

Huntington Town Hall Survey Report

June 2010

Prepared by the Town Hall Committee:

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Introduction

The Huntington Town Hall Committee organized a survey in April – May 2010 to ask the opinions of Huntington residents about whether or not they feel the Huntington Town Hall should be renovated, and if so, how to develop and use the building. The Town Hall (formerly the Woodmen’s Hall) is located on the Main Road in Huntington Center, across the street from the Town Office building, and south of Camels Hump Road. It is a two-story building with open space on the first floor and a stage upstairs with room for 250 people. Built in 1903, for many years the building hosted performances, community dinners, bingo and Huntington’s annual Town Meeting. For a few years, from 1994 – 1999, it served as the Town library. The Town Hall building was closed in 1999 and currently is not in active use.

How the Survey was Designed and Distributed

The survey had two main sections. The first section asked questions about *current* potential uses of the Town Hall with a focus on classes and events. The second section asked about *future* uses of the Town Hall.

The survey was available to be filled out 1) in hard copy and 2) on-line through Survey Monkey. A total of 800 hard copies were distributed as an insert with the May edition of the Times Ink. Hard copies were also available at the Huntington Town Office and Library, and during an Open House at the Town Hall on May 29th. Copies were returned to the Huntington Town Office, Library, or Beaudry’s Store. The on-line survey was advertised through the Front Porch Forum and was available to be filled out starting April 25th. All surveys were to be completed by May 30th.

Number of Surveys Received

A total of **155** surveys were received. Of these, 51 hard copies of the survey were received and 104 surveys were completed on-line. According to the Huntington Town Clerk, Huntington has an estimated population of 1,900 (including adults and children) and 1,350 registered voters. So the survey response represents approximately 8% of the total population of the Town, and 11.5% of registered voters.

Survey Results

A summary of the responses to all questions is included in this report (Attachment 1), as well as lists of responses to the questions in the survey (Attachment 2). The following are some of the main highlights of the survey results:

- A majority of those responding, 87.7%, think the Town Hall should be restored and developed for use.
- Opinion is divided about how best to fund restoration, with 43.2% agreeing to use Town funds if needed and 38.8% feeling restoration should only happen if no Town funds are used. A minority of those responding (5%) think the building should be

leased to a private developer to restore and manage the building, and 12.7% think the building and lot should be sold¹.

- With respect to future uses of the building, the most popular uses were for community classes, town meetings, performance/arts events and senior/health activities. Building uses supported by 75% or more of those responding to were:

Municipal Uses:

- Meetings and hearing for town committees (89.2%)
- Community-building/planning/visioning events (86.5%)

Community Services:

- Senior activities/services (84.2%)
- Health clinic services/wellness classes (77.5%)
- Multi-generational activities – programs linking elders and youth (75.8%)
- Blood drives (75.8%)

Economic Development Services:

- Arts Resource Center/Galleries and Exhibits (86.5%)

Community Programs and Events:

- Community Classes (95.8 %)
- “Community Nights” – Bingo, Casino nights, card games (78.2%)

Income Generating Activities:

- Art gallery/temporary exhibits (85%)
- Performance events (85%)

Table 1 on the next page lists all the proposed activities in order from highest to lowest percentage of interest.

Next Steps

The survey is one part of developing a plan for the Town Hall. Over the next 2-3 months, the Town Hall Committee will talk with other organizations in Huntington (e.g., Huntington Library and Community Center, HERO, Valley Stage) to identify their future plans and any interests they may have in the Town Hall. This will help ensure that plans for the Town Hall will complement existing buildings and plans. (Note: if you are part of an organization or group with interests in the Town Hall, please be in contact with a member of the Committee). The Committee will also meet with other towns that have undergone similar renovations of public spaces to learn how they engaged members of the community and raised funds. After this, the Town Hall Committee will prepare recommendations for future plans for the building.

Acknowledgement

Thank you to Linda Fickbohm, a “Friend of the Town Hall Committee” for her assistance with the survey.

¹ In nine cases respondents checked more than one reply to this question. These replies were able to be tallied and are not part of the percentages reported.

Table 1**Summary of Potential Town Hall Activities ²**

	Activity	Type of Use listed in Survey	%
1.	Community Classes	Community Programs	95.8
2.	Meetings and hearings for town committees	Municipal	89.2
3.	Community building/planning/visioning events	Municipal	86.5
4.	Arts Resource Center/Galleries and exhibits	Economic Development	86.5
5.	Performance events	Income-Generating	85.0
6.	Art gallery/temporary exhibits	Income-Generating	85.0
7.	Senior activities/services	Community Services	84.2
8.	“Community Nights”-Bingo, casino nights, card games	Community Programs	78.2
9.	Health clinic services/wellness classes	Community Services	77.5
10.	Multi-generational activities (programs linking elders & youth)	Community Services	75.8
11.	Blood drives	Community Services	75.8
12.	Mentoring programs – youth, literacy	Community Services	74.2
13.	Pot luck/socials	Community Programs	73.9
14.	Private functions/receptions	Income-Generating	72.5
15.	Contra dancing	Income-Generating	71.7
16.	Community suppers	Income-Generating	70.8
17.	Movies	Income-Generating	70.8
18.	Offices for Town Committees or organizations	Municipal	67.6
19.	Teen center	Community Services	65.8
20.	Display space	Income-Generating	64.2
21.	Auctions/flea markets	Income-Generating	60.0
22.	Café	Income-Generating	55.8
23.	Summer Food Program	Community Services	54.2
24.	After school programs	Community Programs	53.8
25.	Office space for Town officials	Municipal	51.4
26.	Certified kitchen for food preparation	Economic Development	50.5
27.	Emergency housing	Community Services	48.3
28.	Small business support/information	Economic Development	45.9
29.	Day care services	Community Services	34.2

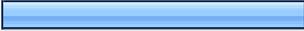
² The percentage reflects the amount of survey respondents who are interested in the activity.

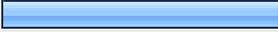
Attachment 1:

Survey Results by Question

Huntington Town Hall Survey

1. Bingo, Community game night (card games, board games)			Response Percent	Response Count
very interested			7.9%	12
somewhat interested			31.1%	47
not very interested			28.5%	43
not interested			32.5%	49
<i>answered question</i>				151
<i>skipped question</i>				4

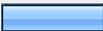
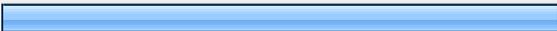
2. Educational programs – e.g., language classes, arts & crafts, tree pruning, maintaining wildlife			Response Percent	Response Count
very interested			46.0%	69
somewhat interested			40.7%	61
not very interested			5.3%	8
not interested			8.0%	12
<i>answered question</i>				150
<i>skipped question</i>				5

3. Performance related classes: dance, theater, story-telling, musical instruments, group singing		
		Response Percent Response Count
very interested		29.8% 45
somewhat interested		41.7% 63
not very interested		15.9% 24
not interested		12.6% 19
		answered question 151
		skipped question 4

4. Exercise classes: Yoga, Tai Chi or Pilates		
		Response Percent Response Count
very interested		45.0% 68
somewhat interested		27.8% 42
not very interested		12.6% 19
not interested		14.6% 22
		answered question 151
		skipped question 4

5. Other information about the above classes or other types of classes or events you are interested in:		
		Response Count
		37
		answered question 37
		skipped question 118

6. Are you interested in teaching any classes?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes 	15.1%	22
No 	84.9%	124
<i>answered question</i>		146
<i>skipped question</i>		9

7. If yes to #6, please provide your name and contact information:

	Response Count
	24
<i>answered question</i>	24
<i>skipped question</i>	131

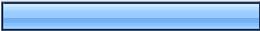
8. Do you think the Town Hall should be restored and developed for use?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes 	87.7%	128
No 	12.3%	18
<i>answered question</i>		146
<i>skipped question</i>		9

9. Please explain why you do or do not think the Town Hall should be restored.

	Response Count
	120
<i>answered question</i>	120
<i>skipped question</i>	35

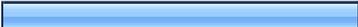
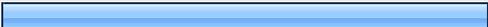
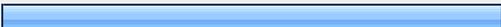
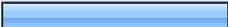
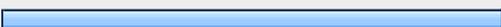
10. Please indicate which option you agree with most (check only one):

	Response Percent	Response Count
<p>I think we should restore the building for use by the town even if it means that some restoration costs and the maintenance of the building needs to be covered in the Town budget from taxes.</p> 	43.2%	60
<p>I think we should restore the building for use by the town but only if the restoration costs and maintenance of the building can be paid for by raising other funds and funds do not come from the Town budget.</p> 	38.8%	54
<p>I think we should lease the building to a private developer to restore and manage the use of the building independent of the Town.</p> 	5.0%	7
<p>I think we should sell the building and lot. I don't think the Town should invest time and money in restoring and developing the building.</p> 	12.9%	18
<i>answered question</i>		139
<i>skipped question</i>		16

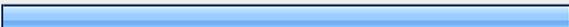
11. I think we should develop the Town Hall to be used for the following Municipal Services (check all that apply):

		Response Percent	Response Count
Meetings and hearings for town committees (e.g., Selectboard, planning commission)		89.2%	99
Office space for town officials		51.4%	57
Community building/planning/visioning events		86.5%	96
Offices for Town Committees or organizations, e.g., Town Hall Committee, Huntington Revolving Loan Fund office, Huntington Historic and Community Trust (HHCT), etc.		67.6%	75
		<i>answered question</i>	111
		<i>skipped question</i>	44

12. I think we should develop the Town Hall to be used for the following Community Services all that apply):

		Response Percent	Response Count
Emergency housing		48.3%	58
Summer Food Program (for children up to 18 years old)		54.2%	65
Mentoring programs – youth, literacy		74.2%	89
Blood drives		75.8%	91
Health clinic services/wellness classes		77.5%	93
Senior activities/services		84.2%	101
Teen center		65.8%	79
Daycare services		34.2%	41
Multi-generational activities (programs linking elders and youth)		75.8%	91
		<i>answered question</i>	120
		<i>skipped question</i>	35

13. I think we should develop the Town Hall to be used for the following Economic Development services (check all that apply):

		Response Percent	Response Count
Arts Resource Center/Galleries and exhibits		86.5%	96
Certified kitchen for food preparation		50.5%	56
Small business support/information		45.9%	51
		<i>answered question</i>	111
		<i>skipped question</i>	44

14. I think we should develop the Town Hall to be used for the following Community programs and events (check all that apply):

		Response Percent	Response Count
"Community Nights"-Bingo, casino nights, card games		78.2%	93
After school programs		53.8%	64
Pot lucks/socials		73.9%	88
Community Classes (e.g., arts, dance, crafts)		95.8%	114
<i>answered question</i>			119
<i>skipped question</i>			36

15. I think we should develop the Town Hall to be used for the following Income-Generating activities (check all that apply):

		Response Percent	Response Count
Contra dancing (regular monthly schedule)		71.7%	86
Auctions/flea markets		60.0%	72
Community suppers		70.8%	85
Cafe		55.8%	67
Movies		70.8%	85
Art gallery/temporary exhibits		85.0%	102
Display space		64.2%	77
Performance events		85.0%	102
Private functions/receptions		72.5%	87
<i>answered question</i>			120
<i>skipped question</i>			35

16. Other uses you suggest for the Town Hall:		Response Count
		34
	<i>answered question</i>	34
	<i>skipped question</i>	121

17. Have you ever been inside the Town Hall building?		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		63.8%	95
No		36.2%	54
	<i>answered question</i>		149
	<i>skipped question</i>		6

18. Age range (Optional – answering will help us determine if there are interests for different age groups in Town)		Response Percent	Response Count
under 18		1.4%	2
19 – 30		2.0%	3
30 – 55		58.5%	86
over 55		38.1%	56
	<i>answered question</i>		147
	<i>skipped question</i>		8

19. Do you have any additional comments?

	Response Count
	44
<i>answered question</i>	44
<i>skipped question</i>	111

Attachment 2:

Survey Comments and Responses

Huntington Town Hall Survey

Other information about the above classes or other types of classes or events you are interested in:	
	Response Count
	37
answered question	37
skipped question	118

Response Text		
1	I'm interested in singing and also interested in old-time music jams.	Apr 26, 2010 2:07 AM
2	A second place to provide people to share there adventures.	Apr 26, 2010 2:16 AM
3	Spinning classes would be great for the winter. I was a spinning instructor and would be interested in teaching classes. We might be able to find some used Spinning bikes!	Apr 26, 2010 12:56 PM
4	It all sounds great. there are so many things I would love to do, but at this time in my life, I can't particiapte. I think , however, it would go well in this community.	Apr 26, 2010 1:03 PM
5	I think that the Town Hall would be an excellent place to hold monthly contra-dances as well as various kinds of classes.	Apr 26, 2010 1:14 PM
6	jazzercise would be great and there are 2 people who can instruct in town!	Apr 26, 2010 1:21 PM
7	Some small theater would be fitting, and welcome. Maybe a group of town players?	Apr 26, 2010 1:50 PM
8	Community 'open mike' nights Weekly 'pub'	Apr 26, 2010 5:14 PM
9	Classes that would attract a range of ages and abilities.	Apr 26, 2010 7:13 PM
10	Caregiver Support Group might be good, how about a writing 'support' group or foreign language sessions (not a class-just a chance to dialog)	Apr 26, 2010 8:37 PM
11	Would love to see a yoga class offered for non-experts	Apr 26, 2010 8:45 PM
12	what about contra dances as they used to have?	Apr 27, 2010 1:03 AM
13	Gardening, composting, raising chickens, and other farm related educational programs would be great.	Apr 29, 2010 1:05 AM
14	It would be great if the space could be available to community members for a minimal charge for things like meetings, small receptions/parties, etc.	Apr 30, 2010 12:50 PM
15	I'm VERY interested, but knowing my schedule and commitments, I don't know that I could attend many.	Apr 30, 2010 2:02 PM
16	Exercise class = Zumba	Apr 30, 2010 2:54 PM
17	vocational classes, computer skills, website design, bike tuning,	May 3, 2010 12:08 AM
18	Homeschool events and meetings	May 5, 2010 11:35 AM
19	Afterschool classes for kids in any of the above plus chess club, gardening/cooking club, homework club, etc.	May 5, 2010 12:40 PM
20	Meeting space	May 5, 2010 2:15 PM
21	We used to contra dance there, that would be fun again!	May 15, 2010 12:52 PM
22	It would be nice to use the money gain from the above to offset the overhead cost of maintaining the building.	May 24, 2010 2:25 AM
23	Bus trips to casinos and other places of interest.	May 26, 2010 9:25 PM

Response Text		
24	It would be great to have a place to take classes here in Huntington instead of having to drive somewhere else.	May 30, 2010 12:08 PM
25	I would really like to have exercise classes, especially yoga.	Jun 5, 2010 12:17 PM
26	cross stitching	Jun 5, 2010 12:21 PM
27	Wildlife & conservation, travel & hiking themed	Jun 5, 2010 12:41 PM
28	movie night, pancake breakfasts, etc.	Jun 6, 2010 7:27 PM
29	Culture and academic presentations	Jun 6, 2010 7:44 PM
30	Educational programs happen at the library.	Jun 6, 2010 8:16 PM
31	Could it be a place to conduct tutoring sessions?	Jun 6, 2010 8:22 PM
32	All the above activities can be done at the school	Jun 7, 2010 12:30 AM
33	Contra dancing like the old days	Jun 7, 2010 8:40 PM
34	square & contra dances. Site of monthly meeting for Champlain Valley Fiddlers and other musical groups. Fiddle contests.	Jun 7, 2010 8:53 PM
35	tracking, gardening, photography, travel	Jun 7, 2010 9:12 PM
36	dances	Jun 7, 2010 9:15 PM
37	*Birds, flowers, tracks, etc. * Old-time music jam (fiddles, banjos) * Rounds singing * Contra dances - YEAH!	Jun 7, 2010 9:29 PM

Huntington Town Hall Survey

Please explain why you do or do not think the Town Hall should be restored.	
	Response Count
	120
<i>answered question</i>	120
<i>skipped question</i>	35

Response Text		
1	Historic value, needed space, unmet community use needs.	Apr 20, 2010 3:26 AM
2	I would like to see the town administration moved into the lower portion of the building and the upper floor used for community events. I would then recommend that the existing town offices be sold or given to a non-profit to run as a community kitchen.	Apr 20, 2010 1:13 PM
3	Great public space, historical in Huntington	Apr 26, 2010 1:51 AM
4	Because we are paying taxes on it. Otherwise sell it, but needs to be moved if it is not going to be someone's home. It is not a suitable place for parking and septic.	Apr 26, 2010 2:22 AM
5	It has been a part of this town in the past, & we should keep it that way. Having space for town folks is always a good thing!	Apr 26, 2010 10:57 AM
6	It would be great for Huntington to have space dedicated specifically to community togetherness.	Apr 26, 2010 10:59 AM
7	A lovely building, but needs to support itself, that is; not from town taxes.	Apr 26, 2010 11:20 AM
8	it would b great to put the building to use, especially with it's history.	Apr 26, 2010 11:56 AM
9	Great building, part of the town's past, large open space for plays. A great resource as the town grows.	Apr 26, 2010 12:46 PM
10	Seems like a great space that should not go to waste.	Apr 26, 2010 12:54 PM
11	It is history for the town and could be used to bring the community together.	Apr 26, 2010 12:59 PM
12	To save a historic building - improve the look of the village and provide space for community functions.	Apr 26, 2010 1:17 PM
13	I think that it should be restored because it's a historic building with great potential value as a gathering space in town. That said, restoring it is going to have to involve gutting it completely, because the reason why it was abandoned the last time was a very serious toxic mold problem. Mold, mice, and age have all made the space pretty nasty in places and making it usable, especially for people with various sensitivities and allergies, is going to involve a lot of work.	Apr 26, 2010 1:19 PM
14	The stage is wonderful, big open spaces for dances or other community events. I don't know whether we as a community have the resources to restore and heat/care for the building though.	Apr 26, 2010 1:24 PM
15	Seems that would she be taking care of infrastructure that the town has and I also love old buildings	Apr 26, 2010 1:30 PM
16	I would like to see it restored but only if the ongoing issues related to septic, parking, accessibility, etc are planned for in the initial stages. This would include how to fund such a large undertaking! For question 3 below I would be happy with the second or third choices (restore at no cost to town or lease to private developer, if this can be worked out)	Apr 26, 2010 1:39 PM
17	It is simply too unique and historical of a structure to allow to go to waste.	Apr 26, 2010 1:53 PM

Response Text		
18	cost to much to maintain for the town	Apr 26, 2010 2:11 PM
19	IT IS PART OF THE TOWN HISTORY	Apr 26, 2010 2:16 PM
20	Structure is reasonably sound. Town history should be retained.	Apr 26, 2010 5:17 PM
21	As an historical building, it is an asset to the town and community. Not restoring it allows the building to deteriorate and become an eyesore.	Apr 26, 2010 7:17 PM
22	I am torn. All of the previously mentioned activities could be done at the Library which we already pay tax dollars to maintain, heat, etc. Adding another building to the tax burden doesn't seem like a very fiscally responsible idea. I do like the idea of preserving the building but think it will need to be privately not publically funded. The parking issue makes it problematic to utilize and will make it difficult to sell.	Apr 26, 2010 8:45 PM
23	Needs to be done at a time when the community can afford it	Apr 26, 2010 8:48 PM
24	it's a historic building that helps preserve part of the character of huntington center. it needs to be used (heated, aired out) so that it stays in shape. i remember contra dances in the past, the library and other classes there--it was a great space.	Apr 27, 2010 1:08 AM
25	great historical value & community resource	Apr 28, 2010 9:49 PM
26	It is going to waste with no purpose right now, and could facilitate more community programs to add more vitality to our town.	Apr 29, 2010 1:09 AM
27	it's part of the town's history.	Apr 29, 2010 1:43 PM
28	The Town of Huntington has neither the money nor expertise to restore this building. There are plenty of local public buildings that must be maintained already. Find a way to use the library building, the school, or church for meetings.	Apr 29, 2010 3:57 PM
29	Need a venue for town events, large meetings, contra-dances etc. Could partially fund through revenue-generating activities as long as it isn't partitioned out into offices etc.	Apr 30, 2010 1:39 AM
30	Great building with history, central location and space.	Apr 30, 2010 11:26 AM
31	Well,it's there. I hate to see old buildings just rot away.	Apr 30, 2010 12:41 PM
32	It's a great building, and there are many potential uses for it. Newer buildings just don't have the charm or history.	Apr 30, 2010 12:54 PM
33	It is a historical building and I believe in preserving the past.	Apr 30, 2010 12:54 PM
34	Because vital village centers support neighborliness and civility; increase a sense of citizenship.	Apr 30, 2010 2:05 PM
35	Huntington needs a centrally located community space.	May 1, 2010 3:38 PM
36	If the overall town consensus is no, then I think it should not be considered.	May 3, 2010 12:13 AM
37	Of course cost benefits vs alternatives is part of that decision. If our space in the current Town Office is cramped and a lot of money needs to be put into that building, restoring the Woodsmen Bldg might be a better approach.	May 3, 2010 12:47 PM
38	we need a community space, the hall needs to be saved for historical reasons	May 3, 2010 11:58 PM
39	Great old building, but would like to see it restored/developed w/ private funds.	May 4, 2010 2:03 PM

Response Text		
40	<p>Although you, Aaron, have done a lot of good work on this project and I, like you, believe in historical preservation and that communities should preserve their roots, in this instance the obstacles to be overcome are too great to justify the energy and expense of proceeding:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the technical problems and costs of rehabbing the building in any suitable way have not been even remotely determined at this point. 2. Septic will be (if doable at all) very expensive not cost effective by any reasonable standard. 3. There is no parking. Adoption of ANY use under the Huntington Zoning Regulations will require, among other things, meeting the parking requirements set forth in Section 5.5. Therefore, any plan to develop the building must include the purchase of land from one or more adjoining land owners. Therefore, realistic parking plans and the expense of purchasing suitable and adequate adjoining properties would have to be included in any development plan. 4. When you get beyond the nice ideas and the wishful thinking and actually add up with solid numbers of how much any basic development plan would cost, the expense of any rehabilitation in place would be prohibitive. It might be possible to move artifacts from the town hall into some new town building (conceptualized and designed to meet the future needs of the town) to add an historical patina to such a new structure. 5. Having observed the members of a land trust group in a meeting, that group is not the appropriate vehicle to achieve anything practical (whether related to this town hall or probably anything else). As sweet and good hearted as its members are, I suspect that that organization will kill anything it touches. 	May 4, 2010 3:44 PM
41	Communities should have public buildings available for groups to gather for free or at a nominal charge.	May 5, 2010 11:38 AM
42	It is an asset to the community and a historical building. It's proximity to the school makes it a potential asset to the school community as well for afterschool programs.	May 5, 2010 12:45 PM
43	it should be restored and rented out so the town will have extra income, the income should be used for new equipment and extra need the town may have.	May 5, 2010 1:25 PM
44	It's an underutilized town resource	May 6, 2010 4:57 PM
45	It could be the center hub of the local community again.	May 9, 2010 3:15 PM
46	Would be great to use that space and get to meet neighbors	May 10, 2010 1:35 PM
47	I think we should keep the lot, but build a purpose built building. Having worked in several "restored" historical buildings, it seems they rarely meet the desired purposes and maintenance costs are always higher.	May 12, 2010 6:13 PM
48	But I am concerned that the cost must not exceed the benefit to the town.	May 12, 2010 7:57 PM
49	centrally located community space. The stage and wooden dance floor are unique spaces in town. The school gym is too institutional feeling.	May 15, 2010 12:19 PM
50	historic preservation and community space	May 15, 2010 12:20 PM
51	because of its historical and cultural significance	May 19, 2010 4:24 PM
52	I think it needs to be moved to be restored and used - and the land should be sold to help fund moving the building. Perhaps, a purchase of a neighboring property would alleviate parking issues to leave the building in place.	May 24, 2010 2:08 AM
53	It's historical.... and we owe it to the folk that gave it to us.	May 24, 2010 2:33 AM
54	It's either that or tear it down and sell as salvage.	May 24, 2010 10:09 AM
55	No parking, or rest rooms not A.D.A. accessible. cost too much to fix	May 24, 2010 10:11 AM
56	It'd be a great space especially with the stage. However, parking is a problem.	May 24, 2010 11:13 AM
57	We have so many buildings already. I think we should take care of what we own already.	May 24, 2010 1:51 PM

Response Text		
58	Important to have a community space in Huntington Center - it's great to have the school as one also. I LOVE the Town Hall space, it's history, and it feels like a gathering place for community for things like dancing, singing, meetings...	May 24, 2010 2:28 PM
59	It's a wonderful old building.	May 25, 2010 1:20 AM
60	The town is in need of a meeting place other than Brewster Pierce Elementary School.	May 26, 2010 9:29 PM
61	We are a small town with relatively few central areas for coming together for discussion and recreation, and to improve our sense of community. A restored Town Hall could be an ideal location for these types of activities.	May 28, 2010 1:15 PM
62	wonderful community resource!	May 29, 2010 11:17 AM
63	it would enhance what is already a very interactive/friendly community and provide some additional (fun, useful) services that most of us don't have ready access to without driving some distance	May 30, 2010 1:55 AM
64	I think it should be restored and used depending on how much it cost to do so and the cost to make the building safe.	May 30, 2010 11:33 AM
65	It's a great building that has no use if it just sits there. Makes it unsafe for the community to have an abandoned building.	May 30, 2010 11:35 AM
66	It is a part of our town history that can be saved and renovated to be of use to the community.	May 30, 2010 11:36 AM
67	I am not sure how to answer that question. The amount of money that would have to go into it would make a big difference in how I would answer.	May 30, 2010 12:12 PM
68	It is a wonderful, strong, historical building, with the best dance floor in Huntington	May 30, 2010 12:14 PM
69	Hate to see another beautiful old building lost	May 30, 2010 1:22 PM
70	restored by non-town related party, let them worry about inadequate parking, access. septic	May 30, 2010 2:34 PM
71	Because it is a public building in town. Right now I drive to other towns to do yoga and I would love to be able to cut out the driving. This us just an example of an activity that could occur in town that would cut down on driving and bring people together.	May 30, 2010 3:50 PM
72	It would be a good community gathering spot	May 30, 2010 3:55 PM
73	Because our town lacks a good meeting place and it would be a good community environment	May 30, 2010 4:19 PM
74	Maintain the culture of the area. Better than a new building.	May 30, 2010 7:38 PM
75	It's a money pit	Jun 5, 2010 12:02 PM
76	Great historic building, sense of community	Jun 5, 2010 12:05 PM
77	Re-use of historic building saves money and keeps history	Jun 5, 2010 12:08 PM
78	There are many uses such as a teen center.	Jun 5, 2010 12:22 PM
79	Restored/developed to take advantage of space for classes.	Jun 5, 2010 12:25 PM
80	Part of the Town heritage and could be a very useful building.	Jun 5, 2010 12:30 PM
81	As with UMH - it becomes an asset to the Town.	Jun 5, 2010 12:32 PM
82	Historic and cultural resource	Jun 5, 2010 12:35 PM
83	Currently a resource that's underutilized. Don't really connect with historic preservation side but think it could be a valuable space to community.	Jun 5, 2010 12:43 PM
84	nice old building, we seem to need the space	Jun 6, 2010 7:29 PM
85	This is a resource we have on hand.	Jun 6, 2010 7:32 PM
86	We need more community space in town and it's sad to see a historic building deteriorate.	Jun 6, 2010 7:37 PM
87	To preserve the building + community, or town use	Jun 6, 2010 7:46 PM
88	Historic	Jun 6, 2010 8:12 PM

Response Text		
89	Depends on the affordability to the Town	Jun 7, 2010 12:22 AM
90	* Very low cost/benefit ratio *Way down the list of priorities *All the reasons it hasn't been done already	Jun 7, 2010 12:27 AM
91	We will never get it back	Jun 7, 2010 12:45 AM
92	Preserves	Jun 7, 2010 8:42 PM
93	It would be fun for the town and a way to develop relationships and provide opportunities to learn and be active that we currently go to Richmond and Hinesburgh for - not far - but still maybe we'd do more if nearby, especially in winter.	Jun 7, 2010 8:56 PM
94	It would be a good use and I think very worth it.	Jun 7, 2010 9:16 PM
95	So it can be used for fundraisers and community uses.	Jun 7, 2010 9:19 PM
96	It will increase our community spirit.	Jun 11, 2010 12:23 AM
97	We need to perpetuate the Vermont "flavor" or culture, by preserving old buildings.	Jun 12, 2010 9:29 PM
98	Can't maintain what we have.	Jun 12, 2010 9:38 PM
99	Maybe, but now is not a good time due to the economy. Even with a grant we must consider future costs and upkeep.	Jun 12, 2010 9:39 PM
100	This would provide a sizeable place for townsfolk to gather socially.	Jun 12, 2010 9:45 PM
101	For office revenue	Jun 12, 2010 9:49 PM
102	Town general space, need the room	Jun 12, 2010 9:51 PM
103	There is a need.	Jun 12, 2010 9:52 PM
104	It is a wonderful building and a good place for community gatherings.	Jun 12, 2010 9:56 PM
105	Unless it costs more than we have to restore it. I would hate to see it fall down.	Jun 12, 2010 9:59 PM
106	Money. Having been involved in the restoration of the Union Meeting House, I know the struggles and cost overruns and the battles. The budget for maintaining the building is never enough and it has to be an emergency before the funds are allocated from the town. Plus UMH is a great building for all the things mentioned above. Do we need 2?	Jun 12, 2010 10:02 PM
107	We can always use public space for events like those described above.	Jun 12, 2010 10:03 PM
108	Too expensive for a small town. Not enough people to use it when the library building isn't used very much and taxes pay a lot for it. The only exception would be if it were used for town offices. But very expensive for a few offices.	Jun 12, 2010 10:07 PM
109	In the spirit of its original use.	Jun 12, 2010 10:08 PM
110	Expensive, lengthy restoration is unwise. Spend money to build a new Town Clerk's office - not resurrect a dump with no parking and insufficient septic system.	Jun 12, 2010 10:09 PM
111	I don't think that Huntington is a big enough town to need or financially support another community building. Why can't the UMH be used for the above classes/events?	Jun 12, 2010 10:11 PM
112	It is OUR Town Hall and historical.	Jun 12, 2010 10:12 PM
113	Better than being vacant. I thought it has been restored already??	Jun 12, 2010 10:13 PM
114	To utilize an excellent building for community use.	Jun 12, 2010 10:17 PM
115	To preserve an old building and give it a new purpose.	Jun 12, 2010 10:19 PM
116	great building	Jun 12, 2010 10:21 PM
117	The community needs a meeting place.	Jun 12, 2010 10:25 PM
118	Historic building with potential. Restorable.	Jun 12, 2010 10:27 PM
119	Community use.	Jun 12, 2010 10:28 PM
120	A central community gathering place is a great idea for any population.	Jun 12, 2010 10:29 PM

Huntington Town Hall Survey

Other uses you suggest for the Town Hall:	
	Response Count
	34
answered question	34
skipped question	121

Response Text		
1	We can use the library for most of the events. The only thing I can think of is to use the town hall as our true town hall, and get rid of the building across the road.	Apr 26, 2010 11:20 AM
2	Maybe free/inexpensive space for small business incubation.	Apr 26, 2010 5:17 PM
3	Actually they all sound great, but where would people park, the handicapped accessibility is expensive, etc....Sorry to be a wet blanket but this just isn't the time to ask residents to pay more taxes.	Apr 26, 2010 8:45 PM
4	Homeschooler events and get-together meetings.	Apr 29, 2010 1:09 AM
5	a vistor/historical center since it sits on the edge to camel's hump.	Apr 29, 2010 1:43 PM
6	Sell it with no restrictions. Use any proceeds to help offset costs of repair to other buildings -- the town garage, town offices, or the library steeple.	Apr 29, 2010 3:57 PM
7	I think it would be best served as a youth center.	Apr 30, 2010 12:41 PM
8	Recreation info: trailhead maps and advice, community teams (contacts, schedules)	Apr 30, 2010 2:05 PM
9	I think the library does a good job of providing space for performance events, etc. and the town hall should be more a meeting place with capacity for community services.	Apr 30, 2010 2:58 PM
10	Elderly Housing	May 3, 2010 12:13 AM
11	Summer camps	May 5, 2010 12:45 PM
12	Other dance events, besides contra dancing.	May 12, 2010 6:13 PM
13	You've covered it!	May 15, 2010 12:55 PM
14	I do not think the building should be used for office space for private groups in the community. Also, there is no storage space for town use like storage of voting booths, desks, chairs, etc. A small area could be used for this.	May 24, 2010 2:08 AM
15	It should not compete with the private sector in any way. ie: art gallery, private functions etc.	May 24, 2010 10:09 AM
16	Sold to house a tax paying buisness.	May 24, 2010 10:11 AM
17	There's a lot of potential in that old building, however I know that the perennial problem is the issue of parking. Until that's resolved, the Town Hall will remain a conundrum.	May 24, 2010 11:13 AM
18	I'm not sure if the various groups of uses suggested are mutually exclusive. Also where applicable, events/classes/etc should contribute to the costs of the center (or is that already totally obvious)	May 30, 2010 1:55 AM
19	Exercise room with equipment.	Jun 6, 2010 7:32 PM

Response Text		
20	All these uses are important, looks like folks need to think through priority uses. I see that the building has potential for many uses.	Jun 6, 2010 7:46 PM
21	Does the town need more room?	Jun 6, 2010 8:12 PM
22	If used for meetings and hearing of Town committees then maybe yes on use of taxes.	Jun 7, 2010 8:56 PM
23	A restaurant! This would be very cool. A "Checquers" style restaurant, once in Richmond, would thrive.	Jun 12, 2010 9:29 PM
24	Voting	Jun 12, 2010 9:47 PM
25	Anything that will make good revenue for the Town: renting out for office space to a lawyer, doctor, etc. or anyone that can pay \$2000 or more a month to go directly to the Town equipment fund.	Jun 12, 2010 9:49 PM
26	NO to use as office space for Town officials	Jun 12, 2010 9:51 PM
27	Income generating. Food kept to a minimum for cleanliness, risk of vermin etc.	Jun 12, 2010 9:52 PM
28	Tear it down and sell the lot	Jun 12, 2010 10:01 PM
29	Any and all that are feasible. It is missed!	Jun 12, 2010 10:12 PM
30	I don't know if this already available in the HPL; but there's a need for new space. I'm interested in: - clothes swaps - dancing of all kinds - \$3 dinner: people sign up to cook a big dinner (for say 25) and it's first come, first served, \$3 a head until it runs out. The cook reimburses him/herself with the cash collected. the next time, someone else cooks (a monthly thing or weekly if there's interest), or maybe weekly for just one season (winter!) a year.	Jun 12, 2010 10:15 PM
31	They all sound like excellent uses of the space. No housing - emergency sheltering? I would say yes. (Housing / sheltering differ substantially)	Jun 12, 2010 10:17 PM
32	Future use for municipal services if tax money is used for restoration. The school should be available for after school programs.	Jun 12, 2010 10:19 PM
33	Town Flea Markets Brewster Pierce can be used for the summer food program, teen center, daycare services and after school programs.	Jun 12, 2010 10:21 PM
34	No cafe, costly.	Jun 12, 2010 10:29 PM

Huntington Town Hall Survey

Do you have any additional comments?	
	Response Count
	44
answered question	44
skipped question	111

Response Text		
1	Great Survey!	Apr 26, 2010 2:22 AM
2	Our community can not support and maintain two lovely old buildings. So, lets sell the Town Hall to someone that has the financial capabilities to restore it and maintain it.	Apr 26, 2010 11:21 AM
3	Thanks for doing this!	Apr 26, 2010 1:17 PM
4	I think that the educational/literacy programs mentioned in the last part of the survey, as well as the cafe, should be established in the Huntington Library, which is already a community center, the place where people are working on establishing a cafe, and a convenient and obvious place for literacy-centered activities. The Town Hall establishment should not take away from anything the happens at the library/community center now, except for dances, as there isn't really enough space for a sizable dance in the library.	Apr 26, 2010 1:22 PM
5	There are lots of ways to imagine using the facility, but the number one issue of funding needs to be addressed first!	Apr 26, 2010 1:40 PM
6	Keep up the good work	Apr 26, 2010 1:53 PM
7	sell the building to a private developer	Apr 26, 2010 2:13 PM
8	I really enjoy using the Union Meeting House for community events. I hope that this building would be used in addition to the library space and not take away from.	Apr 29, 2010 1:01 PM
9	I think that we have other spaces in town that are suitable for meals so do not think that this building should be refurbished with a kitchen, etc. that would increase the expense of renovation. Instead, I think that it would make sense to use the building for committee offices perhaps and also for community events, exhibits, evening and weekend classes, and space for senior activities.	Apr 30, 2010 12:57 PM
10	Of all the uses, I am most excited about a community center, where activities and events are scheduled for people of all ages. I am most concerned that there is a fun, appealing place for teens--particularly those that are at risk. I also like the idea of a place where older folks who may be in need of company can come together socially. Finally, I think it would be great to have a space where classes could be offered. Thanks!!	Apr 30, 2010 12:59 PM
11	I actually don't know if I've _ever_ been in -- maybe. But not recently (last couple of years)	Apr 30, 2010 2:06 PM
12	I agree to lease it to a contractor, but it should be a shorter term to help with costs of restoring it.	May 3, 2010 12:14 AM
13	Would prefer to focus on developing our library as a community center, using town funds. Would love to see the old town hall restored, but not w/ town funds.	May 4, 2010 2:03 PM

Response Text		
14	Thanks for doing this. I hope the community will get behind this effort. It's a tough time to be talking about trying to raise money, but it's also an opportune time to be exploring creative ways to improve our community and therefore our local economy.	May 5, 2010 12:47 PM
15	I would love to see the inside of the building.	May 5, 2010 11:59 PM
16	We must be careful not to have an excessively romantic notion about "historic" bldgs. Old does not always mean well built or possibilities for optimal use of space. Richmond restored buildings to create their Town Center and Library - neither which serve their intended purposes particularly well and both have high maintenance costs.	May 12, 2010 6:18 PM
17	I was intrigued by the option to sell the property to a private developer. Is there any serious interest? I did not choose this as my preferred preservation option because I didn't know how realistic it is. Don't rule it out if there is interest!	May 15, 2010 12:20 PM
18	limited parking could be a draw-back for large attendance uses	May 19, 2010 4:24 PM
19	I really think that in the plan to restore there should be an emphases on self reliance in acquiring the resources needed to achieve that end result and that that plan - and the history- be passed onto any new member that decides to join the effort so they will make informed decisions that reflect the plan.	May 24, 2010 2:49 AM
20	in the past parking has been mentioned as a problem. It is not really, since the building is situated on a public ROW.	May 24, 2010 10:10 AM
21	unload this pink elephant	May 24, 2010 10:11 AM
22	Although I'm excited about a wide variety of uses for this building, I'm concerned that lack of parking and sewage capacity will limit our options.	May 24, 2010 7:13 PM
23	I had major guilt answering the quesiton about where the money should come from. I dn't mind paying a little extra in taxes but I know that's completely unfair to every other person in the town. OTOH, it would give everyone a vested interest in the space and a sense of ownership. (I'm a libra...so this is hard for me, sorry.)	May 30, 2010 1:57 AM
24	thank you for all your time and energy in this phase of the project	May 30, 2010 12:15 PM
25	It would be great to have a space to share with the community. I would hesitate to spend a ton of money on the building and ask the town to pick up the bill. We do not have the funds to just "restore" the building. If it could be an on going project that the whole town helps out with fund raising, work parties etc. I'm sure there would be a lot of enthusiasm around restoring the building.	May 30, 2010 12:18 PM
26	Survey is biased. Should have included questions surrounding cost and usage about all town buildings. Expense of restoration would be onerous to tax payers and unnecessary given that our other town structures are not fully utilized. Is this some sort of fantasy for the HHCT to use conservation funds?	May 30, 2010 2:43 PM
27	I love this building.	Jun 5, 2010 12:36 PM
28	All the uses sound good, I just don't know if we need more room. We will eventually so good to preserve building. Parking is a problem for any of these uses. Could we move it to where the old firehouse is?	Jun 6, 2010 8:13 PM
29	The building should be sold with a covenant requiring the outside to retain it's historical appearance.	Jun 7, 2010 12:29 AM
30	It is hard to get town resources back once they are gone. It's good to have them as multifunctional as possible.	Jun 7, 2010 12:45 AM
31	I think the Town Hall should be moved to the rec field - it would have ample parking, plumbing, accessibility for all.	Jun 7, 2010 8:39 PM
32	Have you seen restoration and use of other town halls? Probably! Monkton is working on theirs and developing activities that bring the town together. Thanks for all your work on this.	Jun 7, 2010 8:57 PM
33	I would love to see all this happen.	Jun 7, 2010 9:17 PM
34	It has come a long way and has been fixed up a lot and it looks nice.	Jun 7, 2010 9:19 PM

Response Text		
35	Idea: How about a Book Trade - when people congregate and offer to give away or trade for other books. If it got popular enough, then you could subspecialize the topic, i.e., Book Trade - History & Biograghy, Booktrade - Sciences, Booktrade - Mystery & Romance. Booktrade - Erotica. This may pull out more interesting books because people will be looking specifically for them.	Jun 12, 2010 9:30 PM
36	I imagine the town hall is the building directly across the street from the fire house, church, and current offices. But an explanation, address etc. would be helpful.	Jun 12, 2010 9:53 PM
37	Restore the building only if other funds can be raised. If it is not an option, then lease or sell it.	Jun 12, 2010 9:59 PM
38	There is NO parking	Jun 12, 2010 10:01 PM
39	I think money should be raised to put a kitchen on the back of the library - then it would serve even more purposes and then only one building would be needed for the town. Already, actually there is the elementary school, fire house, church, rec field as other venues for events, meetings. Thanks for asking.	Jun 12, 2010 10:02 PM
40	Talk to library people to see if that building is at capacity for groups and events. If it isn't, why restore another old building and pay so much for it? The Town Hall may have bad mold - the library had to disinfect the books when it moved out of there.	Jun 12, 2010 10:07 PM
41	Great stage with wonderful history	Jun 12, 2010 10:08 PM
42	A new town clerk's office should include a meeting room that seats at least 50 people and has 4-8x the present parking capacity. It should also be prewired for IT usage. I think the library already has underutilized capacity for the limited interest in classes shown by the small Huntington community.	Jun 12, 2010 10:09 PM
43	I really like the idea of community space and all of the opportunities that are available when a town has good space to use. I believe, however, that Huntington has paid dearly for the UMH and that this space is currently underfunded and under utilized. I don't believe that a town the size of huntington currently has the volunteer force or the financial resources to take on another old building.	Jun 12, 2010 10:11 PM
44	Appreciate the interest and information provided.	Jun 12, 2010 10:27 PM