

# ISLE LA MOTTE TOWN PLAN SURVEY 2023

## Survey Response Summary

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### Overview

The Isle La Motte Town Plan Survey was distributed online and at the Town Office from October-November 2023. The survey received 104 responses. The majority of respondents (59%) are ages 35-64, while 40% are 65 and older. 79% are year-round residents and the remaining 21% are seasonal. Compared to Census data, younger residents under age 34 were underrepresented in the survey.

Residents loved Isle La Motte’s natural beauty, quiet and peaceful location, and the community. Respondents were concerned with issues such as speeding, road maintenance, and Wi-Fi reliability. Many respondents raised concerns regarding town politics, as well as town spending. Lastly, many respondents expressed the desire to build community and establish spaces for activities and events.

### Summary

Q1: What are your favorite places in Isle La Motte? (99 Responses)



Q2: What makes Isle La Motte a good place to live? (98 responses)

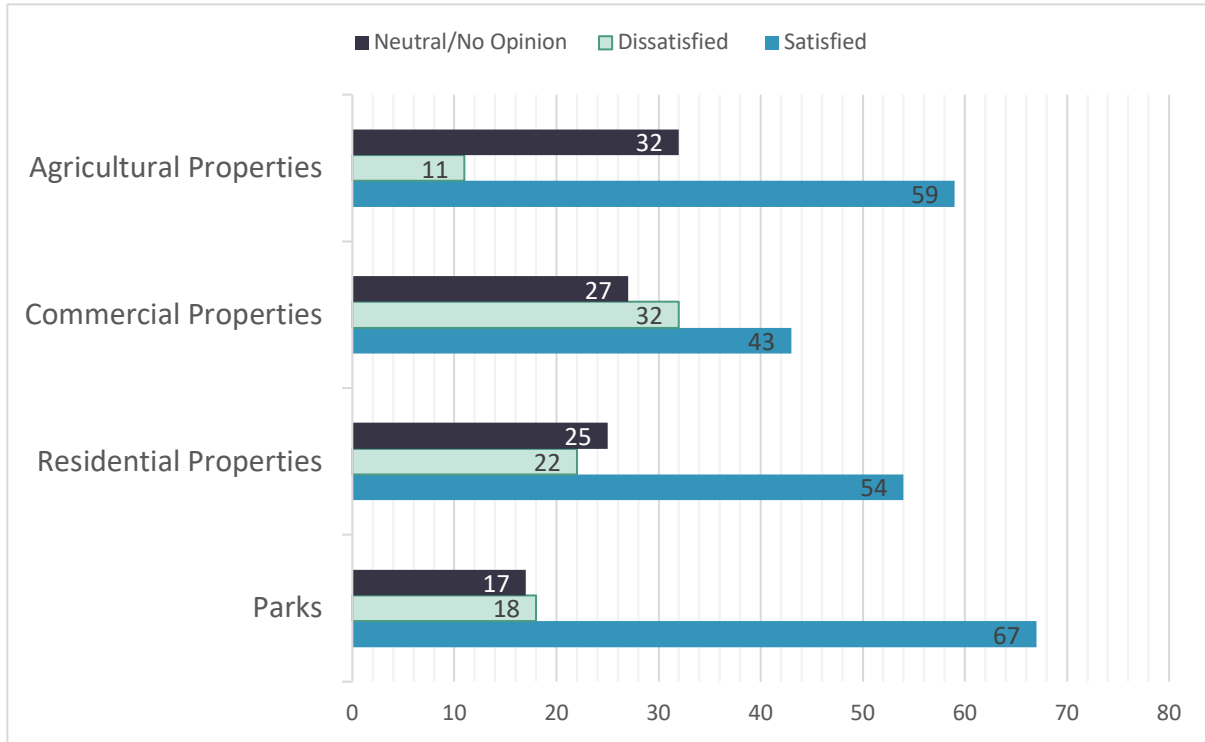
- **Quiet and Peaceful (44.9% of 98 responses)**
  - “Wonderful people, serenity and, of course, the lake”
  - “The town remains old fashioned and relatively [quiet] even on busy summer days”
- **Natural Beauty (26.5% of 98 responses)**
  - “Small population, beautiful scenery”
  - “It is a picturesque location that is Just Far Enough distant from a large population and bigger cities”
- **Community (26.5% of 98 responses)**
  - “Quiet and great community”
  - “Neighbors look out for each other and always come together in times of need regardless of differences that divide us”
- **Lake Champlain (16.3% of 98 responses)**
  - “Natural beauty of the lake”
- **Remote (6.1% of 98 responses)**
  - “Our remote location”

Q3: If you could change one thing in Isle La Motte, what would it be? (93 responses)

- **Local Government (22.58% of 93 responses)**
  - “Petty politics, lack of resources or options for the youth”
  - “Personal disputes that seem to constantly invade the government operations.”
- **Bike/Ped/Road Improvements (10.75% of 93 responses)**
  - “Adding a bike lane on Main Street from the bridge to the School Street.”
  - “Improve road safety for all road users, and find ways to reduce speeding, which is an ongoing issue here.”
- **More Community Activities/Involvement (10.75% of 93 responses)**
  - “More community activities, both adult only and family.”
  - “Increase community involvement and engagement. I have lived here 3 years and have not found any sense of community, only bickering and head butting.”
- **Friendlier Community (9.68% of 93 responses)**
  - “Help people recognize we are all humans, all different, all should be respected. With respect comes acceptance, with acceptance comes unity, with unity comes strength and anything can be accomplished.”
  - “I would change the way people treat each other.”
- **Spending/Taxes (6.45% of 93 responses)**
  - “Better use of hard earned taxpayer's money.”

- “The desire of some people to bring change that will have unintended consequences of raising taxes and driving long time full time residents out.”

Q4: How satisfied are you with the condition of the following? (104 responses)



Q5: Other Comments on Question #4 (24 responses)

- **Bike/Ped Improvements (12.5% of 24 responses)**
  - “The speed limits are a joke, with people driving 50-60+ in residential areas with walkers and no one is doing anything about it. Bikers are also a real hazard.”
  - “The most unfriendly tourist town in the Islands with dangerous roads.”
- **Town Land/Recreation (12.5% of 24 responses)**
  - “If anything put more money into open spaces & parks.”
  - “The town owns land that we don't use, and we should.”
- **Community Participation (8.3% of 24 responses)**
  - “Increase resident participation in the community by providing games or contests to challenge folks to actually participate.”
  - “The current board should be better organized and spend a great deal less money! Town council should be listening to people and not furthering personal agendas!!!”
- **No Change (8.3% of 24 responses)**

- “I do not want Isle la Motte to be turned into Swanton, St Albans or even any of the other islands. We are unique and we need to stay that way.”
- “Please don’t come along and try to change our small community. If big business, town kept water, sewer, community pools, zoning, side walks, and squiggly roads, and etc are for you.... Please move back to city area where those things are available and there are more people to help pay for those expenses. ILM is actually full of people who can’t afford higher taxes. It’s unreasonable for anyone to think anything other than this.”
- **Clean Up (8.33% of 24 responses)**
  - “Clean up some of the yards and tear down those buildings that need it.”
  - “If we are to be proud of our environment, some properties should be cleaned up and trees and bushes should be planted.”

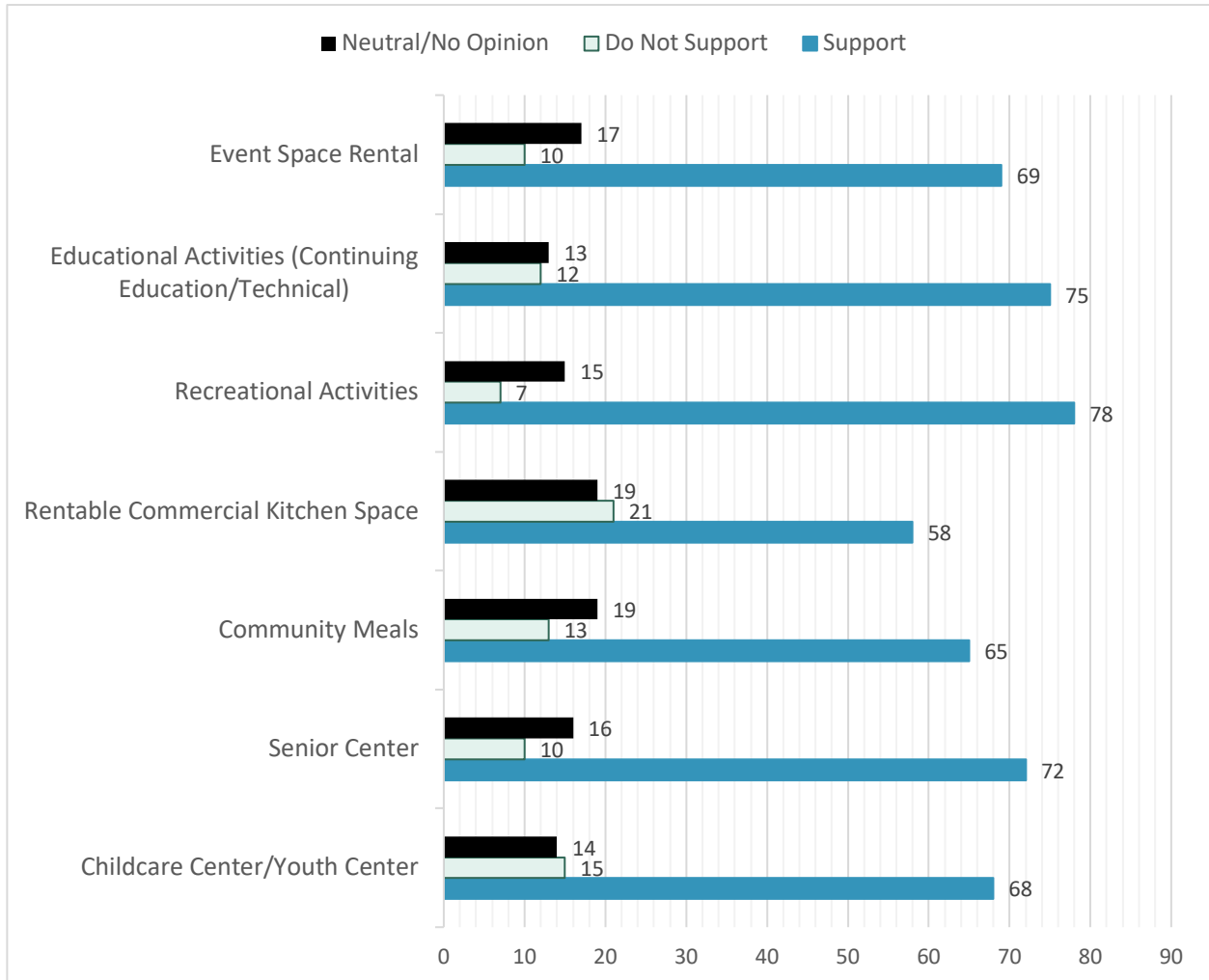
Q6: Over the next 5 years, Isle La Motte should (ranked choice, rank most desired option #1) (106 responses)<sup>1</sup>

Priority	Average Rank
Increase recreational opportunities	3.4
Protect historic structures	3.9
Attract new businesses/commercial development	5.3
Protect environmental quality	5.5
Control type of development	5.6
Increase residential construction	5.6
Control the rate of development	5.7
Maintain/improve open spaces	6.0
Improve traffic flow	6.8
Improve pedestrian flow in Village	7.2

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<sup>1</sup> It was noted during the survey collection that the survey may inadvertently record blank responses as ranking in the order originally suggested in the question. To address this issue, survey responses for questions 6, 13 and 20 where two or more responses appeared as ordered in the question were removed from the analysis. This had a limited impact on the overall data results (0-2% per priority).

Q7: By October the Town will own the Isle La Motte Elementary School building. What uses of the elementary school building would you support? (104 responses)



Q8: Other Comments on Question #7 (29 responses)

- **Rentable/Shared Space (13.8% of 29 responses)**
  - “I also think we could look at some rentable/shared office spaces for people to work. That building is huge and unused.”
  - “We could also rent out the space as a working space for people to rent to get office work done.”
- **Community Center (10.3% of 29 responses)**
  - “This building is a great for our community. Glad the former Sb board pursued this.”
  - “In other words a Community Center. Might be difficult to accommodate all particularly with square footage requirements for young children.”

- **Library (6.9% of 29 responses)**

- “If this was turned into a public library they offer all of these as a part of their community outreach and would be eligible for associated grants and funding as a public library. Our current library doesn’t meet the criteria for a public library and is controlled by a small group of private citizens. It should be kept as a satellite location and preserved for historical value but a real public library opened at the town office.”

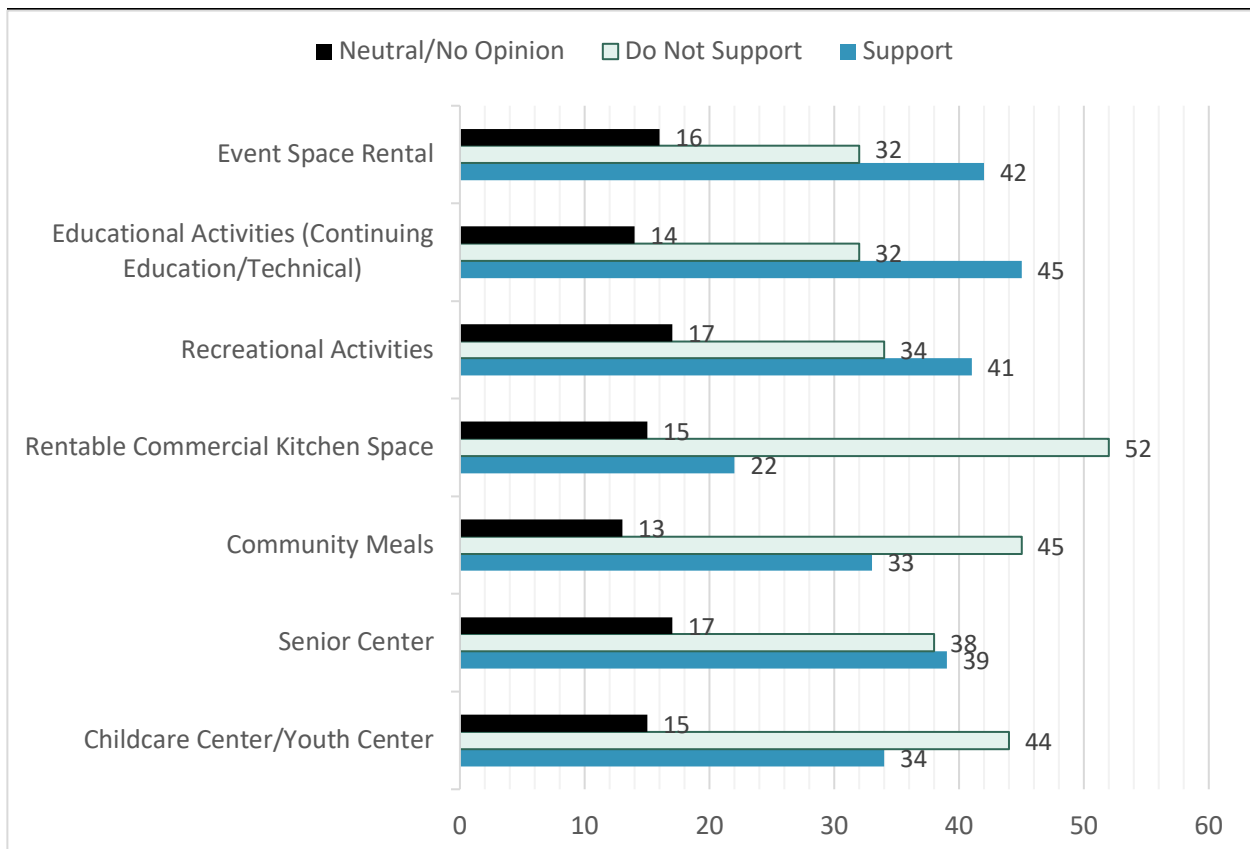
- **School (6.9% of 29 responses)**

- “I would most like to see the school be a school. One of the reasons I moved here was proximity to a school for my child.”

- **Town Hall (6.9% of 29 responses)**

- “I believe the new town hall should be moved to the two classrooms to the right of the entry way with its own entry on the side of the building and a secure vault room as in other towns. the remainder of the space may be rented for mobile doctors etc and the multi purpose and kitchen for town use and renting to private persons for event usage.”
- “Why are you not listing Town Hall as a use for this structure? Is it not currently being used for this?”

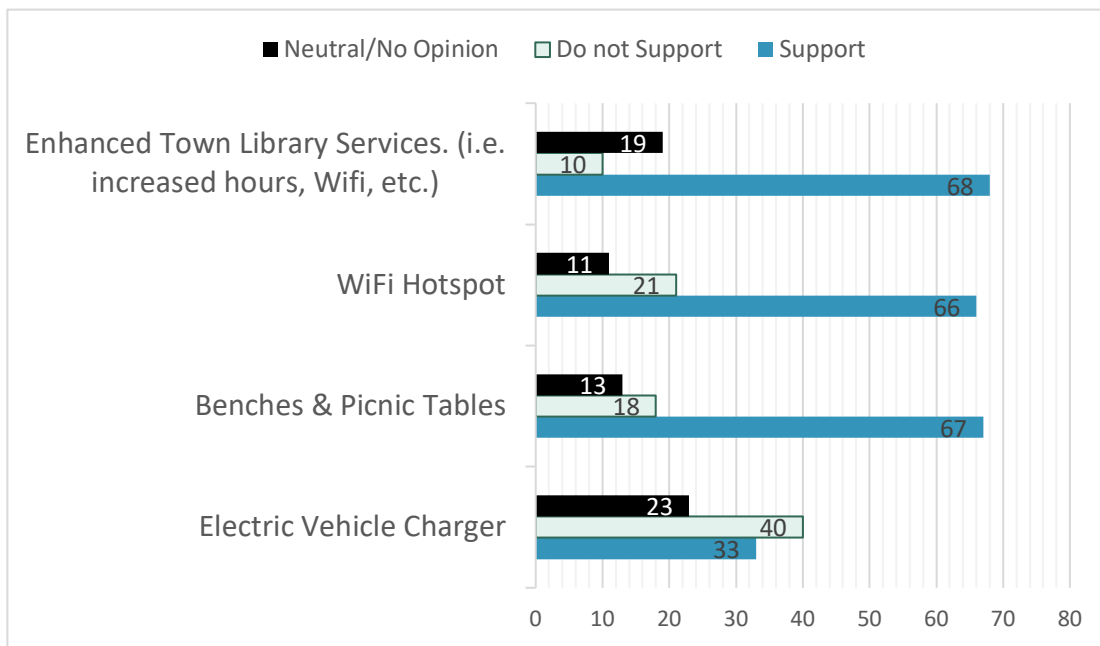
Q9: What uses of the old Town Hall building would you support? (99 responses)



## Q12: Other Comments on Question #11 (19 responses)

- **Sell/Remove (40.4% of 47 responses)**
  - “Get rid of it. Either remove it or sell it if anyone would take it. And eyesore on Main Street.”
  - “Sell to private commercial tax payer. Town doesn't need 2 buildings. Put it on the tax-rolls, instead of paying for heat & upkeep.”
- **Renovated/Preserved (25.5% of 47 responses)**
  - “In it's current state, I don't think that this building is appropriate for many of the above activities. major upgrades are required.”
  - “This building should be preserved and made functional for use. It is a great building and should not be left to deteriorate. You can find other towns in Vermont that have a like building and it is used and alive.”
- **Community Space (8.5% of 47 responses)**
  - “It could also be used as a community gathering space, or a community food shelf, or both.”
  - “It could also be a community gathering space, especially if it had ADA updates. It's a historical building so it's eligible for grants”
- **Welcome/Tourist Center (6.4% of 47 responses)**
  - “This space seems suited for some other use, perhaps a welcome center, a location for tourists and cyclists to take a break, maybe a location for groups to meet?”
  - “I'd love to see this building made into a welcome/tourist center for the town, like they have in Alburgh by the Noyan border, with seating and advertising & directions to all ILM businesses.”

Q11: What features/changes would you like to see in the Village (Main Street/School Street Area)? (102 responses)



Q12: Other Comments on Question #11 (19 responses)

### Miscellaneous comments

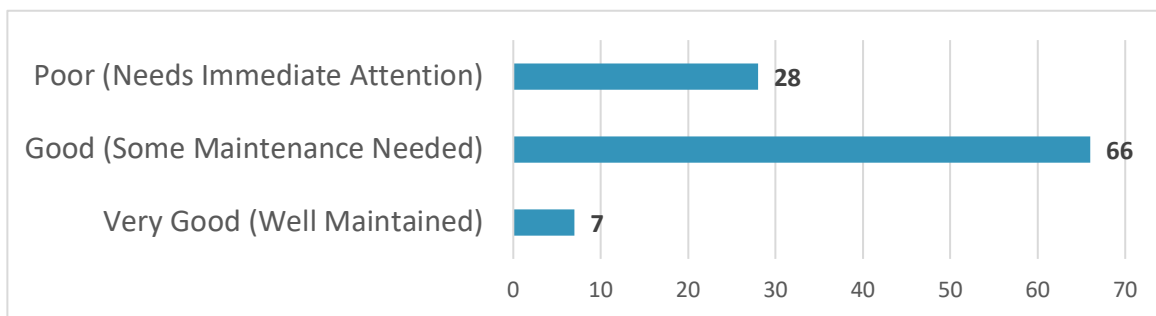
- “The historic buildings around Main/School/Church Streets are a treasure. ILM should work with the Historical Society to promote and preserve them.”
- “Some way to make it more appealing like it was before. How about some trees and plantings, and a bench or two. The flags did help to make it seem like the town was still alive.”
- “Beautification efforts perhaps as a challenge to some of the creative gardeners on the island. Our property aesthetics are not very inviting.”
- “The activation of the area should be done with a light touch to maintain a balance between our quiet solitude while providing modern essential services to residents and visitors.”
- “We need a place where people want to come, get some lunch, use their phone without using data, meet a friend, seat and rad a book while having lunch. This place is centrally located and has the space for parking.”



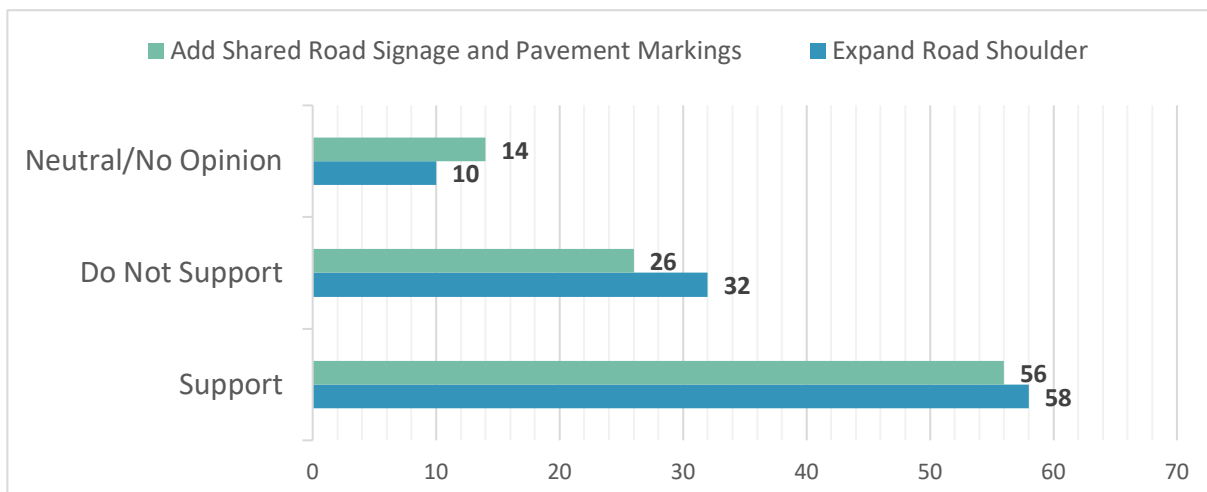
Q13: What outdoor recreational activities are important to you? (ranked choice, rank most desired option #1) (100 responses)

Priority	Average Ranking
Boating	2.5
Biking	3.3
Hiking	3.4
Fishing	3.5
Cross Country Skiing/Snowshoeing	5.5
Running	5.5
Hunting	5.7
Snowmobiling	7.0

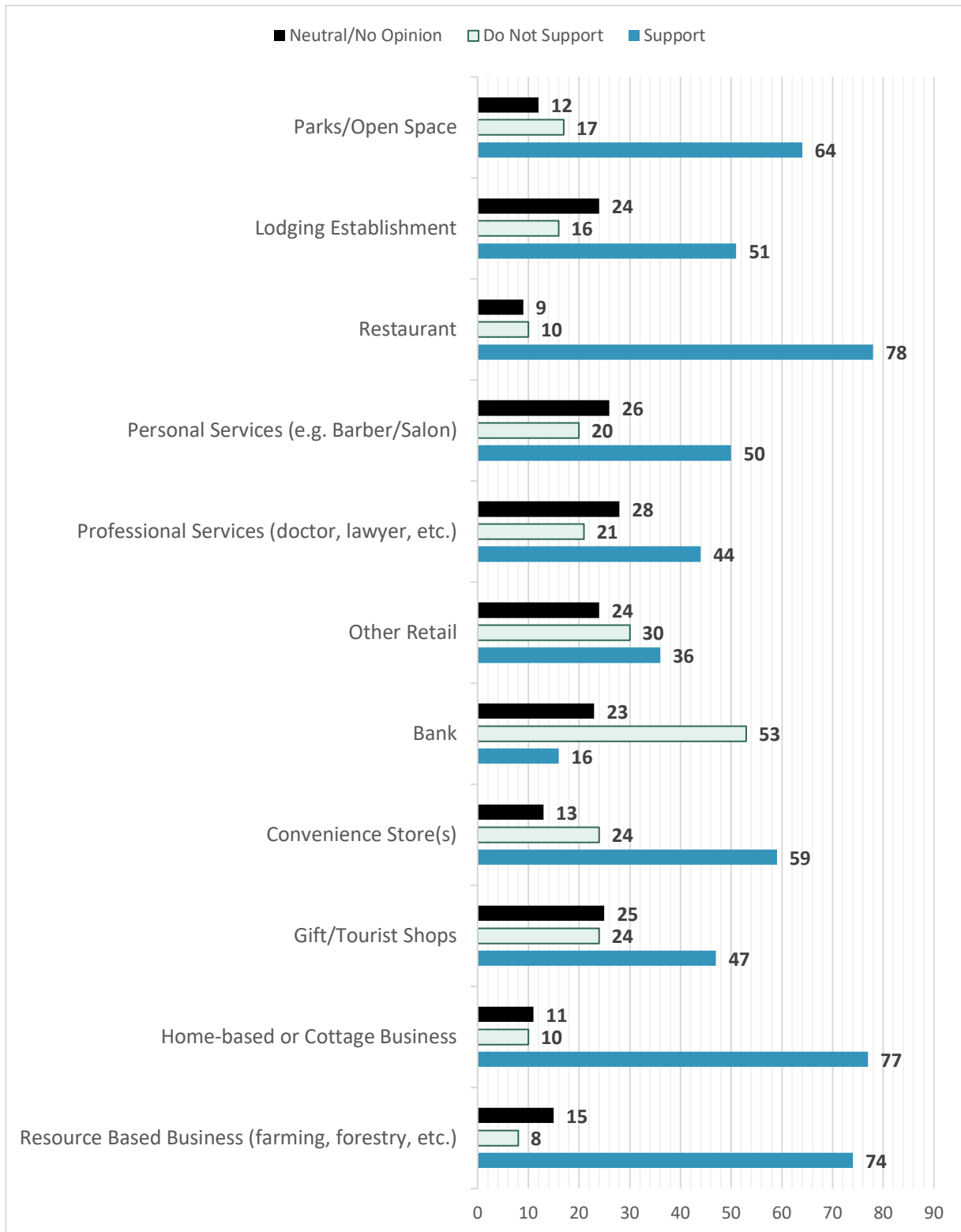
Q14: How would you rate the general conditions of the local roads in Isle La Motte? (101 responses)



Q15: Would you support any of the following options to promote bicycle and vehicle road safety? (100 responses)



Q17: What types of businesses would you like to see in Isle La Motte?  
(100 responses)



## Q18: Other Comments on Question #17

- **Miscellaneous comments**

- “Not sure who thought up most of these questions you do realize this is ILM not Swanton or any other town. We are small and like it this way.”
- “As stated prior. Let the island be nice and quiet. South [H]ero has made a large mistake by growing and the residents are paying for it now. They want their town back.”
- “I do not want Isle la motte to be turned into North Hero, Grand Isle or South Hero or even Alburgh. This place is special and should not attempt to be like the other towns in the county.”
- “For some of these ideas to be somewhat realistic, Isle LaMotte would have to become a "destination location".”
- “Isle La Motte is unique and should remain as it is.”

## Q19: How can the Town best support new & existing local businesses in Isle La Motte? (57 responses)

- **Publicity (19.3% of 57 responses)**

- “Clean up north Main St. and better promote the Island's natural beauty both locally (Islander) and regionally (7 Days, Burlington Free Press, Yankee, etc.)”
- “Advertise specials for locals. Apple day at the orchard, free coffee and donut day at the store, a harvest market, better marketing, free wine tasting at the winery, barbecue tasting at the barbecue place.”

- **Leave them alone (17.54% of 57 responses)**

- “The town should not be giving any financial support at all.”
- “In Capitalism - the new & existing local businesses support THEMSELVES! Townfolk can patronize the businesses they like & trust.”

- **Shop at local businesses (12.28% of 57 responses))**

- “Shop local and embrace everyone.”
- “Simple, the local residents of ILM should visit the local establishments.”

- **Safer shopping area (5.26% of 57 responses))**

- “Safer roadways and bike/ped access for visitors.”
- “Providing safer areas to walk and bike and make people want to come here.”

- **Tax incentives/grants (3.51% of 57 responses))**

- “Give tax breaks or grace periods if they will bring employment and income opportunities.”
- “The Town could provide some sort of tax abatement/incentives.”

Q20: Below are 5 areas Isle La Motte will likely need additional funding for. Please prioritize these areas from 1-5 (where the most desired option is #1).(86 responses)

Priorities	Average Rank
Computer Upgrades/Security	2.1
Matching Grant Funds	2.8
Improve Record Keeping Safety and Security	2.9
Digitizing Land Records	3.1
Capital Improvements	4.0

Q21: Please list any additional ideas for projects you would like considered. (31 responses)

- **Infrastructure (19.4% of 31 responses)**

- “1. Roads and Culverts, Road side mowing should include the 15' from the center of the road vessel shaving street-side grass along the road. Fix replace main culvert that drains the Island on West Shore Rd. back to 4' box culvert. 2. Have our own road dept vs private contractor. 3. Put Toll booth back on the entrance to help fund our road projects. 4. Get a handle on Speeding. 5. Follow up on work getting done correctly.”
- “Any infrastructure improvements via direct funding or by obtaining state or federal money/grants should be done asap. Broadband is a huge need, water and sewer (sometime in the future) would be amazing and help protect our fragile environment and the lake.”
- “Fix our roads!”

- **Community Space (13.0% of 31 responses)**

- “Develop a functional community space to increase opportunities for people to spend time with each other--a resource and a gathering place.”
- “A community gathering space/art project would be excellent. Investing in our existing spaces, particularly the neglected old town hall, which has been mis-managed for years.
- “Develop a functional community space to increase opportunities for people to spend time with each other--a resource and a gathering place.”

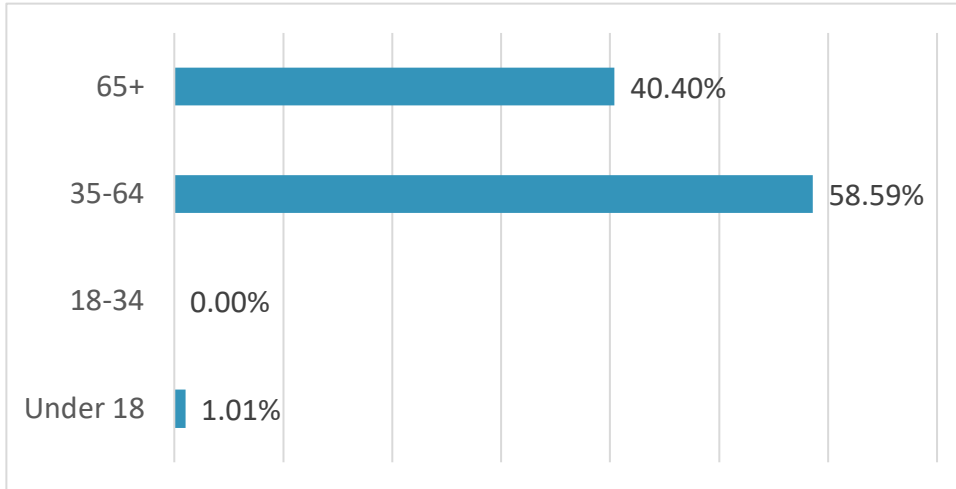
- **Digitizing Records (13.0% of 31 responses)**

- “Why are we not already working on the digitizing of our records? The money was approved by a large majority. We did have a clerk who was very committed to this project. It appears that the current administration is more interested in trying to change ILM into something we are not! At least the questions here are

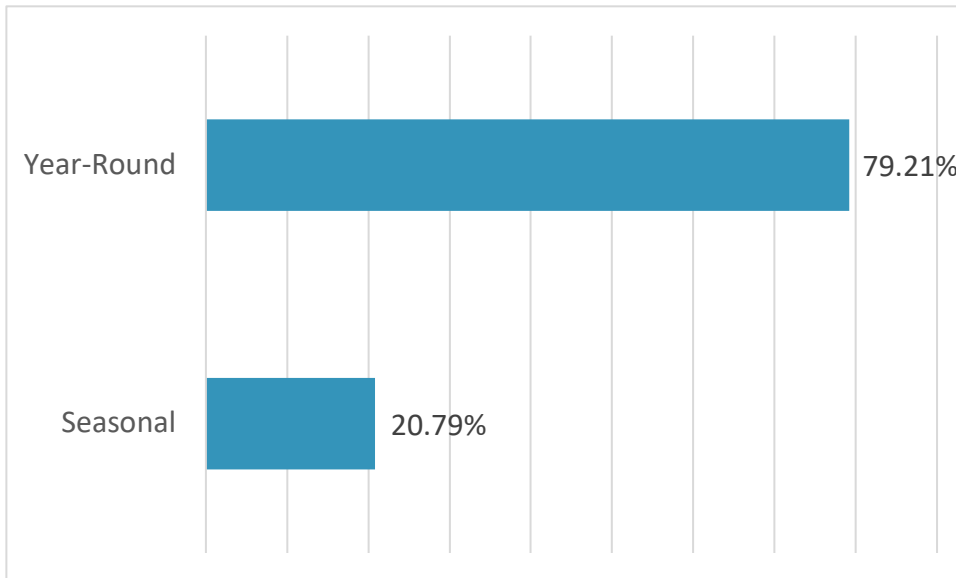
more in line with what is needed ! Very disappointed in the current remaining SB!!”

- “For one I would like to know why the article we voted on for the records has been started.”

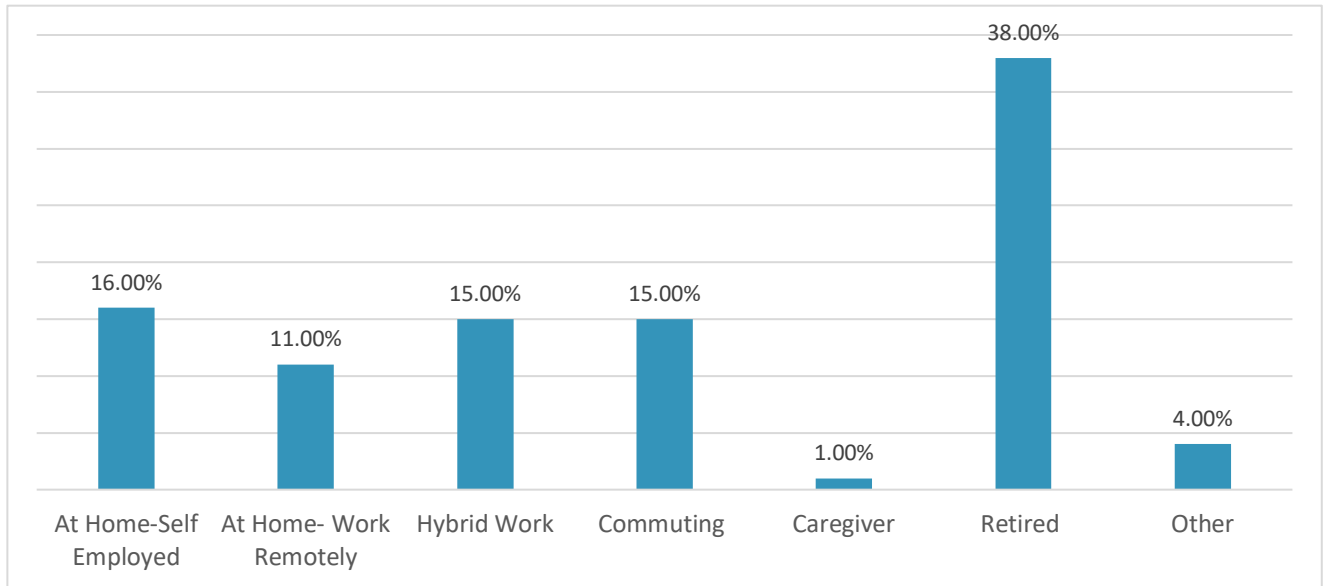
Q22: How old are you? (99 responses)



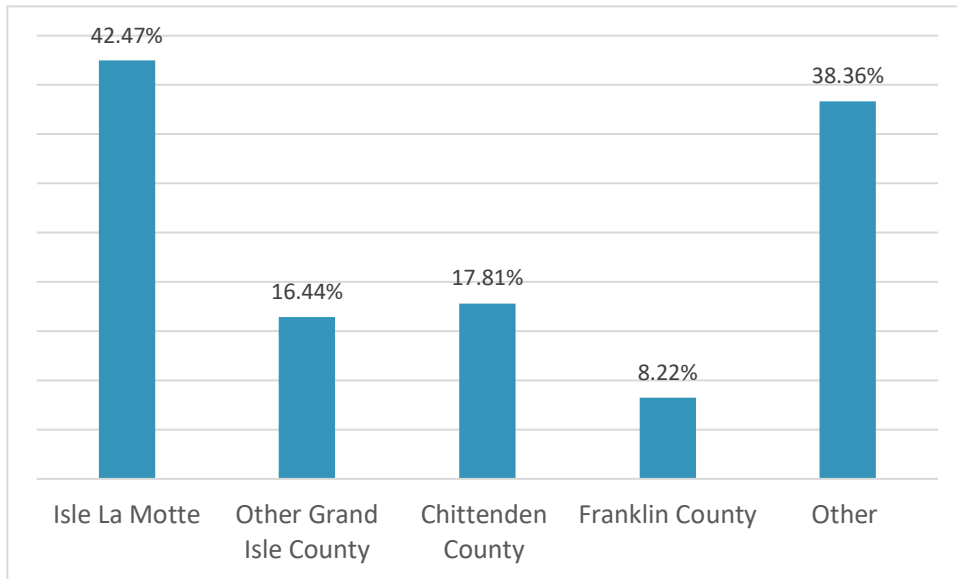
Q23: Are you a seasonal or year-round resident? (101 responses)



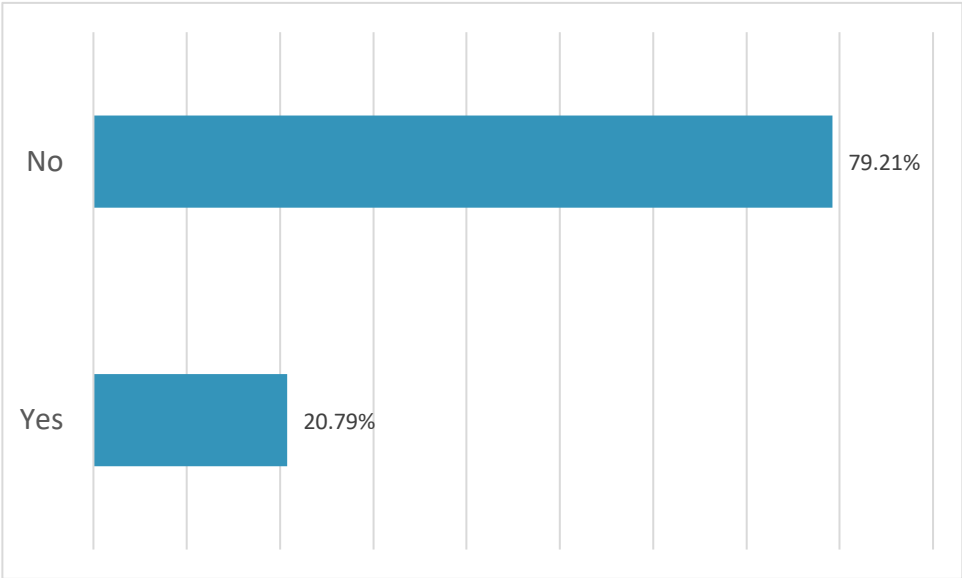
Q24: How do you work? (100 responses)



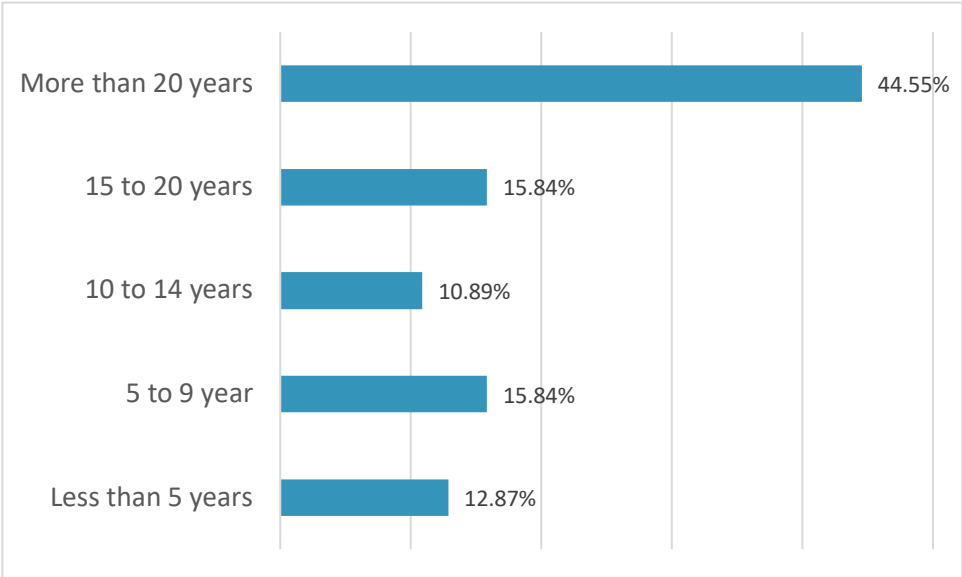
Q25: Where do you work? (Check all that apply) (73 responses)



Q26: Do you have school aged children under the age of 18 at your home? (101 responses)



Q27: How long have you lived in Isle La Motte? (101 responses)



## Appendix: All Open-Ended Answers

### Q1: What are your favorite places in Isle La Motte? (99 Responses)

- All of it
- All of it
- all over he island....tour of the island...fishing accesses
- Anywhere by the lake. My home.
- Anywhere I can stop in the road safely fora quick visit with my neighbor. Waving to everyone! The slow and quiet vibe yet knowing bright and talented folks are among us.
- Cloak Island and Lockerby Bay
- Goodsell ridge preserve Shrine Recreation field
- Goodsell Ridge Preserve, the rec field, country store
- Goodsell Ridge, Shrine Beach, the woods, ILM Vineyard, Fisk Farm, my home, friend's homes.
- Goodsell Ridge Preserve, Shrine
- Home
- I love the ILM winery and am enjoying the convenience of the ILM store.
- Lakehurst campground
- Lakehurst Campground
- Lakehurst Campground & Hall's Apple Orchard.
- My home
- My home
- My home
- My home
- My house
- My house on the east shore. Bicycling around the island. The Shrine, Fisk quarry, Ruthcliffe, the new store to get some provisions
- My lakefront and the roads for walking and biking.
- My property and homestead.
- Park, Shrine, walks
- Parks
- Preserve
- Public shorelines, the island store, the woods, swings at the school
- quarry, shrine beach, farmland, main street
- Quiet roads for walking, lake access at boat launches & Shrine
- rec park and the shrine
- Recreation park, Fisk Quarry
- Shrine
- Shrine
- Shrine
- Shrine waterfront, Veterans Park, walking trails
- St Anns
- St. Annes Shrine, Happy Bird Poultry Farm Smokehouse and Farm Market, Goodsell Ridge Preserve/Fisk Farm Quarry Preserve,
- St. Anne's Shrine, Veteran's Park, Fisk Quarry



- test
- The center "village" of town
- The Country Store My home
- The east and west shore, main street heading south from the 4 corners, Nobles Hill Rd. passing under the canopy leading to the crest of the hill and the view.
- The Fossil Reef The Shrine beach The four corners any season The newly opened store
- The lake
- The playground at veterans Park
- The preserve, the quarry, the shrine beach, and the fishing access on West shore Rd
- The Preserve, the Quarry, the Shrine beach, the fishing access, and the old growth forest at Brothers.
- the shore, the quiet roads and our home
- The Shrine
- The Shrine of Saint Anne Goodsell Fossil Preserve Fisk Farms
- The Shrine, the store for community connection
- The west shore, sunsets, and the lovely boat traffic
- The whole island
- The whole Island
- Views from the Shrine, Goodsell preserve
- West Shore Rd; beach at the Shrine; Art Barn; my house;

## Q2: What makes Isle La Motte a good place to live? (98 responses)

- Affordable, secluded, beautiful
- beautiful area away from hustle and bustle
- Beautiful island, all of the above, active community
- Beautiful scenery, freedom, surrounded by awesome Lake Champlain.
- Beautiful, low traffic, good residents
- Beautiful, usually quiet, the lake
- beauty, quiet, neighbors
- Community has good spirit although not everyone agrees.
- Doesn't have zoning
- Everything
- Family
- For the most part it is quiet and we have wonderful neighbors. We are surrounded by beautiful landscape year round. And we feel very safe here.
- Freedom
- Friends
- Generally a pastoral community with great opportunity to relax
- Generally quiet and now people seem a little more friendly and open to connect now than a few years ago
- Generally quiet, except for snow mobiles and dirt bikes and zooming cars
- I have the quiet and solitude that I want.
- It has a heart and tries to improve itself to benefit the community.

- It is a picturesque location that is Just Far Enough distant from a large population and bigger cities
- It is NOT the town politics that invades the serenity which is what makes it a good place to live
- It is quiet and feeling left alone
- It's a small community, quiet and I'm able to use my land the way I see works for me
- It's beauty
- It's beauty and the people
- It's quiet, the water is very clear, we are about an hour from Burlington and from Montreal. We're close enough to NY to get some shopping done. It's peaceful and a close-knit community
- It's small
- its unique character, few people and no big businesses
- lack of regulations and ordinances.
- Lake access and views, Privacy
- Lake access, privacy, open spaces.
- Lakehurst campground
- Low crime, nature (deer, birds)
- Low population, beautiful scenery
- Mostly quiet
- Natural beauty of the lake
- Nature, neighbors, people willing to help out when someone is in need
- Neighbors look out for each other and always come together in times of need regardless of differences that divide us
- Neighbors, and kindness to everyone.
- No zoning
- No zoning Peaceful
- No zoning and very peaceful no through traffic
- Not much. But the tranquility is nice after the summer crowd leaves
- Not really anything except the quietness
- Not too much regulation. Reliance on volunteers to help out. That has how it's been historically.
- Nothing
- Our remote location
- Outdoor options - friendly neighbors- lots of activities especially lately with town picnic, concerts at the vineyard and IPA Pickleball games.
- Part of my family is here
- Peace and quiet, nature, beauty, the waterfront
- Peaceful and still relatively sparsely populated
- Peaceful, beautiful, small community
- People and beauty
- People use to mind their own business. You use to know your neighbors not any longer. People use to respect other people property not any longer
- privacy, peaceful and no zoning
- Quaint, beautiful, low traffic, it's an ISLAND!! 🏝️, awesome history!
- Quiet

- Quiet
- Quiet
- Quiet 9 months a year
- Quiet and backwards
- Quiet and great community
- quiet and scenic
- Quiet, Country, Quaint, Rural, Lake Champlain
- Quiet, peaceful
- Quiet, Pretty, More Simple
- quiet, private and left alone
- Quiet, rural nature. Also, Isle LaMotte residents seem to be resilient and willing to help each other.
- Quiet. Peaceful. Able to take walks or bike on West Shore Road without fear of cars or big trucks going to fast.
- Quite
- Quite
- Remote, quiet, good neighbors
- safe
- Safe, lake Champlain, historic town, eclectic members in community.
- secluded
- Sense of community
- Small community, beauty
- Small population, beautiful scenery
- Small quiet town.
- Small town feel
- test
- The Lake
- the lake... and good people...
- The Natural Beauty, Sunsets, Lake Champlain and (most of) the people are real.
- The people, how remote it is, the old buildings, the lakeshore, and the beauty.
- The people, the beauty, the smallness, the ease of biking and walking (although sometimes people drive too fast or recklessly, which is scary on narrow roads)
- The people, the remoteness, the historical buildings, the geological history, the lakeshore, the farms, the natural beauty.
- the people/neighbors and INFORMED/TALENTED/Caring leaders/selectboard & volunteers
- The quiet solitude as you travel the gravel roads winding through the trees in this charming lakeside community.
- The quietness the ability to do what you want with your property
- The seclusion and beauty.
- The town remains old fashioned and relatively quite even on busy summer days
- The water
- Trees Water Independent spirited citizens proud of Island history
- Usually quiet The lake My friends and neighbours
- Very little crime, safe roads to bike & walk, close to larger cities but not that close, the lake life.

- Very quiet and unspoiled nature
- Wonderful people, serenity and, of course, the lake

Q3: If you could change one thing in Isle La Motte, what would it be? (93 responses)

- A better sense of community. More community interactions with a common purpose.
- A few more places to gather/socialize/eat
- A real public library that hosts community events like in other communities. The addition of a walking trail in summer months would be great. Alburgh utilizes the snowmobile club for off season maintenance and upkeep.
- A Simple ask - stop throwing trash along the road!
- add a restaurant or two
- Adding a bike lane on Main Street from the bridge to the School Street
- Attempts to "modernize" it. Isle la Motte has a wonderful, quaint and quiet charm that modernization would destroy.
- better roads in the winter
- Better use of hard earned taxpayer's money.
- Bike lane
- Change the good old boys club. (Spoldings,turners,yartz,senecacs.
- Clear culverts so swamp can drain Build senior housing, low and middle class housing
- Clear views at all stop signs (hard to see around some bushes/trees at School/Church/Main)
- community unified for the good of the town & residents
- Constant infighting that seems generational. Entitlement of "legacy" families
- Create more community activities for bringing together the many talents we have, and for greater cohesiveness among residents
- Create more opportunities for young people to live and work on the island.
- current select board members
- Current town government
- Fewer gunshots fewer loud and speeding vehicles
- Get rid of current select board
- getting to political
- Have a central place that naturally draws people together. Like, a cafe as part of the store, or a creemee window and outside tables in the summer, or a regular town potluck, etc. Build on the rec dept activities.
- Having a year-round place to gather, socialize, and share a meal.
- Help people recognize we are all humans, all different, all should be respected. With respect comes acceptance, with acceptance comes unity, with unity comes strength and anything can be accomplished.
- I would change the way people treat each other
- I would make it two things - Division and Speeding.
- Improve the causeway to a real bridge
- improve the roads for walking and biking AND driving- wider would be safer!

- Improver road safety for all road users, and find ways to reduce speeding, which is an ongoing issue here.
- Increase community involvement and engagement. I have lived here 3 years and have not found any sense of community, only bickering and head butting.
- Isle La Motte current 2 selectboard members
- Just want everybody to get along and enjoy it
- Less anger, more diplomacy between neighbors.
- less empty buildings
- Less fighting and hagling, spending as little money as possible
- Make the town hall more usable and attractive, it's such a lovely, historic building that is a focus on Main Street.
- Making it more biker friendly.
- Making it more kid friendly outside of school.
- More community activities, both adult only and family.
- More community connections
- More community connections and opportunities to gather
- More community gatherings
- More families choosing ILM for their home. Very sad the school closed. Childre/families bring energy and events for community to celebrate .
- More pickleball courts!
- New crew running the town
- No biking lanes and high taxes
- No trust in our current selectboard
- Not sure
- NOTHING
- Nothing
- Nothing
- People enjoying every race (she means no racism)
- People move to the island cause it's quiet then they come in and want to change it. Mind your own business and leave the island as is. You want drama go elsewhere
- People to get along to make it a better place
- Personal disputes that seem to constantly invade the government operations. Better road conditions and road side maintenance. Dog issues with owners not controlling their animals.
- Petty politics, lack of resources or options for the youth
- Playground
- Put Information Center and rest stop in old Town Hall. People tend to go down Shrine Road and back to the causeway, without interest in the rest of the Island Find a new beach for public Bring back a ferry from New York and summer boat tours through the Transportation Agency Safe bike path. Help bring back political and fellowship lost 15 years ago.
- Put shoulders on Main Street, it's unsafe. High-speed internet. both are equally needed.
- Reasonable zoning regulations.
- Road conditions in the Spring, Summer and Fall. In Winter our roads are the best in the state.
- Slow down the drivers - huge speed increase in recent years.
- taxes....????

- Tell the snow mobile riders to keep the hell off of private property. If they are too lazy to ride on APPROVED routes/roads, then maybe they shouldn't be out riding.
- test
- That (like this survey) Property owning taxpayers have the right to an opinion and to VOTE (like Montpelier, Burlington & Winooski), Non-Homesteaders pay 66% of the taxes for ILM. The Vermont Constitution allows for "property owners" the right to vote and so did the writers of the U.S. Constitution.
- the cost to live here
- The desire of some people to bring change that will have unintended consequences of raising taxes and driving long time full time residents out.
- The houses that are in complete disarray... paint them, clean up the yards. There are so many that look run down
- The leaders
- The local government
- the nastiness
- The old Town office
- the political dynamic. There is a SMALL MINORITY in power, and formerly in power, who think that we cannot do without them. They are WRONG and need to understand that ILM is a good place IN SPITE OF THEM AND THEIR BEHAVIOR, not because of them in ANY WAY. They should step aside
- the politics especially the present town board
- The select board
- The Selectboard. Embarrassing what Graziano has done. The roads are in horrible shape, people drive way too fast, junk cars everywhere, dogs running wild
- The sense that some islanders have about what it means to be an "islander", this old school mindset about "not having roots", we need new people with new ideas. Families with children allows a community to grow not a bunch of old, grumpy white man who don't like change or them losing their way of how things "work"!
- the speed down main street
- The state of town government
- The taxes
- The Town Government, the select board is incompetent
- The two remaining select board members.
- This idea that we want change... we don't!
- This new idea of becoming bigger
- Town government, mainly select board.
- Town officials and their high school behavior
- Town politics
- Town politics.
- Two things: increase the sense of community and decrease speeding.
- We should have kept the town building on Main Street and not bought the school building
- Why would anyone want to change anything to do with Isle La Motte? People who desire to change something usually screw it up monumentally!!

Q4: How satisfied are you with the condition of the following? (104 responses) [Comments]

## Parks

- Always can be improved, some at low cost
- Are there any?
- Build it and they will come! Create a park - make it look like a recreational park for all ages to enjoy; i.e. diamond sports is just one idea (team benches/dugout, bases, lined fields in the summer, etc.
- Cannot see the lake from the benches at Memorial Park
- Community Center & Field do the job.
- Community pool, skateboard arena more play area for kids
- Could be more at the park. A tennis court. Some more good pickleball courts. Exercise circuits. A covered pavilion for outdoor events and functions.
- Could use some attention.. basketball court was a nice feature. Additional options such as a track or bike ramps could be a possibility?
- great volunteers!! Thank you!!
- I really like the parks and the art, but I think we should have a little more going on in them as they are a potential community gathering space.
- I wish they taught Pickleball classes, it looks fun!
- I would like more things in them that attract people to use them.
- I'd like to see more things to do at the park, though.
- It gives a community chance to get together and have fun
- It would be nice for the town to have a public space on the lake
- Music in the park is great! more community activities at the park would be great!
- Need more parks. The pickleball people have taken over the only park we have
- Need significant enhancements to veterans Park & entrance to island
- Needs more funding and program expansion
- No activities,
- Park by bridge nice for stopping- Goodsell - Historical Society- Quarry are all nice stops.
- Pickleball took over the park. Can't even go there
- Rec Park is nice however, other smaller parks with simple facilities for kids would be great.
- See above
- the park needs more to attract families with children
- The playground equipment should be updated and more benches should be offered for sitting and picnicking. Would love a tennis court
- Town rec park caters only to the elite pickle ballers
- Wish we had walking/exercise trails.
- Would like to see Ball games like we use to.

## Residential Properties

- A lot of them need to be cleaned up, especially main street

- Condition? It is not my business on other residential properties.
- Enforce Vermont's "Eye-Sore" laws
- for the amount of taxes paid on this island we should be seeing all the junk at some residences
- For the most part the properties here are lovely and well-maintained. But the drive onto the island on Main Street could use some work.
- Generally well maintained.
- Getting tired of how fast home prices are rising.
- Housing is crazy expensive.. little opportunity to relocate here
- I believe your property is your business as long as you pay your property taxes AND do not destroy ine.
- I would love to see more full time residents, instead of a bunch of summer homes, Airbnb's, empty homes because the owner has five houses.
- I'd like to see fewer second homes and more invested residents.
- Junk cars and trash allowed
- Leave people's properties alone
- Let's try to keep costs down as well as taxes
- Many properties are unkept with debris/trash. Is there a way to encourage/support helping the town look its best?
- Many properties are used as a dump. It is most unattractive and dangerous.
- Most properties are maintained - I am concerned with additional night lighting ruining the beautiful night sky.
- No control over the aesthetics of property. Could create a beautification contest
- No rules on cleanup and have surrounding businesses in residential areas
- North Main St. does not make a good first impression
- Not all residents demonstrate the ability to keep the outside of their property neat and orderly.
- People don't take care of their properties
- People should be able to do as they wish with the property they own and pay taxes on. No zoning. I love a manicured lawn but not everyone has to fit into a perfect box.
- Pretty satisfied, but is there a way to help others that can not help themselves. Although some owners do not care what their place looks like, which can be a health issue to others, while others cannot do what they use to do and need help to ensure their safety and health.
- Property taxes too high
- sad that in the housing crisis so many homes stand empty here,especially after summer. can we invest in low and middleclass housing?
- Several residents need much needed clean up
- Some are rougher than others, but I don't want to lose affordable housing options or encourage zoning or gentrification
- Some main street properties cleaned up
- Some properties are junk covered
- Some residential properties are not taken care of and contain abandoned vehicles and the such.
- There are some challenges and beauties.
- We have no business in other peoples properties. Not sure why this is a question or it's intent?



- We need fewer second homes
- With the exception of a few properties that need to be cleaned up

## Commercial Properties

- "Happy (dirty) Bird is a junk yard (outside), is seen by every resident & visitor and is an insult to beauty of ILM
- A few of the commercial properties should pay more
- Again keep costs down and taxes lower!
- Are there any other than B&B's and Ruthcliff?
- big improvement with our new convenience store....Mary Louise & co...
- Clean up needs
- Could use additional small commercial use to support community needs. Love the country store but would like to see the exterior freshened up
- Country store should organize a community work day to paint and spruce up the exterior. We want this business to succeed but it's appearance likely deters customers.
- glad to have the store back
- Happy to see the flags - shows pride and adds focus to the entrance and 4 corners.
- I think the small businesses we currently have on the island are unique and amazing. Do I wish we could have a year round restaurant, yes. Is it sustainable.... No. Our population in the winter is bleak.
- I think we need more small businesses here. A sandwich shop. An inn. Something to cater to the bike groups that come. Tasteful tourism.
- If you count the Shrine as a commercial property
- Keep commercial properties away not including the country store.
- Love new ILM businesses, and hope we encourage more (especially the pizza shop!)
- Love the new store but I can't afford too much there
- Majority are well maintained, but some are an eye sore yet their business is going strong. Don't know how you can instill them to have pride in their property.
- Mixed in residential areas
- Most commercial properties are well-maintained but there aren't very many of them
- need more appropriate services
- Need more non-polluting commercial base keep taxes affordable for residents to
- Need more year round and seasonal businesses
- Nice to see more business thriving on the island
- Not enough commercial properties.
- Same as residential properties above
- Some very nice - some quite shabby.
- Store is not up to par
- The vacant commercial properties are a bit of an eyesore.
- Their isn't any shopping options
- There are none
- There are none
- there are so called businesses that keep their property like a TRASH DUMP. They should be penalized for the environmental hazards they create and the visual damage to the landscape

- They look run down
- Too Few. A town should be able to support itself like having the store open.
- We need less campground favoritism.
- What commercial properties?
- What commercial property? People complain all the time about taxes, well having some businesses here would help. Wet happy for Happy bird farm, country store.. We need more businesses!
- would be great if abandoned buildings could be repurposed for sm business

## Agricultural Properties

- Absolutely LOVE having the farm stand at Sandy Bottom. Comes in clutch many a time.
- Give agriculture a big tax break!
- Great to see residents having viable business supported by other residents
- Honestly, though, I won't go to the orchard here because he flies a Confederate flag. Just my personal feelings
- I wish there were more small family farms like there were 40 years ago.
- I'd like to see more active agriculture and agricultural land.
- It's great to see farms, orchards and vineyards surviving on the island
- Love Hall Orchard & ILM Winery
- Many farms on the shore have poor control over contaminated water containment
- Most farmers here are not too friendly to "outsiders"...people they don't know!
- Most not all
- Nice to see these businesses still here
- No pollution / runoff controls in place
- Orchards, livestock, vineyards, field crops, vegetable farms and woodlands provide resources and diversity.
- Pollute the water and soil
- Polluting the soils and lake
- We need more Ag and ag lands
- We need to engage this economic sector. Value added agriculture expands the cultural and connectivity within the community. Local dollars spent within community.
- What agricultural properties?
- Wish there was more land in current ag use.
- Would like to see the more land used for crops or animals.

## Recreational Areas

- Although I'd like to see more!
- Bike rules
- Can be improved upon.
- Could have more walking trails. Perhaps on school 10 acre campus.
- I'd love to see it kept cleaner during tourist months.. but when I go any of those places, we clean up any breath we can

- It would be nice to use brothers camp area for a walking path type of area
- Make better use of the recreation area with community participation
- More recreational options could be made available such as disc golf, exercise stations
- Not enough recreational opportunity. Lots of potential with increased community involvement.
- Other than the Rec Park - recreational access is provided by a few landowners, ILMPT and State fishing access.
- Pickleball took over the basketball court
- Rec Field is a very nice facility for town this size- keep working to maintain control over mis-use of courts. Fence around basketball court is a good idea.
- Same as parks
- See above
- See the "Park" = comments.
- Some sort of public beach? I know the Shrine opens up their beach to all but it does not seem like a gathering place for ILM residents
- The town owns several large plots of land that people don't know about, except that hunters use it. We have one property--Brothers, which has a lot of trash on it.
- There are none
- There is a lot of natural space on this island, but people don't know about them/have access to them.
- very limited only pickleball/basketball court and soccer for leagues
- Veteran's Park is fantastic. How about a lakefront park?
- We have a lovely park and I hope we can develop more areas within the park for self directed recreation, ie horseshoes, bocci
- We have the rec park and by the new town office. There are trails at the Labombard Site, Fisk Farm. St. Anne's. It's perfect for our small population.
- We live on an island and barely a place for the public to enjoy it. Why don't we have a public beach that isn't owned by the shrine!
- We need more
- Where would these be
- winter outdoor ice rink would be great
- would be nice to have a state park like other Grand Isle county towns
- Would love to see a baseball/softball diamond and perhaps a dog park.

#### Q5: Other Comments on Question #4 (24 responses)

- All of the above questions seem geared towards zoning and control not impressed
- Clean up some of the yards and tear down those buildings that need it
- I am happy with the new town officers
- I do not want Isle la Motte to be turned into Swanton, St Albans or even any of the other islands. We are unique and we need to stay that way.
- I like the former school as the Town Offices!
- I've been to many parks this year and they've had bench stretching areas which are low-cost. They have info signs that tell you what stretches to do at each bench and be nice to have a walking path area in the park gravel or at brothers camp.

- If anything put more money into open spaces & parks
- If we are to be proud of our environment, some properties should be cleaned up and trees and bushes should be planted.
- Increase resident participation in the community by providing games or contests to challenge folks to actually participate.
- j;l
- More community engagement and programs utilizing the new town office building
- None
- Plan for public use of municipal owned land. For Q#6 below -- Slow down traffic, apply for bike/ped funds for protected paths for safety and to attract quality business.
- Please don't come along and try to change our small community. If big business, town kept water, sewer, community pools, zoning, side walks, and squiggly roads, and etc are for you... Please move back to city area where those things are available and there are more people to help pay for those expenses. ILM is actually full of people who can't afford higher taxes. It's unreasonable for anyone to think anything other than this.
- See above for all
- The bullies of the town need to allow younger people in or the town will die off
- The current board should be better organized and spend a great deal less money! Town council should be listening to people and not furthering personal agendas!!!
- The juvenile behavior of the town officials currently in office needs to stop - it is embarrassing
- The most unfriendly tourist town in the Islands with dangerous roads
- the speed limits are a joke, with people driving 50-60+ in residential areas with walkers and no one is doing anything about it. Bikers are also a real hazard
- The town owns land that we don't use, and we should.
- There are no zoos near us
- We need start being one island, instead of this two island mindset. Compromise, thinking and caring about "different" people, attract new people. If not, this town will not be around in twenty years after most people have passed on. We need for people to feel welcomed, not unwelcome because they're from somewhere else.
- Why are these questions even being asked? This sounds like you are thinking of zoning and regulations.

Q7: By October the Town will own the Isle La Motte Elementary School building. What uses of the elementary school building would you support? (104 responses) [Comments]

### Childcare Center/Youth Center

- All working parents deserve to have their children well cared for
- Childcare center yes. Youth center no.
- Community gathering place Meals on Wheels?
- If nonprofit that would be a possibility; if for profit, the business should provide its own space.
- Only if it's self supporting and not paid for with property tax dollars

- Parents should learn to care for there kids
- providing taxpayers do not pay
- Should not be at a cost to the tax payers- users should pay
- small portion
- This could attract young working families. There a few resources for young people now
- We need families who want to live here for that too happen

## Senior Center

- Activities to create socialization and support
- Alburgh Senior Center is great so we can continue to go there.
- combine senior and childcare
- ILM population is aging. Activities for seniors should get a lot of support
- N
- No one on this island is getting any younger and if it can help, we should!
- Not enough seniors on island
- providing taxpayers do not pay
- Same comment as above for child center
- Should not be at a cost to the tax payers-users should pay
- small portion
- There is one in Alburgh for the GI County

## Community Meals

- Ethnic and theme nights
- Helping the less unfortunate is always good and it helps build a sense of a caring community!
- How about after Town Meeting?
- ILM ONLY
- meals for those less fortunate
- Not exactly sure what you mean by community meals?
- on occasion
- providing taxpayers do not pay
- Should not be at a cost to the tax payers- users should pay
- This was done in the past. It's a great way to bring people together
- Too few year round residents
- Using kitchen will create more problems than it will solve
- What does this even mean?

## Rentable Commercial Kitchen Space

- A bit worried about the liability for the Town.
- Absolutely not.
- Again, kitchen facilities should be free for community activities and dinners.
- Food insecurity is a real thing, this could also help some start some food businesses.
- It would need major \$ improvement
- Loves supporting small business at the farmers market
- No! To much of a liability
- Not in favor of this to much of a risk due to insurance.
- on occasion
- Only if it doesn't interfere with non-profit organizations using it.
- perfect as city hall
- providing taxpayers do not pay
- Should not be at a cost to the tax payers- users should pay
- This could be a nice source of income for the town
- This Critical Space belongs to ALL ILM TAXPAYERS. NO ONE should benefit commercially from this taxpayer funded structure. ILM stands only to lose...from fire, theft, negligence, damage or liability.
- This would need to be a rotating incubator space, not just one entity.

## Recreational Activities

- Beach, bike path, fishing and better boat access
- Crafts and sports are another way to build a sense of community
- indoor activities would be good given we have >7 months of cold weather.
- It helps bring new people, builds community
- Parties, celebrations, community dinners, dances, music
- providing taxpayers do not pay
- Safer place for bicycling tourists
- Should not be at a cost to the tax payers -users should pay
- Suggest use for Indoor rec activities throughout the winter
- Support for activities that are educational in nature, limited liability for the Town.
- We've always thought this could become a location to go for sports tournaments and the like! Make it a premier destination.
- winter activities - any room outside for a skate pond?

## Educational Activities (Continuing Education/Technical)

- Great potential for adult learning, like painting, soap making, etc., more cerebral offerings like finance, wine making, nature, world events. Local residents and UVM Extension Service are good resources for speakers.
- Job Training
- Maker Space, Repair/fixit weekend

- Night classes for economic practices, Adult educational and hobby classes
- Not enough residents
- not necessary
- Possibility for a public library at the School Street building.
- providing taxpayers do not pay
- Should not be at a cost to the tax payers -users should pay
- This would be a great resource for young and old

## Event Space Rental

- A bit worried about the liability for the Town.
- But kitchen needs upgrade
- Family Events
- For community events, rent should be free because it is town owned
- occasional use or rental office space for local non-profit
- on occasion
- Only if it doesn't interfere with non-profit organizations using it.
- Renting spaces for an event will help bring some money to the town.
- Should actually try to earn income from the building which we paid for
- Should not be at a cost to the tax payers -users should pay
- This Critical Space belongs to ALL ILM TAXPAYERS. NO ONE should benefit commercially from this taxpayer funded structure. ILM stands only to lose...from fire, theft, negligence, damage or liability.
- This dovetails with a rentable, commercial kitchen. Weddings, birthdays, etc.

## Q8: Other Comments on Question #7 (29 responses)

- A free community newsletter to inform residents of individuals who might be ill, or new arrivals; to announce activities and to promote a more inclusive sense of community. FPF is great, but not everyone uses it.
- Any use would be good!
- Childcare would be very helpful! Most places waitlist a year out right now.
- Continue town offices/meeting rooms
- Divide old library space in half and rent out classrooms using side entrance. Town clerk needs a raised counter.
- Drinkable water needs to be addressed We desperately need a space for kids and family. Would love to see a true community centre take over the school with a functional kitchen, for workshops etc
- I also think we could look at some rentable/shared office spaces for people to work. That building is huge and unused.
- I believe the new town hall should be moved to the two classrooms to the right of the entry way with its own entry on the side of the building and a secure vault room as in other towns. the remainder of the space may be rented for mobile doctors etc and the multi purpose and kitchen for town use and renting to private persons for event usage.

- I think there are great opportunities here. If you add childcare I think it's important to be able to do some of the other things, too, like continuing ed, rec activities, etc. You might be able to have a senior meal once a week where the kids and seniors eat together!
- I would most like to see the school be a school. One of the reasons I moved here was proximity to a school for my child.
- I've always thought a public library could exist in the same building as the town hall. The old preschool classroom and adjoining classroom would work as there is an exterior door already located on that side. It would not interfere with the town hall business. There was also an office on that side perfect for a librarian. The current library for not qualify for public library status and is open very limited hours during warm months only. I have more to say on this but I'll stop here!
- If possible, bring in some type of commercial business, to help defray some of the operational expenses.
- If this was turned into a public library they offer all of these as a part of their community outreach and would be eligible for associated grants and funding as a public library. Our current library doesn't meet the criteria for a public library and is controlled by a small group of private citizens. It should be kept as a satellite location and preserved for historical value but a real public library opened at the town office.
- in other words a Community Center. Might be difficult to accomodate all particularly with square footage requirements for young children.
- Maybe have CIDER office in there we are out of the way and seem isolated at times. Maybe have visiting nurses in there for senior services that says toenail, cutting in flu shot distribution sort of stuff like that that seniors find hard to do since the majority of our population is older. Maybe a food shelf maybe having a more public library services reading center reading room with a wide variety of hours
- Need to maintain space for evacuation center as in ice storm
- None
- Now that we are stuck with the building, we should make maximum use of it.
- The Town should not spend any money on the kitchen at the town offices unless they plan on charging for its use.
- There is a great divide between those who have been here for generations or since the social political and churches seperated Most people in Vermont know the Shrine, but this town started out with quarriers and the owners building buildings in Washington, Canada, etc and quilters There were really two towns in one, It was one of the first communities in the country as well.
- There should be minimal to no impact on the town taxes, what ever the the elementary school will be used for.
- They could turn it back into a school
- This building is a great for our community. Glad the former Sb board pursued this.
- This building is a tremendous resource. It should not go unused.
- This Critical Space belongs to ALL ILM TAXPAYERS. NO ONE should benefit commercially from this taxpayer funded structure. ILM stands only to lose...from fire, theft, negligence, damage or liability.
- This facility sits off the main street and is located at the end of a PRIVATE road which would cause an INCONVENIENCE to the residents that live up the road.
- Town Offices & Meeting Space & Emergency Shelter. Other events and celebrations occasionally!



- We could also rent out the space as a working space for people to rent to get office work done
- Why are you not listing Town Hall as a use for this structure? Is it not currently being used for this?

## Q10: Other Comments on Question #9 (47 responses)

- Again why are we even thinking about doing anything with this decrepit building is beyond me. Get rid of it.
- Building is NOT worth fixing or maintaining!
- Burn it gross and disgusting
- Demolish it, have fire dept do a controlled burn
- Donate it to the Historical Society or sell it to them for \$1 with the provision that they will have responsibility for it.
- Either the school or old town hall should be utilized as much as possible for the community.
- Get rid of it. Either remove it or sell it if anyone would take it. And eyesore on Main Street
- I don't want to see the building taken down.. I really don't. But maybe it could be used for town fundraisers of some kind..bake sales? Book sales/exchange? Possibly for small catered parties? I'm really not sure of the condition tho.
- I think you'd have to look at the cost of renovation. I was in there once and it's pretty moldy smelling and rodent poop...
- I would most like to see this building not looking terrible on Main Street. The legacy of past select boards has left us with an eyesore that we now have to deal with.
- I'd love to see this building made into a welcome/tourist center for the town, like they have in Alburgh by the Noyan border, with seating and advertising & directions to all ILM businesses.
- In it's current state, I don't think that this building is appropriate for many of the above activities. major upgrades are required.
- It could also be a community gathering space, especially if it had ADA updates. It's a historical building so it's eligible for grants
- It could also be used as a community gathering space, or a community food shelf, or both
- It depends on whether grants are available to do the renovation work. Some Towns have beautiful additional spaces that have been developed with grant and private funds. The Town should support those grant applications and provide some in-kind.
- Maintain town ownership - upgrade facilities - retail/office rental
- Need more information on condition of building and what it would take to make it a desirable space. Also need to add free Wi-Fi.
- Needs to be demolished
- Needs to be tore down or donated to consolidated telephone
- None
- nothing funded or insured or supported by taxpayers IN ANY WAY
- Perhaps install vending machines to dispense beverages for bicyclists to capture some income for the island
- possible cooperative space for farmers/makers to sell their goods
- Sell it or bulldoze it for fire department parking
- Sell it. Just because it's old doesn't mean it has historic value.

- Sell to private commercial tax payer. Town doesn't need 2 buildings. Put it on the tax-rolls, instead of paying for heat & upkeep.
- should tear it down
- That is a pretty old building. We should know more about the costs involved in making it able to support these ideas. If possible sell it to someone for a business venture. This should not become a burden to tax payers.
- The building is dangerous to health. Before any use, needs an environmental eval to look for mold, asbestos etc. Suggest selling if possible.
- The building is too old and would cost too much to renovate and repair. This should be obvious to the council!
- The building should be demolished, its an eyesore
- The money needed to update the Old Town Hall does not outweigh any of the above mentioned offerings.
- The Old Town Office condition should be upgraded using grants and reopen as Town Office.
- The old town office should be removed and the property sold, it is a disgrace and an eyesore
- This building can be used for town many purposes but limited as it does not have a kitchen.
- This building is an rat infested eye sore and should be demolished.
- This building needs to be preserved
- This building should be preserved and made functional for use. It is a great building and should not be left to deteriorate. You can find other towns in Vermont that have a like building and it is used and alive.
- This building should either be sold or demolished. It is an eye sore
- This building was assessed prior to the move to the school, and has been documented as not safe, and the cost to bring it up to code is exhorbitant. I do not believe the residents would approve such an expense. It could be cost effectively be renovated as an historic site.
- This facility sits on the main street which makes it great for easy access.
- This space seems suited for some other use, perhaps a welcome center, a location for tourists and cyclists to take a break, maybe a location for groups to meet?
- Thought this building was unsafe and that is why the office needed to move.
- Turn it back into an old town hall
- use of facility should be contingent on Town not having to pay for upkeep or utilities but facility would generate enough money to pay for everything
- Welcome Center
- Without many young people and no school. this community is mostly a summer vacation spot, retirement and bedroom community for peace and quiet living.

Q11: What features/changes would you like to see in the Village (Main Street/School Street Area)? (102 responses)

### Electric Vehicle Charger

- Eventually, this will be needed. I'm not sure if there are enough EV's at present
- Historical places recognized
- just provide location for a paid service

- Like it or not, there will be many more EV's in the road soon. Considering how far we are to the mainland, it will help people come to the island
- No tax \$ used to charge rich cars
- No unless there is no cost to taxpayers
- Not sure how much demand, though.
- Side walks Main Street
- Too expensive for the amount of EV being currently used
- Useful
- Very much

## Benches & Picnic Tables

- Good idea, but maybe attached to the ground/prevent from getting stolen
- In the park
- Maybe for bikers
- Nothing in Town
- Only at the rec field
- perhaps by the library - could also be provided by private business
- Put this in the area of the old town hall after it's been removed.
- Support, but on whose property?
- there isn't public space for this and with the current traffic speed it feels like it would be unsafe. We have the rec park that could be enhanced for more community usage.
- There would need a restaurant type of facility to require picnic tables.
- They are already in the Rec Park - that's where they should be & the Park is lovely.
- This is easy to accomplish and could attract visitors
- We live on an island!
- With a shelter, so it's appealing in all weather.
- Would get little use in that location.
- Yes- add a few on the shore at public access areas and a picnic area at town entrance

## WiFi Hotspot

- Because internet is so unreliable in town, a central hot spot gathering place might be nice
- Could be useful
- Everyone needs thus
- How about wifi for ALL the Island?
- If it doesn't cost anything
- Locating this near the Post Office/Country Store could attract business
- Needed!!
- No unless there is no cost to taxpayers
- provided at Town Office
- So everyone can park there?
- Some properties close by would need a lot of cleaning up.
- There used to be one at the school during COVID

## Enhanced Town Library Services. (i.e. increased hours, Wifi, etc.)

- Alburgh Library far better/bigger
- All of the suggested services!!
- Are the existing hours adequate?
- Expand kids books
- Expand the physical library (this could easily and esthetically be done), which will allow increasing the selection of books, magazines, etc. If the library were more accommodating and inviting people might actually go, sit, relax and read there.
- I'd like to see the library become more active, like Alburgh, with activities and the like. I'd also like to know more about it, do they offer new releases? Interlibrary loans? Many people think of it as a historic building, and don't know what it offers.
- Libraries are linked to more successful students they also provide a community hub. They should work more with schools on curriculum support of collection they have they should have access to computers more to decrease the digital divide that still exists more programming for residence and they should work with a Vermont department of libraries in order to get up to speed with services.
- Library services have deteriorated over the past few years
- May be a new library the one in town is not a public library may be one at the town hall
- Move to town office. There is no water or bathroom as far as I know
- new books, better hours
- No unless there is no cost to taxpayers
- the current library is not a town entity as far as I know so unclear if the Town can do anything to enhance
- The existing library services are a huge missed opportunity for children, adults and the greater ILM community. Suggest open more hours, offerings for children (preschool and students), connections with state library system, etc.
- The library as it currently exists offers little benefit to this community.
- The library is private. We have no say in their operation.
- The library is privately owned--the town has no say in how it's run.
- The library is well cared for at present, and is available to reserve books from other areas. Most info today is available on google
- There is a problem with narrow road and septic systems as it is ledgy
- We currently have nothing as our Library is not public no matter Halloween
- Yea but once again, the current library does not meet the standards for a public library and we would therefore have to create a new library that could be open year round and have bathroom access

## Q12: Other Comments on Question #11 (19 responses)

- A community gathering/event space?
- A zoo

- Beautification efforts perhaps as a challenge to some of the creative gardeners on the island. Our property aesthetics are not very inviting.
- Clean up the village
- Fine as it is
- I avoid Main Street as too dangerous. Someone is going to get killed
- I think the Old Labombard/farm (brick) house currently being repaired and will be a business, The old Carson's Market (was a creamy stand) needs a business in it.
- I'd like to see something done with the old town hall on Main Street.
- ILM needs better infrastructure including wifi, broadband services!
- Need restrooms
- None
- Reduced speed limit would also make this area much safer
- Some way to make it more appealing like it was before. How about some trees and plantings, and a bench or two. The flags did help to make it seem like the town was still alive.
- Street trees for shade in vacant areas, protected bike/ped path from Rec Park to Village along School St
- Teamwork is missing. everywhere with new citizens and leaders with new ideas. Many hurt feelings have spoiled fellowship and small town life in Vermont small towns,
- The activation of the area should be done with a light touch to maintain a balance between our quiet solitude while providing modern essential services to residents and visitors.
- The historic buildings around Main/School/Church Streets are a treasure. ILM should work with the Historical Society to promote and preserve them.
- We are avid readers and use libraries in Alburgh, South Hero and South Burlington to access a quality public library.
- We need a place where people want to come, get some lunch, use their phone without using data, meet a friend, seat and rad a book while having lunch. This place is centrally located and has the space for parking.

#### Q14: How would you rate the general conditions of the local roads in Isle La Motte? (101 responses) [Comments]

- All roads should be evaluated and then prioritized accordingly. There needs to be an active plan to better the condition of our roads. We don't need supper 5 lane highways, and not all roads need to be blacktopped, God forbid, but the roads need some serious attention.
- basically good, with some exceptions. the south end of main street before turners has a dangerous slope to it. also many sections of our roads have no shoulder which makes it difficult for pedestrians and bikers.
- Current shoulders are too narrow or missing creating dangerous access to deep ditches.
- dangerous pot holes!!!!!!!
- Excellent maintenace & plowing
- Grants go a very long way to help improve roads, while saving money for the tax payers.
- I love living on a gravel road, but I do see that some additional maintenance over what is currently in place is needed for their upkeep year-round.
- It is a rural area, don't need them to be like Route 2!

- It seems that Isle LaMotte tries to make improvements when needed, but it is very dependent on available grants or State funding access.
- Lack of shoulders in most areas is a significant safety issue for drivers, bicyclists and walkers.
- Many road surfaces poor, road side ditches filling in and not getting mowed from the look of it. Island wide need for trees to be cut back from roads.
- Our roads need to be widened to accommodate summer biking traffic
- Possible more side road markers along areas of Main St,
- Pot holes everywhere, roads in terrible condition
- Potholes, general maintenance
- Put more marking posting along some of Main St
- Road grading is awful, poor shoulders on paved area, no space for large trucks, RV, busses safely to drive especially when a walker or bicyclist and oncoming traffic, one day we may see a tragedy
- snow plowing in winter needs improvement
- Someone is going to get killed on Main Street or the S curves at beginning of Island with overgrown trees on North Side
- Speeding is a big problem. East Shore Rd could use a ditch on the rightside after Kelloggs property headed south to you get to the curve as it graduates to Church St. Need more Culverts to address West Shore Road. Tree overhang, Bushes and Tree limbs haven't been addressed in years. Some Ditches have trees growing in them. Culverts for Marsh Road are about 1' to 2' too high, Same on opposite end of the March/Swamp on West Shore - which is too small and too high and too small for the volume. Exchanged a 4' box culvert to a driveway culvert is inefficient. Ditches need to be cleaned out.
- The dirt roads need more attention. The potholes are pretty bad.
- The patchwork fixes are not working Roads especially west shore needs to be repaired properly
- The roads are what they are we are a tiny community maybe put up more road markers on certain areas of Main St. It would be nice if we could get people to slow down. Not sure that will ever happen.
- The shoulder on the main road has been an issue for years an need to be addressed
- They are maintained well.. but they are terribly narrow on Main Street
- they keep applying a thin layer of pavement instead of striping the rd down and doing it right and then they patch for many seasons
- They need to have a better shoulder.
- We are a rural town. Do not needs excellent roads. That will encourage speeding which we know is already the case on Main St and West Shore Rd. Keep roads narrow. Would like to see speed signs up, speed bumps would be lovely. Get folk to slow down! John does an excellent job plowing.
- West shore road needs better maintenance to keep up with pot holes that damage cars and are dangerous to bikers, walkers and runners. I believe the town should start working to address no shoulders on main street
- Worst in many years. Old
- Would like to see more paving done. However, I do realize this is a huge cost.

## Q15: Would you support any of the following options to promote bicycle and vehicle road safety? (100 responses)

### Expand Road Shoulder

- 100000% my biggest fear driving these roads is unintentionally hitting someone, God forbid.
- Absolutely- there might be grants available. It is currently a hazard to either walk or bike
- Anything to get bicycles off the traveled road!
- ASAP... The next time a school bus goes off the road will be bad
- Charge bikers.
- Considering that areas like Main St. have wetland issues on one side the cost would be to high.
- Don't even know if this is possible due to the physical land and potential cost.
- If it can be done
- Important to do this!!!
- Impossible to do without millions of dollars and years of environmental studies.
- Is this actually possible given available land/right of way? Sounds expensive, particularly for Main Street, as ditching, culverts would need to be rebuilt to widen road encroaching on properties.
- Main St needs lower speed, a wider shoulder and protected bike/ped lane for safety.
- Many bite groups come to Isle LaMotte for bike tours. It would be nice to have a safer route for them with markings or actual bike lanes. The bridge area is terrible for bikers and walkers having a pull off around for people to fish like platform on either in the center of the bridge Either sides having more lodging areas like maybe like a a camping area may be in Brothers camp for people who come to the island.
- not enough population and use to justify expense
- Not on every road but Main St. definitely should.
- Not possible without hundreds of thousands of dollars
- Not practical
- on main street...
- only if it is done in a way that does not increase speeding, but increases safety for vulnerable users
- Only on Main Road
- Road widening increases speeding, and we already have serious issues with that in the town. There are also a lot of very beautiful old trees in the ROW and that kind of work would require that they be cut down. What we need are traffic calming measures--we have a speed limit of 35mph throughout most of the island, but the roads allow for higher speed. If the roads were slower, people could and would walk and bike more because they wouldn't have to worry about someone zipping past them at 70mph, which has happened to me more than once. And even if those people are few and far between, they don't come by on a time table, so you never know when that dangerous driver is going to create a serious hazard when you walk. It's really unpleasant.
- Safety. Also widen some roads themselves/ cut branches that obscure view around corners
- Sidewalks would be nice
- Sure sounds nice... but is it really do able?

- urgent need on Main Street
- Without hundreds of thousands/millions of dollars it is close to impossible to expand most road shoulders on the island
- Would be nice if funds didn't come from our pockets
- Yes!!!!

### Add Shared Road Signage

- Bicyclists don't obey the signage already on the books, such as biking single file.
- cant stand the disrespectful bike tours riding double and triple wide littering on lawns and not paying a thing to ride on our rds
- don't know if this would help anything
- Main Road is the only issue
- Many Speed limit signs are missing. More for signage for Bikers and Walkers 4' go around law.
- On Main Street at least.
- Paint has very little value to safety--at most it reminds drivers that they need to share the road, but the road's most dangerous drivers do not pay attention to those markings, which renders them essentially useless for their purpose.
- Roads are in poor condition!
- Shoulder pavement markings
- Signage and markings are easily ignored and unenforceable.
- Signs are covered by weeds
- That's a start!
- This is not the most effective way to make roadways safer for biking and walking
- unclear how this would work
- we have some signs already

Q17: What types of businesses would you like to see in Isle La Motte?  
(100 responses)

### Resource Based Business (farming, forestry, etc.)

- Don't think we need more unless sustainable and no negative effects on the environment
- Farming using unhealthy farming practices isn't good for our community or lake.
- I'm not sure what this means? We have an apple orchard and a couple vineyards. That's pretty good for such a small island.
- ILM has a good base to build on (Hall's, Happy Bird, ILM Vineyard). Some may need a facelift
- Not sure how a town can help that. Less taxes??
- Support the orchards, livestock, vineyards, field crops, and vegetable farms
- Sustainable agriculture only
- Sustainable only
- We need to keep our farm land and not be all residential.



## Home-based or Cottage Business

- Encourage off-street parking
- I'm sure that there is a lot of untapped talent on the island.
- Most cost affective way for most to start a business.
- Need internet
- Yes, if it is a co-op

## Gift/Tourist Shops

- Another possible use for town hall!
- Café needed
- disapprove unless it is within another business.
- Our current retail offerings seem to cover the needs of the community and visitors.
- Sure- with handmade local products- look at what Hero's Welcome does to No. Hero!
- This may be a good way to promote the rich history of ILM
- While I support this would be nearly impossible due to seasonal loss of customers
- Would do alright in the summer but not viable year round.
- Yes, but June to Labor Day? Rent old town hall out maybe?

## Convenience Store(s)

- A real gas station would be a big benefit- but probably out of the question
- Having one again is very nice
- I feel like the ILM Country store fills that purpose and should be supported to expand and improve.
- I would like to see our country store make some more improvements and thrive! Local is the Vermont way, we do necessarily need a giant corporate gas station here.
- I wouldn't want to upend the one that is there
- I'd rather support community markets with unique products
- It would be nice to have a store with more affordable, everyday items for local residents.
- Not enough year round residents
- One country store is fully sufficient
- One store, as currently exists, is enough for convenience.
- the Country Store is a good start.
- We already have one
- We already have one it's called the country store
- We already have one, and it's great. What we should be doing is increasing the attractiveness of that part of the village so that more people come to the store.
- We have one - would be difficult to support others
- We have one.
- We have one... support them.

- We need to support our store or we will lose it.

## Bank

- A Credit Union would be great!
- An ATM maybe
- ATM at current store
- Bank in Alburgh.
- For a total of 500 residents? The bank will laugh at you!
- Having an ATM at the store is helpful. Can't imagine a bank setting up a branch in ILM. It was difficult to get one in Alburgh
- I don't think that our population could support a bank branch
- Maybe an ATM!
- Most people bank on line these days, and Alburgh is close enough
- Not enough population to support what bank would build here without the town having to pay? What is the council thinking????
- not realistic. Cash outlet is good.
- Perhaps an ATM only.
- That's ridiculous. Go to Alburgh.
- This is laughable
- We tried. They all said not enough year round population

## Other Retail

- A little commerce in this town could only help.
- A lot of fishermen use the ILM boat ramps. How about businesses that cater to them?
- Also laughable
- Café for cyclists / everyone
- Drug store. But I don't think the population would support
- More shops bring more tourists, which helps to improve the income of all ILM businesses.
- Our current retail offerings seem to cover the needs of the community and visitors.
- Our year round population is very small and will not be able to support most commercial businesses. Isle la motte, unlike the other towns/islands in Grand Isle County, is not a drive through town. People do not go through Isle la motte to get to some place else. Businesses would not pick up trade from people just passing through.
- Rent out old town hall for retail
- restaurant
- Would be nice to see a food store with more natural, organic options. Also gluten free options--I have celiac disease and can't eat most food at "normal" convenience stores.
- Would be nice. Spend money where you live vs St. A or Burlington.

## Professional Services (doctor, lawyer, etc.)

- A part time doctor or nurse practitioner would be beneficial
- Again we do not have enough residents to support this.
- Again we would have to support it within the community.
- Do not have the population to support.
- Doctors can rent space in New Town Hall building as they do in Alburgh
- If we could get a part time doc and or Nurse Practitioner- it would be a bonus
- It may be hard to attract these professionals
- It would be nice to not travel for a doctor or dentist, or veterinarian!
- Lol
- Maybe some would actually live on the island!
- not enough demand on the island
- Not enough population to draw any loo be in
- Same as above

## Personal Services (e.g. Barber/Salon)

- Again we would have to support it within the community.
- Hair and nail services
- in-home businesses are good and potential zoning should allow them.
- not enough demand on the island
- Not enough population
- Not sure if it could be supported
- this could be a cottage business

## Restaurant

- A diner-type establishment, open for breakfast and lunch year-around, may be something to consider.
- It would be nice to have an establishment that attracts like the Pier Bar and Two Heroes
- Lower cost restaurants would be nice but we couldn't even support a pizza place or food truck
- PIZZARIA
- Ruthcliff & Mama Dogs is pretty much it. ILM would need to increase tourist traffic to support more.
- Sit down or takeout
- Support once again not enough year round residents to be successful
- This would be delightful for year round dinner type
- We had one, wished it was open!
- With gluten free options please!
- Yes- a breakfast and lunch option like the one that used to be in Alburg. The bakery up there now is great

## Lodging Establishment

- As long as it doesn't affect the look of the island
- Camping is fun and brings people to the island but not everyone wants to camp. Having a place to lodge would attract out of town people want to stay on the island
- ILM could better promote existing Inns and guest houses
- Same comment as above
- There is more airbnb than you know!

## Parks/Open Space

- A lakefront park?
- Already have a park and recreation areas
- Big support
- Fully develop the ones we have- and add some picnic areas by the shore
- Increasing the appeal of shared spaces would be a huge improvement for the town.
- Not as a business
- park is not a business
- Town could enjoy a town beach and trails would be nice too on Town proper.
- Unnecessary
- Unnecessary/
- We have a great rec park that needs more usage.
- We have an active, family/recreation park. It may be nice to create a dedicated quiet park for residents. And as previously mentioned, the creation of a dog park.
- We live in a live space

## Q18: Other Comments on Question #17

- Any and all businesses would be welcome infrastructure and resources for residents and visitors. Also increase tax base.
- Are you trying to commercialize Isle La Motte. You bring in all these industries and commercial businesses then that will increase traffic flow. Since Isle La Motte does not have any regular law enforcement, if you start to increase businesses activity and open more commercial businesses then that will just invite looters, vagrants and then the homeless population and possible crime rate will increase. As much as all the "Native" islanders say they love their peace and serenity, this concept goes drastically against that. You can't have it both ways.
- As stated prior. Let the island be nice and quiet. South hero has made a large mistake by growing and the residents are paying for it now. They want their town back.
- For some of these ideas to be somewhat realistic, Isle LaMotte would have to become a "destination location".
- Hardware shops
- How you could believe any of the above would be good for Isle La Motte is beyond comprehension

- I do not want Isle la motte to be turned into North Hero, Grand Isle or South Hero or even Alburgh. This place is special and should not attempt to be like the other towns in the county.
- I'm pro business as long as it's done with tact and community minded! Not just tourism minded!!!! We have more than enough of that.
- Isle La Motte is unique and should remain as it is.
- Leave things the way they are - that's the beauty of ILM!
- None
- Not sure who thought up most of these questions you do realize this is ILM not Swanton or any other town. We are small and like it this way.
- Since the shift to working from home, many may benefit from an office support business like FedEx/Kinkos or UPS Store/Mailboxes Etc. stores
- We have all these types of businesses currently. Not sure I understood the question.
- Why are you trying to change the Island
- Would like to see community with services so seniors, those not driving, can do their business here.

## Q19: How can the Town best support new & existing local businesses in Isle La Motte? (57 responses)

- ?????
- A town-wide website for all businesses to advertise.
- A welcome/rest center may be the perfect opportunity to showcase businesses in Town.
- Ads in The Islander Signage
- Advertise specials for locals. Apple day at the orchard, free coffee and donut day at the store, a harvest market, better marketing, free wine tasting at the winery, barbecue tasting at the barbecue place
- Affordability
- Ask business owners this question
- Better website, high speed internet
- Brainstorm better marketing ideas. Improve town website. Get high speed internet asap
- Business needs to survive on its own merits and should NOT BE SUPPORTED by the town government IN ANY WAY
- By using them and spreading the word
- By visiting them and spending money there
- Clean up north Main St. and better promote the Island's natural beauty both locally (Islander) and regionally (7 Days, Burlington Free Press, Yankee, etc.)
- Continue to support emerging small businesses and help with economic development.
- Do nothing
- Don't
- Don't raise our taxes anymore
- Fair and equal
- Give tax breaks or grace periods if they will bring employment and income opportunities
- Having a local farmers market with island products could help. An island coupon voucher program. It's a good motivator to visit the locations and buy their products.

- Having more competition.
- How do we best market ourselves? We also have museums, etc that could participate in a larger marketing plan.
- I'd say just what you're doing already
- In Capitalism - the new & existing local businesses support THEMSELVES ! Townfold can patronize the businesses they like & trust.
- Keep town portion of taxes as low as possible, as well as very few regulations and ordinances.
- Leave em alone
- Leave the alone !!!!
- Leave them alone and keep our town portion of the property taxes low!!! I am not impressed with this survey at all. Does not fit for ILM..
- Lower taxes less town ordinances smarter town council
- Making it more pleasant to travel to them, for example. Creating a space to sit and eat or gather, etc. maybe some art to make the place more beautiful?
- Marketing and controlled growth in full time residents
- Minimum regulations
- Move the Information Center and put better signage at causeway Bring back the boats
- Need business owners to share what their needs/challenges are. Then partnership with town for improvements, grants, expansion.
- Need to ask business owners.
- Not sure
- Not the town's job
- Promotion
- Providing safer areas to walk and bike and make people want to come here
- publicity about them, obtain grants to encourage businesses
- Reduce regulations. Keep town portion of the taxes as low as possible.
- Safer roadways and bike/ped access for visitors.
- See previous town hall welcome center idea. Maybe teach them how to promote on Facebook through their own pages and the ILM Community page, other social media, the Islander, and with clear signage. Create a map/brochure of all local businesses for welcome center so tourists and residents know who is here, share it on ILM and surrounding islands to promote businesses.
- Shop local
- Shop local and embrace everyone
- Shop local...
- signage
- Simple, the local residents of ILM should visit the local establishments.
- Stay out of their way
- Support those local businesses buy buying and using there service first. Let them promote their business those town website or community page.
- the people of the town would support the businesses if they were more affordable
- The Town could provide some sort of tax abatement/incentives.
- The town should not be giving any financial support at all
- They shouldn't have to. It should be up to the businesses to offer competitive goods and services at competitive prices. we shouldn't have to pay more to support local.

- Welcoming them
- What do/would they need? Is it a clean business? If it is for a commercial kitchen, lets do it! First assess the business, is it feasible, make a plan. Decide.
- Widen and signage for Main Street. A large % turn down Shrine Road to that tax exempt place

## Q21: Please list any additional ideas for projects you would like considered. (31 responses)

- Why are we not already working on the digitizing of our records? The money was approved by a large majority. We did have a clerk who was very committed to this project. It appears that the current administration is more interested in trying to change ILM into something we are not! At least the questions here are more in line with what is needed ! Very disappointed in the current remaining SB!!
- 1. Roads and Culverts, Road side mowing should include the 15' from the center of the road vessel shaving street-side grass along the road. Fix replace main culvert that drains the Island on West Shore Rd. back to 4' box culvert. 2. Have our own road dept vs private contractor. 3. Put Toll booth back on the entrance to help fund our road projects. 4. Get a handle on Speeding. 5. Follow up on work getting done correctly.
- A community gathering space/art project would be excellent. Investing in our existing spaces, particularly the neglected old town hall, which has been mis-managed for years.
- A representative committee to review the results of this survey would be helpful in gaining a consensus as to where to go. The process is very important
- any infrastructure improvements via direct funding or by obtaining state or federal money/grants should be done asap. Broadband is a huge need, water and sewer (sometime in the future) would be amazing and help protect our fragile environment and the lake.
- Anything that would slow road speeds and maintain safe roads
- ARPA money are one-time funds, use them to leverage other grant funds or some simple visible improvements - the flags were a great idea. Maybe update the causeway entrance or old town office/library area. Computers, land records and security should be funded in the annual budget.
- Bandstand
- community garden, work-out center, community pool, skateboard park, monthly card/board game-day for kids/teens to unplug from internet
- develop a functional community space to increase opportunities for people to spend time with each other--a resource and a gathering place.
- Fix our roads!
- For one I would like to know why the article we voted on for the records has been started
- Gazebo at rec centre Community centre in the old school
- I thought that we were digitizing the land records
- If only we could get comcast...
- ILM has limited sources of income. Taking advantage of matching State and Federal funds should be a priority.
- I'm not sure what properties you mean to include in capital improvements, if I knew, it might change the order. Maybe also give more specifics on how you'd improve record keeping and specify what types of records.

- Need to capture waterfront for town owned beach. Local taxi/cart service to shuttle folk around the island, provide tours in summer.
- None
- Outside of any upgrades to the new town office I feel the first three are most important for our town.
- Paint old town hall.
- Police. This place is lawless! The Grand Isle Sheriff do nothing and get paid for it!
- Prepare for a small highway department. Current contractor may be retiring soon and will need to prepare in advance.
- Technology changes so quickly and computer upgrades last only so long. Probably would need plan/funds to upgrade every 5 years or so.
- thank you to the Planning Commission. It's a start. Engaging folks to cooperate and collaborate may be a bit more of a challenge. Let's increase the visibility of ILMCO, to increase participation. Outreach will be an important factor. Good old fashioned door to door promotion
- The above order is OK
- The Ann Andrews field across from church and her house would make a great park with even a bandstand? Andrews Park?
- The ILM Fire Department should receive 1/5 th of the funds or \$15,000 for necessary maintenance. We all need to support the ILM FD.
- Using a GRADER to eliminate potholes
- Walking trail/snowmobile trails Gazebo around the island and scenic lookouts
- What ever is decided, it should not cost Isle la motters one dime more in tax money