



## Unsolicited Write-in Comments on Paper Surveys

### Survey of East Hampton Older Adults Needs

**NOTE: All write-in comments on paper surveys for questions 1, 4, 16, 19, 28 were captured in the main survey report. These are additional write-in comments in spaces not intended for write-in responses.**

#### **Additional Comments not tied to a survey question:**

- I do not understand why Seniors in Chatham Court have to pay for their television now. that provides a hardship for many and is very unfair.
- What concerned me the most is the water in East Hampton. We have a private water conditioning system that we have serviced every year. We spend hundreds of dollar yearly for our water system and still the water is poor quality. I have had items that I washed ruined by the poor water. I wash something that is white and it comes out of the washer with rust stains. We need a public water system in East Hampton.
- Note: all of questions are answered as to current health. Another fall and or some break could change all. E Hampton needs more affordable single level apartments with washer-dryer etc. 1+2 bedroom. / Daughter's note: A big concern is circumstances can change quickly with this population. Health issues: a broken hip, stroke, death of spouse. What might be working currently could change in an instant. The town has no facilities or services to ease that type of transition.
- \* Colchester has 5 Senior low income complexes - \* We've had same 2 forever - Need more! please
- \* Suggestions - Give the low income seniors more of a tax break. Thank you for \$750 donation - my tax just went up that much! Help!
- As an addendum to the recent survey for senior citizens of East Hampton, I would like to include the following comments. Many of our growing population of seniors have resided in and have supported East Hampton for a number of years. I feel that consideration should be given for some sort of tax relief. Seniors subsist on a fixed income. We are willing to pay our fair share and have done so for a many years. However, increasing taxes are placing an undo burden on the seniors of our town. Increasing taxes are one of the biggest reasons why many of our senior population have had to consider relocating our of our town and state.

- My concern – no family – need to take care of myself independently. No long term care insurance.
- We now manage very well personally, but if things were to change we would need affordable wheel chair accessible housing with washer, drier, walk-in showers etc. We don't feel that E. Hampton could meet those needs.
- Lets do something for seniors, like good size affordable housing. Other towns do a lot more for their seniors. Do something this time not like last survey.”

**HOUSING QUESTIONS:**

2. Here is a set of questions about your current housing. Please circle YES or NO for each.

- A) Do you own your housing? - - - - - YES NO
- B) Single family house? YES NO
- C) Multi-family house? - - - - - YES NO
- D) Apartment? YES NO
- E) Senior housing? - - - - - YES NO
- F) One floor living? YES NO
- G) Is maintenance of your dwelling overwhelming? - - YES NO
- H) Is maintenance of your grounds overwhelming? YES NO
- I) Convenient to services? - - - - - YES NO
- J) Convenient to transportation? YES NO

**COMMENTS:**

- B) YES – condo
- E) Chatham Acres
- H) hire most of it
- H) NO - association fees
- J) not sure

3. Do you need to make changes to your home in order to stay there?

A) yes (Please write in what changes you need to make): \_\_\_\_\_

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B) no

C) not applicable

**Additional comments not under "A) yes"**

- Don't understand.

5. Given your current health and finances, how much would you prefer to live in each type of housing now? (high / medium / low preference):

- A) my own home - - - - - HIGH MEDIUM LOW preference
  - B) one level private house HIGH MEDIUM LOW preference
  - C) local assisted living facility - - - - HIGH MEDIUM LOW preference
  - D) own a senior apartment HIGH MEDIUM LOW preference
  - E) rent an apartment in senior community - HIGH MEDIUM LOW preference
  - F) senior living community with independent and assisted living, and skilled nursing HIGH MEDIUM LOW preference
  - G) other - Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_
- 

**Additional comments not under "G) other":**

- D) not affordable or available
- E) if needed in future
- What plans for more affordable housing are in the works?

6. Are any of these barriers keeping you from living in your preferred housing? (yes/no for each)

- A) unaffordable - - - - - YES NO
- B) need in-home assistance you can't get YES NO
- C) health status - - - - - YES NO
- D) not available in town YES NO
- E) would need too much maintenance - - YES NO
- F) other - Please explain:

**Additional comments not under "F) other":**

- A) ?, E) ?
- A) at some point it will be
- F) Fine now.
- quiet area
- taxes too high
- not at present
- If health status would change, some answers would change

7. What would an ideal apartment or home for you contain? (yes/no for each)

A) 1 bedroom - - - - - YES NO

B) 2 bedrooms YES NO

C) 1 full bathroom only - - - - - YES NO

D) 1 full bathroom and half bathroom YES NO

E) separate kitchen - - - - - YES NO

F) living / dining room open plan YES NO

G) handicap accessible - - - - - YES NO

H) other - Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Additional comments not under "H) other":**

- G) NO - not at the moment.

There is a newer housing option of accessory apartments called an Accessory Dwelling Unit, or “ADU.” They are small (up to 900 square feet), 1-2 bedroom units that can be added to a property that already has a free standing house, and either be attached to the house, or separate from it. They are a well-recognized more affordable option than a free-standing house. East Hampton currently allows them by special permit.

8. Are you interested in finding out more about ADU’s? YES NO

**COMMENTS:**

- interesting
- I would like to learn more.
- YES – please. 900’ sounds like a mansion! 420 sq feet is my housing apt now.



9. Does an Accessory Dwelling Unit sound like an option that you might use in the next few years? YES NO CANNOT TELL, NEED MORE INFORMATION

**COMMENTS:**

- I would rent out ADU
- Yes and Need more information. Not enough room on my property for this. Great idea!

## **TRANSPORTATION QUESTIONS**

10. Do you own or have easy access to a car? YES NO

### **COMMENTS:**

- but have to go down stairs

11. What health issues interfere with your driving?

- A) none
  - B) vision
  - C) hearing
  - D) tiredness
  - E) weakness / arthritis
  - F) memory
  - G) other. Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_
- 

**Additional comments not under "G) other":**

- vision, weakness, arthritis, stroke
- I would like to learn more.

12. How do you usually get around town for shopping, visiting, errands, etc.? Please circle how frequently you use the option:

- A) walk - - - - - FREQUENT NOT FREQUENT NOT AT ALL
  - B) drive myself FREQUENT NOT FREQUENT NOT AT ALL
  - C) someone else drives me FREQUENT NOT FREQUENT NOT AT ALL
  - D) taxi FREQUENT NOT FREQUENT NOT AT ALL
  - E) Uber or Lyft - - - - - FREQUENT NOT FREQUENT NOT AT ALL
  - F) public transportation FREQUENT NOT FREQUENT NOT AT ALL
  - G) ride a bike - - - - - FREQUENT NOT FREQUENT NOT AT ALL
  - H) senior van FREQUENT NOT FREQUENT NOT AT ALL
  - I) another way. Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_
- 

**Additional comments not under "I) another way":**

- information on public transportation how - where - how often ect
- A) local round block
- B) could
- C) Husband

13. How many times do you leave your home in a typical week?

- A) <1
- B) 1-2
- C) 3-4
- D) 5 or more
- E) I am homebound

**COMMENTS:**

- Varies
- 3-4 for local in town services
- B) due to covid

14. Do you think public transportation is: [yes/no options for each answer]

- A) safe? - - - - - YES NO
- B) accessible? YES NO
- C) affordable? - - - - - YES NO
- D) convenient? YES NO
- E) available when you need it? - - - - YES NO
- F) adequate for people with disabilities? YES NO

**COMMENTS:**

- A) pandemic germs, B) could be better
- A) safe with a friend, not alone
- A) ?
- B,C,D,E,F): Don't know
- C) don't know
- C) don't know
- C, D): don't know
- E) NO - not really
- F) don't know
- AZ has taxi vouchers.

15. How much difficulty do you have getting to and from out of town medical appointments?

- A) A lot
- B) Some
- C) Little or none

**COMMENTS:**

- WINTER hard to get a ride Great neighbors
- C) or I drive, or a family or neighbor takes me.

## **HEALTHCARE AND AFFORDABILITY QUESTIONS:**

17. Are your needs being met for: (Please circle yes, no, or not applicable]

- |  |           |     |    |     |
|--|-----------|-----|----|-----|
| A) Wellness classes in areas such as weight control and exercise               | -         | YES | NO | N/A |
| B) fitness activities specifically geared towards older adults                 |           | YES | NO | N/A |
| C) conveniently located health and social services                             | - - - - - | YES | NO | N/A |
| D) conveniently located emergency care centers                                 |           | YES | NO | N/A |
| E) access to information on local health and supportive services               | - -       | YES | NO | N/A |
| F) home care services including health, personal care, housekeeping            |           | YES | NO | N/A |
| G) affordable certified home health care providers                             | - - - - - | YES | NO | N/A |
| H) safe and convenient areas to walk   |           | YES | NO | N/A |
| I) <u>primary care</u> physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants   | -         | YES | NO | N/A |
| J) <u>specialty care</u> physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants |           | YES | NO | N/A |
| K) organizations, groups, and/or churches to join                              | - - - - - | YES | NO | N/A |
| L) a safe and secure neighborhood  |           | YES | NO | N/A |
| M) access to COVID-19 vaccine  | - - - - - | YES | NO | N/A |
| N) access to annual flu vaccine  |           | YES | NO | N/A |

## **COMMENTS:**

- B) Don't know.
- C) no swimming pool
- C) need more social services. L) not with airBNB. Recent domestic abuse at rental (short term). Limited mental health professionals for all ages. Are you aware of those in need of diabetic supplies and medicines? Are there medical advocates available to help those in need? Thank you
- D) ?
- E) Don't know
- E) ER Marlborough
- F) Don't know
- I) and J) NO - if Marlborough/Middlesex ER is considered close by or convenient, then OK. Is there anything in Town?
- J) Foot doctor used to do house calls for toe nail cutting. Now does not. No one will do it in home!
- J) Maybe [needs being met for specialty care]
- L) much anxiety since 63 year old woman beaten and abducted in Marlborough Big Y parking lot!!!
- M) ? [needs being met for access to Covid-19 vaccine]



18. Are you fully vaccinated against COVID-19? YES NO prefer not to say

**COMMENTS:**

- unless they change it

20. Do you have, or will you have enough money to support yourself during your retired years? YES NO

**COMMENTS:**

- I hope so
- I do not know
- not sure yet
- yes + no
- Not sure yet. Huge tax increase just hit. taxes - Usually mtge revaluation increase is \$20 month more or so. This year it's up \$60 per month. Town hall tax has not hit yet. And not enough housing now.
- So far – future uncertain.
- YES - as I live in senior housing.
- YES – hope so!

21. Do you have or will you have to continue to work during your retired years due to financial needs? YES NO

**COMMENTS:**

- [NO] disabled
- Inflation?
- not sure yet
- no + yes
- yes and it's good for health.
- NO – hope not!

22. Are you financially able to remain in East Hampton during your retired years?  
YES NO

**COMMENTS:**

- Taxes?
- My income is below the Base Rent that they require at Senior Housing. When I moved in I had two incomes. Now I only have my social security. The rent they want is half of my social security. It is real sad that I have to almost beg to get the help I need. I'm still waiting. Also- when I moved in Comcast was included in the rent it always was included in the rent. Now it is no longer included. I am so upset I don't know what to do or who to turn to for help.
- I do not know
- not with the current tax hikes + sewer bill \$520.00 this year!! Ridiculous
- yes + no cost of living
- DON'T KNOW
- So far – future uncertain.
- YES - as I live in senior housing.
- YES – however I may have an in law apt to move into, in another town.
- NO – Taxes should be frozen when your a senior/ very little like Florida & other states.

23. How often do you feel lonely?

- A) Often / always,
- B) Some of the time
- C) Occasionally
- D) Hardly ever
- E) Never

**COMMENTS:**

- A) B) C) I often Face Time my Friends and Family 😊
- A) B) C) Covid! Due to Community room not allowing us to be 6' apart with masks, so might increase now getting colder to visit outside.

24. In the last year, how often were you worried that your food would run out before you got money to buy more? OFTEN SOMETIMES NEVER

**COMMENTS:**

- Never – I'm blessed.

25. In the last year, how often did the food you bought not last long enough, and you didn't have money to buy more? OFTEN SOMETIMES NEVER

**COMMENTS:**

- Never – blessing.

## **DEMOGRAPHICS/ FINAL Q's**

26. How would you rate East Hampton as a place for people to live as they age?

- A) Good
- B) Fair
- C) Poor

## **COMMENTS:**

- Excellent
- B) Need more places for Baby Boomers living longer
- B) Taxes and better run senior center.



27. What is your gender?

- A) Male
- B) Female
- C) Other or prefer not to answer]

**COMMENTS:**

- (We have over 20 kinds now)

29. Are you of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin? YES NO

**COMMENTS:**

- Why do you need to know that? Are they different?
- all Conn [nearly illegible]
- I'm multi-racial – a bit of everything.

30. What is your race? Check all that apply.

A. White

B. Black or African American

C. Asian

D. American Indian or Alaskan

E. Pacific Islander

F. Other: please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional comments not under "F. Other":**

• U.S.A. cit

• NA as I was adopted. 😊

31. What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

- A. K-12th grade (no diploma)
- B. High School graduate, GED, or equivalent
- C. Post high school education/ training or licensed trade
- D. 2-year college degree
- E. 4-year college degree
- F. Post-graduate study (no degree)
- G. Graduate or professional degree(s)

**COMMENTS:**

- D) Human Service Degree and G) Nursing Degree, HIV Counseling Degree

32. What is your current marital status?

- A. Married
- B. Not married, living with partner
- C. Separated
- D. Divorced
- E. Widowed
- F. Never married

**COMMENTS:**

- Intentionally unmarried
- D) and single

33. What was your annual income before taxes in 2020?

- A. Less than \$10,000
- B. \$10,000 - \$19,999
- C. \$20,000 - \$29,999
- D. \$30,000 - \$39,999
- E. \$40,000 - \$49,999
- F. \$50,000 - \$74,999
- G. \$75,000 - \$99,999
- H. \$100,000 - \$149,999
- I. \$150,000 or more

**COMMENTS:**

- Prefer not to answer
- varies - PT sales
- B) don't do taxes