

2018 Your Government, Your Ideas Engagement Report

Introduction

Staff organized six Your Government, Your Ideas meetings that were held across the Municipality in October and November of 2018.

This report provides a summary of the community engagement process and results.

Engagement approach

The engagement strategy was designed to involve the public in the municipal decision-making process. The Municipality sought resident input to inform Council's strategic priority setting. The Municipality held six evening meetings at various fire halls and recreation centres in the community. At each of the meetings, attendees heard a short presentation from the Mayor followed by a Q&A session with the Mayor and the District's Councillor. After a short break, attendees split into small groups to discuss what they felt the Municipality's strategic priorities should be.

Advertising and media

The Municipality distributed a media release, placed advertisements in local newspapers and radio, gave posters to Councillors for distribution, added content to the modl.ca website, paid for Facebook advertising, and placed a notice in the most recent issue of Municipal Matters.

Engagement results

Sixty-one members of the public attended the events, nine fewer people than the 2017 series of meetings. Big Tancook (21), Newcomville (3), Conquerall Bank (8), Lunenburg (7), Mahone Bay (11), and New Germany (11). A further 29 people (an increase of 12 from 2017) completed an online survey asked them to identify their preference for the Municipality's strategic priorities or suggest their own.

A number of key themes were identified through the table discussions, online survey, and Q&A sessions. Specific table notes, comment form feedback and survey results are included in the appendix.

Internet

Improving access to high speed Internet continues to be the primary concern for residents. They want better access to stay connected with the world, and to improve their ability to participate in work from home opportunities. Poor access to Internet was cited as a common reason that people are not buying rural homes.

Roads

Residents feel strongly about the condition of the roads in their communities. A desire was expressed for the Municipality to invest in things like paving shoulders in certain areas or brush cutting, even if the Municipality must bear the full cost.

Municipal Responsibility

A number of residents expressed concerns that the Municipality is taking on too many responsibilities and costs that should be borne by the province or federal government. Lyme Disease, the LaHave Straight Pipe Replacement program, Internet and surplus schools were given as examples of these areas.

Lyme Disease

Residents talked extensively about Lyme Disease, and they were pleased that the Municipality has shown leadership on this issue. Some residents suggest the Municipality could do more to encourage scientific or medical research into the issue.

Appendix A: Table Notes

Big Tancook Island

General notes: Residents want a derelict vehicle/oil tanks program. Please review tourist information to ensure it doesn't encourage people to walk across private property. Is it possible to encourage someone to come pump septic tanks? Need a spreader for calcium (TIR). Can only bring a limited amount of gas on the ferry – 4 gallons only for the whole ferry. What's the reasoning for this?

Tancook – Table 1

Main priorities:

1. Internet
2. Coastal erosion
3. Lyme Disease – deer bait station
4. Roadside bushes overgrown
5. Signage for tourists to keep them on the right path

Tancook – Table 2

Main priorities:

1. Lyme Disease – lots of deer on the island, could potentially be a problem
2. Recreation land – geocaching problem.
3. Internet
4. Coastal erosion

Tancook – Table 3

Main priorities:

1. Derelict vehicle and oil tanks, not allowed on ferry
2. Internet – poor connections
3. Septic systems – can't get someone to come to the island and empty tanks
4. Calcium spreader, roads, dust control, was supposed to be left on the island

Tancook – Table 4

Main priorities:

1. Internet & repair service, takes too long
2. Coastal erosion
3. Bait station on Tancook
4. Signage for tourists – make it more clear where private land are. Highlight public area.
5. Bush cutting
6. Straight pipes – why not funding for all?
7. Power outages
8. Ferry issues (TIR)
9. Light pollution – no policy
10. Planning regulations
11. Burning garbage – smoke

Tancook – Table 5

Main priorities:

1. Island is private - signage for tourists – tourists should be informed, brochures show trails that are private
2. Septic systems – need someone to come to the island and empty tanks
3. Internet – long lag times for someone to come do repairs
4. Derelict vehicles – need a way to remove them, and other unsightly items

Newcombsville

- Doctor shortage – MODL should follow Clare’s example and be more involved
- River Ridge Common – is there enough parking? Needs signage
- Wile’s Lake Park – needs improved signage, NSCC?
- Internet
- Straight Pipes
- Lack of attendance at YGYI meetings is disappointing

Conquerall Bank

- Internet – need better speed for businesses and residential
- Cellular service
- Straight pipes outside the Wastewater Management District – how do they get funding?
- LCLC management – should have a facility expert managing it

Lunenburg

- Straight pipes – why is it not the responsibility of the Department of Environment?
- Municipal Joint Services Board – will they take over more services?
- Public roads - MODL should pressure DOT regularly to improve the road maintenance. Signage and branches are a problem
- Internet – Primary complaint – can’t work from home. Can’t attract people to move here.
 - Another resident feels Internet isn’t important – doesn’t have Internet, doesn’t think it should be a priority for the Municipality

- LCLC – Can an outside private business take it over? Need expertise. Health promotion should be inclusive in the facility plans.
- Food security and rural empowerment – farmers and fisherman should be more important than Internet and Recreation. More media coverage is needed on the necessities not the niceties. Too much child poverty.

Mahone Bay

- Internet – need better speeds. Glad to see projects moving forward
- Doctor recruitment – the Municipality could be doing more
- Straight pipes outside the Wastewater Management District – can they get funding? Will the DOE fulfil their responsibilities to enforce the law?

New Germany

- Why spend so much on River Ridge Commons? Safety and hazard should be considered first. Shoulder paving should be done along School Street. It's only 1.3 km from the schools to the stores – need shoulders. The Municipality should pay for this with no area rate – New Germany already has very high taxes with the sewer rate and fire rate.
- Roads in general need improvement. Why was Stonehurst selected? Few residents, no businesses, road to nowhere?
- Brush cutting is important. School Street and Exit 12. Internet – continue to work on improvements. Understand fibre doesn't make sense in many areas due to the population.
- Sherbrooke Lake – don't spend so much, just have basic access. Will the road be sufficient? Ensure testing for containments continues long term. Concerns about invasive species.
- Doctor recruitment – can the Municipality do more, should they?
- Straight pipes – the DOE has not been doing their job
- Access to waterways should be maintained. Don't let lakes be completely private land only.

Appendix B: Facebook Comments

Oldest ▾



Mildred RaMey-Leary New Germany needs up grade like other little communitys we need side walks and ditching. Also nices on edge of drive ways.Maybe some brick work in front of some lawns to improve our little community
.... Other places have this why not New Germany.Fancy lighting could also be added ...come on people do something good for once

Like · Reply · Message · 3d · Edited



Municipality of the District of Lunenburg - MODL Hi Mildred RaMey-Leary - your comments have been noted, and we encourage you to come out to the event tomorrow night to participate in the discussion.

Like · Reply · Commented on by Sarah Deveau [?] · 1d



Laurie Veinotte Mildred RaMey-Leary I suggested that years ago but the people of New Germany don't want their taxes to go up. It's a shame.

Like · Reply · Message · 23h



Mildred RaMey-Leary Laurie Veinotte taxes go up anyways mine does. And now we have out siders moving in so they want to retire here they can help pay for beauty lol we need the place to look nice

Like · Reply · Message · 22h

Oldest ▾



Janet Barkhouse I really enjoyed hearing details last night. Straight pipe efforts, Lyme disease efforts, accessibility efforts, Internet efforts—great suggestions and comments from the floor, too.

...

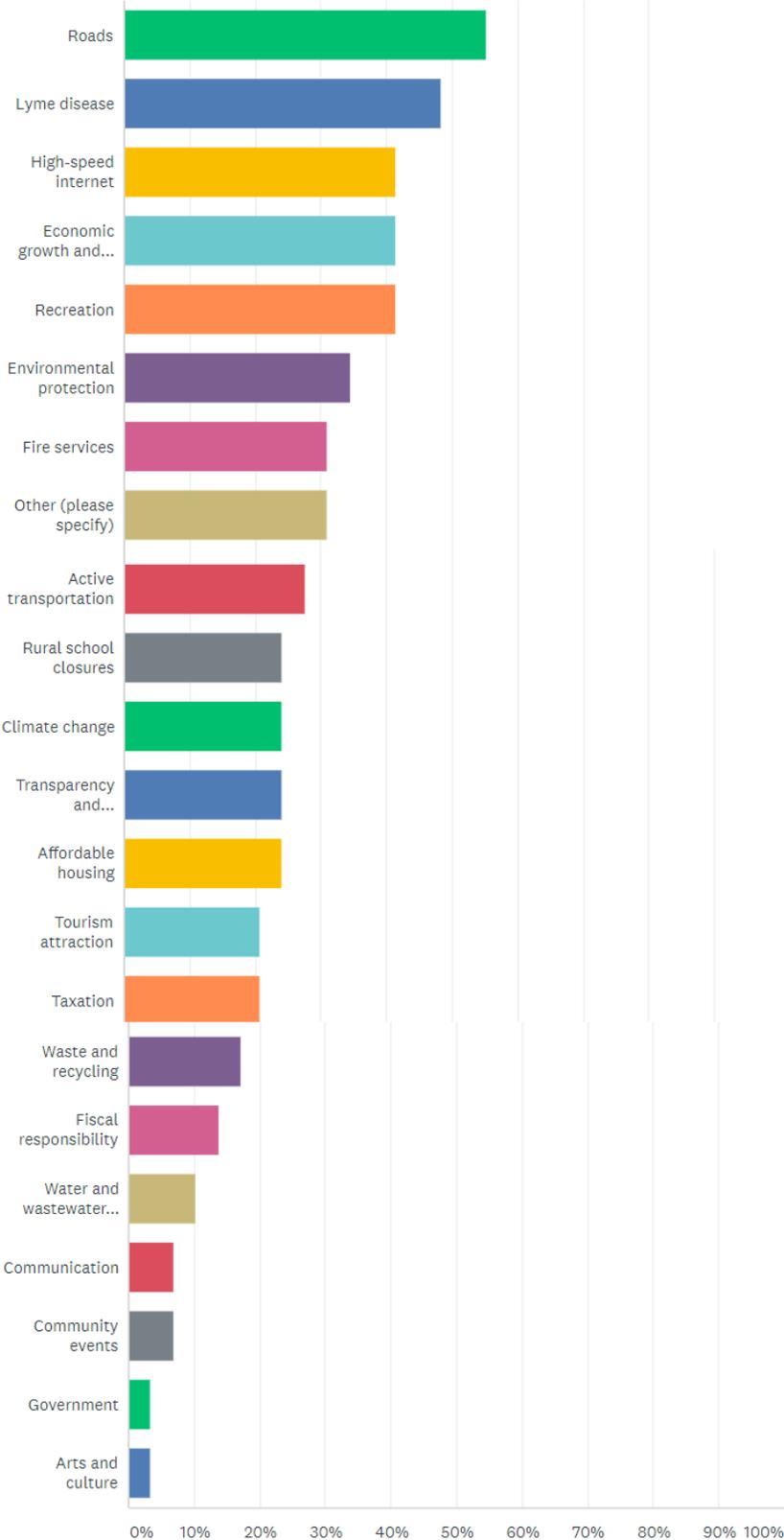
Like · Reply · Message · 1d

Appendix C: Online Survey Results

Completed by 29 residents.

Please select your top 6 priorities for the Municipality.

Answered: 29 Skipped: 0



If you had to select one priority for the Municipality – what would it be? Open-ended.

- Lowering taxes and actually supporting small businesses.
- Preserving some nature
- Internet... duh
- Fast Internet access
- Lyme Disease
- Road maintenance by-law
- Environmental protection
- Active living
- A deer cull. My yard is over run with deer that eat our garden and spread ticks. We are often surrounded by a dozen deer at a time. Legally you could hunt them with a crossbow in our yard but the neighbors have a gentleman's agreement that there will be no hunting in our area. I'm moving away, our house is on the market and the number one factor driving us away is the ticks. Our children can't play in our yard without getting covered in ticks and we keep our grass short. We need to cull the deer, bate the wildlife, cut back vegetation, and controlled burning. Stop telling people in this area to leave the leaves on the ground, tell them to burn them. Lyme is endemic in this area and we aren't the only family thinking about leaving because of it.
- Roads
- Attracting and retaining young people
- fiscal responsibility
- Economic Growth
- Climate Change
- High Speed Internet for all
- Transparency and accountability
- Roads
- Continue with LaHave river cleanup. Hopefully, eventually the LaHave river will again be inundated with Atlantic salmon. That would contribute to tourist attraction. High rollers pay big money to guides to float the Bow River for catch n release trout fishing. I personally knew guides on the Bow River. Some of their clients were movie stars!
- High speed internet
- Crappy Roads and high-speed internet
- High speed internet
- Tourism
- Economic stimulation
- Growing our population / professionals like doctors and nurse practitioners
- A better play space and splash pad with appropriate space, play structures and parking.
- Transportation

Appendix C: Feedback Forms

Do you have any additional comment about the Municipality's strategic priorities that you'd like to note here?

- When you gave the \$7,000 for the park, you should have talked to all the residents, not just an association. A waste of money!
- Focus as much as possible on Internet service
- Don't wait for all data before starting an environmental plan
- Cellular service
- Communication is key! We understand that there continues to be efforts being put forth to communicate with individuals living in the Municipality. Thank you!
- Please continue with your good work. I am new to the area but am impressed with the determination and vision our Municipality has achieved
- Focus on health promotion is missing. Clearly designed vision for MODL in improving health of residents
- I appreciate all municipal Council is doing
- Agree more data should be provided to back up discussion points
- Question – do deer suffer from Lyme Disease?
- Could LCLC be run by corporate sponsors
- Wonderful – really enjoyed and appreciated the opportunity. Thank you.
- Please have a civic # placed at Cherryfield Crossing parking lot. For meet up purposes, for emergencies, etc.

What did you like most about this event?

- Notes and discussion
- Small group discussion
- A combination of facts from mayor and the opportunity to interact
- Ability to speak directly to our elected representatives
- Great to have an update on MODL's activities, etc. Nice to have lots of time for dialogue
- The round table conversation with Council members
- The open discussion
- Finding out more about MODL issues and Council priorities
- Meeting my elected and staff of MODL. Meeting and sharing with others in community
- Opportunity to ask questions and discuss concerns in small groups
- The openness and ability to ask questions
- The open and frank discussion
- Food security and rural empowerment should be a top municipal priority. Leisure and recreation suck up too much time and resources and lead to community decay. Focus more attention on the hardworking people who create wealth in the community and provide for the health And betterment of their fellow citizens.
- Encourage more to come
- Q&A session and opportunity to clarify municipal staff thought process and research
- It was a small group

How could we have improved this event?

- Have more advertisements about these events – when and where
- Offered free or announce free coffee and cookies
- Encourage more people to attend

- More heat in hall
- More data
- I think that you have done well. Please keep at it.
- I liked the opportunity to express my concerns. Will it do any good? Maybe.
- The rain 😊