

What participants **like** about Lexington:

Resources in town: Cary Library (excellent); arts and crafts; workshops; lectures; listserv information; much stimulation; intellectual resources and knowledgeable residents; Hayden Recreation (ice skating mentioned); bike path; Town pool	CAAL
Good sense of town/community: fit in well with schools and neighbors; have nice sense walking around town; stores, restaurants provide what we want; peace of mind (safety); Patriots' Day and other activities	CAAL
Conservation lands and other open space of great value	CAAL
Town Center: attractive design; ice cream shop	CAAL
Diversity: positive aspect of Lexington; meet interesting people of different backgrounds; culture and activities	CAAL
Strong Chinese community – helpful/support	CAAL
Schools have good quality; education is important: Highly educated citizens; university professors in Lexington (authors, poets, Nobel Prize winners); art as well as other required classes are important	CAAL
People trust town—trust the Selectmen's decisions	CAAL
Like historical nature of town	CAAL
Proximity to Boston and what it provides is good	CAAL
Property values	CAAL
Lexington life style characterized by education, arts & culture and open space	Chamber of Commerce
Perimeter of the town well planned and getting increasing attention.	Chamber of Commerce
Sense of community and small-town feeling.	Chamber of Commerce
People, heritage, town culture, commitment of business to make it better	Chamber of Commerce
Pride of ownership.	Chamber of Commerce
Center of town is a social meeting place. number of coffee spots in town seen as positive in this regard.	Chamber of Commerce
Lexington Center is still viable despite turnover of businesses.	Chamber of Commerce
Business community is well networked.	Chamber of Commerce
Welcoming place for ethnic minorities.	Chamber of Commerce
Lexington is aligned with science and humanities culture.	Chamber of Commerce
Quality of schools is major factor. investment in education priority. attractiveness of the town all starts with the schools as the core.	Chamber of Commerce
Good garbage pick up.	Chamber of Commerce
Boards do not dominate the town.	Chamber of Commerce
Preservation of historic element important while allowing progress to continue.	Chamber of Commerce
Good transportation access to Boston and other areas.	Chamber of Commerce
Great library	Chamber of Commerce
Great place to raise a family. Old fashioned values. Cars stop for pedestrians.	Chamber of Commerce
Rural atmosphere and pride in gardening outlets	Chamber of Commerce
Walkability of Lexington, specifically regarding the bikepath	Chamber of Commerce
Access to transportation & roads	Citizens Academy graduates
Bike path	Citizens Academy graduates
Community involvement	Citizens Academy graduates
Open space	Citizens Academy graduates
Diversity	Citizens Academy graduates
Schools	Citizens Academy graduates
Town staff response	Citizens Academy graduates
Historical nature / tourists	Citizens Academy graduates

Intellectual	Citizens Academy graduates
Library / resources	Citizens Academy graduates
Progressive / liberal	Citizens Academy graduates
Amenities: Hayden, bike path, Town pool, library, movie theater, town Center, Farmers' Market, community farms	GWAC
Small town feel: no big box stores, small gathering places (Depot Square, the Green, coffee shops)	GWAC
Involved citizens	GWAC
Lack of divisive institutions: e.g. Country Club	GWAC
Lexington Interfaith Association	GWAC
Conservation	GWAC
Education	GWAC
Responsiveness of town officials, both elected and paid staff	GWAC
Professionally run Town	GWAC
Historical character	GWAC
Politically liberal	GWAC
Safe, low crime, police force	GWAC
Recreation – especially children	IAL
Welcoming	IAL
Pride	IAL
Active residents – 89 Town	IAL
Town Center – lively	IAL
Diversity	IAL
Involved parents	IAL
Parks/concerts	IAL
Parades	IAL
Committees, more than 150 civic associations	IAL
Historic houses	IAL
Location	IAL
Open / curious	IAL
Well-informed	IAL
Library	IAL
Diverse activities important in bringing people together - sports, band concerts	Interfaith Clergy
Lexington is a community of people that work together to make Lexington better	Interfaith Clergy
People supporting others—a community rather than just residents	Interfaith Clergy
People feel they are in something together—making connections	Interfaith Clergy
“It’s not suburban; not a bedroom community”	Interfaith Clergy
Interfaith garden brings town together	Interfaith Clergy
Town with vitality	Interfaith Clergy
Green places: many places to walk and run; like commitment to conservation lands	Interfaith Clergy
Downtown area dynamic - library, meet for coffee/lunch	Interfaith Clergy
Nice feeling of tolerance of other groups (ethnic, religious differences) - Despite the tolerance, some groups have a harder time fitting in.	Interfaith Clergy
Good schools are an important part of Lexington that draws people - people value education; “best move for children”	Interfaith Clergy
Lexington Reads: unifies people intellectually and socially	Interfaith Clergy
Interesting lectures	Interfaith Clergy
Many volunteers on committees – “Share responsibility of being a citizen”	Interfaith Clergy
Like the history of the town	Interfaith Clergy

Progressive environment	Interfaith Clergy
Citizens take recycling very seriously	Interfaith Clergy
Town programs - soccer (LUSC private uses Town fields), recreation programs,	
Little League parade	LexFun
Sense of community – people have sense of identify, “belonging”	LexFun
Community groups, such as Garden Club	LexFun
Green space (Willard’s Woods, Great Meadow) - well maintained, programs (Big Backyard), trails	LexFun
Attention to schools	LexFun
Tax dollars are spend on things that are important – Town resources and programs	LexFun
Hayden Recreation Center	Rotary
Supportive dental community, specialties	Rotary
Great Rotary Club	Rotary
Bike path	Rotary
Public Works building	Rotary
Commitment to open space	Rotary
People have varied amount of time here	Rotary
Quality of schools	Rotary
Quality of volunteers in Town	Rotary
Town well run	Rotary
Problems get attention, are addressed	Rotary
Well-respected	Rotary
Arts & culture – symphony, lectures, Monroe Center for the Arts, National Heritage Museum, Historical Society	Rotary
Library	Rotary
Quality of life	Rotary
Safe neighborhoods	Rotary
Good place for kids to grow up	Rotary
Town has unique aspects (not homogeneous suburb)	Rotary
Good things happening	Rotary
People are friendly	Rotary

What participants **would like to be different** about Lexington:

Not enough playgrounds for children	CAAL
Sidewalks and Roads: Not enough of them; Not kept up; Sometimes have to walk on	CAAL
Need better public transportation, including buses in Lexington on Sunday	CAAL
Keep and increase conservation land; less development	CAAL
More involvement by Chinese community important; language barrier is a problem	CAAL
Others need to understand the Asian culture	CAAL
School decisions should be made in a more open way; problems include: School	CAAL
School curriculum and choices of classes—need more flexibility	CAAL
Art classes in demand and many students cannot take the classes they want—more	CAAL
Regression of quality of schools from elementary to middle school to high school	CAAL
School lunch too expensive	CAAL
Not clear who to talk to when there is a bad experience with a teacher	CAAL
Question of cost vs. benefit for school field trips in middle and high school	CAAL
High school too big—teachers don't know the kids	CAAL
Would like better teachers at all levels of schools	CAAL
Should not have to pay for school bus or after-school program (both too expensive)	CAAL
Parent-teacher conferences are held only if there is a problem; they should be held for	CAAL
Lexington High School does not have adequate communication (quality and	CAAL
Town budgeting process and priorities	CAAL
Concern about so many retirees in Town Meeting—seems that Lexington is trying to	CAAL
Asian community would like to increase their participation in committees in town -	CAAL
People living in Lexington are not in the real world	CAAL
Loss of Lexington Gardens (nursery and farm) was unfortunate for people living near	CAAL
Decide about the future of the town	CAAL
Residential/Commercial proportion: Town budget poor; Taxes paid mainly by	CAAL
Certain segments of the Lexington population not being reached out to.	Chamber of Commerce
More restaurants and bars in the Center would serve employees of companies in the	Chamber of Commerce
There is need to enable more independent business owners to locate in town.	Chamber of Commerce
The rent cost structure is less of an issue if the customer traffic could be higher.	Chamber of Commerce
Not small business friendly type of town.	Chamber of Commerce
Parking is more of an issue than the tax base. Businesses do not come into town	Chamber of Commerce
No sidewalks in the corporate commercial districts on the periphery.	Chamber of Commerce
Hartwell Avenue's companies not well integrated. Need to get them to be more	Chamber of Commerce
Make Lexington a Life Sciences Hub (not just Boston/Cambridge)	Chamber of Commerce
Length of permitting process is too demanding (number of parking spaces	Chamber of Commerce
Promote economic development and balance in the outlying commercial districts	Chamber of Commerce
Town needs more consistency and clarity in the zoning process.	Chamber of Commerce
Commercial tax base and commercial property rental costs are higher than	Chamber of Commerce
No immediate train connection.	Chamber of Commerce
Need to tap human capital.	Chamber of Commerce
Infrastructure (want a better plan)	Citizens Academy graduates
Streets are deteriorating(Marrett & Bedford St)	Citizens Academy graduates
Dedicated to community/promote general welfare	Citizens Academy graduates
Senior/community center (wanted a separate community center)	Citizens Academy graduates
Better Town Center	Citizens Academy graduates
Longer time on meters	Citizens Academy graduates
Little machines to use for meters	Citizens Academy graduates
Better parking	Citizens Academy graduates
Subsidize rents in center of town	Citizens Academy graduates
(more) welcome to additional ethnic and lower socio-economic groups	Citizens Academy graduates

More ethnic diversity	Citizens Academy graduates
More economic diversity	Citizens Academy graduates
Do more to help economically disadvantaged more into town so our school system is	Citizens Academy graduates
Maintain or improve school system	Citizens Academy graduates
Solve Estabrook school issue	Citizens Academy graduates
Selectmen need to be more strategic (stay away from managing minutia and allow	Citizens Academy graduates
Want Town Manager to be more forward thinking strategically with more vision	Citizens Academy graduates
Public employee benefits reform/GIC	Citizens Academy graduates
Restructuring	Citizens Academy graduates
Look at ways to raise taxes/more commercial development	Citizens Academy graduates
Recalculate property tax	Citizens Academy graduates
Encourage civic engagement	Citizens Academy graduates
Mail from Town comes late	Citizens Academy graduates
Need money to plow bike path	Citizens Academy graduates
Where did wreaths appropriation come from	Citizens Academy graduates
Promote sustainable, integrated and affordable	Citizens Academy graduates
Reconcile Lexington comprehensive plan “The Lexington We Want” with the 2020	Citizens Academy graduates
More public transportation, both within and outside of Lexington	GWAC
More bike lanes	GWAC
Become a model town for alternative energy use	GWAC
Reduce energy consumption in town	GWAC
Community meeting places	GWAC
Improve/increase communication in town	GWAC
Senior center	GWAC
More vibrant downtown and more diverse businesses	GWAC
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More economic and racial variety	GWAC
More technical education in schools	GWAC
Add to schools education about the future of climate changes in Lexington	GWAC
Encourage and educate citizens to increase participation in town affairs	GWAC
Emergency planning (related to natural disasters)	GWAC
More agricultural awareness, an official Agriculture Committee	GWAC
More awareness of the future effects of climate	GWAC
End of “McMansionazation” with large, unsustainable houses	GWAC
Strong sustainability campaign, with sustainability education in schools	GWAC
Reduce and/or prohibit pesticide use, noise (from lawn companies) and encourage	GWAC
Pay As You Throw	GWAC
Increase use of agriculture	GWAC
Institute reward system for environmental awareness	GWAC
Lack of resources for elderly	IAL
Cost of rental for Dewali (Bedford has concession for residents)	IAL
Technology – connect school in India with Lexington	IAL
Not enough ethnic programs to integrate into mainstream	IAL
More ethnic celebrations/outreach to include (example: Lexington Historical Society)	IAL
Introduce Hindi as a world language	IAL
Dewali as vacation day	IAL
Outreach from groups	IAL
Celebration of diverse cultures in schools – more authentic representation of religion,	IAL
Quality of teachers/courses	IAL
Athletics – nothing for non-varsity athletes, intramurals – stress	IAL
(Insufficient) preparation for global citizenship (celebration of diversity)	IAL
More diversity in school staff & curriculum	IAL

Town Meeting – unsure, need more information	IAL
Cost of government/education – accountability, efficiency, transparency	IAL
Town could be more frugal	IAL
Cost of living	IAL
Traffic/roads	IAL
Drug use	IAL
(Need) more environmental awareness – “green”	IAL
No good yoga programs in Lexington to alleviate the stress (except “Yoga with a	Interfaith Clergy
New residents in Lexington are not engaged in activities—How can they be	Interfaith Clergy
Suggest parking structure under (part of) the current large parking lot on the north	Interfaith Clergy
Bringing people together	Interfaith Clergy
Although Asians make up a substantial part of Lexington’s residents, they don’t	Interfaith Clergy
No participation in interfaith activities by clergy serving Asian communities.	Interfaith Clergy
Some people are not so friendly—how can young families be brought in with older	Interfaith Clergy
No place for teenagers	Interfaith Clergy
Need a community center	Interfaith Clergy
Some residents of East Lexington feel like 2 nd class citizens; concerned over loss of E	Interfaith Clergy
There are some blue-collar workers, many of whose families have lived in the area	Interfaith Clergy
Hayden not as much a community center as would like. “Just a gym now” - broaden	Interfaith Clergy
Hard to get to conservation lands, need more signs, better trails	Interfaith Clergy
Suggest focusing on each of the conservation lands 1 day each year	Interfaith Clergy
Need more variety in Center retail stores; for example, more craft shops; would bring	Interfaith Clergy
Not much after 9 p.m.	Interfaith Clergy
Not enough diversity in Town Meeting.	Interfaith Clergy
People from some cultures say “no” one or a few times to something others suggest,	Interfaith Clergy
More Affordable Housing - Though Lexington has made some effort on affordable	Interfaith Clergy
House costs are preventing additional groups to live in Lexington, such as young	Interfaith Clergy
Most people who work in Lexington cannot afford to live there.	Interfaith Clergy
Too many huge houses have been built. “It’s like two houses!” “Any limits?”	Interfaith Clergy
School bus charge is too high; Buses allowed to drop off kids at only at homes, not at	Interfaith Clergy
Schools appear to be oriented around stay-at-home moms.	Interfaith Clergy
Need after-school programs for middle school students	Interfaith Clergy
Difficult for parents working to pick kids up from activities.	Interfaith Clergy
Frequently people come to Lexington with children in 8 th grade and leave after 12 th	Interfaith Clergy
Driven, Type A personality. “It’s the most stressed-out community I’ve ever seen.”	Interfaith Clergy
See stress in kids due to parents’ expectations – “I can’t keep up!”“I hate school!”	Interfaith Clergy
Palpable difference between Lexington kids and kids at neighboring communities.	Interfaith Clergy
Need more improvement on the environment - Take the “greening” and recycling	Interfaith Clergy
Would like businesses to come back - Strengths not played up enough, Ideas from	LexFun
Disconnect between landlords and Town – get more data	LexFun
School bus – cost, time	LexFun
Town-wide festivals with street closures, eg. Arts Festival - Dates (July 4 th , Memorial	LexFun
Alignment of goals: HDC vs. environmental goals such as Sustainable Lexington	LexFun
Repair “Welcome to Lexington” signs	LexFun
Parking is a major problem – parking is terrible, need longer meter times (4 hours)	Rotary
Snow removal – snow gets plowed into driveways, people have to walk in street	Rotary
Center traffic – too many people injured; pedestrians jump out from between cars	Rotary
Need enforcement of jaywalking or jay-biking	Rotary
Huge houses, almost castles – need to have size restrictions	Rotary
Asian community not very involved in volunteer life of Town	Rotary