

BOF CORRESPONDENCE – Regular Meeting 01/06/2020

From: Leslie Curtis <lesliescurtis@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2020 1:31 PM
To: Robert Tarlov <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>
Subject: Budget Survey for 2021-22

Hi Rob,

When the Board of Finance plans for the next Budget Survey, please consider leaving in the question about how important land conservation efforts are deemed to be for Colchester.

The responses to this question have provided much needed perspective to help shape public policy this year, and continue to be a valuable indication that there is significant public support for open space and farmland conservation efforts.

Thanks
Leslie Curtis

From: Robert Tarlov <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2020, 3:35 PM
To: Leslie Curtis
Cc: Mike Egan; Bernard Dennler
Subject: Re: Budget Survey for 2021-22

We reviewed a lot of questions, previous and new. I believe this question is being left in, but Mike Egan and Bernie Dennler are doing the survey this year and they would be the best source of where this question stands.

Rob

Rob Tarlov, Chairman, Board of Finance
860-608-4293

On Monday, December 21, 2020, 5:25:11 PM EST, Bernard Dennler <bdennler@colchesterct.gov> wrote:

Hi Leslie!

I believe in the first draft of the survey there were two very similar questions about this topic and we have condensed them into one to prevent redundancy and streamline the survey. So, yes, this topic will still be included this year.

Please also consider attending our budget forums in 2021 to speak about the importance of land preservation.

Bernie

From:Leslie Curtis <lesliescurtis@yahoo.com>
Sent:Monday, December 21, 2020 5:41 PM
To:Bernard Dennler <bdennler@colchesterct.gov>
Cc:Mike Egan <megan@colchesterct.gov>; Robert Tarlov <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>; First Selectman <selectman@colchesterct.gov>
Subject:Re: Budget Survey for 2021-22

Thank you, Bernie.

I will be delighted to make a case at the 2021 Budget Forums for the importance of strategic land conservation as an important civic virtue. Please be sure I am on the distribution to the Zoom links for these forums.

I hope look forward to meeting you on Zoom, having heard positive things about your credentials from our First Selectman.

Regards,
Leslie

From:Leslie Curtis <lesliescurtis@yahoo.com>
Sent:Tuesday, December 22, 2020 10:24 AM
To:Bernard Dennler <bdennler@colchesterct.gov>
Subject:Budget Survey Question(s) About Land Use

Hi Bernie,

I would appreciate your sending me the new proposed wording of the 2021-22 Budget Survey question (or questions) about land use considerations. I'd like to review the changes you and Mike Egan have made before the Survey goes live online in January.

Thanks,
Leslie

On Sunday, January 3, 2021, 12:59:00 PM EST, Bernard Dennler <bdennler@colchesterct.gov> wrote:

Hi Leslie,

I hope you had a happy new year! There are actually going to be two questions on this after all. See below for how we plan for them to appear when the survey goes live this week.

Bernie

From:Leslie Curtis <lesliescurtis@yahoo.com>
Sent:Sunday, January 3, 2021 1:54:18 PM
To:Bernard Dennler <bdennler@colchesterct.gov>

Cc:First Selectman <selectman@colchesterct.gov>; Robert Tarlov <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>; Lisa Hageman <lterrillhageman@comcast.net>
Subject:Re: Budget Survey Question(s) About Land Use

Hi Bernie,

Thanks for keeping me informed on this issue.

Question 8 is still great.

I have a suggestion for Question 9, however which is to change to word "spending" to "investing" . This could require some further changes to the wording of this question, for one example:

"Would you support investing municipal funds for open space and farmland preservation efforts in partnership with private land conservation organizations?"

Regards,
Leslie

On Sunday, January 3, 2021, 3:27:27 PM EST, Bernard Dennler <bdennler@colchesterct.gov> wrote:

Leslie,

I think we will need to keep the word "spending" as this is the terminology we use in other similar questions in the survey. Although I personally agree it's an investment, the Board needs to make sure the survey questions are consistent and unbiased.

Bernie

From:Leslie Curtis <lesliescurtis@yahoo.com>
Sent:Sunday, January 3, 2021, 4:44 PM
To:Bernard Dennler
Cc:First Selectman; Robert Tarlov; Lisa Hageman
Subject:Re: Budget Survey Question(s) About Land Use

Fair enough, Bernie. But you when changing "investing" back to "spending", would you and your committee consider changing Question 9 to my suggested re-wording--or a close version of it? This really seems to me to be the crux of the issue here in Colchester.

Leslie

On Sunday, January 3, 2021, 4:47:23 PM EST, Bernard Dennler <bdennler@colchesterct.gov> wrote:

I have no problem adding that if there's a concensus that efforts will be focused on public-private partnerships.

Mary and Rob, do you have any input?

Bernie

From:Leslie Curtis <lesliescurtis@yahoo.com>
Sent:Monday, January 4, 2021 8:13:17 AM
To:Bernard Dennler <bdennler@colchesterct.gov>
Cc:First Selectman <selectman@colchesterct.gov>; Robert Tarlov <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>; Lisa Hageman <lterrillhageman@comcast.net>
Subject:Re: Budget Survey Question(s) About Land Use

To be very clear, Bernie, in my view the possibility of public-private partnerships for land conservation funding is meant to be just one more tool available to town government to help maintain Colchester's "rurban" character over time.

This concept is not necessarily intended to be the sole focus of the town's land conservation efforts. However it would be an immense help in certain situations to have this capability and flexibility. The concept is definitely a change from the way that our town officials have historically understood the ways which municipal funds can be used for land conservation transactions.

Leslie

On Monday, January 4, 2021, 11:11:32 AM EST, Robert Tarlov <bofchair@colchesterct.gov> wrote:

I support the concept of public-private partnership for conservation efforts, and I believe these are ideas that the new ad hoc committee will be addressing.

The purpose of the survey is that it is one of the tools to help us make decisions about the 21/22 budget. The origin of these open space questions was to see what the public's attitude for increasing the annual contribution in the budget to open space.

For me, asking a question about public-private partnerships on a budget survey in advance of the ad hoc committee's work is premature and might be confusing to survey takers as to what this question means, especially since it is more than acquiring properties for the purpose of keeping them as open space, farmland, etc.

Rob

Rob Tarlov, Chairman, Board of Finance
860-608-4293

From:Leslie Curtis <lesliescurtis@yahoo.com>
Sent:Monday, January 4, 2021 11:59 AM
To:Bernard Dennler <bdennler@colchesterct.gov>; Robert Tarlov <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>
Cc:Lisa Hageman <lterrillhageman@comcast.net>; First Selectman <selectman@colchesterct.gov>
Subject:Re: Budget Survey Question(s) About Land Use

Point taken for purposes of this survey, Rob, with your well-reasoned logic.

I hope that the work of the new ad hoc committee will be successful in bringing this important civic issue into focus and in making sound suggestions as to how the Town government can be both more flexible and, hopefully, more robustly funded in its land conservation efforts in the near future and going forward.

Leslie

On Dec 22, 2020, at 1:24 PM, Robert Tarlov <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov> wrote:

Hi Norm,

At the Rec Field Forum last week, you asked when would be a good time for people to come out and voice support for spending on the rec fields.

On January 20 at 6:30, there will be a Public Budget Forum via Zoom. This would be a good meeting for people to come out. Mary will be continue putting her budget together in the weeks after this forum.

Also, the budget survey opens on January 8 and will be open through Sunday 1/17. There are questions on the rec fields and there are several opportunities to provide open ended comments.

Rob

Rob Tarlov, Chairman, Board of Finance
860-608-4293

From:NORMAN KAPLAN <nkaplan@snet.net>
Sent:Wednesday, December 23, 2020 8:40 AM
To:Robert Tarlov <BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>
Subject:Re: Budget Forum

Rob,

Thanks for the dates/info. I'll send on to key individuals who have heightened interest in the number and maintenance of the fields. Again, Thanks and stay healthy.

Norm