

3.0 Community Participation

The planning process for Avon Center involved input from the public in the form of informational meetings, a citizen survey, written comments to the Planning and Zoning Commission, and a public hearing.

Two informational meetings were held at the Avon Senior Center to present the concepts for Avon Center and gather public comment. Approximately 50 persons attended each of these meetings.

The University of Connecticut Center for Survey Research and Analysis conducted a town-wide, citizen survey in January, 2004. Among the many questions in this survey, six were specific to Avon Center. It is interesting to note that 7% of the residents thought Avon did not have a center; another 5% thought Avon Center was in the Route 167 and Route 44 vicinity; and another 3% thought Simsbury Commons was the center of Avon. It is evident from the survey that Avon lacks an easily identifiable Town Center.

Regarding the physical appearance of Avon Center, the survey found that only 11% of the residents gave it an excellent rating and 58% gave it a good rating. A full 31% of Avon's residents viewed the Center's appearance negatively, with 23% giving it a fair rating and 8% a poor rating.

A majority of the residents (58%) conveyed that it is important for the Town to improve the physical appearance of the Town Center. The remainder of residents said it was either not too important (32%) or not at all important (11%).

The vast majority of residents consider it more important to make Avon Center pedestrian friendly and to improve its physical appearance.



Outdoor seating areas and wide sidewalks encourage pedestrian activity.