

Leverett Affordable Housing Trust Survey of Residents 55 & Older
Summary of Comments

Comments fell into 3 main categories:

- concerns about affordability;
- concerns about future health and physical capacity; and
- future planning.

There were also comments about services that are more applicable to the Council on Aging.

Concerns about Affordability:

Most of the concerns centered on taxes. This was expressed in the numbers as well as the comments. There were additional comments to those below expressing the same sentiments.

- "Love Leverett and our home but taxes are high and services are not provided." (ages 67 and 70)
- "Our property taxes are \$8500 and this is our biggest expense; more than our mortgage, health care and utilities. Leverett has priced us out of living here." (ages 58 and 57)
- "We want to stay in our house as long as we can afford to do so." (age 67)
- "I would like to stay but high real estate taxes will make that impossible when I stop working." (age 66)
- "Would like to stay but do not see how I can afford a mortgage payment and taxes." (age 60)

Concerns about Future Health and Physical Capacity:

- "Our choice is to stay in place but we will need assistance."
- "Would like to stay but Leverett has a lack of services."
- "We'll stay for about the next 15 years. I may get to the point where I can't take care of the yard and want to live in Senior Housing." (age 69)
- "Vision eventually will result in driving problems." (age 74)
- "Depends on health and capacity" (age 78)
- "I would like to stay as long as I can maintain my home and yard. Property taxes would be a big concern but my ability to maintain it would be the major concern." (age 67)
- "We're considering moving to a condo style residence where maintenance would be at a minimum" (ages 76 and 74)
- "We'll stay as long as our health is reasonably good and we can drive and maintain house and live independently. May move to a warmer climate." (ages 66 and 67)
- "Stay until I am physically able to maintain home. Then move to elderly housing with services. Nice if it was in Leverett." (ages 72 and 70)

Future Planning:

- "No immediate plans." (ages 71 and 70)
- "Too early to tell." (ages 61 and 63)
- "Long terms answers not needed at present." (ages 71 and 72)
- "Built a house to support our aging-in-place in Leverett; one floor, easy maintenance; closer to Amherst, not hilly, etc." (ages 69 and 69)
- "I would love to add an accessible addition to my home, for me to live in after retirement. Then a family member and their family could live in the main part of the original house." (age 63)

Comments relevant to needs other than housing availability and affordability:

- "A more open and developed Senior Support System would be important addition to the Town; possibly a Senior Center and office?" (ages 70 and 73)

"Helping with food acquisition; perhaps tapping into the Stop & Shop service by doing a weekly or bi-weekly collection and delivery to elders. Also tapping into some of the carry out options to get food delivered." (age 87)

"I would like an ombudsman to discuss my housing needs as they arise. I am unaware of services and programs that exist that could help with my maintenance, repairs, financial issues; people with integrity and lower prices I could call upon." (age 72)