

# TOWN OF ESPERANCE SURVEY SUMMARY

31.0% of the surveys sent out were returned (269 of 861) in this successful survey, which gives the Planning Board a good basis for decision-making. Highlights of the summary can be found below – see the survey results for more information.

- ⇒ 82.0% of respondents are full-time, property owning residents; 4.5% are renting residents; 7.1% are non-resident landowners
- ⇒ 56.5% of people live in the “remainder of town,” compared to 26.2% in Sloansville and 17.3% in Central Bridge
- ⇒ 60.8% of respondents describe their property as “residential;” 19.3% describe it as a hobby or active farm (top two answers)
- ⇒ 32.6% of people say that Esperance has become a more desirable place to live in the time they have been there; 58.2% say that it has either not changed or become less desirable
- ⇒ 61.1% of respondents say that the current lot size is adequate; 31.0% say that it is too small (61.2% say adequate in Sloansville; 73.3% in Central Bridge; 52.4% in the remainder of town)
- ⇒ Landis Arboretum, Schoharie Creek, wetlands, other creeks, and agricultural districts are the sites that should be most protected and conserved
- ⇒ 63.2% of respondents support measures to protect scenic views; 24.9% do not
- ⇒ The following land uses should be encouraged:
  - Commercial
  - Farming
  - Home-based business
  - Light industrial
  - Small retail
  - Professional offices
  - Restaurants
  - Open space
  - Recreational facilities
  - Single-family residential
  - Two-family residential
  - Affordable housing
  - Senior housing
- ⇒ The following land uses should be discouraged:
  - Heavy industrial
  - Large retail
  - Apartments
  - Condominiums
  - Town houses
  - Mobile home parks

⇒ Preferred locations of development are along major routes (20, 30A, I-88) and in villages

- ⇒ Respondents want to see land around them develop as rural residential/agricultural, agricultural, rural residential, conservation/preservation and mixed – residential, small business (in order by number of responses, starting with the highest)
- ⇒ Strengths of the area are:
  - Scenery/rural character/working farms/open space
  - Access to capital district
  - Freedom to homeowner/property rights
  - Low crime
- ⇒ Opportunities in the area are:
  - Access to capital district
  - Open space/undeveloped land
  - Tourism/scenic byway/hunting and fishing
  - Major highways
- ⇒ Weaknesses for the area:
  - Junk
  - Taxes
  - Lack of economic opportunity (low pay)
  - Lack of public sewer and water
- ⇒ Threats to the area:
  - Higher taxes
  - Loss of farms
- ⇒ 51.2% of respondents say that land use evaluations be made based on their impacts; 35.9% say they should be based on a list of allowed and prohibited uses
- ⇒ Junk (169) should be more enforced (63% of respondents), as well as dog control (50), apartments (51), burn barrels (54), location of commercial uses (55), and cell towers (56)
- ⇒ “Nothing” was the most common answer for what should be less enforced (91); second most common was wind towers (53 – 19% of respondents)
- ⇒ Ambulance (56) and fire services (54) were rated the most outstanding services in Esperance, followed by snow removal (46) and road conditions (27)
- ⇒ Sewage (87), activities for youth (63), water (58), and cable (53) were the most unsatisfactory services
- ⇒ 47.9% of respondents say land use laws are just fine (16.3% say too stringent; 14.0% say not stringent enough)

Please call Shane Nickle or Zach Thompson at 234-3751 if you would like any more information from the survey.