



Charlestown Design Survey

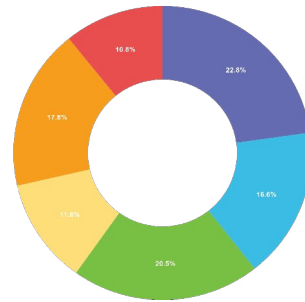
Welcome to the Charlestown Commercial and Village Design survey. Your input will inform the team working on guidelines for commercial development. We are soliciting opinions from the community about your vision for the future of the town.

The maps above show the various areas of the town that may have different goals for commercial buildings. The following questions ask you to respond to images depicting commercial buildings and sites. These images are not from Charlestown or proposed for the town - they are only for talking purposes to get community preferences. The survey should take about 20 minutes to complete. You may skip questions or quit the survey at any point and your responses will be saved. Your answers to the questions will be compiled by the design standards committee and used to formulate the requirements for new commercial buildings and landscaping in Charlestown.

Q1 POSTER 1

For the first set of pictures give your opinion on which areas, if any, would be appropriate for the building shown. (Go back to the Welcome screen to see a map showing the districts.)

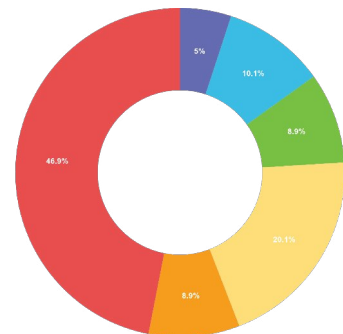
A. For which district would this building be appropriate? (Choose all that apply)



Choice	Total
Village Commercial	59
General Commercial Traditional	43
Village District (TVD) Scenic	53
Highway Commercial	30
Any commercial zone	46
Not in Charlestown	28

Q2 POSTER 1

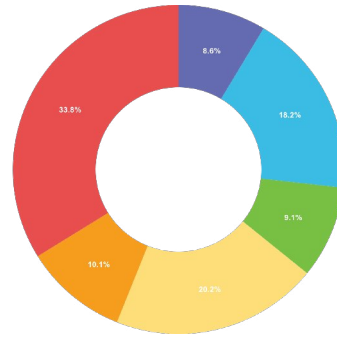
B. For which district, if any, would this building be appropriate? (Choose all that apply.)



Choice	Total
Village Commercial	9
General Commercial Traditional	18
Village District (TVD) Scenic	16
Highway Commercial Any	36
commercial zone	16
Not in Charlestown	84

Q3 POSTER 1

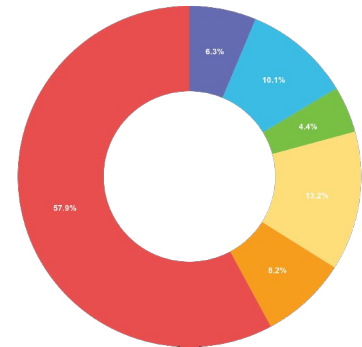
C. For which district, if any, would this building be appropriate? (Choose all that apply.)



Choice	Total
Village Commercial	17
General Commercial	36
Traditional Village District (TVD)	18
Scenic Highway Commercial	40
Any commercial zone	20
Not in Charlestown	67

Q4 POSTER 1

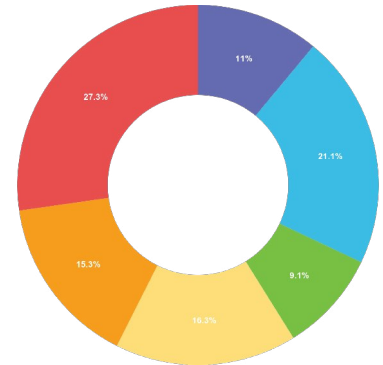
D. For which district, if any, would this building be appropriate? (Choose all that apply.)



Choice	Total
Village Commercial	10
General Commercial	16
Traditional Village District (TVD)	7
Scenic Highway Commercial	21
Any commercial zone	13
Not in Charlestown	92

Q5 POSTER 1

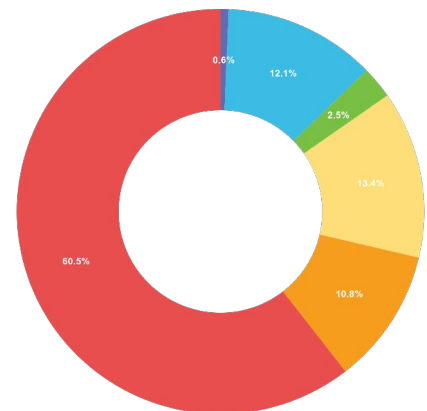
E. For which district, if any, would this building be appropriate? (Choose all that apply.)



Choice	Total
Village Commercial	23
General Commercial	44
Traditional Village District (TVD)	19
Scenic Highway Commercial	34
Any commercial zone	32
Not in Charlestown	57

Q6 POSTER 1

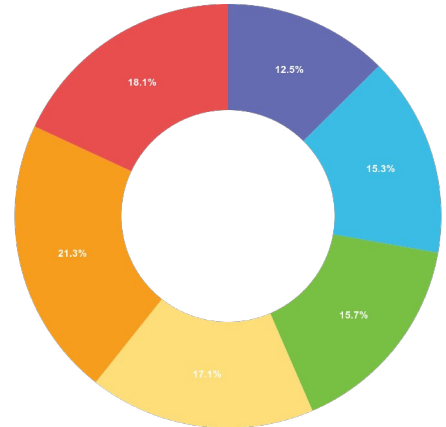
F. For which district, if any, would this building be appropriate? (Choose all that apply.)



Choice	Total
Village Commercial	1
General Commercial	19
Traditional Village District (TVD)	4
Scenic Highway Commercial	21
Any commercial zone	17
Not in Charlestown	95

Q7 POSTER 1

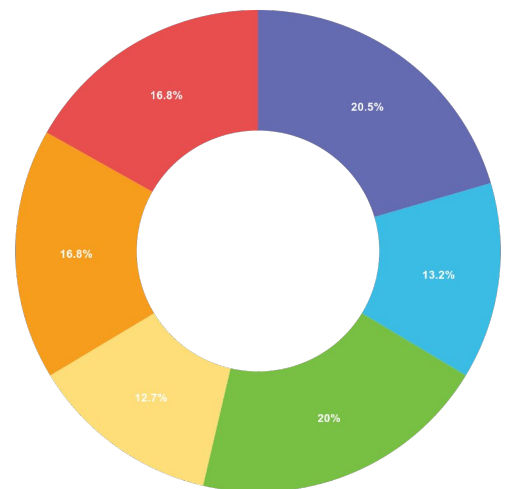
G. For which district, if any, would this building be appropriate? (Choose all that apply.)



Choice	Total
Village Commercial	27
General Commercial	33
Traditional Village District (TVD)	34
Scenic Highway Commercial	37
Any commercial zone	46
Not in Charlestown	39

Q8 POSTER 1

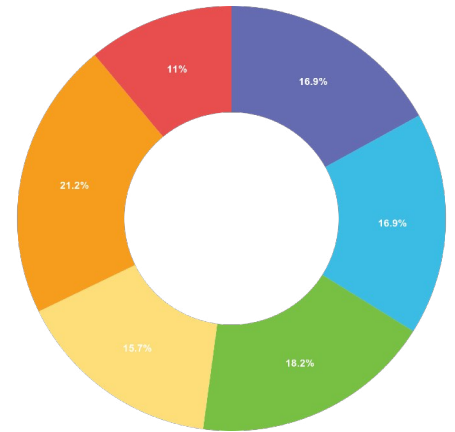
H. For which district, if any, would this building be appropriate? (Choose all that apply.)



Choice	Total
Village Commercial	45
General Commercial	29
Traditional Village District (TVD)	44
Scenic Highway Commercial	28
Any commercial zone	37
Not in Charlestown	37

Q9 POSTER 1

I. For which district, if any, would this building be appropriate? (Choose all that apply.)



Choice	Total
Village Commercial	40
General Commercial	40
Traditional Village District (TVD)	43
Scenic Highway Commercial	37
Any commercial zone	50
Not in Charlestown	26

Q10 Other comments on these poster images?
Essay

Response

Let's keep charlestown the way it is

Authentic character with historic w/modern interpretation are very popular. Standard and ugly commercial buildings should not define us. Drawn to images of people inside/outside, plants & walkability.

They are all too glitzy. No one wants this development.

Buildings too big.

Too many MASSIVE structures. We are a rural town. That is the feel that we should maintain. If it can be seen from the road, it should be more subtle in appearance. Thank you.

None of the options presented seem congruent with the small town charm and rural character of Charlestown.

Response

None of the styles fit within Charlestown. Charlestown does not need commercial development. We can reach all necessary shopping, restaurants, etc. in 20 minutes. We also enjoy low taxes already.

buildings be recessed at least 100ft from main rd. ** parking lot in back of building, ...native vegetation/trees... simple structures, neutral designs & color, no neon signs or lights, no billboard

No mixed use buildings appear to be included. Why not?

I think this survey is a good idea because the days of anywhere but here will sooner than later be superseded by the state or an investor with the time and treasure to build what they want regardless.

More than anything else charlestown is missing a walking space combined with commercial district. Currently try walking from the library through any of the businesses and you will find it impossible

Please consider keeping a New England sea side atmosphere

All but one of these images would be a huge improvement to Charlestown architecture which is now very lacking. Architecture is so hodge podge now and needs to be updated desperately.

We don't want commercial development in Charlestown. When will you listen? We will vote you out if you take any steps to commercialize Charlestown. You have been told loud and clear.

We can use a few businesses and restaurants within keeping with the present rural character.

It would have been helpful to identify the farming one, -was it a bee keeping operation?

What areas in Charlestown are you considering for these changes?

Keep Charlestown simple

This just is not Charlestown, RI

I don't really like any of these buildings for Charlestown since they lack the small village beach vibe that I enjoy. I guess some would be fine on Rt. 1 but I prefer a beachy vibe, none of these.

Smaller is better. A.B. Hoxie's look is good. Shoreline Plaza as is is good. Pat's Power does not fit well in the TVD. Mall-like groups of buildings do not belong in the TVD.

Limit size, height and advertising. Old fashioned charm sells all by itself.

Let's keep it cool 😎 no strip malls, fast food type buildings

TVD Design should reflect the traditional values of the area. Scenic Highway design should be appealing to the traveler as well as welcoming in appearance.

Would love to see a small "boutique" like shopping area of town. Small businesses with a variety of goods like clothing, home goods, fresh foods, small cafes or bookstore. Keeping the small time feel.

No chain stores. Local businesses. Keep it quaint and provide sidewalks in the Village District. The area off Falcone Drive is currently very unattractive. This would be a perfect spot.

We should be able to magnify the map showing different districts around town. Very small and not as useful as it should be.

They are modern designs which would look great here in Charlestown, please no dollar tree or those low rent places we already have to much density in our area.

Response

(note - my computer crashed partway through. I am restarting where I left off. I hope you can match them together.)

Why are you trying to build up Charlestown. The reason everyone moved here is because it wasn't built up . It was quiet and peaceful

The scale of the buildings need to reflect the ambiance and character of surrounding areas that are worth preserving. Building and landscaping should be pedestrian friendly for a "village" feel.

There needs to be a balance between what's regulated and what's affordable. It's unwise to require new construction to conform to building regulations that cannot be afforded.

Not consistent with Charlestown historical buildings nor small village charm

Supportive of commercial businesses in properly zoned areas. Appearance is important, and continuity in appearances can make a positive difference so thank you

None of them enhance the rural character of Charlestown.

The farm image seemed intentionally confusing

The previous building slide is acceptable except for the large neon sign

Charlestown needs to consider building options that are economical and cost effective to the business owner. If not, no businesses will come to Charlestown because it will be cost prohibitive.

Charlestown V should look like Nantucket and Harbor town, Martha's Vineyard, with quaint cedar shingled cottages and front porches. There should be brick walkways and trellises with climbing roses.

Not reflective of Charlestown or its community.

Every effort should be made to renovate and repurpose existing commercial spaces long before a tear down and build new policy is adopted.

Some of these are way to large

I would like to see other designs considered to be worked into a cottage / village style development like Stone Enders and Longhouses that would reflect the history and native cultures of the land.

Residential (LMIH) over retail should be considered particularly in TVD.

Natural looking materials preferably

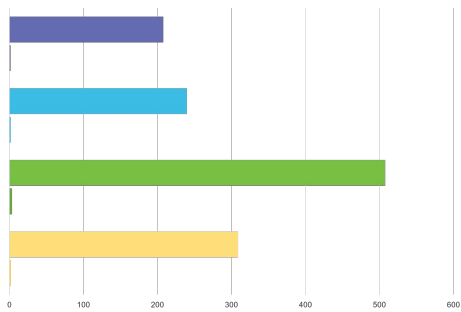
Some of them are too big for Charlestown, but a lot of them are good looking

It. Was not clear where village cmml is so hard to answer

Some are yes with screening or good landscaping on the scenic highway. Most are too large and out of scale but with some modifications could be applicable to larger lots on TVD or General Commercial.

Q11 POSTER 2

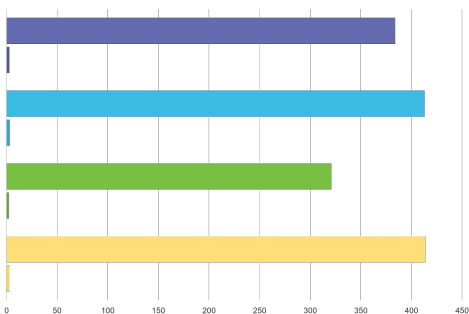
A. How appealing or appropriate for Charlestown are these commercial buildings, rated from 1 (very unappealing) to 5 (excellent design)?



Choice	Score	Average
A	208	1.51
B	240	1.74
C	508	3.68
D	309	2.24

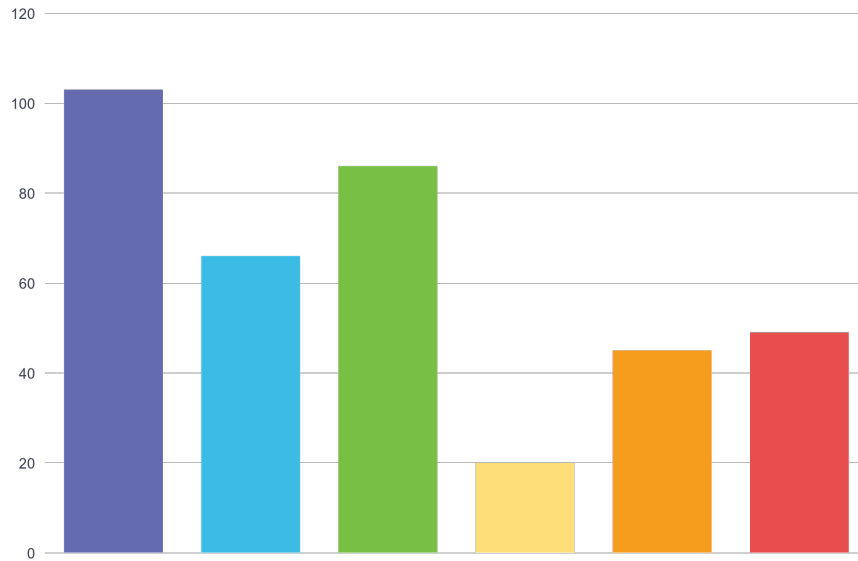
Q12 POSTER 2

B. How appealing or appropriate for Charlestown are these commercial buildings, rated from 1 (very unappealing) to 5 (excellent design)?



Choice	Score	Average
E	384	2.78
F	413	2.99
G	321	2.33
H	414	3

Q13 Which of these key characteristics do you think are most important to make your top rated buildings successful? (Choose up to 3.)



Choice	Total
Architectural features (windows, level of detail, trim, etc.)	103
Colors and materials	66
Overall mass and height	86
Roof form	20
Breakup of building mass (projections, recesses, etc.)	45
Siting (position of building on lot)	49

Q14 POSTER 3

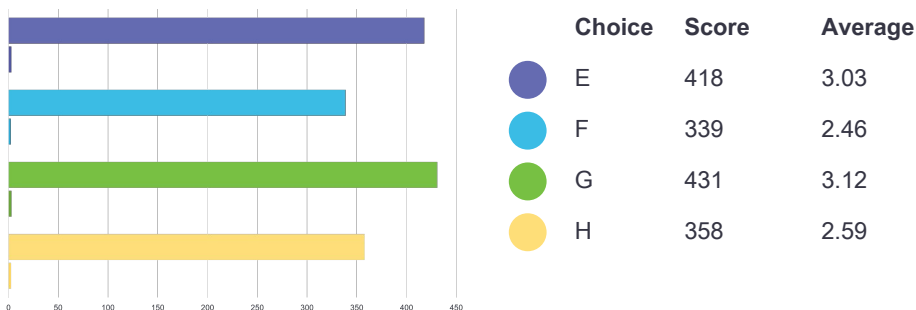
Siting refers to how buildings are placed on a lot, and how they are accessed. Consider elements such as landscape buffers, walkways, and parking location.

A. Please rate how appealing or appropriate the siting of these buildings are for Charlestown, from 1 (very unappealing) to 5 (excellent siting).



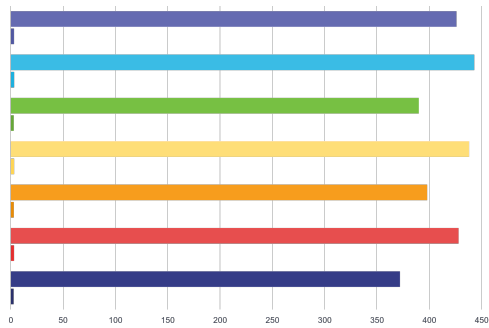
Q15 POSTER 3

B. Again, please rate how appealing or appropriate the siting of these buildings are for Charlestown, from 1 (very unappealing) to 5 (excellent siting).



Q16 POSTER 4

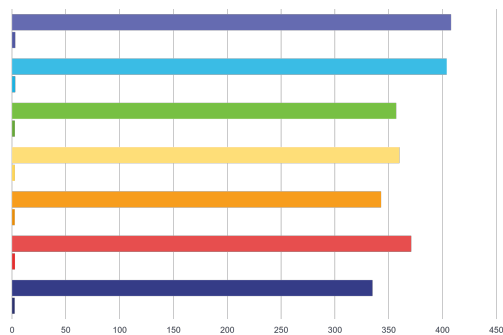
How would you rate this building on the design elements listed below, from 1 (very unappealing) to 5 (excellent design).



Choice	Score	Average
Roof form	426	3.11
Materials (color, type)	443	3.23
Breakup of mass (setbacks, change of height, etc.)	390	2.85
Window size and shape	438	3.2
Porch, awnings, or overhangs	398	2.91
Architectural features (dormers, trim, level of detail)	428	3.12
Connection to exterior	372	2.72

Q17 POSTER 4

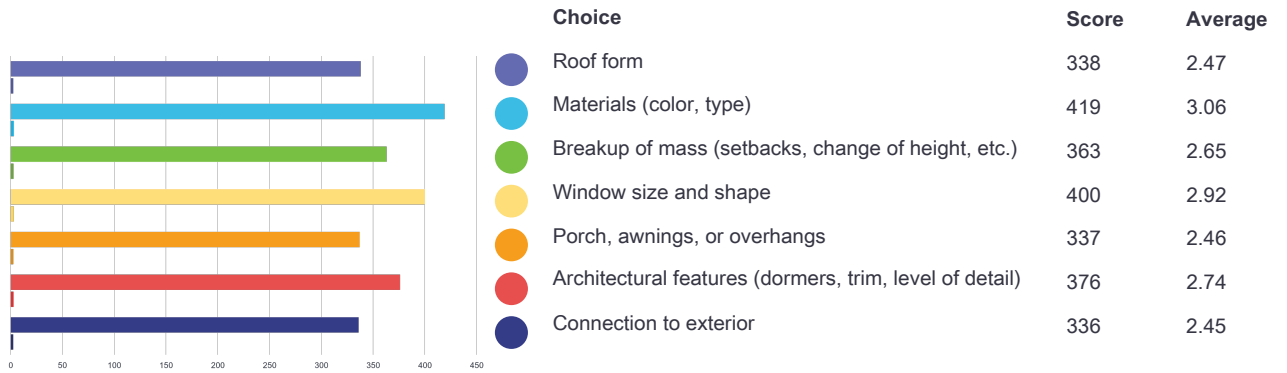
How would you rate this building on the design elements listed below, from 1 (very unappealing) to 5 (excellent design).



Choice	Score	Average
Roof form	408	3.02
Materials (color, type)	404	2.99
Breakup of mass (setbacks, change of height, etc.)	357	2.64
Window size and shape	360	2.67
Porch, awnings, or overhangs	343	2.54
Architectural features (dormers, trim, level of detail)	371	2.75
Connection to exterior	335	2.48

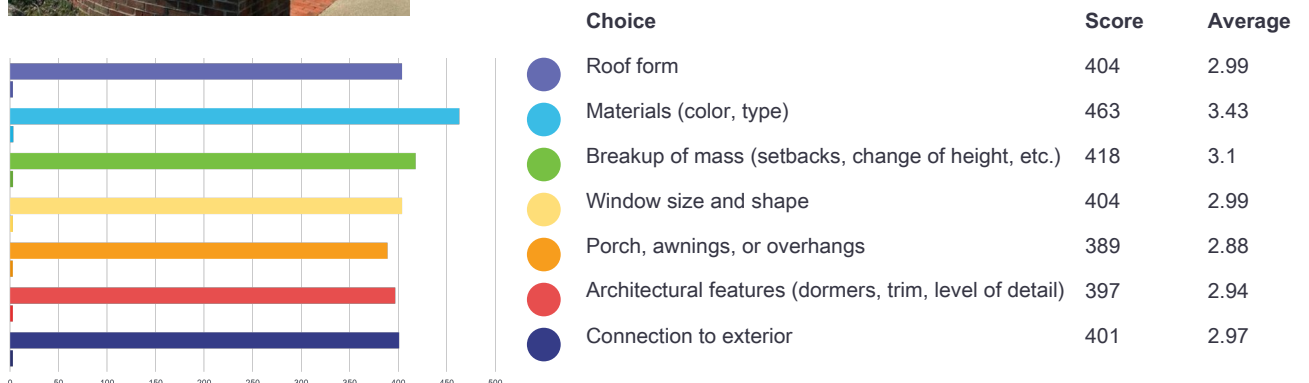
Q18 POSTER 4

How would you rate this building on the design elements listed below, from 1 (very unappealing) to 5 (excellent design).



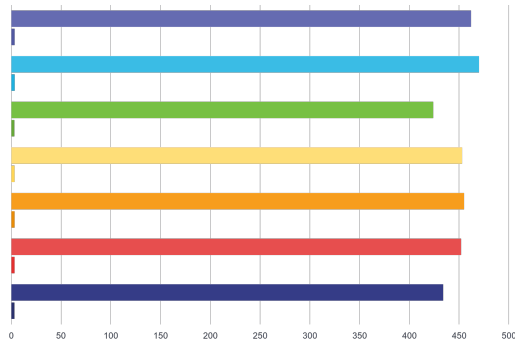
Q19 POSTER 4

How would you rate this building on the design elements listed below, from 1 (very unappealing) to 5 (excellent design).



Q20 POSTER 4

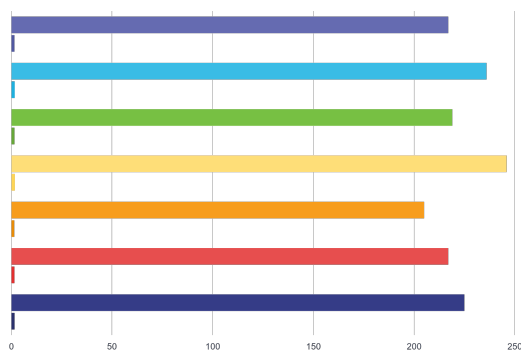
How would you rate this building on the design elements listed below, from 1 (very unappealing) to 5 (excellent design).



Choice	Score	Average
Roof form	462	3.45
Materials (color, type)	470	3.51
Breakup of mass (setbacks, change of height, etc.)	424	3.16
Window size and shape	453	3.38
Porch, awnings, or overhangs	455	3.4
Architectural features (dormers, trim, level of detail)	452	3.37
Connection to exterior	434	3.24

Q21 POSTER 4

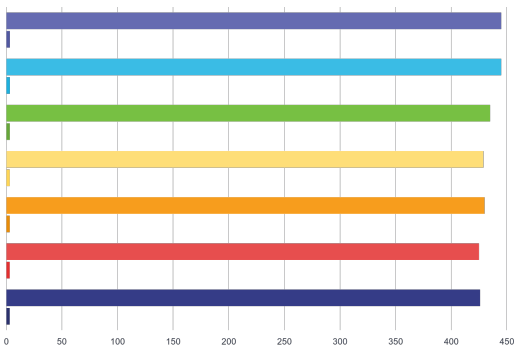
How would you rate this building on the design elements listed below, from 1 (very unappealing) to 5 (excellent design).



Choice	Score	Average
Roof form	217	1.56
Materials (color, type)	236	1.7
Breakup of mass (setbacks, change of height, etc.)	219	1.58
Window size and shape	246	1.77
Porch, awnings, or overhangs	205	1.47
Architectural features (dormers, trim, level of detail)	217	1.56
Connection to exterior	225	1.62

Q22 POSTER 4

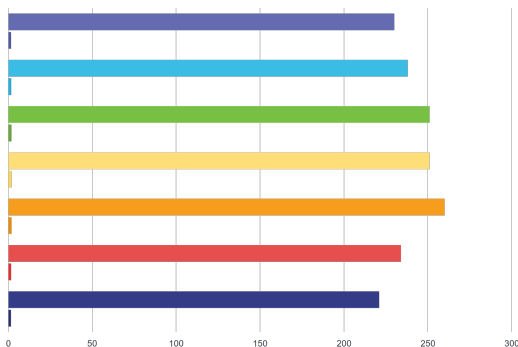
How would you rate this building on the design elements listed below, from 1 (very unappealing) to 5 (excellent design).



Choice	Score	Average
Roof form	445	3.25
Materials (color, type)	445	3.25
Breakup of mass (setbacks, change of height, etc.)	435	3.18
Window size and shape	429	3.13
Porch, awnings, or overhangs	430	3.14
Architectural features (dormers, trim, level of detail)	425	3.1
Connection to exterior	426	3.11

Q23 POSTER 4

How would you rate this building on the design elements listed below, from 1 (very unappealing) to 5 (excellent design).



Choice	Score	Average
Roof form	230	1.65
Materials (color, type)	238	1.71
Breakup of mass (setbacks, change of height, etc.)	251	1.81
Window size and shape	251	1.81
Porch, awnings, or overhangs	260	1.87
Architectural features (dormers, trim, level of detail)	234	1.68
Connection to exterior	221	1.59

Q24 POSTER 4

Are there any building characteristics that are either very important to see in certain locations in town, or very important to exclude from certain locations? Other comments on these images?

Essay

Response

Stop showing us pictures from SK EG Newport. We are Charlestown - 2/3 of the businesses won't make it due to summer vs very little business in other 3 seasons. They will end up empty and looking terrible. Keep the TOWN in charlestown!

The buildings that I rated most appealing would those that would be most desirable to see in the central village. Those that I rated undesirable would not want to be seen in any part of the town.

No into 2 story oversized buildings to only see empty in the future

Charlestown has a lovely eclectic collection of buildings that gives space for small business to express their own styles and approaches, like the Cross Mills Store, Beach Rose Cafe. Cookie cutter buildings, large blacktop parking lots devoid of any buildings do not connect with what's here.

This is the type of development in Westerly. Now most of the buildings are empty. No one wants it in Charlestown. This is not development.

Parking behind or to the side. As few curb cuts for off street parking as possible. Sidewalks and crosswalks where possible. Buildings in TVD fairly small scale with minimal sprawl. Variety of architectural styles, rooflines, windows, etc.

The structures should have a character to them, not a cookie cutter generic box store or strip mall feel. They shouldn't be screaming "I am (insert business name)!!!" It should look like it is part of the town, not some foreign construct just dropped into town.

Many of the buildings are too tall and massive. Natural building materials such as cedar shakes and clapboard are the most appropriate for Charlestown. Intricate and interesting, but not modern are better choices.

Since I am not interested in seeing commercial development in Charlestown, none are appealing.

Include.....use village, beach, simple/neutral designs.....natural pavers/crushed shells, structures; barn, old mill style, farm, cottage.....integrate native grasses, foliage, water features, rock walls, natural ground cover....informational plaques of historical design, events, commerce Exclude.....NO! neon lights, colors, signs, detached signs,asphalt paved parking lots, tall billboards..no billboards. ...no flood lights,

These questions were all internally inconsistent in that the comparison range was not apples to apples. The question asked to rate whether buildings were appealing or appropriate vis a vis excellent siting. These are not the same thing! A building design may have excellent siting but could be visually appealing or unappealing. In my opinion, these questions are therefore skewed to achieve a particular result. Moreover, for the question of "connection to exterior" most were tight shots that did not show the surrounding area, so it's impossible to answer.

Design standards that encourage owners to avoid contemporary design are appropriate.

We need new things in the town ran by people that wont be here in 10 years

Response

Regulate signage size, location and lighting. Hilton Head, S.C. has a robust building and zoning guidelines that Charlestown would appreciate and should consider replicating.

Not really, I think this survey is missing a bigger picture plan that includes destinations and plan of dealing with cars and people who could walk through. I think your business would have increased volume of the foot traffic was actual foot not tire

Contemporary design doesn't fit the character of the town

For Charlestown, quaint new england seaside town could be the theme. Many buildings in Charlestown are disconnected and there is no flow of architecture. For example, Simply Pleasures is a great store but has no good architecture connection to other buildings plus the parking lot is unpaved etc.

We do not want any commercial development in Charlestown. Are you listening?

The rooflines, historic feel and sidewalk access of historic Wakefield would be a guidepost for design.

No big box or drive up windows.

Modern design does not lend itself to the Charlestown ambience.

no unattractive parking lots, walking brickways or something similar to keep old time charm. outdoor seating and lots of cute landscaping. obviously, low commercial buildings

traditional style small buildings in villages, no large buildings which would look out of place larger, well sitused traditional style buildings along scenic highways, parking and access are important

In the site pictures it is unclear where the road or parking is. I prefer parking behind the buildings

Keep a small beach town character. Minimize lighting because of neighborhoods. Charm + accessibility

Don't need anymore commercial buildings in Charlestown

none appeal

The Cross Mills area and south of Rt. 1 should remain quaint and beachy. It gives this area a lot of charm. These commercial buildings do not fit the beachy or charm characteristics.

A.B. Hoxie's is a good example of what I consider to be excellent design.

Keep clapboard and shingles Reject hard shiny surfaces such as glass and metal.. Grass trees and plantings are appropriate to maintain rural character. Keep size to a minimum for a village look. These comments are strictly for a Charlestown setting

Beach locations should look traditional, and not be too big . Quaint look.

Quonnie farms is beautiful. Pats power, cvs strip mall are awfully ugly.

Boxtype buildings with large glass windows should not be in the TVD.

Keep with the historical areas of Cross Mills and Carolina historical looking. Quaint seaside feel in Village District.

Some of these are excellent design, but not necessarily for Charlestown. Establishing architectural standards that complement the age of the town and existing buildings should be paramount. Wakefield,

Response

Watch Hill and Westerly are all excellent examples of using existing buildings whenever possible and interspersing new buildings that don't stick out like sore thumbs.

Boxy glass intensive "modern" designs don't really fit well with the character of the town of Charlestown. While I personally like that style, I don't think it's a "fit" for Charlestown commercial buildings. The more traditional looking images in the survey are more in keeping with the Charlestown vibe. Some of your images were in my opinion too big - too much mass - especially the ones with three stories and a full slanted roof above. And others that look like modern incarnations of the strip mall and not very appealing.

Don't turn us into Route 1 strip malls

Post and beam seems to work the best in our area trying to keep our area rustic while allowing business's to thrive. Gray vinyl siding square building's look terrible and cheap. Not what Charlestown should look like

I think more than the specific color/material or even roof line - the flat face/sameness of some of the examples is really unappealing, but I was not sure where to capture that.

No big boxy structures

Traditional roof pitch

In all village areas, prefer natural traditional materials (wood, shingles, brick) in neutral/traditional colors. Steel & cement block buildings are inappropriate. Exteriors that invite pedestrians to gather with porches, walkways, overhangs in human proportions would be in keeping with a small town character.

For Charlestown I prefer a colonial New England look. Relatively steep roofs, textured shingles, clapboard or shingle siding made of wood or an upgraded material, wood trim features, large windows. No or limited metal buildings. Limited cement block construction-has to be finished. No railroad cars for storage. Quality construction should be in ALL areas. Commercial and residential sites should be neat. Messes like at the end of Tockwotten Cove Road should not be allowed.

I don't think very modern design fits well with the existing building or the character of our town

The building designs in this survey are all similar and biased. You didn't include and chain commercial buildings.

Exclude all buildings shown

Smaller is better, but big enough to draw in business to help the town.

It's important to keep the New England seaside charm. Downtown Westerly good, Tower Hill rd In Wakefield from route 1 to the CVS very very bad.

Every area should be rural, rustic, old-fashioned, historical buildings.

Smaller buildings of traditional appearance in all areas. South of Rte.1.

Any formula retail construction: ie chain retail, drug stores, markets, restaurants should not allowed. Examples are Martha's Vineyard, Concord MA, Ridgefield CT,

I don't know what poster 4 is

No big box stores or commercial looking buildings.

Response

North of Dunkin' Donuts and Pats Power on Old Post Road. Rebuild CVS, tear down Motels, and have brick paved sidewalks.

I believe it's very important to stay with the historical feel of Charlestown, and the architectural elements that emanate this. Modern architecture is pleasing to look at in some towns, but I don't believe it belongs in any of ours.

These images do not evoke, represent or otherwise enhance Charlestown.

Exclude huge panes of glass. They are fatal to birds.

On poster 4 that type of building would be perfect for TVD and the commercial/residential mix.

Use of wood and stone features

Water themed building characteristics would blend with the town. Whites, tans, and grey color schemes. No flat roofs. No modern designs.

The empty lot on Falcone Dr should become a mixed use development. A mix of stores, coffee shop, restaurant or pizza, moving a current popular store/restaurant to that area would be helpful (example: mini-super or Hungry Haven, Breachway Grill, Simple Pleasures). Office space above since the site didn't perc. Or elevators with storage for storefronts below to allow more usable ground floor space. Also, Sift in Mystic Village has a bakery on first floor with open air seating on second floor with availability for events. This might be a good location for an oyster bar or Sift type business. I have more ideas about Rt 1 corridor for converting abandoned hotels into affordable apartments. Etc.

I like A for its marriage of old & new. Has a warehouse look. B is interesting but more detail would be helpful.

Repurpose existing empty commercial spaces, plant more natural surroundings and shrubbery and no tall buildings blocking views.

Doggy dormers very important Nothing too modern.

Nothing wows me. All too cookie cutter. Would like to see more in line with historical buildings.

Awnings, planters, pedestrian spaces, standard signage bands and lighting, landscaped parking areas are very important to a successful commercial development.

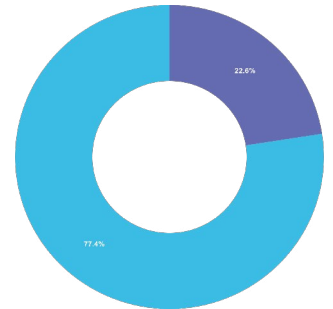
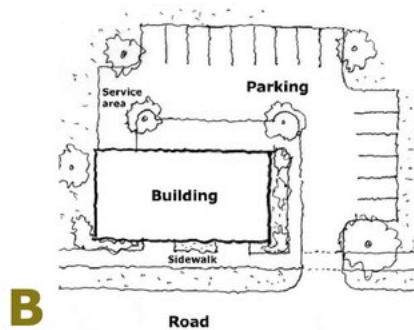
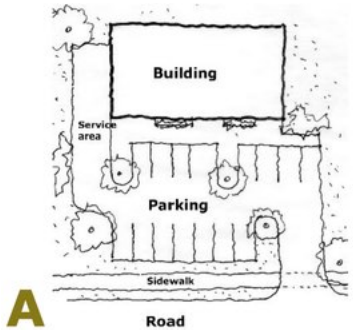
Natural materials, use of porches and dormers where possible and in the villages safe walking access to smaller buildings

The more country like the better.

I prefer the buildings that have some kind of unique character rather than the fairly standard cookie cutter designs. I do not like extremely commercial designs.

Q25 POSTER 5

Which of these parking diagrams do you think is better? Please focus on where you would prefer to see the parking. Assume that the designs would be equally accessible in terms of building entry from parking and ease of driving in and out.



Choice	Total
A	30
B	103

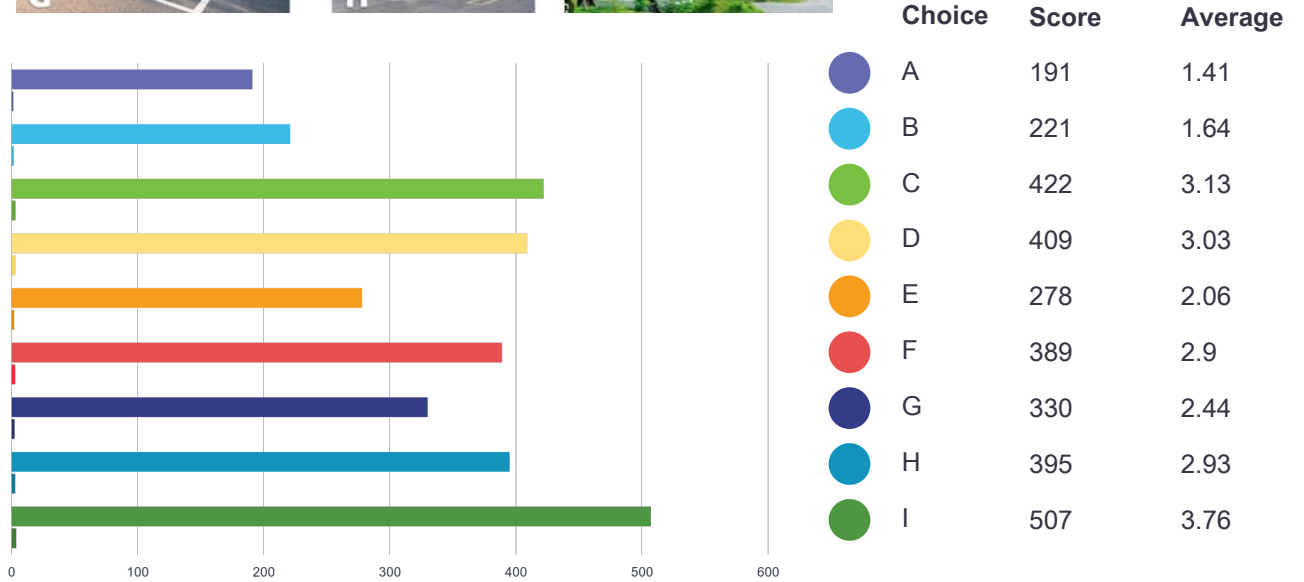
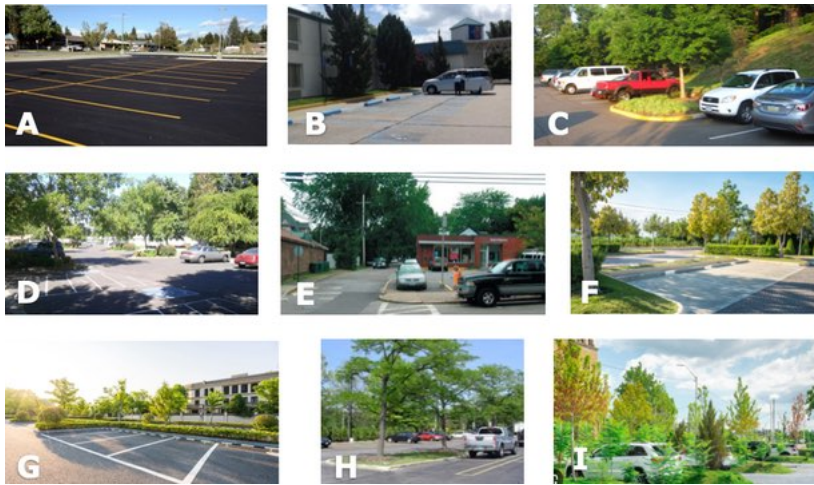
Q26 POSTER 5

Please rate your preference for the sidewalk materials below for commercial areas in Charlestown from 5 (best) to 1 (worst).



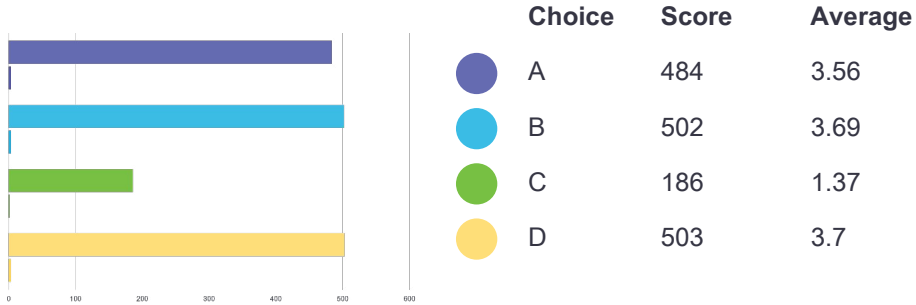
Q27 POSTER 5

Please rate these parking lot designs from most desirable (5) to not desirable (1).



Q28 POSTER 6

Please rate these landscape pictures from 1 (Don't want to see in Charlestown) to 5 (Very much want to see in Charlestown).



Q29 POSTER 6

Please rate this next set of landscape pictures from 1 (Don't want to see in Charlestown) to 5 (Very much want to see in Charlestown).



Q30 POSTER 6

What features cause you to rate a landscape highly? Please write three words or phrases that describe a good landscape for commercial sites.

Essay

Response

keep charlestown SMALL

Nicely landscaped with trees, shrubs and bushes.

I feel that the more natural the surroundings the more we can preserve our town

Charlestown's identity is relaxed and large blacktop parking lots (high urban heat effect, impervious surfaces) do not belong. Small, fine grain shopping areas with social spaces and sidewalks fit in. Large, institutional looking shopping areas seem "placeless" where business owner's can't really express themselves well. These large shopping areas read "anywhere in the USA" and not Charlestown which is eclectic, fine grained and authentic.

No one wants commercial sites in Charlestown. People move here to get away from it. Leave Charlestown alone.

Street trees Variety of walls, fences or other dividing elements Winding or curving roads rather than straight unbroken lanes

Well manicured shrubs, grass and well maintained parking surfaces.

Trees, varying heights, densely layered

I did not rate any highly. Hopefully we do not have more commercial development and I do not see why we need sidewalks.

Native, grasses, perennial groundcover

Variety of plant material Scaled Seasonality of interest

Enough green materials to soften the look. Cohesive landscaping. Appropriate landscape lighting

A parking lot on its own is mundane but with creative landscaping and drainage can blend in with the surroundings.

Accessibility for walking culture Embracing rural/ culture or beach/ country living Not franchised mass developed in-unique

Walkable modest lighting no flashing signs

shade, greenery, picket fence

We do not want any commercial development in Charlestown

Pedestrian friendly, greenery

Plant material, trees, shade

I am not interested in seeing a mass of shopping building in Charlestown, however I am not opposed to one or two simple building designs that blend into the traditional New England village

Response

Abundance of shubbary

a few stops at one place, plenty of nature still present, easy access to main roads

natural elements, separate buildings

Walkable lots of varied vegetation

fit with natural surrounding, parking not visible from road, welcoming

trees

Treed, nice walkway, room for parking

none

Quaint, village, beachy

varieties of green heights and types break up large paved/surfaced spaces

Subtle color Sidewalks Trees or landscaping

Trees

Mature healthy trees

Low traditional buildings with green landscaping

Native plants

Well-landscaped lots that are visually less distracting from the natural environment.

Quaint, feels like it's always been there.

Provides visibility, but good screening. Not a formal look, but more natural. Trees not just shrubbery. A variety of plant material.

Well integrated with surrounding landscape Creative use of existing structures More green, less concrete

(1) Walkability between businesses. (2) Good landscaping, with enough evergreens that the area doesn't look barren in the cold months. (3) Balance of the landscaping and the scale of the buildings.

plantings that soften trees

Well maintained lawns!

natural, varied, colorful

Varied plantings.

Trees, little hard scape, not cramped

Inviting, clean

Small scale that fits a "village" character. Patio area that invites pedestrians to sit, gather, socialize. Natural materials, plantings.

Response

Commercial parking without the obstruction of planter islands

Greenery, modern style, village-feel (ability to walk around)

neat, shrubs and plants, good design

How it will integrate with existing buildings and the character of Charlestown

Natural features. Fewer straight lines...more natural feel

Easy to walk, sensible parking, character and charm

building blends well into landscape

Simplicity. Grass, trees, shrubs. Breaking up building view from exterior.

Parking lots with many trees to offset the view of cars and lot and provide shade. Environmental asset

Plantings that complement the building. Must be cognizant of cost so as not to make it economically infeasible for the business to be built.

Size and height of building 1 story prefer Material Architecturally compatible with surrounding structure

Indigenous, drought resistant plants sprinkled with evergreens

Blend with area.

Shingled cottages.

Natural elements intermixed into the necessary industrial elements. This helps soften the industrial elements, and keeps them from feeling too overwhelming

Size Style Distance from road

Reduced impervious surface

Low maintenance

Natural materials, i.e., stone, wood, shake shingle or simulations, thereof, green spaces with plantings and trees, scale befitting historical structures, walkability.

The parking lot should be broken up by natural barriers and allow for pedestrian traffic.

Ease of access, green spaces, welcoming entrances

Plenty of greenery

-Encourages walking & bicycling -Offers opportunities for meeting people/ gathering - Quality architectural design & features that raise the aesthetic of our commercial zones. Even in areas where buildings were constructed that are not attractive, we should require new buildings to attain our highest ideals. In time those improperly designed buildings will be replaced/remodeled to be more attuned to the desired design standards.

Utility environment simplicity

Coziness Practicality

Response

Landscaping

Less concrete more organic wood and plant material

High degree of tree coverage and plantings for all seasons!

Parking in back(away from the street) Plantings Sidewalks

Size of lot, landscaped, off road

Simple Low maintenance Natural

Lots of green/nature around it, small size, natural materials

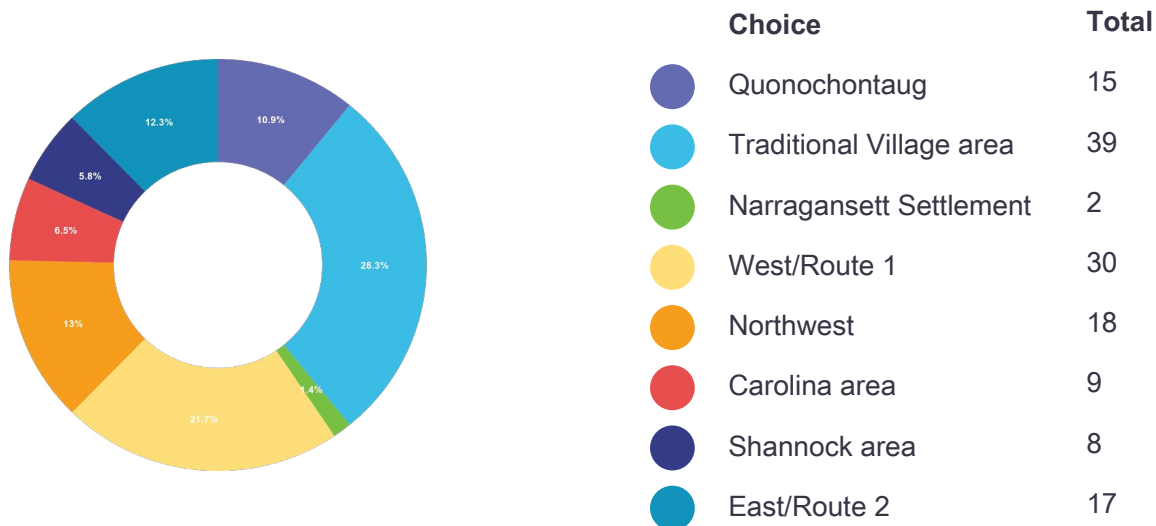
Overly commercial look,plain

Has a village or small town feel.

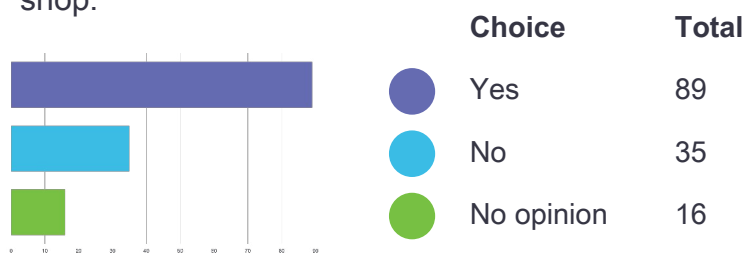
walkability invitability soft lighting

Shaded/screening landscaping, interesting design/attractive frontage, parking is not dominating

Q31 Which area of Charlestown do you live in?



Q32 I would like to be able to walk along Route 1A in Cross Mills and the TVD and shop.



Q33 Some of my favorite buildings in and around Charlestown are:

Essay

Response

Washington Trust, Building opposite Cumberland Farm, Hoxie building

Mills creek gift shop, library, small beach cottages, hungry haven

Cross Mills Stores Cross Mills Library Quonnie Farms General Stanton Inn Compass Hardware Jim's Dock Matunick Oyster House Caf Bar Purslane Brickley's Simple Pleasures Maiz Hungry Haven Tilted Barn Shelter Harbor Inn Sly Fox Den Umbrella Factory collection of buildings (not all are incredible buildings architecturally speaking, but they have a fine grain'ness that gives the proprietors an able to make it their own and provide character, and interest

The wooded lots.

Entire streetscape from the exit from Post Road past Cross Mills down to Matunuck Schoolhouse Road General Stanton Inn

Library General Stanton Inn

Umbrella Factory, General Stanton Inn, The Cove, Many in Shannock Village.

4021 Old Post Rd 4009 Old Post Rd 47 Charlestown Beach Rd 5227 Post Rd

The old mill buildings that should have been revived. The beautiful tan building/house with the big porch that is being renovated across from Horseshoe Falls. House Mill in Carolina. The 2 houses north of the mill in Carolina. The tan house with cream trim in Carolina. The stone building (Entwined) at the corner of Cross Mills Rd and 1A. Jackson Surveying as well as the house across the street. Hathaway's Cottages traditional main building, large trees and set back off the road. Charlestown wine and Spirits is more modern but very nice with the peak in the center, wood doors and stone walls. The General Stanton Inn, but it needs more shrubbery. The Wilcox tavern. Shelter Harbor Inn.

Existing houses for residential use.

Post office, library, Charlestown Liquor, Simple Pleasures

Arrowhead Dental Norton Supply Simple Pleasures Dave's Coffee/Galapagos

Cross Mills, Quonnie Farms, Galapagos, Rathskeller, wash trust bank,

Gift barn is nice. Mini super exterior could use a remodel. General Stanton. Real estate building on narrow land intersection, Churchwoods, Wilcox, Barn/Bakery on East Beach Rd

The general Stanton inn has such character and charm and the buildings around it do it a disservice glossy bank and crappy pizza box on the corner and Franchise gas station with no rural decor at all. Just looks run-down and un-inviting. The library area is very nice if there were a little better walkways I think that would at least improve those business. the shannock road area if it had a few businesses that catered to the area. The new Quonnie farms farmers market is an exceptional building with rural characteristics. but not everyone should as heard to a "barn esthetic". I've only stoped at the cvs and got to the pats power equipment store. If I want to visit the floral shop do I walk on the road or on the grass? And if I was walking with children do we use the road? What if there is snow on the ground? Also no pathways for walking from the Dunkin to anywhere else on such tight driveways.

General Stanton inn library and st James Church

cross mills area charlestown historic building liquor store

Betsy Babcock House, Stanton Inn and all the other old buildings in Charlestown that give it a unique country coastal character. If you ruin it with commercial buildings, we will have no visitors and our existing businesses will suffer. You will not be forgiven and will be permanently voted out. Cross Mills in particular is already jammed with traffic in the summer, and cannot withstand more cars visiting commercial buildings.

Cross' Mill, General Stanton Inn, Wilcox Tavern, Dave's Coffee, Quonnie Farms

General Stanton Inn

Umbrella Factory Charlestown Library Charlestown Market

Gen Stanton Inn

General stanton Inn, simple pleasure

General Stanton. The Cove, Cross Mills Library, St James Chapel

Shelterharbor, fairly new timber frame on Rte 1 Dave's coffee

The General Stanton Inn, Wilcox Tavern, , The Public Library, Cross Mills - Mill Creek Gift Shop and the Stone Building across from it and Jackson Surveyors. More modern? 4649 Old Post Road Charlestown (Edward Jones Financial), the Charlestown Wine and Spirits

Cross Mills library, A Shore Thing

Market across from Library. General Stanton Inn

General Stanton Inn, Cross Mill Baptist Church

General Stanton Inn Washing Trust bldg. half stone house in Cross Mills

Mills Creek, Peaches, A Shore Thing

A.B. Hoxie Washington Trust Co. bank Shoreline Plaza as current

Gov Stanton Inn Wilcox Tavern Library

Umbrella factory

Cross Mills stone building

None

Cross mills stone building on corner, cross mills library

Quonnie Farms, Jackson surveying, cross mills buildings, general Stanton inn, shelter harbor inn

General Stanton Inn, its has character that fits the TVD.

Cross Mills stone building!

The General Stanton Inn. The buildings in Cross Mills and Carolina...historical buildings.

Narragansett Health Center (most beautiful building in town) General Stanton Inn Cross-Mills Library/Historical Society

Charlestown Wine and Spirits is attractive. Cross Mills Library also good. The renovated General Stanton Inn is nice, the restaurant and bar section, not the motel units. The Breachway Grill block and the commercial buildings across the street with The Corner Deli is OK. Not fantastic, but functional and acceptable. The Cove Restaurant on Old Post Road is nice. The building with Charlestown Urgent Care and the kickboxing gym on Old Post Road and the parking lot are ugly.

Charleston Wine and Spirits, Mills Creek Gift Shop, Dave's Coffee

Michael's Texaco building, could be turned into a killer restaurant. The Post and beam house on route 1 going to Westerly. Dave's coffee, General Stanton rebuild.

I love that the old Michael's became a restoration/sculpture building and the revived General Stanton Inn.

General Stanton Inn The Cove Breachway Grill Rippys

General Stanton Inn, Charlestown Library

General Stanton

Natale's Construction, General Stanton, Wilcox Tavern, Dave's Coffee, Washington Trust Bank, Hoxie Inc., Mills Creek Gift Shop, Charlestown Wine & Spirits

Cross mills library, ocean house, The Nordic

Quonnie Farms, Arrowhead Dental, General Stanton

Hoxie Building, Washington Trust, Charlestown Liquor, General Stanton, Natale Construction. Daves' Coffee, Wilcox Tavern.

The library, General Stanton, the historic village

pats & a.b. hoxie & liquor store on old post road

Yellow Physical Therapy building

Gen stanton Wilcox tavern Quonnie farm

Charlestown Beach Road Area

The Nordic. Quinine farms market.

Library, Mill Creek Market, Quonnie Farms, Simple Pleasures, Hathaway Cottages, Charlestown Wine and Spirits, the Grange.

The general Stanton inn. The stone house at the corner of Old Post Rd & Town Dock Rd. The umbrella factory.

Charlestown Package Store

The mill creek store, cross mills library

Compass Hardware. Charlestown Wine and Spirits. Wilcox Tavern/Bend Yoga

General Stanton Inn Quonnie Farm Charlestown Historical Archive building Library All churches
Charlestown wine and spirits Cross Mills Market Natali Construction office Wilcox Tavern Galapagos A
Shore Thing Church Woods apartments

Arrowhead Dental and the building across from Arrowhead Dental on Route 2, the Rathskellar, Simple
Pleasures, Quonnie Farms

Octagon house, umbrella factory,

Pat's Power Equipment Quonnie Farms

General Stanton, Wilcox Tavern, Denelle building with Edward Jones

Breachway Grille, General Stanton Inn, Charlestown Package Store, St James Parish Center

The Cove, CVS, Post Office, Bank

Cross mills

The colonial buildings that give a sense of Charlestown's history.

General Stanton Cross Mills Library Ocean Marina

The bookstore in the old barn.

Quonnie Farms building, Norton supply, Arrowhead Dental, Mill's Creek gift shop

West Beach Farm. Dennelle Builders. Charlestown Liquor.

Quonnie Farms, Shannock stone building with orange door, Charlestown Wine and Spirits, Dave's Coffee
(with some sprucing up), Wilcox Tavern, General Stanton Inn, Octagonal House (Carolina), Carolina Mill,
Kettle Pond Center(not commercial, but style could be a good model for commercial).

The Haversham and Watch Hill in Westerly.

General Stanton, Haversham (westerly), Quonnie Farms,

Cross mills library

Washington Trust Wilcox Tavern General Stanton Inn Ocean House Marina Cross Hall

Cross Mills Store, General Stanton Inn, Stone Residence across from Hoxie, shannock & carolina.

Quinine Farms, Rustic Rose, Rathskellar

Quonnie Farm General Stanton Inn Arrowhead, live the spinners and gardens

Quonnie Farm General stanton inn Town hall

Charlestown wine and spirits

General Stanton Inn, church woods housing! Shannock buildings

Cross Mills Library General Stanton Inn

Mill Creek, Simple Pleasures (if unkempt better), The Nordic, Gen Stanton, Arrowhead, The Cove,
Adares, Umbrella Factory, Breachway

Mills Creek

1 at Salt barn cmills

Charlestown package store. Churchwoods. Mills Creek store. The stone building at Cross Mills. The library. General Stanton

GS Inn Stone bldg at Cross Mills Hathaway Cottages

Fantastic Umbrella Factory, Charlestown Wine and liquors, General Stanton. Retain some traditional architecture but allow some variety and even quirkiness that is attractive.

Q34 What I do not want to see in Charlestown is:

Essay

Response

Franchise buildings i.e. McDonalds and more coffee shops.

I do not want to see ADU's. I do not want large 2 story or more buisness/apartment buildings, no strip malls, no more chain stores, resturants or donut shops.

-Big box stores. -"Anywhere in the USA" shopping plazas - similar to where Celestial Cafe is in Exeter. That complex is defined by parking lots and the buildings look poorly constructed and somewhat falling apart. -Large pharmacies. I think the Charlestown CVS size and scale reads Charlestown. I would welcome a pharmacy like the Green Line Apothecary that has a social space to gather in as well (inside and outside) -Big expansive, asphalt parking lots. Have big concerns for urban heat island effect, increased impevious surfaces, and it plain doesn't feel coastal nor rural

Any more "development" than it has.

Car-centered big box development with massive parking lots and numerous curb cuts

leave it rural and do not cater to people who want to make charlestown better, but doing so, will only line their pockets and make the few richer.

standard northeastern/shore type shingled design with high pitched roofs and dormers.

Large commercial box stores

Town of Westerly

Big Box stores, more strip malls, ultra modern buildings. Buildings that do not match the town's residential feel.

Large chains/box stores. Don't want it to look like westerly.

Dollar Tree, McDonald's/fast-food restaurants, storage facilities, Big Box stores, grocery stores, Cannabis dispensary, paintball, Commercial growth, more houses, highspeed railroad, blacktop, shooting ranges, Illuminated billboards such as the elementary school or the Preserve,

Commercial development and large scale residential development. The less development the better.

BILLBOARDS. NEON COLORS/SIGNS. MODERN INNOVATIVE structure/materials. .LARGE ASPHALT PARKING LOTS. ADVERTISING SIGNS. WAREHOUSE STORES. SUPERMARKETS.

Response

I don't want to see design standards mandated. So much of this "survey" has been skewed or truly unanswerable. For instance, which parking design is "better." The two choices were taken out of context. An appropriate parking design is site specific. Mandating one type of design over another is just wrong and deprives the property owner the ability to design what makes sense for that particular business in that particular location. Additionally, sidewalk materials should not be mandated. Regulating these design issues is unduly burdensome to property owners.

Any blanket restriction on certain design types, i.e., contemporary, etc.

Old thinking

Responsible development that does not deter developers from investing in our community. I was originally against the Dunkin' going in twenty years ago but now I see it as an asset that I visit twice weekly. The drive-thru is a lifesaver when I have my grand kids in the car!

gas stations, storage units, fast food, dollar stores, anything big on rt1, medical offices

Large corporations like McDonald's , starbucks, etc. big developments that look sterile. There needs to be some congruence and larger planning which includes the thought of destinations. Where will people park? Can they walk to multiple places even during the winter? How hard will it be to clear/maintain the paths? There seems to be some land on or around the spaghetti drive through place. Could that area be used as a parking area and beach shuttle be privately run? I know lots of residents don't want to see huge major improvements to the small town dark sky charm we have here that is unique to this town.

Chain stores Strip malls

Commercial development ie dollar store

need to have a central shopping area -- too spread out Demolish abandoned buildings on rt. 1.

More commercial development particularly in the Traditional Village District as the cross roads by Dunkin Donuts is very dangerous and cannot withstand more traffic. Unless you are determined to get someone killed.

No development.

Big box stores, continued lack of pedestrian/bike friendly streets, a look and feel of a connected town center with small businesses offering relevant products and services for both year round and summer residents.

I moved to Charlestown for it's rural character and hope it stays that way. If I wanted stores and a venue at Ninigret I would live elsewhere

Is the same old broken down and vacant commercial properties throughout Town. Let's worry about these properties and work on getting rid of them or providing incentives for the owners to take care of them.

Commercials Office Parks National commercial chains (Starbucks, McDonalds etc.,) Housing developments

Dollar Store or other chains. Traffic Light

Costco etc

Large, big box commercial buildings

Response

Rippys. Mini Super CVS plaza. I'm fine with the business just not the aesthetic

More commercial development Storage buildings

Make a Town Center by the Post Office, CVS, The Cove and the MiniMart. Move the Town Hall there to be closer to other "Main Street" activities.

Big Box Store, Fast food establishment (Dunkin is enough)

Large chain business all together in a single area Industrial looking architecture

Anything that looks like Wakefield where Belmont is. Main st Wakefield is ok.

would not want to see another Narr, Westerly development for charlestown perfect the way it is.

Big box stores Dollar stores Chain restaurants Buildings over 2-3 floors high

No big stores, no Dollar Trees, No South County Commons places, no parking lots, no big chain anything, no marijuana shops

big, boxy or blocks of stores with large paved areas

Big box stores Night lights anywhere Parking lots

Large commercial real estate

large parking lots chain retail stores increase in seasonal retail

Fast food restaurants.

Standard commercial strip mall buildings

Large commercial buildings

Big ugly shopping plaza with no curbside appeal

More of pats power type buildings...cement, cvs strip mall, Dunkin' Donuts,

Another Dunns Corners.

Large, boxy commercial

No Large industrial looking buildings. We need to keep it small and quaint. Blend in, not overtake the landscape.

Blocky, boxy buildings...no large chain stores/restaurants. No large commercial businesses on Old Post Road.

Applebees, Target, McDonald's, Walmart...you get the picture ;)

"Tall" buildings over two stories. Glass and chrome contemporary commercial buildings. Acres of uninterrupted pavement for parking areas. Big Box stores, obviously. Fastfood chain restaurants along route 1. A "village-feeling" Starbucks or Panera are acceptable to me in the "village" and commercial districts, as long as the buildings are traditional and any parking is moderate and well landscaped.

Strip Malls, Route 1 in Westerly From Route 78 to Ella's, South County Commons

Response

Dollar tree or the likes! No subways.

Large, generic tracts of buildings or box industrial.

Chain stores, dollar stores.

Square boxes with no landscaping.

Big box stores, increased traffic

Strip malls

Steel buildings; large malls; cement block construction (unless it is sided with shingle, clapboard or stucco for a finished look); trash, trash containers, storage of construction materials, vehicles or equipment that are in view; lack of aesthetically pleasing screening for necessary materials required of a business. I do not want to see cheaply built businesses, chain stores, businesses that cater to low-end sales (like the Dollar Store). Fencing that does not fit with surrounding character (cheap white privacy fences) should not be allowed.

Curbs everywhere, limited parking due to planter islands and a strictly regulated building code for new and existing businesses

Applebees, chain restaurants

Metal Buildings, Cement Block buildings, Cheap buildings, Poor Design

The return of the CCA to power.

Big bulky strip malls

trees...small country feel...

Parking behind commercial buildings, makes them seem like establishments were people dont Want to be seen going in, like strip clubs.

Any large or big box buildings/stores

Old commercial properties kept up

Strict regulations that commercial design must follow.

I want to see all of the buildings on Route 1 which are no longer in use need to be leveled. Ex. gas station, old Lobster Pot.

Strip malls, big box, national chains, overdevelopment in general.

I don't want to see overdevelopment or the loss of green space.

Enhance rural character

What I see everywhere else.

Big box stores, dollar general, storage units

big box stores, blight, unused buildings/stores.

Response

I like the area the way it is. That is why I moved here.

Large buildings with obtrusive signage.

Neon or flashing signs Off site advertising Sodium vapor lights Broad expanse of blacktop Formula retail

Abandoned businesses

No fast food chains, sidewalks, no need for any more light pollution,

big box stores

Big box stores, or big steel buildings. No solar farms or wind turbines.

Big box stores Very modern architecture

Big box store, dollar store, keep as it is

Prefabricated buildings.

A welcoming feel to the many visitors that flock in every year, and a sense that we take pride in our village....as well as the history that started it all. In Charlestown, the different areas are sectionalized, and I think we need an element that brings them together, such as sidewalks with night sky compliant lighting.

Anything that disrupts, ruins, detracts from the natural, idyllic flow of Charlestown.

Destruction of dark sky and loss of green space.

Large commercial buildings, anything too high, poor building materials, lots of concrete parking lots

Strip malls

Big box stores, solar farms, wind turbines, street lights (we like our dark skies) and more traffic lights. Keep Charlestown rural.

Faux Victorian village like South County Commons, modern or stark buildings like the Starbucks in Richmond. No more vinyl sided blocks like the CVS grouping near the Charlestown Post Office.

Box stores, fast food franchises, flat roofs, cement buildings

Strip malls, Chain stores, franchise restaurants unless they meet a "village design standard" similar to a historic district.

South County Commons. Buildings and parking difficult for mobility challenged.

Metal Industrial Buildings Brick Buildings Square Buildings

Chain stores architecture, unpleasant lighting (fugitive light), totally auto centric development, development without landscaping,

Chain stores, Box Stores, Modern trending bright colors. Busy roads and parking lots. Over crowded streets.

Fast food restaurant Outlets

Big Box Stores Buildings over 2 stories

Response

Too modern Not enough landscaping

Something you would see in another town

Big box stores, storage units, motels

Large Shopping Centers

Oversized franchise commercial buildings

Big box stores. A TVD with clear, consistent, quaint design standards.

Don't want to see a walmart.

City like buildings, metal, big buildings, lights, noise, congestion

Dollar gen, other chain stores, storage facilities, fast food, lighting that interferes with frosty
drew, disturbing scenic rt 1, noisy businesses,

Large commercial development and chain stores

Big Box or large development

retail chain outside storage plazas with bulky buildings

Corporate architecture, CVS Mall-like buildings, massive parking, chain stores that might put Mom and Pop's out of business, bland anywhere-USA type malls with predictable buildings. Plain, boxy metal buildings with no landscaping nor all concrete or all glass.

Q35 What do you value about the look of Charlestown and its commercial zones?

Essay

Response

The uniqueness of its buildings that preserve the small town/village appearance.

It's quaint quietness in the off season and the hustle during tourist season. The way it is now.

The coastal, rural, easy going vibe. I value that it feels like a big village. I value small business that express their identity / branding similar to Cross Mills Store. I value that there are no big boxes. I value that there are no "anywhere in the USA" shopping areas like in Richmond and in Wakefield (South County Commons) that are largely defined by parking lots and not pedestrian experiences. I wish we could walk from The Mini Super to General Stanton Inn, to the Farmer's Markets (summer time) to Tropic Frost, to the Library, to the Cross Mills Store safely. I wish I could walk safely from the Mini Super to the Post Office. I wish they were connected everyday and not just for the Holiday Ramble.

The lack of "development"

Village style charm and variety

rural us better and leave the commercial ones in one area like we now have

Response

Like a village look

The practical stores, the needs fulfilled, and the subtle blending in of many of the buildings that house these commercial ventures.

fully utilized and walkable for the community, especially TVD

It looks, feels and is a small, quaint coastal town and should remain that way.

Relatively low development for both commercial and residential areas north of route 1. Limited commercial development overall. I am more than happy to drive 10 to 20 minutes for all my needs. We already enjoy low taxes so we do not need additional commercial development to offset high taxes.

Simple Pleasuressimple exterior design, esthetic merchandise, distance from busy road, trees, natural parking lot, Charlestown Liquor.....exterior design, distance from road, park in back, Charlestown Library....integrating historic buildings, renovation Charlestown Town Hall..... distance from road, integrating town offices, town works(maintenance) & extra football field Charlestown Senior/Community Center.....inside park, integrating history with additional space, large garden, outdoor equipment/pavilions/fields.....naturally developing recreational services within park.

How it has evolved over the last 50 years maintaing so many original structures. There is still room for growth without altering the small town feel.

There is no coherent look in the commercial zones. Let's create a town center to promote a sense of community. We could even put a senior center there. The only continuity I see are the rundown buildings.

Rural, don't try and grow it.

I value some charm and esthetic that makes it quant and a destination. Places that don't look like every urban sprawl setting in middle America. While Dunkin is a ri staple and absolute necessity, it's drive through and lack of walking plan is really missing a lot. Imagine a Dunkin there with a grass field with benches where people could congregate together. Or some thought to using the towns egress area to provide safewalkways and maybe even rustic benches along the route. Putting together a plan to bring it all together with also some additional park and green spaces scattered throughout. So we can actually enjoy the white swamp preserve and other places that have been preserved instead of drive by.

Traditional Low profile Interesting architecturally

not much -- most areas are old, unkept and no conformity

Are you listening to the community? Only those looking to make money through real estate want to build commercial buildings. They will then move on to their next projects, leaving the town to deal with the consequences. We also risk businesses failing and leaving us with ugly orphan buildings. There is no evidence that businesses will thrive here.

There's a historic appeal would be immensely enhanced by created a contiguous, pedestrian friendly village feel for shopping, community gathering and having interactions with neighbors.

I don't see much of all that is esthetically pleasing other than a few buildings, which are in Cross Mills area and the General Stanton Inn. Are commercial spaces are horrendous excluding a few properties spread around Town.

Small town atmosphere and limited commercial development that takes the environment into consideration.

Response

Size

does not bring outside traffic

Quaint, smaller buildings with traditional design

The small town nature

Charm, personal

The smalltown vibe with no big box stores or strip malls

There is not o lot of commercial businesses. I like that

quite town it is what appeals to the people here.

All buildings should have a traditional or colonial look

I value the small village feeling, with quaint shops like Mills Creek and Peaches

friendly village look

The fact that they have not been exploited by commercialism! It functions well, and has the basics.

Rudic and rural

low density retail low traffic

Nothing. A sad mix of rundown buildngs>

Quaint traditional features

Traditional seaside look, like mystic CT or Newport

The nature everywhere

Rural and New England type architecture

Not much. All have a lack of consistent design.

Small town feel

Its rural, seaside look can be improved upon. I value its historical features most.

Very relaxed and not over-commercialized.

I would prefer there to be more linkage between commecial buildings, more ability to walk between shops after parking in one place. I recognize Cross Mills and Simple Pleasures/Hungry Haven/Route 2 commercial areas are not going to be walkable to/from the TVD, but even in TVD now you have to drive from parking lot to parking lot. It is called the Traditional Village District, but there is little about it that is village-like.

the lack of ugly strip mall development

Not much

welcoming, comfortable

Response

Mom and pop . Quaint old fashioned

It's varies designs.

Traditional building design

Commercial zones should fit with the general rural feel of Charlestown. Reasonable scale and attention to quality of design and materials is important as well as the type of businesses that are allowed here. Service and tourist business seem most appropriate. The businesses, buildings and landscaping need to reflect the pride residents feel about this community and interest in preserving the "village" atmosphere. Natural materials and quality, aesthetically pleasing design that is pedestrian friendly is key as well as the maintenance and upkeep of the commercial areas.

It's comprised of hard working citizens and the building style of each of there businesses reflects there personality as well as being beneficial for the type of business they run. However it looks from the outside.

Small town look and feel. Modern but classic charm. Clean

One value for me is that Charlestown is not too commercial. It has a rural feel. There are few chain store commercial buildings. I value that large scale retail shopping is non-existent. I can easily travel to Westerly or Narragansett/Wakefield for most shopping. I value that most of the stores are relatively small. There are relatively few businesses or residences that are eyesores-and we should do everything possible to keep it that way. All new development should have a good design sense in all geographic areas.

I like the trees. The commercial zones are a mish-mosh. We are not Sturbridge Village.

How it integrates with the existing buildings and character of town

Diversity

Little to no new commercial

Small town feel

Rural natural look.

Prefer woods and rural look.

No cookie-cutter buildings. Ex. Dollar General.

Rural and historic character.

That it isn't like Bald Hill Road in Warwick or Reservoir Avenue in Cranston. There isn't a lot of traffic. It's easy on the eyes everywhere you look.

Smaller buildings

The historical integrity rural, rustic, colonial, modest

the unique goods sold, and the diversity of items sold.

Simplicity and size of buildings.

Response

Miraculously Charlestown has not lost its character. Everyone who visits say they love the low profile and quiet quality. They come here for the change of pace. We would be fools to try and make it like every town USA.

A variety of different structures. I don't think everything should look the same.

Quaint, beach vibe, low key, mom & pop business, one story buildings

Trees and stone walls

rural, not cluttered, no neon lights

Keep Charlestown rural.

Green spaces, easy parking layout

Neighborhood - one story sea side buildings

Nothing it's a hodgepodge

We don't have any big businesses, and have maintained the quaintness that people expect from a small New England village

Authenticity to the history.

Commercial zones are functional, but unattractive and those structures should not be permitted outside those specific zones.

The quaintness is nice, but it is not walkable.

Keep buildings looking nice. We have commercial buildings that need remodelling.

Unfortunately, the examples are few but naturalistic looks like Quonnie Farms and Charlestown Wine and Spirits are my preference. They give the nod to our ocean side/ agrarian location. The historic buildings like General Stanton are lovely but contemporary knock offs of such buildings are hard to pull off without looking kitschy or Disneylike.

it's not cluttered and there's no traffic jams

Not much to value. Too disjointed. Charlestown Liquor got it right with look. But businesses should be more concentrated to a true village (near General Stanton or Cross Mills)

Never crowded, can always park. The better architecture, not the design-less, cheap buildings.

More suburban, less built up No high buildings

-It's historical character. -

Our rustic charming small town feeling. Unique lines and designs.

I lots of places to shop for things I need. Hardware store, mini mart, cubbies, good restaurants

Color tones that blend in with character of the landscape

How much it looks like small town America

Response

That it is undeveloped and has such rich history and the land has been so well preserved. That is why I live here.

It's rural character; it's historic buildings

Traditional design

I like the simple small town appeal that each Charlestown has.

TVD and Shannock should be treated different than other commercial areas. These two areas should have more stringent, consistent, quaint, design. Concerned that it could be made unaffordable and unrealistic for potential businesses. I am concerned with Planning Board over reach of any entrepreneur's efforts to be able to build in Charlestown. I am in favor of the Town adopting clear standards so that there would be so much Planning Board individual discretion.

Rural character

Rural, minimal comm

Small businesses, village feel, uniqueness

neighborhood scale not fancy- quirky organic development

There is variety and individuality. Some with dirt parking lots and shade are welcoming and organic. They do not look like every other town which makes them attractive to outsiders too. However, they are so scattered and disparate that it is hard to define one aesthetic as they are accretions of many years with little directive and it has led to some less than desirable buildings but some are accepted from usage.

Q36 What do you not like about the look of Charlestown and its commercial zones?

Essay

Response

Unkept buildings such as the former Tim Horten donut shop.

Chain stores. Destruction of land for more unit housing (condos/apartments).

I do not like that you need to drive everywhere. I do not like that it doesn't feel safe to bike or walk from Ninigret Park to the Charlestown Library for anyone. It feels like cars first and then people. I wish we had sidewalks and it was people first versus cars. The new Urgent Care building across from Compass Hardware store is very ugly and uninviting. The Cumberland Farms is "placeless". Towns can make sure that gas stations can be more beautiful.

Any more "development" than it already has.

Very haphazard look of architecture No sidewalks Ugly signage

lack of a downtown, walkable area

The newer cookie cutter town homes near Kingston pizza. Cumberland Farms. Too many new builds are going up. The quarries and huge quarry trucks are ruining the enjoyment of property and life. I counted 225 trucks passing my house in just one day.

Response

The abandoned gas station on Route 1, Michaels Gas Station on Route 1.

N/A

Skimpy

No continuity. We have landscape companies, rundown motels and restaurants. Where is the town center?

Shitty box stores like the bank on the falcons street and the Cumberland farms square boring box store looks like it could be anywhere,usa not one of the most unique beautiful beach towns in America I think the buildings esthetic is a minor issue where as the planning of the Lot is more important. Like the Charlestown mini has barely any greenery in their land. It looks dirty and old and needs a paint job. They need more parking for their employees and a sidewalk or pathway connecting them to other places around. Haven't you seen the seniors walking in the street?

Haphazard- not well planned

At this time there is no cohesive plan

Some areas are ugly, worn and unattractive. Mini super is particularly ugly and worn. It is in the center of Charlestown and has not been improved for 40 years.

Holy cow. Who designed this? You are giving no option to oppose commercial development.

No class.

No clear town center; Mini-Super needs major facelift and could be reconfigured to be more in line with historic buildings. CVS strip mall and Cumberland farms are not in keeping with a historic theme.

How most of it looks abandoned and over all very unappealing other than a few properties. I wish the Town was more proactive in cited properties that look bad/abandoned or help them with tax relief.

Small and Unique, blends into the community.

rundown buildings, not open year round

Abandoned restaurants like the Lobster Pot are an eyesore and should be demolished if not maintained

Poorly planned poorly maintained

Boxy buildings, the disparate nature and look of it. The lack of center/cluster and ease of access/use.

grounds around some areas are neglected

That there are more than I want.

not that much here like it the way it is

CVS building looks like a strip mall.

I don't like that there are large plots of land that people feel they need to develop. Charlestown Beach Rd is dangerous as it is, no need for more commercialization or crowding.

Dunkin abandoned buildings Dunkin number of seasonally closed buildings Dunkin

Response

A sad mix of run down buildings.

Need to drive and find parking hard to walk or bike to.

Commercial areas look unplanned. Too many vacant buildings like Bennys

Some old buildings bringing down the charm

Cement, cinder block buildings.

Abandoned commercial buildings , repurposed buildings.

Derelict buildings

Too spread out and some are outdated. Would be nice to have more options for groceries. Bakeries, cafe's shopping boutiques. Accessible by foot instead of just by car.

The condition of some of the buildings is poor. Lack of connectivity along Old Post Road. Improvement to the landscaping and parking area at Simple Pleasures is needed.

Rt 1 is embarrassing. The Bestway, Trade Winds, the Windswept Inn are blights - we need responsible owners who will keep the properties in good condition.

Spread out, scattered, unlinked, not cohesive. I think in the future I would prefer if the planning and permitting process pushed new businesses into a target zone to increase adjacency of business and density in one area - maybe the TVD - with exceptions made for good proposals for business to be located on Route 1, replacing the defunct business that are spread out along Route 1 (closed restaurants, motels, gas stations, etc.)

not walkable

They look rundown and not clean looking.

some look pretty ramshackle.

Depressing, run down

Abandoned buildings.

Industrial zones too close to residential zones

Landscape maintenance

Some areas are run down. Trash and materials are not camouflaged with good screening. Tasty Frost has a white privacy fence that seems out-of -place and is in need of repair as well as metal storage bins that are open to view. In Carolina area, (corner of rte 91 & 112) trash bins are out front by the businesses. Buildings are in need of paint and repair. There is a motel that appears to be abandoned on Rte 1 (Ocean View?). It looks like it should be condemned. The Boat yard off Falcone Drive, the area behind Mini-Super, and the back of businesses (Larham and others on that same road) are not screened adequately from view from Rte 1 which detracts from this "scenic highway". There are construction vehicles, a mobile home trailer debris and materials that have been allowed to remain for months on the property on the corner of rte 1A and Tockwotten Cove Rd. The Urgent Care building is brick, but is painted yellow and has trim not consistent with natural and quality design concepts. Kingston Pizza is a mash-up of different materials and colors and their trash is very visible from the road.

Run-down/abandoned buildings

Response

Some of the areas look very shabby, or neglected. There are a number of abandoned buildings like at the corner of Rt 216 and Rt 1. Some abandoned sites are hazardous. Some areas of the historic Zone look like dumps such as the corner of Tockwotten Cove Rd. In the Shannock Village area there are old railroad cars on the main street of the village and in the adjacent fields. Many commercial business signs in all areas are poorly designed and we do not have standards. Upkeep on some buildings is poor- Compass Hardware, Church of the Holy Spirit, Kingston Pizza. A little paint and color coordination goes a long way to improve the look of a commercial business. Abandoned Rental Cottages, and mountains of firewood near A. B. Hoxie Inc. The gas station near Sotheby's Real Estate on Rt 1. Some green zones along Rt 1 scenic area are too thinly planted-near areas such as Larlham Landscape, Phil and Anns Sunset Motel, Washington Trust, and a few Boat storage areas.

The lack of restaurants and stores.

Wish there more options. Perhaps a Dave's Market or mcquaides type market

When it "looks" commercial

Too many fast food and liquor stores.

Abandon buildings not being torn down, as I said in Q34.

Corridor where CVS is.

More urban look

Looks the same as other towns, cookie-cutter

lack of walkability/bikability. some empty/unused business that could be better utilized.

There are derelict buildings on Rt 1 and Rt 1A. The town should work with owners to assist in rehab

The abandoned buildings.

The only issue I have is with the sketchy abandoned motel on rt 1

Some older commercial buildings need remodeling.

Crowded space, not enough green space, easy access

Two story buildings -

It's all spread out and unattractive buildings

There are some buildings that don't adhere to any guidelines, and look out of place and unappealing.

Landscaping needs improvement

Haphazard appearance and truly horrible landscaping.

There is no cohesiveness, it's a jumble of different styles and materials and colors. The commercial areas are too spread out - there is no "destination" or walkable area. Few areas for people to sit and congregate outside. Lack of landscaping.

How unwalkable it is

Ross Hill Rd at Klondike Rd commercial buildings look worse than a ghetto.

Response

Parking frontage without a plant or tree screen from the road, unimaginative vinyl siding construction. Clutter and ill-kept grounds such as at Simple Pleasures and Hungry Haven. Ugly, dated signage such as the Willows.

Not a fan of strip malls

See previous

No sense of any cohesion in design. Very haphazard.

A lack of consistency Run down business properties No walking spaces

-Unshielded lighting that blinds you as you drive down the road. -Chain store architecture such as Dunkin Donuts

Unused empty run down beautiful rotting away

Nothing really

Too much lighting. Brick facades

Buildings that are vacant and unkept.

It's random nature;?hard to know when you are in the scenic corridor of the TVD!!

No continuity

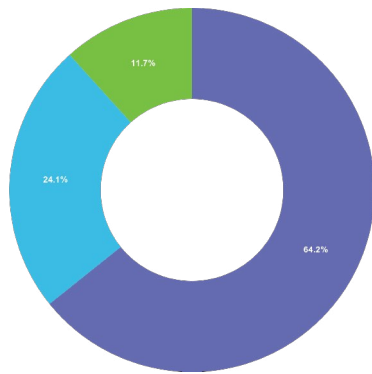
Cold, commercial looking, same as anywhere else, size

Disjointed and not walkable. I'd like an easy way to cross Route 1 near the Charlestown Beach exit.

lack of connectivity - spread out lack of areas with variety of stores and services hodge podge

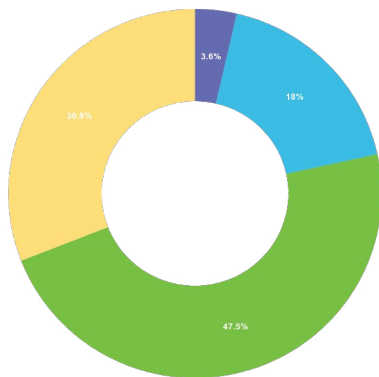
Some areas are not compatible with nearby residential eg Klondike Rd at 216. Metal buildings and storage lots but they are grandfathered. One does need to drive to each one. Some areas are not even known by town residents. as they tend towards built-up areas to the north (Richmond Rte 138), east (Wakefield/Narragansett), and west (Westerly) rather than Rte 1A. They are very scattered which is the nature of villages being assimilated into 1 town. I am content with what we have but if new development applies it needs to be compatible with the history and nature of the area and not become generic.

Q37 Is a gathering space in a commercial area important to you, such as a small outside area to sit or chat?



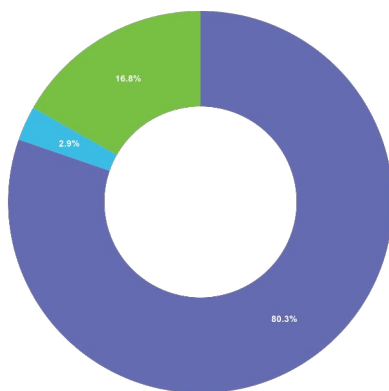
Choice	Total
Yes	88
No	33
No opinion	16

Q38 Do you often bicycle to shops or other activities in the commercial areas?



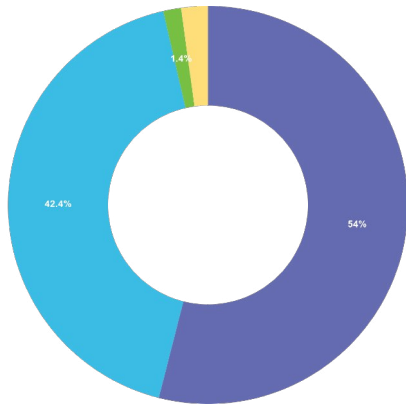
Choice	Total
Often	5
Sometimes	25
Never	66
I don't but I might if there were safe bike lanes.	43

Q39 Do you like the islands of plants outside businesses?



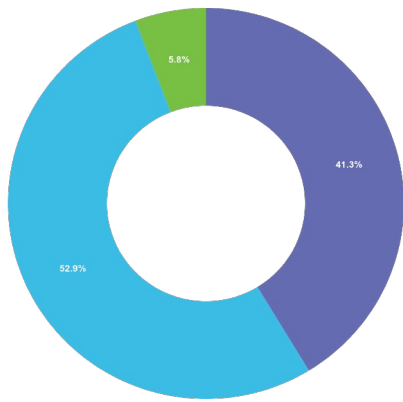
Choice	Total
Yes	110
No	4
No opinion	23

Q40 Should new construction maintain a similar style to older traditional buildings?



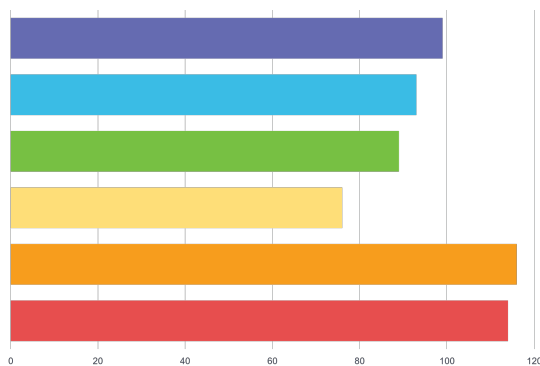
Choice	Total
Yes	75
Not always	59
No	2
No opinion	3

Q41 Solar panels on commercial buildings should be:



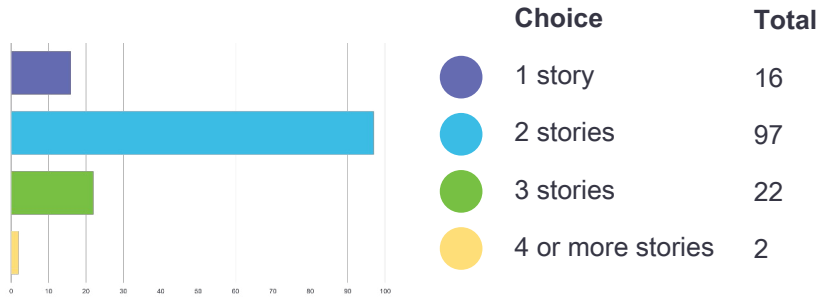
Choice	Total
Allowed always	57
Allowed if not prominently visible	73
Not allowed	8

Q42 Which of these landscape elements should be encouraged around new commercial developments? (Choose all that apply.)

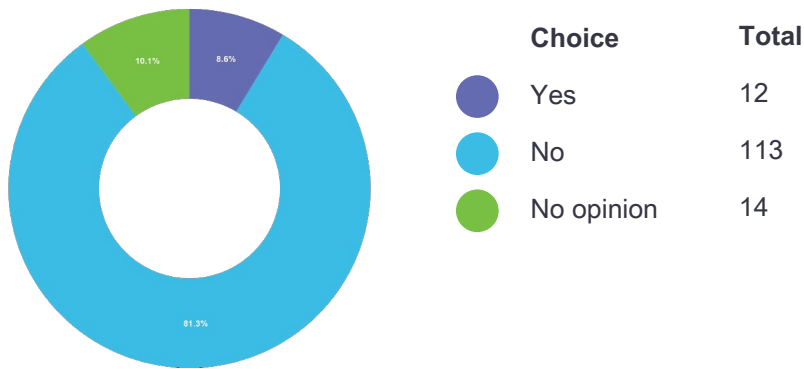


Choice	Total
Sidewalks	99
Benches	93
Trash receptacles	89
Bicycle racks	76
Shade trees	116
Bushes and flowers	114

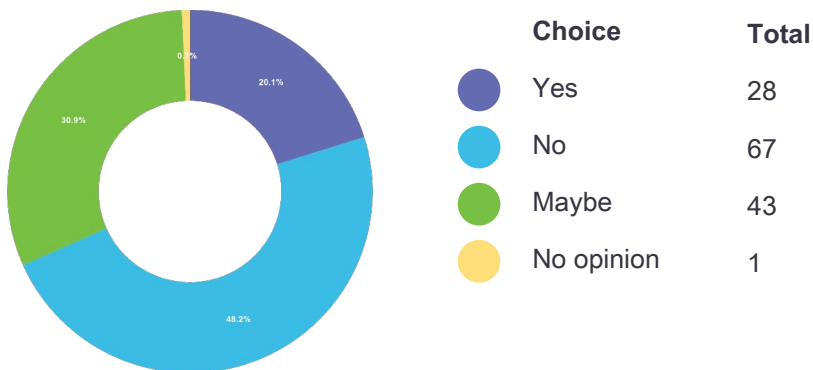
Q43 What maximum building height would you prescribe for Charlestown?



Q44 Should "corporate-style" buildings be allowed in Charlestown?



Q45 Should corporate chain stores be permitted if housed in traditional building design?



Q46 Please enter any final comments that you would like the design standards committee to receive.
Essay

Response

I want Charlestown to maintain its small town/village atmosphere that has made it unique among towns in southern New England

Keep it simple and quaint

Wish list -Sidewalks please -Bike lanes please -No big boxes please -No corporate, soulless architecture - Community Center for Rec for kids / sports (similar to the South County Rec Center)

Stop and think about why people are here.

I would support more cluster and smaller denser housing even if 3 or even 4 stories instead of sprawling single-family houses.

Leave the town the way it is. When we purchased our home here 20 years ago, I said to the realtor "What a beautiful rural seaside town with lush forest and beautiful coastal ponds!! And it's so quiet." She simply said, "Yes, and we'd like to keep it that way". That helped me make my decision to buy our home.

Overall I do not get the desire or need for commercial development in Charlestown. Charlestown is a place to live and enjoy nature and water activities. There are plenty of grocery stores, pharmacies, services, restaurants, etc. in South Kingstown, Westerly, Wyoming, etc. We already enjoy low taxes so we do not need to bring in more commercial development and more tourism to help with taxes. Commercial development, and the associated increase in traffic (car and human) will only lower the quality of life and add more crowds to our beaches and natural recreation areas. Increased development will require additional infrastructure (which will increase taxes) and likely lead to increased residential development pressure (which will result in increased taxes). Higher taxes and lower quality of life - it does not make sense to me.

Preservation, renovation, unobtrusive, integrate nature, use integrity & pride, keep it simple

The lack of safe crossing over route 1 and lack of safe traveling by bicycle on rts 2, 112, and other main thoroughfares makes the entire concept of biking to commercial locations moot for most residents. As such, installing a bike lane within any of the commercial districts is a fool's game and a waste of money.

Design standards should be encouraging, not oppressive.

Keep it simple and remember the full time residents, not the summer crowd.

Please help this town. We are inundated with tourists who use the town for a few months and then the residents who stay here don't really get considered. I would love a place where there were some nice walking paths and social settings. We have every type of path and trail in Charlestown except a trail that can link residents with business that have a setting for gathering. Think of parking at compass hardware and trying to walk to the post office with children under 6 years old. Or anywhere else for that matter

Thanks for your work can't wait to see something materialize

Charlestown needs change and becoming more attractive to the younger generations is essential for the future of this town. One way to start is to demolish the abandoned buildings all over town. Also, establishing a central shopping area maybe around minisuper but this building must be improved greatly. Take some of their profits and put it back into the building for all to enjoy

I understand that you are trying to write a design policy for the Traditional Village District, which is sorely lacking. The policy should be extremely strict, denying all but very minimal development. Your community

Response

is very concerned that any commercial development, or, for that matter 55+ housing in the village. If you ruin our pretty village by giving permission to these real estate vultures, you will never be forgiven.

Requiring most of a business' parking to be behind a well-designed building goes a long way to creating an appealing look. Bike paths and sidewalks are ways to encourage interaction and can attract shoppers to each other's businesses.

Don't destroy the small town atmosphere of Charlestown, it is a slippery slope and difficult to maintain once standards are loosened.

Keep C'Town simple and rural without more commercialism.

Modern is okay but it should be made with natural materials, wood, glass, stone, and be of interesting and complementing design to older buildings. MOVE Town Hall close to Washington Trust (maybe the old Bess Eaton building), Post Office, etc. Don't create a shopping mall or "commons" look like. Whatever you do, give it authenticity.

Please keep it simple. I want Charlestown to be a spot where people can use the ponds & ocean and that we can have a friendly environment for our wildlife. Do not put a lot of lighting in Ninigret park.

just leave it alone.

I am not sure why people in Charlestown want to change the character of the town. If people need more commercialization, simply move to Johnston, Warwick, or Providence. Keeping the beachy and rural character of the town is not backwards thinking, it's actually realizing that quality of life is having beaches, ponds, nature and dark skies, all the things that we have here already. Hats off to the people in this town who have worked hard to keep it from becoming Cranston, Johnston, and Las Vegas! Ninigret Park is a treasure!

Keep the look of commercial buildings and areas compatible with village and traditional looks and sizes.

Change is inevitable, but please keep in mind that once the character of the town is sold, it cannot be reclaimed. Charlestown has benefited by keeping commercialism at bay. It is unique, and that is what makes it desirable. Sell out to developers and you devalue. Much as they would have you think otherwise \$\$\$\$\$\$ In this troubled world there is real value in peace and quiet, nature and rest. Please recognize this fact.

Standards should focus as much on parking design as building design.

See South County Commons for commercial buildings that are appealing.

Keep it classy

Charlestown is a residential community, not a commercial hub. Commercial buildings should cater to the household needs of the residents - food, hardware, interior decoration, banking, etc.

As a Charlestown resident and someone who has lived in several beach communities around the east and west coast, we are missing that quaint downtown area that provides residents and visitors a place to gather, connect with local businesses and create community. There is so much potential in Charlestown and we can do it without having to drastically change the landscape of our lovely town.

Charlestown could benefit from some limited commercial development that gives residents some additional options to shop and dine here without traveling to Westerly or Wakefield.

Response

I'm not sure what you mean by "corporate style buildings". And earlier in this survey I commented that the town map and associated districts should be more accessible and expandable; it would make it much more useful.

Don't build ugly CVS's (most are very hideous looking) and big box grocery stores. No to strip malls. Support local businesses.

Take a look at Woodstock NY for design clues on how a downtown commercial works for the area.

I don't believe Charlestown has the infrastructure to support large commercial developments. We should preserve natural spaces and dark skies.

Constructing a bike path connecting residential and commercial areas and also leading to all beaches would be fully welcomed

Pedestrian access and wheel-chair access needs to be part of any new development plans. If we want to discourage automobile-only use between businesses and homes, then sidewalks are essential. Shannock Village has sidewalks. While these could be improved, they still provide access by foot and by wheelchairs to areas of town that would otherwise be inaccessible. These walks do not detract from the small-town feel of the area. Walking along rte 1A in the TVD is not currently safe or desirable. Adding connecting walkway links to the business, library & church along this route would be a huge improvement. The design standards need to include lighting and signage standards as well as building design, scale and landscaping. All new lighting and replacement lighting should be dark-sky compliant. Signs should be consistent with the style of business and the town area. Any new and existing businesses should be required to screen trash and storage of goods from view. Businesses along rte 1 scenic highway need adequate natural (shrubs) screening to maintain the "scenic" designation. It would be great if there is a way to require business to meet minimum maintenance & repair requirements. Some old, no longer viable businesses are in terrible disrepair and detract from the surrounding areas. Metal storage containers should be removed from properties, at least removed from view. In Shannock Village there is a rusty metal storage container next to the road. There also appears to be 2 such containers out in the middle of a field near the church. Can these be removed?

I would like to see the highest design standards for Charlestown implemented. However they have to be clear so that new businesses and housing (especially low income housing) can be developed and not be bogged down with our planning and zoning departments.

Listen less to the zealots for bicycles, shingles and insufferable imposition of their own ideas of aesthetics onto others and more to what is in the best interests of the greatest number of people.

we need this in our town so we do not have to drive to next town to do business and we need more jobs

Maintenance of historical buildings & maintaining current look & feel of Charlestown Village. Do not obliterate the character of Charlestown!

Thank you!!

Do not be closed minded when it comes to a developer who wants to replace an old no longer used building with a new viable business.

Rural and historic charm in design always preferred.

New England seaside charm

Keep Charlestown rural.

Response

Mix of post and beam, stone-enders, longhouses would be nice to reflect and highlight the history and native people of the land.

I really don't care what the new buildings looks like.... Just do something... Cross Mills is full of old rundown buildings and not appealing to anyone. There is no flow to the area and it is all mixmatched buildings...

We have strong TVD guidelines which should not be weakened. There needs to be enforcement and a system for citizen reporting when rules/regulations are followed. However, the present Town Complaint Form is very intimidating. It states first thing "complainants may be subpoenaed to appear in court" There should be an opportunity to point out violations. Who better than the people who are in a position to observe daily. An example: Dunkin Donuts landscaping was designed to provide habitat. However the landscape is heavily shorn, I'm assuming to keep visibility from Rt 1. The benefit of the design is lost. Just one small example.

The cost to the business owner is critical to attracting business to Charlestown. Putting in place over restrictive requirements will make it extremely difficult for any business to open in Charlestown. Business owners should not be required to use cedar shingles or any other materials which are extremely costly to install, and just as costly to maintain.

After 30 years we were finally able to retire in Charlestown. We came here specifically for the abundance of woods, hiking trails, the beach and fishing and glorious dark nighttime skies. No more light pollution. No need for sidewalks that will need to be maintained in winter time.

Keep Charlestown rural. No town water or sewer facilities to be built.

Need sidewalks, which should be started ASAP, e.g. from the Cove, past the Mini Super to the Ice Cream Shop and the area around the Breachway Grille.

Charlestown has natural beautiful as it is. No changes necessary

Please keep the traditional New England style at all costs.

Please don't allow us to end up looking like Anytown USA.....we are Charlestown, and proud of it :-)

Design standards committee? Who is overseeing the committee? The design standards should reflect the natural landscape & stylings of the history of Charlestown and be limited to improving existing structures not building more!

We moved here because we like the town as it is. We are growing tired of worrying that Charlestown might change whether we like it or not. Also, we already expressed our opinions in a town wide survey, but those results are being ignored. I wonder what the point is of this latest survey.

Just make the TVD and other commercial districts more walker/cycling friendly, we need sidewalks or at least some dedicated path.

We moved here 25 years ago (from Smithfield RI which was rural then went commercial and downhill) for a slower pace of life and rural character of this town we love.

Very grateful that we are going through this process. I hope your recommendations will include an emphasis on improving walk ability and critiques/ suggestions to existing businesses for simple improvement, such as landscaping, tasteful signage and simple maintenance of a neat uncluttered property.

Let's not over develop Charlestown and change it's rural character.

Response

We are a community that enjoys a natural environment and local business. Design should reflect the value of our natural spaces and coastal location. Details are important. New England small town is the esthetic.

Good luck.

I have unconsciously thought about design of buildings while driving around town over the years but have not tried to explain in writing. It is difficult. It is easy to identify what I like. The Wilcox Tavern building, the General Stanton Inn, The Windswept Inn, Cross Mills Library, Entwined, Charlestown Wine..., Randall Realty, Post Office, AB Hoxie, 3831 Old Post Rd., for example. There have been some nice buildings constructed recently such as the Quonnie Farm Stand. I am pleased about the chain Dollar store not having been approved in Town. I would like to see attractive, architecturally pleasing buildings with historical design elements and site design for the multi-building development approved opposite Ridgewood Road. On the other hand there are building styles of a bygone period, not colonial, but more recent, that seem to fit as well, however I am not sure I would want to see more. I think of Rippy's, Charlestown Mini-Super, the Clam Shack (Creek Bridge), Monahans, Phil & Ann's Motel, for example. For buildings that are well off the road and will not be seen from the road, and have a manufacturing/warehousing/machinery use, then perhaps a relaxation of strict design standards is reasonable. Relaxation, not elimination since there are ways of providing attractive design elements and accents to a Butler building, for example, to impart a higher quality tastefully designed building without adding high cost (Norton Supply).

Thanks for asking

Thank you for asking us!

Please consider understanding the reasons why people choose to live here and create something special and unique to reflect the history and people of the land. Sometimes looking back is better than moving forward.

I would like us to prepare design standards and not guidelines!

I would like to preserve Charlestown's current look

Each business should certainly have its own discretion when it comes to benches, plantings, parking (depending on site and purpose). Do not want a planning board micro-managing business owners and making things so cost prohibitive that entrepreneurs cannot meet all the guidelines. I am not against standards but would be cautious of over-reach.. "Chain stores" can be an asset if designed with appropriate guidelines.

I'd like to be able to find the stores and businesses that are already in our town. Signage needs to be allowed and businesses supported.

Let's keep our look, small buildings, nature first, light standards, noise standards

I live north of route 1 and would love to bike to the library but am too scared to cross the highway on my bike. I would like a safe way to cross.