

The logo consists of a solid green square on the left side, followed by the text "NORTHWOOD ECONOMIC" on the top line and "MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT" on the bottom line. The text is in a bold, sans-serif font, with "NORTHWOOD" and "MASTER PLAN" in dark teal and "ECONOMIC" and "DEVELOPMENT" in green.

**NORTHWOOD ECONOMIC
MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT**

PUBLIC INPUT DOCUMENTATION

Economic Development Chapter

Adopted [Date]

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CONTENTS

Introduction 2
Survey 3
Economic Development Community Forum..... 17
Chesley Memorial Library Senior Café 19

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INTRODUCTION

This document contains input received during public engagement activities designed for the Economic Development Chapter including a survey, workshop, and discussion at the Senior Café at the Chesley Memorial Library.

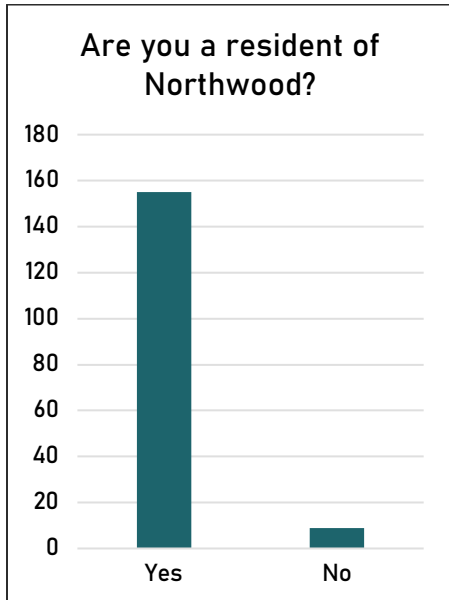
The input received during these engagement components directly informed the development of the chapters and recommendations.

Advertising for survey and workshop included Town website, Planning Board meetings, social media posts, in person events (Trunk or Treat, Northwood Fall Craft Fair, Coffee Hour for Business Owners), a Town-wide postcard mailing, Library Café, poster, and door to door announcements at businesses. The Project Team maintained a website (NorthwoodMP.info) with up-to-date information about the chapter development process. The Team also attended monthly or bi-monthly Master Plan Subcommittee Meetings and **several** Planning Board meetings. A public hearing on the chapters is scheduled for **[date]**.

SURVEY

Survey Open: October 1, 2024 – December 9, 2024
Total Survey Responses: 164

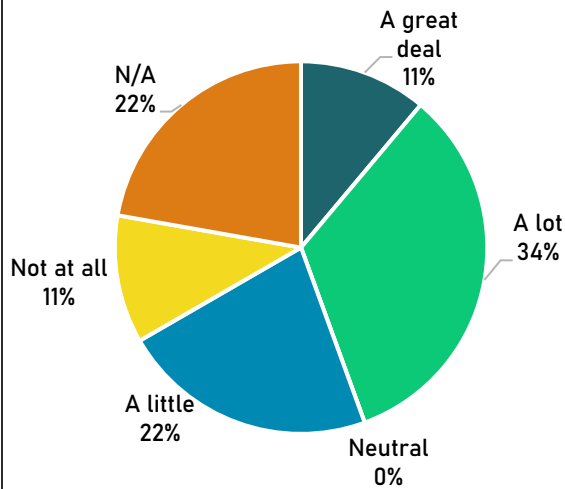
Questions for all Participants



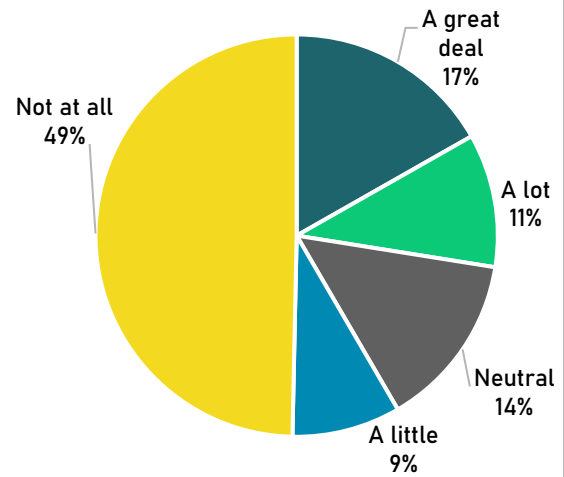
Other:

- Self employed, service industry most jobs out of town
- I am a crafter who sells crafts

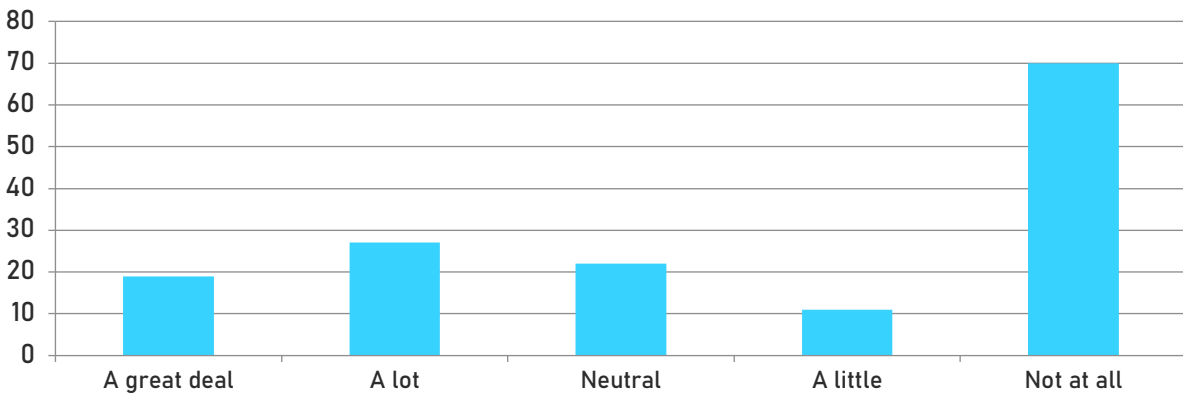
If you have a business in another community, how much would the presence of economic incentives for businesses impact the likelihood that you would move or expand your business to Northwood?



How much did the location of your job contribute to why you chose to live in Northwood?



How concerned are you about the availability of childcare?



What types of retail and services would you like to see in Northwood (ex. restaurants, barbershop, healthcare offices, home furnishings, clothing, recreation, etc.)?

- NA
- Restaurants, Healthcare offices like vision
- restaurants, grocery stores, nail salon, clothing
- Recreation
- restaurants (not chains), beauty salons, indoor activities for children and adults, massage, chiropractor, acupuncture, gym
- Healthcare offices. Senior center. Place where organizations ex. scouts, committees, could meet. Community Hall is often booked on certain days. Place for voting other than school where it is difficult for handicap to walk when busy (hill).
- Something that would bring \$s for the tax pot.
- Market Basket, Lowes, Restaurants, Machine shops
- It would be nice to have more choice. With the way that Northwood operates it is very hard to get new businesses, I remember when "Hannaford" wanted to come in. That was such a funny "joke".
- Healthcare
- Yes. We need tax money. Any.
- Please no big box stores. The small businesses can't compete and thus won't survive!
- I would love to have some local shops for purchase of gifts, cards, books, and some clothing items. Ideally some shops in proximity to one another.
- Restaurants, cafes, recreation, healthcare
- More places to gather
- Car wash, book store, Internet cafe/coffee shop, thrift stores
- eatery other than burgers & pizza (too many of those), a good breakfast spot
- healthcare, recreation, small restaurants, any commercial business
- drug store like CVS
- Aldi
- major retail
- Coffee shop, local art retail, healthy food options, live music
- Ethnic restaurant, public transport, farmers markets, plumbers
- None keep it simple
- Restaurants
- Community Solar Power
- All listed
- Recreation, restaurants, community center
- Market Basket
- General Store
- Gift Shop
- We are good
- Healthcare, general store, entertainment facilities
- Just what we have.
- Doctor office
- where could services be located in town? not on rts 4, 43 or 102. healthcare services, would be good. don't want to become Epping
- Home decor, laundry mat
- healthcare offices and clothing stores.
- Very few. Just essentials like groceries gas hardware restaurants. Same as today.
- Recreation and health care
- Restaurants, healthcare offices
- RESTURANTS, DRUG STORE/PHARMACY, AUTO PARTS, FAST FOOD
- coffee shops!
- We have everything we need.
- Restaurants other than pizza.
- Hair salons, spa services, restaurants, coffee shops, recreation
- Clothing
- Restaurants that serve something other than pizza -- healthy food options, coffee shop, pharmacy/store like a CVS, a theater for live performances.

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- A drug store, coffee cafe
- I like the current mix of services - restaurants, barber shops, and locally owned, specialty retail
- Recreation & Restaurants
- Restaurants, coffee shops, doctors offices, maybe a recreation building for a central location for more activities/family/community events, restrooms at the playground/athletic fields year round, more transfer station investment, more town beach maintenance
- Healthcare, doctors. Childcare, recreational activities, athletic buildings or gyms
- Restaurants, healthcare offices, recreation
- Restaurants
- Pharmacies, chain restaurants, diverse restaurant styles, different grocery stores, oil change/quick service shops, car washes
- Laundromat
- More recreation, restaurants, more retail that isn't an antique shop.
- none
- restaurants, recreation, healthcare, home furnishings
- Anything locally owned, no chains! One thing the town could possibly use is a laundromat - I don't know what the need is, but there aren't any nearby. A Mexican, Asian restaurant. A book store, cafe. Unfortunately, Northwood is a drive through place, with no center, no sidewalks, nothing to make anyone slow down and visit for a while.
- Restaurants & Clothing
- Nothing. I like Northwood the way it is. I did not move to Northwood to have retail and services in my backyard.
- More and better quality food options.
- Almost any...there is nothing here except gas stations, antiques, and a small convenience store. We need retail!!
- Restaurants
- Restaurants
- a mix
- More restaurants
- No big chains, big box stores
- more variety of restaurants/ no chains however and why do we have numerous pizza options? Sadly, the others haven't lasted. Healthy options offering vegetarian/vegan. Susty's was great. Use old buildings, no new growth. Keep the Local flavor. For the love of all that is Holy, no Aroma Joes or Dinkins please
- laundromat, car wash
- Great question! More (or a rebirth) Antique Shops, childcare establishments, home businesses, Lawyers, accountants, and medical services.
- Restaurants that serve food other than pizza and hamburgers (Mexican, Indian, Thai, Japanese, etc.), and a good pharmacy
- Restaurants
- Recreation
- I would like to see Antique Alley have a revival, along with other small shops of local talent.
- restaurant,
- All
- Cafe/restaurants, community art center, clothing shops (second hand is fine)
- Restaurants, healthcare, recreation
- I would like to see the electric lines with new power poles
- Healthcare offices
- Dollar Tree or something similar.
- Discount department store, restaurants, dry cleaner, clothing
- Dog parks, bike paths, restaurants
- Healthcare services would be an interesting idea!
- Food stores
- Restaurants, auto parts store, retail store.
- Restaurants, home furnishings, clothing
- Restaurants, dollar store, hardware,
- Restaurants, another hardware store
- healthcare
- healthcare offices
- Healthcare. Commercial buildings

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- restaurants -- outdoor dining space, community centers
- restaurants
- Laudromat
- All of the above.
- Healthcare offices: Primary Care and Urgent Care
- Restaurants: More ethnic types of food that aren't Chinese food.
- Retail services of all kinds
- Restaurants clothing
- Food options not including more pizza or hamburgers.
- Alternative healthcare, thrift shop, consignment shop, assisted living, women's healthcare
- Urgent Care Facilit
- Primary care, auto parts, local (not chain) restaurants, coffee shop, pharmacy
- perfect as is
- Boutique retail. Professional services such as CPA's, insurance agencies, lawyers, etc. Expanded restaurant/bar selection.
- -A daycare/preK facility that's along the lines of Learning Tree in Epsom or Little Tree in Dover.
- -2-3 plazas for up to 8 businesses each. The buildings could be mixed use so businesses are on the main floor and residential apartments are above for 2-3 more stories. The aesthetic should be good enough for a Starbucks. There should be outdoor seating and parking.
- Businesses could be coffee shop/bakery, restaurant (NOT another pizza place), sporting goods/outdoor recreation, show floor for home builder/designer/real estate, art studio, maker space, hobby, relocating existing businesses to these more attractive properties and renovating the older properties to be used as residential.
- - Urgent care
- - Indoor sports facility (like elite sports academy in epsom)
- - Hotel/hospitality
- - Outdoor area suitable for year round farmers markets, food trucks, with spaces that have electrical hookups for vendors and areas for picnic tables
- -Warehousing for 3PL companies, or an Amazon distribution center, food distributor.
- Happy for any business to come to Northwood but do not feel the need for any due to our proximity to Concord.
- Restaurants
- Restaurants, coffee shop, pharmacy, kids activities, gym, additional grocery options, family friendly wineries/breweries/etc.
- all
- RECREATION for seniors. There is no place that we can regularly meet for a variety of activities like so many other Towns have.
- no more than we have...Lee or Epsom is close enough
- restaurants other than a pizza place, breakfast cafe, dollar general store
- Restaurants, farms/farmstands, recreation
- Restaurant and coffee shop. Aroma joes or Starbucks.
- produce market, meat market, healthcare
- Whatever the traffic will bear--on Route 4. It's already commercial, why not make it moreso.
- Question is too broad, answer would be a paragraph
- Restaurants, child care, health care
- Small businesses. Not big box stores or franchises. Support local.
- Restaurants, healthcare, all of the above
- Recreation
- No need for these in town, they are all readily available nearby.
- Food
- Healthcare, recreation, youth services
- Restaurants
- Home furnishings
- Restaurants, healthcare home, furnishings, clothing, recreation
- Restaurants
- Clothing
- Health care, restaurants
- Healthcare offices, Retail - clothing/shoes, Recreation - indoor/outdoor facilities with programs for teens & adults, more diverse restaurants.

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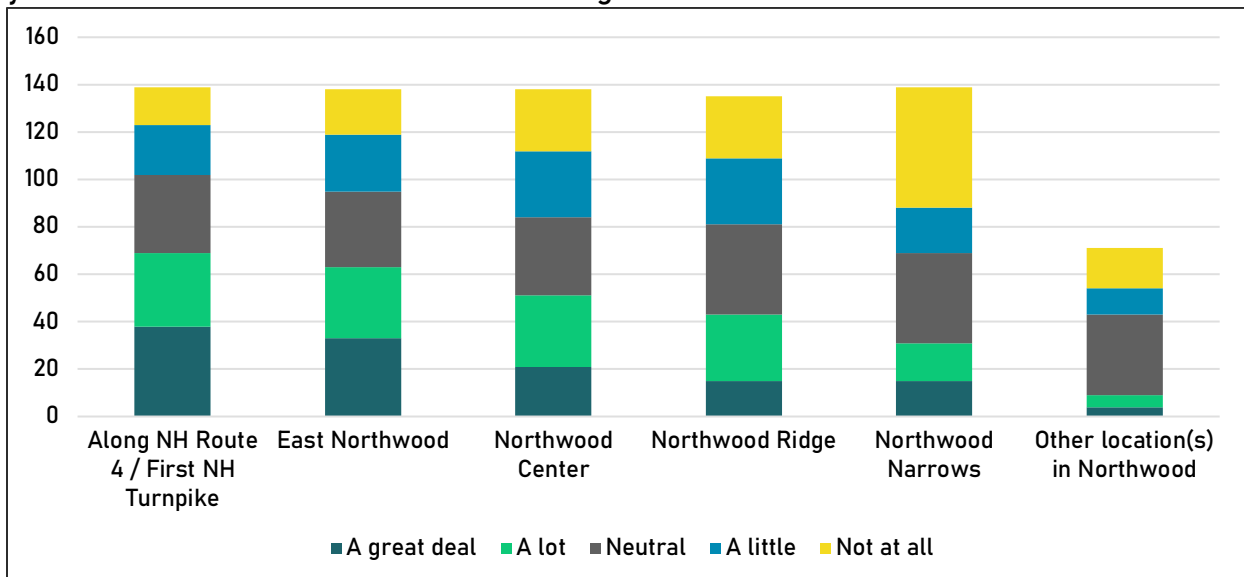
- Anything non-chain as long as the town starts being more friendly to small businesses.
- restaurants

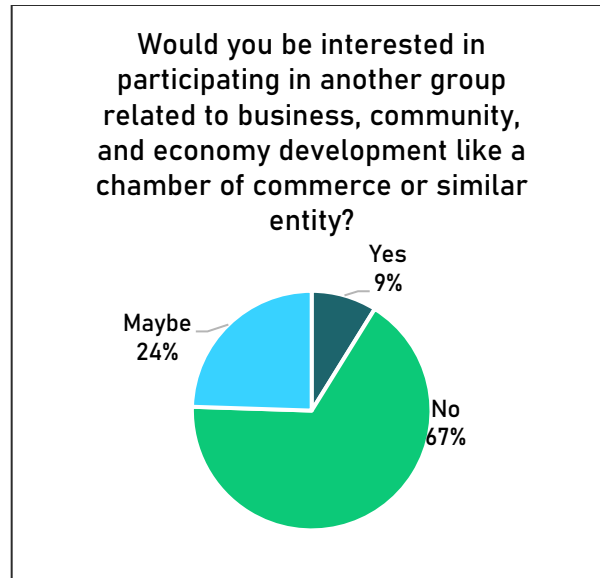
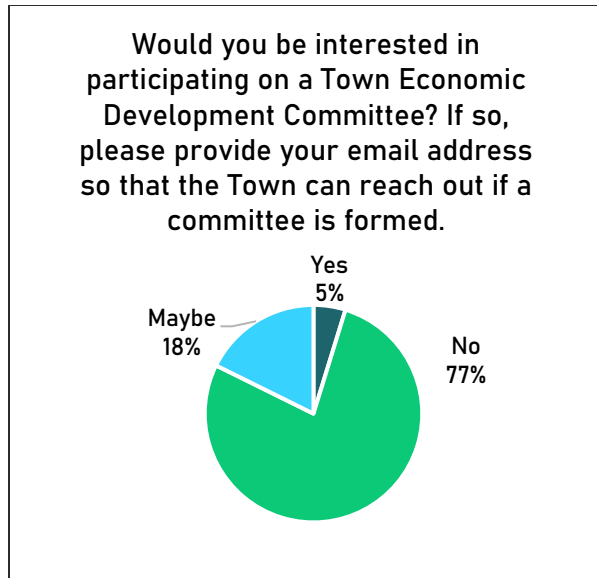
Summary of coded input to the question *What types of retail and services would you like to see in Northwood (ex. restaurants, barbershop, healthcare offices, home furnishings, clothing, recreation, etc.)?:*

:

| Types of Retail and Services | Number of Respondents |
|---|-----------------------|
| Restaurants | 59 |
| Healthcare, medical offices, alternative health care, and urgent care | 34 |
| Indoor and/or outdoor recreation, sports facility, gym sporting goods | 24 |
| Coffee shop, café, bakery | 16 |
| No more, good as is | 12 |
| Clothing, shoes | 11 |
| Grocery store, healthy options, specialty | 9 |
| Pharmacy, drug store | 7 |
| Community center, senior center, place to gather | 6 |
| Carwash, auto parts, quick service shops | 6 |
| Laundromat, drycleaner | 6 |
| Home décor, home furnishing | 5 |
| Small, locally owned, no chains, no big box | 5 |
| Daycare, PreK, childcare | 5 |
| All listed as examples in the question, all of the above (restaurants, barbershop, healthcare offices, home furnishings, clothing, recreation, etc.) | 5 |
| Retail services, any commercial business, major retail | 5 |

Would you like to see retail and services in these locations? Refer to the map below if you are not familiar with the historic village locations.





Please share any additional information or comments pertinent to economic development in Northwood.

- bring in a dollar tree or dollar general
- Rt 4 is the place it makes the most sense to put businesses, but traffic/ getting out into traffic is tough. Extending the turn lane would be helpful.
- Before any more business comes to Rt 4 one must consider a full turn lane the whole way threow town. Now how's that going to effect the homes that sit almost on Rt 4 already?
- After doing the survey this appears to have more to do with bringing business to Northwood. Am I right? We are actually a "bedroom town" for surrounding Towns and Cities that had the room to already develop factories, markets, hotels, where much employment is unneeded. We are not a far away commute to these surrounding businesses. So encourage mroe rental property to be built 1 or 2 bedrooms, thus keeping large amounts of students from over flowing our school. Even encourage over 55 small, compact, ranch (one level) homes to encourage more seniors to settle here. We have the lake, walking trails, library, churches, mabe a golf course someday to help attract over 65. More seniors would add to the existing Ambulance load though. PS Hope you can read my hand writing.
- Spread businesses around.
- Route 4 seems like the logical space to increase business growth. The roads off of Rt. 4 are quite rural and it would be nice to keep them that way as much as possible. Low impact businesses such as hairdressers, B+B's, small shops in people's home would be good on the side roads.
- Rather than tearing down old homes or bulldozing open land it seems that staying adjacent to existing businesses would help preserve the character of our town as folks drive on through to their destination. I would like to see a bus route between Concord and Portsmouth wiht stops and parking in Northoow. This might help some with Route 4 congestion as well as give folks a chance to get to those places without their vehicle.
- A centrally located set of shops would be a big addition.
- I would really like to see walkability improved. It would be nice to be able to bike or walk to places. Being able to walk or bike on the main route (safely) should be an option.
- I feel it is important to maintain Northwoods historic areas and small-town feel. There's already a wonderful history of independently owned shops, such as antique dealers, and it would be great to have additional small businesses to maintain that atmosphere. Like a destination... Spend the day in Northwood kind of thing.
- Traffic congestion and safety is a big challenge along Route 4 and lacks sufficient turn lanes. If this isn't considered then it is going to get even worse.
- More commercial development along Rte. 4 and improvements to Rte. 4 by the state will slow the traffic down and provide a destination town instead pass through town. Need an anchor busy that will bring people to the town, like the Christmas Dove for Barrington or Lee Circle and Epsom development area
- Public water and sewer systems
- People live here because it's a country setting let's not make it commercialized please

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- I chaired the Northwood Economic Development Committee years ago and located the land in which the HUD elderly housing complex is located on Bow Street. I wrote the successful final grant that brought in the \$3.1 million dollars for 31 elderly housing units. As a Selectman, I worked to help bring in the Hannaford grocery store. I held an S.O.S. (Save our Supermarket) at town hall and was able to collect over 700 signatures from residents and presented them to the Army Corps of Engineers because a few misinformed individuals were trying to stop food and medicine from coming into Northwood.
- Reasonable taxes
- It would be great to have a town center away from route 4 that would offer walkable shops, entertainment, restaurants, etc.
- Vote
- Safe water is a big concern in town
- Northwood is well developed. There is no need to turn it into a strip mall.
- Northwood is a drive through commuter town now. Rt 4 is the limiting factor for economic development.
- we live in Northwood because we like a small town.
- We don't need more pkg lots and empty places of business bc businesses don't succeed. Leave northwood as it is.
- I have looked into what's involved for my wife to start a single chair hair salon out of our home as she currently works in Dover. The amount of paperwork and money needed to hire engineers and land consultants to meet the major site plan requirements was overwhelming and we gave up. I feel that the major site plan being required for her to work out of our home is excessive.
- Route 4 is a highly traveled road and retail and restaurants would do well. We need to have our inspectors and zoning more business-friendly.
- I like the current mix of locally owned business and services available in Northwood. Larger businesses and national chains would not be appropriate for this town.
- It would be great if there could be something of a small town 'main street' in Northwood that could feel like more of a town center than route 4. And more rec/community options for families :). Also love that the trails, nature, and local farms/products seems to be a focus for Northwood and would love for that to continue to be central to planning for the town.
- The fact that Rte 4 is a "major" transportation route from seacoast to northern NH is a double edged sword. When and wherever possible businesses and residences should be encouraged to limit access to Rte 4 by backing onto the travel way (turn arounds, circular driveways). Backing out onto Rte 4 is dangerous! Dont know if State regulations prohibit but some better makings for right hand turn lane for rte 43 east bound on rte 4 might reduce the number of incidents when traffic begins the turn well before beginning of turning lane.
- High taxes with little benefit and weak town services. If my family wasn't here, I'd move.
- Coe Brown and a bunch of lakes are the only things that keep this town alive, despite the town constantly messing everything up.
- I'm retired so much of this is NA although I don't want to see a lot of commercial development here. I think the divisive nature of the town per FB chat page is a big factor reflective of our nation. One side won't typically support a business that is "radical" in the opposite of your personal stance. I'm grateful for choices nearby (such as 7C in Strafford) and am concerned with overdevelopment. Look at Epsom. There has to be some rural flavor kept and the greed of the elite should be kept at bay. It's not all money. Joni Mitchell was on to something. You don't know what you've got till it's gone. I would like to see bus routes to major cities perhaps at Park and Ride and town hall.
- There are some individuals who seek to mold Northwood into their own personal space by actively repressing business development rather than allowing the people of Northwood to have a voice too. Just because a person has a loud voice does not mean that they have more credibility or a realistic outlook for the future of Northwood
- the more business in town, better for taxpayers
- I would like the town to help companies with securing land for agricultural development.
- I must travel for retail services that include auto parts stores to other towns.
- Slow it down! We don't need Walmart or other big business's in this town!
- town should be more business friendly
- Please, please, please - a Senior Center
- Unless we can figure out a rt 4 bypass, we need to concentrate on keeping the current rt 4 safer by not adding storefronts. If we don't protect out water, surface and sub surface, there will be no need for economic development.
- East Northwood is pretty wet, especially along 42. I'd think businesses would have trouble meeting well, septic, slope & setback requirements. without town water & sewer, many businesses won't fit in
- There are commercial spaces worth cleaning up and using within the towns regulations and guidelines. Whether these buildings need to be demolished or renovated is a subject of doing business.

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- No more traffic lights and no more developments. Northwood is a pass through bedroom community with easy access to surrounding services and business options.
- Please research what other similar towns have done well. Don't try to be too proud and go it alone.
- The plan for development needs to be thoughtful and include opportunities for businesses to be open past 8pm.
- Our community is known for having the hardest planning board and zoning board to deal with. People who read the rules and adapt them to their own personal agendas . I watch this shit go on and we're going to get killed with lawsuits Not to mention people that have select i& planning board positions are fixing their own taxes. Take a good look at the assessments of our selectmen and planning board members How come some lake properties go down while other peoples go up?? We are community filled with fraud and it's going to rise to the surface because everybody is talking about it Spend a half hour at the Northwood diner. How come if your name is one of the old ones in town you get to skirt through everything? Nepotism Fraud and corruption are rampant . Just waiting for the Scott ,the Grille people and Gardners to sue you guys. That was so blatant it was sickening to watch.
- If 393 was ever built, there would be more to talk about. RT 4 is extremely limiting to any development of substance, i.e manufacturing, light industries.
- Route 4 is dangerous on a good day, it would be helpful to start finding ways to make travel in our town safer. I do not visit local businesses as often as I would like because of Route 4.
- High taxes, no services, corruption, over-reaching, and general incompetence in the administration makes this a less than desirable place to live and do business.
- Tif district was passed as a warrant article nothing was ever done maybe its worth looking back into

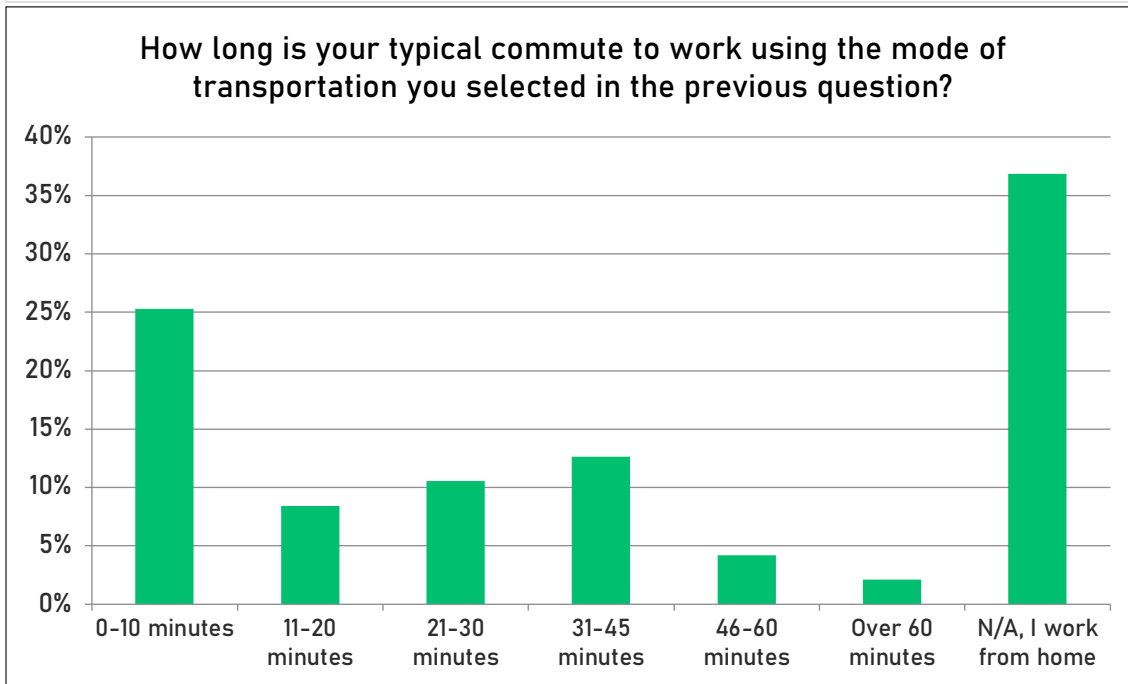
Questions for People who Are working In Northwood Now

Do you own a home business/home occupation now?

| | |
|-----|----|
| Yes | 40 |
| No | 63 |

Do you work from home remotely now?

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Never | 39 |
| Sometimes | 43 |
| All of the time | 21 |



Questions For business Owners

Is your business operating now?

| | |
|-----|----|
| Yes | 31 |
| No | 11 |

If no, please provide the reason that you are no longer operating your business in Northwood:

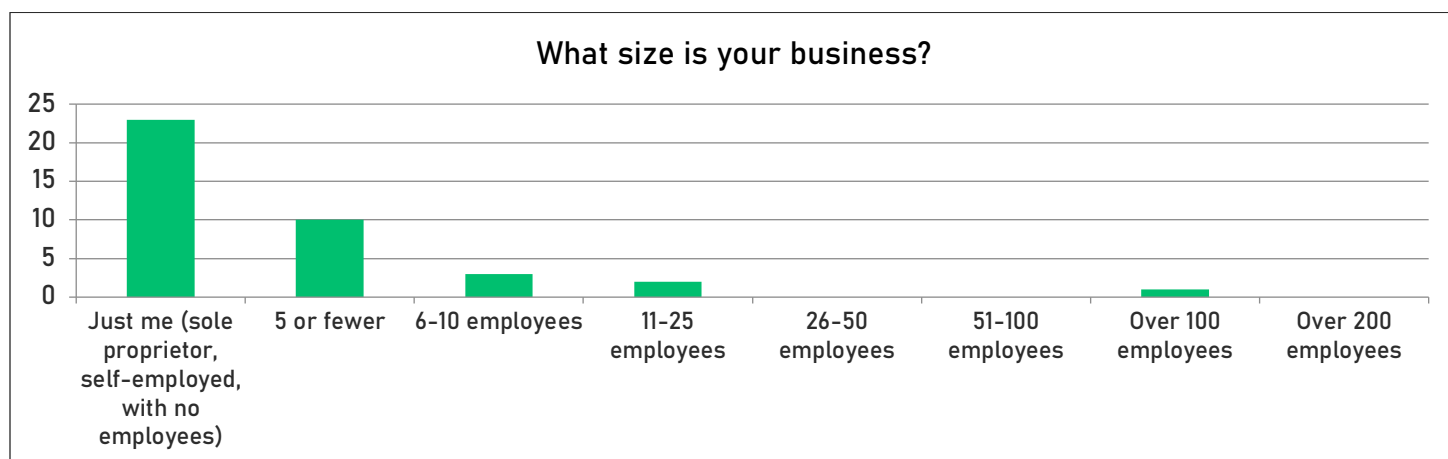
| | |
|---|---|
| I moved the business to another community | 0 |
| I retired and closed the business | 3 |
| I closed the business for reasons other than retirement | 5 |
| Someone else operates the business now | 2 |
| Other (please explain) | 2 |

Other:

- many of these questions don't apply but don't allow a NA. I'm retired but worked at another business traveling the state so location was great as it's "45 minutes from everywhere". Not sure where and if that coin was phrased but in the mid-80's when I moved here, I heard it a lot and it was true. My ex worked in Manchester and myself in Portsmouth so was a good fit.
- How the Pandemic was mismanaged shut down our service business.

Do you own or lease your place of business?

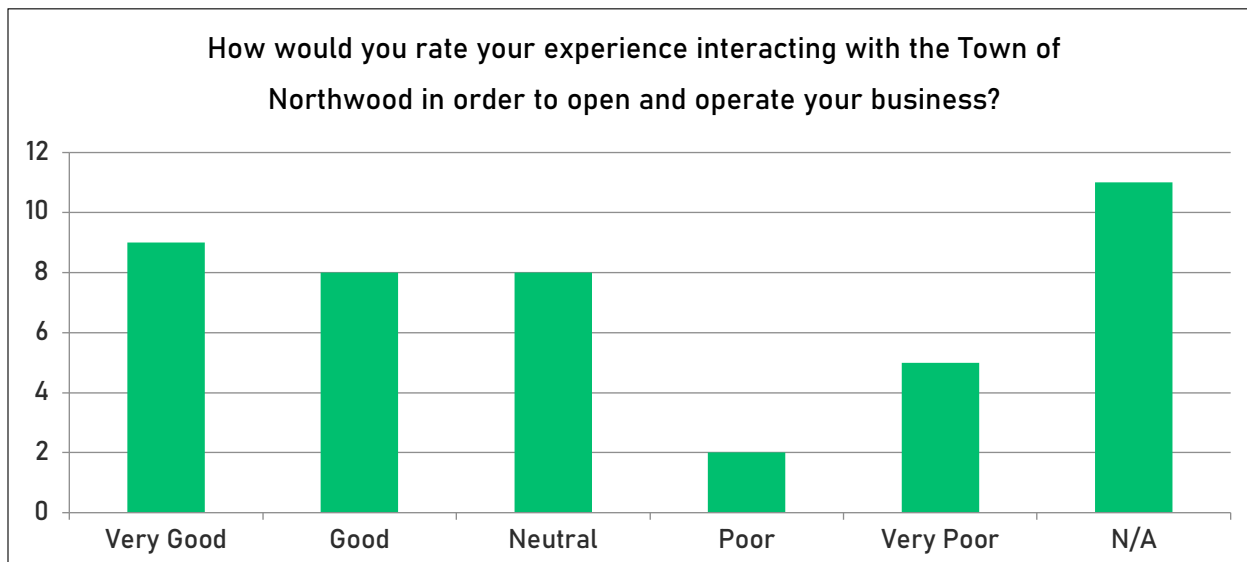
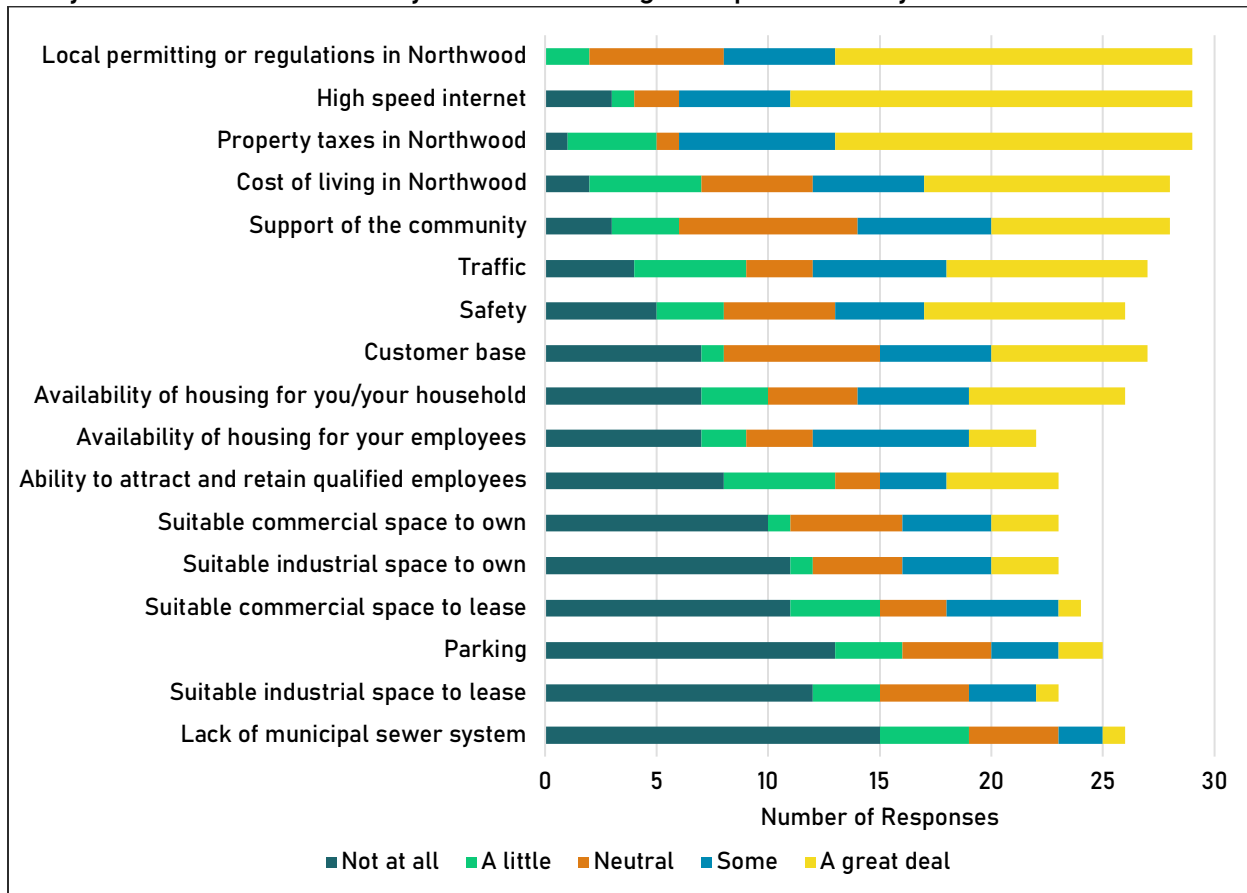
| | |
|-------|----|
| Own | 37 |
| Lease | 4 |



How many years has your business been located in Northwood?

| Responses (number of years) | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|----|----|----|----|---------------------|
| 0 | 3 | 6 | 10 | 14 | 23 | 42 | Median: 10.0 years |
| 1 | 4 | 7 | 10 | 14 | 25 | 44 | Average: 16.6 years |
| 1 | 4 | 7 | 10 | 14 | 32 | 45 | |
| 1 | 4 | 7 | 13 | 14 | 35 | 47 | |
| 3 | 5 | 8 | 14 | 14 | 36 | 51 | |
| 3 | 5 | 9 | 14 | 14 | 40 | | |

Are you concerned about any of the following as it pertains to your business in Northwood?



Is Northwood a good place for your business? Please explain.

- Yes traffic on Rte 4 and bodies of water are key to our business.
- It is. My business does not depend on local customers.
- Yes location and facility have worked out well
- Yes, for my business, 15k vehicles going by my property a day and commuting to projects is easy
- My business was plumbing and heating I could always find work had trouble getting paid
- Yes, central
- Yes, good location and exposure.
- Yes great people
- Northwood was ok. Trump's tariffs were not
- Yes, friendly town, convenient banking
- Location does not matter, my clients are in different parts of the globe.
- It's a good quiet little town
- yes, minimal competition
- No.
- This has been home for 25 years. Businesses will thrive, smallb or large, based on the business model and the owner.
- Attracting tourists /destination
- Yes Good traffic count
- If you check into the rules and regulations and ask the town committees what they would like. We had very little issues.
- the only place it could be
- closed because of Trump tariffs raising prices on bottles/cans which made profits margin drop which prevented expansion. easier to just close while ahead. Northwood was fine.
- It is (sort of) centrally located in NH. My business takes me all over the state.
- Not at all. The Northwood Planning Board has been a mess for years. Rules and policies are not followed. It's all about who you know and side deals. There has been, and continues to be, a lot of corruption but the TA and BoS continue to turn a blind eye to it. Much less of a headache to bring my business and money to another town that is better run. Northwood just can't seem to get out of the rut that it has been in for years. Other towns do it so much better. Sad and sorry to say because we really want to love Northwood but some of the people on decision-making positions on power trips make it nearly impossible.
- I am a residential contractor. Northwood is a great location central to many markets in need. Also a quiet, safe bedroom community for my family.
- Everybody knows Northwood is the worst Town around to conduct business in. The planning board will not pass anything and it is known for not being business friendly
- It's waiting a reasonable distance to 5 cites
- It meets my current needs. If I need to expand it will not.
- No. I'm glad we sold our business and under the current administration, building inspector, and planning board, I would not recommend that anyone do business in, or with the Town Of Northwood

Is there anything that would improve your experience or success as a business owner in Northwood?

- Reliable high speed internet
- No
- Zoning districts, more importantly a designated commercial district on Rte. 4 as noted in the master plan, 500' back from Rte. 4, a town center district.
- We need a local weekly publication
- Taxes
- N/A
- Turning lane on all of rt 4
- Town officials who are cordial and attempt to be helpful.
- Not sure
- traffic policing especially in area surrounding the traffic light at junction of 43/202/9 & 4, particularly east bound traffic which noticeably speeds up when the light is green for east bound, the center lane turning zones are great, should be constant from Epsom line to Nottingham line, for both residence traffic and business traffic
- Abolish the planning board.

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- Less regulation in general. The small New England town feel is most important to me.
- I am sad to see Johnson's Field gone.
- More local support
- Doing the project by the state for the traffic light at the northwood/nottingham project that is supposed to start in 2024
- No.
- Less red tape
- safer Route 4
- Better transparency and accountability among town officials. Civil dialog and discussions. It's so awkward and uncomfortable to do business with Northwood now. Lived here over 30 years. I miss the days of going to Town Hall and being able to actually have a conversation. Now when I walk in it's very standoffish (just look at the physical facility of the relatively new lobby area with a partition with glass and a little hole as if residents are criminals. It's not welcoming or friendly like it used to be. Very sad. I encourage town officials to see how warm and welcoming other town halls are to residents and businesses.
- No
- We need to shift our priorities to the greater good of the community and not of a few old assholes
- More affordable taxes, better internet, safer roads, better/safer drinking water.
- Everything.

Are there any resources, services, or assistance that you use that you would recommend to other business owners (ex. workshops, resources provided by the State or Regional Economic Development Center)?

- Sbdc
- No
- Networking
- No
- As I said, check with the town to see what you need to have before opening. Don't assume that you know the rules.
- Sure. Workshops, an actual chamber of commerce / economic development committee. Etc.
- No

[Note: one offensive response was omitted from this survey response report by the consultant]

What other resources or support do you need to make your business more successful?

- Economic development financing.
- conference/meeting space like a coworker space
- Fast & dependable internet
- To be notified, as a business, of resources available that will benefit my business.
- Craffairs
- a better national and state economy which contributes to more discretionary spending
- Leave hardworking people alone and stop taxing them on stupid stuff yltthe town mandates.
- Traffic light at Nottingham/northwood line
- Better community advertising systems.
- Simply a friendly, helpful Town. On several occasions when we went to Town Hall to simply research resources or request assistance it was uncomfortable and useless. We left more confused and frustrated than any assistance or even acknowledged. Northwood can do better. It's a beautiful area, but we just can't seem to get the traction other similar towns do because of hiring the correct candidates with the right credentials, who are passionate about their profession, and compassionate to the people they serve.
- We need more younger people to become involved, not just retired people who have time to bitch about everything
- Restructure, redefine, and restaff the planning board. Or completely abolish it. Either way.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY FORUM

Date: November 7, 2024

Time: 6:30pm-8:00pm

Participants:

David Copeland
Karen Robinson
Jacques Phaneuf
Tim Jandebour
Hal Kreider
Lisa Fellows-Weaver
Betty Smith
Mike Smith
Don Manter

What Businesses & Services Would you Like to See in Northwood?

- Traffic concerns (think North Conway)
 - Volume and safety
- Don't see a way for more businesses on Route 4
- Bypass (Durham) was an option a while ago that didn't happen. Now not really a place for this.
- Intersection of Rt 4 and Rt 9 a hub
- Previous surveys indicated commercial development at either end of town
- Some possible lots available or soon to turn over
- Want to see a Home Depot but know this isn't realistic
- Automotive Store
- Laundromat
- Car wash
- Have to travel far for healthcare
- Pharmacy with prescriptions, cards, gifts, etc
- Urgent Care
- Bloodwork
- Places to get people together
- Have to be reasonable in terms of expectations of what can come here
- More choices for restaurants
- Recreation revenue
- Is retail (storefronts) viable given online options and delivery services
- A business like Hannaford brings in people from other communities
- Need to think about what businesses fit
 - Home businesses – need ad agencies, tech support, space to rent for meetings
 - Cottage industries
 - Small, low impact to neighbors

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- How does the Planning Board determine impact?
 - Need to talk about this
- Rural town, not big business
- Rt 4 looking industrial
- How do we attract them
- Candia industrial cluster. Hudson Rt 3 development.
- Where would an industrial park go? Is it a desired use?
 - Don't impact water
 - Could have truck traffic and wear and tear on roads
- Don't want sewer
- Would like to defer to survey results with broader community input than just what the Planning Board thinks

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CHESLEY MEMORIAL LIBRARY SENIOR CAFÉ

Date: October 28, 2024

Time: 1pm

The Consultant and Planning Board Chair provided an overview of the Economic Development Chapter and distributed paper copies of the survey. They also asked for input on desired businesses. Participants asked why there isn't more industry in Northwood. Participants also commented on getting responses to questions asked at Selectboard meetings.