

Draft/Preliminary Possible Survey Questions for Committee to Consider - 2 6 19

Potential survey for the Town of Durham

The Town of Durham is in the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2008. The Town Board appointed a committee to develop a draft plan for them. This Committee has been working to hear from our residents and landowners through a town planning workshop, and series of focus group meetings. In order involve the entire community and to help us understand what the issues and future opportunities for the Town are, the Comprehensive Plan Update Committee has developed this survey. We want to make sure that we understand your points of view on several important subjects that have been discussed so far.

All members of your household are welcome to fill out a survey. Your answers are important, and we appreciate your taking time to participate. All responses are confidential. No individual responses will be reported, and no attempt will be made to identify individual respondents. However, there is one question in the survey where you can choose to identify yourself if you like.

If you know anyone who needs a paper copy of this survey, they can be found at the Town Hall, the Durham Reading Room, or by calling the Town Hall at _____ to have a copy mailed to you.

Please complete the survey by _____.

If you have any questions or comments, please send them to: (Need contact info/email)
Please click the "Next" button below to begin. Thank you for your time.

1. The following features have been identified as strengths in our Town. How important are each of these to you.

Positive Feature Identified	Not Very Important	Moderately Important	Very Important
Rural and Small Town Character and Natural Beauty of area			
Agriculture			
Relaxed pace of life here, peace and quiet, privacy			
Safe environment			
Local small businesses			
Family-oriented activities year-round			
Summer recreation program for children			
Local police, ambulance, other emergency services			
Strong sense of community			

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Access to outdoor recreation such as hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, hiking, skiing			
Second home-owners are an asset			
Historic character, history of the place, historic structures and districts			
Town roads			
Tourism businesses			
Other Strength (Please list)			

2. The following have been identified as challenges, barriers, or weaknesses in the Town. How important of a challenge or weakness are each of these to you?

Challenge or Weakness Identified	Not Very Important	Moderately Important	Very Important
Loss of family farms and farm income			
Small tax base and lack of funding			
No community center			
Decreased tourism industry			
Lack of attention from county			
Blight			
Lack of broadband/cell/phone services			
Lack of water and sewer in appropriate places to attract new businesses			
Lack of a regional perspective			
Town not unified and hamlets too separate from rest of Town			
Lack of nearby health care			
Lack of communication between groups and between different hamlets and locations in Town			
Lack of public transportation			
Traffic and lack of sidewalks in Oak Hill			
Lack of jobs			
Loss of young adults/young families			

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Lack of volunteers			
Loss of outdoor recreation such as swimming hole			
Not enough stores to attract visitors			
Drug use			
Other (please list)			

3. Describe three words or phrases to describe what you feel the Town of Durham should be like in the future.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

4. Which of the following infrastructures do you feel are important to have in the Town in the future to meet the needs of our residents, farms, and businesses?

Type of Infrastructure	Not Very Important	Moderately Important	Very Important
Broadband			
Cellular service			
Land line telephone service			
Public water			
Public sewer			
Paved roads			
Community Center			
Other (Please list)			

a. Of the projects listed above in Question 4, which ones do you think are the TOP THREE that could be most effective in helping the Town?

- i. _____
- ii. _____
- iii. _____

5. Blight and deteriorating buildings and properties have been noted by residents as an issue that impairs Durham’s ability to attract residents, visitors, and businesses. How big of a problem do you feel blight and deteriorating buildings and properties are in the Town of Durham? Scale or low/high

___ Not a problem ___ Somewhat of a problem ___ Big Problem

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- a. Would you support any of the following ideas to address this:
 - i. Property Maintenance law ___yes ___no
 - ii. Enhanced enforcement of existing state and local property maintenance rules ___yes ___no
 - iii. Community events and efforts to clean up properties ___yes ___no
 - iv. Other (please list)

6. Do you support more small business development in Town? ___Yes ___No
 - a. If yes, what type of business would you like to see in Durham? Please list (OR we could write list and have them check all that you would support being in Durham.)
 - i. _____
 - ii. _____
 - iii. _____
 - b. If yes, where do you feel businesses should be located? Check all that apply
 - i. Oak Hill
 - ii. East Durham
 - iii. Cornwallville
 - iv. Other specific place (please list)
 - v. Anywhere in Town
 - vi. Nowhere in Town – I do not want to see more business development

7. A variety of ideas have been generated that could help the Town of Durham be more attractive to new businesses. Which of the following ideas do you support? Check all that you feel would be helpful.
 - a. Signage for business districts
 - b. Improved parking
 - c. Sidewalks in Oak Hill
 - d. More lighting in hamlets
 - e. Incentives to attract businesses
 - f. Cell and Broadband to attract businesses
 - g. Other (Please list):

8. Would you support more marketing and promotion of the town and local businesses?
___yes ___no

9. Lack of affordable housing has been identified as a problem in Durham, especially for seniors, singles and young families. Do you agree with this statement? ___yes ___no

10. The lack of activities and things to do have been noted by residents as an issue, especially for children, teens, and young adults. The following Ideas have been identified as programs

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that could benefit residents in Durham. Do you support these potential recreational opportunities?

- a. Reopen swimming hole
- b. More trout/fishing programs on the Catskill Creek
- c. Expanded summer programming
- d. Expanded youth recreation programming during fall, winter and spring
- e. More programs at town parks
- f. Develop a community center with programming, sports, and recreation
- g. Start a mentoring program for youth with seniors, local crafts people, or those with specific skills to share
- h. Other (please list)

11. Paving of dirt roads has been identified as an issue to some residents. Do you feel existing dirt roads should be paved? ___Yes ___No ___It Depends.

a. If you answered yes, is there a specific road you feel should be paved?

b. If you answered 'it depends', please tell us on what it depends on.

12. Some people have expressed their concern about tensions between long-term residents and newcomers and feel that this is an issue and that it decreases the sense of community in the Town. Do you agree with this statement? ___yes ___no

a. If you agree that this is an issue, what ideas do you have for activities or projects that could overcome this problem?

13. People have expressed the desire to preserve agriculture and the rural community character in Durham. What ideas do you have that the Town could take to do that?

14. Many people have expressed the need for a community center in Durham to support activities, recreation, community events, education and others, and to create a gathering place to build our sense of community. Do you agree Durham would benefit from a community center? ___Yes ___No

a. If you answered 'Yes' to #14, where do you feel a community center should be? _____

b. Would you support working with the School District to use the old Durham Elementary School as a community center? ___Yes ___No

c. What other thoughts do you have related to a community center in Durham?

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15. Durham's sense of community has been identified as one of the Town's best features. At the same time, people have identified the separateness of our hamlets and lack of overall Town identity is a barrier to marketing, promotion, communication, and town cohesiveness. Do you agree with this ___ yes ___no

a. What ideas do you have to address this issue? What can be done to improve communication and continue to build our sense of community?

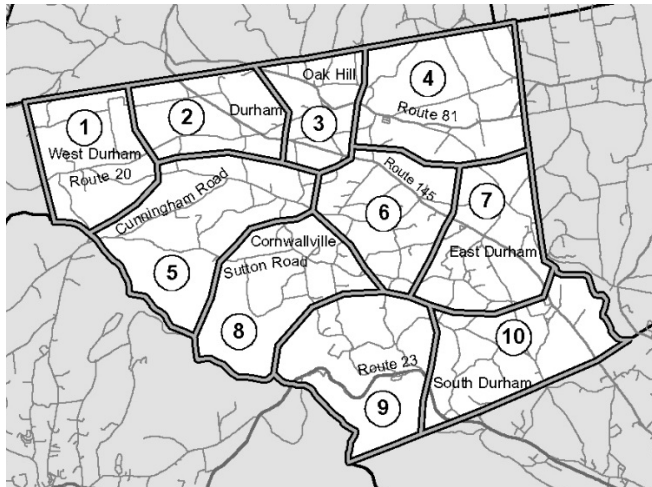
16. Please offer other comments. We are especially interested in any ideas you have that could be applied to continue to make the Town of Durham a great place to live and work.

Tell Us About Yourself

17. Where in the Town of Durham do you live? (Choose an area from the map shown below and check the correct box, below, to show area of town where you live)

___Area 1 ___Area 2 ___Area 3 ___Area 4 ___Area 5 ___Area 6 ___Area 7 ___Area 8

___Area 9 ___Area 10 ___11 I do not live in Durham, but I own land in town.



18. How long have you lived or owned land in the Town of Durham?

19. Are you a Part time or full time resident?

20. What is your age? ___18 years ___19-21 years ___22-30 years ___31-45 years ___46-55 years ___56-65 years ___66-80 years ___81 years or older

21. Do you have any school aged children living with you? ___Yes ___No