



Hubbardston Community Survey Open-Ended Responses January 2021

What else would you like Hubbardston Town Officials to know?

I gave up on the terrible road conditions & bought a Jeep Wrangler.. seriously, it's not a joke

Thanks for all your hard work!!

The highway director should be fired he is rude and does not know his job, he is lucky the TA carries him along. The police chief should retire....wait is he still here, he doesn't leave his office except for school patrol. Let's make this a better town!

I believe Hubbardston has so much unrealized potential and is positioned to have a bright future. I also think we need to invest in the town and make it more attractive to young families who will enhance the positively and town culture. Towns like Westminster and Princeton are seeing a real boost in excitement and therefore are enjoying an appeal from young families and professionals who contribute to a more long term fiscally stable town as well. I want to thank all of you for the hard work and dedication being put forth to take our town to the next level.

It's a great town

Please pave Thompson Rd :)

Start a fund raiser for a public safety building. I would rather donate to a fund than see a long term increase in my taxes.

Need to improve power, cell service, cable service. All are subject to outages or non-existent.

I would prefer that cannabis businesses not be located in Hubbardston.

No more solar farms.

Taxes would not need to be increased for the people if there was more business in town. Hubbardston needs to attract business in order to pay for the many needs of the town. We need town water! It's scary that there are no fire hydrants.

New growth in Hubbardston needs to occur but needs to be intelligent. Residential growth and smart commercial growth is necessary but industrial growth should be minimized to preserve the rural/quiet feel of the town.

Not a fan of the solar fields.

Please address the speed at which commercial and private vehicles are traveling on 68. Although the new pavement is nice, it's made the road a relative racetrack. I couldn't imagine if a kid accidentally

stepped into the road while waiting for the school bus in the morning, they wouldn't stand a chance. There's no way the cars going 60+ could stop in time. The noise from air brakes on commercial trucks at 3:30-4AM is also bothersome. They are speeding down the straightaway by Plum Tree Ln. and hitting those brakes hard before the hill.

Thank you for all the work that you do, especially during this time

Thanks for the opportunity to give feedback :)

Really want more internet power

Nothing

"internet service provider does not seem to care that service is often down"

We need to ensure the Center School stays in town. Losing it would be devastating for everyone including property values decreasing and the town becoming an old folk town without kids.

I have seen lots of effort by Town Officials to share information, to improve everything about our town. Lots of communication. Like this survey >>

Whoever gets emails sent to "admin@hubbardstonma.us" should answer. Sent one in September and re-sent it in October and never received a response.

We need better cell and internet service. I honestly don't know what taxes are going to since we have to find our own trash, water, gas, oil. What are you doing for us individually.

This survey should have been better organized. Some of the questions and responses do not correspond to a prior question and we should have been asked to rate the need for new or renovated buildings and location of departments instead.

Roads and winter plowing is awesome!

More businesses please! At least 1 or 2 more restaurants and then a grocery store

Allowing new businesses would increase tax revenue and remove the burden of increasing taxes on residents.

"Your questions are leading. I think the town should improve the municipal buildings and keep all services in the town center. The fire dept should buy adjacent properties and rebuild right there. No one rejected the senior center as a stand alone building, just the overpriced, overindulgent giant complex that was proposed. Our town is not a "we need new everything" town, reuse, rebuild and recycle. Yes, the school enrollment is going down, look into de-regionalizing K-8, bring the little kids back home. Use excess room in the school for town office/police space/community space (as was proposed with the addition renovation years ago, but never happened). Keep commercial businesses out, we have cvs, walgreen, etc in Gardner, Holden, etc. we don't need that in town. Encourage sustainable farm to table business/store/restaurant. Improve your base resident quality of life, "the commuter" to have work from home options that really work. Improve internet access, get it competitive.

Barre has taken its town center and spread it all over town. police, post office and sr center - it has ruined the character and meaning of the town center. Let's NOT do that. The lot across from the rec field is NOT in the town center. "

You all do an amazing job. Thank you so much

Need more people involved in Town government.

Focus on getting all town services under one roof we are paying taxes on multiple facilities where police and fire could have a central hub and one dispatch for both services, also we should have a high school in town. One thing that this year has taught us is having a smaller class size keeps kids safer from situations like this year

Question on page 12, about the land for senior center is very misleading. It was NEVER brought to the town to have JUST a senior center built on that land, it has always been coupled with a public safety building.

Would like to see dirt roads paved, dead trees removed. But, happy with our town.

The last few questions about tax increases are confusing, since they come a couple of pages after our responses to the related questions. Are we supposed to remember our earlier responses and give you the sum total? Or is each response being considered on its own?

Many people are proud to be moving to Hubbardston and are very happy with the services provided

Perhaps temporary higher tax increases could be used for specific capital improvements

I think the town itself is doing great I think that the Middle School in the high school needs to seriously step their game up in order to get people to move out to this area warehousing cost will go up taxes can be collected businesses will start to florist Etc but I think it all starts with the middle and high school being so poor

Katy Young has done an amazing job bringing fun, engaging activities for residents of all ages to town. She deserves to be commended for all the work her family does to make Hubbardston a great place to live!

This survey has built into the questions several assumptions. A report on the town's present condition, i.e., school enrollment trends, taxes wrt ;neighboring towns, etc., provided for review by the citizens would help get more meaningful survey results. Thereby, the survey respondents would not have to 'fly blind.'

The question/answers here were too rigid. I use Verizon DSL for Internet, there was no option for me to choose, so your numbers will be skewed. The agree/disagree should have been a ranking option.

The parcel of land the senior center was supposed to be built on has been denied because the town keeps trying to force the police and fire on it as well. The seniors worked their tails off to get that and the town thinks they can just hop on and voters don't want that. The fact that they would get new fire trucks that don't fit in the fire building is just as ridiculous as having to pay for a new school roof because it wasn't installed correctly and cannot be replaced in that section, rather the whole roof. The building being insufficient for the small police staff we have in town is absurd. The majority of the time they are in their cars and dispatch is out of another town anyway. There are some really odd stuff that gets passed such as the police getting new guns that hold 17 rounds rather than the 14 or something like that. How many times have they had to fire a gun and if they missed 16 times maybe the money should be spent on target practice? The town has such potential to remain a nice quaint town with a great, active community vibe but constantly asking for money and wasteful decisions pushes people away from being an active member. Lastly people pay taxes for their land, they should be allowed to do as

they please within reason but has the town ever thought of a tax incentive to keep properties aesthetically well kept?

New police/fire Dept. building must be a metal building as is the DPW building. Buildings are very cost effective and strong. Town offices can be in unused part of center school or build a 2500 square foot conventional stick built house for offices. Or build a metal building for offices. UTILITY in metal buildings is better than costly, high maintenance, weak brick and mortar buildings. Put the money saved toward paying our employees more.

The roads are in terrible shape and snow clearing is awful.

Cell reception is horrible and we need a better cable company in town. Many off the beaten path roads in Hubbardston are in horrible shape. My poor car!!!! Main roads are fine.

You do a good job with what you have to work with but I would pay more in taxes and welcome new businesses to see improvements

Budget lean to be able to afford the upgrades

Doing a great job

Town administrator, clerk and other officials are professional, respectful and responsive. Hope we can keep all for years to come. Love Hubbardston.

Keeping Hubbardston rural is my top priority. Thanks for asking!

The uncertain future of the economy will not support residents' interest in raising taxes at the present moment. Town salaries are higher than most people earn in this area.

I think our town is on a good track - keep up the great work!

Stress that taxes need to be raised to address infrastructure/building needs

We have lived in the Gardner Hubbardston area for all our 80 years.

The last two questions are not clear. I would be fine with a \$300 a year property tax increase, but the last question makes it seem like you are suggesting a \$300 increase every year for the next five years. I would not be ok with that. Make a reasonable increase and then hold firm at the new rate for a set period of time (5 years).

High need for adequate public safety building

"Fire station & equipment must be drastically improved.

I've heard little to nothing from our Health Dept. during the Covid time frame!

Use E-mail to attract people to an much improved town communication website."

We moved to Hubbardston for housing costs, and have enjoyed living here in a rural setting. We love visiting the library and would love to see that improved. Side note: not sure about all the annual tax increase questions. Would it be 200X all the services? If so I would decrease that amount to afford it.

Last two questions did not have all possible answers. Missing is "Taxes are already too high and I wouldn't pay more". Look at those of us who invested in nice homes and a few years ago we had a large increase in assessed value which raised our taxes but those with lower home values didn't see anything

close to the same percentage. I realize that's the way to get more taxes above prop 2 1/2. Just can't expect half the town to carry the financial burden.

High need for adequate public safety building

The town needs to attract young families to increase school population and to increase housing and services for seniors, a rapidly growing demographic. Both groups need low and moderate income housing options.

Town lacks an identity. No attractive center, and has a dilapidated appearance.

I would like to see more people involved in the process of town government- perhaps teaching the middle and high school students about how people can get involved and shape things? I think that too many people complain about the results of the decisions made and refuse to get involved and be informed about the process.

The constant noise level of the dirt biking and ATV's in the sand pit off of Pitcherville and Geordie is too much. Every Saturday and Sunday from 9AM until the evening you hear excessive noise. It's impossible to enjoy any semblance of peaceful time on our own property.

DO THE BEST YOU CAN

rt 68 is the main drag. should be utilized for more business. helps taxpayers with tax burden. one BIG incentive for moving to hubbardston is tax rate. would be silly to try to extract more money out of taxpayers. not much else to draw people here otherwise. most want to just be left alone.

Instead of property taxes on homes allow certain big business to build on rt.68 to help alleviate it. I believe in keeping hubbardston, hubbardston but at least use 68 and the main strip bring it to life and leave the outskirts alone unless farming and if anything get on national grid to upgrade the system that is constantly being knocked out of power.

Regularly scheduled trash pickup at the recreation field, repave path, pickleball courts

Overall you're doing a good job - but you need to figure out how to get the message of what is desperately needed to the Town. Your presentations at town meeting are great, but that information needs to get out to the community. Case in point, a 2-1/2 override to repair road quicker - presentation great - voted down. It was because people didn't understand what the plan was. Also the Senior Center. Coupling that with the police and fire didn't fly because of the \$7M price tag. We don't need a complex to cost that much. Reasonably price these projects - we don't need the Tahj Mahal. Remember you're working the cash tight people.

Based on the resources the town's people have allowed, the Town Officials have made great progress!

I feel the asphalt "patching" that I've noticed on Brigham and New Templeton roads is mediocre at best. It tends to pull my vehicle to one side or the other when driving over the patches. Not the best "fix", although I suppose it works. Also, on roads like Lombard, I feel there is SO MUCH money wasted by not repaving. The fill that is put in the potholes barely lasts a week before it's back to giant ruts, and it gets filled multiple times every year. And though there were 2 or 3 sections of "patching" put down in "the worst areas", Lombard is not a decent road to drive. It is currently at the best I've seen it in 10 yrs, however using it to commute every day certainly takes a toll on your vehicle. Thanks!

This survey required answering questions about items not fully informed about. Should have been more N/A options

I live on High St and it is in terrible condition. Totally neglected.

Town official/Public Services should be taken care of as everyone will use those. Services that not everyone is likely to use should not warrant tax increase on everyone.

Questions are a bit rough in terms of purpose. Bottom line, I personally moved to Hubbardston because of the small town and rural feel (originally from Fitchburg and Gardner). While I understand one way to better infrastructure is taxes, I am happy with my little knowledge of the 5 year plan. I support fire and police and believe there must be change there, as long as it's thought out and we'll bid (as I do not agree with the center school roof proposal that was accepted) I would be happy to increase property taxes. I come from a contracting position and so I receive proposals for 30+ million dollar jobs and negotiate them. Questions should be asked and somebody needs to prepare the right questions based on the bids. If the due diligence is done, let's get what we need to accomplish, housing our awesome police and fire in proper facilities while not burning cash for offsite storage.

The dirt bikes and 4 wheelers are awful now in the old pits between Geordie Lane and Picherville Road. Very loud every day and thru the entire year. Often times now up until 2am they are out there. The police department used to do a good job keeping them under control, not sure what has changed in the past year, but it's been horrible. We have to go inside many times as it's so deafening. A fence should be installed around the perimeter to keep them out. It's bad.

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Is there an emergency plan document for residents? The disaster preparedness guide developed in Lunenburg after the massive ice storm a few years ago is excellent and would be a great Eagle Scout project. Pleasant help with fixing cell/broadband service!!!!

That they are appreciated.

Village appearance and pedestrian access, speed enforcement and road conditions on highly traveled secondary roads particularly Barre Rd

Thank you for your efforts in addressing town issues

Seek alternate cable options

We should really approve a marijuana dispensary in town, the revenue this town would get you really help with improving our town. And maybe a Dunkin'

I think the highway department has done an excellent job in recent years.

I would like to see more transparency of town spending.

Speeding on many streets. More patrols on New Templeton Rd!!!

One growing marijuana establishment on Gardner Road is enough

We need a safe, professional building for our fire dept, police dept and ambulance services. What we have now is a disgrace and will soon equal the unsafe, dilapidated double wide in Ashby!

Safer sidewalk or walking area. More small business i.e. coffee shop or Dunkin Donut/ small take out places. Better internet service provider options.

" I appreciate that town officials have been taking the pandemic seriously and taking steps to keep it under control. I appreciate that the roads are plowed well and in a timely manner. I think the town does a great job maintaining and repairing the roads.

I think we should prioritize our public schools and public service buildings (i.e. fire department, library, senior center, town hall services) and continue to fund road maintenance. I think instead of increasing the police budget, we should be reducing it, with the goal of eliminating it entirely, and replacing it with something more useful to residents. This is a small town, and we'd be much better served with a couple of trained social workers and a food bank than an expensive police force that we don't need.

I would strongly support a tax increase to fund our town services if it did not also include funding the police department."

If you call the senior center a community center you will get people to vote for it. I am too young to use a senior center, and I would not feel comfortable going to a senior center. But if you created a community center I'd vote for that. I've suggested this to so many people and discussed it with neighbors and all agree. Have Senior programs at the community center.

the wording regarding fixing public buildings is leading. it leaves no others choices between do nothing (leave the police etc with terrible buildings) or tear down and renew.

Town needs to add business like Stone Cow, not Solar Fields that we get no service/benefit from. People want to bring business to Hubbardston. Be business friendly. I am retired(early), kids are gone. Living off of a pension and Social Security. Tell me how much this is going to costs me before I need to sell and move

High street needs a lot of attention. The roads are deplorable. The brush and dead trees need attention. We feel neglected.

Overall happy. Need to figure out how to address critical needs with current resources. Cut all non-critical services in order to put more into roads and town buildings. Also we pay way to much to schools. Cut the school budgets.

I have seen the postcard about the proposed marijuana establishment. If that were to pass, I would immediately sell my lovely historic home and acreage and relocate to a community that does provide a lovely environment for living in and raising and educating a family. I refuse to live in a community whose values are so far removed from my own.

A full assessment of the Fire/EMS department needs to be looked at. Throwing money at the problem is not the answer. Leadership is the problem with no people wanted to apply due to poor leadership and lack of vision on what is needed to operate a modern fire department. Using CARES FUNDS to cover overnight ambulance staffing and paying overtime to members is a waist of our federal tax dollar. Time for change within this department.

"Dangerous territory is being entered if expansion of home based businesses and expand commercial overlay of certain types of businesses is eventually approved. How is this going to be overseen, if approved? There is an old saying:Give them an inch, they'll take a mile. People live here for the country setting, not the home business climate. To have a business open next to my home, with noise, traffic, etc,

little town oversight, and unchecked growth is sad and makes me angry."

Thank you for keeping communication open.

I've been in this town for about 8 years. This town has an uppity population that seems to look down on anyone who encourages any kind of change. Its time to move into the future by allowing careful development along 68.

Don't turn Hubbardston into Rutland

Get the building inspector to issue building permits in a timely manner! The guy takes way longer than it should to point where I may actually start going to town meetings to complain

13 years resident of Hubbardston. We love it here. Such a wonderful sense of community. Please do what you can to stop the character of the Town changing this is one reason why we decided when our kids were young to move out of Fitchburg. We don't need the revenue from the Marijuana plant on 68. At least not the shop where people can go and get it a whims notice. If there is a need to have a medicinal distribution plant- facility, I guess that would be another thing. Let the long lines, smelly air and backed up traffic of cars stay in Gardner and Fitchburg. We don't need that here.

I feel the issues before the town need to be laid out just this starkly but communicated more often and with better coverage. For myself, I typed in the survey address on the mailer I received and was told the link was invalid. I then had to search for this survey (but at least I did, while some others may not - I feel that you should have directed them to the Hubbardston main page (easier to type and find) and then had a link from there). I feel that communication with residents on, at least, a quarterly basis should be a priority to keep them informed of the issues facing the local government including possible tax increases (and for what), status on grants (to see that the local government is seeking other revenue options), and then local events. I feel that tax increases might pass at election time if it wasn't something that most residents were only hearing about at the polls (and perhaps the town would get better turn out). Also, if residents saw that there were continued openings in local government every quarter, maybe more of them would feel inspired to participate. Now, I understand that there are digital means of keeping informed, but it's not the same as getting a newsletter from the town with the high points. I don't have the bandwidth to check social media every day or week to find out where we stand on all the issues that concern me - nor the time to dig to figure out if anything has been done. I believe that government's job is to represent the people (and their interests). I do believe you are all doing a good job, but in order to get increased support from the population, I feel you need to keep us informed even if it costs an extra three or four mailers a year.

We need updated cell service. There are far too many dead spots for a town like ours in 2021. Fire/police/ambulance need a proper facility asap. We also need more businesses in town, like choices of restaurants (maybe a chain restaurant or two) and other shopping.

Very happy with what the town has to work with.

The road on Dogwood Road South needs to be fixed

If we can't have a Dunkin' Donuts it would be nice to have a decent coffee shop.

""Rural character"" means different things to different people. Maybe we need MORE zones. Center of town is much different than Pinecrest which is much different than 68 N/S outside the center.

Growing a home business to 2 employees hurts the ""rural character"" of a modern home on the state highway how exactly?

There ARE still people in town who believe that it's worth setting up a usable space for our town employees and first responders.

Our internet through Spectrum has been very reliable for a home connection. Cell service is nonexistent. Tragic that we were bypassed for the state fibre project.

Police and Fire station should be priority for the town.

I think they are trying to do a good job

Police need to crack down on 12 year olds riding dirtbikes/atvs down town roads in broad daylight doing 60 mph. Old Westminster Rd is a race track.

I love the light flight and other town events. Keep up the great work!

police, fire, ambulance need to be top priority, they need new buildings and for too long have been asked to do so much with so little

Need to bring back the road proposal,

I like the town the way it is.

Lack of businesses on 68 is the biggest issue I think.

We are happy with our taxes the way they are and we don't need to be at the tax rate of other surrounding towns, that's why we like it here. I don't know where there could be cuts in salary or other expenses. If a retail store came in on rt.68 maybe their taxes would help pay. Wish you all the best in deciding what routes to take!

The problem is not the elected/appointed officials, the problem is that too many people who live here will not vote to increase taxes to improve the town buildings and roads. I don't know how to fix this. It's very frustrating as you well know.

"1. We used to have a town refuse/transfer station. Why was it eliminated?

2. Why does the recycling center charge for throwing away metal items? Metal is a valuable commodity. I don't have much of it but I do know I got \$600 for a junk car.

3. Since the town saves money not having a transfer station, why cannot the town take care of the recycling items and hazardous materials?

4. I am one of those who wants to keep expenses low, but most of the meetings I have attended in the past always want to spend more and more on various projects like senior centers. We should concentrate on basic services like fire and police.

5. Internet service providers (ISP's). Is there a reason we only have one choice other than cell phone hotspots? It would be nice to make it competitive and possibly cheaper. I notice that most towns only have one provider, so I was wondering if there is some regulation blocking other companies."

Repave HIGH STREET! It is a disgrace!

"Have fire charge everyone the cost of ambulance and fire responses check to see if town can buy large garage at the former Klem's restarunt to house fire trucks. Market hubbardston as recreation area that has a water park, and off road riding on custom made trails and storage of vehiles at sand pits and service and rental of them.

Pressure state elected persons to provide every year a set amount of funding for the schools at a set rate per student to let towns establish a budget in Boston as well as central and Western Mass towns. Not changing every year with lottery funds availability.

That is not planning and inhibits the Towns in this state from having any reasonable spending control.

People don't want to have there taxes raised all the time they feel once the item is paid for the tax dollars should be reduced it should not be open ended that things are then added that they don't think are high priority maybe try that approach to people on getting things funded. We don't have the business base as Westimister and we don't need any facility like the one they have we are not that big of a town. "

Better enforcement of unleashed dogs that repeatedly go over residents

More forethought is needed to have a better vision of the town and it's future. I have heard that people don't want this to become another Holden but that makes no sense to me. We need businesses to support and make our town more lovely to live in. Small town businesses. It shouldn't and can't become like a route 9. I also believe that the senior population of this town tends to turn down the ability for the town to move into the future. I don't want to give up the rural character either but the amenities and a few more well placed businesses would make sense. We need restaurants but not places like Dunkin Donuts or the 99. Leave those for Gardner. I was also very displeased to learn that next to the pallet company will be a proposed storage center. This is not what Hubbardston should include in beautifying our town. The pallet company has improved its appearance slightly but that would be a horrendous use of space in my opinion. That's just another abysmal choice. Just like we don't need any more automotive places, an ugly storage center- we do NOT NEED. Very disappointing that the town could let that pass.

Seems like the town is growing too fast. Houses are being built too fast. The schools are going to be over crowded if there isn't a limit to the number of houses being built each year. I don't want Hubbardston turning into a Westminster. It needs to stay country, that's why we moved here.

Our cable service isn't great. We have no cell service

I like the survey but several of the questions did not have answer options that matched my opinion. Some of the "required" answers are invalid in particular about the highway dept starting on page 7. It's just yes or no. Should be additional option or not a required field. I feel the results of the survey might not be as accurate as you would like because some of the required answers.

"Have dilapidated houses torn down as they negatively reflect on the town(fly tying house on Rte.68) also safety hazard. Also reclassify lots that have large unpaid tax bills so they can be sold and get them back on the tax rolls.

I am very concerned about how the town is not encouraging businesses - which could increase revenue. (Except Marijuana businesses that would cause many problems with everything to do with ground water - especially in a town with three well-know organic farms through to a decrease in property value in the area. FYI - The Town could be sued if they allow a marijuana business to come in and the value of the surrounding area goes down.)

I think the Center School should be closed and the building used for town offices and senior center. Regional schools are the most cost effective way to go.

Why I have so many power outages

Stipens should be reinstated

We appreciate you! I know it is a thankless job and most days all you hear is complaining...so THANK YOU for continuing to show up every day and wanting Hubbardston to be a better place to live and work :-)

There's not a lot you can improve with no money, so if having more taxes is the only way, we have to. Anyone who is opposed needs to have a sustainable creative profitable solution or just pay the extra taxes hush about it.

DPW and Police Dept. are a joke

Keep its farm land and rural lands

You do a great job. Keep up the hard work. Surveys scare me- you won't be able to please everyone.... good luck!

Great town glad I moved here!

Nothing at this time

"I have identified a few reasons that the most prevalent ""faces"" of Hubbardston lack their charm of decades past: Rte 68 has too many signs - in many places duplicated on each side of the road and often the same sign or additional signs merely yards apart - and large trucks, rec vehicles and junk (""left behinds"") parked roadside.

The town center has a dizzying amount of metal signs. Metal signs on Rte 68 block the signs or the approach to rural roadside businesses. The approach to Hubbardston from Gardner is especially ugly with grandly large trucks and junky lots. The large trucks and rec vehicles surely cost a lot but they are not ""charming"" and not ""rural,"" unless rural indicates ugly, blindness, or heavy metal.

Also, one would be hard pressed to identify the town center. There is virtually no town common (or maybe a multitude of signs detract from locating it) and no town hall. In a charming New England town these are expected. The library is a nice building. Somewhere there is an attractive church, maybe next to a building with a faded facade, another feature of the center currently: faded painted buildings and signs faded to the point of stating nothing.

This is all not a good look in New England and certainly not in a rural, small town. Hubbardston could look like Hubbardston is proud and cares and has the means to function efficiently."

More competition for cable/internet services

I think this survey is a good idea, as it should give our town officials a better handle on what the townspeople will support and prioritize.

When I answer \$300 annually, that is the same \$300 now and in five years. The huge public safety complexes built by surrounding towns are ridiculously sized for the town size, and I don't want to see Hubbardston create such an extravagance. We do need to improve the buildings and apply the rent to better spaces, but we also need to be reasonable in scope. I think it's ridiculous that this town doesn't have trash pickup. The town should be able to negotiate a package deal that's cheaper than every household purchasing services separately. Also, if we get town sewer and water, it needs to be understood which streets are getting it on what timeline. In my parents' town, Hopkinton, they did half

the town in the 1980's and never did the other half. Every resident pays through taxes, but not everyone gets the benefit.

Living in Hubbardston does not entitle me to automatically know much about the issues of the town. How can the town officials educate the townspeople on the issues, the positives and negatives of the town?

DPW Plow trucks have taken out 4 lights on my light posts in the past 2 years. I don't mind paying additional taxes for additional services and equipment but I would appreciate not to have my property destroyed along with the extra taxes.

"I would like to know why there have been dozens of police officers hired and resigned in the last 5 years yet we do not have 24hr fire/ems? What was the cost for supplying/training those officers to move on to neighboring towns vs hiring another full time fireman/emt for 24hr coverage? I am a huge police/fire supporter, however, this is unacceptable in my opinion.

I support a public safety complex that includes a room for senior center. Public safety should have enough space to pull all trucks and cruisers inside out of elements.

With school enrollment down, why do we still have zoning laws that prohibit new construction neighborhoods that would attract new families and add tax revenue?

I support a commercial overlay, however, pizza plaza and hub vet plaza were/are empty for quite some time, why do we think an overlay will change this approach to attracting business?

The wellness center and tiny toes debacle is absurd. What are you planning to do when these small one off requests arise? You need to be more agile and think of different solutions to keep businesses in town.

Main Street needs a large shoulder now that we all must do a drop off at school, or another drop off lane in front of school.

Tree encroachment and overgrowth on lines is abysmal as well. We do a great job trimming back brush, very little effort clearing out trees and branches that eventually fall and knock services out.

Brigham rd has to be widened.

A small rotary at main/brigham would slow traffic down through town, avoid collisions from the left blind pulling on to Main Street. Similar to Princeton rt 31.

Lights for baseball and soccer field would be great.

Thanks for all you do and stepping up!

Businesses coming into town should not be harmful to the environment and keep within the rural character of the town.

Be open to development of renewable energy generation, particularly solar

I would need more info about the potential businesses going in along Rt 68. Not interested in approving a marijuana distribution/grow center or larger corporations coming into town. It would damage the small, local community vibes that families enjoy.

We desperately need the ability to manage what kinds of businesses come into town. Everybody I talk to (and I mean EVERYBODY) agrees that we all want restaurants, coffee shops, and other quaint, local

businesses. And yet, what's going in next? A big, ugly self-storage company. This is pretty much the opposite of what the residents have been asking for and I can hardly imagine anything that would destroy the town's rural character more than this. I will be embarrassed to drive out-of-town friends and relatives North on 68 because I won't want them to see it. Can't we do better than this? Is there any way to stop it? And for that matter, is there any way to entice desirable businesses in instead? Tax breaks, perhaps? Or maybe the town could build or renovate some buildings on Main St. and then lease them out to the aforementioned restaurants and coffee shops?

Town Administrator has been the best thing to happen to this town in 20 years.

"-To much employee turn over on both the Police & Highway Department.

-Town Departments Heads should be local people invested in the Town's future.

- Town roads should have never gotten to the point they have.

- All our roads are overgrown with hanging limbs, and other small growth.

- Board of Health agents need better training & need to be more knowledgeable about the laws & codes.

- Certain Board of Health members need to use more professionalism when dealing with local businesses.

- Department Heads need to be held accountable for the high employee turn over within their respected Departments.

- Town has been negative towards new business's for years

- Town has to encourage positive growth, and support new & improving business's.

Be very transparent when it comes to building new town infrastructure.

Thank everyone for their effort during the past, very difficult year.

I would like to know all the remaining developable land in town and to look at land acquisition to preserve open space and rural character. On my street, we have had 15 houses built in 30 years and with that, home based businesses of long haul truckers and a dog kennel...though all are very respectful, it does add to the noise level between cars, trucks and dogs barking. As there remains about 120 acres of developable land on my road, without covenants, I'm concerned about future growth and an erosion of our quality of life. As I write, I am inspired to become more educated on this topic from available town resources.

Town does a good job already. I'd like a future that sees a continued positive direction rather than any decline.

For me the biggest everyday problem I encounter is delayed improvement of roads. I can't believe the condition that some of them deteriorate to before they are belatedly repaired. I feel somewhat embarrassed about the roads when I invite friends to drive out to my home. However, Hubbardston is not alone in this regard as a couple of neighboring towns are just as bad. I simply don't understand the unwillingness to fix things in a timely manner out here.

Thank you!

"Would love to see another cable company come in for competition - bill keeps creeping up (they say it is covering costs they are charged).

Would also like someone to enforce the town bylaw regarding many unregistered/"littering" vehicles in yards. Thanks

BTW Fire station is 36 Main St; 1 Main St is at the corner of Elm Street."

I really would like to see police and fire get a new building

Hubbardston is a great place to live but it lacks convenient services and retail businesses

I would have selected "aging infrastructure" but you lumped it in with "water/sewer" which must absolutely be avoided. If folks want that, they can move to Rutland. Concentrate on roads and internet. Build the Senior Center by itself, as was intended when the DCR gifted the land. Keep essential services in the Town Center. We already have plenty of undeveloped Commercially Zoned property. The things proposed in this survey will all degrade the rural character and will lead to higher taxes with little benefit to the people of this town.

Hubb has many charms, but Main St has come to feel like Main St Holden. Don't know a good solution, but do know placing the marijuana outlet just off Main St won't help. I don't object to marijuana, but maybe the outlet could be closer to the Rietta end of town

This poor town is dying because we are too short-sighted to fund it adequately. 2.5% increases do not keep pace with inflation and the changing world we live in. I also know, however, that town leadership is unlikely to ever pass a successful override in this town without mobilizing the younger voters. Traditionally, the only people who vote in this town are the senior citizens who find it easy to do so and are most engaged in town politics. A comprehensive plan to bring voters out and to educate them about the necessity of supporting their town would be required, and even then, it will be difficult. Many people chose to live in this town because they see it as an affordable place to live. The arguments for why the money is necessary need to be made very clearly.

Your hard work is appreciated!

Fix the ROADS .

Old town municipal buildings need attention. Roads would be a second for me, but important. I do not want marijuana business if any type being set up or allowed in town.

The town police provide little to no value, and do not handle their firearms responsibly. Their budget should be cut, and the money shifted to other services that would better serve the citizens' needs.

increase the tax base by attracting more businesses without sacrificing rural character

I've been here for over 20 years and Hubbardston is a great place to raise a family. But the inability to keep pace with infrastructure and technology is increasingly frustrating. Our taxes are ridiculously low and I'd be happy to pay more in order to receive better services. Unless something changes, I expect to move once my children are out of school.

Broader long range planning including increasing business base is required. And a farmer's market, please.