

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
BUILDING PROJECT SURVEY
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY, AUGUST 2023



Public Information Strategies & Process

1. Develop, publicize and conduct a **Public Online Survey** to determine residents' awareness of the project, along with their predominant questions, concerns and needs for more information
2. Develop and distribute a **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)** document (as a result of the survey findings)
3. Conduct a **Public Information Meeting(s)**, such as a panel of experts discussion (if desirable), prior to a public referendum on the project (to be determined).



Purpose of the Survey

The Town of Hebron, CT conducted a survey among town residents and business owners regarding the proposed Department of Public Works facility building project to learn more about the public's awareness, concerns, and desire for more information.



Significant Public Engagement

- Survey was available online and in paper format from **June 5 – July 15, 2023**
- **Publicized** through Town website, Town news release, signage at Town Hall, Library and Transfer Station
- **880** people started the survey; **725** completed it (82% completion rate)
- Resident taxpayers: **96%**; Business taxpayers: **3%**
- Average time spent: **6 minutes** (not including reading of project summary and supporting documents)
- **717** comments
- **183** provided contact information to receive additional information from the Town

	Size of population					
Margin of error	>5000	5000	2500	1000	500	200
±10%	96	94	93	88	81	65
±7.5%	171	165	160	146	127	92
±5%	384	357	333	278	217	132
±3%	1067	880	748	516	341	169

Helpful Information Sources

- **80%** found the Project Summary helpful in increasing their understanding of the DPW Building Project process thus far
- “What information sources do you find helpful for receiving Town of Hebron information?” (rated as very, somewhat, not very, or no opinion)
- Ratings based on weighted average* / very helpful ratings):
 1. Rivereast News Bulletin (723 / 50%)
 2. Town Website (695 / 20%)
 3. Town Meetings (686 / 20%)
 4. Town Mailings (681 / 26%)
 5. Friends & Family (665 / 24%)
 6. Town Emails (662 / 24%)
 7. Facebook (657 / 19%)(For all other sources, very helpful ranking was less than 6%)

* A weighted average is calculated by multiplying each value in the set by a weight (i.e. 1, 2, 3, etc.), then adding up the products and dividing the products' sum by the sum of all weights.

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RIVEREAST
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Hebron Residents Slam Public Works Plan
By Michael Sinkewicz
A public hearing was held Monday on the new Hebron Public Works complex proposed for Kinney Road - and many of the residents in attendance spoke out against the project. The Hebron Public Building Committee held a public hearing to present information regarding the proposed complex. The hearing featured a panel of specialists and community input. The Sept. 19 meeting - held in person at the Douglas Library and livestreamed online - represented a significant moment for the town to address remaining questions with the proposal and receive feedback from residents, who will ultimately deliver a verdict if it heads to a referendum in the future. Members of the public, including many from Kinney Road, spoke mainly in opposition to the project. The controversial proposal has prompted much discussion - and generated many *Rivereast* letters to the editor - over the past several months. Residents' comments came after a presentation led by consulting engineers Thomas Fenton and Terry Hahn of Landscape Architectural Design Associates P.C. Land Planners. They outlined the limitations of the current Public Works facility and how the 88-acre property on Kinney Road purchased by the town would be an ideal location for a new complex. Residents of Kinney Road brought up a variety of issues with the proposal, including a number of environmental and historical concerns. Many said they were afraid of potential water contamination from salt - the site would feature a salt storage building. Kevin Tullimieri, a Kinney Road resident, has consistently raised objections to the site being built on the property. During the meeting, he told the Public Building Committee he felt there were major concerns with moving forward with the site. "I don't think this was particularly well-thought-out," he said of the location. After the meeting, Town Manager Andy Tierney told the *Rivereast* that he'll be reviewing the questions raised by the community and will have discussions with the Board of Selectmen, who will decide what the next steps should be. "We heard the people loud and clear, but that doesn't make the problem go away," Tierney said, referring to the current state of the Public Works facility. While Tierney said he continues to support the Kinney Road site, he also said residents have legitimate questions. "People are clearly concerned or even scared about the salt, and that's valid," he said. "We want to do what's right." He said he felt the people who expressed those concerns "were very polite about it." One of the only members of the public who spoke in support of the town's proposal and presentation was Dan Larson, chairman of the Board of Selectmen. A tremendous amount of work has been done," he said. "It's time to move forward." Following the meeting - which every community member was given three minutes to speak at - Tullimieri told the *Rivereast* that his takeaway was the number of people speaking in opposition to the proposal, emphasizing how

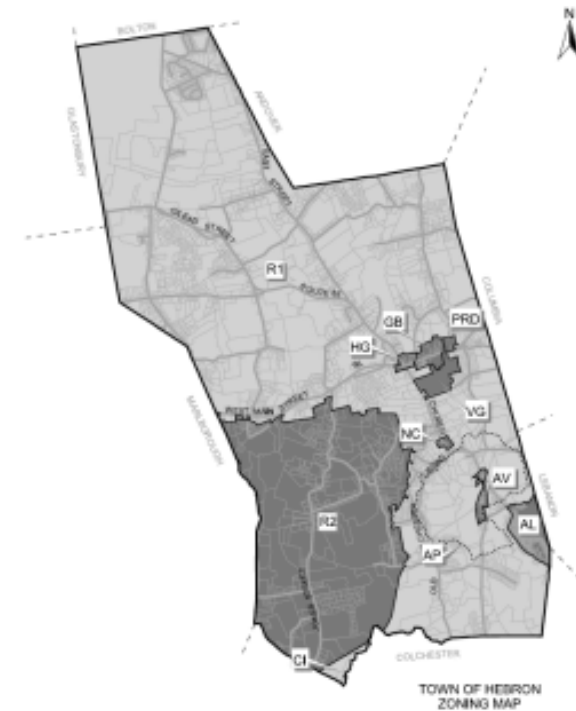
Police Surveillance on the Rise in Marlborough
By Jack Lakowsky
With speed and body cameras and automatic license plate readers, which rove any and all plates, police cruisers pass, detecting issues stretching from expired registrations to a stolen vehicle, surveillance in Marlborough is undeniably on the rise. range, he noted that, when officers are driving on Route 2, the readers can catch plates on the opposite side of the divided highway. Koboo said constables or the local state trooper won't "get after" someone over minor infractions like an expired registration, saving

Inside...
Portland Gilchrist to Close?pg 11
Dad's Dream

Building Project Concerns

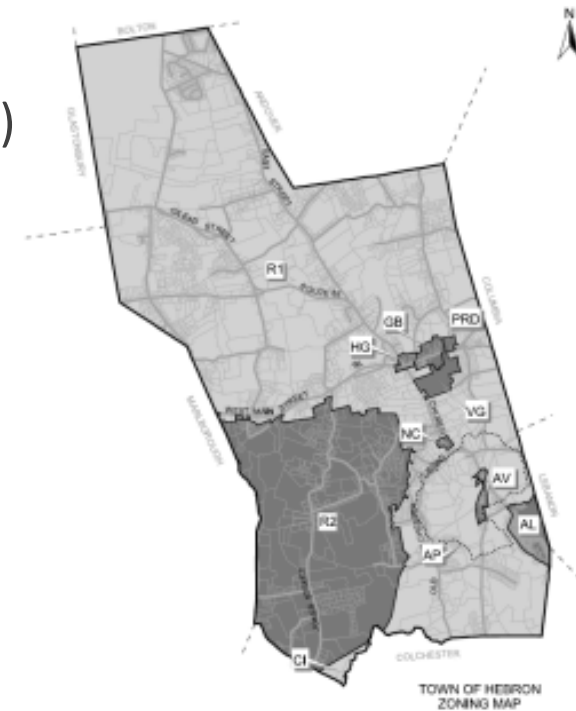
- Survey respondents were asked to rate their levels of concern with the following potential issues regarding the DPW Building Project (rated as very, somewhat, not very, or no opinion)
- Each issue was cited as **very concerned** by nearly one-half (48%) to two-thirds (66%) of respondents
- Ratings based on weighted average* / very concerned ratings):
 1. Location of the facility (728 / 66%)
 2. Salt storage contamination (726 / 64%)
 3. Land preservation (724 / 62%)
 4. Taxpayer cost (721 / 65%)
 5. Truck traffic / pollution (718 / 55%)
 6. Other development potential (709 / 48%)

* A weighted average is calculated by multiplying each value in the set by a weight (i.e. 1, 2, 3, etc.), then adding up the products and dividing the products' sum by the sum of all weights



Site Preferences

- “Do you have a site preference for constructing a new Town of Hebron DPW facility?”
- Options presented (multiple responses):
 - 69%: Old Colchester Road
(reconstruction on current site with conditions noted in Project Summary)
 - 16%: Horton Property
(new construction on Kinney Road)
 - 10%: New DPW Garage constructed on Kinney Road,
with Salt Storage at another location TBD)
 - 9%: Other site
 - 5%: No preference



Sentiment of Comments & Implications

- Most survey respondents recognize the need for the Town of Hebron to upgrade and improve its DPW facilities but many are requesting that it be done in a more responsive and responsible way.
- The main reason is that many perceive that the current DPW facilities have fallen into disrepair and have caused contamination on the current site (Old Colchester Road) over an extended period of time without remediation.
- However, many perceive that reconstruction on Old Colchester Road does present a preferred option for mitigating many of the issues of high concern, with the most comparison being made to the Kinney Road option (salt storage contamination, land preservation, taxpayer cost, truck traffic / pollution, other development potential, historical significance, etc.).
- Many respondents are requesting that the Town provide more information, increased communications, and more opportunities for public engagement in the decision-making process.
- The Town's recommendation of the optimal solution for rebuilding the DPW facilities will also involve some repair of the public trust.
- A logical conclusion would be to conduct a feasibility study to determine the viability and the ramifications for operations and cost of utilizing the existing site, or continued exploration of other potential sites, and to communicate with the public in a more timely and continuous manner throughout the process.

Recommended Next Steps

- Invite the Board of Selectmen and Building Committee to read the full report
- Release the full report to the public
- Communicate with the survey respondents (183) that provided their contact information to receive more information on the project from the Town
- Pitch an interview / feature story to the Rivereast News Bulletin and other local media sources to provide an update on the survey results and implications on the project
- Develop a plan for a site feasibility study and building program for the DPW facilities reconstruction
- Develop the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document and expand upon on an ongoing basis as more becomes available to share with the public
- Convene Public Information Meeting(s) as an opportunity to further inform and engage Hebron taxpayers in discussion on the project