

Town of Hague Survey 2015 Response Analysis - December 2015 DRAFT

PART ONE - INTRODUCTION

Several years ago, the Hague Town Board appointed a special committee to review and update Chapter 4 of the Town of Hague Comprehensive Plan (date). Chapter 4 contains the “Goals, Objectives & Recommendations” for the future needs of the Town. The Comprehensive Plan Committee continues to seek input from residents as to what they feel are the most important visions, goals and objectives the Town should be looking to achieve over the next 10 years. As a first step, a short opinion survey was developed around the questions of economic development, community services, transportation, housing, and long-term community goals. The survey was sent out to 811 seasonal and year round households in the first week of September 2015 with a final return date of October 30th. Community participation was very strong. ***A total of 200 survey responses were returned resulting in a 25% return rate.***

The survey responses were tallied into an Excel database with all comments received summarized. The survey findings were assembled in November, distributed to the Hague Town Board in early December, and will be formally presented to the Town Board and the public in early 2016.

PART TWO - SURVEY RESPONSE ANALYSIS

Question 1: What businesses do you think would thrive in Hague?

General Response

A total of 294 responses were received on this question. 57% of respondents indicated an interest in some kind of year round grocery or convenience store where basic items such as milk and gasoline can be purchased (166 responses). The other significant need recorded was for a coin laundry (51 responses or 17%). A sporting goods store (19 responses), gas station (17 responses), and bar/restaurant (13 responses) made up the remaining 17% of most important responses.

Response by Age Group Only

The 36-64 age group indicated their strongest interest is in food service. Approximately 78% of the responses indicated interest in a convenience store, food service, restaurant/bar, pizza store, grocery store, ice cream shop, diner, lakefront dining, Stewarts Store, All-in –One, or coffee/bagel store. A similar response for food service (67% or 111 out of 165 responses) was indicated in the 65+ age group. The second strongest response was for a coin laundry (22%).

Response by Residency Only

Responses to this question were split between seasonal residents (169 responses) and year round residents (125 responses). While convenience store ranked first in the year round responses and second in the season responses, 69% of the seasonal residents and 66% of year round residents believe that some kind of food services would thrive in Hague.

Response Summary

A range of food services are supported by both seasonal and year round residents. Of this range, a convenience store appears to be the most highly supported by all age groups and residency type. A coin laundry is the second highest supported store type.

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Question 2: What is needed in the hamlet area?

General Response

Respondents indicated the top three elements needed are more parking (119 out of 126 responses); additional public docks (91 out of 105 responses); and more sidewalks/Pathways (63 out of 77 responses).

Response by Age Group Only

The 36-64 age group and 65+ age group shared similar responses indicating their strongest interest in more parking and public docks. The 36-64 age group indicated a need for additional street/sidewalk lighting while the 65+ age group indicated the need for additional sidewalks and pathways.

Response by Residency Only

Seasonal and year round residents registered the same level of interest in this order: More parking, more public docks, and more sidewalks and pathways.

Response Summary

Responses are consistent across age and residency. The most important improvements would be for more parking, public docks, and sidewalks and pathways. From the open ended comments that were made independent of the survey, it appears that it is desired that sidewalks be extended north along State Route 9 with cross walks across State Route 8 in the hamlet.

Question 3: Should the existing public dock space be expanded?

General Response

A majority of 60% representing 104 out of the total 172 responses received who want to see more public dock space.

Response by Age Group Only

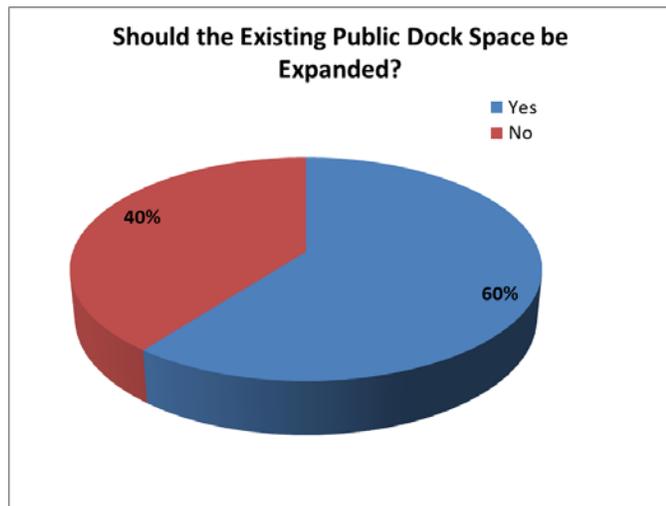
A total of 58% responded yes to expanding dock space from the 36-64 age group, while 62% responded yes in the 65+ age group.

Response by Residency Only

A total of 60% responded yes to expanding dock space from seasonal residents, while 62% responded yes from year round residents.

Response Summary

There appears to be significant support for more public dock space as approximately 6 out of every 10 residents responded in the affirmative.



Should the Existing Public Dock Space be Expanded?	
Yes	104
No	68

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Question 4: What support services are in demand, but lacking in Hague?

General Response

A total of 208 people responded that the greatest need is for medical services (41%), transportation services (26%), and senior services (16%). Slightly more than 7% noted the need for child care services.

Response by Age Group Only

The 36-64 age group indicated that the services that are in highest demand are for medical (36%), followed by transportation (23%), services for seniors (14%), and child care (12%). This opinion is shared by the 65+ age group except the need for medical was rated higher (44%), transportation (27%), senior services (18%), and child care (3%).

Response by Residency Only

Seasonal respondents (98) indicated a similar trend with medical at 47%, transportation at 20%, senior services at 16%, and child care at 4%. Year round residents (105) responded with the same order of needs but slightly different percentages: 36% support the need for medical services, 31% for transportation, 17% for senior services, and 10% for child care services.

Response Summary

According to the majority of respondents, the highest demand for services is for medical, transportation, and senior services.

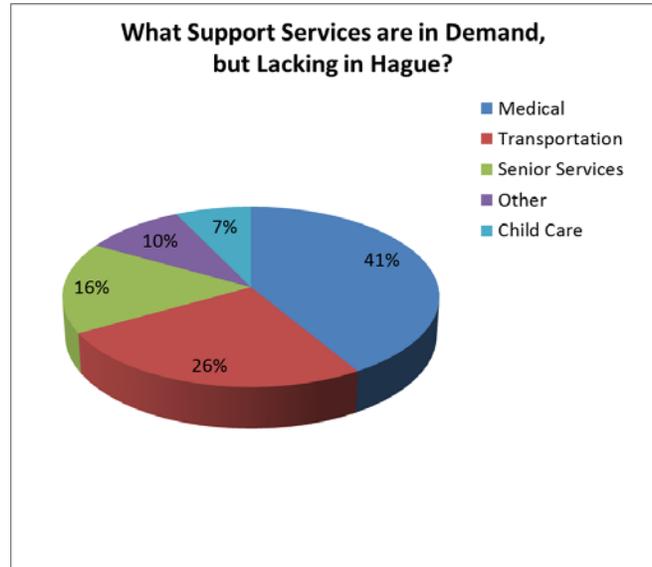
Question 5: Does your property currently have access to Internet or cell coverage?

General Response

Nearly 52% of respondents have Internet access and 6% have cell coverage. Approximately 27% have both Internet and cell phone coverage and 15% have no access to either.

Response by Age Group Only

The 36-64 age group indicated that 53% have Internet access and 11% have cell coverage. Approximately 25% have both Internet and cell phone coverage and 11% have no access to either. The 65+ age group reported 51% with Internet, 3% with cell service, 30% with both services, and 16% have no access to either.



Service Category	Count
Medical	86
Transportation	53
Senior Services	34
Other	20
Child Care	15

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Response by Residency Only

Of the 105 seasonal residents who responded to this question 48% indicated they had Internet services, 8% had cell coverage, 23% had access to both services, and 22 percent had access to neither service.

Response Summary

There appears to be a wide divide between those with access to Internet service and those with access to cell service. Only about one out of four residents has access to both services.

Question 6: Are you concerned about pedestrian and traffic safety in any area of the Town?

General Response

A total of 191 responses were returned for this question for which 103 responses (52%) responded yes.

Response by Age Group Only

A yes response of 51% was indicated for the 36-64 age group. A greater number of responses were received from the 65+ age group (111 versus 82 for the 36-64 age group). A higher yes response (56%) was also indicated by this group.

Response by Residency Only

While a majority of respondents from both age groups responded yes to this question, a significantly higher number of year round residents responded affirmatively (65%) over seasonal residents (56%).

Response Summary

Pedestrian and traffic safety is a modest concern among younger adults while those respondents in the 65+ age group have a more significant level of concern. See question 7 for additional detail on these responses.

Question 7: If yes to the Question #6, describe the area of your concern about pedestrian and traffic safety in any area of the Town.

Comment Type	Intersection Routes 8 & 9	Route 9 at Beach	Route 9N Hamlet	Route 9N No Hamlet	Route 9N So Hamlet	Route 8 Hamlet
Safety Concern – Pedestrian & vehicles	8	5	13	19	9	12
Sidewalks/Shoulder Improvements			9		1	
Bike/Walk Lanes Needed			5	2		2
Crosswalks Needed			3		1	2
Speeding Concerns		3	9	5	5	4
Visibility Concerns	1					
Signage Needed	1	1	1	2		1
Condition Improvements			4			

Response Summary

Primary concerns of those responding to the open ended question are the safety of pedestrians along Route 9 in the center of the hamlet and both north and south along the shoulders. It appears that

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people walk these areas on a regular basis and excessive vehicle speed and the lack of quality road shoulders provide an unsafe environment for pedestrians. Other important considerations are the need for additional crosswalks and other considerations for pedestrians both in the beach and business district along Route 8.

Question 8: What type of housing do you think is lacking in Hague?

General Response

This question received a total of 140 responses. Housing needs relating to affordable rentals were viewed as most lacking, as 31% of respondents listed this is the number one need, followed by assisted living (29%), and affordable owner housing (25%). Approximately 13% of respondents indicated a general need for more apartments.

Response by Age Group Only

Approximately 74% of the 36-64 age group indicates the need for some kind of affordable housing option, compared to 69% of the 65+ age group. The demand for assisted living (27%) was the same for both age groups.

Response by Residency Only

Approximately 75% of the 55 seasonal respondents who answered this question indicated the need for some kind of affordable housing option, compared to 66% of the 65+ age group. The demand for assisted living was 31% from year round respondents and 24% seasonal respondents.

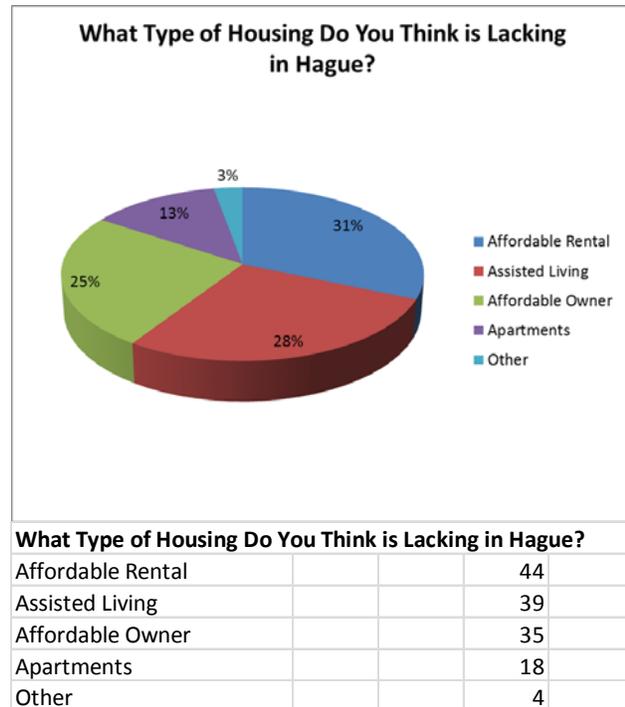
Response Summary

Of the people who answered this question, a significant majority (69%) indicate the need for some form of affordable housing in the community.

Question 9: Please prioritize the following long-term goals.

General Response

A majority of the 209 respondents that answered this question indicated ecological preservation (63%) as their top goal for the community. This is followed by: retaining young residents (13%); infrastructure improvements (8%); increased employment (8%); town beautification (4%); and growing population (4%).

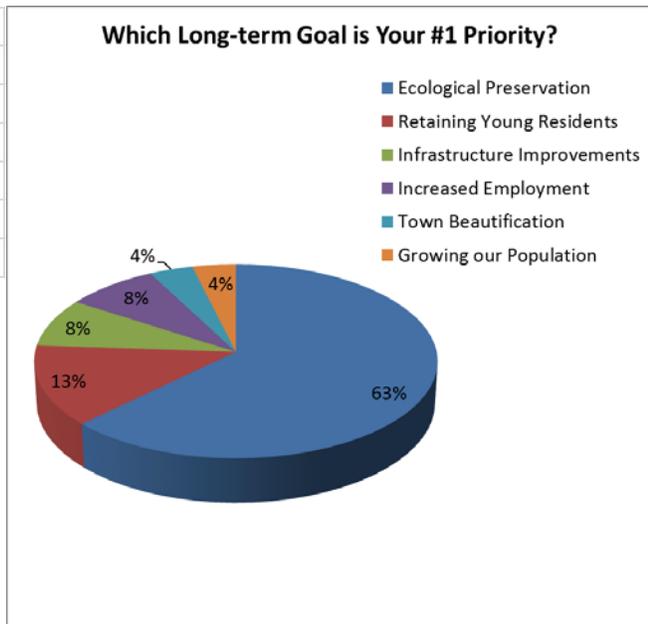


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Long-Term Goals	General Group	Response By Age Group			Response by Residency	
		19-35*	36-64	65+	Seasonal	Year Round
Ecological Preservation	63%	25%	67%	62%	74%	51%
Retaining Young Residents	13%	50%	8%	16%	9%	17%
Infrastructure Improvements	8%	-	9%	7%	5%	12%
Increased Employment	8%	-	8%	8%	5%	12%
Town Beautification	4%	-	4%	3%	5%	5%
Growing Population	4%	25%	3%	3%	3%	5%

*Represents only 4 survey responses.

Which Long-term Goal is Your #1 Priority?	
Ecological Preservation	131
Retaining Young Residents	28
Infrastructure Improvement	17
Increased Employment	17
Town Beautification	8
Growing our Population	8



Response Summary

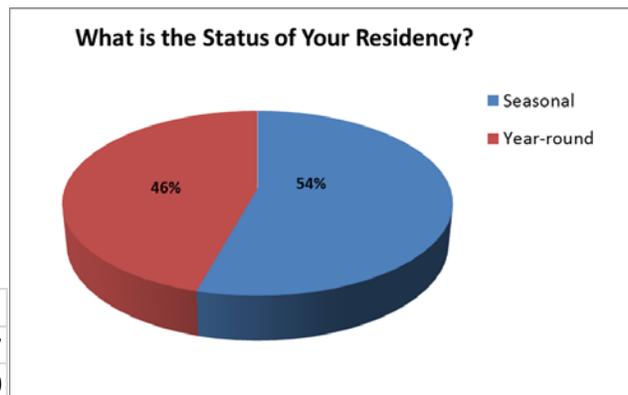
Ecological preservation is the priority long term goal that is shared across the two main age groups and residency status. Older residents appear to be concerned about retaining young residents than seasonal residents. Year round residents indicate a lower level of concern regarding ecological preservation in favor of a higher level of concern for retaining young people, making infrastructure improvements, and increasing employment.

Question 10: What is the status of your residency?

General Response

The breakout of the 197 respondents who answered this survey question was 107 from the seasonal group (54%) and 90 year round group(46%).

What is the Status of Your Residency?	
Seasonal	107
Year-round	90



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Response by Age Group Only

Only 1 resident (<1%) indicated they were between the ages of 0-18. There were 83 respondents (42%) indicating they were in the 36-64 age group, and 115 respondents (58%) indicating they were in the 65+ age group.

Response Summary

The ratio of seasonal to year round survey respondents was 54%/46%. This response is consistent with the ratio of seasonal to year round housing units in the Town of Hague (2010 Census).

Question 11: What is your age group?

General Response

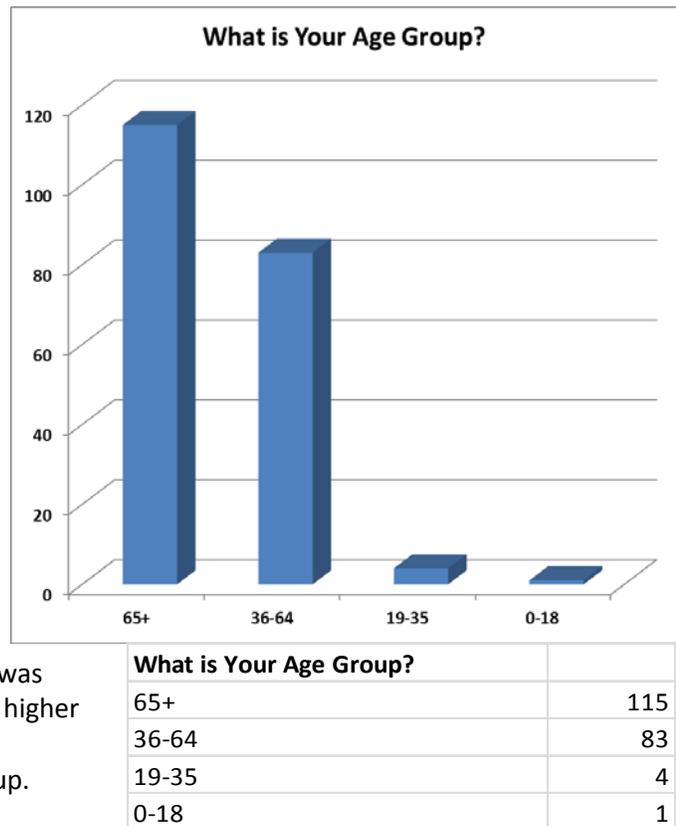
There were a total of 203 responses received for this question. A clear majority of the survey respondents were from the 65+ age group (57%) and the 36-64 age group (41%). The rate of response from the 19-35 age group was 2% and the 0-18 age group was <1%.

Response by Residency Only

There were a total of 110 responses received from the seasonal group (55%) for this question and 90 responses received from the year round group (45%).

Response Summary

The majority of respondents were from the 65+ age group (57%). A less than 3% response was recorded from the 35 and under age groups. A higher response rate was recorded from the seasonal residents group than year round residents group.



PART THREE - FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The responses to the survey indicate the need for an integrated strategic plan to address the principal concerns as extracted from the frequency and rate of response to the questions from the survey.