Library and Senior Center. These are needed to attract and hold residents . a larger percentage of our Residents are older,yet we spend little for programs or them as compared to the school cost.

The town might consider expanded facilities on the lake, public swimming area?

As education cost continue to increase there are less funds left to operate local government. All town services have been reduced to unacceptable levels. WE NEED TO FIX THIS PROBLEM. Cutting education is not the answer, nor is just raising taxes. We need committees, like you, that will address the real issues and stop the "shot gun" approach. No long lasting solution resulted from just throwing money at it.

Q7. Comment section: Additional comments related to satisfaction with conditions or services

Town government is full of people who want to control everything. Even when it is not the best for the town. Corrupt board members interesting in putting town money in their own pockets and protecting their friends interest.

Run down properties. Some roads and sidewalks in need of repair. Some properties need cleaning up. notification regarding treatment of drinking water. I was notified that the water was chemically treated for coliform TWO (2) MONTHS AFTER the treatment. the notification stated that women who were pregnant or nursing should not drink the water. How is this helpful 2 months later?

New To Cheshire so we are not able to answer all the questions.

We need a town ordinance for signs and rundown buildings. Our wealth is in the land and beauty of the town, therefore we need to invest in their maintenance and overall appearance. Also, a sidewalk that surrounds the lake would be a fantastic idea. Call it "The Lake Loop". Finally, we have to do better with the elementary school. Underperforming in this day and age can harm a child's future and ultimately the safety and security of the area.

roads and town equipment in rough shape

My "other" is that their is NO SAFE WAY for someone living on a road off route 8 north of Richardson St to get walk or bike to town. I like to jog around town in the summer and it always seems like running on route 8 between Briggs and Richardson is like taking my life in my hands, and yet all the little streets in town got new sidewalks? Either connect our side streets to the Rail Trail, or please at least give us a cheap "asphalt" paved sidewalk that adults and kids can use to safely get to town down route 8 from north of Richardson.

Privacy

Town should do followup visits when work is done in local in MHP's. Or better yet, tour parks once or twice a year to see conditions of parks and talk to tenants to see if there are any issues.

As I said in a before question - It is irresponsible for the town to allow our School Buildings to Fall into despair. Small problems become bigger problems overtime and then we scramble to repair them.

Town focuses on "center" of town and it's residents and ignores everyone else - yet many of the higher taxes are being paid by residents outside the center of town.

Approach To town needs to be enhanced. (ie) old country charm, old repair shop, old old Cheshire Inn.....Remove or replace them!!!

Financing to fire, emergency resonse and schools is way out of line with what Cheshire actually needs. A noticable decrease in road maintenance

I feel the town does well with the small cash flow that exists, and I am happy to deal with infrastructure problems to keep taxes low. I do not want to see Cheshire follow the same path of Adams (ridiculously large municipal overhead).

The town transfer station needs better management and communication with the residents.

It is in my opinion that the attendant needs to be replaced.

Sandmill rd. Bridge project has not even started yet? Huge inconvenience

Roads need to be a priority for repair.

Would love to have an area to go swimming.

In order for the town to progress, it needs to take necessary steps to maintain and improve upon existing infrastructure. Investment in the town will pay dividends in the future. The slow and steady decline of town buildings and roads is obvious to all who travel through town, both the people who live here and those who do not. Maintenance and improvement to areas that are highly visible to the public is a selling feature and a way to market the town as a desirable place to be. Encouraging upkeep and improvement, both of public and private property, will help to strengthen our town.

I'd like to recommend that the Transfer Station-compactor employee be required to actively work full-time to keep the appearance of this area more attractive and orderly, to clean it up, and to help residents

Q7. Comment section: Additional comments related to satisfaction with conditions or services

more. Also the town needs to consider ways to increase the recycling of waste products, too much of which go into landfills. Also establish a swap station at this area where residents can offer used products for free to other residents who want them, to be discarded only if not claimed after four weeks- to be managed by the town's employee, who appears to do little much of the time. However this employee should also be given a more spacious shelter, since he spend much time there on the days he is employed.

We need to work on getting the bike path open to snowmobiles

Some roads and sidewalks in need of repair. I think we need to clean up some properties, it is a disgrace that so many homes have fallen into disrepair.

We love the library! A must have for our little town. Town wide activities are wonderful (x-mas tree lighting, Easter egg hunt), maybe there could be more...a town clean up day?, group activities on the rail trail?

For such a small town, rural community, we have limited control over speeds in the "downtown area" seemingly. There are a lot of walkers/bikers in the area of the downtown/school and many use the downtown roads as a part of a bypass between route 8 and 116. We've got to find a way to slow these drivers down before someone gets hurt.

We have a WELL how ever the water quality is excellent !!!

town needs a blite law junk car ! junk cars need to be tax .

It is sad that Cheshire school has fallen into total disrepair because officials do not understand the importance of maintenance. It's disturbing to know Hoosac won't be taken care of either. Our tax dollars should provide more for this.

We have well and septic, so I cannot comment on water/sewer.

We have sidewalks??? It takes MONTHS for road items to be repaired IF at all

We need more town involvement..... We have a great memorial with the Cheshire Cheese Press and nothing is ever done about making it a focal point. It looks totally uncared for. Make the causeway area more inviting for people to picnic near our lovely Cheshire Lake. Engage more activities for the younger people in Cheshire and getting them involved with senior citizens.

Some local eyesores that need to be addressed, particularly those on Rt8 that folks traveling through see and form an opinion of the town based on the condition of those properties.

Again, I feel like restoration to the town is needed. Not another dollar store

Have a subscriber link for town alerts and notices.

Q8. Comment section: Additional comments related to conditions or services that need to be kept the same, reduced, expanded or improved

Removal from Adams- Cheshire Regional Entirely

Need to get a much better website. Pay for one. Need a grant writer and someone to look into getting money to tear down buildings that are eyesores. Need a five select board.

See previous page

Anything can be improved anywhere. I think the town keeps up well, considering budget restraints.

Utopia is a literary work. Be grateful. Think small.

Something should be done about/with the decaying building across from the fire station.

The town website is minimal, not informative, and should be seriously developed to make all departments more transparent and accessible. There should be articles about issues affecting residents, and identified goals of the town and its residents.

Fix some of the less travelled roads.

Are the Recreational facilities identified or posted?

Add tennis courts

promote more small businesses

We have no Elderly Housing

Reduce police services or maybe get a chief with a positive friendly small town attitude. If you see him or any other police officer they should smile and know the townspeople.

Enrollment in ACRSD has declined to a point where it no longer provides a full education at an affordable price. This is a regional trend and needs to be addressed. It is time for all of Berkshire County to look to creating a MEGA HIGH SCHOOL. The Berkshire Mall might be a location for a high school to cover all the towns from Pittsfield to the Vermont line. K-8 could be kept more local. Every community is struggling with this problem. Building new facilities and overriding prop 2 1/2 will not solve this problem.

term limits for all board members and the removal of insurance for everybody who serves on a board.

Homeowners should be held liable to maintain their homes and property in good quality for the appearance and well being

Same as above.

Please develop the lake area and invest in the schools. Also, we need to have that "Cheshire Liquor Center" improve its appearance, as well as the real estate along that road.

expand select board to 5 members for more diversity

As previously mentioned, we need a level 1 school, a safe way too get to town from north of Richardson (like a sidewalk or streets connected to the trail) as well as a Police station open more than 7pm on Tuesday night - many of us have to get up at 4am so 7pm is just too late to open.

Water Dept needs to work to reduce deposits that discolor fixture surfaces pink/yellow.

Have more town activities during summer months.

Fire and emergency services are seriously out of line with the size of the town

Cheshire needs to take advantage of all possible cash assistance from state and federal programs in order to at least maintain our current status.

TAKE DOWN THE OLD AGE HOME ACROSS FROM THE FIRE STATION

Would like to see a 5 person select board and we do not think we need full time police officers.

Town ambulance police department to listen to towns people concerns

The town drinking water quality has been consistently good but the communication of incidents where the quality of the water has been compromised or diminished to the water users has been lacking. If there are times when the water has to be treated, needs to be turned off, or in any case that has potential to cause concern to the residents, prompt and immediate notification should be made to the users. Receiving a letter in the mail regarding a treatment or incident, weeks after the occurrence, is not acceptable. Improper communication leads to a sense of distrust in the town government and degrades a sense of pride in the community.

Q8. Comment section: Additional comments related to conditions or services that need to be kept the same, reduced, expanded or improved

Although the town actively participates in recycling programs through the compactor, increased recycling options and/or better communication about what can or cannot be recycled would be beneficial.

Having a sense of security within the town will help to make Cheshire a desirable place to live. Support of a fully staffed police department with a visible police presence and full day/year coverage will aid in discouraging crime growth in the community.

The lake needs to be capitalized upon....small inn, jazz club, kayak rentals, paddle boat rentals. Just blows my mind that no one has found a way to market available opportunities along lakeside. So many people coming through town, little capitalization seemingly. Adams is very similar in this regards. Random and reactionary growth.

a town beach at the lake would be nice !

Hoosac is a new beautiful school. It needs to offer better, more competitive programs to keep and attract students to it. The band and sports are a good start, but our children deserve more.

Andrew Kachel of the Redemption Center is a bully. He picks on the elderly so badly, that we take the trash of some of our elderly residents to the dump, on a regular basis. This is a disgrace to our community.

The main drag of Cheshire (Lanesboro Rd to Stoplight) gives the appearance of a very run down area. As residents we've gotten used to and don't notice this. But it's common I'll drive thru another town and think how dumpsy it looks, then sadly I realize it looks a lot like that section of Cheshire. We tore down one building, we need to tear down the old in, and improve that whole section of town. Aside from the bank and fire station the entire area looks pretty bad.

Q9. What conditions or services not on the list in Question 8 do you believe need to be kept the same, reduced, expanded or improved?

Keep selectmen at 3 members

water service expanded to entire town

roads besides main roads- less potholes and more plowing/salt

I wish we had a local coffee shop and maybe bookstore

A word in praise of Cheshire's town Crew who do a great job in the worst weather.

Improve access to conservation land, via working with the State, to

Roads

Expand town water to more areas of town. Implement town waste water service. Perhaps tie in with Adams for treatment.

we waste money on a lawyer for something we have no control over but won't spend money on actual services required. town spending should be better looked at

Combine Adams and Cheshire Volunteer Fire Departments

Combine Adams and Cheshire Volunteer Fire Departments

school budget needs to be look at

Combine both Adams and Cheshire Fire departments in one company

Sewer system

Q9. What conditions or services not on the list in Question 8 do you believe need to be kept the same, reduced, expanded or improved?

Business growth

We need to talk about environmental conditions - such as the use of pesticides on people's properties and how they affect everyone's children and pets. We need to talk about the condition of the lake and whether we should continue to allow motor boats on the lake. We need to discuss the weed situation in the lake and how to address it as it seems that the weeds persist no matter what we do.

Expand/improve agricultural character of the town - encourage new farmers, preserve farmland, help connect new farmers with land

Since the town does not provide trash removal, there should be assistance to residents at the town recycle site to unload items, and access should be safer - broken down steps to recycle container are dangerous.

We need to REFUSE and REJECT the pipeline. If we allow the pipeline I will consider moving out of state.

school building improvement

We need more outreach to our seniors, nearly 1/3 people in town are 60+ and there is nothing available to them. Also recreation for our youth - we have Nothing in town for them other than an occasional program.

Enforce the laws to the full degree in regards to Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act

How about a cheese festival? :-)

The highway department crew needs to be more productive. There appears to be a lot of waste when it comes to time management.

Services for the kids

No comment. Still new to town.

Water services improved

Add tennis courts

Keep section 8 housing out of town. Keep large commercial business such as dollar general out. Cheshire is a nice quaint little town. Business such as Dollar General is not the ideal image for Cheshire. Low income/ problems

n/a

Need alternatives for recycling/waste disposal for property owners that are not year round residents.

Expand Town Hall hours so people can get business accomplished

Town Government Needs to get away from the Good old boys and start looking at what is really needed to help the residents stay in our community ,like JOBS,but not low paying part time retail jobs that will have a very poor impact on attracting new people who want to move to that "small New England town"

Owners of homes on route 8 should be coerced to maintain their properties in a presentative way

If we (all of Berkshire County) can provide the best education system in the state and lower the cost the rest will take care of itself.

Improve the election process

Update our voting system.

Expand small business

N/A

Animal control service expanded/improved.....someone to be available morning to night to monitor complaints.

Q9. What conditions or services not on the list in Question 8 do you believe need to be kept the same, reduced, expanded or improved?

Home owners should be held liable to maintain their homes and property in good qualify for the appearance and well being of the community.

All of them.

None

Enhancement to the AT trail specifically. Signs to better improve how to locate the trail in the "downtown" area. More beautification at public areas, like flowers, etc. BETTER FUNDING FOR THE SCHOOLS. POSSIBLE GRANTS FOR SCHOOL REPAIRS,ETC.

Clean Cheshire lake

reduce police dept., state police located within town, cost effective to reduce police

None

Programs for Children. No programs for children = no population growth. So then what? We can't all be 70 years old. We need to diversify the makeup of our community.

expand select board to 5 members

Improve the school system by efficient means stop throwing money at it.

Better School - the building, land, curriculum, and equipment is fine. What we need is a passionate staff that finds a way to get to level 1 through excellence in education, not spending money on new "things" that collect dust. Better community activities, communication, and events for everyone not just the retired. And lets make it possible and safe for all our town folk to walk or bike into town.

Cheshire school has things that really need to be adressed and fixed.

Town should be more involved with tenants of the local MHPs. We have no where to turn or any one to talk to when there are issues, especially when landlord sucks!!

Town maintenance more funds. Take the good ol boy fire and emergency funds and transfer to the maintenance dept.

I would like to see Cheshire leave the Adams-Cheshire School District, as the waste and poor education at HVHS, is disturbing.

Again road improvement and more summer mowing of grass in the more rural areas, can prove dangerous in some areas if grass is left to grow out of control

See write in above

old buildings need to be removed! others need to be maintained

senior housing expanded

Keeping the lake in good shape should be top priority. How about de-weeding the second basin too?

Remove hard water

Take town control of lake cove road.

Road repairs-expanded.

more equality in taxation and application of town rules

Board of Selectmen size needs to remain at 3. It's hard enough to get 3 qualified people to run for the position, never mind trying to get 5. At that point, people will run and be appointed that aren't qualified.

Looking into future, I believe we need to carefully plan for town preservation of ecology, farmland and open spaces. Reduce and limit commercial development and housing developments.

abandoned buildiings and junk cars

Better town hall hours.

Q9. What conditions or services not on the list in Question 8 do you believe need to be kept the same, reduced, expanded or improved?

Greater access to fiber/high speed broadband.....access to green tech/utility programs and discounts.

Cheaper electric and no PIPELINE.....The Pipeline will destroy the rail trail, Route 8 and Whitney's Farm AND OFF COURSE THE WATER SUPPLY

the town churches keep the same

Activities for kids and teens and families, more recognition of history, better business environment

Expand DPW...road improvements

information posted in more places than just fire board!...

To make route 8 of our town center more attractive. Tourist will stop and spend money going from south county to north county if you give them a reason.

I believe the addition of a town sewer would be a great asset to the town. It would be worth an increase in taxes for it.

Expand sewer lines

Improved traffic law enforcement

expanded or improved: Natural gas availability

town government

I don't want the gas pipeline to go thru Cheshire

Focused application of a true budget, not the get by for now mentality. Proactive look at the town structures.

Town beach would be a nice addition.

Zoning enforcement

expand public access to Cheshire Lake and keep the areas cleaned up!

Water availability and resource protection.

Q10. If you have any additional comments about services provided by the town, please explain below.

Zoning 1. Not have zoning where 1 side is business and the opposite side is residential

When obtaining building permit should have some on hand

residential roads like ours are in terrible shape

Police Dept. needs looked into. Full time police chief not an officer. One police only. Enforce speed limit on town not Rt. 8 or Rt. 116. Enforce stop signs

Would like to see more roads resurfaced, example Depot St.

Additional praise for Fire, Police, EMTS, and our P. O. staff for good measure.

Need to spend more money in our schools. The children are our future. Let's keep CES open.

Communications from the Selectmen is not sufficient. No one knows except the selectmen, or more likely one of them, what are the outstanding challenges and opportunities that need to be addressed over the next year, until they are put on the Selectmens' weekly meeting agenda.

Improve animal control department services.

Q10. If you have any additional comments about services provided by the town, please explain below.

how is it that we were talked into a prop 2 1/2 and then 6mo later we are discussing closing the school due to the lack of students??, when was the last audit of the school budget?

Do not hire a full time Police Officer since the state police are located in Cheshire.

Do not hire a full time police officer since the State Police are located in Cheshire

do not need water superintendent, water commissioner should be a water user

do not need full time police officer

Don't need full time Police Officer in town. Already have State Police.

Buildings that are no longer functional and unsightly should be condemned and removed. The highway department should be taking initiative to resurface roadways.

Encouragement to small home based business, would be an asset. When the Assessors ask for a listing

of every pencil or screwdriver, this is not encouragement. Our town has much to offer.

I have spent a considerable amount of money to have safe well water. I usually have to conserve water to insure that I make it through the dry seasons with enough. I have three wells.

I live right off of route 8 there is no reason my street should not have public water and sewer.

road improvement

The transfer station attendant is a problem. The way he relates to people . . .has a way of "turning people off". He is not friendly or helpful and has a reputation for it.

I live up from a steep hill and years ago this road was always well maintained by sand and salt.

If I come home after 8 pm or so can't, make hill.

Repair infrastructure , roads , bridges etc .. Highway Dept needs to work 8 hours a day . No need to be going to Highway Dept for breaks . Do like all construction companies . Pack your break & lunch to save fuel , wear & tear on vehicles . Should not take three people to go get a ton of blacktop.

The highway employees need to stop driving around, 3 abreast in one vehicle, checking the roads. The employees should not benefit from tree clean up. It should be offered to the landowner first and then offered to the needy. STOP the home deliveries of the tree cleanup using town vehicles and gasoline.

our roads are in terrible condition need better maintenance -drainage

Town government communication improved

Future source of water is a top priority. Without water none of the other services matter.

Excellent police services and FD.

Add tennis courts at high school and elementary school

Not exactly sure on details, but I don't have town water or septic. All private, and Im assuming a portion of my taxes go to pay for those services, which doesn't seem fair.

Town elected officials and hired positions need to be more community friendly; many offices are routinely sarcastic, nasty and resistant to helping citizens.

It appears that our Part time Administrator is not doing his/her job. There Several piece of Propert in town that are not paying Taxes on as the ownership of the Property may be in dispute. How long is this to Ho on. Also many people feel that we re being lied to and strung long about the sale of the excess property that the State was prepared to buy.

Allow more waste to be recycled

Our (Berkshire County's) education system is out greatest expense form which we are getting our lowest return.

schools spend too much for the poor quality education our children are recieving

N/A

Q10. If you have any additional comments about services provided by the town, please explain below.

The town government should take more proactive steps in helping to clean up the town. Build a park(s), a recreation center, enforce better property appearance, encourage small businesses to come in.

Town safety police/fire always need constant updating as well as roads, water and sewer.

Im not quite satisfied with the cost of the town water. I think it is costing homeowners too much money.

Periodoc reviews of the town public works functions. I think they do a good job but i also believe they can be more efficient & better use of resources. Invite taxpayers to shadow certain service providers so they can better understand how their tax dollars work.

The highway department needs to be managed to be much more efficient and cost-effective

Need change to Board of Selectmen; Water Dept needs to become its own entity

The rubbish along the roads is getting out of hand as well as the speeding. We need to drop the speeding and start giving tickets. It is becoming a nuisance.

better communication within town offices

Great place to live with nice small town atmosphere.

I just want to say thanks for putting this survey together. I work long hours and can't attend town meetings so this was a very good way to express the many things that have been on my mind fr over a decade about our wonderful small town.

Maybe more town events , community programs

In order to attract new people and businesses to our community I firmly believe that we need our school district to be solid and the quality of the education system must be extremely high

The police dept. needs to scale back to a very small force - with mutual assistance and state police in town, there is no need for a large force.

I wish the library was open to the public more. I have a toddler and moved here last year for the small town feel. With rumors of the elementary school closing and lack of things to do when weather isn't good we have come up with a back up plan to move if the school closes.

There is a lot of elderly people in this town and more all the time. Along with children.

More services for both groups would be nice to see. Taking care of the future and the past to preserve the town.

Town departments to listen and get back to our concerns

Firmly believe much of our focus needs to be on the school issues. Families moving into the area will ultimately choose Lanesborough if seeking the smaller town feel because of the school system. We are fast losing lifelong Cheshire residents and many of their own children are leaving the area. Some of that is related to the lack of industry around us. So I feel we need to build up the schools to draw new families in as well as continuing the community activities and events that bond this community. Establish a youth center for our kids to add to the draw for families.

no need for salt on small flat streets

Fire and police department get gold stars!

I believe the Selectmen do a fine job.

Road infrastructure needs complete overhaul. Our town roads are horrible. Water department needs more transparency and more systems of checks and balances. They seem to be a rogue agency that no one can reel in.

The town department does a great job keeping Outlook Ave looking its best! Thanks!

Chapter 90 money alone is not enough to finance needed improvement to town roads.

Excellent Road maintenance..great job guys

We just moved here so far no big issues.

Q10. If you have any additional comments about services provided by the town, please explain below.

Water metering seemed like a scam. Water costs are MUCH too high compared to other towns. So they add meters and then they take enough data so that they can figure out just how much per gallon to charge to be slightly MORE than before meters. Also curious to see how much money a certain contractor has made off of the town.

Our Police Department and Volunteer Fire Department are to be commended. Dedicated People doing an exceptional job . We as a town are very fortunate . Tim and Tom are very capable dedicated individuals.

Our Waste Transfer Facility and System for Waste Removal and Recycling is excellent compared to other Town Systems ... Works well and is very cost effective. Please do not change anything !!! Our Highway department gets the job done ... we are fortunate to have Pete Recycling at transfer station should accept more things.

Everything that I have used has been great

Town does a terrific job of keeping roads clear of snow in the winter and street cleaning in the spring

Again, beautification of our town. Cheshire Inn could have been restored to our own "Red Lion Inn". Killing many birds with a single stone. Jobs, attraction, beautification, restaurant, history.....

The town should not remove the Kitchen Brook dam, but should retain the potential resource in the the event that contamination of the town wells should occur. It was my opinion when the water provided to system users was changed from the above ground storage to wells that the wells are too close to possible contamination sources. These include upstream contaminants from under ground fuel storage tanks to accidental fuel or chemical spills occurring on route 8. PFOA's are the talk of the news and it could happen here. Without a viable alternate water source the town could easily become the next Hoosick Falls.

Q11. Would you favor an increase or decrease in property taxes to expand or reduce the general level of services listed above? Depending on how you answered the above question, which services should be expanded or reduced?

School buildings/Roads

Services could be expanded by applying for grants and exploring other sources of free money. Any increase in taxes should be off the table.

Review what money the town has and utilize more reasonably and realistically

Apply for State and federal grants, educational grants, along with agencies which have programs to help the elderly and children

Decrease taxes without reducing services

Keep taxes the same while reducing some services and expanding others

Schools

Loaded Question!

Eliminate or reduce waste increase efficiency better service no increase

elementary school issues need to be resolved- town children deserve a quality education w/o fear of constantly reducing or eliminating resources

road conditions could be better

Better schools, better roads and infrastructure, like bridge repairs

school facilities, town wide events

Explore ways to increase/improve services without increasing taxes

Q11. Would you favor an increase or decrease in property taxes to expand or reduce the general level of services listed above? Depending on how you answered the above question, which services should be expanded or reduced?

better roads and sidewalks

transportation for people without it, especially the elderly. Improvement of school and its programs. Improved rural roadside trash clean up. Increase in cultural activities and library funding. Encourage participation in town government, and conservation. Designated land preservation.

school facilities and programs, as well as educational offerings

Town employees should pay their share of health insurance premium like all employed individuals. Town should not be paying full insurance for all selectmen and employees

Town employees should pay their share of health insurance premium like all employed individuals. Town should not be paying full insurance for all selectmen and employees

reduce police department

Make everyone that has town insurance pay their share like everyone else.

Keep education a priority

School needs a huge upgrade

Educational services, elder services and fire services should be expanded.

Increase taxes to allow for a better school district

Better management of tax dollars will provide more and tax less. Also, area towns seem to be getting

more grant money. More applying for existing applicable grants & follow through would be meaningful.

Water, sewer, schools.

use chapter 90 funding exclusively for asphalt road and public works facility improvements town maintenance budget

Invest in the beauty and integrity of the town. Deal with abandoned homes, buildings.

There should be more investment in the school programs and staff. Work towards making the schools a reputable and desirable place for parents to send their children.

I don't believe taxes need to be increased to expand services, funds just need to be reallocated.

Do not write a blank check for the school. If I max out my credit card there are repercussions.

Force efficiencies so there is not a never ending request for a bigger school budget.

The Adams Cheshire School District needs a complete audit along with salaries & benefits .

Completely out of control . Poor management @ best .

Expand the productivity of our highway department.

Improve town roads, communication to town residents and improve website.

There is no need to reduce services.

Decrease in property taxes

more money into actual road repair -resurfacing, less on equipment we do not need

Town highway improved

Dependable water supply and increased small businesses will drive revenues for other future services expansions. Also we need to take a hard look at the Adams-Cheshire growth projections now to anticipate the need for future classrooms in making our School decisions.

I do not think everyone should be having to pay an increase in taxes relating to schools when there is still such a problem with the schools budgets after an increase specifically for the schools and I resent having to paying such an increase when I can't even drive down my road for over a year.

If you're a part time employee of the town benefits should not be available. Also the school system budget is getting out of control, and teachers salaries.

Q11. Would you favor an increase or decrease in property taxes to expand or reduce the general level of services listed above? Depending on how you answered the above question, which services should be expanded or reduced?

Difficult for me to answer since I am only using my property a few weeks each year and not able to take advantage of all services. Yet have to pay a full year rate for recycling/waste disposal services and taxes.

Extend Town Hall office hours, add more police patrols (eradicate drugs in town)

Water and sewer

No one wants to pay more taxes, but people are willing to pay for quality services and efficient programs. We are not getting that as of right now from our leaders. Take the Superintendent /cost problems in the Schools. Our leaders have done little to inform the Residents of what is really going on, but hide from them to let them know how their tax money is being wasted.

Get rid of Cheshire school if it will reduce taxes. Combine town services with Adams to reduce costs. We do not need a full time police officer with state trooper barracks in our town.

schools

Improve schools, health services and activities for seniors

condition of town roads, condition of town buildings, town government communication to the public ! town governance

Collect unpaid taxes

eliminate police dept, stop purchasing new fire vehicles, increase water service area and look into sewage service

reduce schools spending, stop over riding 2 1/2 overrides, true budgets that reflect all spending needed.

Difficult question since we do not know the real reason for some of the expenditures

A small tax hike, within reason, to expand public services and education would be alright. As long as the tax hike wouldn't be on par with Adams high tax rate.

Town water and sewer

Police fire and ems services, cheshire should have 24 hour local police coverage, with at least 3 full time officers

I don't think taxes need to be increased all that much. I think there are private citizens out there that would contribute money to helping Cheshire grow if they felt their money was used properly. Through fundraising and volunteering, a park could get built in the downtown area for all ages to use.

I answered the above knowing full well that the cost of providing the current town services will increase overtime.

Education and Elder services definitely need major improvement! The lack of area or community center in this town leaves the kids really with nothing to do often times. Elders deserve a place to recreate as well if they so choose. There is a senior center but not really up to par. They need a building that has activities planned weekly, such as "Sit and serve" for those that are on fixed incomes to be offered at least a breakfast and lunch if needed. What about a game night offered for those elders that can't really get out there travel or socialize because family isn't really close by. This provides them with at least the opportunity to have some social interaction with other community members and a better quality of life because they are able to be involved. There is so much that could be done if enough people would be willing to help out in seeing it transform and actually be done.

I think in order to keep the majority of your taxpayers happy you need to look at the services they are using and improve them. Just because I suggest one type of service doesn't mean it's the one to focus on. Some people will take the time to leave comments but that doesn't mean they are the best area to focus on. If you improve something without them asking but they can directly benefit from it then they will appreciate it.

Q11. Would you favor an increase or decrease in property taxes to expand or reduce the general level of services listed above? Depending on how you answered the above question, which services should be expanded or reduced?

Adult Ed. and community exercise programs

The highway department needs to be reduced.

Funding for a healthy stable school budget.

police reduced, water dept. reduced,

all services expanded

Education.

If increased taxes help with the state of the school, go for it. Otherwise, keep taxes low and keep Cheshire as a rural town and a non destination for anyone new to move to or for young families to remain living in.

Education, the lake, and the appearance of our homes, offices, and businesses throughout the downtown area. Also, the tax increase does not have to be perpetual. Make it a 5 year plan. All we have is our real estate, natural beauty, and citizens going for us, so at the very least, lets not let that go to the wayside.

reduce compactor hours

Please lower taxes as I don't know where all the money is going. I do know other towns in the Northern Berkshires where taxes are lower have schools that are level 1, homes and businesses that look clean and touristy, and the people can safely bike and walk in from any part of the town. If we need more money to improve our town lets recruit eco-friendly, nature loving businesses to join us in our beautiful town, not dirty factories or businesses that are eye-sores.

School funding and services should be increased.

More things going on at Senior Center like day trips.

just voted to override the taxes yet we are in the same position as last year. taxes could go up some but most of the town struggles as it is. there should be harder looks

I think you can decrease taxes and increase services by spending money smarter.

We need to invest money in our Children and the Buildings they visit!!!

Schools.

Increase taxes to help pay for the school system

Anything that would benefit the town

Transfer 50% of fire, emergency and school funding to town maintenance

School district not necessarily Cheshire school

I would actually rather see a decrease in services rather than a slow but continual increase in taxes.

Through proper management, combining services and capturing every available state and federal grant, I believe the town will hold its own.

I'd pay more for expanded school services.

SEWER LINE.....SCHOOL REPAIRS

The only acceptable increase would be toward cheshire school district.

School programs and services can always stand improvement. Children our are future!

Town sewer

Police department to enforce traffic laws to generate revenue for the town. .

The school needs to remain independent and not merge with Adams. The population of Adams is significantly different from Cheshire. The small town feel of Cheshire school is why we moved here. The continued cutting of services is why we will leave. All schools have cut backs but these have been extreme in ACRSD as of late.

Again we are losing people faster than gaining them. The trend will only continue unless we can be a draw for young families. Bolster the schools and overall family focused offerings.

Q11. Would you favor an increase or decrease in property taxes to expand or reduce the general level of services listed above? Depending on how you answered the above question, which services should be expanded or reduced?

Once they get a taste of close knit Cheshire community they will hooked and more likely to stay but we have to draw them here first.

Education and roadways.

Keep taxes the same and adjust budgets.

Work closely on school spending, administrator's salaries, detailed purchasing documentation.

We should increase the following: support to the schools, the police force, funding and benefits to the fire department and volunteers, recycling program, and recreational opportunities for all residents.

recycling could be improved. The flier that the board of health gives when we buy bags states, all items with a recycle symbol should be recycled. However the attendant at the compactor takes a different stance.

Those who recycle & compost do not get any incentive to do so. We have bags that we do not use as a result. However we have to purchase another set of bags every year just like those who do nothing but use blue bags. This is counter productive and does not encourage recycling.

I cannot afford a lot as I am on a fixed income, and more taxes will be difficult. BUT - you get what you pay for in life, and if we want to improve the town, even in modest ways, we must pay for what we do. So I would support a modest increase to match the cost of living or slightly more to help the town.

Water department should be watched and governed more closely by the town.

I would favor a debt exclusion to improve town roads.

The town provided services are sufficient. Growth of small, recreational based businesses...hotel and restaurant taxes.....a focus on encouraging such development via state incentives/programs and combined municipal resource/local initiatives and more regional-think/tourist-redirection....could help town coffers. We need that which will draw, appeal to and sustain future generations or the town will struggle in the coming years as regional jobs dwindle and white collar types follow the jobs. Case in point....what is happening now as a result of Sabic's move.....we can't be an island but we can be a diverse component of a larger regional enterprise.

we moved out from Pittsfield to Cheshire because of high tax increase and lack of services !! So if you increase our taxes the services better be upgraded !!!! We don't mind paying a little more in taxes as long as it goes towards the service !!!

Increase taxes to keep the elementary school - if that is what it takes. Increased taxes for the high school IF it is actually dollars needed to improve the performance of the school.

Education school improvement to the facility and faculty they need more money to do more See answers to question 8.

replace cheshire elementary with a private charter. There scores are way above the rest of the school district.

Road repair and school buildings upgraded

Decrease taxes AND allow businesses into the area so that more services can be offered. The question is flawed giving responders the thought that decreased taxes can only result in less services (and vice versa).

taxes have gone up every year i have been here for the last 10 years..not sure why that is.

Technology or vocational offerings at school. Expand recreation. Spruce up our old buildings and make route 8 more attractive. Take care of our seniors and give our kids something to do when they aren't in school, so they have real friends, not texting friends. FILL THE POT HOLES.

Q11. Would you favor an increase or decrease in property taxes to expand or reduce the general level of services listed above? Depending on how you answered the above question, which services should be expanded or reduced?

police department to keep our town safe and free of crime! More programs for kids/teens to keep them involved

I agree with raising taxes only in the case of the school system benefiting, especially meaning keeping our elementary school open. What reason would young families have for moving to Cheshire if not for a great school for their children? It is in the best interest of our town to keep the school and increase the services of it. My family would not hesitate to move out of Cheshire without the elementary school.

I am NOT in favor of expanding the Select Board to 5 members . Additional cost to the Town with absolutely no benefit .

Would like to see an increase in certain services, like schooling, roads and water but also think we could reduce certain services like the police department because we have the state police department in town already and we are already paying for that in taxes at the state level.

Sewer and town water

I'll answer the question this way because of its wording. I have no problem with the taxes in the town. They are reasonable and I have expectation that they will rise yearly. What I have issue with is Cheshire being able to float the schools. The day is coming when the high school will have to be addressed. I am a proponent of a regional school district encompassing more than Cheshire and Adams. In order to remain viable it will have to cover a far greater area. The tax burden will be too great if not.

road repair; natural gas service

A.C.R.S.D. Insurance for very part time work !

A small increase to fix and maintain buildings, not to be wasted on cosmetic, true repairs.

No increase to school Personel with a student population that is falling, with a faster education drop.

The only reason I picked keep taxes and service the same .. my main income is social security and I am on a tight budget all ready...so do not want to see the taxes go up

Expand school services/activities/general funding.

Pride in our community

All.

Provide sewer system and beach on lake, improve road conditions, provide a local newspaper, expert on conservation commission, expand library hours, town clerk hours, COA hours, building inspector hours, improve town buildings

Expand beautification, the schools, help for local businesses, better community center with activities FOR ALL

I think we need to re-allocate some expenses. And if a small tax increase is still needed than we can consider that as a second option. For example, the highway department wastes far too much of winter road maintenance. Most northern climate towns(visit the hilltowns to our east, VT, etc) do not waste anywhere near as much salt and time as we do. On the opposite end of this, our school is a disgrace. If we worried about our school as much as we worry about salting our roads we'd be a lot better off.

Education facilities and programs

Q12. Comments Section: Which town services should be subcontracted or shared or what other options should be pursued?

Senior van rider between adams

Share services particularly where schools are concerned. Student populations are declining and school buildings and staffing are becoming more expensive

Grant position or someone currently on the town payroll to actively pursue \$\$\$ that are available

Like the regional School - they will end up costing more money

Any service that can help

I'd like to see more support for local small businesses opening

How do we know that this would be cheaper? Should be publicly aired.

Answers like this are ineffective.

First step identify waste then ways to reduce costs sharing ,subcontracting streamlining

Share street cleaning, already done to some extent. share equipment between Town Highway and Water Departments.

to see if health ins. for town employees could save money if we included other towns, supplies,

By networking with other towns on a regular basis, it would become clear which resources might be shared. The tendency to make decisions in a vacuum limits this ability. As mentioned, becoming proficient at securing grants could have a significant impact on town finances, service levels and opportunities for residents.

Explore more options from other towns providing services in a more effective fashion. i.e. grants

do not sell our water share services where there is an overlap of services and lack of people to staff

Sharing facilities with other towns would be a win-win. We have beautiful recreational areas for instance, and other towns may have some cultural programs to share.

Combine Fire Department

Don't need Police Department. We have State Police in town already. Let people on Cheshire water system pay for all its needs

I'm concerned about the water department and ethics. I think a lot of people have concerns about that.

In Education it would be good to share resources - teachers, computers, ideas, learning plans.

We are too small a town to work in isolation - any sharing of services with Adams or other would be to advantage.

Cost efficiency is always a value, there is no one answer to this area. It must be decided per case.

what ever services could be merged to save money

Just put more men on road crew.

Youth programs with Adams and Lanesboro - Senior activities and programs with Adams and Lanesboro. We are all small towns that could offer so much more if combined.

Whatever way is most cost effective.

Plowing in winter . In general the town would find bty subcontracting many projects would save money .

Find ways to move around funds to suit where the town wants to grow.

schooling, transportation, and other activities for children

Sharing costs with other towns can help reduce costs.

If we hired trucks to plow the roads and haul gravel or what ever the need, we could save on not so many trucks the town owns. We could hire college or high school students to mow grass and let our town employs work on the roads.

Would like to see town sewer. Would eliminate the need for Title 5.

Q12. Comments Section: Which town services should be subcontracted or shared or what other options should be pursued?

Shared education.

Shared waste disposal.

Town administration.

As I said above the school situation is our greatest current opportunity/threat if we donot get it right. Also some town functions such as legal and other administrative functions may be able to be shared. Without indepth knowledge of the functions I cannot comment further.

Would need to see a list of services that would be able to subcontract. If it saves the town money, without diminishing services, then it would be a wise choice.

As a part-time resident I can't weigh in on specifics but feel it is always prudent to consider more cost effective options.

Share possibly with Lanesboro. Elementary school would be a good start.

Regionalize Superintendent of Schools, regionalize any services that make reasonable sense to give the best services to citizens at the maximum available hours.

The S hook system should be consolidated

Not every town needs to have a\$125,000 super.business off and staff, just so the Jockscan have their Drur/Hoosa games. Grow up

Shared educational offerings for high school offerings

Fire, police, school programs, community health programs shared if would save money

share Police chief, maybe police officers, School superintendent, highway plowing

Education cost are out of hand. Enrollment has decreased to a point where our district can no longer provide the necessary course offerings at an affordable cost. In the short term explore leaving the school district and giving our children school choice. in the long term we need to unite behind our children and stop complaining about what school is getting which students what aid. Charter Schools, traditional public high schools, technical schools, home schools, and on-line schools need to come together and work together. It's FOR THE CHILDREN and for our future, not for preserving a broken bigoted system.

eliminate separate boards and their spending.

Educational services to improve the cognitive skills of our children.

Lanesboro and adams could take over Police coverage

I don't believe you should have Watermen doing all your services without bidding it out. Isn't that an conflict of interest??

I think it is always a good idea for any form of government to consider cost saving options which include sub-contractors for road work, maintenance and plowing. Also sharing services with other towns can be a cost saving measure. Most incomes are stagnant, but taxes and fees just keep rising.

I prefer to share services than sub it out. I see the quality of the plowing that happens in Pittsfield by the subcontractors and most of the time its sub par. They don't have to repair/replace curbing or anything that they may break, making them more careless.

We should use subcontractors to repair and patch our roads
subbing out keeps the decisions in the town

consider sewer tie with Adams if it is agreed that infrastructure will be added vs building our own waste water treatment facility. More money for fixing roads. Consider another school district that might actually allocate money for the Cheshire Elementary.

Merge the school system with Greylock and give that Charter School some land. Also, invite a University into the area.

share personal among water and highway and compactor

Not sure what can be shared at this time but I think it should be looked into for cost cutting and efficiency.

Q12. Comments Section: Which town services should be subcontracted or shared or what other options should be pursued?

Explore sharing/subcontracting of maintenance of roads and streams where it makes sense
combine schools with ADAMS

Share police & fire

Fixing roads, etc

Good ol boy network is diverting valuable money to fund their fire and emergency toys

Share town government, water service sewer system

Maintain a smaller highway crew using subcontractors to plow during heavy storms, pavement repair and road maintenance. Cemetery maintenance should be subbed out to local landscape contractors.

Water Dept. should be part of highway.

LARGE SCALE PURCHASES FOR SCHOOL & TOWN PUBLIC WORKS MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT. ALSO, PURSUE SHARING COSTS OF CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS WITH SURROUNDING DISTRICTS.

I think more government grants should be looked into for education grants or road improvement grants if available.

Police department

The town budget appears to be bare bones. The only option to reduce costs is to share services. You already do that with the town manager. Not sure if there are really any additional opportunities.

should always explore options

Accounting systems.

Look into all options.

How can the water commissioner be awarded the contract for the water department work? I will be contacting the Massachusetts Ethics Department this week to find out as well.

Enough is enough.

I have a great reluctance to subcontract services. I think government should do the job of government. Privatization of government services is dangerous. But we can do the best we can to cooperate with other towns, and to get the best bid packages for services, not only in terms of money but also quality. The last water main project may have been the cheapest, but the quality was not the best. I prefer to pay for good quality than to cheap out and end up paying more in the long run.

Get Waterman out of town business.

Sub contracting depending on mentality and ecological sensitivity of the contractor hired in for service.

surrounding towns should work together !!

We already share the high school with Adams. Not sure what else could be shared.

Ask the sheriffs department to patrol cheshire, savoy, windsor. more cost effective instead of have three police departments in three towns. We need to regionalize our town with others. cape cod has three highschoools in a county wide 64 mile location. we have greylock, mccann, dury, hoosac,charter , now lanesboro. in 20 miles- its ridiculous. plus seven more in pittsfield dalton and lenox

Lobby state to reduce regulations that are killing small town budgets.

my answer is YES, but i don't have a reason for that. Anything more cost effective is a good thing

-sheriff department could distribute 911 calls to save in police budget

-complete grants to access federal funding for library services, school, recycling center or other larger sources of supported revenue

-maybe having some type of volunteer committees to improve specific areas of the town

Q12. Comments Section: Which town services should be subcontracted or shared or what other options should be pursued?

p.s. block party was a huge success

p.p.s. building local small business feels beneficial to the town

also, safety in the town and a peaceful rural environment are the most important things to me living in Cheshire, the small town feel is an added bonus

We should keep our jobs for our residents. You should take care of your own, but they need to put in the work for the pay.

You should certainly explore every option to be more cost effective. Whether it is subcontracting or shared services. Maybe these other options would alleviate the look of conflicts of interest that we sometimes see.

Depends on what services you are providing

Contact county agencies to determine which towns share what services. Investigate if the sharing is efficient and cost effective. Propose appropriate shared services and partners to selectmen.

I see no reason to outsource and take jobs from our town people when our tax rates have stayed low over the years.

Options such as subcontractors for roadwork, cleaning and water supply management could be pursued.

Schools and related education expense with Adams

need to be collaborative, losing too much population

Do not mix services with other towns. Looking to the school situation for what not to do.

Never ends well.

More community days and clean up.

Isn't sharing a service with the next town over going to be cheaper for each town? As long as it is not an inconvenience

That which study shows to be improved - more cost-effective, & productive & of better quality - when shared/sub-contracted. I

Inspectors... electrical, building, plumbing, fire.

Share Town Administrator and building inspector

Keeping the services local/as they are now, gives more control for how things are done. Once the control is shifted to subcontractors or split with other towns, the services provided can no longer be maintained at the current standards. The cost savings would be negligible in terms of potentially lost services, or incompetent/substandard ones.

Water department shared between towns

Electrical and plumbing and building inspections should be county shared.

We have very few fires (I can't remember the last house fire). Maybe we could share with Adams and Lanesboro.

Q14. Comments Section: What more could be done to help you be more informed [about town government affairs]?

Meetings of town should be televised like Williamstown and Adams do

A weekly or bi-weekly news letter giving details of all various Boards actions and discussions

More media coverage

more information in the Berkshire eagle

posted minutes of meetings

No more closed door meetings

decisions made before meetings

Better information and the right information put in local papers

Sign in south Cheshire. The people in South Cheshire don't always go north

How about what could you yourself do to be more informed? How about going to weekly select Board meetings, Town meetings, special Town Meetings? How about voting in all town elections? Most people are about as "informed" as they care enough to be.

Record and broadcast meetings

Selectmen do not share enough information, especially about what needs to be done over next year or two.

Make the town website legit. We seem to find money for things that certain select board members want to support, however we refuse to spend a few grand a year on a municipal website that's user friendly like the one many other towns employ. The other piece is empowering the citizens by making it easy to get things posted instead of filtering with bias.

Postings around town, public service radio spots on public radio.

Need more town news and postings in the Berkshire Eagle

Need more town news and postings in the Berkshire Eagle

More News Berkshire Eagle

More newspaper coverage

e-mails about town affairs, issues and how they are being addressed.

expand town website

Send an email.

iBerkshire does a great job of getting the word out - as does the Fire Department sign.

However, the town website falls short in that it fails to provide times, phone numbers and event locations.

As stated before, the website is so minimal that it is disfunctional. Cheshire needs to create a weekly if not daily presence with current events and issues, and designate a public interface so that people can share information and receive feedback.

The minutes to the Select Board mtgs. are generally vague and do not clearly represent what happened at the mtg., especially if it is a touchy subject. It also takes a while before they are posted on the website. They are usually a month behind. The website should be more pro-active and accurate.

Sometimes I feel 'things' are passed into law the way that a certain department head wants them regardless of how the general public feels.

Not sure

Update our town website with the goings on in town - budget numbers put out - census information, etc

Improve website.

Include details on website such as a calendar, and possibly coordinate postings on Facebook as well. Add an email list on website so residents can subscribe to notices.

Perhaps I need a computer

Q14. Comments Section: What more could be done to help you be more informed [about town government affairs]?

Secret meeting

Didn't know town had website. The postcard and this survey helped.

More information about special meetings etc. available on town website

Ex: Sandmill Rd bridge closed-had no idea, was concerned when trying to get home.

Concerned over culverts on adjacent roads as well

Town could have a Facebook page and update it regularly to keep citizens informed.

Is this a Joke

Email

Keep better minutes online for meetings. Post voting information online or at fire station. Send out emails. People were not informed about voting dates and when something doesn't pass a new vote should not be allowed.

Have the Selectboard follow the Open Meeting law, term limits on offices to limit dynasties
email and social media

very poor town board meeting notice posting and these should be on the web site on in front of the fire station.

A clearer and more accurate posting of community meetings.

The town meeting minutes are not regularly updated on the site. The website should also have a place where people can sign up to get emails about current events, town meeting minutes, special elections, etc.

Don't just rely on town meetings to inform the people of goings on in town. If need be, especially when implementing something new as in the new water meter/water bills, informed mailings to explain how things work would be a very good idea for the future.

Don't just rely on town meetings to get information to the people. Mailings concerning certain things should be sent out. Example the new water billing system, the information should have been mailed to households regarding how we are being billed per unit of water and the water bills need to be more informative as to what we are paying for.

Town newsletter could be sent out to the community with up coming meetings and discussions. Make decisions a little more public this way you have the opportunity to be aware and part of change.

It would be nice to be alerted either via an email or text when there are meetings or changes.

The fire department sign is nice but if I don't travel in that direction then I don't see the notice. I try to read the meeting minutes but sometimes I forget. If I knew something new was posted to the website, like the minutes or meetings then I would be more likely to participate. I realize most meetings have a regular schedule but its easy to forget. Navigating the town hall is not always easy either. It would be nice to have a larger meeting space

The website is pathetic and it's never kept up-to-date and there's not enough information about town services the different departments and contact information

send emails to residents

Communication in a more timely manner

film town meetings. Actual minutes of the meetings posted in a timely manner, instead of glossed-over summaries months later.

The more I think about it - no. Not at all. Also, lets get some technology to work for us. This survey is great, but we need more tech tied to daily business operations and information dissemination. - It will actually save us money and time.

televise town meetings

One way would be to keep the sign in front of the fire station on a particular subject a little longer. It moves so fast that none of the information is being seen.

Q14. Comments Section: What more could be done to help you be more informed [about town government affairs]?

I would suggest a regularly updated Facebook page, and free email newsletter for those interested. If you already have these then the word isn't getting out.

better communication with radio and print media.

Town Newsletter made accessible.

Missing the first override vote.. didnt hear about it until the day of and i work out of town

When there is a town vote , it would be nice if there were more town folks at the vote

Full public disclosure well in advance and in multiple locations.

Let people know where information can be found and how often.

Town newsletter

Town mailings are the best way

The town should follow all rules in regards to state law as far as town business is involved.

More Facebook posts even for local activities.

Televised meetings, more social media coverage

Town meeting minutes published in a timely manner, and televised live.

Water department need to inform the town when a problem happens not 3 days later.

Automated phone call reminders, put more on the fire dept. Sign, maybe a monthly e-mail letter to residents.

Emailing newsletter

send out emails.

more transparency, more citizen input

I am of the opinion that every town activity and meeting and the town warrants, etc. should all be posted on the town's website - extensively and in a timely fashion. The internet is the modern bulletin board for many people, including me. Minutes and summaries of all meetings should be posted there, and a town-wide calendar would be extremely helpful.

Better reporting by departments for police highway fire

Maybe a e-mailed newsletter.....that would be get info to everyone in the town that opted in(and not waste paper)

robocalls

Again just moved here so far no issues

The town and school websites need to be improved. The school websites are very out of date, and it is difficult to find current information. Very frustrating.

I think the town web site could be used for this better if it was updated more often

Website needs to be dramatically improved, and it would be so easy to do so. It actually seems like town admins do not want people to be informed.

it's my own fault. I dont' pay attention to issues going on in town, because in the grand scheme of everything, they're very small compared to what else is going on in the world.

mail a newsletter

I can't always read the sign at the firehouse when driving by. I do like the EDDM mailing you used to reach the towns people and I don't feel it is too costly to do for the larger issues.

I was not aware of the town website. Not sure if I missed it but that would be a good thing to add to the sign on Route 8 if it has not already been posted there.

Mailings

Mostly due to my lack of initiative to access information electronically.

Yes, because I make an effort and am involved

Less executive session, release in timely manner

One would have to have been seated at the selectboard meeting to have any idea what's going on. And even then, every week there's some top secret executive session taking place. Dec 8th meeting, "Met with Joe/Village Truck Sales. Transfer details will be worked out with Chief

Q14. Comments Section: What more could be done to help you be more informed [about town government affairs]?

Thomas Francesconi." What does that even mean? Does anyone ever understand what's written in those meeting minutes? I swear it's in code!

The fault lies with me on this. I don't read the paper and now that my child is grown, I am not involved in many events in town.

Can not ever read fire house sign

Have a town newspaper

I'm not sure, but advertising that Cheshire HAS a town web site would help. Who knew? allow people to subscribe to alerts and notifications electronically. Operate a town e-mail list to let people know when something happens.

Less executive meetings, more information on selectmen votes

Q16. What is Cheshire's single greatest open space need? (Specify only one)

Open space for drinking water
preservation, preservation, preservation

Community gardens

Farmlands

Trails on State Lands for 4-wheelers and snowmobiling

Preserve farmland and open meadows to protect views

it would be great to have a town center or park for gathering

farmlands

Drinking water needs

open space for drinking water needs

Farmlands

Open space for drinking water needs

Open Space for drinking water

Preserve Forest Parcels (and sell water Dept. parcel to state preservation)

farmlands

Forest parcels

The lake.

drinking water needs and backup drinking water supply

Town forest. Use watershed land.

Wildlife Habitant

Cheshire Lake

I feel very strongly that with most of the open space in the town already owned by the state, that we should explore creative ways to use that space to benefit the town and it's people (and visitors) in collaboration and partnership with the state. In addition, I strongly oppose even considering the sales of additional land to the state without a complete and thorough analysis of issues and options.

Cheshire has a wealth of wetlands and forests. I think preserving these spaces for the health of our town, the beauty and tourism potential is extremely important.

farmland perserved

conservation of watershed and surrounding land

Q16. What is Cheshire's single greatest open space need? (Specify only one)

Light industry, commercial space
farmlands
Community Center for kids
Sell land to the state that Water Dept. has and use for open space so residents can use.
To sell land to state that water company has and use for open space for hunting, hiking and all Mass residents
Open space for drinking water needs
Wet lands
Farm lands
Sewage treatment plant
Wildlife Habitat
Water supply/protection
Farm lands
Open space for drinking water needs
Open Space for drinking water needs
forest parcels
Farmland
Open space for drinking water needs.
To protect Cheshire Lake from any question of pipeline development.
Areas around Cheshire Lake
clean water
Water
not to become over protected to the point everything is just forest
farmlands
Maintain open lands through appropriate tax categories for young farm families to stay on the land and add to local food economy
Public sewer
Historic sites!
Selective foresting to maintain a healthy ecosystem. Too many old trees do not allow new growth and are also a hazard to hikers hunters power lines etc.
Wetlands
Recreational needs space
Farmland
Protecting water shed.
The lake
Watershed for drinking water
Preserve Farmland
Wildlife Habitat
Not developing open space
open space for recreational needs
Recreational area for year-round activities for families (park, or beach area, pavilion)
Open space for drinking water needs.
hiking trails and cross country ki trails,
I have no idea
Protection of farmland
Open space for recreational needs
Cheshire lake
How about a Town beach
ridgelines

Q16. What is Cheshire's single greatest open space need? (Specify only one)

none

Wildlife habitats

farmland

Cheshire has the right mix currently. It would be nice to see more of the farmlands being utilized.

Waterfront areas.

Continued need to maintain school areas for recreational activities.

Land that effects the town's water supply

Farmlands

Rivers streams and lakes

Wildlife and habitat

open space for drinking water needs

drinking water needs

town beach

More working farms.

Farmlands

#7

A recreational park for all ages.

land that protects our water

Open space for recreational needs.

Not sure?

Preservation of its rural nature.

Cheshire needs to de-weed all three parts of Cheshire Lake or at least parts of them.

Preserving our active farms and finding young people to steward them as farms get ready to transition from the older generation of farmers.

DOG PARK

Ridgelines

Cheshire lake

Cheshire lake

A town beach

Protecting the water shed

Forests parcels

The lake needs to be cleared was the weeds. I can remember swimming in that lake and you could see the bottom clearly. Today I wouldn't swim nor would I let my grandchildren swim in that lake.

OPEN SPACE FOR RECREATIONAL NEEDS

Conservation

Cheshire lake

Historic sites or buildings.

Cheshire lake

Preserve scenic views and town character

no wind facilities

Land that is open to the whole community. Ability to have picnics, town gatherings, etc

Lake

Conservation and maintenance of Cheshire Lake

farmlands

Recreation

It needs to be left alone. There is so much to enjoy and explore and I think it is what makes our town great.

Q16. What is Cheshire's single greatest open space need? (Specify only one)

- Preserve ridgelines - do not destroy with windmills like they did to Florida Mtn.
- Preservation of forest and farmland from any development.
- town beach
- productive farmland
- Open space for recreational needs
- none
- Open space for recreational needs.
- None at this time.
- Weeds on Cheshire Lake
- The lake
- forest parcels
- Wildlife
- Not sure - ridgelines
- From an environmental standpoint, it is extremely important to protect our wetlands and water areas. This will lead to healthy water systems and continued recreational use of these areas.
- Farmlands
- A beach and a park
- open space for our drinking water needs
- open space for recreational
- Historic Sites and Buildings.....
- Celebration during the summer months.
- Maintain healthy open water and waterways.
- farmland
- Cheshire Lake
- Drinking water
- Areas around water
- ??
- recreation
- Lake
- Forest parcels
- No opinion
- Keeping the pollution down and cleaning up the known pollution.
- Cheshire lake...I don't swim there - decades ago when I first moved here...where I worked someone told me not to swim in the lake it was polluted and they use chemicals in the water to kill the algae in the water
- Rejection of the Kinder-Morgan pipeline.
- Education - teaching people that when it's gone, it's gone forever.
- open meadows
- Historic sites and buildings
- land that preserves scenic views and town character
- Historic sites and buildings.
- More parks that are accessible to all
- Maintaining the water quality of Cheshire Lake over time!
- I don't know if certain areas are off limits of for public use.
- Water
- wildlife habitat
- We need to be very cautious of letting and wind turbine or solar panel come into our town. These are typically installed by corporations from out of the area who funnel the energy and money away from out area while paying the local area a tiny amount in exchange to the land.

Q16. What is Cheshire's single greatest open space need? (Specify only one)

To improve it's historic sites or buildings.

Q20. What is Cheshire's single greatest recreation need? (Specify only one)

Fitness center similar to a YMCA with exercise machines, yoga classes would enhance quality of life and the health of residents particularly in the winter months

Recreational needs for seniors

Indoor activities

Running/walking trails

ATV/Snowmobiling

Running, Walking and bike trails accessible

Walking Trails

Would be great to have a town beach. The boat launch does not qualify as a beach

Town Beach

better area of the notch road access to cobbles

Town beach

Town Beach

Beach access

Town Beach

Town beach.

Town beach.

some place for teens to congregate other than the playground for small children

To maintain hiking trails.

Things for kids/families to do (all ages)

Need ATV snowmobiling trails that also can be used for hiking etc.

ATV/snowmobiling trails that you can also hike on

A town beach would be wonderful

Picnic areas

Rail trail

Indoor recreational

Youth center

Indoor recreation/fitness activities

It would be nice to have a public beach/swimming area if possible.

It really would be nice to have a public beach in Cheshire.

Need to make Cheshire Lake useable for water sports

A town beach would be great.

forests to walk in

Indoor fitness activities.

To plow the railtrail in winter for walkers.

Town beach

Do something at Cheshire Lake. A BEACH would be WONDERFUL!!!

A safe place for teens and kids to recreate.

open rail trail in winter for snowmobiling to attract tourists willing to spend money

indoor recreation

I think it is important to harness Cheshire Lake and create a town beach. This one thing will also help build community and add more recreational activities, like swimming lessons for kids, etc.

Walking & biking trails

A nice beach like horns beach.

Family recreational programs & areas

Q20. What is Cheshire's single greatest recreation need? (Specify only one)

To reopen the rail trail to snowmobiles since this was the main connector trail and has caused the loss of a lot of tourism dollars. Think about how much snowmobiles cost only to be ridden for 2-3 months a year. These people have money to spend otherwise at restaurants and such.

Town beach.

More open space

A safe place where families can go to spend time together

Hiking Trails

General location for multiple activities (such as a rec center).

Keeping what we have in good useable condition.

Open Space

Maintaining the Rail trail and the School recreation areas.

Tennis courts

tennis courts

Family gathering areas - maintaining walking trails

Local fitness center

Maintaining existing recreational areas, Cheshire like, and natural sites.

Picnic areas adjacent to Cheshire Lake.

Town Beach

Use of the high school after school hours

Programs for Seniors. They are all not in Wheel chairs or in Nursing Homes

Maintenance of the lake

Tennis courts

Maintenance of Bike/Walking Trail

More ATV trails.

lake boating

Town swimming/picnic area

no safe place to swim

keep the existing lake, trails, and adjacent properties clean

hunting and fishing areas

none

Public beach

Lawful atv trail system

A clean Cheshire Lake

park/picnic areas

Water/canoe/kayaking/boat launch.

This town needs a community center. Where all are welcome, kids can play, families can be involved in "family night" with their families, elders can socialize and neighbors can interact with each other for the sake of knowing their community better! Kids can know they have a community that cares they are bored but have a place to go and things they can do and their parents would be okay knowing where their kids are and actually have a place that they enjoying going to rather than getting into trouble because of lack of.

Town beach

Boat launch

Cheshire Lake

Hiking trails

Swimming

Allowing snowmobiles on the rail trail

maintaining the Lake for all types of recreation in all seasons

town clean swimming area

Q20. What is Cheshire's single greatest recreation need? (Specify only one)

Walking trails

picnic areas, scenic views

Lake development and a municipal park.

golf coarse

We have a beautiful lake. I think that a development of this lake can draw tourism to the area and keep residents from going to other towns for recreation.

Running trails.

We have a beautiful town, but some of our roads are dangerous to just walk down :-)

In door facility

None!

Cheshire needs a place to legally ride atv's and utv's.

Dog park

None

Indoor recreation for youth during winter months

Stuff for the kids

Indoor recreation

Town park

More outdoor parks

Town beach, opening trails to atv and snowmobile

Maintain the lake as top priority, maintain and improve any and all hiking trails especially the Appalachian Trail - give the hikers a warm welcome, so as to have them come back at a later date to visit!

Preserving the rail trail, Appalachian trail and Cheshire lake

Playgrounds

A clean lake!!!!

TOWN BEACH

Many have snowmobiles so access to trails should be kept available

Indoor recreation/fitness actiities.

More access to fishing at the lake

A youth/family center for kids outside of the school for those long winters and over the summer vacation to keep them active and engaged in fun learning. A place where ages across the board unite in enriching activities.

Community center open to ALL ages, not just seniors. A place for exercise classes, yoga, other lessons.

Clean the second basin of the lake, put something great where the factory used to be.

Dog park

Indoor recreation facilities.

Indoor facility

Picnic area would be nice

A public beach on Cheshire Lake.

focus

Bike trail

Keep the Lake clean.

I'd like to create a park which combines many of the above.

Something for the kids to do

To allow areas for snowmobiling and atv use. We pay taxes and can't use the land for our pleasure.

Swimming

Need to play off the beautiful lake that is in our town

Q20. What is Cheshire's single greatest recreation need? (Specify only one)

after looking at this survey I would love a indoor fitness center/activity center. not a new building...but maybe there is already a place that this could go in? I think that would draw a lot of people , there are only a few exercise classes (that i know of) offered close by so I think something like that would be a hit for cheshire.

Playing fields

Continue to let nature take care of herself.

town beach!

expansion of the bike trail in both directions

Picnic and outdoor meeting areas(parks) either for 2-3 people or a small group with benches and tables in the downtown so you can walk to them

Hiking

Town beach with amenities....example....North Pond.....

anything to do with sports or wildlife

Recreation with bathrooms for disabled

Information to the public

community center for all ages

open spaces

Kids, teens, families

It would be great to have some sort of outdoor guide to Cheshire with trails and activities listed all in one place.

perhaps a more clearly marked trail guide allowing me to finally be able to find The Cobbles..I've tried to hike up there several times and always get lost in the woods so i end up turning around coming back down.

town beach

Swimming areas

Clean Cheshire Lake, beach, park

You have a beautiful lake that could possibly have activities for all ages there. Even if you could entice area rental businesses to offer informational activities at the lake. It could be good for the business and the community.

A place for the kids to go especially during the winter months to play basketball, soccer and sports in general. the gyms are used for all the team sports and there is no where to go for just fun and exercise

Town Park

Anything to improve access to Cheshire Lake

Would really like to see some lighting for the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail from Farnam's causeway down to the Cheshire harbor. Maybe some low maintenance solar lights like they have in downtown Adams.

Better lake conditions for swimming !!

??

indoor recreation center

Unsure

Beach

No opinion

Picking up the trash.

??? Happy with what we have now...would like to see the lake have clean water

Adequate play areas for kids.

Get the perverts off the ahuwillticook trail by increasing police presence thereby insuring the safety of all those who use it.

walking trails

Q20. What is Cheshire's single greatest recreation need? (Specify only one)

lake management

indoor fitness center

Not sure.

Town beach

Town beach.

Spreading the word about our recreational areas, for instance there are no signs to direct people to Cobbles access

TOWN BEACH

SNOWMOBILING ON THE RAIL TRAIL!!!

hiking

Public open space

Playing fields for locals. Recreational trails to bring in tourism, visitors, etc

Q21. Comments Section: Comments about types of businesses or services that should be encouraged or discouraged in Cheshire.

No stores like dollar general

No businesses like adult items or entertainments

No Bars

This should be an agricultural and residential town.

We made history with the Cheshire Cheese

it would be excellent to have a small coffee/breakfast spot in town

Youth Hostel for the AT Hikers

Rules and regulations should apply to all businesses. Not change for the type of business or who you are. Example frontage of property etc.

Relax restrictions and treat fairly all business. Above all, rules should apply equally to all

Specialty retail or bakery

Facilities to help our pets - vets, grooming, training, etc.

Could encourage more service types such as cleaning of homes & yards, artists, writers, a weekly newspaper, and doctors, etcetera

Any type of small, home-based businesses - childcare, consultants, etc.

Intellectual services such as Internet based services. Also any government office especially in research and statistical areas. Dependable high speed internet is a MUST for any business to locate in Cheshire.

Need a small Hardware Store and small Grocery Store.

Small coffee Shop,

Someone to help seniors with household repairs at a reasonable price.

the town should secure a grant to relocate Chic's Auto to a more suitable location, and buy the railroad station from him, and restore it to its original state and find an interested party to make an upscale tavern out of it.

Any one who can build with in the town guidelines

We should be open to all businesses that want a presence in Cheshire that will increase business. A positive for one business generally results in positive foot traffic for other

Q21. Comments Section: Comments about types of businesses or services that should be encouraged or discouraged in Cheshire.

businesses. This would be a boost to Cheshire tax income and help balance additional services with the overall tax rate.

There should definitely be a farmers market here in Cheshire....Doesn't have to be big, it would be nice to have a local one!

Recreational support services.

No Dollar General Chain

any local business - LOCAL

Artists, community woodworking and crafts shop, school or camp for troubled or disadvantaged kids

Cottage business - work from home, Internet services....

The use of old buildings should, if possible, be converted to professional and/or personal services.

This is a really long survey!

Plumber

Q22. Comments Section: Comments about economic development in the town of Cheshire.

As long as they are not given tax incentives to set up shop here, everyone pays their fair share.

Follow Williamstown Zoning goals, restrictions and regulations

Adult business types- Zoning needs to be addressed.

encourage small business which are not huge companies that ruin the landscape and the natural surroundings

Cheshire should encourage local and rural businesses, and use this resources to creatively support the economy through tourism.

Business zoning and residential zoning should not be on same street, same neighborhood

We should encourage and support local business and encourage growth for town also. Pursue new business to come to Cheshire.

We should support existing business and encourage growth

Did not move to Cheshire to shop at a dollar general. Takes away from the small town quaintness.

Whatever is encouraged in Cheshire should ideally contribute to the maintaining of its small town atmosphere which is a rare and desirable commodity.

We need to grow, but I would discourage dollar store type chains and businesses like them that tend to give a generic feel to towns and provide no real benefit. We need to develop Cheshire in a way that preserves the "feel" of the town.

We need to be really selective about the kinds of business we are trying to encourage. National chains and large companies have no place here, while locally owned businesses help give the town the autonomy and self-sufficient character that a small town needs to thrive.

Encouraging business should serve identified goals of intentional planning priorities.

We need to support the growth of small local businesses but keep out businesses that encourage the desruction of our land and small town atmosphere.

Q22. Comments Section: Comments about economic development in the town of Cheshire.

Local businesses are more preferred than regional / national chain stores.

The town should be trying to encourage non retail businesses to utilize the available commercial properties for sale across town.

Leave well enough alone . Concentrate on controlling development . Open space , wetlands , natural habitat , endangered species , waterways should be a top priority along with infrastructure ie roads & bridges .

Need more new more business and services but keep a balance to retain the "small town" charm.

We need to develop more industrial sites

Encouragement of growth in the economy should be properly managed in keeping with the nature of the town

Cheshire should stay away from chain stores and destructive industry and focus on locally-owned service providers and professional services

Do not want to see "dollar store" type of business. Keep small town atmosphere with select small town types of businesses

Let encourage eco-friendly, nature friendly companies to come here and let other towns have factories and malls.

People like the small town "Mayberry" feel of Cheshire. Cheshire does not need a Dollar General or any other big company moving in and changing the small town feel. If we wanted to live in a larger town we would move there. We like it here. The way it is.

Encouraging new business and supporting those that are already established is a wise choice.

I would like to keep the rural feel of the town but would love something to help support farmers and local business

I feel we should encourage small local businesses in Cheshire and discourage larger chain stores, Dollar store for an example, we are close enough to larger towns and do not need the added traffic problems this would bring.

While we should encourage new business we should not do it in a way that changes the nature of the town.

I think that the focus should be on small local business....no big box or chain stores please!

Cheshire economic development is non-existent in my opinion. It's reactionary and uncontrolled either through planning or regulation.

Remember we use WELLS as a drinking source so watch the development around here. You all have a great town don't wreck it.

I don't feel it a place for big box stores, but it's great for small business

Cheshire should focus on retaining and supporting local business AS WELL AS developing new businesses which will contribute to the local economy.

I am not active in local politics or follow so really can not answer...I do not want to see Cheshire grow too much more...

Q23. Comments Section: Are there other housing options than those listed in Question 23?

do not cater to low income families.

make it affordable / single story for aging

Make sure that any vacant house does not just stand there and fall apart...The old green building by the light(rte 8 heading to Adams on left side)...near the fire station .. I know it is too expensive for the town to do anything with it...just too bad there wasn't the money to fix it up and have it for the elderly or low income .. isn't there an investor that would want that? ... Maybe a branch of a college, trade school...no grocery store, bank or donut shop! The town could give it to one of these organizations

Camp site

Unless a land owner is willing to sell parts of land, there is really no place to build.

Keep low income housing out of Cheshire. It only attracts problems and trouble. And I for one do not want to pay the price (usually in increased crime and blight) of low income housing.

Q24. Comments Section: Comments about housing development in Cheshire?

In order to maintain the rural character of Cheshire which is its most valuable asset development needs to be very carefully allotted. Size of building lots should be increased to a minimum of 4 acres. Present farmland and open space should be placed in agricultural preservation to preserve wildlife habitat

Let Williamstown be your guide for the future of our town

Same rate or slower

I would like to see older historic homes preserved

Less of these pre-fab things

We need a place for our elderly citizens to live. Some people live in Cheshire all their lives, then at the end of their lives they need to leave to move into elderly housing.

upgrading and encouraging the use of existing traditional homes rather than building more

The town can't maintain the roads that are here example blacktopping etc. We do not need anymore roads. Use available land on roads that are already available

Let's move frontage back to 150 feet and give variances where acreage can be had. We don't need new roads to maintain. We can't fix the roads we have.

Some growth is good, but thoughtful choices that support the overall character of the town.

Development is good as long as it doesn't overtax our current resources.

Cheshire needs appropriate mixed development in its housing .

Appropriate development of small business that enhances local economy by keeping money in the community

No low income housing.

Don't see any

The community would do better to grow, but only if we draw in the people who want to help improve the look and feel of the community, not just a place to live that has cheap taxes.

Encourage economic development, but NO Low Income housing.

I don't believe we need major housing in Cheshire, to keep the small town feel all that is needed is more options for the elderly and more options for families who want to buy homes to stay in Cheshire.

Proper zoning and low taxes to encourage moderate building of single & multi-family homes

Family's are leaving the Berkshires because they can no longer afford to live here. Houses in Western Mass are being foreclosed upon because our residence lost their jobs and the ones they can find, don't pay enough to support their families. Unfortunately this is something that is a County issue and not a Neighborhood one. If Cheshire had more apartments, maybe family's would reside here rather than traveling much further north.

Lots of run down homes that are just left to rot

Need to grow the town and the economy

Keep dollar general out

Development is good ONLY if it's tasteful and not turned into slums

I strongly do not want assisted living and section 8 homes or large apartment complexes in cheshire

I would not like to see large business or chain stores in this town. Maybe locally owned and operated businesses would be a good addition to the tax base in town.

I feel the town needs to address the vacant houses in Cheshire....before more are built.

Growth is welcomed and needed, not at the mindset of just do it. Lower community housing just adds to the tax burden and helps no one.

We need to either rehabilitate aging housing stock in the village, or get rid of structures that are eyesores! Discourage development of rural land, especially farmland, for second homes.

Concentrate on fixing up the center of town- it looks bad.

Q25. Comments Section: Comments about land use or land use regulation in Cheshire.

Zoning in Cheshire is terrible- for example one side is zoned residential -opposite side is zoned business- that's horrible needs to be addressed

Why are there not more small local businesses opening? I'd like to see a lakeside dining facility.

Preserve scenic beautiful rural component of this town. Stop despoiling to line a few people's pockets.

frontage on property should be put back from 200' to 150'

Again 150 foot frontage give variances where acreage is involved. Let's use land we have on our roads

It would be great to see a statement about what is regulated and how and for what reasons.

Controls seem to be currently problematic. Some places build in wetlands and on rivers, while at the same time you need a permit to replace windows. All areas need updating.

Any development should follow the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to the letter . period !

Bedard's has two cease and decess orders for filling in wet lands

Think zoning needs to change to discourage new large commercial businesses such as chain stores from establishing in Cheshire

No comment

the requirements for needing a special permit are too stringent. The reality is that there are many properties in town that would require a special permit to do anything to improve their home due to the size of the lots and the unrealistic limitations set on homeowners

Maybe we should explore more small or local business options

I wish there were more places to ride atvs

Despite feeling it is important to conserve the natural resources in the town, development of commercial and residential areas is essential in providing financial support needed to sustain

Q25. Comments Section: Comments about land use or land use regulation in Cheshire.

and grow the town. It currently appears there is control of development but the control seems to be inconsistent. In some cases the control feels too strict and in others it feels lacking. Overall, the policies for development should be clear and consistent with an overall goal in mind.

We need to protect ecology of cheshire and agricultural lands fro, commercial and housing developmentd, so as not to become like so many other places in the world, and loose the very thing of nature people have come here to live with. We need to keep commercial development, especially national corporate business out of town development plans.

All three should be at there highest level to protect the town!!

People in this town complain about higher taxes and failing schools but then block businesses.

I have no knowledge of the zoning or permitting rules.

I suspect that many alterations and additions have been made without proper permitting, inspection, or assessment.

I love this little quaint town...I know many would like to see Cheshire grow .. it does have potential...but then you lose the farmlands and open space that makes Cheshire so unique. We are part of the Berkshires...some of the towns have industrial parks that need businesses to fill them up and create jobs for all of North County...let the business go there, for the people who work in these businesses they can live in Cheshire.

We should focus on our local farms that sell substantially raised and grown vegetables. There are 2 wonderful farms that I know of in Cheshire that helps fed Berkshire County...Square Root Farm and ElMartin...both wonderful farms...it is so nice to be able to support these farms by buying fresh wonderful vegetables and meats from them.

Not sure if I don't know or if my brain is shutting down

Since the town water supply is an aquafier that is located under a residential area, shouldn't there be some sort of restrictions as to what is introduced into the topsoil before it is too late?

Q26. What road, or section of road, is most important to improve in your opinion? (List up to 3 roads)

Old Cheshire Rd/ Pitt Rd

wells Rd Sand Mill Rd Depot St

Wells Rd Windsor Rd

Cheshire Rd/Wells Rd

Railroad street by Chic's garage up to town hall

Sand Mill Road bridge West Mt. Rd

Briggs Drive Depot Street Stafford Hill

RT.116 Stewart White RD. Sand Mill RD.

Wells RD. Notch RD. Crest DR.

Depot St.

outlook Ave west Mtn. rd.

RT.8 Lanesboro RD.

Sand Mill Rd. bridge, Wells Rd, Falling into River- Rte. 116

Sections of Wells Road and from Jako's farm to RT.116 Rail road ST. Bridge on Sand Mill Road.

Ingalls RD., Devinsire, Wilshire

Depot St Wells St Daniels Ter.

Q26. What road, or section of road, is most important to improve in your opinion? (List up to 3 roads)

Depot Street

Upper West Mtn Road Depot Street.

east main on to Windsor rd on to the notch.

Sand Mill, West Mountain

I think they need to finish Depot St.

east main stormwater management depot st sand mill

Sandmill Hill Road bridge repair / replacemwent

Fales Rd, Wells Rd.

Depot St., Sandmill Rd Bridge, Lanesboro Rd.

Sandmill Road Route 116 Wells Road

Wells Road Sand Mill Road

the bridge at sandmill rd, savoy replaced their bridge in 3 days

unsure

route 8 and lanesborough road intersection

Wells Road and RT. 116 and Maple Drive

Route 116 Maple Drive Wells Road

main roads in center of town

Wells road near high school

Sand Mill Rd

Sand Mill Road and Bridge RT116 in Cheshire

Wells rd, Lanesboro Rd

Wells Park, Wells Road

Depot street, Sandmill Road

Wells Road

Ingalls Road

Wells Road, Sand Mill Road

All of Lanesboro Road, all of Shadowland Cove Road.

Lanesboro Rd, Route 8

Wells Rd, Sandmill Rd.

West Mountain Road

Route 116 as it passes through Cheshire. Wells Road. Stafford Hill Road and North Road.

The dirt portion of Stafford Hill Road. Stewart White Road The dirt portion of Windsor Road going toward Windsor.

Route 116

All roads need some attention,especially the shoulders & drainage. A road of current concern is Wells , nearer the High School end. It looks as if it will slide down the bank!

route 8

centrally located roads along route 8 corridor and in the village.

Richmond hill road, West road, sandmill Road

Wells rd (finish what has not been done) Notch rd East harbor rd

Sand Mill Road / Wells Rd.

Upper Stafford Hill Sandmill Road - bridge repairs

Jenks rd. road by the pit,

Church Street

Stafford hill road near Windsor road should be turn back to dirt. There is too much ground water and new pavement will suffer greatly from frost heaves. Dirt is easily graded regularly and much less costly than repaving often. Also the bridge on Sandmill Road needs to be fixed.

Windsor Rd. Stafford Hill West Mountain Rd

Q26. What road, or section of road, is most important to improve in your opinion? (List up to 3 roads)

Stafford Hill Road , Sandmill Road , Richmond Hill Road

Wells rd. Depot st.

Wells Rd, Route 116, and Sandmill Rd

Wells Rd, Outlook Ave

Savoy Road-- Wells Road--Sandmill Road bridge

Bridge on Sandmill Road

Lanesboro Rd Outlook Ave Wells Road

Most roads in Cheshire need attention.

Wells Rd. Rte 116

Depot St.

wells road main street church street

depot St. Wided the streets along the lake

No recommendations

Depot St. E. Main St.

ALL OF THEM!!!

Depot St.

Sandmill Road

Richmond hill, finish paving Stafford hill road, West Mountain road

church street, main street, wells road

Wells Road, Lanesboro Road, top section of Stafford Hill Road.

not sure, haven't traveled them all. But many culverts on many roads are in tough shape, and rotting through in places.

Depot Street, Wells Road, Church Street

Ingalls Rd.

Most are in very good shape. how ever a General Dollar store located across from a convince store is a terrible idea. the traffic cite line for traffic in both directions is terrible. There are mant other sites in town that would be better

I.e. The old resturant on route 8' I understand that they feel that they would traffic from Old Lanesboro raid,but this is not true as most of it is local residential traffic

Route 8

West mountain rd

Outlook Avenue, Sandmill Road,

Wells rd and 116

pave dirt roads

Depot Street, Sandmill Road bridge, West mountain Road

Most roads have been neglected and need repair

Rt 116, Church st, Outlook ave

No opinion

South church Wells north state (route 8)

Wells road

Wells Rd from Jenks to 116

Depot St./ Wells Rd.

West Mountain Rd Rt8/Church St/West Mt Rd intersection. A rotary would work well there.

Depot St

Depot Street / Sandhill Rd. / Outlook Ave.

Church street, outer Wells road, and Route 116.

Wells Rd., Windsor Rd, LanesBoro Rd.

Pit road Sandmill road

Q26. What road, or section of road, is most important to improve in your opinion? (List up to 3 roads)

Depot, Ingalls

Wells Rd.

West Mountain Road Outlook Wells Road

all major roads

Church Street, Rt 8

construction of bridge on sand mill road

North Street to the Windsor line (pave it already!)

Wells Road.

West Mountain Road

Richmond hill road

Well's Rd

Richmond Hill Road Stafford Hill Road

Farnums, Laneborough, Route 8

west mt road stewart white road depot street

Wells road, main street.

We need a safe way for people to walk and bike around town - including from points north up route 9 as mentioned earlier. Maybe Route 8 needs to be 35 mph for a longer stretch, but a sidewalk would definitely help. Let's stop being the rest of the Northern Berkshires "speed bump"

Outer West Mountain Rd!

Just general repair and pot-hole filling as determined by our road crews.

1. Repair the bridge on Sandmill Road. 2. Stewart White Road. 3. The water that drains off of my two neighbors yards/ driveway across the road from me and down my driveway and it goes across my lawn and towards my garage. Some goes in my garage when it rains hard. It also washes gravel from my neighbors driveway and it ends up on my paved driveway on Fales Road.

West Mountain Road

Wells Road Windsor Road

Stafford hill, 116/rt8

Willow Cove

All

Hutchinson area

Wells Road Sandmill Road Stafford Hill Road

Depot st Shadowland cove Greylock rd

Fix the bridge on sandmill that has been down forever

Sandmill

Make quarry rd year round

East side of Stafford Hill, Richmond Hill, and Jenks Road.

Wells road, lanes borough road & Fred mason road

Rt 8 where the bus accident happened.

Depot Street, Prospect Street and School Street

LEAVE IT TO THE ROAD BOSS

Sandmill rd bridge

Wells Rd, Depot St, and Windsor Rd need improvement

Roads in Cheshire are generally well maintained.

Wells Rd., Ingalls Rd., Windsor Rd.

Wells dublin main street

outlook avenue

Q26. What road, or section of road, is most important to improve in your opinion? (List up to 3 roads)

Rest of Wells rd, Depot st., Ingalls Rd.

Richmond hill Bridge that's been out for months no excuse!

Wells Road, Sand Mill Road, RT 8 near gas station

Key roads for us: Route 8, Nobody's Road, Cheshire-Lanesborough Road

Brough Road

wells rd. depot st.

Lakeshore Drive, Shadowland Cove, Willow Cove

Depot St

Rt. 116 Wells Rd. Lanesboro Rd.

Sawmill rd. Windsor rd

Wells road Lanesboro rd

wells road, lanesboro road

Cheshire Hills roads

I am concerned that "improvement" of roads leads to more traffic and higher speeds, which I don't want. East Main Street and sections of Wells Road need improvement the most, and Outlook Ave needs help a lot.

Wells, Depot, Pine Valley trailer court, sand ill road

Outlook Ave Lake roads Out skirts of town

Side roads

Main east main lanesborough

The drainage pipe under Richardson Street is falling apart and has not been cleaned out in over 50 years!

Wells Rd, Lanesboro Rd. and Downtown area

Depot Street Wells Road Lanesborough Road

Wells Rd, Windsor Rd, Rte 116.

Not worried a out road conditions.

Depot st

Sand Mill Road bridge

Rt.116 Wells Road Outlook Avenue

all fine

Railroad St....lots of bike trail related travel and parking.....needs a sidewalk or maintained walkway. Wells road and route 8A

Wells Road

Ingalls Road, Corner near bridge where bus hit house (Rt 8), Notch Rd.

all roads are fine

Wells Rd

Outlook ave

I am happy with the roads in Cheshire. I live on Lanesboro Road and there is really only one section that isn't so great.

Route 8, town center

I'd love to see the huge hole not just filled with gravel that erodes way, but black topped, on lower Devonshire Drive. You you fix it right the first time, it's cheaper!

Sandmill rd Windsor Rd Stafford hill

Sandmill Road, Ingalls Road and Gulf Road.

LESS "downtown" area, more outskirt streets/ roadslanesborough road (road & traffic light @ intersection) / towncrest village / eastview/ Fred mason / etc..

Q26. What road, or section of road, is most important to improve in your opinion? (List up to 3 roads)

Furnace Hill Road - Just redid and major water issues since it was done Wells Road
Improve the road (West Mountain Road) that provides short cut to Lanesboro - Can only use a few months out of the year

Stafford Hill Road, West Mountain Road, Inhales Road

Depot street

Depot Street, Ingalls Rd, Outlook ave

Wells Road / Church Street is the most Important road that the Town has responsibility for maintaining and is probably the most highly traveled road next to Rt 8 which is owned and maintained by the State.

Wells Rd could be better kept as this road is used regularly for school buses and school events.

Richmond Hill could be paved for an easier trip from the center of town to rt. 9.

Depot St could use some major work.

Wells Rd

RT 8, Windsor Rd

Ingalls Rd. West mountain

Church St. Route 8

Depot st. Wells Rd,

Sandmill Rd Bridge, Curran Rd, West Mountain Rd

Hutchinson\Cheshire Hills neighborhood

The roads I travel are fine...

Old Cheshire Rd. Stafford Hill Rd.

Outlook, Sandmill, Jenks

Wells Rd

I feel like Cheshire does a good job of maintaining the roads

Depot St

lanesboro rd wells rd

Depot Street

Depot Street

Depot Street Lanesboro Road Richardson Street due to BRTA traffic

Rte. 116, Richmond Hill Road

West mountain Rd Outlook Notch rd

Depot St. Wells Rd.

Windows Road, Wells Road, West Mountain Road

Bridges on route 8. Some of them are in rapidly declining condition. The loss of a through route from north to south on the East corridor would be devastating to the Berkshire economy and residents livelihood.

Wells Road, Rte.116

I think the condition of the roads is acceptable right now.

Wells Road, Railroad Street, Depot Street

Q27. What is the most important transportation issue for you or a suggestion you might have regarding transportation in Cheshire?

Extend Bus Rt.

Cheshire van more days

South street bridge could be a bottleneck if an accident happened there.

Two bridges side by side or a bridge at end of Dean St.

BRTA needs to be more frequent and extended hours for work schedules or workforce

Development, employment education, specific transportation service/ system.

Traffic light at Rte. 8 - Lanesboro Rd intersection

van being to ridged with schedule

None

More bus service, and expanded area

More BRTA bus location to board/unboard

Our roads are disrepair. We need to fund this infrastructure maintenance. Grants that support other needs can free up money for this.

Better roads.

better placement for the b bus pick up and drop off..

to avoid speeding and use of roads as cut through between towns, roads should be well maintained BUT NOT WIDENED

road maintenance

Few options for those without transportation

Everyone seems to have a car. No problems there.

Everyone has a car or someone to give them a ride. Don't worry about it.

elder van only available certain time of day

Night and weekend bus service

Fix the bridge on Sand Mill Rd!

Too much emphasis put into plowing salting & sanding.

Keep available transportation for elderly

Senior

Unsure

The pot holes are horrible. Even when they get tarred over the tar falls out of the original pot hole within weeks. Are there any other alternatives to filling in pot holes besides tarring them over? Also, when there is snow it is very hard to get up even small hills, especially if the plow truck hasn't come yet if one does not have a four wheel drive vehicle.

Maintaining smooth, safe roads.

A great small business for Cheshire might be a Taxi service. Many are not on a bus line. It must be affordable rates.

Public bus

keep centrally located roads and sidewalks in perfect condition. First thing everyone sees.

that the roads are kept in good shape

More eco-friendly public transportation for people of lower economic means

We need better access, more options for our seniors

Fixing the Sandmill road bridge.

Start fixing culverts & control ANY construction around them . Before long Cheshire will loose more roads due to culverts either being washed away or backed up by poor planning . No permits should be issued without extensive research by Conservation Commission . Without quality roads you have nothing .

There should be a ban on commercial vehicles thru traffic using secondary roads.

None

Q27. What is the most important transportation issue for you or a suggestion you might have regarding transportation in Cheshire?

Being a small rural town I don't see the need to allocate scarce resources to public transportation. However, if there is a bias toward senior living facilities, then this will greatly influence the direction of the town and limit its ability to improve the community to appeal to a broader and less public service demanding population other than the usual safety, rural atmosphere, and attractiveness of the town.

What transportation? We only have use of the BRTA once per hour...

Need weekend and evening transportation. Retail jobs are off hours and there is limited transportation to and from work.

Side roads are plowed too late...

Control speeders.

repair roads

Nothing

Keeping the B-Bus an option for cheshire residents.

Personally at the present time Sandmill Road is my concern-the road was repaved just a few years ago and when you rake the side of your lawn the road is literally peeling up in chunks and has since it was repaved -the drainage is poor and literally runs down my walk like a river eroding my land and have been unable to drive down it for about a year now causing a 10 minute detour and wear and tear on vehicle and extra gas usage.

No issues with a 4 wheel drive vehicle

Safety concerns near Cheshire Lake and Lanesboro Road area.

Unless you live in town, you better have your own car-no rural transportation

Need to have local access to ticket purchase, schedule

The senior bus should be advertised more...there are still eligible people in town who do not know it is available

Keep Quarry Rd open year round

Transportation 7 days a week and evenings. If one works in retail, one has to have a way to get to and from work on non-traditional hours - early, late and weekend. If one has a late appoint, 4 pm or later, getting home can be an issue.

Repair rds

unpaved roads

Have the Board of Selectman better manage the highway department so it is an efficient operation. For what we pay for, their attitude and work ethic is lacking. Manage and motivate them instead of just paying the workers and superintendent

traffic light at Lanesborough Road /route 8 intersection

Help elderly

none

Atv

The town does a decent job overall with the upkeep of roads and making public transportation waiting areas decent.

Snow removal of side roads during snowy times.

Public transportation doesn't run early enough, frequent enough or late enough in my opinion for those that depend on it. Public transportation also doesn't have enough remote pick up areas for those that may need it out past the center of town. Everyone can't live right down town that depend on it.

None I can think of.

None

taxi service

bus service should go to other areas

Q27. What is the most important transportation issue for you or a suggestion you might have regarding transportation in Cheshire?

continue to fix roads

Buses to North Adams and Pittsfield.

unsure

Cars need to slow down

take care of roads and drainage and time and money well be saved

Transportation for the elderly.

Please see my previous comments

1. People speeding up and down Fales road. It's worse now that the bridge is out on Sandmill Rd. Before that they would speed on Sandmill. The worst part is in the morning and afternoon before and after work times. From just before 7am till about 8:30am. Then again in the afternoon about 3pm till about 5pm or so. It's the same vehicles every day.

2. There needs to be a stop light added to the intersection of Rt 8 and the back road behind Cheshire lake.

Better local transportation

None

Use any and all state and federal monies to improve roads

County wide bypass so accessible to the town would improve

Keep the one stop light type of town idea

Speed control

NO OPINION

None

None

Road conditions are poor

Not sure

Bus be most frequently

Brough Road

Town acceptance and control of the cove roads.

Not only should the roadway surfaces be repaired, but safety should be a major factor in determining what other improvements can be made. Safety issues should address hazardous intersections without adequate road signals or signage, areas that need cross walks, providing proper parking areas in zones that typically have issues, and addressing other areas where frequent accidents or incidents occur.

More education about the appropriate speed in various areas of town

No issues, but I hope the police will remain vigilant to control speeders in our town's byways and especially near the crossing of Main Street/Church Street at the river, and East Main street, which are densely populated and yet attract speeders to blow through a double the posted limit.

N/a

Elderly van needed more days.

Need more public transportation options

Have None

More public transport for those without cars, and as back up options for reducing fossil fuel consumption.

Rte. 8 Kitchen Brook Bridge

Pulling on to the highway, Rt.8, from Lanesboro Road

Need better busing....tourist stops.

None at this time

none

buses, trolley/train, shuttles

Q27. What is the most important transportation issue for you or a suggestion you might have regarding transportation in Cheshire?

None

more service

RT 8 is maintained in the winter by the State ... Wells Road / Church Street are the Responsibility of the Town and need to be the first street to to be maintained in bad weather. People getting to work and people / students to the school.

No major issues

Just keep the bus stops

Have none

public transportation

None

NA

Enforce speed limits on Route 8

At the time I do not rely on any public transportation or transportation for the elderlyI can't respond

Speeding though town.

Have you ever counted how many signs there are on Church St from the light to East Main?

Try reading them all as your driving... safely.

none at this time

More availability of the elderly van

n/a

Provide adequate transportation to those who are unable to on their own.

Traffic congestion on Rte. 8 during rush hours.

The bridge north of Lanesborough Road. If damaged or closed due to an accident, there is no way around. Traffic on 8 south of the red light (church and west mountain) are pretty heavy during commute hours. Seems to get worse every year. State issue perhaps?

I like the way the highway department is being operated. The superintendent does a very good job with the resources at his disposal.

Senior van drivers should be told this is not a vehicle for your own personal use.

Stop salting the roads so much! Wait till it stops snowing, plow the snow, then salt Rte 8.

That's it!

Earmark money for specific road repairs

Q30. Comments Section: Comments about the future of education in Cheshire.

I don't know enough about this to have an opinion

Cheshire should keep its elementary school in Cheshire

For high School not be in a regional agreement

The Cheshire school should have grades 1 through 8

Take grammar school out of regional system

Keep Cheshire Elementary school open. Revamp Adams- Cheshire High School

Teachers and administration

No kid's

Need more information

Need more information

Cheshire seriously needs an override with their teachers. Some of the teaching strategies are not appropriate for someone who has an IEP. A second grade teacher and third grade teacher needs to be revamped. how can two schools be in the same district and be dramatically different in the teaching of children?

I feel we should do whatever is necessary to keep Cheshire Elementary. I am not in favor of CT Plunkett becoming the elementary school. They should close CT Plunkett and make it into apartments. This would raise money for the district and help our children.

Explore all possibilities to improve our system not enough bang for the buck.

Cheshire children deserve a properly maintained school that will provide a good education with reasonable class size. Closing the school should not be an option

Cheshire MUST at least restructure the ACRSD to give "home rule" decision making to Cheshire, at least on the matter of whether or not there will be an Elementary Scholl in Cheshire and what grades it will include. If not, then abolish the ACRSD. Adams' profligate spending has made the district dysfunctional, at best.

We should undertake an analysis of options including separating from the district and even looking into charter school options / affiliating with BART.

Not enough information about difficulties

The best answer to an educational question is what is best for our students. If answered honestly, it

would be very cost effective. We do not seem to have it now.

Don't know

Cheshire should explore the option of turning the elementary school into a charter school for K-5. Collaborate with Berkshire Arts & Technology Charter Public School in Adams. They offer grades 6-12. This would put Cheshire on the map and offer a better educational opportunity for our children.

So as not to become Adams property tax wise, Cheshire should consider handling its own elementary school separate from Adams or consider a joint venture with Lanesboro if cost effective for both towns (since Lanesboro elementary is accessible to Cheshire)

Without a complete audit of the district difficult to form any conclusion .

I believe our school buildings need to be maintained a lot better.

There isn't just one answer here. Closing Cheshire Elementary School is a poor choice for our children's future as well as financially for the town.

Re-evaluate current agreement and look at other options - combining with another school district, adding to the Adams-Cheshire School District, being our own district.

Need more info- but keep education programs to the highest degree and support the teachers.

Leave ACRSD and offer School Choice while exploring one or two county wide Campuses that off state of the are education at a reasonable cost.

We would require major modifications in order to improve the schools. A poor school system will never attract younger families and grow our community. A good education is one of the most important ways to build an economy and a good community.

My kids do not attend this districts schools due to lack of attentiveness to issues within the schools and oversight of important issues. I feel the schools would be better if SOME/NOT ALL TEACHERS where held accountable for their lack of teaching ability or desire to teach! You can "build and you can merge" but you can't "thrive and achieve" if all you are looking for at the end of your work is a "paycheck". You need the right teachers willing to make a difference and you'll develop students willing to learn. The outside can look good but inside needs to reflect the same beauty!

don't know enough to make an opinion

as it exists now would be fine if money was allocated to the Cheshire school. Maintaining staff and the school itself is very important. If this district feels differently, perhaps we should look elsewhere.

We need to have a level 1 elementary school. Our four kids went to Hoosac and have found memories, and the new school is really nice. So, I really see the problem as one with the Elementary school. Oh and the school district apparently can't mange money well - my kids received a good education without the spending and tax increases the district wants - ugh :-(Don't have any children.

I found it Alarming to know that Adams has more Children in our schools but they pay less than us because Cheshire is found to be wealthier. I was also excited to know that our district took a chance with Lanesboro. I think we should continue to overhaul our educations system, invest in our buildings and teachers. I feel all options should be on the table and each should be explored! Leave no Rock unturned.. Our Children deserve our best!

Cheshire would benefit (students) from breaking with ACRSD

Not sure what the answer is but schools are an important decision when it comes to living in a community and you have a young family

I am strongly against closing cheshire elementary. I would love to see it be redone and serve the community the way it should. We need better education resources or we will have more school choice.

Keep the elementary school

Keep small school classes, have after school support for homework or tutoring for all kids parents pay and pick up. Have cheshire school sports to raise money.

I think combining elementary classes is more economical and would give our kids a good education. Having preschool through 3rd in Cheshire and 4th through 6th in Adams would be more efficient and have what the kids would benefit from. If there would be a way to put a new elementary school on or near the high school but separate from the high school that would be a good option also. Hopefully education grants will be available sometime to offset costs.

Need county wide school district.

Cheshire would be better served by combining with the Lanesboro/Williamstown district.

While more expensive, people would move here again for the schools. Adams is in a spiral and we need to leave the district.

We either need to split with Adams at the elementary level, each town support their own and combine at HVMHS OR look into combining with Lanesboro!!!!!!! And the sooner the better!!!!

Need to consider working with other communities to spread cost of overhead.

Having Hoosac Valley Middle & High School situated in town and having the taxpayers currently tied to the debt related to renovation costs of the building, it realistically does not appear to be an option to leave the district and pursue combining with another district. That

being said, modifying how the school district operates with a goal of improving to a standard that other districts have set, will help. ACRSD should be looking at what other school districts are doing right, what encourages students to leave our district and transfer to other schools, what is making BArT a desirable choice for students, and what makes McCann so successful. Instead of the ACRSD publicly criticizing the other options, they should be making steps to make our district mirror the good qualities of the others.

Some improvements for the ACRSD to consider should be: encouraging strategic staff hiring with a goal of improving the education of the students; fostering arts and technology growth within the academic programming to discourage student loss to other schools that far surpass educational offerings within ACRSD; publicly supporting educational programs within the district at the same or at a higher level to the public support the district gives its sports programs; encouraging and paying for staff to go above and beyond the typical school day hours in an effort to increase enrichment activities for students after school in areas such as robotics, computers, math, science, and history; and working to market the district utilizing successful marketing strategies to improve the public image of the district.

Our town officials should work with the ACRSD in an effort to oversee and ensure growth and improvement. Officials from both the town and the school district should be cognizant, at all times, about how they refer to both our district and other districts and schools, especially during meetings that are being recorded or reported on. Constantly talking negatively about other schools has damaged the ACRSD significantly over the past few years.

Key points for our district and town to consider should be:

- *Focus on, support, and encourage educational opportunities.

- *Publicize academic achievements of the students and staff of the schools.

- *Create an environment that allows academically focused students to thrive by giving them opportunities to showcase their education based achievements through science fairs, robotics competitions, art shows, quiz teams, etc.

- *Utilize the local colleges to bring academic programming to the ACRSD. Programs are often readily available and do not require significant cost on the part of the district. They will benefit our students significantly and fill in educational gaps the district currently cannot provide due to budget constraints.

- *Work hard to convince the families within our community that ACRSD is a strong educational choice for their children. Prove it to us through qualified staffing, publicity, comments made at school committee meetings, the actions of the staff, and through the media.

- *Be mindful that not all families are sports oriented. The ACRSD is very publicly known as a district that supports sports, but clearly that is not a tactic that works for everyone and the district should be making choices that regularly showcase support for other programming.

These steps will help the town make strides toward convincing the tax payers to support funding the district. A wonderful school district will make Cheshire a more viable candidate for business and residential growth.

Why should I subsidize town water when I have a well. Can I give the water department my bill for work on my well?

I love our little school and I want my children to grow up in our school.

Not informed enough to thoughtfully answer

Cheshire school should be stand alone from Cheshire

Cheshire should encourage the district to enter into discussions re: regional consolidation...establishment of smaller, additional "learning centers" with specific educational focus.

The schools do need some upgrades however just like other towns and city start getting those easy GRANTS to fix and upgrade our schools. Remember you loose your schools you loose the people. Don't be stupid!

Concerned about the performance of the school.

Pursue combining with other district AND consider changing Cheshire elementary to charter or private school

I have no opinion..I'm sure if i had a child that would be different.

I am not up to date on our school situation.

Need a committee to explore all future options for educating the predicted fewer number of children.



APPENDIX E: MGL 41S81D

PART I. ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT

TITLE VII. CITIES, TOWNS AND DISTRICTS

CHAPTER 41. OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF CITIES, TOWNS AND DISTRICTS IMPROVED METHOD OF MUNICIPAL PLANNING

Chapter 41: Section 81D. Master plan; economic development supplement

Section 81D. A planning board established in any city or town under section eighty-one A shall make a master plan of such city or town or such part or parts thereof as said board may deem advisable and from time to time may extend or perfect such plan.

Such plan shall be a statement, through text, maps, illustrations or other forms of communication that is designed to provide a basis for decision making regarding the long-term physical development of the municipality. The comprehensive plan shall be internally consistent in its policies, forecasts and standards, and shall include the following elements:

(1) Goals and policies statement which identifies the goals and policies of the municipality for its future growth and development. Each community shall conduct an interactive public process, to determine community values, goals and to identify patterns of development that will be consistent with these goals.

(2) Land use plan element which identifies present land use and designates the proposed distribution, location and inter-relationship of public and private land uses. This element shall relate the proposed standards of population density and building intensity to the capacity of land available or planned facilities and services. A land use plan map illustrating the land use policies of the municipality shall be included.

(3) Housing element which identifies and analyzes existing and forecasted housing needs and objectives

including programs for the preservation, improvement and development of housing. This element shall identify policies and strategies to provide a balance of local housing opportunities for all citizens.

(4) Economic development element which identifies policies and strategies for the expansion or stabilization of the local economic base and the promotion of employment opportunities.

(5) Natural and cultural resources element which provides an inventory of the significant natural, cultural and historic resource areas of the municipality, and policies and strategies for the protection and management of such areas.

(6) Open space and recreation element which provides an inventory of recreational and resources and open space areas of the municipality, and policies and strategies for the management and protection of such resources and areas.

(7) Services and facilities element which identifies and analyzes existing and forecasted needs for facilities and services used by the public.

(8) Circulation element which provides an inventory of existing and proposed circulation and transportation systems.

(9) Implementation program element which defines and schedules the specific municipal actions necessary to achieve the objectives of each element of the master or study plan. Scheduled expansion or replacement of public facilities or circulation system components and the anticipated costs and revenues associated with accomplishment of such activities shall be detailed in this element. This element shall specify the process by which the municipality's regulatory structures shall be amended so as to be consistent with the master plan.

Such plan shall be made, and may be added to or changed from time to time, by a majority vote of such planning board and shall be public record. The planning board shall, upon completion of any plan or

report, or any change or amendment to a plan or report produced under this section, furnish a copy of such plan or report or amendment thereto, to the department of housing and community development.

A city or town which has an established master or study plan under section eighty-one A and applies for a state grant from the Commonwealth shall prepare and keep on file within such city or town an economic development supplement; provided, however, that such city or town shall not be required to prepare such supplement if such city or town has a supplement on file. Such supplement shall be at least one page in length and shall contain the goals of the city or town with respect to industrial or commercial development, affordable housing, and preservation of parks and open space.

MASTER PLAN APPENDICES

2017

Town of Cheshire,
Massachusetts