

JFAC

Clark School Exploration

Subcommittee Report
May 13, 2021

Process
Survey Questions
Results
Recommendations

Process

- Connect as a subcommittee
- Connect with town representatives, Clark neighbors, community members, other community centers
- Attend Board of Selectmen meeting
- Review survey results
- Present to JFAC

Mission Statement

To gather input from experts and community stakeholders on possible ways to utilize the Clark School building and site should the proposal by the Amherst School District to build a new elementary school to house Pre K thru 5th grade be approved by the voters in the future.

Connections

- Town representatives
 - Tour
 - Board of Selectmen
- Clark School neighbors
- Community Members
- The Amherst Citizen
- Other Community Centers

Options for Future of Clark Site

- Sell for residential use
- Sell for commercial use
- Raze lot for green space
- Property sold to town/foundation

Survey

- Create survey questions
- Who?
 - Zoom meeting participants
 - The Amherst Citizen
 - Nixle JFAC Channel
- Review survey results
- Present to JFAC

Targeted Questions

Would you be interested in future communications about the work of the JFAC? (Provide email)

If you are passionate about a targeted path for Clark's future, would you be interested in participating in a grassroots effort for that cause?

Multiple Choice Questions

Where have you heard about the Amherst Facility projects?

What community needs do you think could be met through the use of the Clark School and/or site?*

Rank the 4 options (1 as most desired)

Open Ended Questions: Designed to elicit feedback and further questions to consider

Please note any thoughts about why you ranked the options in the way that you did.

What questions do you still have about this process?

Is there anything else you think the committee should be considering?

Results

- Survey responses
- Results for multiple choice questions
- Pros and cons highlighted by conversations

Responses

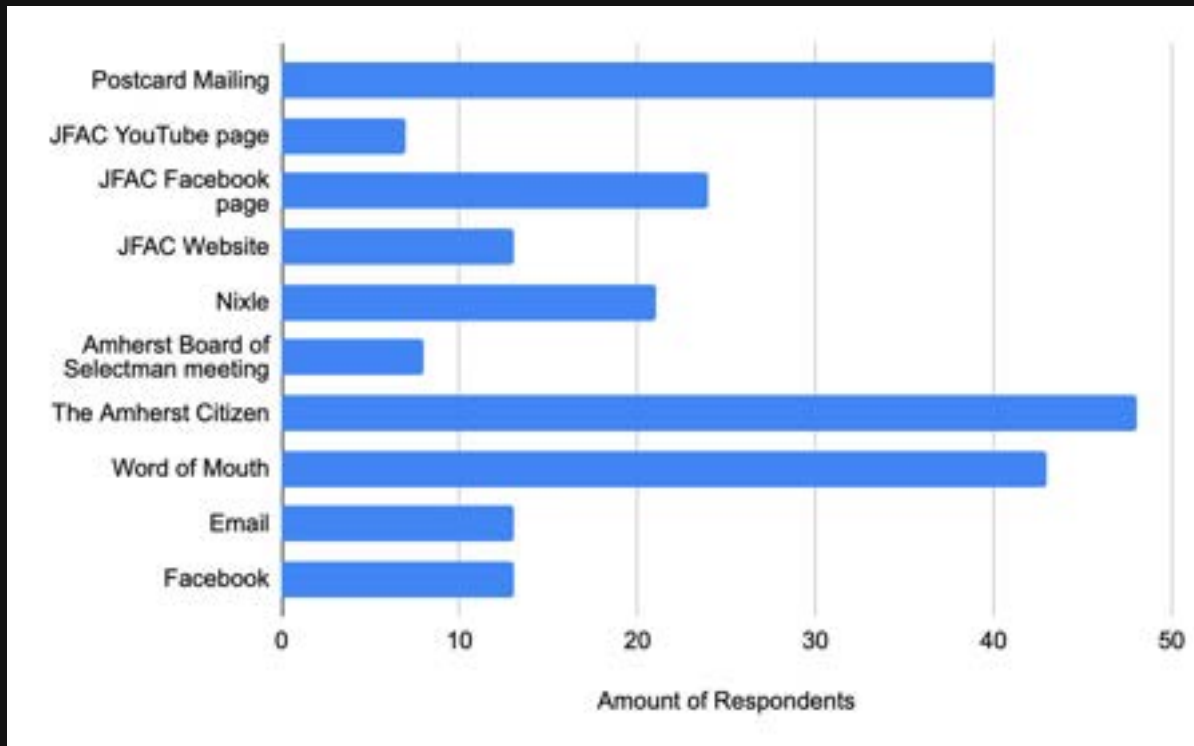
Total respondents: 172

Emails gathered: 155

Open ended feedback provided: 211

QUESTION

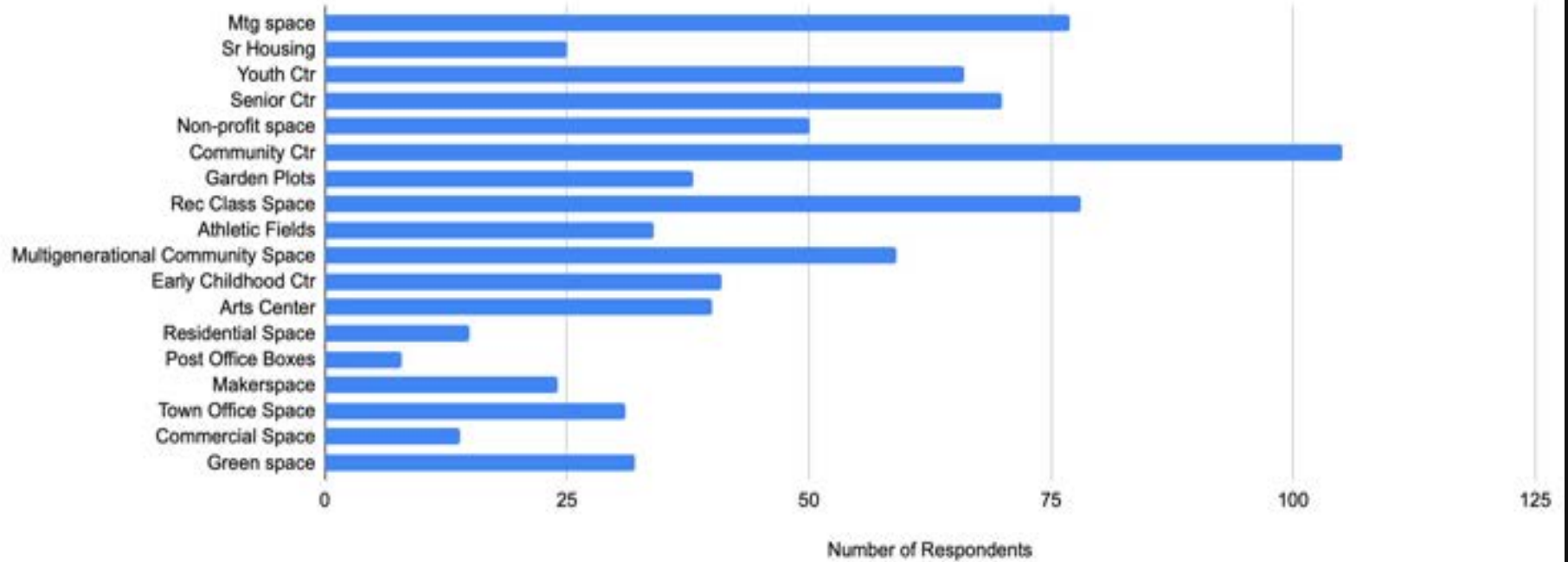
Where have you heard about the Amherst Facility projects?



- Multiple selections allowed
- Write in answers accepted; account for less than 10 responses

QUESTION

What community needs do you think could be met through the use of the Clark School and/or site?



- Multiple selections allowed
- Write in answers accepted; account for less than 20 responses

QUESTION

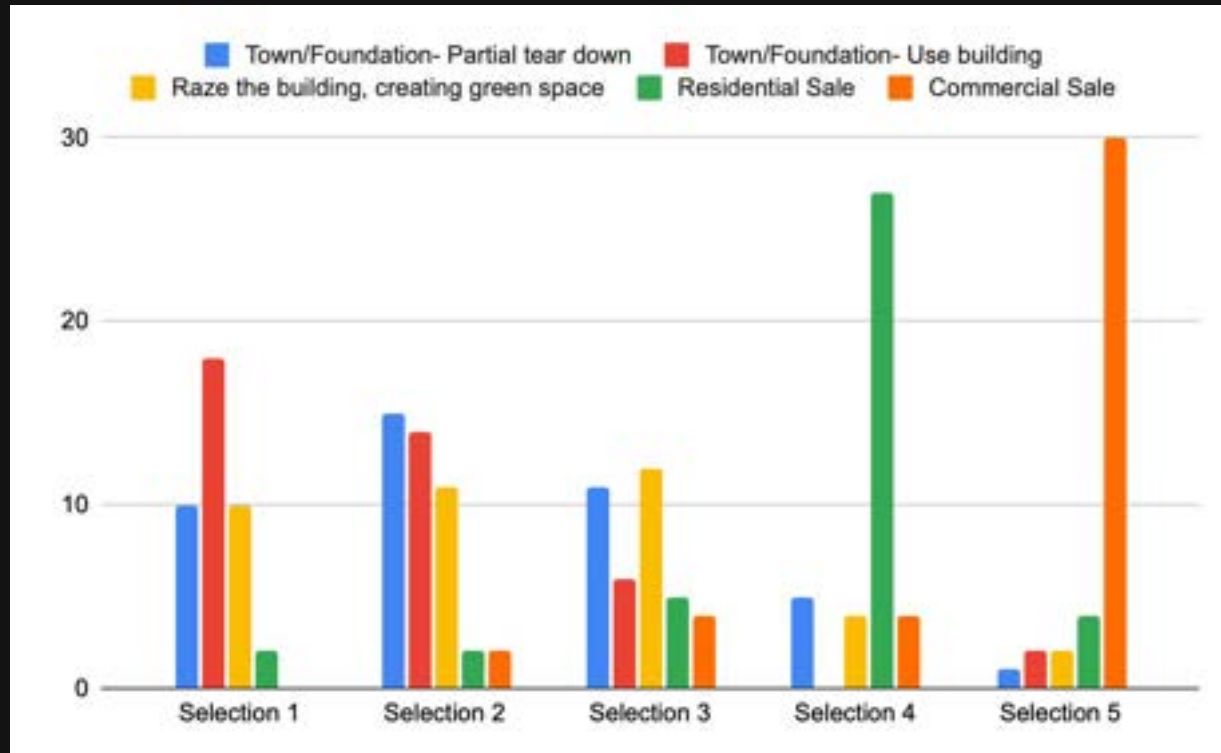
Rank the 4 (or 5) options
1 is most desired

Responses from the first 43 meeting attendees.

These included 5 options:

Raze the building, Residential Sale, Commercial Sale,

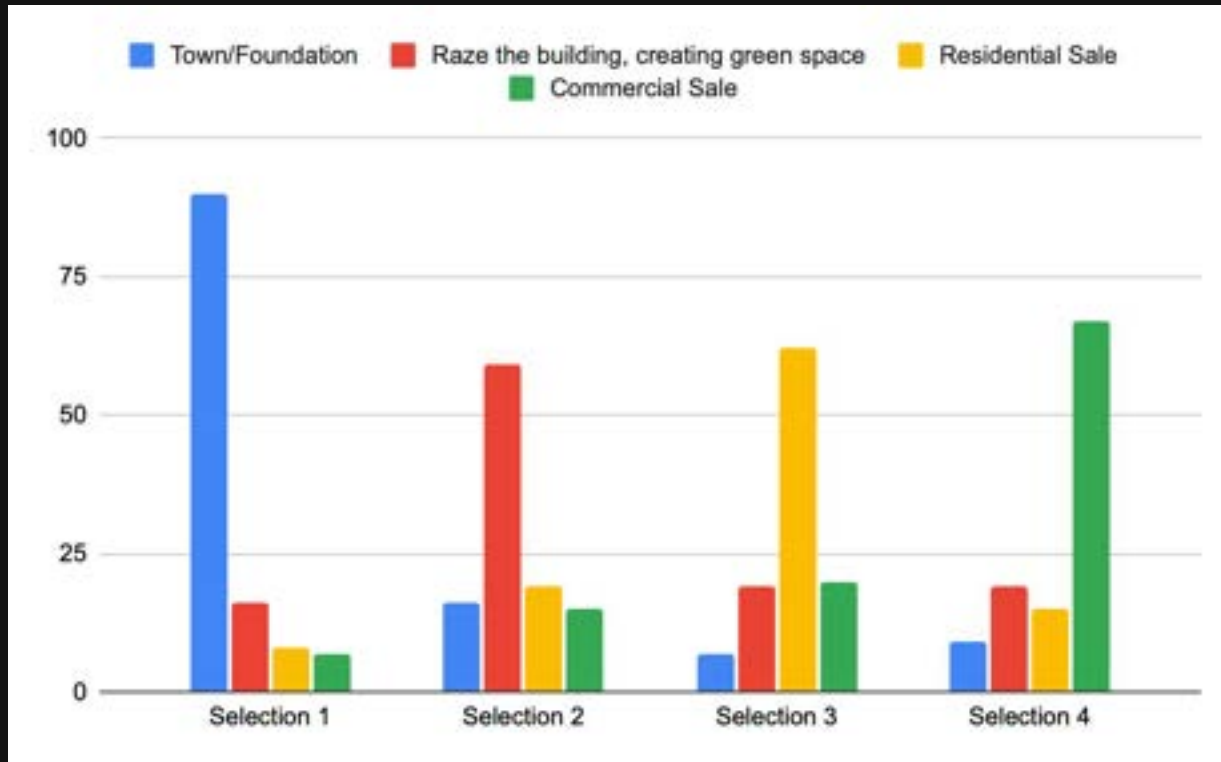
Sold to town/foundation: A) entire building used, B) partial tear down/green space



Responses from the second group

These included 4 options:

Raze the building, Residential Sale, Commercial Sale, and Sold to town/foundation for future use to be determined



Sell to Residential

PROS

- Maintain residential neighborhood
- Less impact to traffic
- Financial offset from sale and Residential tax income

CONS

- Risk of unknown
- Long lasting construction impact
- Lose the property for town use forever

Sell to Commercial

PROS

- Community serving business to bring people together
- Could be done well with Historic District Commission and Planning Board to oversee commercial use in line with The Village area
- Gives businesses opportunities in Amherst

CONS

- Risk of unknown
- Potential for traffic increase throughout the day and evening
- Lose the property for town use forever

Raze building for green space

PROS

- Green space is good for the environment
- Historic Amherst Village has unique charm with quaint areas like open green spaces
- Some liked this open over outside sale as it remains in town/school control

CONS

- Ruining a perfectly good building is not environmentally friendly
- Cost to raze building impacts taxpayers
- Doesn't address town's need for additional meeting space

Sell to Town or Foundation

PROS

- Historic building to remain an integral part of the Village
- Ability to benefit the most members of the community
- Most environmentally friendly choice

CONS

- Evening use could impact neighbors
- Does not provide revenue
- Possibility of change to traffic patterns

Recommendations

Overall for JFAC

Continued communication is essential

Conduct surveys for various aspects of proposal

Follow the data

Establish the criteria which the choice will be based upon

“All options are reasonable provided we maintain the charm and character of the Village”

Recommendations

Additional subcommittee work to be done as Clark's future use progresses over several years

- Is there interest on the part of the town/foundation to take over the property?
- What is the maintenance plan/ownership if razed to green space?
- What are the residential and commercial sale pricing details?

Thank you!
Any questions?