



Town of Columbus  
4340 State Highway 80  
Sherburne, New York 13460

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# Town of Columbus, NY

## **Planning Board Town Survey - 2005**



*Results of Survey Supporting the Future  
Direction of the Town*





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**Planning Board Members** (during survey period)

Carol Kinne, Chair

Doug Clark, Vice Chair

Elizabeth Vermeulen, Secretary

Christine Coates

David Grey

C. Wells Horton

Alan Smith

**Summary**

With the goal to update the Town of Columbus Comprehensive Plan, last updated in 1996, the Town of Columbus Planning Board conducted a survey during November and December 2004. With the use of Voting Rolls and Tax Rolls surveys were mailed to many but not all Town residence and town land owners. Not all survey recipients are residents of the Town of Columbus, but have a vested interest in the future of the Town.

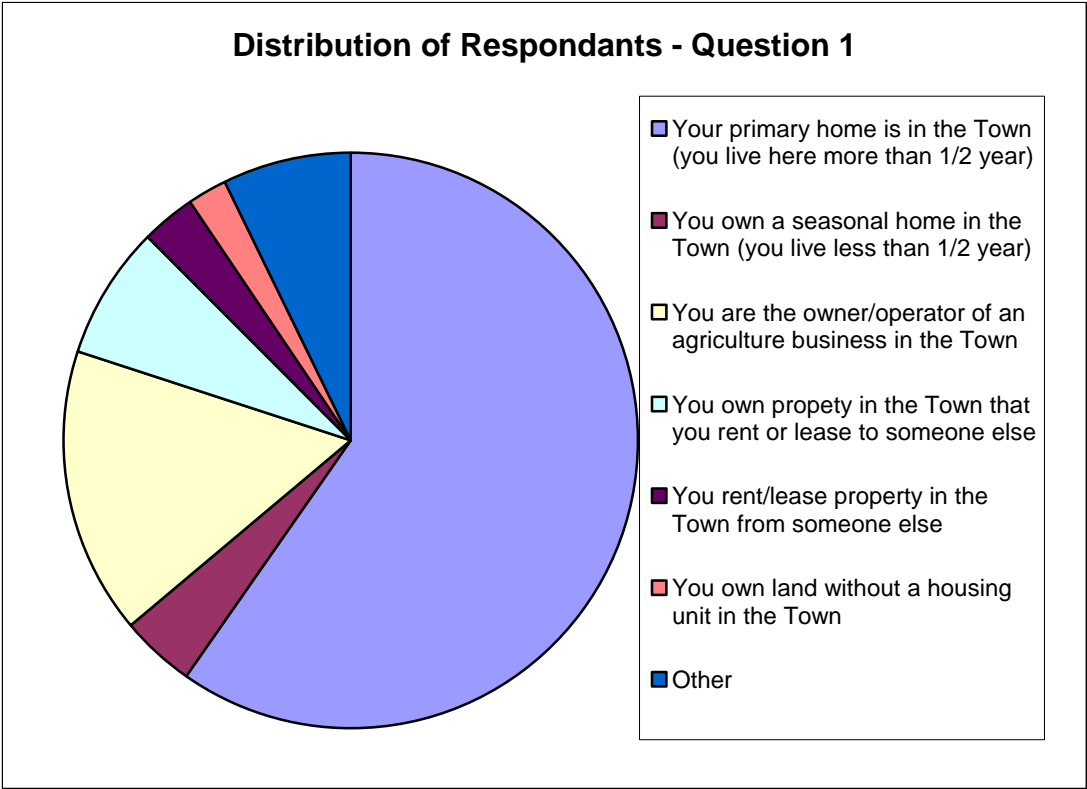
This Report presents the findings of the survey.

### Question 1

Which of the following describes your interest in the Town of Columbus?

	Number of Respondents
Your primary home is in the Town (you live here more than 1/2 year)	101
You own a seasonal home in the Town (you live less than 1/2 year)	7
You are the owner/operator for an agriculture business in the Town	27
You own property in the Town that you rent or lease to someone else	13
You rent/lease property in the Town from someone else	5
You own land without a housing unit in the Town	4
Other	12

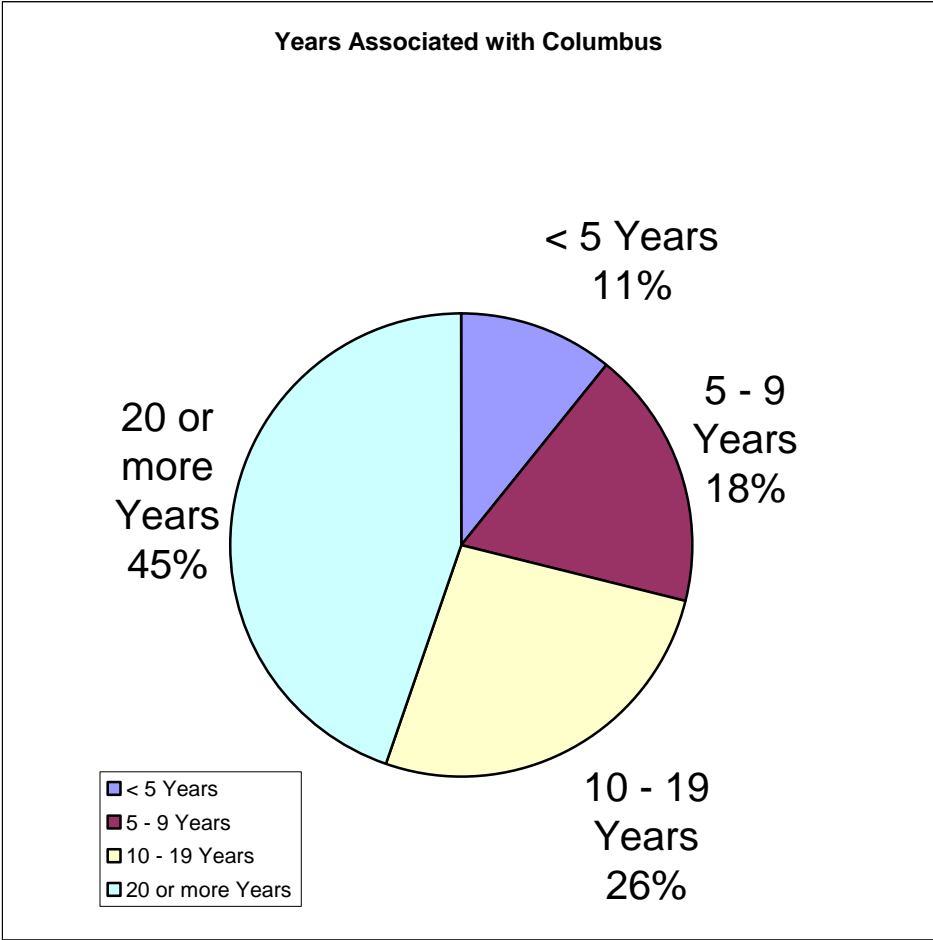
*Note: Respondents were asked to check all that applied.*



**Question 2**

How long have you lived, owned an interest, rented, or done business in Columbus?

Years	Number of Respondents
< 5	13
5 - 9	22
10 - 19	32
20 +	54

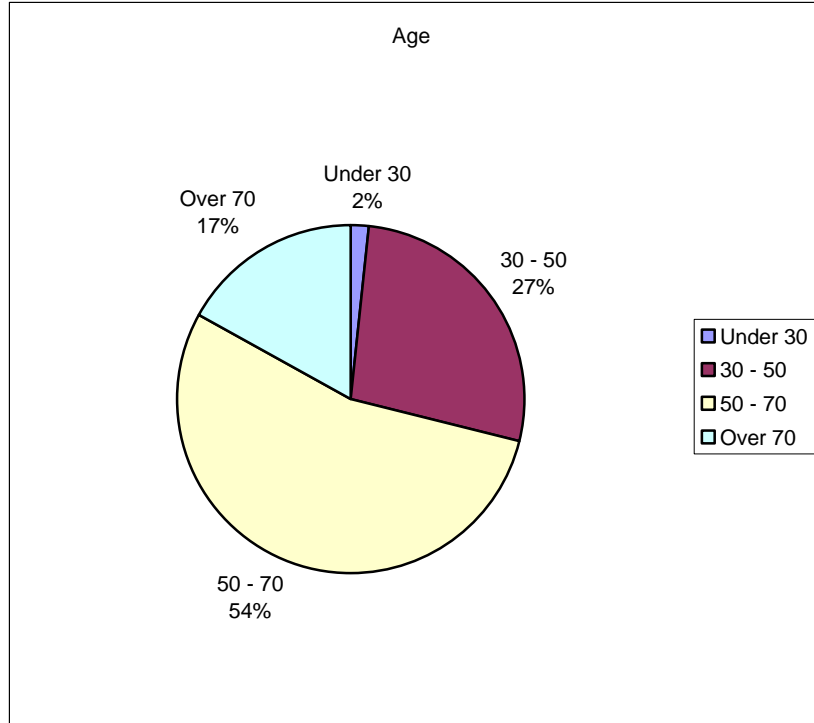


**Question 3**

What is your age group range?

Age	Number
Under 30	2

30 - 50	32
50 - 70	64
Over 70	20



### Question 4a

Areas Important to you

4a. In updating our comprehensive plan, what specific areas would be important to you?  
Please rank from 1 – 4, with 1 representing the highest priority.

Emphasis on economic development.

Emphasis on maintaining the area's rural character.

Emphasis on furnishing community needs (example: recreational, infrastructure, community services, social.)

Emphasis on aesthetic and historical resources.

Emphasis on economic development		
Rank	Frequency	Average Rank
1	17	2.9
2	14	
3	23	
4	42	

Emphasis on maintaining the area's rural character.

Rank	Frequency	Average Rank
1	73	
2	11	
3	10	
4	3	1.4

Emphasis on furnishing community needs (example: recreational, infrastructure, community services, social

Rank	Frequency	Average Rank
1	11	
2	34	
3	27	
4	21	2.0

Emphasis on aesthetic and historical resources.

Rank	Frequency	Average Rank
1	5	2.9
2	31	
3	31	
4	27	

## Question 4b

What controls may be necessary to achieve the desired community? Please specify:

*4B: What controls are necessary to achieve the desired community?*

*# of Comments    Comment*

26:	<i>Need more regulations/ zoning</i>
16:	<i>Need to enforce codes we have</i>
15:	<i>Enforce codes to clean up dumps/junk/cars/yards/rotting buildings</i>
8:	<i>Discourage large, high-density housing developments</i>
5:	<i>Control placement of trailer parks</i>
4:	<i>Improve roads and maintain roads</i>
4:	<i>No changes, no new regulations</i>
3:	<i>No large franchises / malls</i>
2:	<i>Encourage businesses</i>
2:	<i>Find what the community needs and work to attain it</i>
1:	<i>Reopen Columbus Hotel</i>
1:	<i>Lower taxes on land that is being farmed</i>
1:	<i>Encourage agricultural use of empty land currently not being farmed</i>

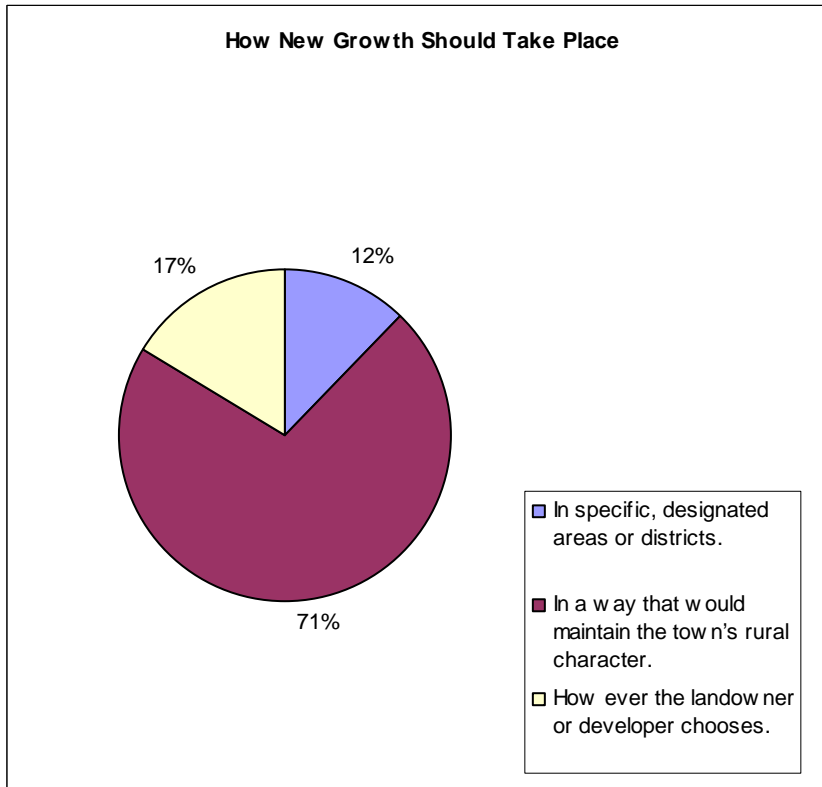
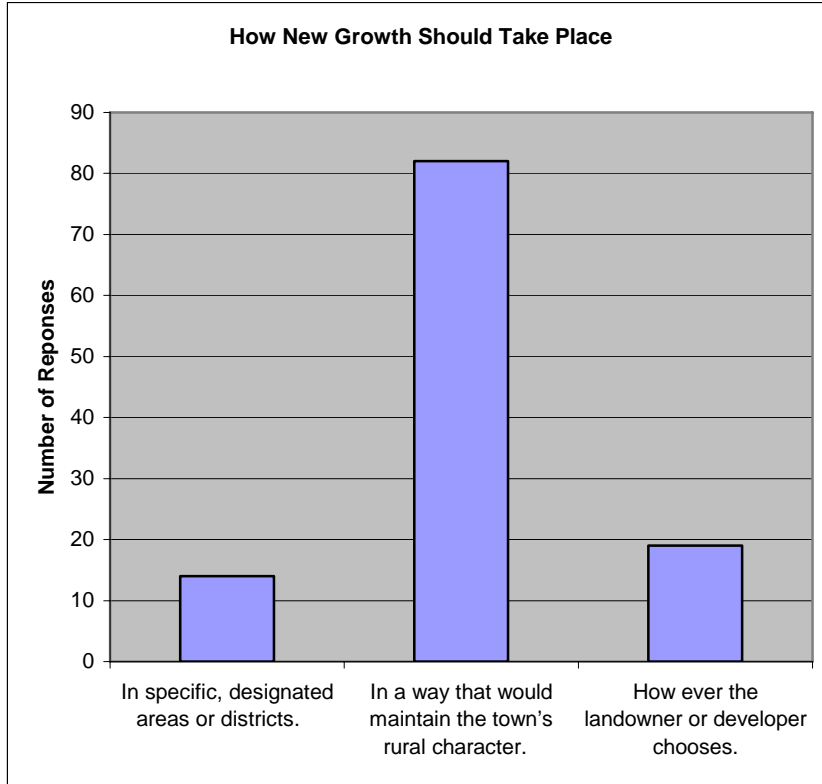
- 1: *More jobs*
- 1: *Before a property is sold for taxes, the new owner should sign a land use agreement to use the land in a way that will contribute to the aesthetic and historical value of the town*
- 1: *Don't hit new residents with higher taxes, encourage young people who want to keep the land natural.*
- 1: *Financial contributions*
- 1: *Change in attitudes*
- 1: *Domestic animal control*
- 1: *Limit amount of people moving here*
- 1: *Noise control (model airplanes)*
- 1: *Have Sheriff or Constable available*
- 1: *Cell phone access*
- 1: *Encourage education*
- 1: *Control shale mining*

*Text Responses see Appendix 2*

## **Question 5**

When growth occurs (new homes, businesses), where and how should it take place? (*Check only one.*)

	Number
In specific, designated areas or districts.	14
In a way that would maintain the town's rural character.	82
How ever the landowner or developer chooses.	19



## Question 6

What changes or improvements would you like to see in the Town with the realization that some of these choices require an increase in taxes to facilitate? (*check all that apply*)

Improved recreational opportunities

Increase of commercial/retail establishments.

Improved Roads

Access to cable (internet and television)

Access to high speed internet

Cell phone capability

List Others

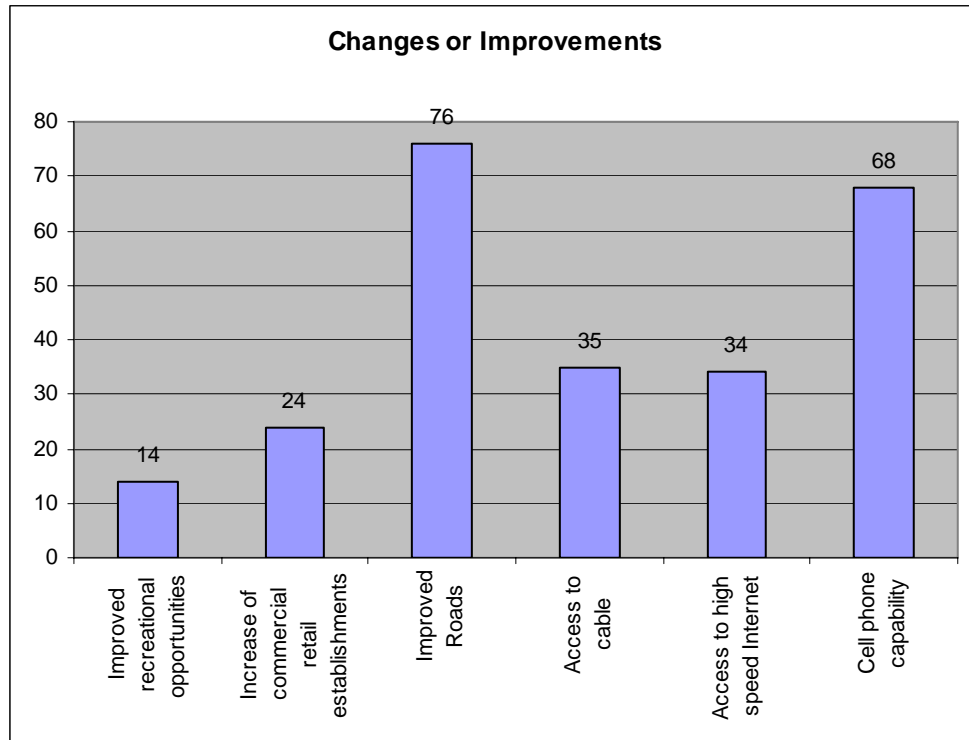
	Number
Improved recreational opportunities	14
Increase of commercial retail establishments	24
Improved Roads	76
Access to cable	35
Access to high speed Internet	34
Cell phone capability	68

*What changes or improvements would you like to see in the Town even if it raises taxes?*

- 6: *Better maintain existing roads*
- 3: *Fix Spurr Street*
- 3: *Clean up junk*
- 3: *Plow better in winter*
- 2: *Financial assistance for low income families to maintain the appearance of their properties*
- 2: *More road crew*
- 2: *Restaurants*
- 2: *Need tower for cell and pager service*
- 2: *Clear roadside brush, maintain shoulders*
- 2: *Control road dust*
- 1: *Fix Rock Calhoun Road*
- 1: *Pave more roads*
- 1: *Train highway workers*
- 1: *Maintain & improve Norton Park*
- 1: *Drive-In*
- 1: *Local ambulance service*

- 1: *Reopen Deer Path*
- 1: *Cable TV*
- 1: *Wireless internet*
- 1: *Improve home exteriors*
- 1: *Quarterly news letter*
- 1: *Do a safety study regarding the stop and yield at Bingham & Bingham Collins intersection*
- 1: *Encourage baseball teams and use of town park for games*
- 1: *Youth center*

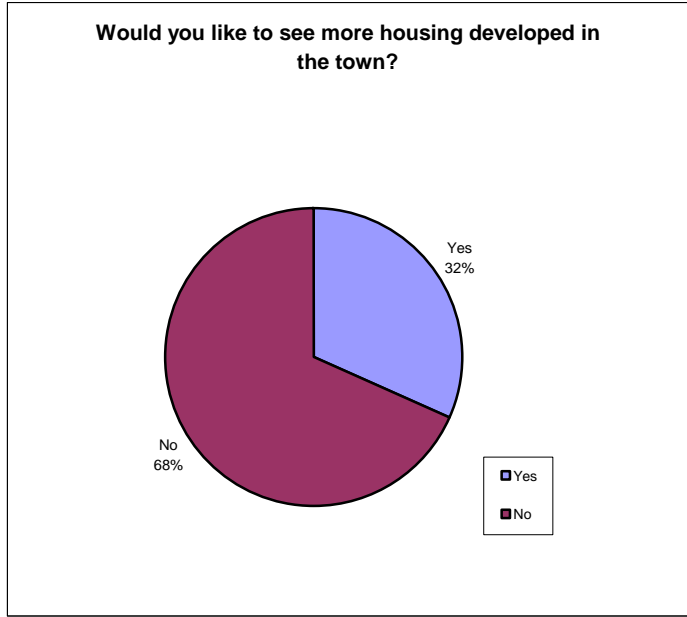
*Clearly, the highways were the biggest concern on this question.*



### Question 7a

Would you like to see more housing developed in the town, and if so, what kind of housing?

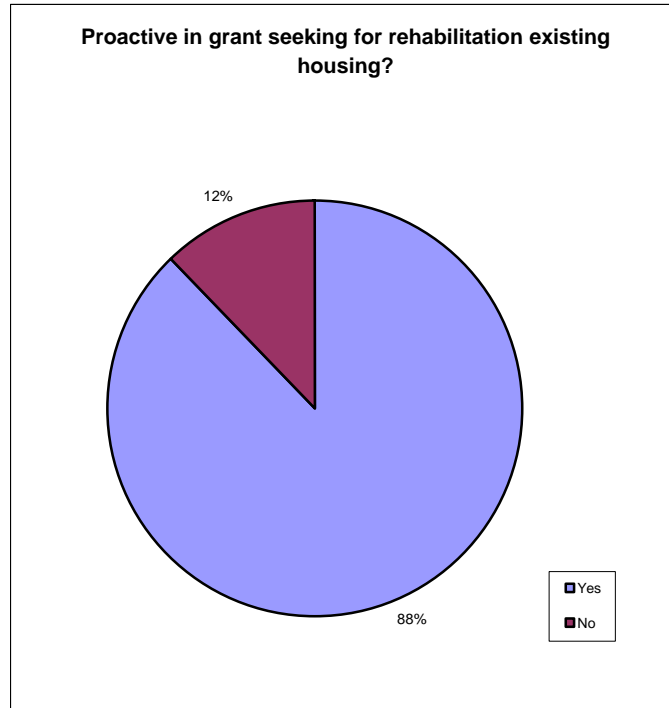
	Number
Yes	19
No	41



**Question 7b**

Would you like the town to be more proactive in grant seeking for rehabilitating existing housing?

	Number
Yes	93
No	13



*Most responses don't seem to be addressing the question of grant seeking.*

*Those that "sort of" address this*

*13 Yes -Farms/agriculture*

*6 Yes -Housing*

*6 Yes -Outdoor recreation*

*2 Yes - Help with solar, wind, alt energy*

*5 No grant seeking*

## Question 8a

Are there specific types of land uses/developments you consider desirable? List types and explain:

*Category breakdown of responses:*

- 13 Agriculture or farming.*
- 5 Business*
- 3 Family Business*
- 2 Historic or existing use. Preserving the rural atmosphere*
- 2 Conservation*
- 2 Wind power and clean technology*
- 2 Zoning to preserve rural*
- 1 Pond or small lake*
- 1 Trees*
- 1 Recreation*
- 1 Housing and small business*

## Question 8b

Are there specific types land uses/developments you consider undesirable

*Category breakdown of responses:*

- 34 Dumps and Junk*
- 12 Trailer parks, haphazard trailers*
- 9 Polluting farms or industry*
- 3 Developments*
- 2 Negative impact on environment, anything commercial, large corps\*
- 2 New Houses*
- 2 Low income housing/apartments*
- 2 Landfills*
- 1 Gambling*
- 1 Wind towers*

## Question 9

Are there specific locations that you would not want to see developed, especially with an undesired land use? What locations are they and why shouldn't they be developed.

*Results:*

- 12 Unrelated responses to the question*
- 10 No specific locations*
- 6 Farms/farmland*
- 6 Riparian areas (ponds, streams, wetlands)*

- 4 *Hamlet (Columbus)*
- 3 *NIMBY's (Not In My Back Yard)*
- 3 *State Lands*
- 3 *No development at all*
- 2 *All locations without restrictions*
- 1 *Hilltops*
- 1 *Next to residences*
- 1 *Columbus Hill*
- 1 *Sears Pond*
- 1 *Bell Road*
- 1 *Norton Park*
- 1 *Northern section of township*

*Apparently this question was difficult for many people to understand. Possibly we skewed the question by adding “especially with an undesired land used”. After categorizing the results, the largest number of responses (12) was unrelated to the question.*

*Because of the apparent difficulty in respondents interpreting this question, we need to take some liberty in analyzing results.*

*From those respondents who sited a specific kind of location not to be developed with an “undesired land use”, we need to focus on:*

- Farms/farmland*
- Riparian areas*
- The hamlet of Columbus*
- Hilltops*
- Next to residences*

*The last two only had one response, however both make a lot of sense in respect to private property rights and retaining the town’s rural character. Also we cannot ignore that the largest qualifying category is still those who have not specific location in mind even with the “undesired land use” attached.*

## Question 10

The town has the following regulations: Building Code, Sanitary Code, Right to Farm Law, Floodplain Law, Anti-dumping Law, Junk Car Law, Leash Law, Subdivision Regulations. Do you have any comment about the benefits or disadvantages of the regulations? Explain:

### *Benefits:*

5 *Laws are good and are working ok.*

### *Disadvantages:*

17 *Junk Car Law not enforced*

15 *Overall enforce lacking*

6 *Lack of enforcement in Building Code*

6 *Lack of enforcement in Sanitary Code*

6 *Lack of enforcement in Anti-dumping Law*

2 *Need junk trailer law*

1 *Need noise ordinance for barking dogs*

1 *Don't need any more laws*

*The overall responses to this question developed a very common thread that most people were glad that we had ordinances like the ones listed but what good are they if not enforced. Apparent violations to the Junk Car Law topped the list followed with an equal number of responses (6 a piece) to non-enforcement of Sanitary Code, Building Code, and Anti-dumping Law. Interestingly, there were two responses advocating a junk trailer law. Five respondents stated that basically all was well with above codes, laws and enforcement.*

## Question 11

What do you like most about Columbus?

*Overwhelmingly, the phrase that best describes what respondents like about Columbus is rural setting. This was expressed in many ways such as, rural character, rural living, rural community, rural environment, rural atmosphere and more. These phrases which express a feeling take on more meaning when attached to the various descriptive words respondents used. A sampling would include natural beauty, farming community, scenic, quiet, beautiful hills, open spaces, beautiful trees, ponds and meadows, low crime, low taxes, tranquility, country air, clean air, small town, over and over again.*

*A significant number of respondents noted that the people make a difference. Such words a helpful, kind, friendly, and honesty were abundantly expressed. People do make a difference.*

*Many respondents listed nearby State lands and parks for various recreational activities as assets and Norton Park as well.*

*Some respondents noted that the Town buildings, the church and Norton Park are well maintained.*

*A few respondents were happy to be connected to Sherburne Electric. Many of us might appreciate that opportunity.*

*Alas, one respondent could find “nothing” good about Columbus.*

## **Question 12**

Question #12- What do you like least about Columbus?

*Without a doubt, the thing that most respondents like least about Columbus is the roads. In fact almost one third of people specified some type of road-related concern as their biggest gripe. Most of these focused on the poor condition of the roads, with bad dirt roads and poor maintenance of culverts and ditches also stated. Busy roads, fast drivers, and dangerous locations were other road-related concerns. And there were a few statements that snow plowing was not being done early enough or was not good enough. Several people also mentioned concerns about the qualifications of an elected highway superintendent.*

*The second biggest gripe about Columbus is junk in all its forms. Poorly kept homes, trailers or businesses, junk and junk cars were mentioned by many.*

*Poor code enforcement of existing laws, specifically Junk Laws, Building Codes, and Sanitary Codes were also mentioned by many. Several people felt there was poor management by the Town Board or poor communication of town issues.*

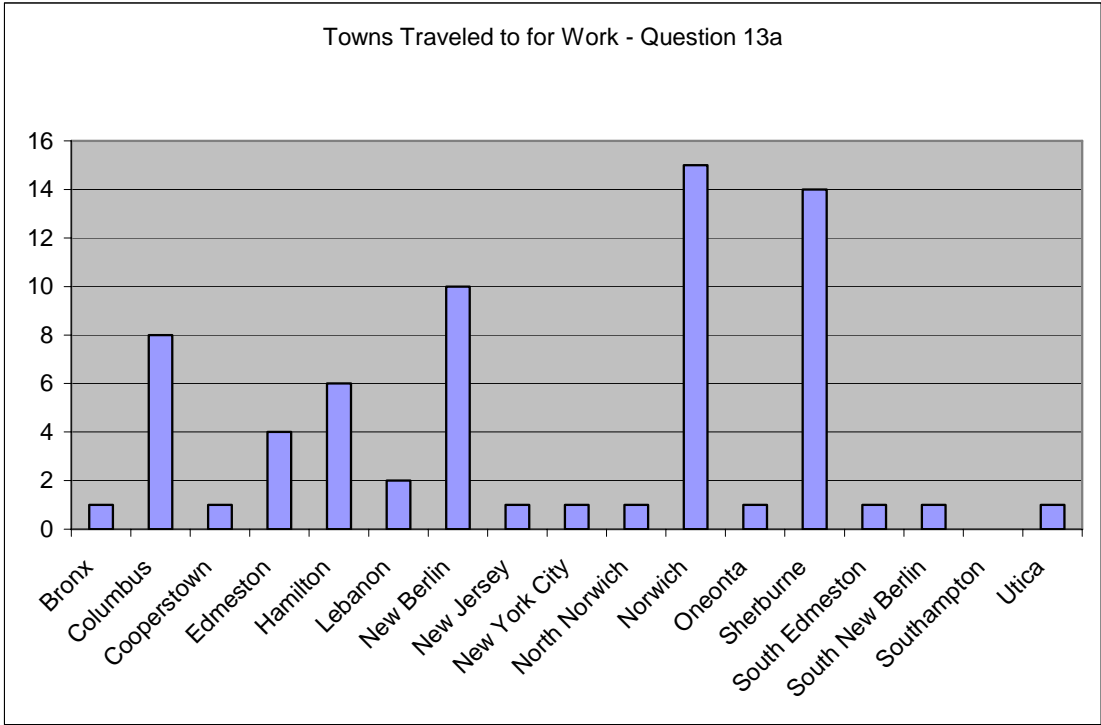
*There were also an assortment of other issues mentioned which we have combined into the general topic of small-town concerns. At the top of that list were the limited retail businesses and services in the town, few jobs, and economic growth concerns, and lack of zoning. High taxes and low incomes, lack of cell phones and lack of cable were also stated. There was also a hint of strife between “newcomers” and “old-timers”, with the newcomer upset with the “it’s my land to do as I wish” attitude held by some, and the “newcomers trying to change things” stated by others. Rounding out the gripes were “I hate the winter” and “I hate the skunks”.*

*Finally, a number of people reported that they had no least favorite thing about Columbus, because they love Columbus.*

### Question 13a

List towns you travel to most for Work

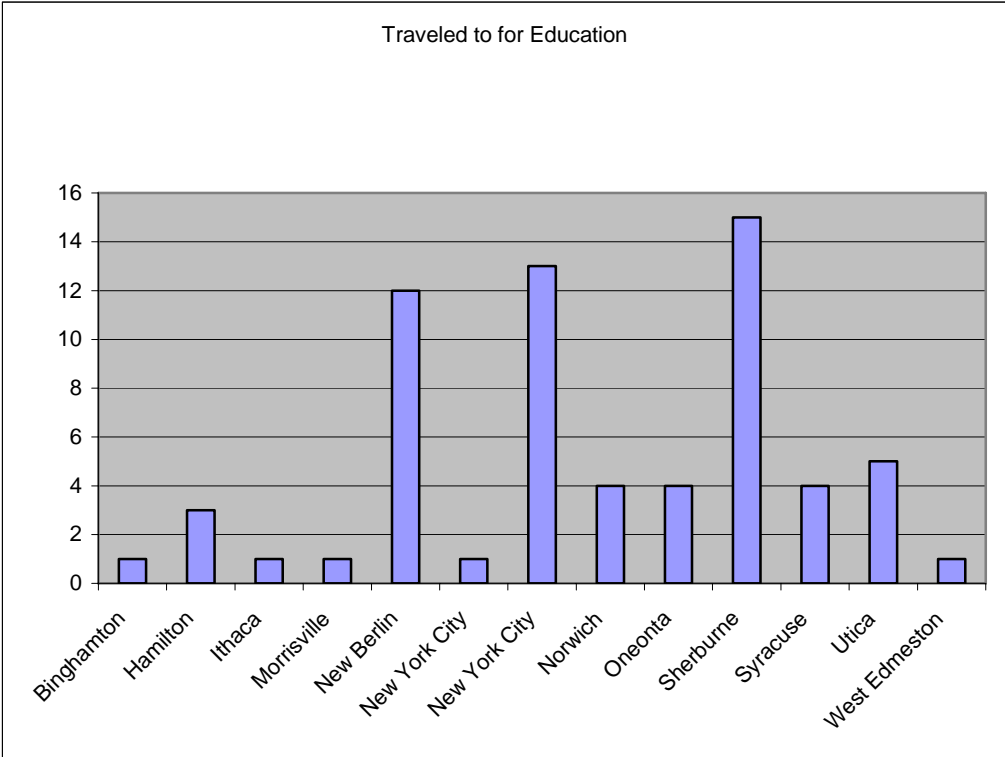
Location	Number
Bronx	1
Columbus	8
Cooperstown	1
Edmeston	4
Hamilton	6
Lebanon	2
New Berlin	10
New Jersey	1
New York City	1
North Norwich	1
Norwich	15
Oneonta	1
Sherburne	14
South Edmeston	1
South New Berlin	1
Southampton	1
Utica	1



### Question 13b

List towns you travel to most for Education

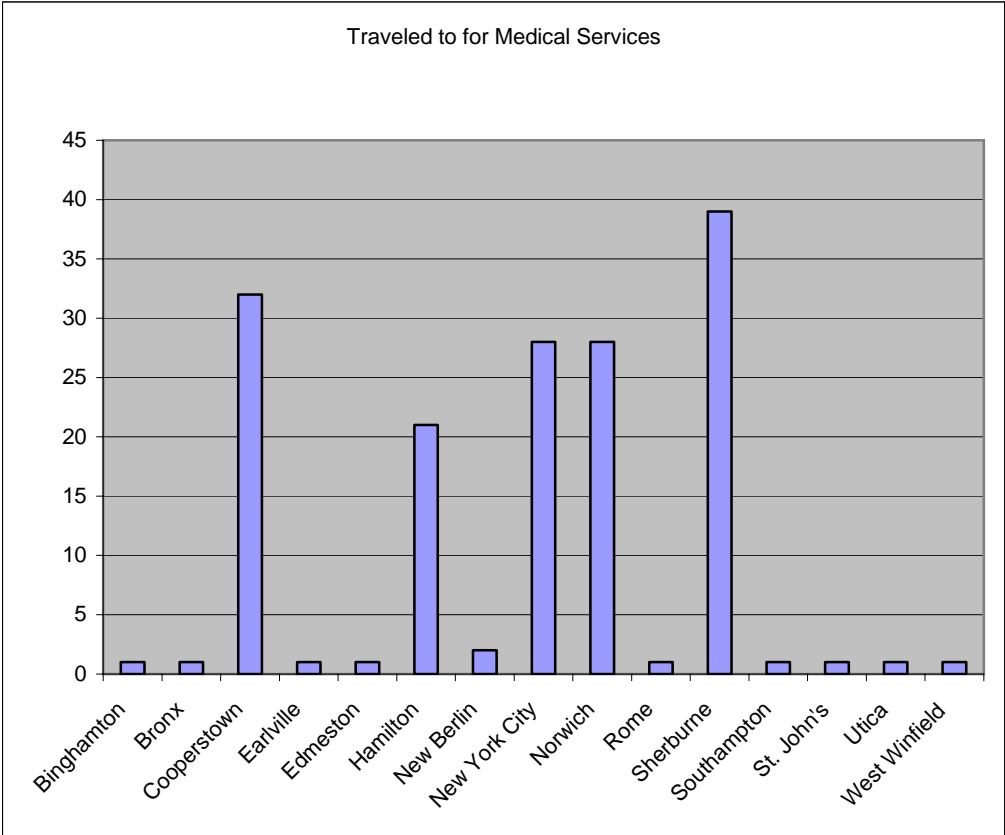
Location	Number
Binghamton	1
Hamilton	3
Ithaca	1
Morrisville	1
New Berlin	12
New York City	1
New York City	13
Norwich	4
Oneonta	4
Sherburne	15
Syracuse	4
Utica	5
West Edmeston	1



### Question 13c

List towns you travel to most for Medical Services

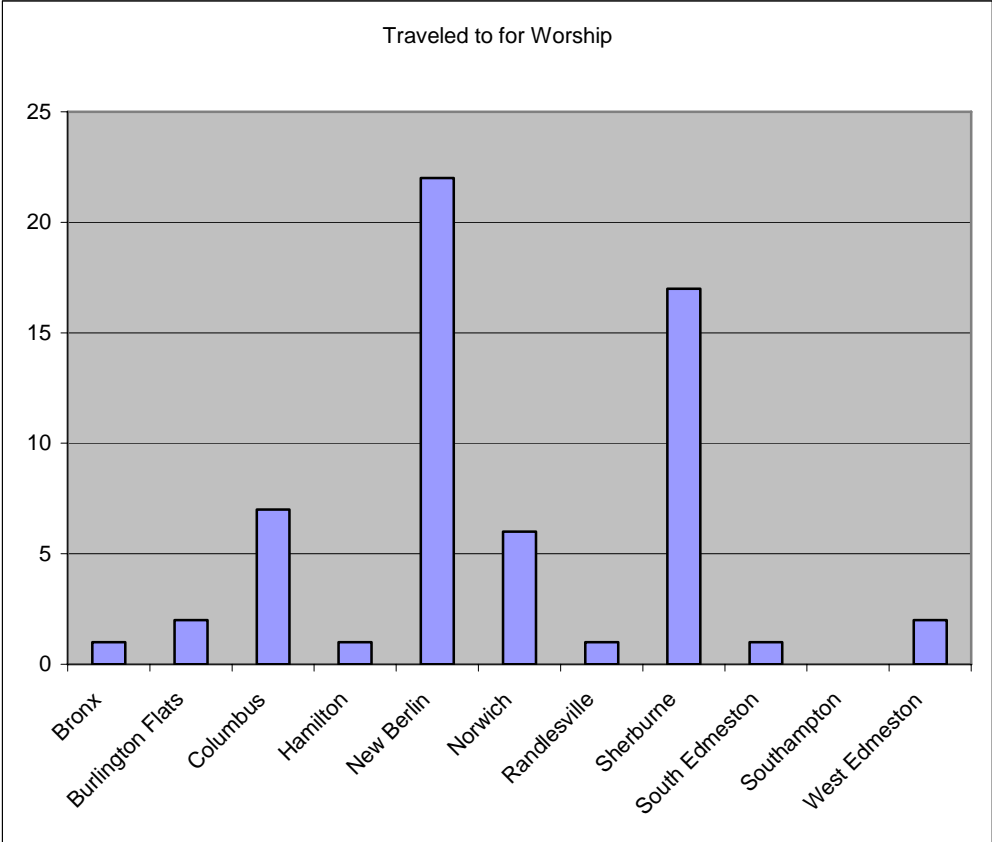
Location	Number
Binghamton	1
Bronx	1
Cooperstown	32
Earlville	1
Edmeston	1
Hamilton	21
New Berlin	2
New York City	28
Norwich	28
Rome	1
Sherburne	39
Southampton	1
St. John's	1
Utica	1
West Winfield	1



### Question 13d

List towns you travel to most for Worship

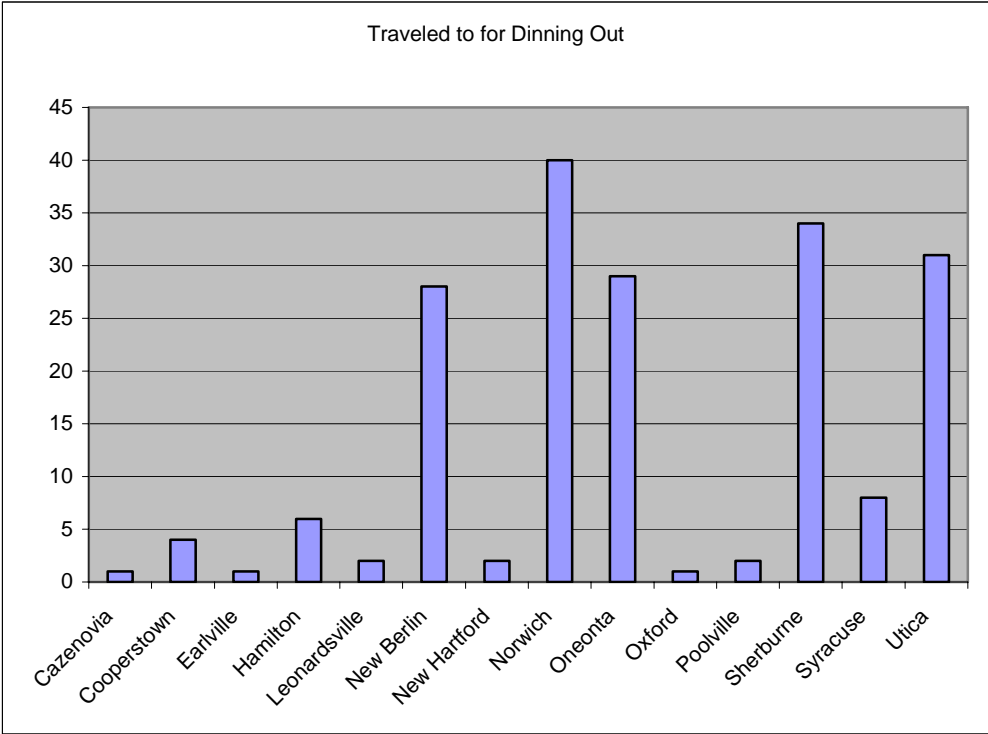
Location	Number
Bronx	1
Burlington Flats	2
Columbus	7
Hamilton	1
New Berlin	22
Norwich	6
Randlesville	1
Sherburne	17
South Edmeston	1
Southampton	1
West Edmeston	2



### Question 13e

List towns you travel to most for Dinning Out

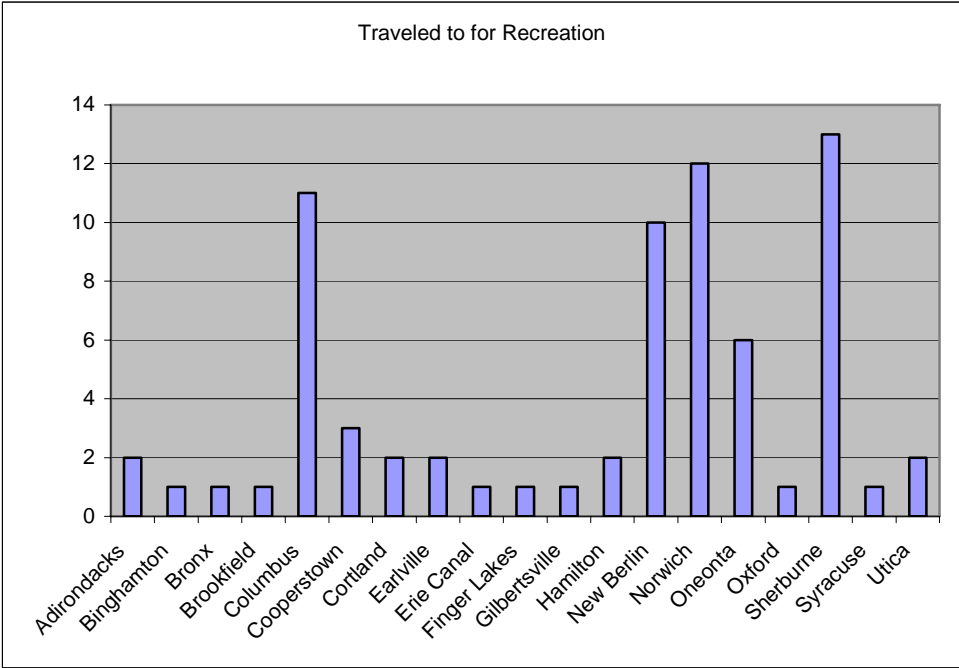
Location	Number
Cazenovia	1
Cooperstown	4
Earlville	1
Hamilton	6
Leonardsville	2
New Berlin	28
New Hartford	2
Norwich	40
Oneonta	29
Oxford	1
Poolville	2
Sherburne	34
Syracuse	8
Utica	31



### Question 13f

List towns you travel to most for Recreation

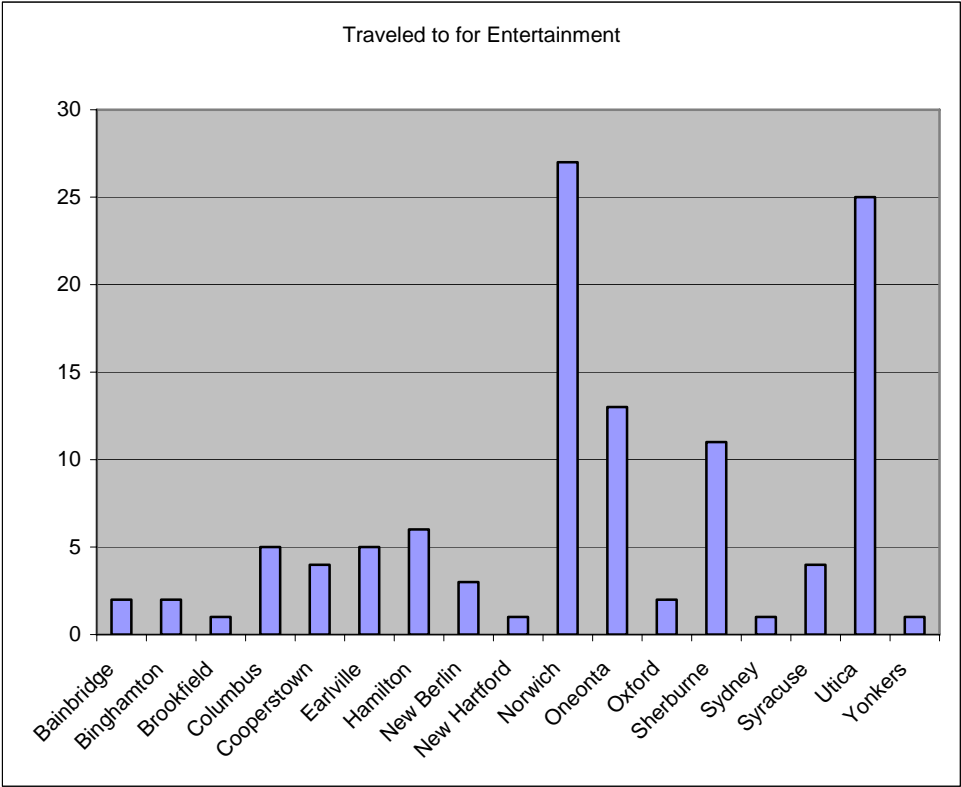
Location	Number
Adirondacks	2
Binghamton	1
Bronx	1
Brookfield	1
Columbus	11
Cooperstown	3
Cortland	2
Earlville	2
Erie Canal	1
Finger Lakes	1
Gilbertsville	1
Hamilton	2
New Berlin	10
Norwich	12
Oneonta	6
Oxford	1
Sherburne	13
Syracuse	1
Utica	2



### Question 13g

List towns you travel to most for Entertainment

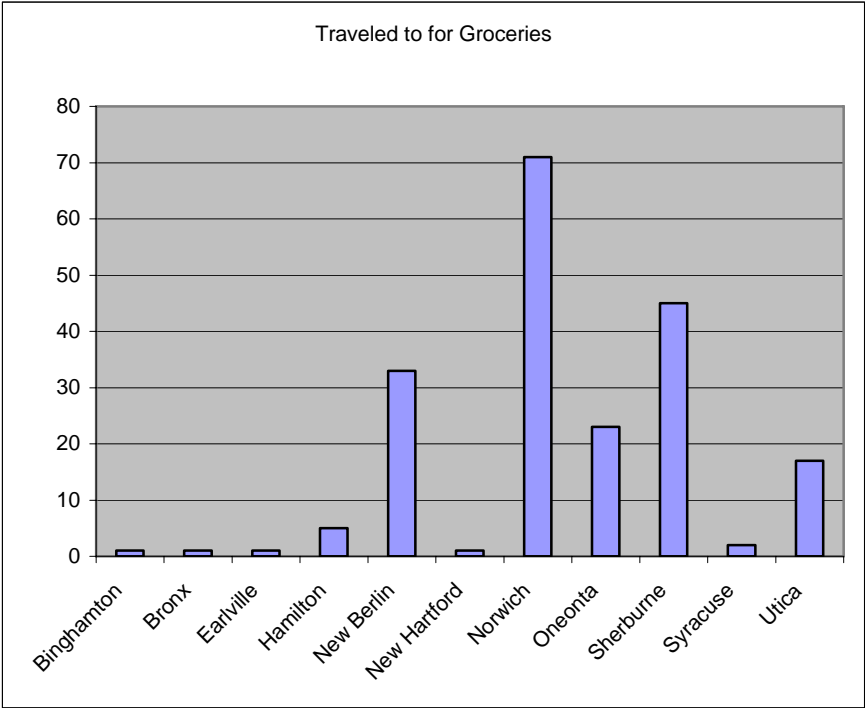
Location	Number
Bainbridge	2
Binghamton	2
Brookfield	1
Columbus	5
Cooperstown	4
Earlville	5
Hamilton	6
New Berlin	3
New Hartford	1
Norwich	27
Oneonta	13
Oxford	2
Sherburne	11
Sydney	1
Syracuse	4
Utica	25
Yonkers	1



### Question 13h

List towns you travel to most for Groceries

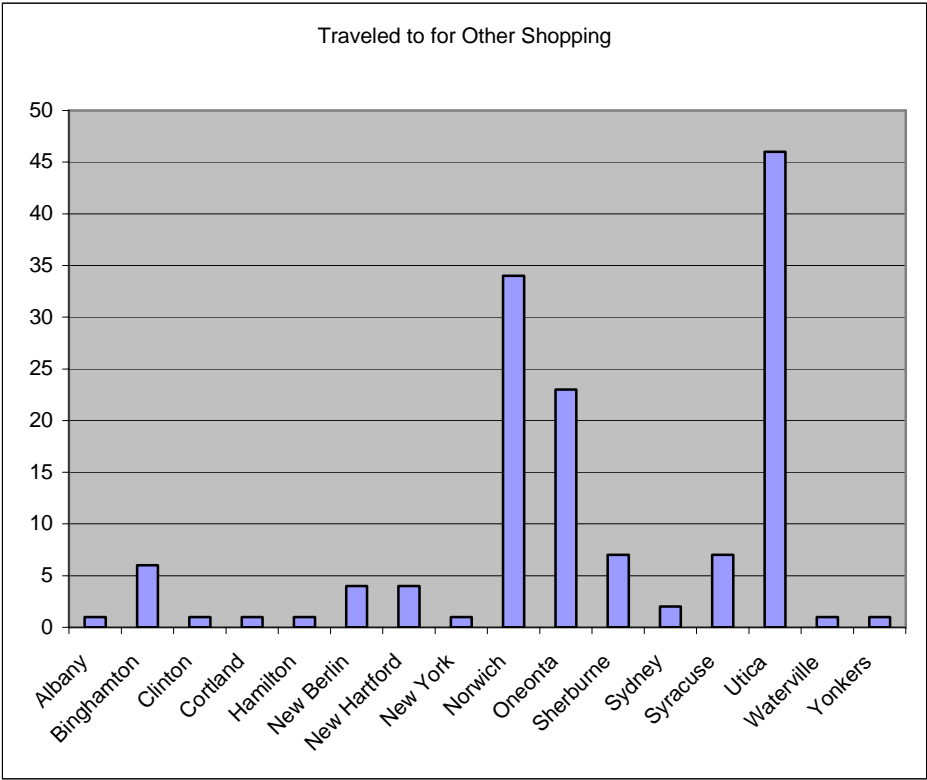
Location	Number
Binghamton	1
Bronx	1
Earlville	1
Hamilton	5
New Berlin	33
New Hartford	1
Norwich	71
Oneonta	23
Sherburne	45
Syracuse	2
Utica	17



### Question 13i

List towns you travel to most for Other Shopping

Location	Number
Albany	1
Binghamton	6
Clinton	1
Cortland	1
Hamilton	1
New Berlin	4
New Hartford	4
New York	1
Norwich	34
Oneonta	23
Sherburne	7
Sydney	2
Syracuse	7
Utica	46
Waterville	1
Yonkers	1



# Question 14

## Additional Comments

*Interesting tidbits:*

*\*\*23% of the responses were regarding the roads*

*\*\*only 1 response regarding land taxes*

*Categorize responses:*

<i>Road conditions/maintenance need improvement</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Road conditions/maintenance are good/improved</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Want code enforcement/zoning</i>	
<i>4</i>	
<i>Do not want zoning</i>	
<i>1</i>	
<i>Enjoy Norton Park/recreation</i>	
<i>4</i>	
<i>Taxes remain low</i>	
<i>1</i>	
<i>Need more community interaction/cooperation</i>	
<i>2</i>	
<i>Like small, quiet, rural character (no change)</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Appreciate survey</i>	
<i>6</i>	
<i>Negative about town board</i>	
<i>3</i>	
<i>Need transportation &amp; cell phone services</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Enforce junk yard codes</i>	
<i>2</i>	

# Appendix 1 - Text Responses

## Question 1 - Text Responses

Question 1 Explain *Text Responses*

I own property in the town that I am selling to someone else via a land contract

My wife lives here. I am presently working just above Watertown. Will retire and move back here in 2006.

We live in Poughkeepsie and intend to move to Columbus full time in 3 years.

Will be primary in future

## Question 4b - Text Responses

What controls may be necessary to achieve the desired community? Please specify:

*Text Responses*

More regulations or zoning laws.

Effective enforcement of building codes, anti-dumping, junk-car law etc Is there such thing as a CO for all new construction regardless of type and size

Old junk trailers, junk machinery, etc

Set up zoning laws or more regulations

Building codes, zoning codes, health codes

No large franchises

Reopen Columbus Hotel

Don't know for sure- however we don't need large housing developments, or properties that look like pig sties.

Zoning

Lower taxes on farmed land, somehow insist unused lots be used for raising crops (nothing looks worse in a town than fields not being used)

Need more enforcement of existing laws.

Sewage, water, trash removal, neaten up places, clean up "stuff" and brush and trees along roads

Enforce the junk car law. Clean up properties with multiple junk, and junk cars on the lawn. Improve roads.

None

Enforcing the ones we have. Don't need any more government sticking there nose in.

Do not allow farms and forests to be sold to developers. No new houses or buildings.

Allow for greater control of the land use.

Avoiding high-density residential development

Old junk just sitting around someone's property. Buildings falling down and just left to rot is not a pretty site to people passing through.

Enforce zoning! XXXXXXXX Road, between XXXX Rd. and XXXX Road the roadside is littered with a wrecked trailer, a burned out house, 10 wrecked cars or so and garbage strewn for dozens and dozens of feet. Horrible and Unsanitary.

Better Code Enforcement

No subdivisions on neighboring farms. Let this stay a small town farm and small business community.

specific zoning regulations

Legislation in the public interest, holding down property taxes, long term vision on achieving quality of life.

No housing sub division of our farms

More Jobs

The Town of Columbus is just right, it doesn't need anything else.

Building codes and enforcement

Cleanup junk yards. Fine owners for ALL vehicles abandoned on old farms. (Not the farmers.) New Turnpike Road has many junk yards.

Designated areas for businesses, separated from farm and residential areas. Small businesses like selling eggs, honey, home baked things are perfectly alright from the house, but stores that require a parking lot should be separate.

1 Current zoning regulation. 2. Town Master Plan, (10 year plan undated every 5 years. 3. Formal responsibility for oversight with provision for enforcement.

Before a property is sold for taxes, the buyer should agree to and sign a land-use agreement that will contribute to the aesthetic and historical value of the town.

Don't know

Close control on where trailers can be set up and new homes also! Watching that our water resources do not get polluted. Strict control of Junk Cars and just plain junk.

A certain minimum acreage needed for a residence and distances between homes

No trailer parks, not city ideas, yet rid of places that are junkyards or look like junkyards.

Incentives to draw in young people who want to keep the land natural (ie don't slam them with taxes that are twice as high as everyone else's ... per the "new neighbor" act.

Speculators and developers who are driven by the profit motive only should be made to feel unwelcome. Laws (regulations) may have to be formulated to accomplish this.

Zoning is probably necessary, but I would not want this to destroy our rural character.

financial contribution, change in attitudes

Find what the community needs the most and work to attain it.

Zoning

Land use regulations with active enforcement of law

No trailers, junk cars or other obscene trash (should not be seen by the roads)

EDZ, Zoning

Limitations on "volume" housing, large commercial development, etc.

None. Personal freedom and a country style atmosphere are important. More controls and government are bad government!

Enforcing local ordinances

Domestic animal control and better maintenance to roads

Limit the amount of people moving here.

Noise. I live near XXXXXXXXX and the buzzing is quite annoying.

Leave everything alone it's beautiful as it is.

Keep it looking good.

I really don't know.

Zoning. I live next to a factory but it is an unusual factory.

Sheriff or constable. The capability to reach undesired situations.

land use regulations. Better enforcement

We need cell phone access very badly.

Control growth. As unpleasant as it seems, we're going to need zoning. Without zoning we have strong possibility of someone buying property in town and doing what they want with that property. If town takes legal (through board) action these people could

We have enough controls.

Zoning, building code compliance, development planning and restrictions and enforcement of land use laws encouragement of education and incentives to induce business

Some controls while maybe necessary need to be careful that they are not "too controlling. Limit house trailers.

Prefer not to have suburban housing developments or any malls in the town.

Having more interest in maintaining our highways in Columbus, having someone willing to works as supervisor or roads that has an interest and not afraid to stand up to the board for what is right for the town.

No dumps (waste or other) that serve outside areas, control mining shale must be considered as to how it can be done responsibly. Development must be overseen by the town. In regard to 4a. Economic development - I would emphasize small locally owned businesses.

Desired community would be closer to reality if the regulations we now have were uniformly enforced

We need a building inspector that actually does inspections & has real knowledge of bldg codes. No more looking the other way. Get out of the car & inspect.

XX

Zoning

Minimal controls, but enough to keep area's rural character. Limit house trailers.

Make sure people keep their property neat and clean and free of debris (old cars & campers). Our camp is next to a dump !!! And something should be done to make them clean it up

zoning and land use requirements

Require no junk cars on property

Land use

extra tax penalty for properties that are eyesores

Give the community what it needs the most.

I don't believe in controls, only carrots, therefore I want less taxes, less regulation, and more freedom

Town center zoning a must! No junk yards in town center. This law needs to be enforced before our little hamlet is completely destroyed.

Zoning must be clearly articulated and enforced in order to maintain the beauty of Columbus and foster a sound development. i.e. new housing and business

## **Question 6 - Text Reponses**

What changes or improvements would you like to see in the Town with the realization that some of these choices require an increase in taxes to facilitate? (*check all that apply*)

Improved recreational opportunities

Increase of commercial/retail establishments.

Improved Roads

Access to cable (internet and television)

Access to high speed internet

Cell phone capability

List Others

### *Text Responses*

Rock Calhoun Rd. our road no repair 2 years, Spurr St potholes need repair, we do not have a decent road to travel to New Berlin. Let's keep the asphalt roads we have and get more. Raise the taxes and send town highway men to school

Additional help for the road crew.

Anything that doesn't spoil the look of the town like junk cars and junk around houses.

Consider keeping the roads we have - Improve these in rural areas. Too many potholes at this time. (dangerous)

Continue to maintain and make improvements to Norton Park

Drive in movie theater

Emergency services: We pay thousands each year and have no local ambulance available. Why can't we work with the neighboring town's on this?

I'd like to see someone reopen the Deer Path

I'm in New Berlin EMS. Very difficult to get 911 calls on pager (tower). \* Not improved roads. But better maintaining of present roads

Improved roads meaning do dust, not potholes, but of course that costs money. I'm sure each Columbus resident would like roads like Sherburne. The town road crew does a great job in the winter and with dust strips

Improvement on all aspects of the roads and clear some of the brush.

Improvements to some homes exteriors

Keep things just as they are.

Keep yards clean of old junk cars, etc. Would not cost one cent.

No improvements

none

None of the above. If I were a full time resident I would want access to cable, high speed internet, preferably wireless.

None, I like it the way it is.

Not paved roads, just without potholes

not that the roads are in bad shape, but you do need to plow them better in the winter.

Put something on the road to control dust.

Quarterly news letter from the town on what's going on in all departments of the town and what future plans are being made

Restaurant such as in the center of the hamlet used to be informal, but good food.

Road in Columbus are horrible. The these roads need are not possible with a 3 man work crew. You need additional help and a superintendent willing to do the job.

Safety study regarding the yield & stop signs placed on the corner of Bingham and Bingham Collins Rd

Spurr St. XXXXX!!

Spurr Street the highway department has almost turned it back to the way it was during the 70's, a dirt road.

Tax and loan breaks that would attract someone to build a good place to eat and also maybe entertainment in town.

We need to have baseball games in the town park. If there still is a Columbus team make a regular set up for them to have games at our wonderful park all through the baseball season.

Work to get grants to help improve road and ditches and road sides.

Would like to see assistance programs for low income families to maintain their properties. Elderly fixed income family, residential homes in respectable appearance (ex. Junk cars and trailers removed.)

Youth center, Aid to the elderly.

## Question 7b - Text Responses

Would you like the town to be more proactive in grant seeking for rehabilitating existing housing?

### *Text Responses*

Don't know. Probably have many places that could be fixed up. But will the town have to do and what are the ramifications of getting grant money from government? Will property be occupied? Will the town have to contribute money? Will property owner be able

Help our citizens with solar, wind and alternate energy.

If proper planning and control are exerted.

if there are sufficient people to oversee the process.

lots of nice old houses in this area

Medical/dental facilities. Nicely built homes & well planned developments

No opinion, don't know the real costs to do so

The homeowners really need help in this area

There is a house on XXXXXXXX Rd. burned by fire. I would like to see it removed. And garbage in front of other homes eyesore.

## Question 8a - Text Responses

Are there specific types of land uses/developments you consider desirable? List types and explain:

*Category breakdown of responses:*

*13 Agriculture or farming.*

*5 Business*

*3 Family Business*

*2 Historic or existing use. Preserving the rural atmosphere*

*1 Housing and small business*

### *Text Responses*

### *Text Responses*

A large pond or small lake would be a welcome attraction

Ag, Hi-tech, and green

Ag. More farmers

Ag. Use

Agricultural primary

Agricultural: it utilizes existing land.

Agriculturally oriented

Agriculture

Agriculture most likely to benefit community

agriculture-small farms; Not giant hog farms

Agricultural and some recreational uses

Anything that would improve our jobs base and improve our quality of life. Any good business like we have, any housing

Assistance with roads and more friendly drivers to assist those stuck on roads in wintertime. In past these drivers were ever so friendly that you would want to help others at all times.

Balanced commercial/ industrial designated areas to provide employment and tax support for residential development and infrastructure costs.

Building set backs, business landscaping

Businesses that do not pollute. Keep air clean.

Citizens of Columbus should be able to responsibly decide to build homes and start businesses. Once again, the emphases is on individual landholding and actions taken to maintain them as opposed to development of land for sale and profit.

Clean technology

cluster housing, family run business

Conservation developments, taking care of what we have.

Could use a nice daycare. Develop a business center. Town could use a convenience store. Also could use a restaurant. A good diner would do well on Rte 8.

Dairy, if Albany would help our farmers. Horse farmers - Columbus is home to a portion of Brookfield trail system. Apple orchards, they were here in the past

Existing or historical uses are fine. Traditional houses on odd sized properties are fine

Farm, NO COMMERCIAL

Farming- maintains rural character. Outdoor recreation- maintains rural character

Farming, forestry w/ limits on harvesting. Maple syrup production.

Farming, particular organic farming, restaurant, grocery store

farming, small businesses, farming, stay country town!

Farming, tree farming, hunting, fishing, ATV, snowmobiling.

Farms

Farms and farmettes, small acreage with houses for families.

Goldens, Kraft, Dairy farms in operation

grazing, crops

Habitat preservation for wildlife

Help maintain agriculture - tax/electric benefits. Small manufacturing and technology firms. ?  
Tax and utility advantages.

Horse farms - good area for animals of rec. riding and driving, place to ski, swim, fish, etc

Housing developments should be pleasing to the eye.

Housing developments should be safe and appealing to look at. Land use should maintain the rural environment

Housing, industry and farming.

I don't know.

I think wind power for electricity.

Industrial development, to provide jobs locally, so people would not need to rely on gov't programs. 2. Codes are never checked on after permit is purchased. So many times permits are not even purchased.

Keep Columbus rural

keep open spaces

Land Use and development that facilitates agriculture and forestry

Manufacturing, etc.

More Farming

More farms or small businesses.

More industry

no

no

no

no

Non polluting manufacturing (inside storage only); corporations; office campus and clean research facilities; limited single family, town house, manufactured housing, aesthetically designed and landscaped.

Not really. Let people do what they want with the property as long as it is kept nice.

Park development, nature preserve, hiking trails.

People should be able to do what they want within reason.

Preservation of wildlife

probably recreational, hunting, snowmobile, etc.

promote the beauty of the outdoors so hunters, equestrians and farmers come.

Recreational - ATV and Snowmobile Trails

Recreational, housing

single family homes, developments for seniors and those of moderate incomes, mom+ pop retail stores, the "???" must be given more vitality. Must be developed with attractive and useful shops

Small business \_ restaurants, organic farms, Bed and Breakfasts, antique shops, other small shops. Is the Columbus Hotel going to re-open as a restaurant? We would enjoy the convenient and opportunity to meet more local people.

Small business such as Columbus Woodworking, Golden's, etc Such enterprises create good jobs, help tax base, and still maintain the rural setting

Stick built housing only on current land for sale please!

Think we have to get a handle on control of Route 8, commercial building. This road is very attractive to big business. With no zoning we could have a mess on Route 8. Also Columbus center same thing could apply.

trees

Try to keep open space and not grow buildings on all the land.

use of wind power to generate electricity

We love the farms. Wish there were more as there used to be. We will always be a rural area so like to see it stay this way.

Would like to see more farming (Dairy, beef, sheep)

Zoning to preserve the rural character we have and to use those characters as a positive attribute for the town.

## Question 8b - Text Responses

Are there specific types land uses/developments you consider undesirable

*Text Responses*

"suburbanites"

All developments are objectionable

any gambling establishments. Any gambling)

Any that would potentially pollute! Be unsightly (junk yards). Some type of regulations are needed. Look at place on XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX.

Any type of business that would negatively impact the environment

apartment housing, junk yards

Chicken and Pig Farms

Commercial

Commercial - those that scar the land, creating waste dumps and does not keep a rural character.

Companies / corporations with over 100 employees

corporate agribusiness that pollute and give only a few jobs to local community.

do not like the looks of open gravel, sand quarry

Dump

Dump

Dump sites, junk yards - they look bad

Dumps

Dumps and junkyards and intense logging.

Dumps, Anything that pollutes the air, water or land, noisy operations that could be quieter.

Factories, meal processing

Haphazard trailer use and abandonment

Having pig farms in the area. They have an odor in the area.

Heavy industry

High polluters

Housing cluster are better than sprawl in maintaining the ecosystem for wild life.

Housing developments, large stores, large businesses. I do not want to live in the city. We live in the country.

Housing developments. In long run they raise taxes (through services and schools). I've never known a place where an increase in population brought either a better quality of life or lower cost. (Taxes.)

Industrial

Junk autos, garbage

Junk autos, garbage by houses and along the roadsides.

junk yards

junk yards

Junk yards and trailer parks

Junk yards law should be better enforced.

Junk yards of any type

Junk yards, junky & poorly kept homes, old trailers not well situated & not kept up.

8b continued....

junk yards, land fill

Junk yards, Some residential places look like junk yards.

junk yards. So much of Columbus is unsightly and environmental unsound.

Junky trailers dumped in the middle of a field used as residence. Examples 2 trailers on XXXXXXXXXX in the last year, "eyesores"

Junkyards - look terrible. Casinos - disapprove of gambling.

Land fill, logging with no consideration of how they leave everything when done. Sloppy dirty farming - It can be done neatly

land fills, 2 family units, rentals, absentee landlords.

Land which houses more than 1 trailer per lot. Junkyards popping up anywhere in the town of Columbus.

Landfill, Wind towers

Large amount of lands for these hunt clubs I feel do not help the town.

Large hog farms or polluting junk yards without regulations.

Large lot single family housing.

large trailer parks, fast food/gas stations

Low income housing

Mixed uses in our area - uncontrolled industrial (commercial/residential.

Mobile home parks. Cell phone towers.

mobile homes parks (done without regard to looks), junk dealers

Mobile homes! (Stick built housing on land for sale only, allowing existing homes to be worth more.)

New houses. They destroy the farms and the forest.

No developments

no dumps created with trucked in garbage

No junk yards

No, not really

not really

Nothing that will bring heavy traffic and noise such as racing or pop concerts.

Only (2 or 3) vehicles per property owner. Junk yards; especially on the back roads should be eliminated totally. Other towns fine owners for any vehicle that isn't licensed properly.

Power Plants, anything unsightly

prisons, refuse, chemical

prisons, refuse, chemical plants

Race tracks for motor sports.

Random Development, both commercial and residential

rifle ranges

Salvage yards-eyesore, health pollution. Garbage transfer stations-same. Radioactive & biohazard waste site- same. High density housing projects-traffic problems, pollution.

squatter type shacks, broken down trailers, trailer parks

Subdivision must meet requirements beneficial to the town. This should also be the case of large retail chains and other commercial ventures. Here I would understand a distinction between local owned business and others form out side must be made.

Suburban housing developments and malls. We do not like them. This is why we moved to this country side living.

The historic downtown area should have been maintained in a historic manner

the type that have 2 or 3 mobile home's on one plot of land and campers that their family members live in

Those which generate pollution, including noise and light.

Trailer parks unless properly designed and maintained.

Trailer parks, condo's, town houses, or land uses that create congestion

Trailer parks.

trailer parks by some

Trailers and trailer parks

Uses that would have/create very bad smells, smoke, or very loud noises.

Waste facilities, industrial facilities, trailers.

Yes, junk yards in town and heavy duty noisy repairs that at times block the road and are disturbing to the peace late at night and on Sundays. (More and more of late.)

## **Question 9 - Text Reponses**

Are there specific locations that you would not want to see developed, especially with an undesired land use? What locations are they and why shouldn't they be developed.

### *Text Responses*

"What we all want, but not next to me."

1. I am sure there are but as a part time resident I cannot specify. 2. Provisions should exist for formal open space to maintain the rural character of Columbus.

A zone around the village. Should be kept as a small, quaint, well maintained hamlet.

All areas

All farms.

along streams and the Unadilla River

Any & all area's should come before a planning commission and looked at very carefully if we truly wish to keep our quaint country atmosphere, we cannot allow any form of development type house or industrial business without great consideration.

Any of the farms and open meadows. NY state should do more to preserve the wetlands and forests of NY so that there is a balance between nature and people

Anything near me

Bell Road for health appearance and safety

Bell Road for health appearance and safety

By Norton park, why? Nice area for recreation & families to play. We own land near there

Columbus Hill Road. There are plenty of houses there all ready any more just takes away from the country setting.

Do not lose the character of the town. The more you build, the more you lose.

Hilltops - visibility of cell towers.

I don't know the area, or location to say anything.

I don't oppose development. I just believe it should be planned and controlled so it benefits and enhances our community rather than becoming an eye sore or worse.

I know of none off hand but obviously you would not want to make sure that several wetlands are not developed or at least make certain that a proper drainage plan is put in place

I would favor any measures that would support the small family farms. I'm against large agricultural takeovers and all that implies.

I would not like to see business locations on or near water sources because of biologically polluting these sources forever.

I would not like to see the town developed at all. It's perfect as it is.

In order to maintain the rural character of town I would not want to see best farmland taken by houses & businesses. Also downtown Columbus should be developed only to maintain this historic character (already too late for this)

Keep existing farm land

near people's homes. Near lakes and rivers.

no

no

no

no

no

no

no

No developments

No more land should be developed. Keep this town a country town.

No specific sites

none

None

Norton Park should be developed further - can't see from road, should be better landscaped more inviting.

Not sure how to answer this question but I do not want to see large housing developments

Our timber should be preserved and not become a haven for developers. Wet-lands preserved- they are very valuable for a healthy environment in Columbus and NY State.

rifle ranges in town

Route 80 & Route 8 corridors should be maintained as attractive as possible to encourage visitors to the area. Business & small industry could locate there but needs to be sightly.

Sears Pond

state lands, farm lands to a point of over commercialization and subletting with subdivisions

State Lands, trees make good air

The area north of SR 80 and CR 25 except along the SR 8 corridor. Perhaps other locations as well.

The existing farm areas - they give the town it's rural character

The town center. It should be kept just that, a charming little clean hamlet, hopefully with the Hotel reopened with some kind of nice business set up there.

Too many fields set idle and over grown use them and leave the trees standing instead of logging everything.

Village

We don't need any more government nosing into our private lives.

Wet lands- state land and nearby areas - we need to keep the animal habitats

## **Question 10 - Text Reponses**

The town has the following regulations: Building Code, Sanitary Code, Right to Farm Law, Floodplain Law, Anti-dumping Law, Junk Car Law, Leash Law, Subdivision Regulations. Do you have any comment about the benefits or disadvantages of the regulations? Explain:

*Text Responses*

1. I don't believe the junk car law is enforced. Just drive the town roads, you should feel the same. 2. Codes are never checked on after permit is purchased. So many times permits are not even purchased.

All are good

All good but need to be enforced

All of these are great and should be enforced at all times.

anti dumping and junk car laws would be beneficial if they were enforced. Subdivisions need to be closely regulated to preserve our rural beauty.

anti-dump, junk car not enforced

Are these regulations enforced?

As long as they are fair for everybody

As mentioned before enforcing in a fair manner the regulations already in place should be sufficient.

Bldg codes and anti-dumping laws: Are they enforced?

Building code does not hold everyone to code. Sanitary code and junk car law are not enforced on everyone.

Building code does not hold everyone to code. Sanitary code not enforced also junk car law.

Building Code I feel need to be reviewed and have tighter controls where trailers can be put in and new housing on what types of structures so we don't wind up with old shanty looking places. Junk car laws should be reviewed and have tighter controls and

Code enforcement is practically non-existent. In the long run, this devalues property. This is a major problem. Also a legal and safety issue. Solution might be to hire someone living out of town. Subdivision regulations will not be enough to control development

Columbus could benefit from junk car law, sanitary code if they were enforced. Was unaware the laws ever existed.

Eliminate "junk yards" on all properties. In NYC and NJ those who have junk - old refrigerators, stoves, cars, etc around their property are assessed higher than those who make property more beautiful.

Existing laws and codes should be enforced esp. junk car and anti dumping laws.

Flood Plain Law: If someone wants to build a house or barn and researches it, and finds out there won't be a problem, he should be able to build.

I am proud that the Town of Columbus is one of the only towns in Chenango County with subdivision regulations and maintains it's own Building Inspector. The Right to Farm Law is a nice idea and maybe the basis for further encouragement.

I am wondering how these are enforced on my road (The Turnpike Road). These are clear violations of the sanitary code, anti-dumping law, junk car law, and more. Given the economic constraints Columbus faces, what can be done about these?

I believe that they are all important unfortunately unless I took the time to look over the regulations I cannot on the effectiveness of each. Are they legitimate and are they enforceable

I think these codes are looked at too loosely in our town. No one seems to enforce them for wells, sewers and run off into our streams.

I think these laws and regulations are good but many times I don't see them enforced. Who is responsible for enforcement.

If there is a junk car law, why couldn't there be a junk mobile home law?

I'm not informed enough at this time to comment.

It might be beneficial to make available to the public copies of brief overviews of these laws so that they have a better understanding.

Junk car law should be enforced.

Junk cars, trailers, etc.

Keep it a quiet agricultural rural area and never allow any housing developments in the township. Enforce the junk laws especially in road side woods.

More regulations mean more government, more bureaucrats, higher taxes and less freedom.

Need junk trailers to be treated as junk cars.

no

no

no

no

no

no

no

no - leave things alone

No - no matter how small the town or community is, you need regulations to keep it fair for everyone.

no comment

No comment but I do know you need laws.

no not really

No.

Noise Ordinance for barking dogs

None

None right now

Only that if we have regulations that they should be enforced

People in authority should not use their post as a whip to make life difficult on others who are trying to improve their life because of ethical differences. Have a set code when starting a project as not to have tear it up and redo it.

Plenty now

Regulations hard to police. Don't believe more are necessary.

Sanitary code, junk car law - we do not believe that these laws are as enforced as they could be. Check out our neighborhood.

Should be no more than 2 junked or unused vehicles and no junkyards in town center. Keep junkyards outside of town center. The law is not being carried out. The farm area should have its own land uses, separate from town center.

The building codes are not being followed. I feel that if you have friends that want to do something it is favoritism shown instead of codes. I think the town looks at some people and say well they have good jobs, let them pay for everything.

The current set up for the building code is poor. The town can no longer allow this as one day we will have a major law suit against us.

The disadvantage is that they sit on the books and are not enforced (i.e. next to XXXXXXXX), Route 80 south of town, XXXXXXX south of town, XXXXXXXXXXX and spotted everywhere over the town.

The enforcement of the junk car law. Too many homes have garbage heaps beside them. Too many junk cars etc. around.

The house XXXXXXX has junk cars. Is law working? The cars as well as other garbage + junk is very close to the road. I would like to see this removed or put back from the road.

The junk car law should be enforced

These all have benefits if they are enforced.

These regulations are fine. They just need to be enforced. And we need to publicize who is the person when we want to complain. They should have the right to act quickly if necessary.

They are good, but lack real enforcement

They are not enforced. There are junk cars left along the road. Trash piled up outside homes creating health hazard.

They do not enforce any regulations. Junk cars, trucks, trash, etc. seem to get worse in many places. Example XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX. It hurts everyone else's property. Enforce all your codes.

They need to be enforced!!

they need to be enforced!!

They seem to be effective so far.

They should be enforced. Delinquent dog licensers who refuse to license with a summons should be penalized. This is not enforced.

We are not familiar with these laws. We would appreciate a copy if possible

We have government regulations. The ones we have are not enforced. We don't need any new ones.

Who enforces these regulations? Junk cars are abundant. What have regulations if no corrections are made to enforce. The town is going backward in improvements, no improvements. (The best thing to happen is the town park in Columbus - Best improvement.

Why are they not consistently enforced? For example, the "junk car law" is definitely not enforced. By who and when these laws enforced?

Would like to have a copy of all of above mailed to us for reading before making comments.

Yes. I think the new codes for septic systems for our small rural area is very costly for the little bit an engineer does.

You do not uphold your building code, sanitary code, anti-dumping code, junk car code. Because several places on the street our camp is on have all of the above. And this is my survey!!!!

You need regulations and they need to be enforced fairly. No complaints

## **Question 11 - Text Responses**

What do you like most about Columbus?

### *Text Responses*

A beautiful town. Also I am proud of the many people who are self-employed, have small businesses. This emphasis on local people and local business is what matters most to any town.

Beautiful country, quality of life, rural setting.

beautiful rural setting

Because it is rural

Clean relaxing setting

country air, local produce

Country setting

County living

Far from crowds, low crime, fresh air.

Free to do what you want 24/7

friendly community and small

Friendly people, beautiful views, well kept roads in winter. Conscientious town officers.  
What's not to like!

Friendly people, rural character

Friendly people.

Good people, beautiful countryside.

Good place to live, availability of Sherburne Electric.

Home all my life

I love the beauty of the land, the rural character of it, going to the town hall to vote - all of the things that make it an honest and beautiful place.

I love the natural beauty of the area.

It is a quiet community.

It is a small town and I love the country

It is a small town and my husband and I love the country.

It is a small town.

It is a very beautiful and peaceful place without city aspects - very idyllic setting

11 continued

It is still a peaceful rural location away from the fast pace of life. I know it must change but within reason.

It is very beautiful here and people are the greatest.

It's a nice little quiet town to live in and raise kids

It's bucolic character - the dirt roads, trails and natural surroundings are ideal for out door enthusiasts.

Its charm (what's left of it). The peaceful & quiet daily existence.

Its quiet, rural and a nice place to live

Its rural and agricultural character

Its rural character peace and quiet and the nice people who live there.

Its rural nature

It's rural, very country and should be kept that way. Lot of birds and animals not seen everywhere. Peaceful.

Its ruralness

Like that it's close to town, like New Berlin and Sherburne, but far enough to still feel like out in the country. People are friendly, views are beautiful.

Lived in the city most all my life. Love living here in Columbus. Most of the people are friendly, try to get to know you. And you aren't bothered by people when you want to be left alone

living in a rural community

Love the area, good neighbors

Mostly it's quiet, and the scenery is beautiful and the air is fresh and plenty of places to walk.

my neighbors, country side

Natural beauty and the QUIET

Nothing. We only live here because nobody else is stupid enough to buy our house because of the area.

peace and quiet, rural setting

Peace and quiet, rural surroundings, no large manufactures or development

People, land

Personal freedom, country atmosphere

quiet

quiet community

quiet rural community

Quiet, country, low population, seclusion

Quiet, country, low population, seclusion

Quiet, people mind their own business usually

quiet, rural area

Quiet, rural community - mostly residential and farming

Quiet, small, rural

Rural . Leave trees along the road instead of wide clear cutting. Ag productive land.

Rural area, pleasant views. Not a lot of pollution.

Rural area.

rural atmosphere

Rural atmosphere and views.

rural beauty and tranquility, low crime, low taxes.

rural character

Rural character

11 continued

rural character

Rural character

rural community

rural environment

Rural living. Accessibility to the State Lands or recreation snowmobiling.

Rural living. This is why I live here.

rural nature and beautiful trees, ponds and meadows, fields of corn

Rural nature and open space.

rural open spaces

Rural setting

Rural setting

Rural, good people (mostly).

Rural, Scenic, quiet

Scenery

Seasonal beauty, hills

Scenic, quiet, rural

Sherburne electric

Small town - the country

small business, farming community. True county feel and warmth. Snowmobile trails.

Small rural community

Small rural community

Small town feel where people look out for each other

Small town living. People help each other during problem times.

small town, rural atmosphere, friendly people

Small unpopulated farm country

State Land

The friendly people. If you need help they are also there to help.

The history of the community and the quiet rural community

The land and the people

The land, the ponds, the clear air.

The new park (wonderful)! Great job well done. The use of the Town Hall by all. The clean kept new town barn. Another job well done.

the people and rural character

The quiet

The rural atmosphere and the farm land that reminds me of my farm background.

the rural beauty

The rural character

The rural character and natural beauty.

The rural character, the people

the rural nature of the town

the small town, the people, the town park.



I have not found anything yet

I love Columbus

I live on Route 80 and the traffic is very busy.

I love Columbus!

I would say the roads (Casey Road) although I realize these conditions make us drive slower.

It is okay.

It's my land and I can do anything with it that I want attitude. It does not matter what is the impact on others is.

Lack of code enforcement.

lack of employment for younger generations

Lack of retail business(gas station, restaurant, convenience store or general store) Homes and businesses that are eyesores, junk vehicles, poorly maintained homes.

Maintenance of roads; mowing brush cutting; cleaning ditches and culverts.

maintenance of roads, brush not removed, ditches not cleaned, mowing

No benefits to the elderly, no youth center.

No cell phone access. No high speed internet service.

no cell phone or cable

No garbage pickup

No store - it would be nice to see a community store in the village.

No stores or taverns or gathering places in the center of town.

Nosey neighbors esp. ones from the city that who they think they own your property as well as their own.

nothing right now

Nothing so far!

Nothing, I like everything.

People drive too fast by our house and Kraft on Rte. 25.

People moving in trying to make the place like where they came from.

Poor road - not up keeping existing roads. By fixing potholes in paved roads and grading dirt roads means less wear and tear on autos.



The number of skunks in the area, the speed of the cars on Co Rte 25, the fact there is no posted speed limit sign on Co Rte 25 off Rte 8, No local police

The people that have property in Columbus that are from the "city". Try to tell you how and what to do; and cause trouble for you over every little thing.

The roads are HORRIBLE!! Have you driven Spurr Street lately or Hemlock or Rock Calhoun? You should.

The roads are not being adequately maintained. I travel in many towns and Columbus has the roads in the poorest condition.

The tax assessment seems to be unfairly targeted to newcomers - and based on purchase price rather than comparable value. Therefore, new comers make the same \$\$ as everyone else get slammed.

The unsafe intersection and stop sign between Fusch Rd & Bingham Collins Rd. The spelling of Fusch is also an issue. I believe the stop sign should be moved to Bingham Road.

The whine of traffic driving by on Rt. 80 at night.

Too far from a place to buy groceries if one or two items are needed only.

Too many welfare people. Too many multifamily homes that don't pay their share of the town taxes.

trailers - need better controls

Urban sprawl. Lots of poverty areas.

Very poor and misspent road maintenance. When road are constantly in need of regarding and pot holes reappearing only catch up work can be accomplished. Eye sores due to abandoned and discarded items.

We have a good town but the roads are very bad and getting worse. Town board needs to give more money to the highway superintendent and purchase enough sand.

Wish Columbus Hotel would re-open!

## **Question 14 - Text Reponses**

Additional Comments

*Text Responses*

Am enjoying the improved roads.

Any commercial/business needs to be away from residential. Golden's is a great example of a business fitting into a rural setting without ruining the rural character or being an eyesore for residents on that road (Bell).

As we watch more people selecting upstate areas for their primary and/or secondary residences, it seems that we would want to encourage them to move here if , for no other

reason, than the economic advantage. To do that, we must ensure a code-enforced environment.

Considering Norton Park for Cross County skiing. Invite Webb and Sons to donate a small log cabin for a caretakers home for Norton Park.

Development, be it fast or slow, needs to be planned & controlled by putting in place and enforcing the codes we will need.

Do not want the town turned into a commercial community. Leave it a small country town, even if you have to leave the potholes. Do not want it to become a city.

Enforce anti-dumping and junk yard codes.

Hats off to Carol Kinne and other board members for creating this survey! We can only hope it will do some good. You list all the codes and regulations and that's great, but the enforcement of them seems almost non-existent. I believe we have the people right here with the expertise to see that all of this can be done. However, you must stop the favoritism by the town leaders.

I commend the board for considering these issues before they're critical. I've seen it done the other way.

I grew up in Columbus, the only improvement is Spurr St. road that is now falling apart, why? Do we have good signs that welcome people to the town?

I hate seeing the farms dying out and land developers buying them up and selling lots off.

I only stayed one night in Oct 2001. I happened to drive to Sherburne or Norwich and got back after dark with a full moon. What a beautiful place Columbus is seen from my lot behind the town hall. Only advice I can give is to keep it that way.

I think the guys did a great job on the roads this year. It's the best I've seen them in years. Also the roads plowed and sanded last winter in time for people to use them even on the weekends! Great Job! Hopefully this work continues right along. I think the roads need to be kept up because they were let go for so long that now they have to really work at them to get them back.

I would like to see the Columbus Inn Restored and serving food and renting rooms, etc. But mainly I would like to see a distinction made between project done by local landowners for the primary benefit of individual landholdings as opposed to commercial ventures.

If the town would work together we could have a great community and potential of a better working community.

I'm glad you put out this survey! And if improvements are made - Great!

In regard to town roads the practice of scraping and removing material is counter productive. Regrading material in areas with pot hole problems without proper compacting further complicates the problem. Many erosion problems are exacerbated by further re

It is sad to see Columbus Hotel sit. Maybe if we can get some grants to help open it up we would have a nice place to eat out. The Deer Path is another place that just sits. We need Places to eat out, for our Senior Citizens.

It's a great little town. We think its just right. We do not like developments. There trouble and it causes tax as to be raised. The word "developer" to us is "Satan"

Just down from the XXXXXXXXXXXX Road, is condemned. Septic runs under the house. Yet it is occupied!! Why?

Let's face it our board members need to get out. Let younger members in that are willing to enhance Columbus. Not keep it in the stone age. Look around board members, we are one of the worst towns around. Nothing changes. Do something about putting more people on your town crew and start by improving road conditions!

Like I said earlier on the form, I have lived in the city most of my life and I love it here in Columbus. And as long s I'm not bothering anyone, people should respect that. I moved here to be left alone.

Many people want economic growth. BE CAREFUL. I've lived through it in a town that was same size as Columbus. In 5 years that town was completely changed (not for the better) by influx of out of area people. We need zoning. But the people have to be informed.

Most of our recreation and entertainment is here as we have beautiful seasons and plenty of space for enjoying everything from snow activities, picnics, swimming, and good outside air Plenty of animals to watch and beautiful birds to see everyday.

My main concern is the conditions of the roads. Columbus Hill Road is an embarrassment to me. Every time they scrape they do not fill up the holes. We can not drive out our driveway without hitting very large holes. We have asked to have them repaired,

none

Norton Park had been a wonderful asset to the Columbus community. Some how restore the Columbus Hotel, especially the ball room and bar to the eighteen hundreds, and put it on the National Historic Registry. Roads slowly improving this year, though room for lots more improvement. Thanks for the improvements over the years. Keep up the good work.

Our laws should be mindful of land value of property owners. Freedom to use your property should not extend to the point where it affects the value of freedom of other property owners. Many people will avoid purchasing property unless safeguards exist to protect their investment.

Our main concerns with development are that noise and aesthetics are taken into consideration when development takes places.

Overall, Columbus is a wonderful place to live. The people of the town are nice and neighborly. (A pleasure) In the winter you make it a priority to clear the roads of snow, so people can go to work and children to school. In summer you cut the grass on the sides of the road.

Pretty much keep things as they are.

see letters attached to questionnaire which involve poor road conditions, as well as town road drainage changes which have affected their property

Thank you for asking.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinions. I thin this survey idea is great.

The dirt roads in Columbus should be maintained better. Clean the ditches first.

The dirt roads in Columbus should be maintained better. Clean the ditches first.

The roads really need to be upgraded (in the township of Columbus). Just fixing all the "potholes" and "washouts" with topping this summer really would've been great!

The town board is doing a good job of keeping taxes down in difficult times. The highway dept does a good job especially plowing snow and sanding. We must have cell phone capability!

There is a ditch that still needs cleaning out behind the house that the town promised to do. It's their drain off and has been for years. Please at least make an effort to do it!

Transportation for senior citizens - not good.

We appreciate this questionnaire being sent to us as we are unable to obtain REAL local COLUMBUS news and it makes us feel part of our growing community. More homes are being built in this area since 9/11 episode. Make people want the peace and quiet area

We are appreciative of the maintenance of our road (Sears Pond)

We love that Columbus is a quiet rural small town. We miss the Columbus Hotel.

We want a small town community. Not over regulated!!!

Why is it every time anyone goes to a board meeting, they are made to feel unwelcome? And then you kick them out and use executive session as an excuse. I thought the town's people were welcomed at these meetings.

Wished I could be more active but six more months to go, and then I am done with school. That right now takes up my evenings

You have to feed a town as you to make it live. The people of this town center don't stand together anymore to make it live. It has become a dying town, sad to say. When we came here, people still cared about the flavor of our little hamlet. The people got together for the doings of the Quinentennial in 1992, after that the downward trend of the town center took hold. By far the saddest was the closing of the Columbus Hotel. The next was allowing a junk yard in the center of a once charming little hamlet. Where has our "pride" gone? The greatest thing to happen is the wonderful park but it is outside the town center so you can't use it. Not enough town people use it, some don't even know it's there believe it or not. The closed hotel hits you right in the face as you enter town. It makes us look like a real dead place. We need to work on owners to get some kind of new business going. We could use a town activities board placed prominently so people would know just what is happening in our little town.