



QUONOCHONTAUG CENTRAL BEACH FIRE DISTRICT

May 29, 2019

As most of you know, last fall our Long Range Planning Committee conducted a survey to get input and understanding of residents' views on several important topics. The detailed responses to each survey question are available [at this link](#). A brief summary of these results follows:

Demographics

The survey link was sent via e-mail to 306 residents and their family members.

- 236 recipients opened the e-mail.**
- 157 completed the survey (67% of opens).**
- 87% (137) of respondents own property in Central Beach; 16 are family members of homeowners.**
- 82% (128) of respondents are seasonal/summer and weekends residents. The remainder (29) are full time residents.**
- 76% (120) have been coming to QCBFD for more than 20 yrs.**
- 47% (74) have been here for more than 40 years**
- 86% (133) of respondents are 50+ years old**

Satisfaction with Services and Special Events

- Overall the community seems satisfied with our services, principally garbage collection, water quality/quantity, road maintenance/snow removal, website/e-mail blasts, beach/pond parking monitoring, beach maintenance, fire protection, tennis facilities, and boat launch maintenance. There were four areas however, where the cumulative dissatisfaction (number 1-3 on the scale of 5) exceeded 20% and may need some attention. We have addressed**

some of these issues and the Board of Governors will continue to develop action plans. These are garbage collection, boat launch maintenance, roads maintenance, and water quality and quantity. Please see page 5-11 of the survey results.

- The offering of special events are very well supported and attended by residents.**
- 153 of the 157 respondents receive the Community e-blasts.**

Phragmites Remediation

- Phragmites remediation in West Pond is a controversial issue. The survey indicates a clear consensus favors re-visiting the project, 72% of respondents (113) while 28% (44) oppose it.**
- During the previous project in 2012 there was considerable opposition that the chemical application of glyphosate would adversely affect the nitrate levels in East and Central Beach well fields. While there were no objections to our application from CRMC, DEM voiced some opposition but did suggest a "go slow" pilot project with groundwater monitoring. The CRMC application lapsed and was cancelled. (See Question 10 on Page 14 for more historical details).**
- The Board of Governors will consider next steps. This activity would include assigning responsibility for project management, seeking appropriate professionals, evaluating today's best practices, assessing the suitable scope and cost, collaborating with QEBA water management, and developing a broad communication strategy to the community.**

Water Metering

- The responses regarding the opinion/interest in water metering was inconclusive with 46.5% (73) not sure and the balance roughly split between interested (38) and not**

interested (47). Clearly this calls for an expanded fact set and educational measures regarding cost/benefit.

Burial of Overhead Utility Lines

- **A continuing study regarding the burial of overhead utilities lines was met with strong consensus (65.5% or 102 respondents indicating interest). Without any understanding of the nature, complexity and cost of such an undertaking a task force should be formed to study these facts to further develop and help educate interested residents.**

Wind Turbine Technology

- **The notion of wind turbine technology was met with mixed results, 45% not interested; 19% not sure; and 37% interested. With little understanding of the facts, one could conclude not a strong consensus to pursue.**

Community Service

- **While we had 88 individuals indicate a willingness to volunteer on various committees, many of them did not sufficiently identify themselves for follow up. However, a list of those that did will be passed on to the Nominating Committee. We encourage all residents to serve in some capacity in the management of the community. It was very disappointing that over 56% (88 individuals) indicated no interest at all. Somehow we need to turn that around.**

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