

CHEBEAGUE ISLAND HOUSING SURVEY

WHAT IS THIS SURVEY ABOUT?

Today the average cost of housing is not affordable to many households, and island living costs more than the average. Chebeague will need suitable housing for people of diverse ages and occupations if it is to remain a viable, year-round community. We (the Town of Cumberland, the Cumberland Islands Committee and the Chebeague Island Council) are asking for your help in contributing information that is critical to developing realistic plans for Chebeague's housing needs.

Even if you do not personally have a need for different housing right now, your response is important to creating a comprehensive profile of year round and seasonal residents, other Chebeague property owners, and those who might consider living on Chebeague.

Most of this survey deals with your experience with island living, housing and household characteristics, and your future plans for property on Chebeague. Your responses are anonymous and confidential, and will be tabulated by an independent consultant. Thanks for your participation!

This study has been commissioned by the Town of Cumberland Planning Department, using funds from the Town and from a Community Development Block Grant from the State of Maine.

1. What state is your year round home located in? (postal abbreviation) or check here if Canada
2. About how many months per year do you spend on Chebeague?
3. What do you value most about Chebeague? _____

AVAILABILITY AND CONDITION OF PROPERTY YOU OWN

4. What type of property do you own on Chebeague? (Check all that apply)
 - Land only; undeveloped
 - A house used seasonally that is not winterized
 - A house used seasonally that could be occupied year round (is winterized)
5. Do you own more than one property on Chebeague? Yes No
 - a. If yes, number of homes
 - b. If yes, number of vacant lots:
6. Do you rent out any housing for: Year-round rental? Yes No
 Summer rental? Yes No
7. Is your property part of a trust or owned jointly with relatives other than a spouse? Yes No
8. Please describe the characteristics of your Chebeague home(s) or other property. Use column 1 to describe the home you use when on Chebeague. If you own a second Chebeague home, use column 2 to describe its condition. Fill in the spaces with a Yes (Y) or No (N) to describe the property conditions.

For the home(s) on the property...	Chebeague Home You Occupy	Second Chebeague Home
Does it have a full basement?		
Insulated for winter occupancy?		
Is plumbing adequate for winter occupancy?		
Is heating system adequate for winter occupancy?		

If you own more than two homes on the Island, enter brief description of additional properties here:

	Chebeague Home You Occupy	Second Chebeague Home
Are any major repairs or renovations needed for..?		
Roofing?		
Plumbing?		
Foundation or structural problems?		
Septic system?		
Water supply/well?		

9. Thinking about the next 5 years, do your plans for the property you own include any of the following? Fill in the spaces with a Yes (Y) or No (N) to indicate your future plans:

	Chebeague Home You Occupy	Other Home(s) or Lot(s)
Build a house on a vacant lot you own		
Winterize the house		
Tear down and replace with new home		
Enlarge existing residence		
Convert to two-family (add an apartment)		
Transfer to other family members		
Sell the property		
Begin using the property as your year round home		
Rent the property out for year round use		
Rent the property out for seasonal use		
Start a home occupation (what type?)		

10. How likely is it that you would consider selling or donating any of your Chebeague property to a local non-profit organization to use in preserving or creating affordable year-round housing?

- Would consider it
 Might consider it depending on conditions
 Would not consider it

HOUSING ALTERNATIVES (FOR A YEAR ROUND HOME CHEBEAGUE)

11. Considering how your situation or housing needs may change, how likely is it that you would consider moving to Chebeague someday as your **year-round** residence?

- Very likely
 Somewhat likely
 Not at all likely (*If not at all likely, go to question 21*)

12. If elementary school children had to travel to the mainland to school, how would this affect your decision to become a year-round resident of Chebeague?

- Probably would not affect my decision
 Would be less likely to become a resident of Chebeague
 Other (explain) _____

13. If you made Chebeague your year-round residence, would you:

- Live in housing you already own there (*if checked, go to question 21*)
 Consider other housing alternatives on Chebeague (*if checked, go to next question*)

14. How would you rate the suitability of the following types of **year-round housing** for your household (assuming it were available on the Island and affordable to you?) Please rate each type by checking the appropriate box to indicate whether it would be *desirable, acceptable, or unacceptable*.

	Desirable	Acceptable	Unacceptable
Renting a house?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Renting an apartment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Living in an assisted living facility?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Owning a house?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Building a new house?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Owning a new manufactured home?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Owning a condominium unit (share ownership of the land and exterior maintenance costs within an association)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Living in a building with two or more attached units?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Living in a dwelling with everything on one floor?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

LIVING ON CHEBEAGUE

21. Living on Chebeague is more complicated than living on the mainland, and housing cost is only one of the issues involved in the decision to live here. In your experience on Chebeague, are any of the following problems serious enough to make it difficult for you to live on the Island? (Please rate each issue by checking the appropriate column as it applies to you.)

	Serious Problem	Minor Problem	Not A Problem Or Not Applicable
Dependence on fixed ferry schedules			
Cost of ferry and parking			
Commuting to a job on the mainland including winter commuting			
Distance to shopping & services			
Uncertainty over future of elementary school on Island			
Middle and high school kids attending school on mainland			
Distance to schools for after-school activities			
Having to own multiple cars for mainland and island use			
Separation from family or friends			
Winter isolation			
Lack of suitable housing for your needs			
Distance to medical services			
Property tax costs			
Heating and utility costs			
Other (specify)			

WHO LIVES IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD?

22. How many people are there in your household (include yourself and those who live in the same dwelling unit)?
 Number who live in your current year-round home Number when you come to Chebeague

23. How old are you?

24. How many children live in your household who are:
 Infant through pre-school age? (enter numbers or 0 if none)
 In elementary school (grade K-5)?
 In middle school or high school (grade 6-12)?

25. How many adults (age 18 or older) are in your household (including yourself)? (enter numbers or 0 if none)

- a. How many are retired?
- b. How many work full time (35 hours or more per week)?
- c. How many work part time (under 35 hours per week)?
- d. How many work only seasonally?
- e. How many hold more than one job?
- f. How many adults work in fishing or marine-related occupations?
- g. How many are self-employed?
- h. How many are full-time college or post-secondary students?

26. In your opinion, how can the Town and Chebeaguers help attract and retain younger working families as year-round residents of the Island?

27. Are there any particular housing needs or issues not covered by this survey that you think we should know about? Please provide a brief description.

Thank you for your help with the survey. There is no need to identify yourself on this questionnaire. Please fold this survey form so that the address and stamp are on the outside. Staple or tape it closed and mail it back this week to:

BCM Planning - P. O. Box 1058 – Yarmouth, ME 04096

If you would like to be contacted in the future about affordable housing options that may be developed on Chebeague, please fill out the enclosed card and mail it back separately – do not include it with your questionnaire. This will preserve the confidentiality of your survey response.
