

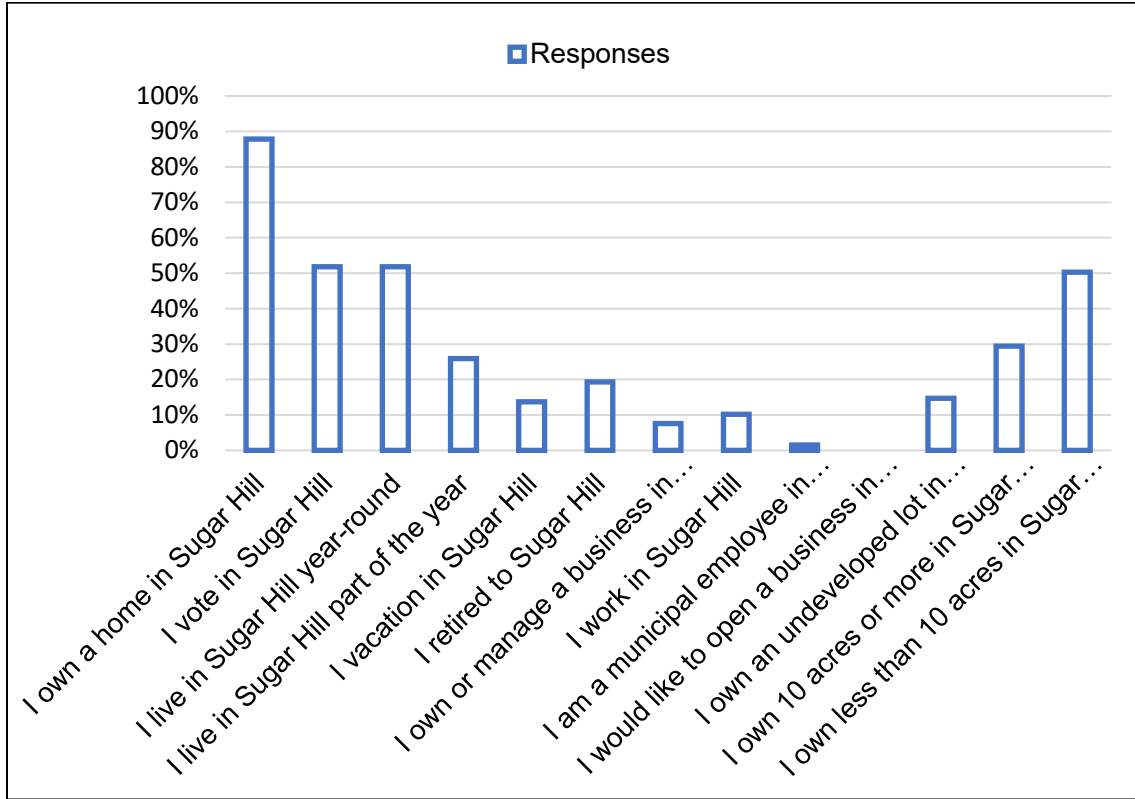
# 2023 Sugar Hill Master Plan Survey Results

During the month of July 2023, the Planning Board began gathering input for the Master Plan update by conducting a survey about the general priorities of local residents, landowners and businesses, and providing the opportunity to weigh in on some specific issues the Town was considering addressing in the near-term. The survey was available on-line via Survey Monkey and postcards containing the link were mailed to every address with a Sugar Hill zip code and to every out-of-town owner address. Paper copies were also offered at the Town Office. The public was asked to respond within two weeks to enable the Planning Board to gather some preliminary data to guide its work, however the collector was not closed until the end of the year.

197 responses were received – 188 on-line and 9 on paper. Of the 197 responses, 102 reported that they vote in Sugar Hill. The voter checklist included 498 registered voters in town. This means the response rate for voters was just over 20%.

The following report contains the complete results for certain questions and summary data for open-ended questions. The complete results for the open-ended questions are available at the Town Office.

Question 1: What is your relationship with the town of Sugar Hill?  
(Please check ALL that apply.)



Answer Choices	Responses	
I own a home in Sugar Hill	88%	173
I vote in Sugar Hill	52%	102
I live in Sugar Hill year-round	52%	102
I live in Sugar Hill part of the year	26%	51
I vacation in Sugar Hill	14%	27
I retired to Sugar Hill	19%	38
I own or manage a business in Sugar Hill	8%	15
I work in Sugar Hill	10%	20
I am a municipal employee in Sugar Hill	2%	3
I would like to open a business in Sugar Hill	0%	0
I own an undeveloped lot in Sugar Hill	15%	29
I own 10 acres or more in Sugar Hill	29%	58
I own less than 10 acres in Sugar Hill	50%	99
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>197</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>0</b>

Question 2: What do you like best about Sugar Hill? Please list up to three positive qualities or strengths of the town.

**183 respondents provided 534 responses.**

Categories with ten or more responses are summarized below:

- Over 100 responses were in the category of scenic beauty/views.
- Quiet/peaceful received over 60 responses.
- Over 40 respondents mentioned positive qualities of the community, such as community spirit, close community or sense of community.
- Closely related, over 40 respondents mentioned the people that comprise the community, such as friendly or welcoming.
- Over 40 respondents provided positive comments about the way the town is run, the people involved and the services provided.
- Over 30 respondents mentioned small town.
- Closely related but not quite the same, over 20 respondents mentioned rural character.
- Over 20 respondents used other terms to describe the town's character, such as "quaint," bucolic," "classic New England village," or "country living."
- Several specific qualities related to small, rural towns each received over 10 responses – not commercial/no large developments/not much development, low population, safety.
- Over 20 respondents mentioned access to outdoor recreation.
- Over 20 respondents mentioned nature.
- Over 10 respondents mentioned easy access to larger communities/activities.
- Over 10 mentioned location.

Complete responses are available from the Town Office.

Question 3: What would make Sugar Hill even better? Please list up to three issues or needs you think should be addressed in the Master Plan.

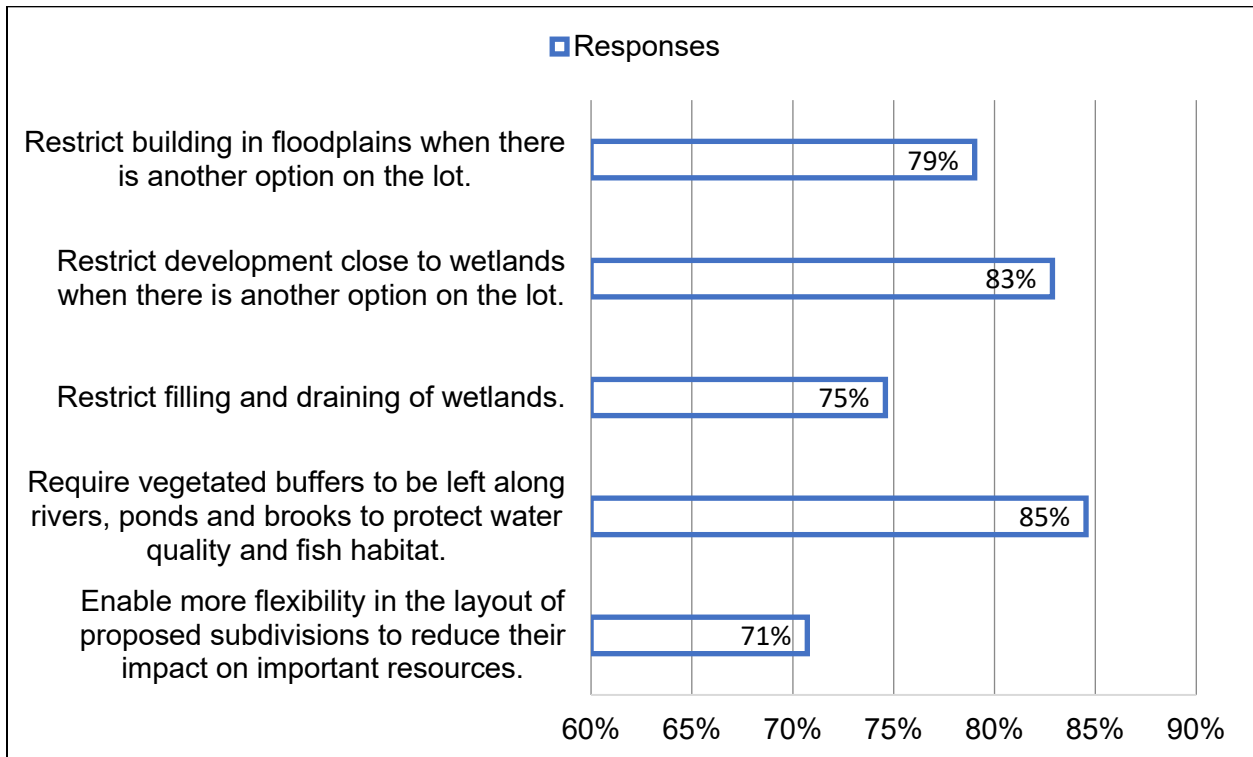
**172 respondents provided 408 responses.**

Categories with ten or more responses are summarized below:

- Road condition was the subject of the highest number of responses, with over 20 mentioning road improvements and about 15 specifying better road maintenance.
- Next was high speed internet with over 20 responses.
- About 15 respondents mentioned the need for more housing that is affordable, including for workers and to bring more young people to town.
- Over 10 respondents expressed concern for Streeter Pond, specifically the vegetation around and in the pond.
- Over 10 respondents expressed concern about speeding, including lack of enforcement and the speed limits.
- Over 10 respondents mentioned the need for better cell phone service/coverage.
- About 10 respondents mentioned taxes as a concern.
- About 10 respondents mentioned preserving views/vistas, including by controlling ridgeline development.
- About 10 respondents would like to see more conservation land.

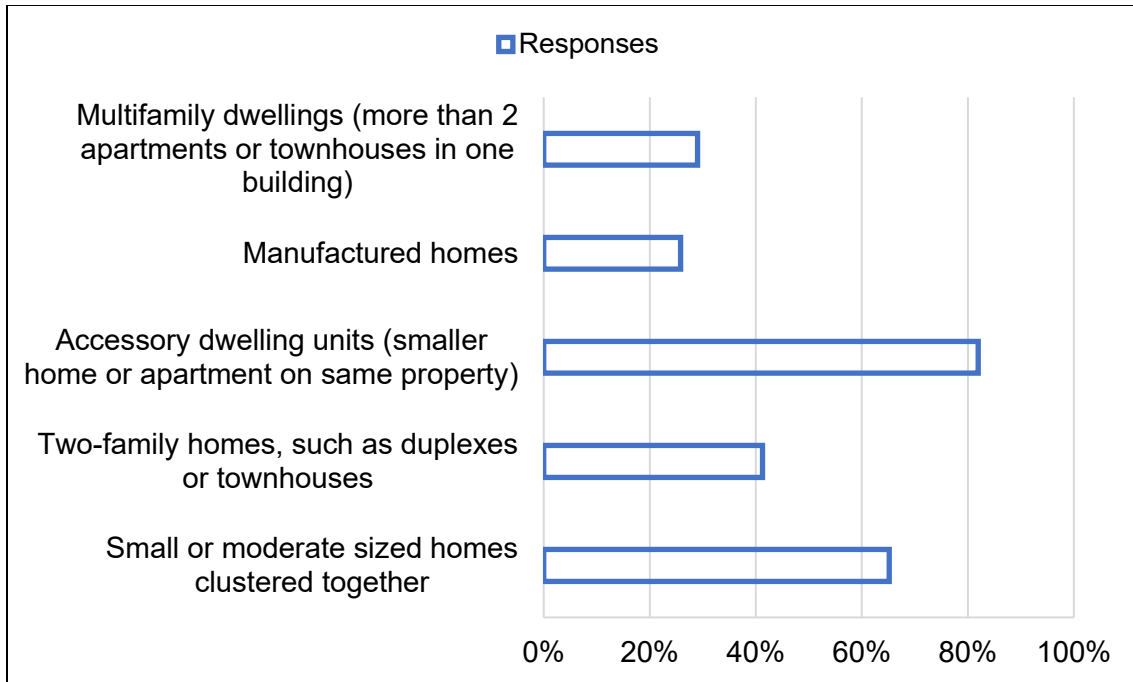
Complete responses are available from the Town Office.

Question 4: Our natural resources, clean environment and scenic beauty are key components of Sugar Hill’s community character. Several planning and zoning tools are available for the town to manage the siting and impacts of development. Please check off ALL of the tools that you would support (if any):



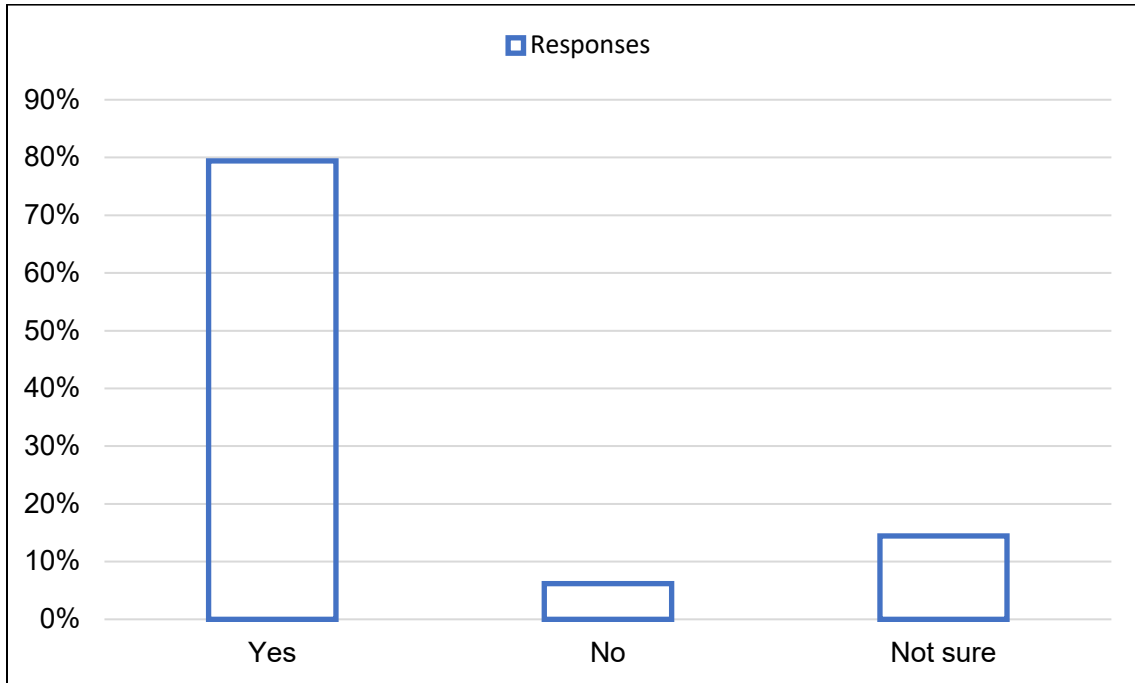
Answer Choices	Responses	
Enable more flexibility in the layout of proposed subdivisions to reduce their impact on important resources.	71%	128
Require vegetated buffers to be left along rivers, ponds and brooks to protect water quality and fish habitat.	85%	153
Restrict filling and draining of wetlands.	75%	135
Restrict development close to wetlands when there is another option on the lot.	83%	150
Restrict building in floodplains when there is another option on the lot.	79%	143
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>181</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>16</b>

Question 5: Like many New Hampshire communities, Sugar Hill has a shortage of housing for the area's workforce, young families, and seniors wishing to downsize. Please check off ALL of the types of homes you would support making it easier to build here by making the zoning less restrictive (if any):



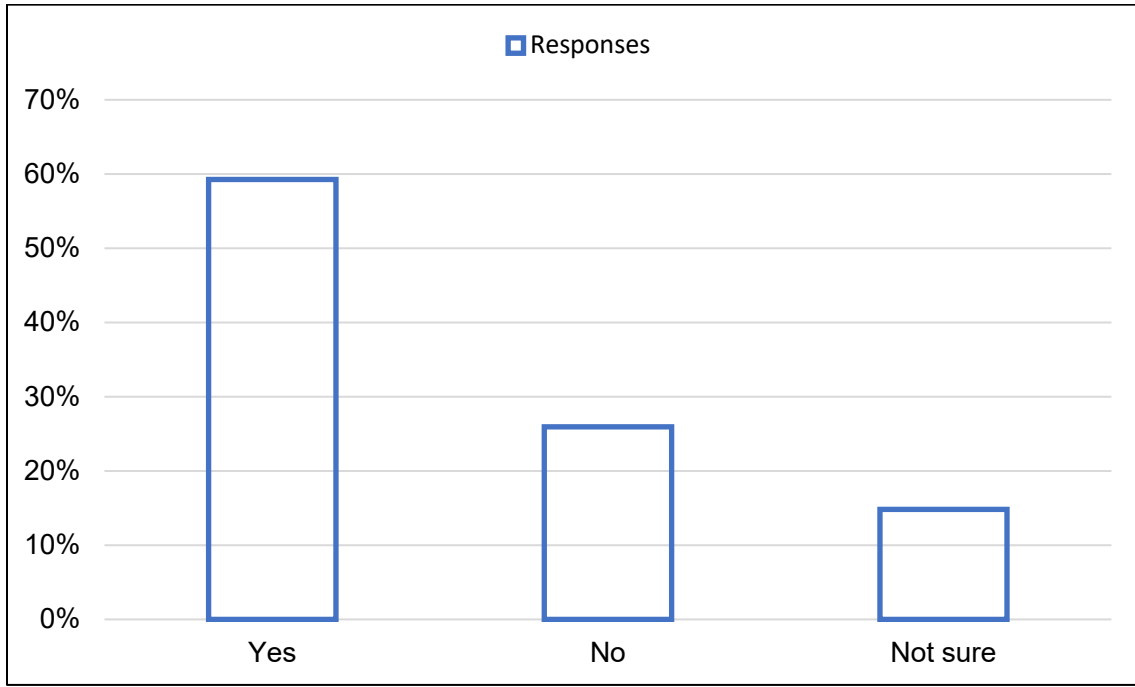
Answer Choices	Responses	
Small or moderate sized homes clustered together	65%	101
Two-family homes, such as duplexes or townhouses	41%	64
Accessory dwelling units (smaller home or apartment on same property)	82%	127
Manufactured homes	26%	40
Multifamily dwellings (more than 2 apartments or townhouses in one building)	29%	45
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>155</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>42</b>

Question 6: Sugar Hill’s existing zoning ordinance contains only general language about outdoor lighting, referring to suitable protection for adjacent homes. Would you support making this zoning provision more specific to require that new light fixtures aim light downward away from the sky and neighbors?



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	79%	154
No	6%	12
Not sure	14%	28
If you chose "Not sure," what factors would make you support or not support this zoning change?		33
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>194</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>3</b>

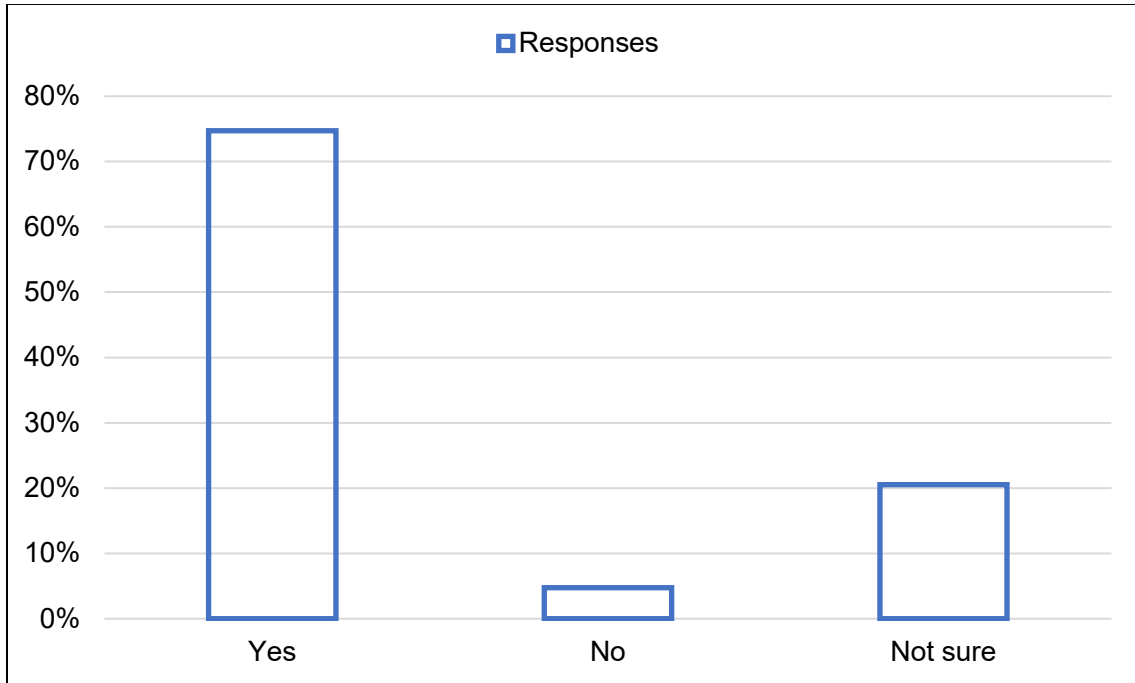
Question 7: Should Sugar Hill adopt regulations for short-term rentals?



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	59%	11
No	26%	49
Not sure	15%	28
If you chose "Not sure," what factors would make you support or not support regulating short-term rentals?		35
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>18</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>8</b>



Question 8: Community Power allows local governments to buy electricity for all of their residents and small businesses at wholesale rates. It is a bulk purchasing program for electricity. Do you support the town developing a community power plan to be voted on at town meeting in 2024?



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	75%	14
No	5%	9
Not sure	21%	39
If you chose "Not sure," what factors would make you support or not support Community Power?		44
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>19</b>
	<b>Skipped</b>	<b>7</b>