

Question 11 - Why Harvard?

Write-Ins

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| 40 years ago, it was a beautiful, AFFORDABLE place to live. |
| 4th generation property owner, |
| A lot like the town I grew up in. |
| A safe, country-like environment in which property taxes were fair and reasonable. |
| Agricultural base of the town with a house that was affordable. Please note that whoever wrote this survey did not list agriculture as an attribute. That is appalling. |
| Agricultural zoning--able to raise whatever farm animals I wanted |
| Although tax rate is not a reason. Harvard's tax raet is among teh lowest in the state when looking at tax paid compared to value of the home. |
| Availability of antique homes for sale at the time when we were looking to relocate. |
| Bare Hill Pond |
| Being a member of the fire department and having the only family house left in our family. If it were not for those two I would move to live in a more financial friendly town that is not run by the parents or the school board/ system. |
| Born and raised here |
| born here |
| Born here |
| broad side of house faced south, for solar gain |
| By character of town I mean its rural nature. |
| Congo. Church, Library, General Store and Pond in center. |
| Convenient commute to place of employment |
| Convenient to MBTA |
| driving distance to work |
| Family (specifically, grandchildren) |
| Family History and character, size of town and decided after kids born to stay for schools. |
| Found a house I loved within reasonable commute to my job |
| found a piece of land we wanted to build on. would move it to Littleton if possible. |
| Friend |
| Fruitlands Museum, Shaker Village, Bare Hill Pond |
| Geography - well situated relative to both of our extended familes as well as career opportunities in metro Boston. |
| Good commuting distance for working couple...one to Lexington, the other to Andover. |
| Harvard is THE most beautiful, charmed town. It is absolutely essential to keep this town from becoming poorly- or over-built. We must pro-actively erect affordable housing, preserve farms, orchards and open space, we must revitalize the town center, we must start building green and strategizing ways to fund and live within a reasonable budget. |
| Harvard used to be an affordable place to live ..it was quiet and the schools were not the main reason people came here...it was not a money town then |
| Harvard will be utterly spoiled if we take over Devens. |
| Hilltop view of Monadnocks and Wachusett, a relief from factory water towers viiew at our Cambridge home.Married to grad student working at Harvard College Observatory, Oak Ridge Station. Downpayment on 13k house pd. by a corporal's WWII salary savings! All fortuitous. |
| Historical resources / viewsheds outside of historic districts |
| Husband was already living here |
| I am the fifth generation of my family to live here. |
| I bought a farm. |
| I chose Devens as a place to live. |
| I chose to live in Devens. The fact that my house is within Harvard boundaries was irrelevant to me. |
| I hope I can continue to live here. The town has more seniors living here than it used to. The fixed income ought to be considered or having lower taxes for seniors. |
| I live with my parents. |
| I wanted to keep farm animals, so friendliness to farming and animals in general was the number one criterion. |
| I was born and raised in this town |

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| I was born here. Family has been here since 17th century. Was given house and property by parents; otherwise could not afford to be here. |
| I work in the town |
| Individual property. The character, size, taxes, housing costs of the town have all changed greatly over the 30 years we've resided here, none for the better. |
| It was affordable 32 years ago. |
| Lack of significant commercial development - effectively a part of "rural character" of the town |
| Less expensive than Lincoln and rural setting |
| Library |
| Living in the pond community of "camp-like" housing attracted me to this town. This year my taxes increased 64%. Why not call our camps/ cottages what they are, "Low income properties," gain the state benefits, and not kill modest income folk down here with \$1500 yearly tax increases. |
| Lower taxes when we moved here ! Now it's out of control ! |
| Married a native. |
| mostly residential--not heavily deveed commercially |
| My family has been here for fifty years. |
| My family moved here when I was in high school. I've lived here for 58 years. I would like to continue to live here, but on a fixed income the overrides are driving us out. |
| My husband already owned a home here. |
| My inlaws live here and gave us some land on which to build our house. |
| my parents made the decision |
| Near commuter rail that goes to cambridge |
| Nice People!!!! Independent with a live and let live philosophy. |
| No commercial section - but such are available in nearby towns. |
| non-commercial, small town with respect for open land, quiet and privacy |
| parents bought the home in 1990 |
| Parents lived here since I was born |
| parents moved here |
| Parents moved us here 40 years ago |
| Peaceful, quiet, rural, country-area, mostly residential with few businesses |
| proximity to 495 and rt. 2 |
| Proximity to work |
| Proximity to Work Place |
| Purchased enough land for a farm |
| Q11-Open |
| reasonable and fair taxes for all citizens |
| Retired Army. Availability of Fort Devens. |
| Rural and diverse life style |
| Rural, agricultural nature of town |
| Sense of community |
| Socio-economic diversity of population |
| Specific propert available - equestrian farm |
| The house I purchased had the features my family needed. |
| The main reason was for the schools and the fact that Harvard has a low crime rate. It's a place I can feel safe bringing up my kids and know they will get a good education. |
| The open space reminded me of the open space where I grew up in Pennsylvania. That space is ALL GONE now. |
| The people in the library when we were looking at towns. |
| The Pond |
| The quality of the schools attracted me to the town. I believe quality of education is a community's greatest asset...it tends to lead to other positive attributes. |
| The street I live on in the community of Devens is part of 'historical' Harvard. |
| These choices were made over 43 years ago - I would not make the same choices today. |

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| to keep livestock |
| Type of home available |
| We bought a very specific and unique house we liked very much, which happened to be in Harvard. |
| We built based with the assumption that we were building a house for our low energy, low environmental impact and that Harvard was economically stable with a modest (no frills) financial base that would keep taxes reasonable. We were wrong and will be pressed to continue to afford living here. |
| We could afford it -- we got more for our money here than we would have in nearby towns. Could not afford to buy here today. |
| We found the property which we could afford which met our family's needs. |
| We liked the fact that there weren't stores and businesses throughout Harvard. |
| We liked the house and being in the country |
| We liked this house the best |
| We moved here for the quiet small town community in 1993. Never had any children in the local school system. Will be another senior citizen in a couple of years, plan on retiring here if the taxes don't force us out. |
| We purchased land in 1985 to build a house sustainable with passive solar and wood energy with reasonable taxes that we could afford to live in for the rest of our lives. With a garden and our own wood and water supply we assumed incorrectly that when our self-employment was tight we could still sustain ourselves. Our property taxes have tripled in that time and our income has declined. This is with additional pressures on health insurance coverage requiring a minimum of \$700 more in drug coverage (that we don't want or need) by the State. We are being taxed to the point that we will be forced to sell our home and move out of state, leaving friends, family and a lovely home we built ourselves with no mortgage, thinking we would be in control of our own environment. We pay \$12K per year and have received almost no services of any benefit or of interest to us. When one just wants to stay in one's own home, the argument that the town needs to spend money on various things to increase house values does not go down well. |
| When we chose to live in Harvard, the cost of living here compared to what I considered towns with good commuting location, schools, and town character was relatively low (property cost and taxes). |
| Within travel distance to work. Affordable (at the time of 1961) |
| Woodlands |