

Q10 Please provide any additional comments that you have for the Waterfront Committee

Answered: 78 Skipped: 202

#	Responses	Date
1	Boardwalk is not necessary for activities like concerts and fireworks. Can use the park like it is and borrow some of the parking lot for these infrequent events. Keep it simple, not costly.	7/15/2015 4:30 PM
2	nothing to increase taxes	7/15/2015 3:27 PM
3	Don't spend any taxpayer money unless something is vitally necessary for ALL residents. Taxes are already unaffordable for many.	7/15/2015 8:20 AM
4	Harbor view is priority. Do not need to sit on a boardwalk to appreciate it. Jazz up what park is there, do not redesign the mousetrap.	7/13/2015 3:34 PM
5	As a member of the younger generation I think we should think about those who come after us and what we leave behind. I think a public space like the boardwalk would be beneficial for future generations. This would be a public space for people to enjoy and also hold public events like an art walk, live music, movies, etc. to help pay for maintenance you could have the space permitted for events. Also, since this will be private money, let's go big, let's see how much we can raise and put the construction of the boardwalk to the people of Damariscotta to decide. If they don't want it you could use the money for future park projects, because if not the boardwalk we should think about creating public space elsewhere, such as that lot behind the barber shop, or the green space behind metcalfs. No one is going to notice new sewer pipes, we need to give people something they can see and touch and while we have the opportunity lets do it now!	6/21/2015 8:46 AM
6	thank you for providing an opportunity for all our voices. well done waterfront project committee.	6/19/2015 10:44 AM
7	Think big...Great things can be accomplished only by taking the hard choice. It's not ever going to be easy to make it something special.	6/18/2015 6:43 PM
8	Why build a boardwalk when an improved park would be environmentally and aesthetically pleasing? There's enough hard, unnatural surface with the parking lot, don't add even more. Please keep as much green space as possible. Thank you.	5/25/2015 7:59 PM
9	Enhance the natural beauty of the park, No man made structures, please. Too expense. Too much maintenance. Complicates and escalates costs of snow removal.	5/25/2015 7:49 PM
10	Keep waterfront green and natural. No need for walkway to Scooner Landing, public money to support one business? bad idea.	5/25/2015 9:07 AM
11	I am not in favor of any new projects at this time. With our taxes continuing to rise every year and our current situation with the school budget, I feel that we should just sit tight and not incur any unnecessary expenses.	5/24/2015 5:29 PM
12	It would be also ideal if boaters could access our downtown shops and restaurants as other waterfront areas benefit from, who doesn't enjoy coming ashore for dinner and such a pretty little town?	5/22/2015 6:52 AM
13	public restroom would be my top priority to make downtown area more welcoming to visitors (competing tourism centers such as Boothbay Harbor, Rockland, Camden all offer them)	5/21/2015 10:09 PM
14	Best wishes to our Damariscotta neighbors!	5/21/2015 11:33 AM
15	Let's get things started on this, not in 2020! However, impact upon tourist season as little as possible for the sake of our merchants.	5/21/2015 8:15 AM
16	Our riverside waterfront should be a mid-coast showcase. This would support local businesses, support better access for locals and tourists and help build a more vibrant local main street economy which is critical for supporting local infrastructure, services and tax supported needs such as quality schools.	5/21/2015 7:52 AM
17	Thank you for being on this committee!	5/21/2015 7:29 AM

18	Having recently one for a walk along the waterfront in Belfast, I was struck with how inferior our miserable little park is. Most important to me is more green space and quality benches and picnic tables to create a welcoming space for both residents and visitors.	5/20/2015 11:43 PM
19	Stage rebuilds incrementally, in my opinion. Rebuild of the key infrastructure (the parking lot) should be the first priority. Board/sidewalks, additional parking and Misery Gulch can be addressed as later projects.	5/20/2015 11:14 PM
20	As lovely and cool as a boardwalk would be, I think it is an extremely expensive option and not a prudent decision due to cost.	5/20/2015 9:56 PM
21	spend the money and make it beautiful	5/20/2015 9:35 PM
22	Investments in the waterfront area will repay themselves dozens of times over. This is a big chunk of what draws people to Damariscotta.	5/20/2015 8:19 PM
23	A boardwalk would require railings. No matter what the design/materials these would interfere with our current exceptional, unobstructed view of the harbor and hillsides.	5/18/2015 3:05 PM
24	Multilevel Parking Lot ACROSS the street and entire current lot turned into a green park	5/13/2015 8:40 PM
25	Please maintain the authenticity of this wonderful town and do not "tart it up" with over-improvements that are not consistent with the nature of the town.	5/11/2015 10:18 PM
26	please leave Misery Gulch as is. It is serving well as habitat for horseshoe crabs.	5/11/2015 3:57 PM
27	None	5/11/2015 10:44 AM
28	Thanks for all your work on behalf of our town.	5/10/2015 12:13 AM
29	Please do not construct anything that will impend the view of the waterfront for folks sitting on the benches in the park. The kiosk provides information about the history of boat building in Damariscotta, more clearly than a boardwalk would AND with far less expense!	5/8/2015 2:30 PM
30	Keep the park a park. Make it nice, with more plantings, trees, benches and picnic tables. Far less maintenance, much more natural. Please keep it green, lean, and clean, no man made structures needing constant upkeep and repair.	5/8/2015 12:06 PM
31	The parking lot is over-regulated and sign-happy.	5/8/2015 11:17 AM
32	We prefer no boardwalk because it is: Expensive (\$660,000-\$907,000 vs \$71,000 for more park). Fence rails & wires interrupt harbor view.. Fence would prevent over-the-bank snow disposal. Boardwalk shape is difficult to relate to shipbuilding history that is already shown in existing kiosk.	5/8/2015 9:55 AM
33	Plant flowers	5/7/2015 7:42 PM
34	Be careful. If you build it, they will come in far greater numbers than you can imagine. You might want to consider a much bigger town dock. MUCH BIGGER	5/7/2015 5:44 PM
35	We need more parking in Damariscotta! We at the very least need to increase the time to park along the street from 1 hour to 2 hours, otherwise no one can go out to eat or have services provided. We loose business otherwise!!	5/7/2015 9:58 AM
36	Thank you for this work! An improved parking lo and riverside rest area will greatly enhance the Town both as a tourist destination and as a friendly place for us locals to enjoy!	5/6/2015 6:01 PM
37	Charge for seasonal parking	5/6/2015 5:56 PM
38	During Pumpkinfest, the waterfront is what visitors/locals zone in on - an upgrade is definitely needed. It could also be a place to sit, ponder, and survey what is a beautiful stretch of water. How about boat rides in Summer?	5/6/2015 5:51 PM
39	I would be in favor of a walkway over Misery Gulch only if partially paid for by the businesses on Schooner Landing (mostly the restaurant) as they would be the primary/only beneficiaries of this structure, since it is apparently not needed for flood plain management.	5/6/2015 5:22 PM
40	Create a zone were flood insurance is reduced, and have those property owners pay more taxes for the increased flood security.	5/6/2015 5:12 PM
41	Consider improvement scenarios from charrette. Even if these are not practical now, make sure plan allows them for the future.	5/6/2015 3:52 PM

42	I did not include making a pedestrian walkway from Main St. by Taco Alley because most people walk through that area. I was considering all the costs for the different projects and I rather have the money spent on a lovely boardwalk! That project could be done at another time if cost is a problem.	5/6/2015 2:58 PM
43	This needs to be done, soon, construction costs are only going to increase and we need to look outside the box at all possible solutions.	5/6/2015 10:39 AM
44	Provide more family areas	5/6/2015 9:06 AM
45	Ideally and in a perfect world.....Celebrate the waterfront. Publicly and/or privately fund a parking garage and make the waterfront parking area a safe pedestrian oriented waterfront park with spaces that activate the connection between mainstreet and the waterfront. Look at what other towns along the coast have done.	5/5/2015 4:49 PM
46	Boardwalk is overkill for such a small area. Green space will always be more precious than than development. It's much more inviting and lot less maintenance.	5/5/2015 1:35 PM
47	No need for walkway over gulch, sidewalk on Main St. does the same job. If it can't be used to make more parking, leave it as is. What's the real purpose of a boardwalk? Doesn't improving the green space with more shade trees, benches and picnic tables serve the area as well or better? It's more rustic and natural and more inviting and esthetically pleasing plus far less maintenance and upkeep. Most boardwalks have a purpose. They lead somewhere, they allow access to shops, restaurants, boat slips, used as fishing piers, etc.	5/5/2015 9:53 AM
48	It would be nice to see regular maintenance of Damariscotta roads,public areas and safety issues be taken care of before extra projects are done. Also to be done with in the towns budget and not raising taxes on property owners.	5/5/2015 7:21 AM
49	This survey did not provide enough information for the feedback to be valuable. What will we get for what price and HOW will it impact taxes.	5/4/2015 6:42 PM
50	Do we really need a boardwalk to nowhere? Green space, with shade, benches and picnic tables would be just as effective, much more aesthetically pleasing and far less an environmental impact than a boardwalk cantilevered over the edge of the bank. Even if the initial cost is minimal, the recurring maintenance and upkeep will be significantly more for a cantilevered boardwalk than a natural green space.	5/4/2015 1:03 PM
51	Although I certainly appreciate Damariscotta and Newcastle's shipbuilding history, and I like the idea of a combo history/boardwalk, I would want a comparision in cost between the "ship deck" theme and just a standard boardwalk. If there was some kind of a grant to offset the difference, that would be fine, but I am not sure it is worth it without additional funds. Also think carefully about the railing, what is safe, doesn't diminsh the view and is easy to maintain.	5/4/2015 10:20 AM
52	Add kiosks (similar to the one at the town landing) that provides historical/aquacultural information that celebrates the town's shipbuilding and aquacultural industries.	5/4/2015 10:06 AM
53	I think the Boardwalk/Ship walkway would be very expensive and myself as a taxpayer that lives in the outskirts of town does not want to pay for something like that. And the whole thing looks and is stupid The roads are falling a part and much more important work needs to be done in the WHOLE town. I do not want to subsidize downtown business owners dreams.	5/4/2015 7:10 AM
54	I would love to see more trees or plants if it is possible with out causing unsafe blind spots for drivers and pedestrians in the parking lot.	5/4/2015 6:54 AM
55	Do not loose parking (it is a parking lot not a park) and work on flooding. A wharf over misery gulch might be enough and no boardwalk. Keep maintenance and snow removal costs to a minimum. Address 1 way in and out of the parking lot.	5/4/2015 6:54 AM
56	Make parking lot attractive with shade trees and plants/flowers	5/4/2015 6:48 AM
57	All this would cost a lot, but making the parking area into an attraction for residents and tourists could also be financially profitable for the town and town business.	5/3/2015 7:26 PM

58	At this time I would prefer not to spend any additional monies private or public on the "parking lot project". To assume "that all of the improvements listed would be funded in large part by grants and private donations" is folly. The key wording is "large part". Our property taxes continue to go up every year. There is much uncertainty with the State of Maine budgets and what monies will come to the local towns. If and when the town ever had surplus monies available I would be in favor of projects such as this. Residents and tourists alike come to Damariscotta and love the town just as it is. A few more parking spaces would be nice - but who would really notice. Another walkway or sidewalk - again nice, but it won't bring visitors here or cause them to stay away. When you go to Boothbay Harbor for example, you often have a problem finding a place to park, but that does not stop us from visiting. We can spend money on project after project that adds to the town debt and the property owners tax burdens and in the end the only people really impacted will be those of us who must pay the bill.	5/3/2015 4:43 PM
59	To assume donations and grants makes for an unrealistic survey!	5/3/2015 4:13 PM
60	This is a great opportunity to improve an very unattractive water front. All improvements are strongly supported.	5/3/2015 12:42 PM
61	Thank you for your work.	5/3/2015 10:21 AM
62	The waterfront IS Damariscotta's downtown "Square/park". It should be no less than the equivalent of a downtown green that attracts people and functions as a combination vehicle parking and event forum space. It's views are spectacular and it's access to salt water recreational and commercial (oyster farms) boating is a major plus. This area should DEFINE Damariscotta as a Maine coastal mecca and not just be off street parking. and flood protection...	5/2/2015 10:38 PM
63	Survey completed by Mal Gormley.	5/2/2015 6:24 PM
64	Bear in mind that sea level rise is likely to be significant. So whatever is doen on the waterfront should err on the side of a generous response, rather than a minimal one.	5/2/2015 4:50 PM
65	Plan should consider an enclosed parking garage with solar panels on the roof.	5/2/2015 11:18 AM
66	You have environmentally educated and intelligent people in the area to draw on for advice. Reach out to as many of them as humanly possible before you make changes that will physically change the town and which we will pay for, forever. When environmentally recognized people sign off on any phase of the project, I will gladly reconsider my opinions. The environment and the financial security of the ALL the people in town is not a matter for survey unless a base line is first established. Substance over image. The survey appears to well balanced as written but remember that the people whom the survey reaches, and who feel their opinion will be listened to, will respond. Is the thinking to provide sea wall protection for all people living along the water as well as for the people in low lying areas that are endangered, or just the businesses? Will the sea wall actually cause more problems for property owners along the river? The water will be redirected somewhere! Do you know? You really think you can beat mother nature? Think Louisiana, NYC and NJ and Johnstown Pa et al. I am a scientist who is terrified about what we don't know yet still try to change. I don't have answers only questions. PS read the issue of Discover Magazine that talks about where the flooding occurred in the NYC area and how nature had the last laugh over human tampering. Thank you and good luck.	5/2/2015 11:02 AM
67	parking deck or ped bridge over "Misery Gulch" would probably interfere with a more important seawall. Wonder why so much attention (ped bridge) for one business' gain, i., e., Schooner. Parking deck would negatively change the asthetics. It needs minimal sprucing up...saving \$\$ for more important parts of the overall project.	5/2/2015 9:48 AM
68	Even though the aforementioned projects would be improvements to our community, I find it hard to support any projects that will increase property taxes.	5/2/2015 9:09 AM
69	Use this as an opportunity for cooperation among the local towns. Individual contributions should not be solicited for public projects of this sort....they should be funded by grants and regional municipal contributions. The town should not compete with local nonprofits for funds.	5/2/2015 6:28 AM
70	The key issue in all of the above is who will pay for it. I believe the costs should be largely covered by increases in taxes on the businesses which will benefit most from the improvements, not taxes on the residents of Damariscotta. Since funding is not addressed in the survey, i have voted against most of the proposals.	5/2/2015 12:22 AM
71	I hope we can generate enthusiasm for improving our town! We have a great town and it needs a facelift!!	5/1/2015 7:54 PM
72	Take building housing Metcalf's via eminent domain and route Northbound traffic through parking lot and up to Bristol Road making Main Street one way Southbound or, vice versa. Enact regulations that all delivery trucks ie Reny's, food and liquor delivery trucks,UPS etc,etc, must make deliveries before 8:00 A.M. or after 5:30 P.M. no exceptions. Back parking lot needs additional handicapped spaces.	5/1/2015 7:51 PM
73	Taxes, taxes,taxes. Enough said.	5/1/2015 6:26 PM

74	Once the parking lot is newly paved, I think many of our concerns will be resolved. That will definately make a huge diiantly make a huge difference.	5/1/2015 5:48 PM
75	Wishing you much luck with this project. Very costly if nothing else.	5/1/2015 5:47 PM
76	This is a very important project and will have a most positive benefit to the town. Shy away from mediocrity - go for the full package!	5/1/2015 5:39 PM
77	Damariscotta in my opinion spends way to much money downtown wasting money won't help down town	5/1/2015 5:35 PM
78	The commercial property owners and the merchants on Main St in Damariscotta should pay for the bulk of this project, via bonds. They are the primary beneficiaries.	5/1/2015 5:34 PM