

Town of Addison Survey Summary – April 17th, 2015

ACRPC

Who responded:

134 responses/527 households = 25% of households responded

** 80% of survey participants were between ages of 46-75, 20% 46-55, 60% over 56,. (Median age in Addison = 44)

94% of participants were home owners in Addison

50% who responded had lived in Addison over 20 years/50% less than 20 years

*93% did not currently have children at the Addison Central School

22% of the participants currently owned or were interested in owning a business in Addison

What do you like most about Addison? 106 respondents/79% of participants

Listed in order of number of times repeated:

- The Lake
- Rural
- Neighborly
- Beauty
- Quiet
- Countryside
- Snake Mountain
- Close to Middlebury
- Peaceful
- Scenery
- Wide Open Spaces
- Small Community

What would you like to stay the same? (96 responses/71% of participants)

Listed in order of number of times repeated:

- Rural character
- Farming community
- Agricultural
- School stay open
- Access to clean lake and/or views to Lake
- Open Spaces/views
- Small population

What changes would most improve Addison? (92 responses/69% of participants)

Listed in order of number of times repeated:

- Acceptance and support of Local Business

- Renovate the Town Hall
- Have a clearly identified Town Center
- Lower taxes/fair taxes
- Farms – encourage best management practices
- Support for new/existing young families
- Road speeds and maintenance

Five top priorities (participants collectively valued the most)

- Supporting Addison farms/agricultural businesses
- Maintaining high quality natural resources – forests, water, soil etc.
- Affordability of land and housing
- Maintaining scenic vistas and other unique natural and cultural features
- Maintaining public access to lake Champlain and other recreation areas

Next priorities

- Supporting home-based business
- Having an identifiable town center
- Proximity to goods and services

Lowest priority

- *Keeping the school open
- **Availability of safe walking and cycling

= **think about who may be missing from the survey demographics before locking down on these

Residents sense of their town...

75% rated Town of Addison was an excellent to good place to raise children.

69% rated sense of place as excellent or good.

54% rated it was an excellent to good place to retire.

54% rated sense of community as excellent or good.

Only 37% rated Addison an affordable place to live.

36% rated Addison as a good (6 said excellent) place to work or have a business.

Only 28% rated Addison excellent to good for quality of amenities and services.

= compare these with values and priorities to determine what topics should be priority planning topics

Residential growth/general concerns:

74% of participants think residential growth should be restricted in some areas in order to preserve natural, scenic and/or agricultural land.

70% disagreed that residential growth should be able to happen anywhere.

=plan for residential growth in a way that maintains natural, scenic and agricultural land

Business growth/general concerns:

78% agreed business development should be limited in some areas of town, in order to maintain natural and scenic resources.

78% agreed with clear guidelines, home-based businesses should be supported in all areas of town.

69% agreed design standards should be developed for all business/commercial development.

73% would like to see new businesses which could offer employment opportunities to local residents.

= guide business development/understand priority areas for businesses and support home based business in plan and regs.

Solar concerns:

79% would like the Addison Planning Commission to focus efforts on siting guidelines for these projects.

76% would like to know more about how these projects occur.

73% are supportive of these alternative energy projects if siting and design are considered.

60% are concerned solar farms are encroaching on cultural and scenic resources.

= PC discuss siting guidelines in plan/regs

LDR-Ag zoning changes:

32% supported changing to smaller lots size (from 5 to 2 or 1 acre across entire LDR-Ag district).

45% did not support this change.

23% wanted to know more regarding alternative zoning choices.

= learn about alternatives