

Shaftsbury Economic Development Committee  
Town Green & Community Center Survey 2023 • Shaftsbury, Vermont

Survey Results & Economic Development Committee Recommendations

The Economic Development Committee (EDC) engaged the community in a survey following up on the ARPA Committee’s recommendation that money should be used to turn Cole Hall and its immediate surroundings into a Community Center/Town Green – one that can host community events both large and small, indoors and outdoors. The Community Center and Town Green would be a municipal building funded by ARPA funds, private donations and state/federal grants and will be developed over the next five years. The Town, EDC, Shaftsbury Citizens and Bennington County Regional Commission will work in concert to bring this idea to fruition. To read more about the ARPA Committee’s recommendations, please read the Town’s 2022 Annual Report. The survey garnered 128 responses. Thank you to everyone who participated!

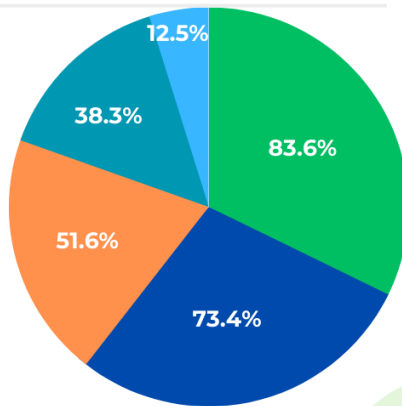
**SHAFTSBURY COMMUNITY CENTER SURVEY**

**QUESTION #1**

Which of the following amenities would you like to see in the **Community Center**?



- Meeting/Events/Fitness Space
- Offerings for Seniors and Youth
- Commercial Kitchen/Meal Preparation
- Medical Room for Pop-up Clinics
- Other



128 Responses

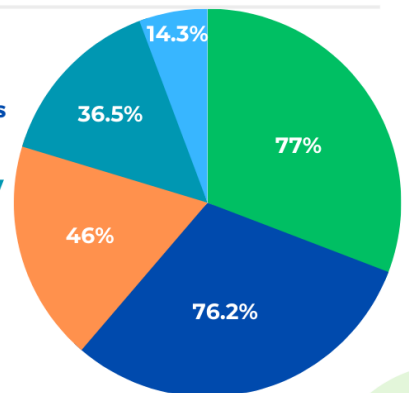
**SHAFTSBURY COMMUNITY CENTER SURVEY**

**QUESTION #2**

Which of the following amenities would you like to see on the **Town Green**?



- Picnic Tables & Grassy Green
- A Gazebo/Stage for Performances
- Skating Rink/Splash Pad
- Solar Covered Parking/Lot and EV (Electric Vehicle) Stations
- Other



128 Responses

## **EDC Recommendations to the Selectboard**

### **Meeting/Events/Fitness Space - 107 responses**

The EDC recommends seeking funding to create a meeting/event space in the newly formed community center. The recommendation is to provide a large open-concept space that would allow for multiple uses. This would provide a space for the town to gather for Town Meeting Day with a large screen and audiovisual/zoom capabilities and a sound system, provide a heat pump generated warming/cooling shelter for residents as our climate changes, have a gathering space for senior/youth programming, a space for medical pop-ups by local community agencies including SASH (Support and Services At Home) and accommodate a public toilet, sink and shower for folks who are housing insecure. The EDC would recommend finding matching grants to provide a kitchen space including an oven and sink to help with meal preparation for community events.

### **Offerings for Seniors and Youth - 94 responses**

There was a clear consensus that citizens would like to see programming for seniors and youth. The EDC envisions educational programming, senior brown bag lunches, The Shaftsbury Historical Society presentations, and a reading/classroom/workshop space in the community center. The EDC would recommend that discussion with other towns/non-profits/organizations like the Arlington Common, Queer Connect, the McCullough Library, Lake Paran Recreations, Shaftsbury Elementary School, and Neighbor-to-Neighbor to learn about successful programming. The group would recommend partnering with agencies and organizations to provide the space for this programming to occur. Examples might be Bone Builder classes, SASH Foot Clinics, Meals on Wheels, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, American Legion, and more.

### **Town Green - 96 responses**

The town does not have a *downtown* recreation area. The town has purchased 2.2 acres next door to Cole Hall where the town garage once stood. The EDC recommends creating a large green, with trees for shade, picnic benches, a community garden, places to park bikes, benches to sit on and a fire pit/skating rink/splash pad in different seasons. The EDC recommends partnering with the Recreation Committee to create these opportunities and potentially in years to come connect the town green to Howard Park via a walking path.

### **Gazebo/Stage for Performances - 97 responses**

In addition to the grassy area in the town green, the EDC would recommend a large gazebo with solar panels that would accommodate community events/concerts outdoors. Many citizens added that they would like to see concerts, a return of our community dances, food trucks, and a holiday outdoor market.

Thank you,

*Shaftsbury Economic Development Committee*