

# Survey Report:

## Millinocket Annual Survey 2021

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June 30, 2021

### **Introduction**

A survey was created by the Town of Millinocket Economic Development Committee to gain insight on several viewpoints toward the town from its residents, seasonal-residents, business owners, and visitors. This is the fourth version of this survey. Prior year survey reports are available on the town website under Economic Development. Having perspective on different aspects of economic development gives the governing body some tangible evidence in public opinion and how the town should guide its redevelopment.

### **Method**

This version of the survey contains some questions from the prior year to gather baseline data, as well as some new material. Questions suggested for this version were gathered and finalized by the economic development committee. A survey draft was created and was presented to the economic development committee. A final survey was created and distributed using two formats. Paper copies of the survey were available upon request at the Millinocket Town Office. A digital version of the survey was provided on the Town of Millinocket website in form format, with QR code links distributed locally for quick access.\* All of the digital and paper surveys were collated in a database where information could then be analyzed.\*\*

### **Parameters**

The survey consists of four major data groups. A demographics section defining the personal characteristics of age, education, years lived/visited, and residency, a closed response section consisting of scaled responses, an open response section with specific questions, and a general response section acting as an open forum to the Town of Millinocket.

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\*Survey submissions were active from May 17, 2021 to a closing date of June 24, 2021.

\*\*An appendix to this document contains the finalized draft of the survey and data used to analyze survey findings with personal information concealed.

## **Analysis**

Survey findings and analyses are up to the interpretation of the reviewer. This public report can be viewed by several different agencies whether it be personal, business, or governmental. An analysis of data will be presented in each section of information gathered from the survey and will be under initial review of the economic development committee. All information gathered in the summary findings are a direct reflection of the information gathered in the database used for analysis. All data used to compile analyses will be attached as an appendix to the document for transparency. You are able to make your own inferences based on this method of reporting.

## **Waiver of Liability**

Before a participant could take this survey, they had to read a letter of intent of the survey which consisted of the cover page. This letter includes a summary statement, indication of participation, indication of potential benefits, indication of potential risks, a statement of confidentiality, contact information, and submission directions. All data used to compile this report was contributed voluntarily thus effectively removing any liability from any representative of the town which has been involved in the creation of the survey or report.

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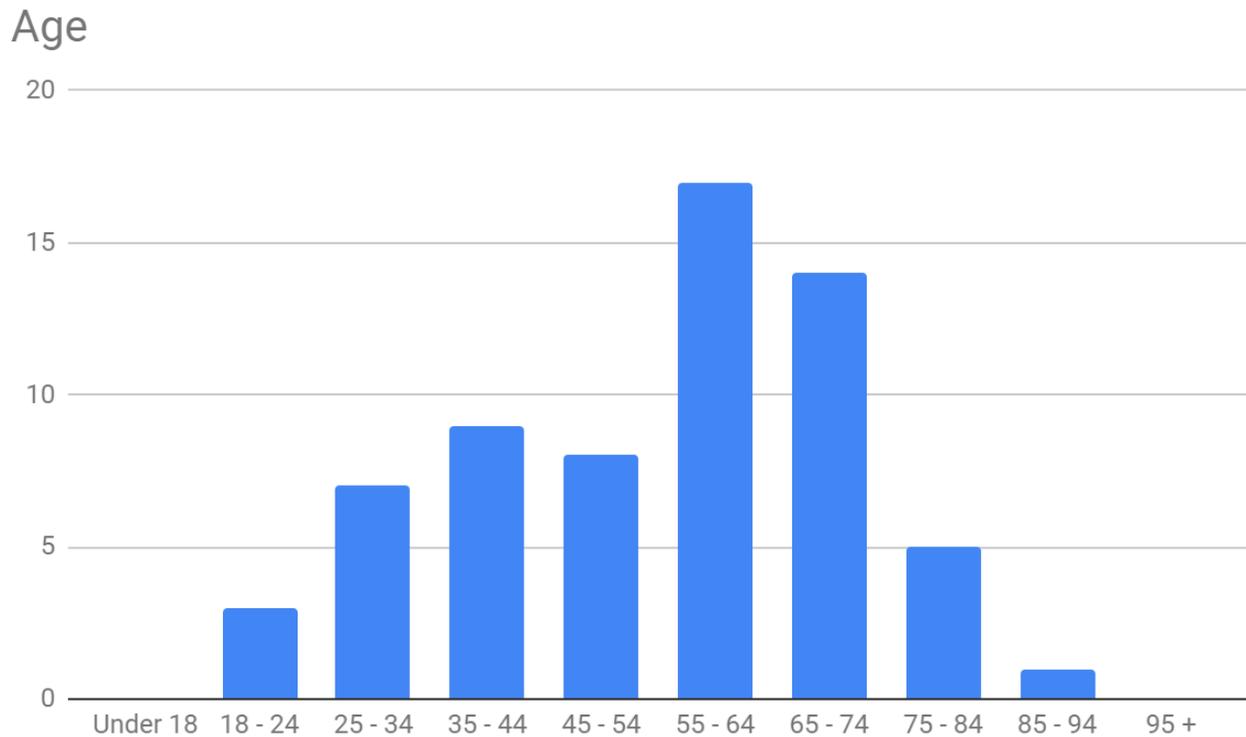
Summary Analysis

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Appendix A: Millinocket Annual Survey 2021

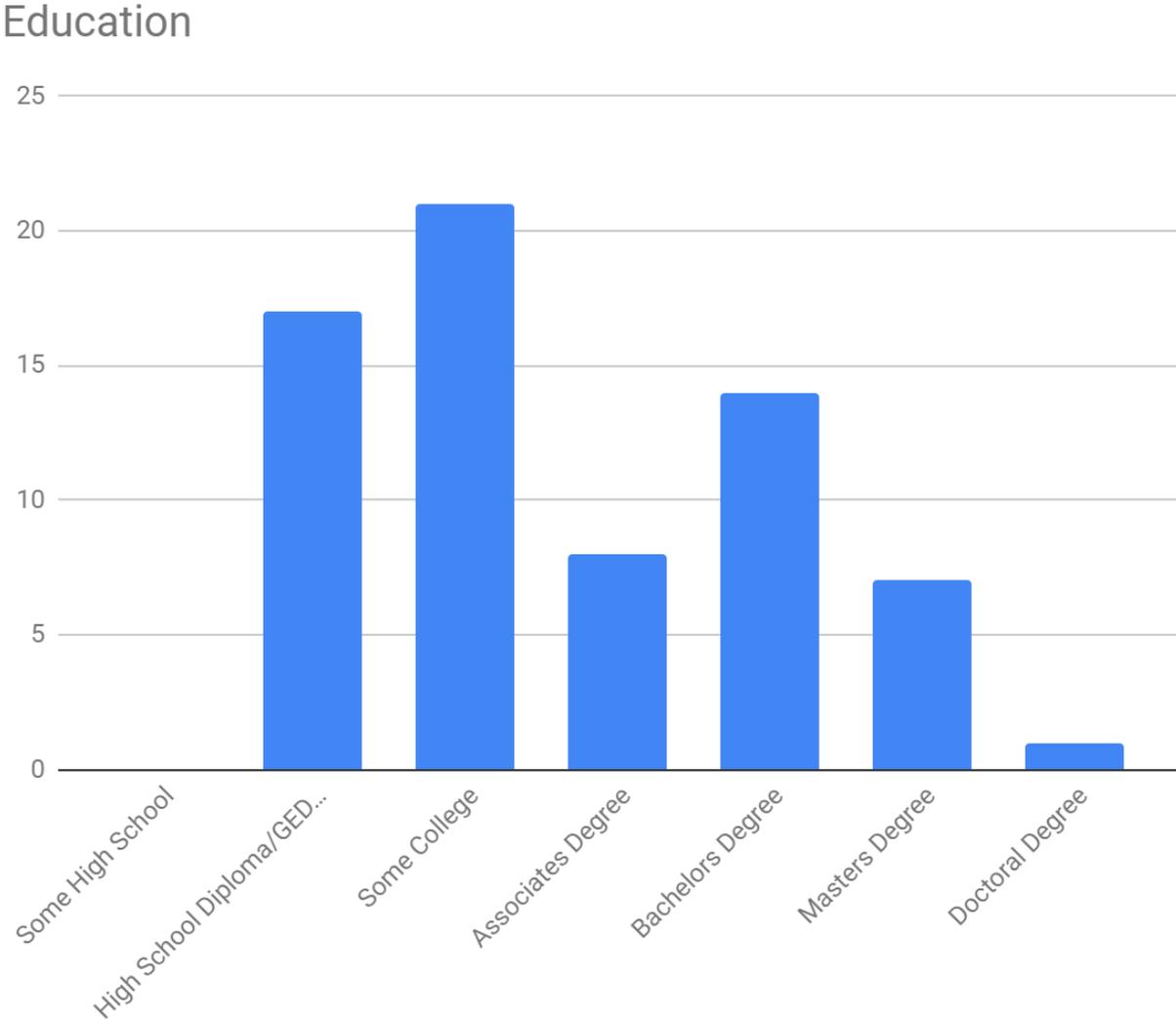
Appendix B: Survey Database

## Demographics - Age



The survey sample is like past years, but with the Under 18 category omitted for this year. Due to a change in timing of the survey, and other logistics, we were not able to survey students at the local high school this year. We plan on gathering group data for that demographic next year as their input is very important. Otherwise we can consider this an accurate representation of our current population demographics for not only Millinocket, but the Katahdin region as a whole. The relative age of the population in the region falls between 45-54 and 65-74 categories respectively. We have seen a younger population slightly increasing over the past couple years which is represented in the 18-24 through 35-44 categories.

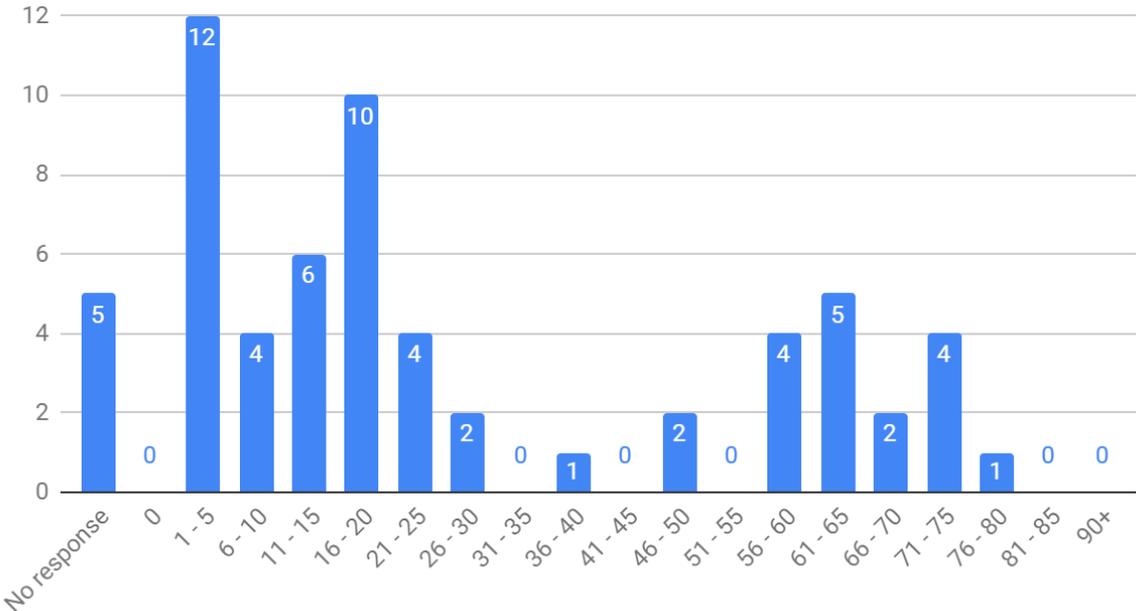
# Demographics - Education



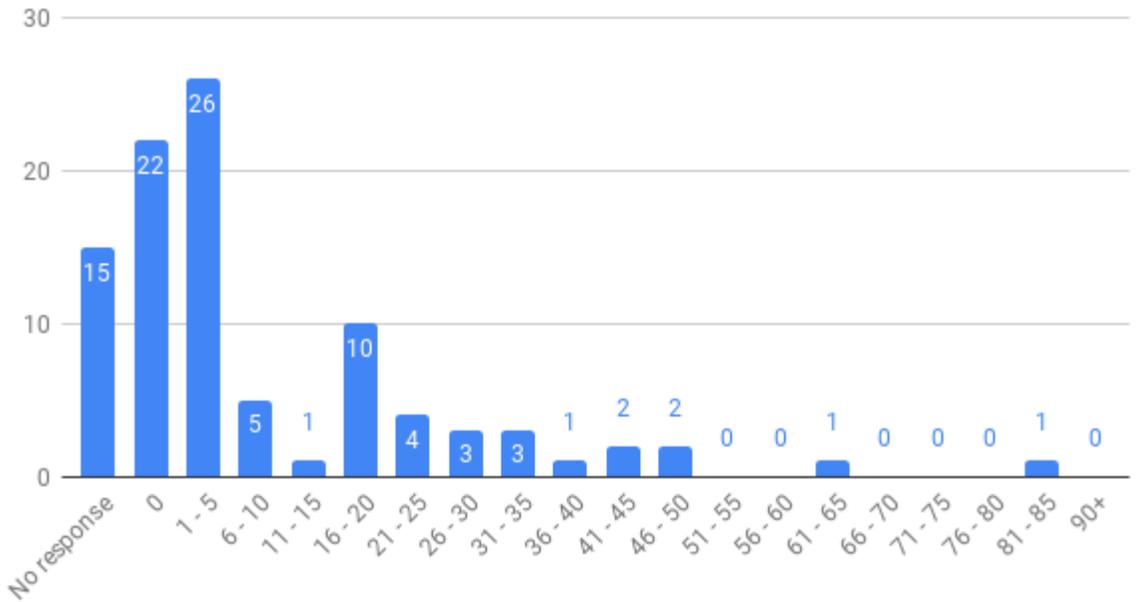
The survey sample represents all levels of education that were identified as categories, except for 'Some High School' as that group was not surveyed this round. It continues to be a goal that we gain insight from those at all education levels. **We had a reduced sample size due to missing that group, for a total of 64 participants.**

# Demographics - Years Lived/Visited

## Years lived in Millinocket

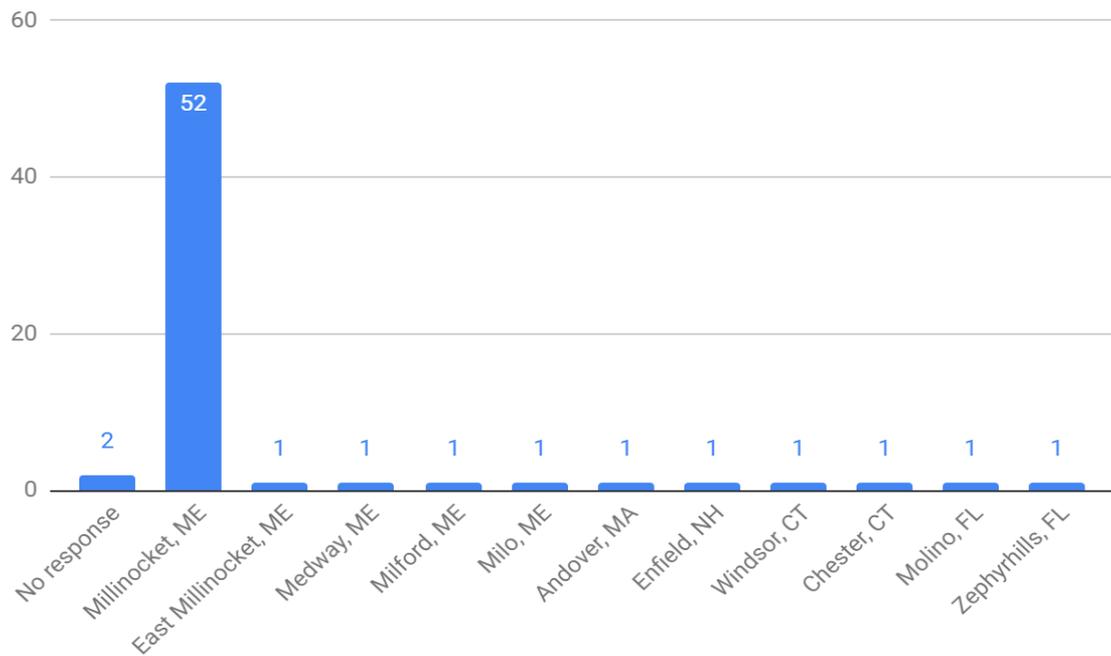


## Years Visiting Millinocket



## Demographics - Residency

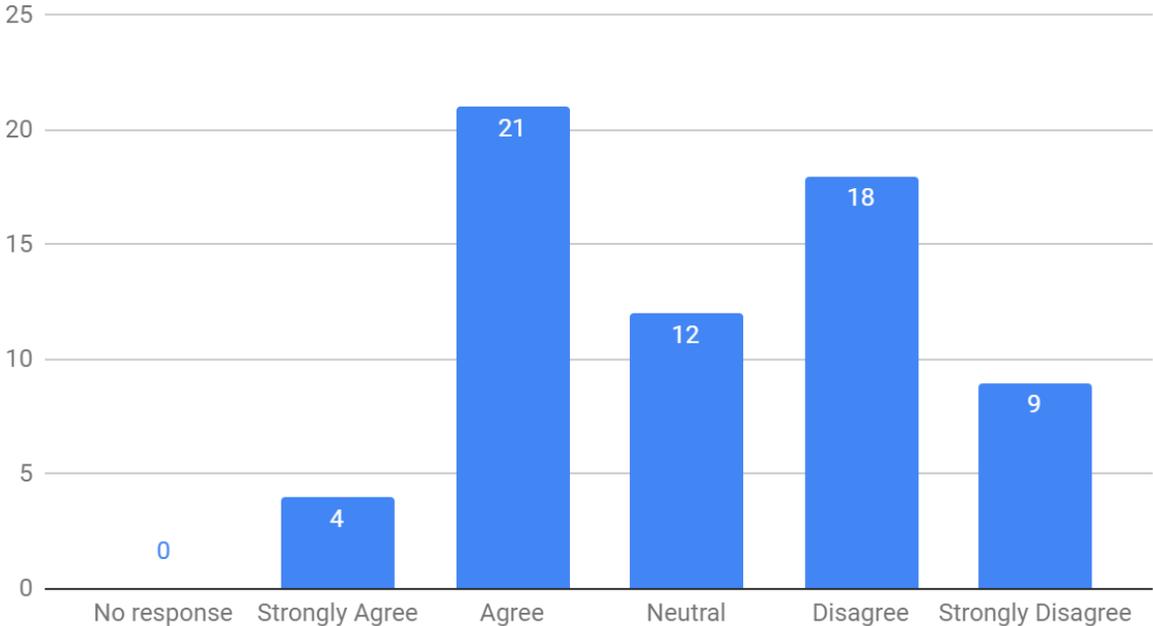
### Residency



The survey sample represents 80% of participants currently living in Millinocket. About 20% of the data represents participants from outside of Millinocket's boundaries, or those who decided not to provide that information. Gathering perspective from those that live outside our town continues to be a goal of the survey. We were able to meet that goal with submissions by a variety of fellow Mainers from various areas of the state, as well as visitors from New England and another location within the boundaries of the United States.

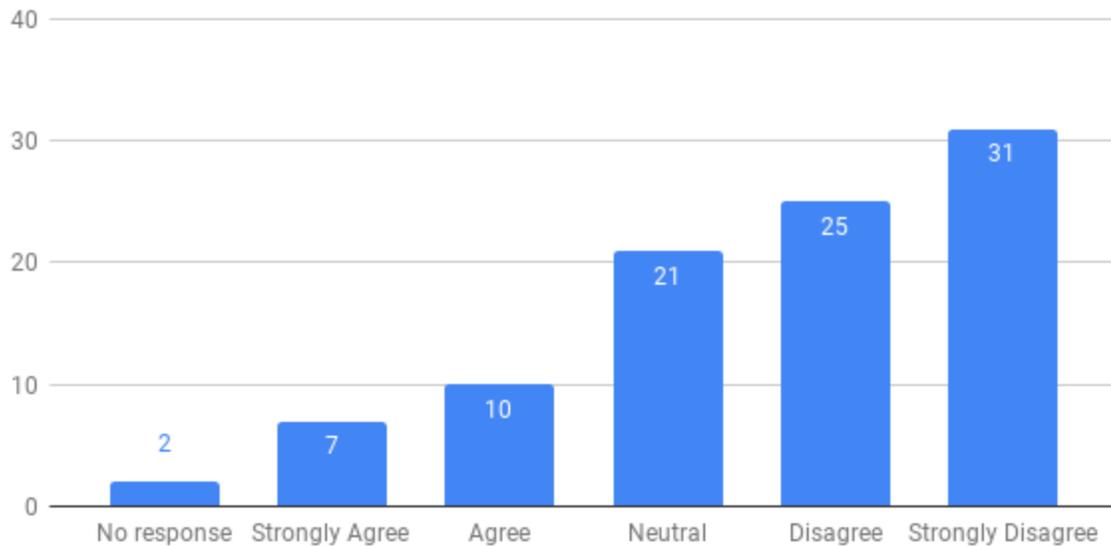
**Closed Response Questions**

I feel the town is making progress in economic development.



It can be inferred that over half of participants agree to some degree that there is progress in economic development within the Town of Millinocket. It can be inferred that less than one-fourth of participants disagree to some degree that there is progress in economic development within the Town of Millinocket.

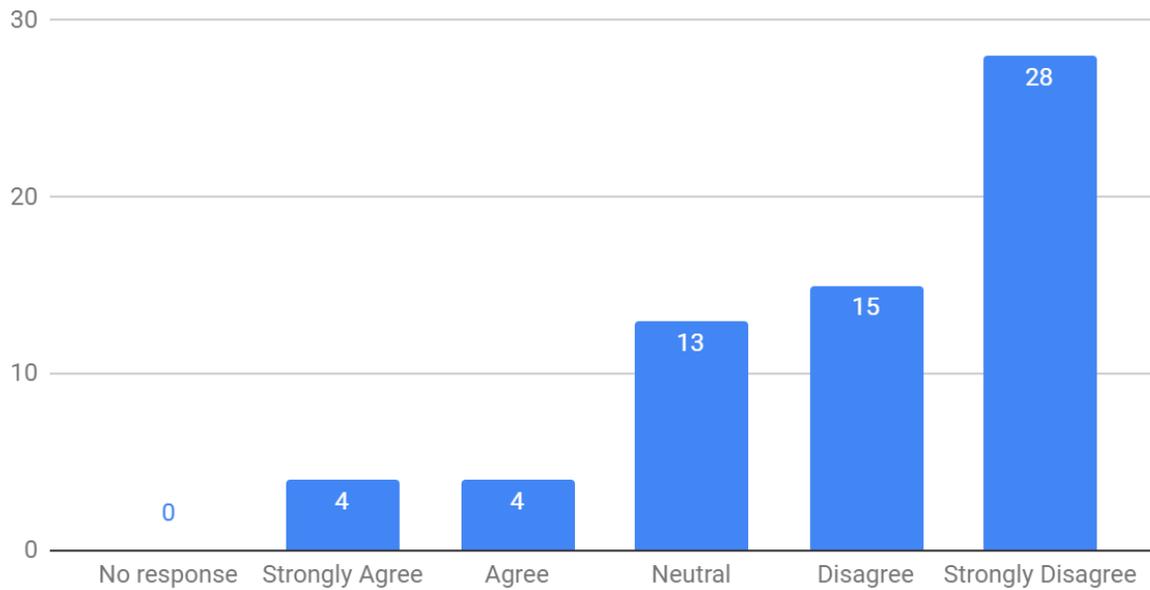
I am in need of assistance with transportation to services in town.



It can be inferred that less than one fourth of participants agree to some degree that they need assistance with transportation to services within the Town of Millinocket. It can be inferred that over half of participants disagree to some degree that they need assistance with transportation to services within the Town of Millinocket.

A transportation study from Thrive Penobscot has been recently conducted and determined there is a need for transportation services within the town of Millinocket and region.

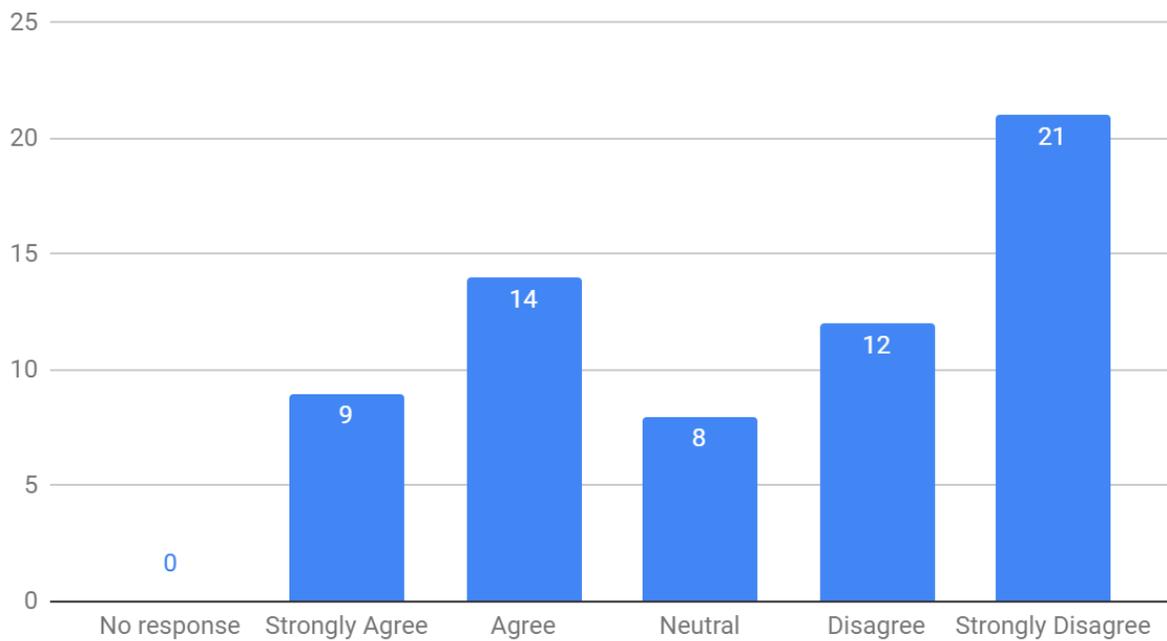
I am in need of assistance with transportation to services in Bangor.



It can be inferred that less than one fourth of participants agree to some degree that they need assistance with transportation to services within the Town of Millinocket. It can be inferred that over half of participants disagree to some degree that they need assistance with transportation to services to Bangor.

Given this result, it should be noted that there is still a need for some people to find transportation to services outside of the region.

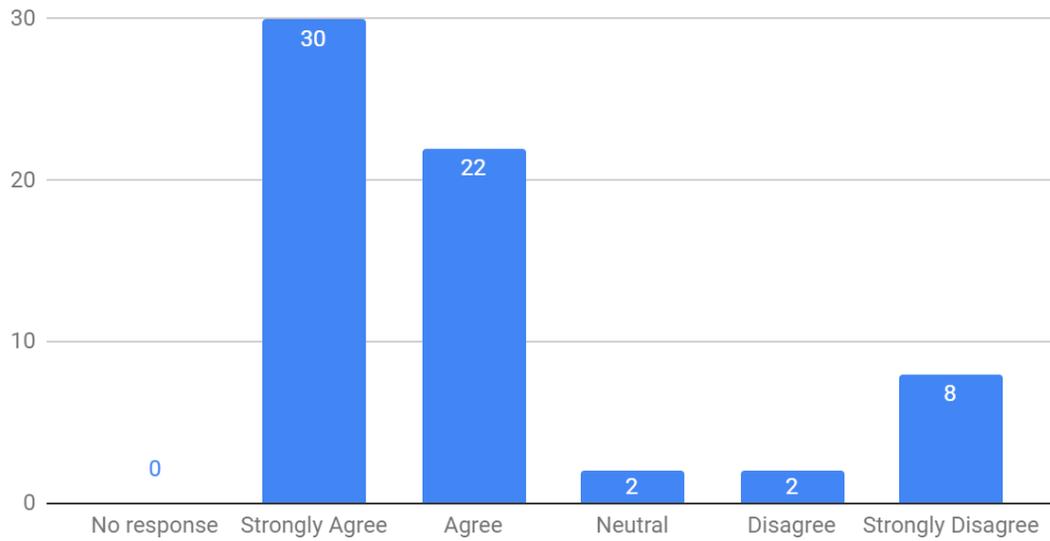
I believe the town of Millinocket should have a curfew.



It can be inferred that one-third of participants agree to some degree that the Town of Millinocket should have a curfew.

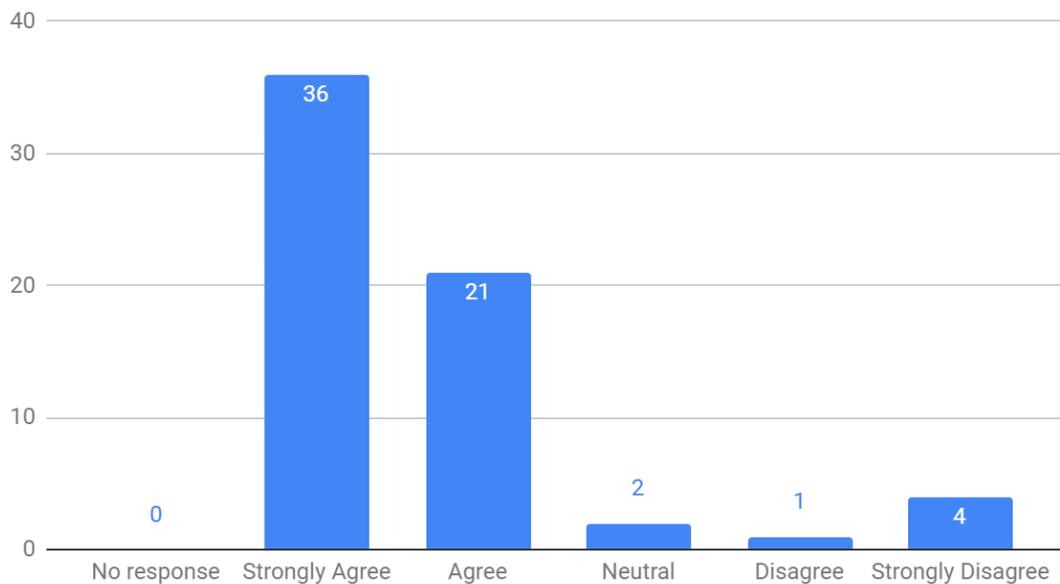
It can be inferred that over half of participants disagree to some degree that the Town of Millinocket should have a curfew.

I am in support of consolidating/sharing resources with neighboring towns.



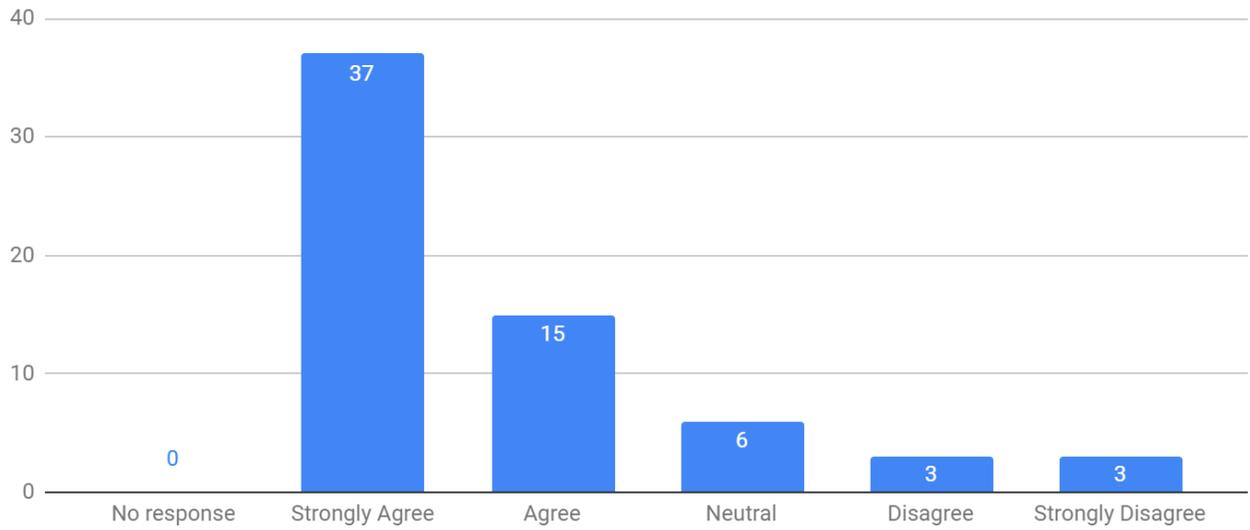
It can be inferred that most participants agree to some degree of consolidating/sharing resources with neighboring towns.

I would support having a farmers market in Millinocket.



It can be inferred that most participants agree to some degree of having a farmers market in Millinocket.

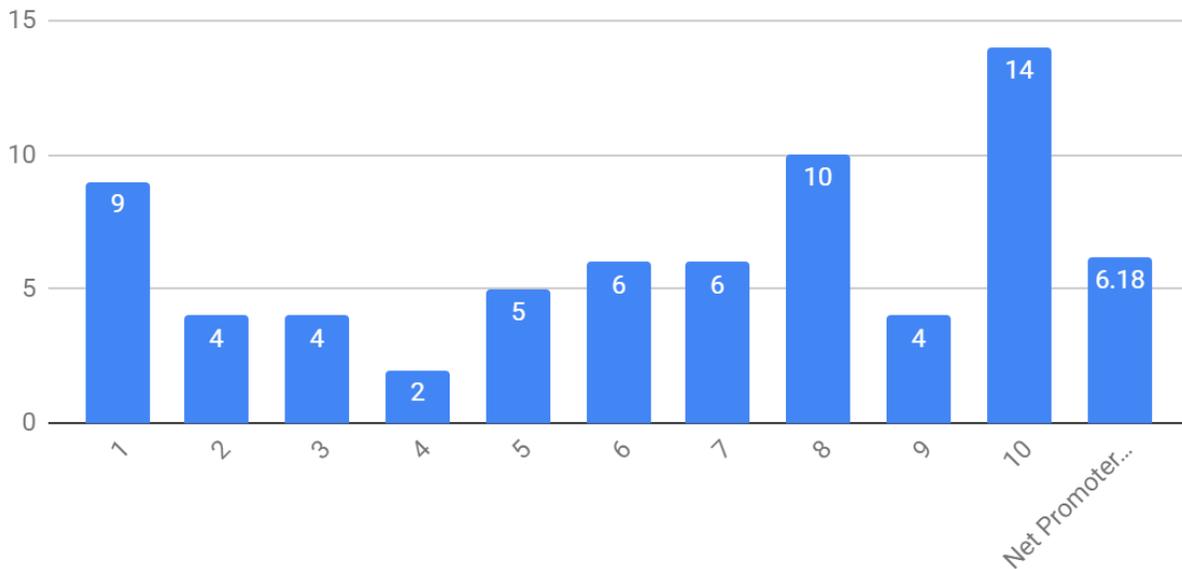
I've practiced and continue social distancing as well as other safety measures to prevent COVID transmission in the community.



It can be inferred that most participants practiced and continued social distancing as well as other safety measures to prevent COVID transmission in the community.

**Net Promoter Score: 6.18**

How likely are you to recommend Millinocket as a great place to live, work, or play?



## Open Response Questions

Questions for this survey have been compiled through public comment, responses from previous surveys, and direction from the economic development committee.

Q1	What attracts you to want to live here or visit Millinocket?
Q2	How do you view the downtown and what businesses would you like to see downtown? Can you think of any improvements that could be made?
Q3	What do you feel is Millinocket's greatest economic need?
Q4	Would you be interested in more non-motorized trails in town?
Q5	Would you be interested in a food co-op? Do you have any interest in combining area food pantries and the public together?
Q6	Would you have a need for assistance at home for projects that you could not do on your own? We have provided some examples. Select which projects you need assistance with.
Q7	Do you see your own neighborhood improving for you and your family's lifestyle? Please give an example.
Q8	Are you planning any home improvements within the next year or two? If so, what kind of improvement will you make to your home?
Q9	When thinking of Millinocket, what would you like to see more of/less of?
Q10	What part of recreation/tourism should play in our plan for economic development?
Q11	Suggest three beautification projects to the Town of Millinocket.
Q12	Would you be willing to volunteer in the community? If so, where would you be willing to do it?
Q13	We are working on airport improvements and want to understand more public opinion on travel in Millinocket. If there were transportation opportunities to distances such as Bangor, Portland, or Boston, MA would you consider purchasing a ticket?
Q14	Are you in need of food for yourself or your family? If so, please provide your contact information and we will share it with our Age-Friendly Millinocket network to get in touch with you.
Q15	Are you interested in receiving a COVID vaccine and need assistance to get to an appointment, or need additional information before making a decision? If so, please provide your contact information and we will share it with our Age-Friendly Millinocket network to get in touch with you.
Q16	Are you satisfied with the resources currently available for drug abuse/prevention in town? If not, can you suggest a resource that would be beneficial?

**Q1:** What attracts you to want to live here or visit Millinocket?

### Responses

- My home town
- Baxter state park
- Recreation
- Housing cost, schools, athletics, close to Baxter. state park
- I'm a native - I know what Millinocket was and what it can be again - a safe, fun place to work and raise a family.
- Simple life
- The close proximity for outdoor activities
- Safety, outdoor recreation
- Four seasons vacation destination. Improving economic development promises a future of decreasing residential property taxes in a spectacular natural environment.
- It's my home! I am thankful to have grown up here in such a beautiful place. I love how peaceful it is, the strong community, affordability, outdoor education & nature, trails, hunting, friends.
- Grew up here, small town has its benefits.
- It's home, family, friends, ideal weather no-matter-the-weather.
- This is our summer home. Everyone is so friendly and helpful and we have been volunteering in the community.
- Small town, enough things to keep me busy (especially the library), wonderfully quiet -- perfect for a low key retirement.
- It's quiet. Mostly safe. We have the greatest backyard you could dream of in terms of outdoor recreation. It is a great place for young families! I have deep roots and family history here.
- MT katanin
- The great people and the quietness and air quality
- Woods, water
- I moved here for the shall town feel, but with the drugs now I'm not sure I want to stay.
- The wilderness of Baxter and Katahdin. The small, real town and community.
- Safety and low house prices.
- Cost of living
- Wanted to live here because we see a town with a lot of potential
- Peace and quiet, it would be better, to remove the druggies from this town.
- Winter and summer activities, snowmobiling, hiking
- Mount Katahdin
- It's home.
- The weather. The kind people. But I will say coming back here after living away, it feels as though millinocket is stuck. There's never vibrant energy in the community anywhere. Where would I share millinocket with my kids? I need events to bring them to! And ones offered not only on weekends because not everyone works banker hours.
- The view . If you are a cna in this town the pay should go up! Before nursing homes, assisted livings, hospitals shut down.

- "Peaceful.
- Close to my kids."
- I came here because of my work. I raised my children here. All my children have stayed here. The quality of life is great here. I can't imagine going anywhere else. However, to continue to attract young families to come here we must provide job opportunities such as what brought me here. Looking forward to announcements of jobs -we have the quality of life.
- Quiet living. Small town. However things have taken a turn for the worst with the town manager - police chief debacle. Once again the town was cast in a poor light.
- not very much lately. Millinocket is it's own worse enemy. So many of the town's citizens don't welcome change or new ideas.
- The mountain, surrounding lakes, history.
- It is a gateway to all things nature/outdoor and has great resources like the gear library to get you started.
- I like snowmobiling, atv-ing,
- Right now ... only the Mountain and that is NOT in Millinocket.
- Roots, it's my home town.
- The beautiful outdoors and small town life.
- It is my hometown, so I love to visit family and friends. The fresh air, beauty, and so many places to explore outside makes it a great place to visit.
- Can't make enough money to move.
- It has a lot to offer but there are many more opportunities like the airport that are under utilized. We need a box store like Reny's.
- Born here have family and friends here.
- Proximity to the north woods.
- We bought our house in Millinocket in 2016 because of the proximity of woods, lakes and rivers. We were attracted to the town size/population, the local hospital, and the Michaud Walking Trail.
- Community and neighborhoods. What DOESNT attract me is the lack of our own police dept!
- home town
- Just the area in general. Even though there is "nothing to do" there always is something to do.
- The people
- Brought up here. Left in 1964 for spouse and career. Moved back in 2019 and love living here. Small town atmosphere. My sister has always lived here.
- Beautiful area. Natural resources.
- Four seasons, low crime, natural resources, people are nice people,
- Born and raised here. Many great friends and my home of over 45 years. Property taxes are very reasonable. Quiet and comfortable living.
- Backyard and community
- The lakes and park.
- Family, the people and the general beauty of the area

**Q2:** How do you view the downtown and what businesses would you like to see downtown? Can you think of any improvements that could be made?

### Responses

- Breakfast restaurant
- The downtown is unsafe to walk. Most of the building's need to be torn down for years. The downtown needs serious upgrades but not much happens. I find the progress painfully slow. Seeing nothing is what I expect.
- "Downtown" is the heart of a town or city and right now I feel like Millinocket has no heart, no pulse, no life. Basic meeting places is a necessity to bring people out and together- coffee shops and easy to go breakfast/lunch shops, an outdoors store that employee people that can have insightful recommendations not only for gear but for experiences, and some form of entertainment. Right now there is no reason anybody needs to go downtown other than to mail a letter or register their vehicle, which most folks can do online now anyway.
- Downtown is an eye sore. Affordable housing, grocer/bakery
- Downtown is a work in progress. There needs to be more "businesses - restaurant, retail" vs the service industry that now dominates it. Don't agree with a rehab clinic on main street.
- Bad shape.....any business.....change Penobscot ave as main street and make Central street our main street
- The downtown needs a new restaurant (where the bank is!) and other small specialty shops for tourists
- Infrastructure needs investment. Sidewalks, facades, cohesive design. Smaller markets, coffee shops, etc.
- Additional restaurants and retail businesses that attract tourists.
- I would love to see main street be more lit up and populated. I'd love to have a coffee shop, yoga studio, a place to get healthy food, smoothies.
- A couple of buildings need to be removed and or rehabbed.
- Drugstore
- Struggling. Needs a fair make-over, sprucing-up, downtown businesses to draw people to the town's center. Penobscot sidewalks need significant work, businesses need to be more handicap accessible.
- Need to bring in some sort of department store.
- Ice cream, something inexpensive that draws people to walk on the main street. Improvements: getting Ferland to paint that hideous corner building and the town figuring out how to remove that gray eye sore that's partially torn down.
- NIGHT LIFE! Anything entertainment related that's open past 5:00pm would do! I strongly believe that we are on the right track with all of the work being done toward the future of the downtown. The sidewalks, lighting, greenery, facade improvements, etc. that are planned or in action will continue to make things more attractive.
- Restaurants, clothing stores. Bigger police station.
- I think we need more activities for the kids in town and even adults also
- "Desolate and sad.
- Coffee shop, microbrew, bike shop.
- Downtown planning and enforcement"

- I think there has been a lot of fixing the older buildings but we need to keep going. I would love to see like a family arcade or game place for the kids and teens to be able to go other than going to do drugs.
- Downtown is sad. Reroute traffic through downtown. Would love a quality restaurant or two, an outdoor outfitters, a coffee place, more small businesses.
- More restaurants, specialty stores and gift shops.
- Bring in more business
- mix of retail stores
- The downtown is a complete disappointment. If Millinocket is going to support tourism, the downtown should reflect that. What does it currently reflect? Shops not geared to tourists, run down buildings and drug rehab spaces. Hmmm, that's not going to get tourists to drive down Penobscot. It reflects a town that doesn't care and is apathetic and resistant to change.
- Have the Town council get off their butts, and get some industry into this town.
- There is one building collapsing and a real safety hazard. Take it down immediately if it's still there. Don't allow this to happen again.
- The decrepit buildings need to be removed. Facades on other buildings need to be improved. A bakery would be wonderful.
- I think all the old buildings should be sought out to purchase and tear down and rebuild to rent out to local businesses such as craft shops, a bakery, a clothing store, hair salons, and maybe even apartments. Let's get millinocket growing and thriving. It looks like a forgotten town that people literally picked up and walked away from. What about flowers everywhere from getting into Mlkt from east Mlkt and all the way down main st? Maybe we could be known for our greenery and flowers on our main drag to the mountain? What about lights everywhere. What about creating a place people can play music for free for locals to enjoy? Maybe a piano in the bandstand? I have so many ideas. I moved away and lived up and down the east coast for some years. I would love to see mlkt grow with the times like these other areas do.
- Yes
- I think we need more stores. At the very least a place to have fun with family. Too many store fronts empty. Also places in town sell items way higher than you can find out of town. Makes me not want to buy here.
- Several buildings on Penobscot avenue need a facelifting. We badly need some entertainment facilities - bowling alley, movie theater, electronic games, etc.
- The downtown is ok. It will never ever be a bustling downtown. The main road doesn't pass through downtown.
- I think the businesses that are downtown do a very good job maintaining their buildings and businesses. Unfortunately there are too many empty places and run down buildings that ruin the look of downtown. I am very upset if the rumors are true that we are going to have a methadone clinic in the former Pelletier building. Who puts a methadone clinic across for a park? If you look at our town, we have 2 pot stores, 2 recovery centers and now a possible methadone clinic? Not to mention all the buildings that are for sale. (I am not against recovery centers, it just feels like we are sending several messages here. How is that attractive to people wanting to move here?

- Need more breakfast joints. Maybe a sit down coffee shop. Farmers or craft market once a month.
- dog park, fix roads, something besides a park for kids, clean junked properties, tear down abandoned trashed homes, fix homes for sale for better turn around
- Bike repair shop, bakery, sewing supply / fabric shop, organized childcare center!!!!
- I went to houton recently - they have the same population, but they seem to be thriving - we seem to have very little attractions or activity... we need something to bring people in...
- Well the council has failed the downtown horribly, soon with all the drug rehab places being put in the business district downtown area it will soon close the few mom and pop shops we have left.
- Need many more businesses downtown as well as out-door cafe type dining. More events taking place in downtown/bandstand areas.
- Walmart
- I rarely spend any time downtown because in general the existing businesses don't offer anything that is appealing to me. I visit the restaurants occasionally but that's it. I can't recommend how to improve it because I don't know what businesses would survive there.
- No one goes downtown because there is nothing to do. Build something for people to do, laser tag, mini golf fit for older kids (18-25)
- "A bakery, brewery, clothing store, sporting shop, other restaurants,
- Demolition of the old grey building on Main Street."
- Sad to see two pot shops on main street.
- Progress is happening but the dilapidated buildings outweigh the efforts to improve the facades. We need basic clothes, somewhere to grab breakfast and lunch
- A downtown main thoroughfare such as Penobscot Ave. gives a town a cohesive feeling. Downtown is looking better. There are a couple of decrepit small buildings that damage the up-and-coming atmosphere. A store such as Renys would be great.
- "make landowners clean up their junk in yards.
- Renys,
- Drugstore
- More places to eat.
- Stop placing all of the bad news ( arrests drugs etc) on the front page of the Lincoln News paper.
- Not enough police coverage from East Millinocket PD. We need our own police force again."
- drug store  
retail shops
- We need an organization that attracts business to downtown Millinocket. Right now, there's a push to redevelop the mill; there are efforts to expand recreational opportunities regionally. Yet we have a gap-tooth central business district and even some of our peripheral shopping centers are suffering. Is there any way we could, say, attract a Reny's or a real outfitter for the myriad of recreation opportunities?
- Downtown should be the least of our worries. Not saying that they should be shut down but this town needs some sort of big manufacturing infrastructure of some sort that can bring a larger amount of workers to live here. Then we should focus on the downtown area. You can't have a good small business if there's nobody around to give you business.

- Maybe having stores like in Freeport
- Some of the old buildings need to be demolished. No more "pot shops, treatment centers" on Main Street. Clothing store.
- The town needs to demo buildings that are beyond repair and assist owners of properties that want to make improvements.
- We need clothing store, many more small business downtown
- Several empty buildings need to be either torn down or refurbished. We need more restaurants, particularly for breakfasts. Some type of store to attract people into the downtown area.
- Room for improvement - need some food establishments
- The derelict buildings and vacant store fronts really bring down the curb appeal. A brewery and a gym with trainers would be highly appealing to people my age.
- More restaurants specifically a breakfast place and or bakery. Clothing store would be good.

Q3: What do you feel is Millinocket's greatest economic need?

### Responses

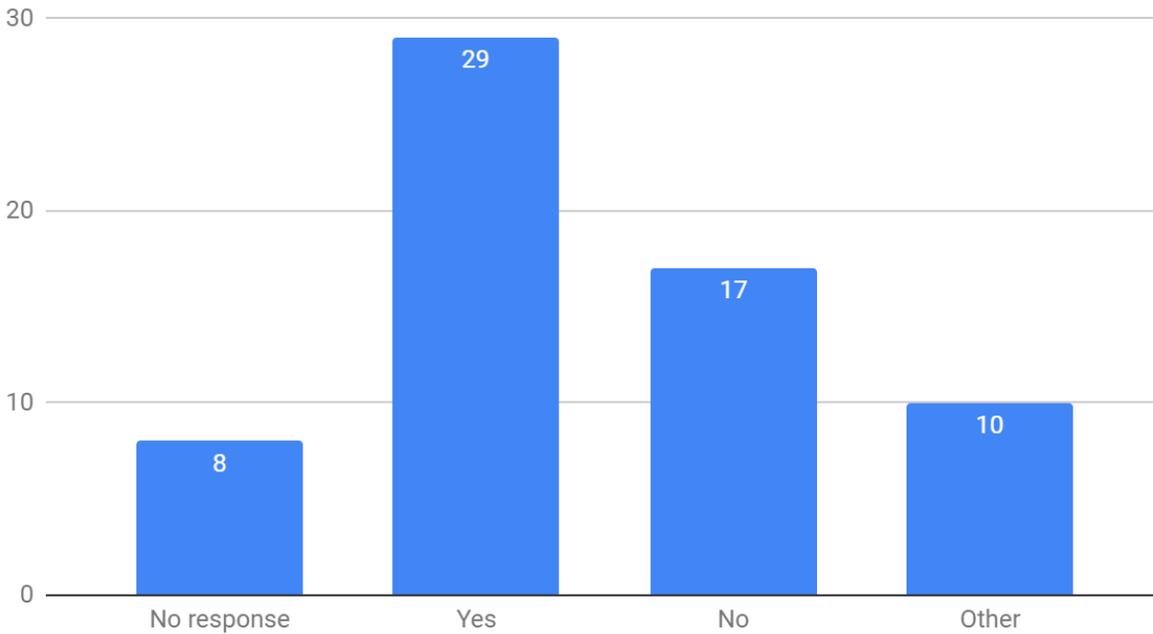
- Good working people educated
- Businesses
- People who are willing to accept change. Unfortunately a lot of residents resent changing their small little mill town, but what they don't realize is that it's not a mill town anymore.
- Manufacturing
- Something for regulars and visitors to do on a rainy day, weekends, after hours- entertainment, retail.
- Retail
- Tourism
- Interdependent, closed-loop systems.
- Renovation and new affordable housing stock.
- Young families to move here! Jobs for them.
- Clothing Store and another grocery store. Meat market.
- Jobs
- Employers, jobs, lower tax rate.
- Businesses in general.
- Enough tax dollars to pay for basic infrastructure: road repair, etc.
- Marketing upcoming jobs to young families. Then housing. New housing development needs to be top priority. Maybe a reassessment of property values will be helpful in relation to mil rate, taxes, etc.
- Hardware store factory. UPS shipping facility.
- More events to bring in money for our town
- Jobs, housing, daycare
- Clean up the streets from drugs. No one wants to come here with all the drug problems. We all know who the dealers are but it feels like nothing is getting done
- Manufacturing jobs, not more tourism. Also high speed broadband for remote workers.
- High speed broadband, Spectrum maybe, 5G, railway to connect to Freeport and the coastal Amtrak.
- High paying jobs, year around NOT more tourism.
- larger retail shopping store more and competition with stores and Mc D
- Businesses that support tourism
- Get some industry and employment for people living in this town. Instead of opening up to the welfare system.
- Secondly roadwork
- I suggest helping homeowners restore dilapidated homes. I come from a small town in NH. I walked your streets and felt bad for older residents who were unable to clean up their homes, yards, etc. also, you need more greenery. The logging companies devastated the surroundings.
- Internships and apprenticeships that entice young people to enter the trades - carpenters, electricians, plumbers, contractors...
- We need money for events that make people want to live, work and play here!

- The pay needs to go up in the medical field.
- More entertainment. People spend most of their time on entertainment.
- JOBS! that would take care of everything.
- People willing to work for a living.
- Downtown/ New development area for houses.
- less drugs, less domestic abuse, kids having curfew
- Childcare and housing to draw more young families back to the area and to support those already here!
- Attractions to the area... hiking and snowmobiling is not enough... bring the money in...
- "Town needs taxi service
- Town needs competitive wages"
- Jobs focusing on the strengths of this area. Agriculture.
- More job opportunities
- Childcare (year-round) and day camps (summer) for children to support working parents. Also, more investment in the schools.
- Something to get these kids off drugs
- New business that pay better wages. Breweries are the new wave.
- Good paying year around jobs
- Sustainable meaningful jobs
- A few good paying jobs.
- "high speed internet
- Encourage more businesses to open here."
- jobs
- Business incubation. We need to encourage people to invest in our community, businesses that will eventually create jobs and prosperity for our residents. I would strongly recommend creating arts incubation. We have the natural beauty; if we can attract artists to this area, we can attract galleries to help promote the area that will sell their work. Artists are often the means of positive transformation of neighborhoods and communities.
- Manufacturing infrastructures. Some sort of mill or power generation site that can create a large amount of jobs.
- Businesses
- Good paying, year round jobs.
- A council that is more business / people friendly.
- Small/medium sized businesses with decent paying jobs. Hopefully Our Katahdin will have something developed at the former mill site.
- Broadband
- I feel Millinocket's greatest economic need is a retailer Such as Walmart, Target or TJ Maxx.
- More business moving to town.

Q4: Would you be interested in more non-motorized trails in town?

**Responses**

Would you be interested in more non-motorized trails in town?



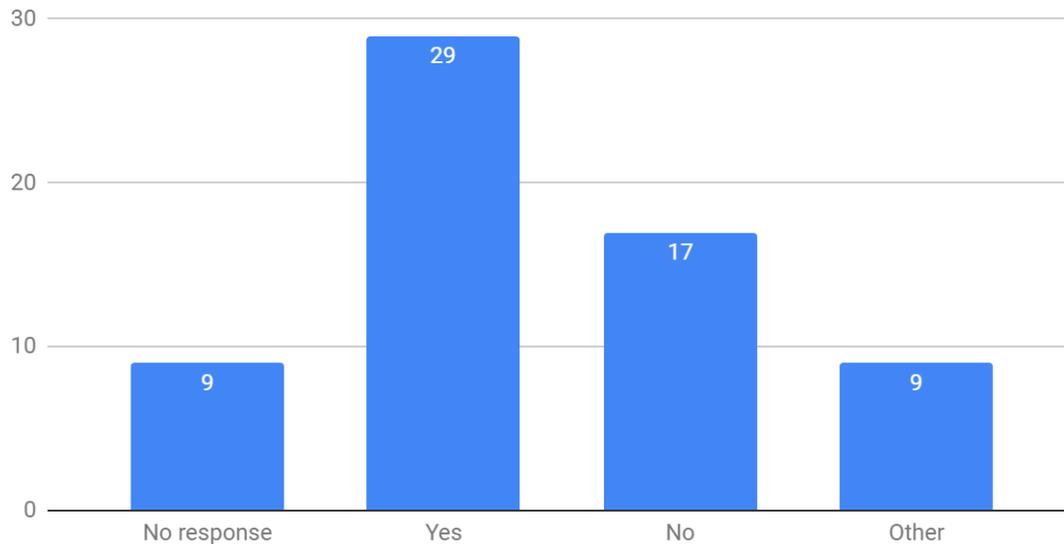
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes! I feel as though there is a great need for that, especially in the winter when other walking options are limited. Having a dog, that limits me even more on accessible trails and walks.
- No, outside downtown yes.
- sure
- Would rather see the town support the motorized effort because it brings in over 1.6 Billion a year in economic growth and we need to do a better job at targeting that!
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes. Development of biking and walking dedicated areas to promote tourist industry is a must.
- Yes
- No
- Yes, but where? Thus, it depends on what may be proposed.
- No
- I much prefer NON-motorized to loud motorized rec vehicles.
- Yes. Absolutely. Keep em comin!
- Yes
- I think we need more
- Yes

- Yes
- Yes
- Nope
- NO
- not in town
- Yes!!
- Yes, they're chasing the wild animals away with motorized. trails trails
- Yes
- Yes! Great idea!
- Yes.
- YES!
- Yes
- Yes
- Not for me but not against it.
- Yes. More walking and biking trails would be nice.
- Doesn't matter to me
- No. Need more trail access for ATV and Snowmobile.
- Yes!
- no
- No, town needs to focus on the real issues, on making Millinocket great again
- no
- No
- Yes. The towns should invest in a bicycle trail that links the towns (Millinocket, E Millinocket, Medway) and outdoor recreation areas (the dike at Ambajejus/Millinocket Lakes).
- Yes
- Absolutely.
- No
- Sure
- Absolutely.
- Yes
- no
- Absolutely! Outdoor recreation of all modes are the future of Millinocket and the Katahdin region in general. Anything that develops and promotes tourism of this sort will enhance our prosperity.
- I think we are fine with what we have.
- No
- Being more pro motorized ATV's & Snowmobile would go along way.
- Not personally, but I know both my sons are very into off road biking and I feel biking trails could bring a lot of people to our area. Biking is a big ticket activity right now.
- Yes
- Yes!!
- Yes

**Q5:**Would you be interested in a food co-op? Do you have any interest in combining area food pantries and the public together?

### Responses

Would you be interested in a food co-op? Do you have any interest in combining area food pantries and the public together...



- Yes
- Yes. Anything to have people together working on something positive. Feel more of a community
- I think that would be a great idea. Combining resources is always a good thing!
- Co-op yes. Pantry no.
- Farmers markets and food coops are good. Pantries need to be where the need is as many don't have the transportation to go to one combined pantry.
- No not really but I wouldn't turn it away
- Very, yes.
- Yes. Farmers market as well as a coop would be a benefit to residents as well as to tourists.
- Yes. I think we should unite. The more unified we can be the better.
- I have an interest in people being taken care of. If it better serves the people to combine yes, if better to have several, keep them apart. But collaboration could be beneficial even if the towns worked together to best provide the service.
- Yes
- If it threatened our Hannaford store -- no. Other than that, I always shopped at food co-ops in other places I lived. Not sure what "combining pantries and the public" means? If combining can be more efficient, then yes.
- Yes. Love this idea.
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes, food co-op. No to combining pantries

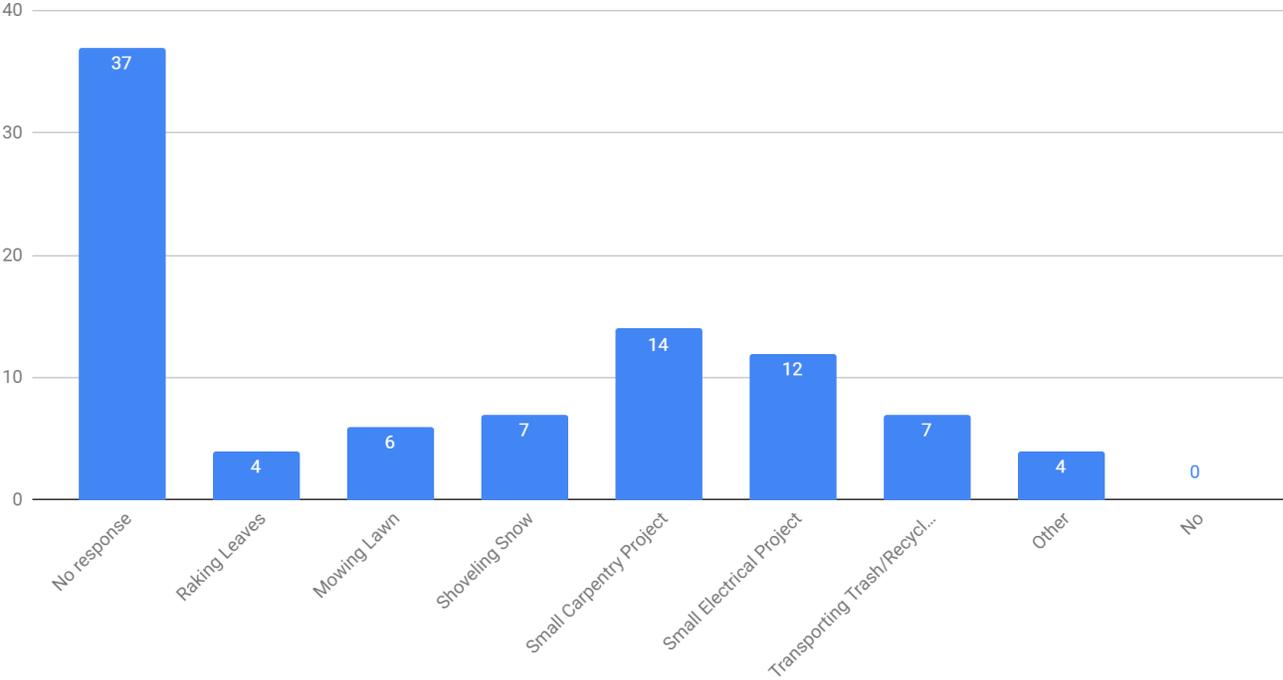
- Yes
- No
- Yes
- No
- Yes
- No, it won't work in this area. It has been tried in past years.
- No
- Sounds good!
- Yes.
- Yes!
- Yes
- Maybe if it would help people.
- I think it would be a good idea
- Yes.
- No. The current food Pantry (St. Martin's) is now only open 1 day a month because they are not getting enough clientele and food is spoiling. If we are going to have all the food give a ways that have been happening over the past few months there should be one person or organization overseeing it. Instead we have all these different groups offering assistance with no guidance.
- Sure.
- not sure
- I guess so
- yes
- No, keep your nose out of what is working
- Yes
- Yes to both
- Maybe
- No
- Don't know what this means
- No opinion.
- food co-op would be good, but jobs that pay are even more important, see to many healthy, young adults just collecting from the state. This seems to be a hereditary problem.
- no
- Food co-ops are a great idea. But, having said that, a co-op requires committed local support. IF—a BIG if—we can attract enough local support, hooray! Let's create a food co-op. But I remain sceptical that we will attract such support.
- No. Say If a family in East Millinocket can't afford to eat a meal, they shouldn't have to go to Millinocket to get food.
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- There was a monthly food co-op in town many years ago but it petered out. Not sure it would work, but the idea is sound. Personally no interest in combining food pantries and the public.

- Yes
- No.
- Yes

**Q6:** Would you have a need for assistance at home for projects that you could not do on your own? We have provided some examples. Select which projects you need assistance with.

**Responses**

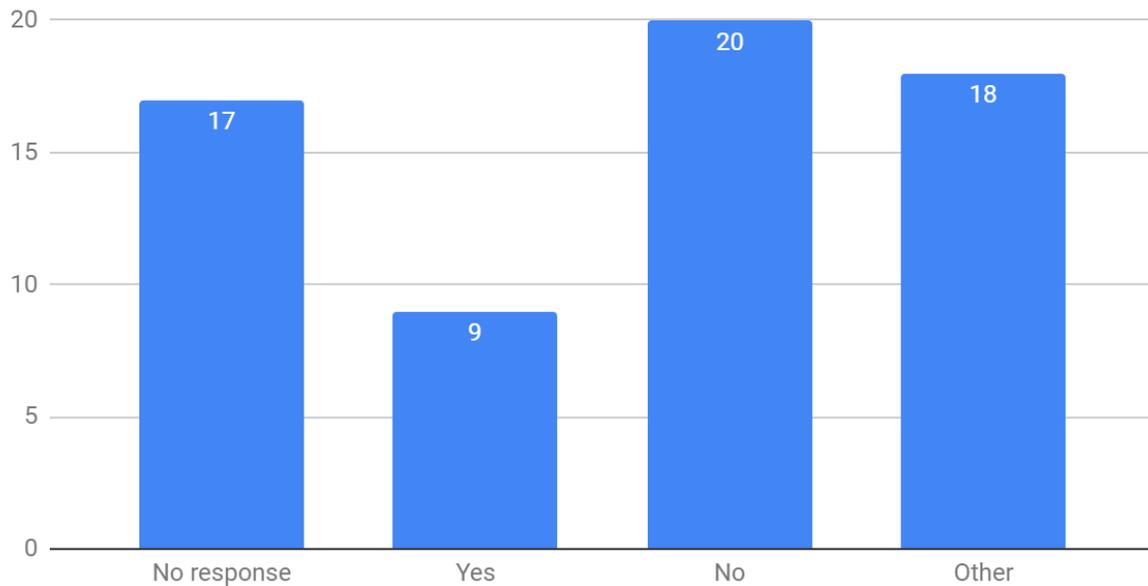
Would you have a need for assistance at home for projects that you could not do on your own? We have provided some examples. Select which projects you need assistance with.



**Q7: Do you see your own neighborhood improving for you and your family's lifestyle?  
Please give an example.?**

**Responses**

Do you see your own neighborhood improving for you and your family's lifestyle? Please give an example.



- No
- No. Neighbors don't take care of their homes. They don't care how their behavior affects other people. Drugs have been a problem.
- I rent an apartment right now and renting in Millinocket is more difficult than any other town or city I've lived in, especially with a dog. So for me personally I would say no, my apartment building is up for sale and the area itself isn't great.
- Yes, housing sales are up, unfortunately pot growing is too.
- n/a
- Yes I see people moving in that want to improve their houses like I have done and not making them look like slums.
- Yes
- Yes-- I've witnessed more younger people (in 20's and 30's), more improvement in properties, and more gardens.
- Need to have code enforcement regarding junkyards and zoning code violations.
- I love my neighbors. I love seeing the new trails being built. Thankful for community, church & the recovery center. God is good!
- Corner lot turning into Rush Blvd towards morgan lane is an eyesore.
- I am satisfied. Good neighbors, properties basically well kept-up.
- We have a wonderful neighborhood where everyone takes care of their property and sees that everyone is taken care of.

- My neighborhood is the best! People are always improving their properties. Downside is that several have put in super bright lights that totally interfere with seeing the stars.
- "As of one month ago, yes. My new Neighborhood is very desirable.
- I sold my family's home (3 generations) in Little Italy because of the neighborhood get drastically worse over the past 2 years."
- I think the town is trying it's best
- No.
- I have teens and we live on a dead end street. However the addicts have started to use our street for deals and by the time we call the cops everyone is gone. I don't usually let my teens go out now
- Depends on the infrastructure, more people are working from home, without high speed broadband and reliable electricity service, you won't attract those people, house prices will drop, stores like Walgreens close and we're in a tailspin.
- Yes, the neighborhood is well cared for by us and our neighbors
- yes
- I see a lack of traffic control (crosswalks not painted), lack of posted speed limit signs on side streets, sidewalks in disrepair, and cars speeding on main roads.
- No, Millinocket needs to repair the streets and sidewalks this would greatly help the elderly.
- I have seen the houses being sold to non locals. I love it!!! Bring them all here!! I want my kids to know diversity! I want them to see growth! This is a wonderful time for Mlkt I believe!
- None
- NO
- Maybe changes to the road work and the houses needing maintenance.
- no not with methadone/drug clinic and housing with walking distance of schools and homes.
- Need landlords who care and are local before my area will improve at all!
- it's ok...
- Absolutely NOT! I see more drugs coming in and less police presence
- no
- Clean up yards remove junk
- Our Millinocket neighborhood is improving in the sense that people from other parts of Maine have bought homes and fixed them up. It is nice to have a more diverse group of people to socialize with (a great mix of locals and people from other parts of ME and elsewhere). On the other hand, there are some homes on the surrounding streets that are in complete disrepair and it's very sad. More should be done to address property blight.
- No.... the houses that use to look nice are run down by young people moving in and letting them go. Most streets have trashed homes. It's sad. No pride!
- No
- Yes. The houses one the street are being updated/maintained.
- "Neighborhood is pretty good except fast traffic when speed limit is 25.
- Roaming kids and young adults at all hours at night!
- Bring back a police force!"
- younger families are moving here and it's nice to see kids playing.

- I live (and own a house) close to the mill site, near Rideouts. I would feel better know that the mill site would not end up being another heavy industry. Is there a way to encourage recreation opportunities and conservation in the forests near the old mill? I'm worried that a stinky foul industry will end up polluting my neighborhood.
- For the most part in town, any neighbor will always give a warm smile and a gentle hello, so yes.
- My neighborhood is very well taken care of.
- There have been various individuals that have purchased properties and improved them in recent years. Attracting more is a positive but the town politics does not bare well when researching the town as a choice to relocate to.
- No
- Two houses directly in back of my house are absolute dumps. Both are owned by people who do not live here but come periodically. Junk cars, building materials, gas cans and other junk. Tarps on the roof. I pride myself in keeping up my house and yard and these houses certainly don't improve my home.
- No.
- Slowing traffic on the far end of Penobscot Av. Some kind of code/town enforcement of the recently burned out house close to Central St.

**Q8:** Are you planning any home improvements within the next year or two? If so, what kind of improvement will you make to your home?

### **Responses**

- No
- Outside. Painting, new stairs being built, flower beds
- Hoping to move into a home with a yard for my dog where I can also start a garden. A craft room so I can begin considering starting my own business is a must as well
- Update kitchen cabinets and stove, painting, new floors.
- exterior improvements
- Install another heat pump
- Yes, new windows and painting
- Yes, interior and exterior renovations.
- Just maintenance, painting and possibly driveway repairs.
- I rent but the place I am staying is getting a new porch right now. I hope to add in more gardens.
- Maybe a new driveway
- Always, til the end of time. Siding, landscaping, re-tar driveway, interior modifications, new heating/cooling system.
- No.
- Nope -- don't have the money.
- Nothing major. Paint, flooring.
- Hopefully a deck and siding
- Yes, always. Floors, insulation, landscaping
- Siding and Windows plus rooms inside
- Yes. Interior remodel and new garage.
- General updates and repairs.
- Interior and exterior, decks, roofing, siding
- depends on money
- "Yes
- New roof"
- No, repairing homes will only cause the assessment to go up.
- No
- Yes! Redoing floors
- Move out of apartment and into a house .
- I would love to but cant afford it.
- I just had two bathrooms redone and a heat pump installed -done for now
- Nothing major. Just maintenance.
- I am always improving my home
- Yes. New siding, fence etc.
- painting, new fence, cut down trees, driveway repairs
- Moving. The apartments in town are in sad shape and hard to find.
- no... I plan on selling
- I will make none

- no
- Pave driveway
- No
- None.
- Update kitchen
- No
- New front entrance stoop. New front door.
- No
- My house is a constant project. Of course I plan improvements! All kinds! One step at a time...
- Possibly. May install a patio in the back yard.
- Roof, siding, bathroom looking for grants to help as I live in one of the first homes built! 6 generations have lived in my home
- If I can find someone to do projects. Very difficult to find carpenters, electricians, plumbers. Need carpenter work on outside of house.
- New siding / exterior improvements.
- Having a Generax generator installed this summer. New roof on my storage shed. Recently installed 2 heat pumps, new deck and a fence.
- Minor ongoing
- No.

**Q9:** When thinking of Millinocket, what would you like to see more of/less of?

### Responses

- More people. Less crime
- Beauty. More trees, improvements made to existing parks, veterans memorial being taken care of, more activities for people together as a community
- More accessibility to the outdoors! The program the library has is amazing, but what about the kids who don't have parents to take them for bike rides during the summer? We need more programs that engage kids in the outdoors and what it has to offer in Millinocket.
- Young people not working, having children out of wedlock, drugs!!!
- More things for youth - community center, retail, entertainment, amusements
- Our own police dept so we have coverage at night when only one cop is protecting three communities
- Less empty decrepit buildings and more modern ones
- More young people and more downtown improvements.
- More events planning for every month highlighting or four season activities. More development of youth activities.
- Less drugs. More activities for after school. More creative outlets.
- Jobs, sustainable employment opportunities for people to be able to afford to live a good life here. Businesses providing goods and services to residents as well as tourists.
- More businesses and less drugs
- I like it as is -- low key and funky. I would not be happy to see changes that bring increased noise, traffic, air pollution.
- "Low income housing.
- Negativity among community members, shooting down any change or progress as if anything new or different is a bad thing."
- Police
- More events for the town people and more help for the people and more police presents
- More support of public services and infrastructure. Less status quo
- Less drugs more community. This town use to do a lot together but that has seemed to almost disappear
- More manufacturing jobs with career paths, vocational education, tax breaks for companies to open in the area.
- More retail outlets, grocery stores and dining.
- More restaurant and shopping options
- equal taxes
- Less drug rehab facilities taking up space where tourism based businesses should be. What is Millinocket? A town that loves out of town tourists that come to visit and support a local, thriving economy? Or, is Millinocket a town with a terrible, very visible drug problem that has multiple drug rehabilitation facilities that the tourists will drive right past?
- Repairing the streets, add more ambulance services, keeping the town residence informed of what the council is passing.
- I think helping people improve their homes is a win win!

- More house lots open to development. There is no place to build a house!
- I would like to see less things from the 1980s. I'd like to see more modern signs and businesses. I would like to see a car pick up line at the area schools. It is EXTREMELY unsafe how Mlkt handles pick up and drop offs! There is no organization. Kids are walking up behind cars of parents. It's scary. I want Mlkt to not be scared to try something from Orlando Florida. Just because it's different there doesn't mean it wouldn't work here. Look into community events in Orlando. Or Scranton PA. they're filled. Daily. Something happens in Mlkt 30 years after it started elsewhere. Let's be the trend setter. Not the follower.
- More hobbies for people to do .
- More family entertainment. Maybe places for teens and kids to stay out of trouble. Kids are very bored in town and want to leave.
- Need some retail stores - Renys for example. Need more entertainment opportunities. Need day care facilities to accommodate young families needs. Need more housing, both for the elderly and low income
- More competence from the town manager And town councilors. What shame the town manager and police chief brought to our nice town.
- More people working and open to changes. Less negativity. Consolidation of schools and services.
- More coffee shops.
- more family oriented. see less drunk/drug people, less domestic disturbances
- Better housing options! It is desperately needed! Safe! Pet friendly! Family friendly!
- more industry... the mills are gone.... create and attract industry on old mill lands...
- I would like to see the town think inside the box... and take care of what's here supporting each other and not cutting them down... prior to "thinking outside the box"
- community events that are well advertised and geared toward all ages.
- "I'd like to see childcare and more activities for children. If it weren't for our friends and family we would have had no childcare help and would not have been able to spend our summers in Millinocket. It would be incredibly helpful if information regarding activities for children (swimming lessons, summer camps, etc.) could be posted online so that it is easily accessible (not paper brochures that have to be physically picked up at the pool or town offices). A town market. A remote work space for people like me who summer in Millinocket but need a quiet place (with Internet) to work. A Farmer's Market.
- I'd like to see more focus on addressing substance abuse problems, less property blight, and less drama regarding the police department and town council."
- Less kids on drugs more things for these kids to do besides 'go play outside'
- Less trashy homes, clean neighborhoods. Our own police force. Bring shop classes back to Stearns HS.
- Lower taxes better paying jobs get out of the governor climate council
- More open communication, less bureaucracy, and fewer power trips
- A trash can on the Michaud Trail perhaps where the trail meets the high school parking lot.
- "less drug problems
- Less kids roaming streets
- More young adults getting off welfare."
- less homes being destroyed and enforcing the junk yard code.... Little Italy is a sad mess...

- I would like to see "occupied" storefronts. If we can't put an actual business into a storefront, let's put a fake business into it instead. Crazy? Marfa, Texas has a major tourism draw for their "Marfa Prada" storefront. What if we filled the empty storefronts in Millinocket with...something? This could be a student project through the high school or a Call For Artists. We need to look less empty.
- I cannot think of anything really other than what I have already said. This town needs to start thinking big instead of just small.
- More family things
- More transparency from Town Council. A lot of the problems in town are caused by the Town council not updating residents on things.
- Less politics. More friendly welcoming
- Less homes/yards that are not taken care of. Less junk cars in yards. More businesses, another grocery store, a department store.
- More food establishments
- I'd love to see a brewery, coffee house, bakery, and a breakfast place!
- More business, less empty storefronts

**Q10:** What part of recreation/tourism should play in our plan for economic development?

### Responses

- 70%
- That's all we have
- A significant part. That's what the new branding of Millinocket needs to be. No longer the mill town, but definitely recreation based. That's fortunately something we'll have for a long time
- 33%
- All of it
- 50%
- A WATER PARK
- Airport improvements and expansion
- 50%
- Air b n b's should stay.
- All you can get
- Recreation and tourism has always been an important part of Millinocket area, the West Branch, Katahdin, Jo-Mary, the Allagash, have been visited for it's natural beauty and outdoor activities. It deserves its attention in economic development but understanding as for good paying employment it is an ancillary industry to a trade or profession employment. We need them all.
- A lot as Millinocket has so much to offer for recreation with the trails, lakes, etc.
- It's already playing a significant part and should continue to increase, as long as it doesn't destroy my preferred lifestyle! (Have i mentioned? low key, quiet!)
- "All of it.
- Motorized, non motorized, water related, hiking, mountain biking, skiing,
- Astro Tourism is becoming more and more wildly popular. Dark Sky designation within the region will open huge doors of opportunity there."
- Making things more exciting to attract people
- 1/3
- Trails and walking
- Less than providing real skilled labor jobs. Retail and service industry jobs do not help people build a life in Millinocket. Younger people need a reason to stay in town and we need a way to attract young people from other areas.
- It should be a good portion, but there needs to be a general plan for all the year, not just the tourist season.
- Hunting, fishing, snowmobiling
- lots
- A huge role. This is so important for Millinocket to recognize and celebrate!!! Should be the number one focus, because it's already here and already happening!!!
- Not much the Town council is driving people away.
- A great Deal look

- Be sure the tourist appreciate the area not make it worse. We drove up the Golden Road and the campground just before the bridge had left tons of trash over the winter. Not acceptable!
- Huge. We need to fully exploit our beautiful mountain, lakes, and woods.
- People love to be healthy right now. People are into hiking. People are into vegan and natural things. We need events surrounding those money makers for us locals! Look at one marathon brought in! People love to be healthy like I said. And also people like to include their kids and pets. So maybe make things pet friendly as well. Bags around town for dog poo are always nice.
- More hobbies for people
- More events. Maybe carnival's and such for town to gather together.
- Recreation/tourism has to play a major part in our plan for economic development because of Millinocket's location - Baxter State Park , Mt. Katahdin, Woods and Waters Monument. That is why Millinocket has to develop facilities for the tourist to stay and have some entertainment
- It should be the number one thing being worked on.
- We should see an equal portion of recreation/tourism and small to medium businesses for economic development. Certainly something with the wood industry. We have to ask would we have a work force to fill jobs?
- Locals should come first with a side focus on tourists. Without caring for our locals there will be no one to support the tourists!
- little... it's fickle.... bad winter/summer... we shouldn't focus only on tourism - we need read industry real cash flow....
- Look at what we have... let it grow
- huge part. By really catering to people and learning what visitors want and need. Not just making visitors welcomed but locals as well.
- "1) Bicycling (especially if the tri-town area can invest in bicycling paths to link the towns and link the private businesses with bicycling trails (NEOC and PRT).
- 2) Cross-country skiing
- 3) Summer recreation opportunities for youth so that they have a place to go and fun things to do every day in the summer while parents work.
- 4) Invest in the town's July 4 celebration and make it as fun as it used to be.
- 5) Create a Farmer's Market where local vendors can sell produce and other handmade goods."
- It should play a big part if no businesses are moving here.
- Motorize recreation gives us the biggest bang
- A huge part!
- As much as possible. Disc golf is the fastest growing outdoor sport in the world.
- "Tourism is a very big part of the town.
- There should also be businesses that offer solid year round jobs."
- more recreational options ie. skating, skiing, swimming hrs. more flexible and not having to take 15 min. breaks, enough life guards to stagger breaks. not everyone has to go at the same time..... supervision needs to be addressed more often too.
- I grew up in the Industrial Midwest, and for the past 40 years I've been hearing how the mills will reopen. Guess what? They haven't. They never will. Communities that thrive are

those that reinvent themselves. We are lucky that we have a stellar state park authority (Baxter), a National Monument, and numerous conservation organizations in our region (such as The Nature Conservancy) that will eventually create a new paradigm for our future development. Bette believe that recreation and tourism IS our future!

- Recreation and tourism will always play an important role in economic development. However, it should not be the only concern which is what it seems to be.
- A big part. We have Baxter Park and Mt. Katahdin on our doorstep. But we also need other industry.
- Promotion of ATV / Snowmobile to the area. Mountain Bike Parks : trails are huge booking industry as well. Promotion of Kayaking, , White Water Rafting, Canoeing, Fishing etc
- Big part
- With no bigger business in town, I feel tourism is our lifeline.
- More skiing opportunities - dog park
- Recreation is what is keeping this town afloat right now.
- More festivals and events like the marathon and trails end.

**Q11:** Suggest three beautification projects to the Town of Millinocket?

### Responses

- Peddlers hill. Jerry pond , ATV trails
- Parks, plant trees and downtown but nothing happens. There are grant money out there. Even if we get grant money I don't see where it has been used.
- Downtown renovations; more strict ruling on old, run down, unkempt houses and properties in town; and the entrance to Millinocket. The entrance is the first thing people see so if a local artist painted a greeting sign and we cleaned up the pond at the credit union, that would be a great start.
- Knock down 146 penobscot ave, knock down fire ravaged home on penobscot ave. Get a retailer in the former Rit-Aide
- Storefront upgrades/makeovers - lighting improvements - banners and flowers
- Get rid of trees and shrubs in our cemetery, cut all the trees along Forest Ave from back path to Central street bridge like it was before and get new banners for light poles the ones we have look like a dinosaur.....go with hiking, biking, ATViing, snowmobiling
- Downtown sidewalks/design, parks need some love (more trees and landscaping), and the airport building.
- Trees on Penobscot Ave Downtown Commercial zone. Garden club beautifying public spaces.
- Community garden. I have thoughts to have raised beds along the strip by Hannaford & Sterns. That place would be great to offer free food, berries, veggies, etc.
- "1. The Rush Buildings,
- 2. the land Millinocket gave away on Penobscot Ave, off from Central St. It's been to long with tens, hundreds of thousand of State and federal dollars for other parts of the by-way.
- 3. Fix up the current Commercial areas before expanding the Commercial zones."
- "A welcoming sculptural arch type thing, in wood, in the Peddler's Hill lot.
- Something sculptural at the Penobscot Ave. / Central St. intersection.
- Are there areas that could use more trees?"
- "CIRD
- CIRD
- CIRD"
- Some of the roads could use some improvements
- Take back vacant downtown buildings for development, address excessive Airbnb to support long term rentals
- The schools and the parks
- Hanging flower baskets on the main roads,
- Roads, our streets are a mess. HOA type requirements for all homes in town, no more yard sales.
- "parking lots near stores fixed
- broken buildings gone not boarded up"
- Sidewalk repair, get rid of permanent junk dumps in front of people's homes/porches, hanging flowers
- Stop by having the Town council, taking walking tour of this town.

- "1. Home owner improvement funding
- 2. Plant more trees
- 3. Community gardens
- 3. Create a truck route around the town, not through it"
- "Improve downtown buildings.
- Sell or tear down deplorable houses.
- Enforce our codes regarding property maintenance."
- "Flowers lining the entire towns main streets.
- Tear down all the old buildings that aren't up to whatever par you choose.
- Cut down some NEW trails to hike with my family! Make it new and fun!!! We would help on days off!"
- Penobscot Ave.
- Hanging flower baskets along penobscot avenue. Keep the main routes into and the main streets in town paved well and in nice condition so visitors don't recall how bad condition the roads and streets are in.
- Fix roads, sidewalks and downtown.
- roads, stop clearing our woods, clear up yards with junk and trash, have funds to help families with repairs to homes
- "1) fix roadways
- 2) fix the steps into the municipal building
- 3)Clear up downtown... have a demolish policy...
- "1.Trash cans that get emptied
- 2. A covered space for gathering outside
- 3. A paid person to clean the down town area! Daily!"
- If when taxpayers paid their taxes , they were all given a \$200.00 voucher to be used at local business to beautify/improve their properties. They should also be able to be used toward hiring help if you can't do it yourself. Folks would sign up to provide a certain service (yard work, gardening, painting, etc. )then , receive the voucher which a local business can sign or stamp so it can't be used more then once. Down side- it would cost the town money but would be well spent. May even get reliable volunteers who would help for free. Needs to be a community effort.
- 1) Focus on property blight. There is nothing more unattractive than dilapidated homes and businesses. 2) Invest in more trees and landscaping at the schools. The schools could be made much more appealing and attractive with some shade (trees and landscaping to create desirable outdoor spaces). In a woodland town like Millinocket it is a shame that the schools are surrounded by pavement and made to look like stark, boring educational institutions. I graduated from Stearns but I have seen many other schools elsewhere with attractive landscaping that make those schools far more desirable. 3) invest in improving playgrounds. Plant trees and other vegetation to provide shade during the summer months. Invest in some unique playground equipment and climbing structures that kids of all ages can enjoy. This would benefit local families/children and visitors.
- Demolition of buildings down town that are eye sores. Put more park benches in the park. Have movie nights in the park or scrabbled/ chess games in the park. Utilize Millinocket Stream with boat rides that ho beyond the mill. Grand pitch falls is beautiful.
- Tear down the dilapidated buildings, enforce the codes re property maintenance,

- A few lights on the walking trail. Spruce up the river edge of Crandall Park. Get a few of the tires out of Millinocket Stream.
- "Clean up abandoned houses.
- Require homeowners to maintain their property, remove junk and old cars etc."
- overall I think these are ok.....
- I would like to see more greenspace and trails. Living close to the mill, there is no guarantee that the sledding trails will remain trails. That trail isn't maintained during the summer, either. And what about lands close to the West Branch? Joseph Attean, Thoreau's Penobscot Indian guide died here in Millinocket at Grand Falls. We should really preserve this natural and cultural features! Can we preserve Shack Hill as a park? Build a modern canoe portage following the historic route used by Thoreau? I'm sure my vision won't be the most popular, but I hope that it would be the most thoughtful and visionary.
- Keep doing what it's doing. Roadwork would be a great improvement as roads in some areas are very discouraging and can be distracting from certain attractions.
- Providing Grants for the older homes
- "1. Do repairs that need doing to the Municipal Building. This is one of the first building people go to. Right now the stairs in front are crumbling.
- 2. Clean up Peddlers Hill. It is a muddy mess in spring. Maybe use it more for a publicity area for happenings in town.
- 3. Take better care of the cemetery. Not a blade of grass up there now. A field of dandelions."
- Monson Maine is all you need to know...
- New street signs, improve our veteran park make it look alive
- "Roads and sidewalks need major repairs.
- Many homes/yards need repairs and clean-ups.
- Our main street needs "sprucing up". Several buildings have been refurbished and look great, but more needs to be done."
- "1. Redo the facades on the mall are where tractor supply is
- 2. Bring a retailer into the Walgreens building
- 3. Finish the green space downtown."

**Q12:** Would you be willing to volunteer in the community? If so, where would you be willing to do it?

### **Responses**

- No
- Yes I would. Any project
- I would love to be involved in creating a curriculum for children during the summer months to get outside! The beautification of our town is something that needs all hands on deck. If everybody helped a little, it would go a long way!
- Yes, food co-op
- I volunteer all the time.
- Already do plenty now
- Yes, whatever needs to be done
- Yes, in almost any capacity.
- Tapped out with volunteering, it's all I do socially.
- Yes. Community gardens. Recovery Center. Food pantry/shelter. We should offer more free meals for those who need them.
- Continuing until I can't.
- Already do.
- I already do.
- Yes. I consider it a second job at this point! lol
- That's a hard question to answer I would like to help in many areas
- No
- Downtown
- Yes. Economic development activities, lobbying companies to bring jobs, small business mentoring, lobbying for high speed internet to attract remote workers.
- Yes
- No.
- Yes
- Have been for many years.
- I don't live in the area, but I'd come up to help for a weekend if the project was right for me.
- Already do.
- I just said that! Haha yes!
- I have been volunteering for years and will continue as long as I can  
I have volunteered
- Yes I do all the time.
- I already do with trash pickup around town
- Yes, anywhere needed
- for find/rescue
- Yes, I already do
- yes.
- Yes

- Since we are not residents and only live in Millinocket during the summer (working most of the time) it is unlikely that we would be able to volunteer in the community. If we lived there permanently I would love to volunteer to help improve the communication regarding childcare resources, camps/activities for children, and to help with youth sports.
- Yes, it all depends on the activity.
- I already do
- More doable when we live there full time.
- Yes, and have since I moved here.
- Not able to..
- I do volunteer work. I'm engaged with Ktaadn Arts and with the Heritage Park (where the mini-golf was once located).
- Of course. Although I am very busy right now with college and working, I eventually would like to personally help needy families and try to give them more opportunities than what they currently have. I would rather do things like this myself instead of donate to some company where the CEO makes a fortune.
- Yes! I'm good at fundraising
- Yes. Wherever needed.
- Yes
- Yes. I would have to first see what volunteering opportunities are available. Y
- Yes
- I already do.

**Q13:** We are working on airport improvements and want to understand more public opinion on travel in Millinocket. If there were transportation opportunities to distances such as Bangor, Portland, or Boston, MA would you consider purchasing a ticket?

### **Responses**

- Yes
- Would depend on the cost
- I travel quite a bit so if the price was fair I would definitely consider it. Bangor is not too far away and not much of an inconvenience as it's already such a small airport, so it would have to rival the convenience of Bangor for me to consider it.
- Yes
- yes!
- Yes
- Absolutely
- Yes
- YES! I travel frequently and would utilize this service. There are also many other neighbors in my community who need to get medical help in Bangor and others who travel frequently.
- Given my travel limitations, air travel is my last resort due to their slow pace providing accessibility.
- Yes.
- Possibly
- I would like to see it for those who would and for the numbers to be a profitable run but at the moment.... no.
- Maybe
- I wouldn't because i hate to travel, but friends and family could fly in.
- "Yes.
- The sustainability committee is covering some great work. I'm proud to be involved."
- Just maybe
- No
- Yes
- YES
- Yes, absolutely
- Yes
- maybe
- Yes
- Why improve, when we have no air traffic.
- Yes
- Maybe!
- Yes.
- In a heartbeat. The older I get the more I hate to drive long distances.
- Yes!
- Yes more than likely. Maybe add Connecticut to the list. Lots of people have family there also

- My traveling days are over.
- Yes!
- Probably
- Absolutely. Would rather fly from Millinocket then bangor.
- yes
- YES!!!
- YES~~~ travel to Bangor would be great
- You're kidding right? This was all lined up to happen a couple years ago. What happened to the original people who proposed it? Left like the trash like the town always does to people? As for a ticket .. your question is dumb anyone will consider.
- yes
- Yes
- Yes
- It's not clear what type of transportation is being considered. Since airport improvements are mentioned, is air travel being considered? Air travel between Boston and Millinocket would be phenomenal (but probably unlikely). Seems like it would be more realistic to focus on improving bus service to Bangor and locations further south.
- Yes, would also like to see the train service from Millinocket to Brunswick or north to Fort Kent
- No
- Yes
- YES. Bus service to Portland and/or Boston would be fantastic.
- YES!
- yes but, not sure of the need
- "Maybe. Depending on how flights impacted livability in the community. I grew up close to O'Hare airport, and the noise was horrendous. Can we develop our airport without destroying our quality of life?
- Having said that, I'm thankful that we have an airport. This asset will, in the long term, prove to be important for future development."
- More than likely if prices are fair.
- Yes!
- Fly to Bangor. No Other places depends on the price.
- Yes
- Yes, also we should look at bringing ups to our area, moving there head quarters from island falls to Millinocket, build a warehouse for packages & vehicle
- Definitely.
- Not likely
- No.
- Yes

**Q14:** Are you in need of food for yourself or your family? If so, please provide your contact information and we will share it with our Age-Friendly Millinocket network to get in touch with you.

### **Responses**

- Responses are omitted in this report for privacy reasons.

**Q15:** Are you interested in receiving a COVID vaccine and need assistance to get to an appointment, or need additional information before making a decision? If so, please provide your contact information and we will share it with our Age-Friendly Millinocket network to get in touch with you.

### **Responses**

- Responses are omitted in this report for privacy reasons.

**Q16:** Are you satisfied with the resources currently available for drug abuse/prevention in town? If not, can you suggest a resource that would be beneficial?

### **Responses**

- Yes
- I actually have no idea what our town offers for this, so I'm sure there are a lot of other people who are unaware as well
- Yes
- n/a
- Yes
- No -- we need to consolidate schools in order to have enough resources to assist our children before they get sucked into addiction.
- No. More rehab opportunities and change in policing to include the Governor's opioid commission recommendations.
- There is room for growth. We need to have more after school programs and care for kids. Teaching them more life skills. I was addicted to social media at a young age. We need more support for kids, coaching, 1/1 mentoring when parents are not available.
- Is there ever enough when a problem exists? Education, outreach, of what we have. Use of the Opioid funds by the State for a greater rural outreach services, direct services.
- There are NEVER enough resources or preventative services anywhere. It has to start with children growing up in stable loving homes, and since many families are NOT that, i can only suggest more support services through the school years, after school programs, anything that catches kids before they fall through the cracks.
- Another community I am deeply involved in. The resources are here. Communication between them needs to improve. The police department should not be handling the drug problem the way they do. They should be required to have anyone arrested in a drug or alcohol related incident meet with a trained professional before release. We have many

right within the town of Millinocket, Pir2Peer Recover, Breaking The Cycle, to name a couple. Bragging about arrests on social media to get praise from the misperceived general public is NOT THE ANSWER. It's pathetic if nothing else.

- Yes and no
- No no
- No. The drugs are still everywhere because the dealers are never arrested. Now they are dealing to kids
- No opinion
- Local people need no resources, don't bring more into town.
- It's important, but please boost the prevention side. The fact that the drug houses and dealers were well known and ignored is despicable
- No, stop moving druggies into this town.
- We have a huge problem. Not sure of the resources available or if they are being taken advantage of.
- No. We need someone in the area who prescribes something so the addict doesn't go use again. I know townspeople that don't have addicts in their family will never understand so it probably wouldn't get approved. Sad. Small town America reality. Closed minded.
- No, We need more . Maybe a clinic so people do have to travel all the way to Bangor everyday . That's why they don't want to get off stuff .
- No
- No
- Drug prevention is getting better. Not happy about methadone clinic.
- no. if anything it's brought more problems to this town. send them out of town where there is broader care
- Haven't needed, so wouldn't know
- No... their are many stories of ODs in town
- Comedians are you? The towns people want a town to be proud of... your not even coming close
- We finally have a PD that is doing something about drugs
- No. We need very strong social services, mental health, and educational services not just for the user but for the extended family . But mostly there needs to be a path forward and that requires jobs
- Again a full police dept. Would do wonders!
- yes
- I am hesitant about outside interests establishing drug rehab centers in our community. Can we impose a moratorium so that we can study the impact of such new facilities on our community? If such facilities prove to be an economic boon without increasing crime, then I'm in favor of supporting such development in the future. Perhaps it would encourage various professionals to relocate to Millinocket. But if such expansion is at the expense of traditional retail and commercial development, then I would be hesitant at expanding such activities. I would hope that town council and the Planning Board would carefully weigh such development in the future.
- I definitely like having East Millinocket' police force in town. They have done an amazing job at trying to stop these criminals. As for helping current addicts, I love pir2peer's response to the area and encouragement towards addicts to try and get help to try and save

their lives. Maybe some money could be sent to help out with resources that may be necessary for their group to help with expenses to try and help more.

- STAFF THE POLICE STATION. HAVING CRUISERS RIDING AROUND TOWN IS ONE THING BUT IF ADDICTS OR DRUG DEALERS KNOW THERE IS A POLICE PRESENCE ON MAIN STREET, THEY MAY THINK TWICE ABOUT BEING THERE.
- The hiring of East Mill PD was the smartest decision town has made in a long time. The drug dealers need to be put out of business and in jail. Be tough on crime and let criminals know the Greater Millinocket area is NOT going to tolerate drugs / crime. Families will appreciate & embrace it. Safe community is imperative.
- Bring our police department back to town set up system to deal with drug abuse
- This is a tough question. Although I have no direct or personal knowledge about the drug issue in town, from what I hear, I feel we do have a major drug problem. I don't know how many people take advantage of the Peer to Pir place. As we all know, an addict must want help to recover.
- Yes.

## General Response Forum

**Forum:** This section is dedicated as an open forum to the Town of Millinocket. Feel free to share any thoughts you have. If you have a question that you would like to be considered for the next survey, please share it here.

### Responses

- Younger town council
- "I live on Somerset street and was never informed the old gate was going to be open. This is a residential street and having an additional 60 cars using the street is not safe for kids nor people have to walk in the road because the sidewalks are unsafe. Why not use the gate? Communication is a big issue The town does what it wants without informing people who are impacted No recycling? What happened with this. A lot of people believe recycling is the responsible of everyone. The streets are in such bad shape to drive, parts of
- The cemetery is in bad shape parts and some the the roads you cannot drive on. Instead of asking the same questions every year and nothing happens what is the sense of doing surveys"
- We need a police department of our own
- The town needs to find a town manager who is new, energetic and familiar with economic development and the resources need to make it happen. That should be number one - working closely with Our Katahdin and other eco dev agencies - need to support education and new initiatives that come out of school. Help solve the childcare crisis.
- The council supports snowmobiling with a budget line item every year and should do the same for ATVing!
- We just visited the US National Whitewater Center in North Carolina. It has something for everyone and is a huge attraction. Zip lines, whitewater rafting for beginners, bicycling, a park for live entertainment, ice skating, rock climbing, and just being outside enjoying the fresh air!
- Wonderful job on the survey. Optimistic for the future.
- Wondering if anyone is interested in taking yoga classes or being part of a wellness community. I have a dream to provide a center where a membership would allow access to counseling services, local food, yoga, whole foods, art therapy, essential oils to benefit overall health and wellbeing naturally.
- "Questions such as:
  - Living Situation: Housing? 1. Own, 2. Rent, 3. Live with another, 4. Homeless.
  - Living Situation: Quality: 1. Very Comfortable, 2. Comfortable, 3. Doing Ok, 4. Getting- By, 5. Need Help.
  - Employment: 1. Work for a business in Town, 2. Own a business in Town. 3. Work out of my residence for a business (a.) In Town, (b) Out of Town 4. Travel out of Town to work, 5. Out of Work, 6. Retired, 7. Do not Work.
- Do you Support efforts for East Millinocket, Medway and Millinocket to combine and or join public services for cost efficiencies and better services to all three communities?"
- Maybe more on Town government?

- I am glad to see the efforts being made to adapt and move forward. Haters are going to hate, and that's fine. They can leave. There is a bright future here and we're headed there, but it's different "the way things were".. and that's ultimately a very good thing.
- Do the people in town think that there's enough police presents
- Infrastructure to get the area into the 21st century, bury power lines, get natural gas, get spectrum into the area.
- The new tenants of the Logger and VFW buildings shouldn't be welcomed in this town.
- Good luck! Glad to see the positive progress.
- I would like public record on why that disgusting police chief is in office in my beautiful hometown? Publicly. After all he did to our own police chief who worked tirelessly for Mlkt honorably for years. I am disgusted.
- The pay around this town especially the medical field, AKA CNAs need more money!
- Good luck
- Keep the dump open more days during the week. Also someone really needs to address transfer station issues such as smoking weed in the compactor building office, not following safety rules when operating heavy equipment, ignoring transfer station permits such as allowing the burning of shingles and other non wood, universal waste storage area violations such as unsecured bulbs, storage over regulatory limits and improper storage of batteries. Could be costly to the town when the DEP or MMA shows up for a safety inspection.
- needs to be safer, cleaner, more things for kids to do. if curfew is inforced parents should be punished as well as child for breaking curfew. make parents more accountable for their children and how they behave.
- I think Millinocket, East, and Medway work on improvements together
- Pull your heads out of the clouds and tell us what your intentions really are
- Thank you for providing the opportunity to submit feedback.
- "We should not allow individuals to move here on free state aid, free food stamps, free maine care, free housing etc. thats why this town is going down hill. We need more educated individuals living in town with their families.
- We need people who contribute to our economy instead of getting everything for free."
- Recycling is not about making money, it's about doing what we can to protect our precious natural resources.
- "New Police force.
- All new hires, no former police.
- Notices of town meetings in advance and complete transparency."
- Thank you for inviting public comment.
- Love being back where I grew up. But we need to retain the young people with good paying jobs.
- The people I've heard from make it clear the Code Enforcement officer is NOT an appropriate person for temp town manager. Period. We would strongly encourage a better balance in the local political arena.
- "Need more transparency from town council.
- Need our own police department
- Need town office open five days a week
- Need to improve our fire department"

- "Without being critical, it seems like there are always ideas and talk about improvements but nothing is ever carried through to fruition. I'm still hoping that the mill site can bring some help to us but it also seems to be stalled.
- Our schools need to offer better salaries and benefits for teachers to attract teachers to come and stay! My husband was a teacher in East Millinocket for almost 40 years and Millinocket and East Millinocket had the highest teaching salaries in the State when he started his career. What happened?"

## Summary Analysis

This is the fourth version of an annual survey research project conducted by the Town of Millinocket. A total of 64 entries are reflected in this report. This survey was established to open lines of communication and gain insight on several viewpoints toward the town from its residents, seasonal-residents, business owners, and visitors. Responses range from many positive comments toward the town's progress in economic development, some negative comments toward the town's progress in economic development, many suggestions for the town in operations and fiscal management, as well as several ideas to implement for redeveloping the area.

Information gathered in this public report can be viewed by several different agencies whether it be personal, business, or governmental — to provide insight towards personal beliefs and how it reflects towards the reviewer, to provide businesses with insight to suggested new businesses and/or desire of those seeking emerging markets in the area, to provide guidance to organizations profit/non-profit from the public perspective that assist in the redevelopment of the town and region. This summary is reflective of the data present in report findings. This is not reflective of one's own interpretation that may be perceived from any findings.

Upon review, the Economic Development Committee will incorporate information from this report into aspects of their work. Any suggestions for the next annual survey such as questions and format or adjustments to reporting are welcome. We thank those who have taken time out of their schedules to provide input to this survey.