

Town of Esperance Resident/Landowner Survey
Spring 2007

Town of Esperance residents/landowners please answer the following questions:

1a.) Do you own land in the Town of Esperance? 254 Yes 13 No/no answer

1b.) I am presently: 219 a full-time, property owning resident
4 a part-time or seasonal, property owning resident (more than 6 months/yr & vote here)
7 an occasional, property owning resident (less than 6 months/yr and/or do not vote here)
19 non-resident landowner
5 non-resident business owner
12 renting resident
1 no answer

2.) I have owned land/lived/operated business in Esperance for:

30 0-3 years 36 4-8 years 19 9-12 years
54 13-20 years 37 21-30 years 86 over 30 years 4 no answer

3.) In which general area is your land/residence/business?

68 Hamlet of Sloansville 6 no answer/other
45 Hamlet of Central Bridge (See map on back of cover letter)
147 Remainder of Town

4.) I presently own the following property in Esperance: (indicate number of parcels you own on each line)

79 2 acres or less 53 2-5 acres 37 5.1-10 acres 26 10-25 acres
14 25-50 acres 40 50.1 acres or more 8 I rent my residence 0 I rent my business
9 no answer/other

5.) Where is the last place you lived prior to moving to your current address?

42 Elsewhere in Esperance 13 New York City/Westchester/Rockland/Long Island
70 Elsewhere in Schoharie County 71 Elsewhere in Upstate New York
5 New England (CT, MA, VT, ME, NH, RI) 18 always lived where I do now
8 Mid-Atlantic (NJ, PA, DE, MD, VA) 11 Elsewhere/no answer: _____

6.) How far do you commute (one-way) to work?

14 Work at home or on my own property 26 less than 10 miles 74 11 – 30 miles
83 Retired 41 31 – 60 miles 10 61 miles or greater
16 No answer/other

7.) My property in Esperance would be considered in the following category: (check all that apply)

163 Residential 15 Commercial
51 Hobby farm or active farm 29 Non-farm, vacant land 10 No answer/other

14.) Do you support measures to protect scenic views or establishment of visually sensitive districts?

165 Yes 65 No 31 No answer

If yes, what area(s) do you think should be protected?

88 written responses given – creek areas are the most popular answer

If yes, what type of protection should be considered? (Check all that apply)

62 Architectural Requirements 85 Restriction in height of buildings 54 Lighting
47 Landscaping Requirements 71 Restrictions on tree removal
59 larger lot sizes 28 other people do not want: junk, wind towers, and cell towers

15.) Please indicate whether Esperance should encourage or discourage the following land uses and, if encouraged, your preferred location:

	Encourage	Discourage	NA	Preferred Location (list specific area)
-- Commercial	<u>127</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>Rt 20, village, and Rt 30A</u>
-- Convenience Stores	<u>84</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>Rt 20 and Rt 30A</u>
-- Farming	<u>197</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>everywhere, usable land, ag. districts</u>
-- Home Based Businesses	<u>165</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>anywhere in town</u>
-- Heavy Industrial	<u>32</u>	<u>154</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>outside residential area</u>
-- Light Industrial	<u>123</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>Rt 20 and village</u>
-- Hotel/Motel	<u>84</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>Rt 20, Rt 30A, anywhere could survive</u>
-- Large Retail	<u>47</u>	<u>137</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>Rt 20, Rt 30A, Rt 7, I-88</u>
-- Small Retail	<u>167</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>same as above and Central Bridge</u>
-- Professional Offices	<u>154</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>same as above</u>
-- Restaurants	<u>170</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>same as above</u>
-- Open Space	<u>165</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>84</u>	<u>anywhere/wherever possible/all over</u>
-- Recreational Facilities	<u>158</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>village, any/everywhere</u>
-- Single-Family Residential	<u>180</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>same as above</u>
-- Two-Family Residential	<u>95</u>	<u>74</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>all over/anywhere</u>
-- Affordable Housing	<u>117</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>anywhere, nowhere, along major routes</u>
-- Apartments	<u>66</u>	<u>105</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>along major roads, nowhere, clustered</u>
-- Condominiums	<u>59</u>	<u>118</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>village, clustered, anywhere</u>
-- Town Houses	<u>63</u>	<u>108</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>major roads, village, clustered</u>
-- Mobile Home Parks	<u>40</u>	<u>153</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>major roads/village, not wanted</u>
-- Senior Housing	<u>161</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>major roads, village, anywhere</u>

16.) I would like land use in my immediate Esperance neighborhood to develop as: (check all that apply)

132 Agricultural 91 Mixed (Residential/Small Business)
94 Conservation/Preservation 151 Rural Residential-Agricultural
5 High Density Residential 111 Rural Residential
13 Industrial/Manufacturing 54 Small Business/Commercial/Retail
9 Large Business/Commercial/Retail 15 No answer/other

17.) Please indicate the importance of each of the following aspects of the area's environment:

	<u>Important</u>	<u>Somewhat Important</u>	<u>Not that Important</u>	<u>NA/O</u>
Air quality	<u>240</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>
Drinking water quality	<u>248</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>9</u>
Farmland	<u>198</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>12</u>
Forests	<u>197</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>16</u>
Historic buildings	<u>156</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>
Scenic views	<u>159</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>20</u>
Stream corridors	<u>171</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>29</u>
Stream water quality	<u>208</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>18</u>
Wetlands	<u>131</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>30</u>
Wildlife habitat diversity	<u>164</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>20</u>

18.) Review the following strengths, opportunities, weaknesses and threats in/to the Town. This list was devised by a committee and needs to be compared to the views of the general public. Indicate (by checking 3 in each category) what you think are the 3 most important in each of the four categories in the Town of Esperance. If you think there is a different strength, weakness, opportunity or threat that is a top priority, please indicate on the 'other' line:

Strengths (Check only your top three)

Access to Capital District	<u>133</u>
Scenery/Rural Character/Working Farms/Open Space	<u>153</u>
Low crime	<u>79</u>
Freedom to Homeowner/Property Rights	<u>80</u>
Schoharie School District	<u>16</u>
Home-Based Businesses	<u>5</u>
Reasonably Priced Land	<u>36</u>
Zoning Law	<u>23</u>
Taxes	<u>61</u>
Recreation/Tourism/Hunting & Fishing	<u>30</u>
Scenic Byway	<u>23</u>
Home Town Enthusiasm/People/Sense of Community	<u>51</u>
Change in Transportation pattern	<u>4</u>
Other <u>9 written comments</u>	<u>6</u>

Opportunities (Check only your top three)

Major Highways	<u>94</u>
Access to Capital District	<u>160</u>
Tourism/Scenic Byway/Hunting & Fishing	<u>111</u>
Future Growth – Municipal Sewer/Water Development	<u>84</u>
Recreation	<u>71</u>
Open Space/Undeveloped Land	<u>127</u>
Tech Valley	<u>23</u>
Other <u>6 written responses</u>	<u>5</u>

Weaknesses (Check only your top three)

Taxes	<u>113</u>
Lack of Public Sewer and Water	<u>97</u>
Lack of Economic Opportunity (Low Pay)	<u>112</u>
Junk (Vehicles and other debris)	<u>140</u>
Over regulation	<u>62</u>
Lack of volunteer EMS/Fire personnel	<u>36</u>
Limited Road Frontage	<u>7</u>
Higher Cost of Living	<u>61</u>
Absentee landlords	<u>39</u>
Other: <u>23 responses - lack of planning, development, and services</u>	<u>21</u>

Threats (Check only your top three)

Higher Taxes	<u>207</u>
Increase in Property Value/Second Home Owners increasing value	<u>107</u>
Loss of Farms	<u>191</u>
Dam Failure	<u>109</u>
Other: <u>34 written responses – many for or against development, although more responses are against development than for it</u>	<u>34</u>

19.) Land use regulations should evaluate projects based on:

- 127 their impacts (architecture, noise, lighting, landscaping, parking, signage, traffic, storm drainage, size of the parcel, etc...) to the surrounding area
- 89 a list of allowed and prohibited uses by zoning district (as is the law now)
- 32 No answer/other

20.) What types of things should be *more* enforced/regulated (check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <u>33</u> Nothing | <u>15</u> Lighting for residential uses |
| <u>50</u> Animal Control - Dogs | <u>55</u> Location of commercial uses |
| <u>11*</u> Animal Control – Other | <u>46</u> Lot sizes |
| <u>51</u> Apartments | <u>44</u> Noise |
| <u>10</u> Architecture | <u>20</u> Parking |
| <u>169</u> Junk | <u>19</u> Placement of recreational vehicles |
| <u>22</u> Landscaping for nonresidential uses | <u>5</u> Placement of residential uses |
| <u>12</u> Landscaping for residential uses | <u>32</u> Signs |
| <u>23</u> Lighting for nonresidential uses | <u>8</u> Yard sales |
| <u>26</u> Outdoor wood furnaces | <u>41</u> Wind towers |
| <u>54</u> Burn barrels | <u>56</u> Cell towers |
| | <u>21</u> other (22 written responses – burning, over-regulation, animals, gunfire most common) |

* = written answers (more than 11 people checked the box, but only 11 wrote an answer – checked boxes cannot be tallied)

21.) What types of things should be *less* enforced/regulated (check all that apply):

<u>91</u> Nothing	<u>24</u> Lighting for residential uses
<u>5</u> Animal Control - Dogs	<u>12</u> Location of commercial uses
<u>5</u> Animal Control - Other	<u>27</u> Lot sizes
<u>3</u> Apartments	<u>12</u> Noise
<u>18</u> Architecture	<u>13</u> Parking
<u>7</u> Junk	<u>28</u> Placement of recreational vehicles
<u>25</u> landscaping for nonresidential uses	<u>20</u> Placement of residential uses
<u>42</u> landscaping for residential uses	<u>15</u> Signs
<u>14</u> lighting for nonresidential uses	<u>39</u> Yard sales
<u>41</u> Outdoor Wood Furnaces	<u>53</u> Wind Towers
<u>37</u> Burn Barrels	<u>43</u> Cell Towers
	<u>8</u> other (10 written)

22.) How would you rate the following in Esperance (number of written comments in parentheses):

<u>Sidewalks (46):</u>	<u>unsatisfactory: 34 satisfactory: 73 outstanding: 0 no opinion/na: 132</u>
<u>Water (61):</u>	<u>unsatisfactory: 58 satisfactory: 76 outstanding: 1 no opinion/na: 104</u>
<u>Sewage (76):</u>	<u>unsatisfactory: 87 satisfactory: 50 outstanding: 2 no opinion/na: 100</u>
<u>Historic Preservation (12):</u>	<u>unsatisfactory: 10 satisfactory: 136 outstanding: 11 no opinion/na: 82</u>
<u>Fire Service (13):</u>	<u>unsatisfactory: 8 satisfactory: 135 outstanding: 54 no opinion/na: 42</u>
<u>Ambulance Service (17):</u>	<u>unsatisfactory: 13 satisfactory: 123 outstanding: 56 no opinion/na: 47</u>
<u>Police Service (27):</u>	<u>unsatisfactory: 23 satisfactory: 139 outstanding: 16 no opinion/na: 61</u>
<u>Code Enforcement (31):</u>	<u>unsatisfactory: 34 satisfactory: 113 outstanding: 11 no opinion/na: 81</u>
<u>Road Conditions (30):</u>	<u>unsatisfactory: 30 satisfactory: 159 outstanding: 27 no opinion/na: 23</u>
<u>Recreation Facilities (30):</u>	<u>unsatisfactory: 37 satisfactory: 103 outstanding: 3 no opinion/na: 96</u>
<u>Snow Removal (18):</u>	<u>unsatisfactory: 13 satisfactory: 143 outstanding: 46 no opinion/na: 37</u>
<u>Parking (11):</u>	<u>unsatisfactory: 7 satisfactory: 125 outstanding: 2 no opinion/na: 105</u>
<u>Cable (45):</u>	<u>unsatisfactory: 53 satisfactory: 114 outstanding: 9 no opinion/na: 63</u>
<u>Recreational Activities (30):</u>	<u>unsatisfactory: 37 satisfactory: 95 outstanding: 3 no opinion/na: 104</u>
<u>Activities for Youth (43):</u>	<u>unsatisfactory: 63 satisfactory: 53 outstanding: 1 no opinion/na: 122</u>

23.) Do you think the current land use laws in the Town are:

42 too stringent 36 not stringent enough 123 just fine 56 no answer/other

24.) Please list what you do not like or what you would like to see changed in the Town:

141 written responses
