

Community Survey: Summary of Results

In October and November of 2022, a survey was conducted to assess priorities and feelings towards the Lake Luzerne community as a part of the comprehensive planning process. The questions were formed from a public presentation and distributed digitally to encourage citizen participation. The survey yielded nearly 300 responses that came in the form of multiple choice questions and written comments. Comments gathered during the public meeting and through the survey were used to inform the comprehensive planning committee and the goals and priorities proposed.

An assessment of the data yielded the following conclusions:

- An overwhelming majority of respondents believe that Lake Luzerne is a good place to live, it is friendly, affordable, and distinctive with a strong sense of place. It has adequate emergency, senior, and education services. However, there are questions about how welcoming residents are to new residents or visitors, as well as what is described as “cultural decay” owing to a lack of identity and community culture.
- Most respondents do not believe that the local economy is currently stable. They cite a lack of business, fewer jobs, and -most notably- a lack of local restaurants, which is a prevalent theme through all the comments.
- The survey did not reveal significant needs for infrastructure improvements other than improved roadways and cellular and internet service. A majority of respondents did not feel that the municipality needed improved water, sewer, or stormwater collection.
- Responses are deeply divided over the role of tourism in the local economy. There seems to be a majority of respondents feel that the local economy depends on tourism and that tourism facilities and services could be updated, but concerns remain about the manner in which tourism impacts the quality of life and environment for year-round residents.
- Housing was another area of dispute among respondents. While some cite the exodus of young people and few attainable housing options for young families, others are reluctant to see new housing developments. However, there is a consensus that there is a need to improve existing housing stock through housing rehabilitation and/or mobile and manufactured home replacement.
- Respondents were equally divided on the role of zoning in their community. They were mostly split on whether zoning responds to changing conditions, and if zoning needs to be revised to encourage commercial or residential development. A majority did feel that revised zoning should be directed to certain areas along Route 9N.
- A majority of respondents did feel that protection of natural resources and open space is strong enough and did not feel that flooding issues related to climate change need to be addressed. The majority felt that Lake Luzerne water quality is exceptional or adequate, but additional measures are needed to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.