

TOWN OF DAY
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE
SURVEY SUMMARY

The Town of Day is undertaking the development of a new Comprehensive Plan to replace the Plan developed in the 1980's. The Plan development process involves a number of information gathering steps, including structured interviews with representatives from Saratoga County Planning, APA, DEC., HRBRRD, local Fire and EMT groups as well as a number of other organizations. It is planned to conduct workshops and other open "town meeting" style discussions with people in Day this summer. All this will occur before the Plan is drafted by the committee. After the draft plan is created, formal Public Hearings will be scheduled.

One very critical part of the information gathering process was a survey sent to every property owner in the Town of Day. The original survey document, the actual individual responses, as well as summaries of the open ended questions, are available for review at Town Hall. The tabulated data will be made available on the Town's web site at a future date. The results of those surveys have been tabulated, and some highlights are outlined below.

In early January, 1583 surveys were mailed to every address on the Town's tax rolls. 26 were returned as undeliverable and an extraordinary 802 surveys were filled out and returned giving us a response rate of 52%. There were 2395 responses to the 4 open ended questions, or about 600/question. Some of these were one word responses, many contained several ideas, and some wrote at length or attached a page. Normally mail surveys have return rates under 10%, and 30% would be unusually high. Most people don't like to write out answers to questions. Here, the reverse was true -- very few people chose not to answer any of the open ended questions. This was our first sign that people associated with the Town are seriously involved with thinking about the Town, and its future.

The committee charged with developing a draft of the Comprehensive Plan was interested in looking at the degree to which people who call Day their residence may differ from people who have a permanent residence some place else, but spent time here. After much discussion, we decided we had 3 categories we were interested in -- Permanent residents, people who see themselves as "seasonal" and people who spend time here year around, but have their permanent residences some place else. After analyzing the numeric responses and the responses to the open ended questions, the committee has concluded that all the respondents are on the same page. For the purpose of planning, we see no reason to differentiate between Day Residents, "Seasonals," and people who spent time here year around, but live elsewhere.

In more specific areas we find:

- A large number of people suggested we change “nothing”, evidenced by a desire to preserve the life style, rural character, scenery and natural beauty of Day.
- Fire, Police, and EMT services are generally seen as adequate or satisfactory, only a few felt they were a serious problem.
- There was a general concern for the adequacy of what we might call “resident” services – things like stores, shops, gas stations, etc.
- There was an interest in expanding recreational opportunities in Day – things like hiking and biking trails, etc.
- There is a consensus that the Town should not be proactively recruiting new industry.
- There was a passionate interest in two issues – cell service and having the Town work with the HRBRRD. These two areas will present a particular challenge as they fall outside the Town government’s jurisdiction.

A complete review of the entire set of survey results will be discussed in this summer’s open meetings, and additional summary material will soon be posted on the Town’s web site (www.townofday.com).