

Town of Goshen Community Attitude Survey Summary Results

July 9, 2009

Dear Goshen residents, property owners, and other interested persons,

Attached you will find a summary of results for the Town of Goshen Community Attitude Survey. This summary is available for download from the Town web site (<http://www.goshennh.org/>) and for review at the Town Office.

A copy of the survey was mailed to 658 people earlier this year and 122 surveys were completed and returned. As an incentive for participation, one survey participant was selected at random from all completed and returned surveys to receive \$50 worth of Goshen Transfer Station punch cards! The Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (UVLSRPC) staff assisting with this project selected the winner, who wished to remain anonymous.

The Goshen Planning Board wishes to thank the lucky winner and all other people who completed and returned their surveys, as well as those individuals who participated in the Goshen Community Visioning Workshop on September 27, 2008. Your continued interest and support are appreciated.

Information from this survey and the Workshop will be used to refine the Vision and Goals statement in Goshen's Master Plan and to focus efforts on the remaining Master Plan tasks to those growth and development issues citizens have identified.

The Planning Board with assistance from UVLSRPC expects to complete the Master Plan update during 2009.

Sincerely,



Allen Howe, Chair
Goshen Planning Board
planningboard@goshennh.org

Town of Goshen
Community Attitude Survey
Summary Results
July 8, 2009

Prepared by:
The Goshen Planning Board

With Assistance from:
Upper Valley Lake Sunapee
Regional Planning Commission

Goshen Community Attitude Survey Results 2009

Total surveys returned = 122

(no.) = the number of question-specific responses used as the denominator for determining percentages

Total Surveys mailed = 658

18.5 percent response rate

1. Which best describes the area of Town in which you live or own land? **(118)**
 - 10%** a. Village Area
 - 90%** b. Rural Area, Nearest Road: _____

2. How long have you lived or owned property in Goshen? **(121)**
 - 3%** a. Less than 1 year
 - 8%** b. 1-5 years
 - 15%** c. 6-10 years
 - 22%** d. 11-20 years
 - 21%** e. 21-30 years
 - 30%** f. 31 years plus

3. Are you a (check all that apply): **(122)**
 - 64%** a. Year-round resident
 - 21%** b. Part-time or seasonal resident
 - 78%** c. Property owner
 - 1%** d. Renter
 - 52%** e. Registered voter

4. What is your age? **(121)**
 - 0%**a. Under 18
 - 2%**b. 18-30
 - 21%**c. 31-50
 - 52%**d. 51-70
 - 25%**e. Over 70
 - 0%**f. I prefer not to answer

5. Why do you feel Goshen is a desirable place to live? (Check all that apply) **(122)**
 - 23%**a. Born and/or raised in the area
 - 76%**b. Small-town atmosphere
 - 80%**c. Uncrowded, quiet living conditions
 - 64%**d. Outdoor recreation opportunities
 - 61%**e. Friendly people
 - 4%**f. Employment opportunities
 - 4%**g. School system
 - 15%**h. Town planning
 - 5%**i. Low housing cost
 - 11%**j. Low taxes
 - 11%**k. Other(s) - Please specify: *scenic vistas, low crime, proximity to Sunapee, town not "over regulated"*

6. Would you support the creation of a paid, full or part-time Town Manager/Administrator staff position to assist the Town in complying with state regulations? **(119)**
 - 36%** a. Yes
 - 45%** b. No
 - 19%** c. No opinion

7. Which of the following types of future residential development would you like to see in Goshen?

	Throughout Town (village & rural)	Village Area	Rural Areas	Nowhere
a. Single-family residences (109)	74%	6%	16%	4%
b. Two-family residences (two-unit dwellings) (89)	34%	19%	8%	39%
c. Conversion of large homes to multi-family residences (87)	15%	30%	5%	51%
d. Multi-unit residences (84)	13%	19%	7%	61%
e. Manufactured/mobile homes on individual lots (87)	22%	3%	30%	45%
f. Manufactured/mobile homes in “parks” or “courts” (88)	6%	1%	13%	81%
g. Cluster housing with single-family homes on small lots with the balance preserved as open space (99)	31%	11%	24%	33%

8. How should Goshen accommodate affordable housing (i.e., housing that costs no more than 30 % of household income) for those individuals with limited and/or fixed incomes? (Check all that apply) (122)

- 54%a. Permit one accessory apartment within a residence or garage
- 28%b. Permit greater residential density for projects designated as affordable housing
- 15%c. Encourage multi-family housing
- 30%d. Permit conversion of large homes to multi-family residences
- 13%e. Other options (Please describe):

9. What pattern of commercial development would you prefer to see in Goshen? (Check all that apply) (122)

- 38%a. Restricted to the current light commercial district along Route 10
- 40%b. Expanded light commercial area to include all of Route 10.
- 16%c. Additional light commercial center(s) concentrated outside the existing village center.
Where?: **Route 10 & Brook Road**
- 12%d. Provision for heavy commercial industry in a concentrated area of Goshen.
Where?: **Route 10 & Brook Road**
- 36%e. Restrict gravel excavation to particular part(s) of Goshen (State law requires that each Town must allow for some excavation somewhere in Town. Goshen currently allows it everywhere, by Special Exception).
Where?: **Outside of the village, screened, where sand and gravel currently exist**
- 31%f. Expand tourist district for tourist-related commercial activities.
Where?: **Route 10, Brook Road, Mt Sunapee area**
- 20%g. No further commercial development
- 8%h. Other (Please specify): **Mill Village development, agriculture, preserve what’s left, shape growth**

10. Should the Town support the creation of an outdoor recreation district, comparable to the Mt. Sunapee Recreation District in Newbury, to include the public land within the existing Mt. Sunapee State Park Leasehold? (116)

In answering this question, assume that the purpose of such a district in Goshen would be comparable to that in Newbury, which is: “...to accommodate the needs of year-round recreation uses within the leasehold area of the Mt. Sunapee Resort.” More specifically, the purpose of this district is to: (1) provide for the base facilities necessary to operate the ski mountain; (2) encourage the use of the facilities and site for year-round recreational and cultural uses and activities; and (3) allow for commercial uses accessory to these principal uses.”

- 50% a. Yes
- 36% b. No
- 14% c. No opinion

11. Please rate the following Community Services, Facilities and Equipment.

Town Services										
	Please Rate this Service						Town Spending for this Service Should Be:			
	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion	More	Same	Less	No Opinion
a. Building Inspector (111, 100)	8%	6%	29%	14%	9%	33%	12%	50%	6%	32%
b. Conservation Commission (111, 100)	7%	21%	33%	9%	3%	27%	15%	53%	3%	29%
c. Emergency Management (106, 97)	7%	13%	38%	12%	1%	29%	18%	48%	5%	29%
d. Fire protection (114, 103)	14%	18%	45%	6%	2%	15%	27%	49%	6%	18%
e. Health and Welfare (108, 98)	3%	7%	30%	16%	6%	39%	18%	40%	9%	33%
f. Highway maintenance (114, 105)	2%	10%	35%	24%	22%	8%	27%	47%	11%	15%
g. Law enforcement and police protection (116, 105)	7%	17%	43%	15%	3%	16%	15%	50%	16%	19%
h. Library services (115, 106)	10%	15%	47%	10%	1%	17%	15%	58%	8%	18%
i. Planning Board (114, 101)	9%	18%	32%	14%	8%	20%	13%	50%	11%	26%
j. Solid waste disposal (111, 103)	7%	24%	35%	13%	6%	14%	8%	58%	11%	22%
k. Select Board (113, 99)	4%	18%	34%	9%	12%	24%	14%	51%	10%	25%
l. Town Clerk, Tax Collector (117, 105)	15%	39%	26%	5%	4%	9%	15%	61%	4%	20%
m. Zoning Board (110, 99)	3%	16%	35%	13%	8%	25%	9%	54%	10%	27%

Town Facilities										
	Please Rate this Facility						Town Spending for this Facility Should Be:			
	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion	More	Same	Less	No Opinion
n. Fire station (113, 98)	5%	14%	35%	22%	7%	16%	24%	52%	5%	18%
o. Grange Hall (113, 97)	2%	6%	30%	31%	11%	20%	18%	49%	9%	24%
p. Highway Dept Shed (111, 94)	3%	9%	27%	11%	21%	30%	19%	46%	7%	28%
q. Library building (113, 100)	9%	17%	43%	15%	0%	16%	16%	62%	4%	18%
r. Police facility (110, 97)	2%	4%	34%	24%	14%	24%	27%	41%	8%	24%
s. Transfer station facility (114, 102)	4%	22%	49%	11%	8%	6%	10%	65%	11%	15%
t. Town office facility (114, 101)	5%	14%	38%	18%	18%	7%	26%	53%	6%	15%
u. Goshen-Lempster Cooperative School (113, 102)	2%	12%	28%	24%	11%	24%	29%	36%	16%	19%
Town Equipment										
	Please Rate this Equipment						Town Spending for this Equipment Should Be:			
	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion	More	Same	Less	No Opinion
v. Fire Dept. vehicles (111, 101)	6%	20%	41%	13%	2%	19%	13%	53%	14%	20%
w. Police vehicles (111, 101)	16%	23%	40%	4%	0%	17%	3%	56%	18%	23%
x. Town office equipment (110, 99)	5%	15%	45%	7%	3%	26%	14%	55%	8%	23%
y. Town Highway Department vehicles (107, 97)	7%	7%	45%	17%	4%	21%	21%	44%	11%	24%

12. Would you like the Town to continue Old Home Day? (120)

68%a. Yes **3%**b. No **30%**c. No opinion

If yes, what time of year should the event take place? (106)

36%a. Summer **34%**b. Fall **30%**c. No opinion

Do you have suggestions for improving Old Home Day? : **Educate public about the town, gain more participation, softball game, better parking, avoid conflicting with other events, farmers market**

13. Please rank the following reasons why conserving land is important (Rank 1 through 5, 1 being most important)

	1	2	3	4	5
a. Forestry (117)	19%	21%	21%	22%	16%
b. Recreation (117)	32%	24%	17%	12%	15%
c. Aesthetics (118)	22%	26%	21%	14%	17%
d. Open space (117)	56%	10%	20%	6%	8%
e. Agriculture (118)	31%	8%	8%	24%	30%

14. Please indicate your agreement or disagreement with the following statements, as they apply to Goshen:

Housing					
Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a. The Town is managing housing development well. (116)	7%	26%	49%	16%	3%
b. Some land should be protected from housing development. (117)	43%	38%	10%	7%	2%
c. It is important to provide affordable housing. (115)	10%	38%	30%	14%	7%
d. Encouraging housing growth will stimulate the economy. (114)	9%	34%	24%	25%	8%
e. There is excessive housing development. (116)	1%	2%	47%	44%	7%
f. There are not enough apartments in Town. (114)	3%	15%	42%	28%	12%
g. Housing in Goshen is too expensive. (112)	9%	17%	48%	21%	5%
h. The impact on Town services and tax base should be considered when evaluating regulations related to housing. (112)	37%	46%	13%	4%	0%

Industry					
Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
i. The Town should encourage environmentally sensitive, low-impact business and industry development. (118)	34%	46%	13%	4%	3%
j. The Town should identify areas in which to locate business and industrial development. (115)	35%	48%	9%	7%	2%
k. The Town should discourage high-impact business or industry that has a negative impact on the environment. (117)	53%	32%	9%	4%	2%
l. The Town should limit the areas where sand and gravel excavation is allowed. (119)	41%	24%	15%	16%	3%
m. The Town should allow intensive commercial development. (113)	3%	10%	12%	34%	42%

15. Should the Town actively encourage the provision of high-speed Internet access throughout Goshen? (115)

80% a. Yes **4%**b. No **16%** c. No opinion

16. What businesses or services would you like to see, or see more of, in Goshen (check all that apply)? **(122)**

- 43%**a. Arts and crafts
- 19%**b. Automotive service
- 14%**c. Sand and gravel excavation
- 57%**d. Eating establishments
- 43%**e. Professional Offices (doctors, dentists, specialists, alternative practitioners)
- 36%**f. Lodging (B&Bs, motels, hotels)
- 36%**g. Tourism-based businesses (guided hikes, amusements)
- 33%**h. Personal services (barbers, hairdressers, laundry/dry cleaning, etc.)
- 22%**i. Forestry and timber
- 11%**j. Manufacturing
- 39%**k. Light industry (e.g. research and development)
- 58%**l. Home-based businesses (“cottage industries”)
- 21%**m. Banking
- 13%**n. Other: **parks/play areas, farming, services, cell phone service, light commercial,**

17. Assuming that the local property tax would support the acquisition and maintenance of any new recreational facility, which of the following types of choices would you like to see in Goshen (check all that apply)? **(122)**

- 18%**a. Softball/baseball field
- 14%**b. Basketball court
- 11%**c. Volleyball/Tennis courts
- 46%**d. Hiking & cross country ski trails
- 43%**e. Bike paths
- 20%**f. Boat launch for residents
- 26%**g. Picnic area
- 20%**h. Ice skating
- 20%**i. More parking spaces at existing trail heads
- 22%**j. Multi-purpose recreation area
- 33%**k. Additional beach area for residents
- 15%**l. Band stand
- 20%**m. No recreation facilities needed
- 6%**n. Other (**none specified**)

18. Several suggestions have been made to help foster an improved sense of community. Please check those you support. **(122)**

- 36%**a. Strategically located bulletin boards around Town
- 17%**b. A parent and/or citizens organization to administer Town athletic programs
- 57%**c. A small periodic Town Newsletter
- 20%**d. An outing club to plan and foster tourist and local community activities
- 31%**e. Periodic community information discussions on local current events sponsored by the Town boards and community organizations
- 31%**f. Cultural events like concerts or lectures
- 12%**g. Other (Please suggest ideas:) **Website and/or blog, billboard for events, special events**

19. The Town should continue to acquire conservation land through:

Statement	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
a. Land that is kept by its current owner, but which the current owner allows the Town to manage as conservation land (“Donated conservation easement”). (111)	77%	9%	14%
b. Land that is donated to the Town, so that the Town owns it, and the Town manages it as conservation land. (112)	83%	4%	13%
c. Land that the Town purchases, using Town funds, and manages as conservation land. (107)	47%	33%	21%

20. The Town's Land protection efforts should:

Statement	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
a. Protect wetlands, surface waters and their buffers. (114)	88%	7%	5%
b. Protect scenic views and view points. (112)	78%	14%	8%
c. Protect hill tops. (114)	63%	21%	16%
d. Be left to private trusts. (112)	28%	35%	38%

21. The Town should promote:

Statement	Agree	Disagree	No Opinion
a. Additional recycling (organic waste, asphalt, electronics, etc.). (113)	82%	10%	8%
b. Energy conservation. (112)	91%	2%	7%
c. Alternative energy production. (114)	86%	5%	9%
d. Hazardous waste collections. (114)	90%	4%	6%
e. Public access to lakes, rivers and ponds (114)	76%	9%	15%
f. Public access to trails(113)	81%	7%	12%

22. Are any of the following traffic conditions a problem on roads in Goshen? (60)

Please specify which roads:

- 42%** a. Truck traffic Rt 10 Washington Road, Brook Road, Rand Pond Rd, Ballpark Rd
- 27%** b. Traffic speed Brook Road - old pronnee rd corner! , Route 31, Rt 10, Messer & Cross Rd,
- 7%** c. Pedestrian safety School area
- 7%** d. Traffic noise Rte 31- Large Trucks.
- 3%** e. Traffic safety Brook Rd and Route 10 north of Cross Rd
- 3%** f. Inadequate street lighting Village area
- 12%** g. Other Bridge on Cross Road