

Town of Burlington Resident Survey  
July 2008

**Questions 1 through 9: Respondent information only. No comments solicited.**

**Question 10. How do you feel about a Town-wide re-assessment of property values?**

Responses:

1. No!
2. Not sure.
3. Don't know enough about it.
4. Would like more information about the pros and cons.
5. Do not trust re-assessment criteria.
6. Done by out-of-town assessors.
7. Outside community assessors.
8. Out of town assessors.
9. Don't do it. Ask the Towns of Hartwick and Otsego how reval went.
10. Too high now. Selling prices going down and taxes going up—no good.
11. Usually used to raise taxes.
12. Usually leads to higher taxes.
13. Every time re-assessment happens, taxes go up.
14. Already paying high taxes.
15. Taxes high enough.
16. Taxes on vacant land already too high.
17. Look into tax relief instead of costing more expenditures.
18. We do not need over-valued property assessment so that we have to pay higher taxes.
19. Over-taxed already. No need to increase chance of more taxes.
20. How will that affect existing—raise or lower taxes, etc.
21. If you can guarantee taxes will go down. People can't afford higher taxes.
22. Oppose unless you can explain the need/benefit.
23. As long as done correctly and fairly.
24. Depends on who does it.
25. If fair.
26. Within reason.
27. We were re-assessed 2 or 3 years ago by the County.
28. County-wide would be better.
29. The Town should already have updated property value information and re-assessments should not be necessary. There may be isolated situations where some residents have or are doing renovation, etc. without permits.
30. Doesn't Town have to do this periodically anyway?
31. Should be done regularly.

Town of Burlington Resident Survey  
July 2008

**Question 11. What is the Town's best quality?**

Responses:

1. Hometown good manners, friendly people. SAFE.
2. Friendly people.
3. Good roads.
4. Safe and secure.
5. No restrictions. That is why we live here.
6. No restrictions.
7. Stay out of our business (privacy).
8. I made all choices number 1 because it is true.
9. It is home.

**Question 12. What is the Town's worst quality?**

Responses:

1. None/None.
2. Dirt roads.
3. Road conditions.
4. People drive too fast on town roads.
5. Too much traffic on secondary roads.
6. Too many restrictions on private home ownership.
7. As a town we have little zoning, but I feel I should have none on my property.
8. High taxes mainly as a result of the County and State.
9. No zoning or regulations for protection of best qualities (natural beauty, charming, rural setting).
10. Lack of zoning restrictions.
11. Lack of reasonable precautions by gov't.
12. Lack of master plan-zoning.
13. No protection for the peace and quiet.
14. Not enough restrictions.
15. Not enough restrictions. Sometimes not so quiet or clean.
16. Zoning.
17. Moved here and bought a house because only a few neighbors; too many seasonal residents.
18. No farms.
19. No jobs.
20. Too many junk yards along roads and risk of too much ATV noise.
21. Too many trashy places.
22. Too much snow!
23. Lack of affordable high speed internet.
24. Trailers being allowed for storage.
25. Foot dragging.

Town of Burlington Resident Survey  
July 2008

**Question 13. What is the most important issue for the Town to address?**

Responses:

1. Loss of farms.
2. Promote agriculture.
3. Keep our quiet Town beautiful.
4. Please make strong restrictions on residential and commercial development.  
Keep this a quiet diary and farming community.
5. Keep Burlington a clean and beautiful place to live a simple life and raise our children and grand-children.
6. Land use regulations to preserve our way of life and protect our rural setting and natural beauty.
7. Preserving/keeping natural beauty and rural atmosphere; protection of environment.
8. Potential changes to Town's character from development.
9. Lack of land use regulations is an open invitation to outsiders to see Burlington as a dumping ground for projects that others have rejected as harmful. This is irresponsible.
10. Protection for residents regarding gas drilling.
11. Need comprehensive land use plan. Preserve nature and character of Town, while allowing growth.
12. Please do not "ruin" Burlington by letting greed of big corporations pay their way in. The reason I moved here is because I like it just the way it is. "Godly".
13. Limit development that does not support rural character of Town.
14. We choose to live in the "Burlington" area. Woodlands, fields, ponds are the natural beauty of living here. If any of you have traveled Rte. 28 South lately you may see the major problem with "commercial growth" at its finest! There should be restrictions on "big" businesses in the Burlington area. The only other restriction I am concerned about would be "outdoor furnaces". Wood heat is fine but not within a one-quarter mile of your neighbor. Live next to one for year and you'll see what I'm talking about. Year-round smoke 6 times a day, plus most burn plastic and garbage in them too! I've always had a wood stove, I'm not being a hypocrite here, but there should be restrictions on outdoor furnaces.
15. We need strong restrictions, both residential and commercial development.  
Protect what we already have!
16. Exposure to unrestricted growth.
17. Developers purchasing large parcels of property for commercial use (i.e. Dreams Parks/WalMart) or to subdivide.
18. Need building codes, zoning restrictions and controlled growth.
19. Zoning.
20. Zoning.
21. Zoning (land use) ordinance and strong enforcement (see Town of Exeter's ordinances).
22. Never said this before, but too few restrictions. Please move ahead on this.
23. Increasing economy/commercial viability while still maintaining small town charm.

(Continued on next page.)

Town of Burlington Resident Survey  
July 2008

**Continued: Question 13. What is the most important issue for the Town to address?**

Responses:

24. Build up the economy y offering more services. Tax breaks for small businesses (restaurants, retail, etc.)
25. Development plan.
26. To develop a master plan, zoning code.
27. Planning development and type of use.
28. Future master plan for development which should be done by a well-respected planning group for structuring tax revenues.
29. To decide how we want the future of our Town to be (i.e.-residential, commercial, busy, etc.).
30. What do we want our future to be and how do we prepare for it?
31. Establishing a reasonable balance between preserving history and natural beauty, and allowing for economic survival and growth.
32. Implement the New York State Building Code strictly. Town should have local code also to follow and rezone so growth is orderly by designating areas for residential areas, commercial, industrial, recreational, schools and churches, etc.
33. Demand for cleanup of properties cluttered with junk, houses needing paint/repairs.
34. Messy places accumulate junk -- need cleaning up.
35. Houses in disrepair. Too much junk on property.
36. Trailers being used for storage and limit amount of junk in town.
37. Junky houses and no gas station.
38. Junk-messy places.
39. Make homeowners clean up their properties.
40. Residents should try to keep their properties cleaned up. Visible junk and debris should be cleaned up or hidden. This makes us look like a poor community.
41. Keep outside influences from changing our community. Don't be followers.
42. I don't expect many services in a rural setting. Seasonal owners pay taxes too. It is when seasonal owners try to make county living more like city living (fast food, street lights) that I don't like. Enjoy the country for what it is.
43. The residents should be more involved in some of the decisions. The Town Board is very partial to some of the Town happenings.
44. We shall encourage alternative energy practices and environmentally friendly building solutions. A more creative building code.
45. Oppressive tax burdens/waste.
46. Property tax too high.
47. High taxes.
48. High taxes.
49. School taxes. If I don't have kids in school, then I don't want to pay school taxes. Why pay for a service that I don't use.
50. Look into tax relief instead of more exemptions.
51. Maintain rural qualities while keeping taxes low.

(Continued on next page.)

Town of Burlington Resident Survey  
July 2008

**Continued Question 13. What is the most important issue for the Town to address?**

Responses:

52. Continue to provide the good services such as those of the Highway Dept. while keeping taxes under control. (Continued next page.)
53. Must continue to keep Highway Dept. in good shape.
54. More police in the area. The Town workers need to be out working more than 4 days a week. Mon-Friday, not Mon-Thurs.
55. Limit involvement in other cumbersome regulations requiring enforcement provisions. In my opinion this would do nothing but create additional expenditures of tax money with little or no benefit to the residents of the Town. Let's face it, the Town or the County is not having a population boom, although there has been limited economic development in some areas. Maintaining some degree of freedom and individual property rights is important to keep young people motivated to stay in the area.
56. Promote business and enterprise--not more restrictions.
57. I don't feel its any of the Town's business what I do on my land as long as I don't turn it into a toxic dump or eyesore. If I want to cut every tree on the property then I can.
58. Permits that have to be applied for in township. All should be published to taxpayers.
59. Be careful of banning and restricting. You never know what the future will bring.
60. Need to bring in revenue.
61. If all you can afford is a single-wide trailer to live in, then you should have a right to do so.
62. Road conditions and personal safety. You can have an \$80,000 ambulance stuck and no good to anyone.
63. Road conditions.
64. Quit paving all rural roads.
65. Services for the elderly.
66. Need internet by cable.
67. Road hunters.
68. Establish wind power and bus service.
69. Prevent trailer parks; maintain trails for horses and snowmobilers.
70. Why ban needed services and investments?
71. Have not resided long enough for opinion.

**Question 14. The Town should be involved in preserving natural surroundings (woodlands, streams, ponds).**

Responses:

1. Working with DEC, County and State, Parks and Recreation.
2. Should promote progress.
3. We have large tracts of land not now developed.
4. If the Town owns the property.
5. The Town should have no say in personal property.

**Question 15. The Town should be involved in preserving historic sites.**

Responses:

1. Do we have any?
2. That are worth saving.
3. Sadly late.
4. Not true consideration.
5. This is part of the Historical Society goal.
6. If the Town owns the sites.
7. Not with tax money.

**Question 16. The Town should be involved in preserving open lands and views.**

Responses:

1. PDRs
2. Note how the Wal-Mart Distribution Center looks down Rte. 20. You hardly notice it.
3. Within limits.
4. Within reason.
5. Open for debate.
6. Abandoned farm lands are going to grow up.
7. Who pays the taxes on it, if any?
8. Only if the Town owns and pays the taxes on that land.
9. Not on personal property.

**Question 17. The Town should be involved in regulating residential growth.**

Responses:

1. Towns should grow with age.
2. Everything must grow or it dies.
3. Certainly not.
4. To a limit.
5. Not to split up land into small lots.
6. No subdivisions.
7. Subdivisions should be restricted.
8. Promote clustering.
9. If land regs/standards are in place, growth is ok.
10. Define “regulating”—ban ↔ managing.
11. What is meant by “regulating”?
12. What do you mean?
13. Seniors have a hard time on their own here.
14. How?

Town of Burlington Resident Survey  
July 2008

**Question 18. The Town should be involved in regulating commercial growth.**

Responses:

1. Everything must grow or it dies.
2. Should promote.
3. To a certain degree.
4. Managing.
5. Setting commercial use; protect environment.
6. No business, we pay higher taxes.
7. Commercial growth would help our economy but we need to protect our environment.
8. Establish an area as an industrial park.
9. Should be limited to meet necessities only.
10. Except agriculture.
11. Depending upon the product.
12. How?

**Question 19. The Town should be involved in regulating types of structures (mobile homes, gas stations).**

Responses:

1. Not sure.
2. Consideration required.
3. Shall encourage alternative building methods.
4. To a limit.
5. Lot size and building codes need to be enforced. A nice single wide is no problem.
6. Building permits and zoning.
7. Environmental issues.
8. One or two gas stations are ok.
9. Agree no gas station; but feel people should be able to put in mobile home.
10. Why do gas stations and mobile homes get together?
11. New Structures only.
12. Only if the Town owns and pays taxes on such property.
13. I believe there are county codes that deal with this.
14. Be unfair to the poor (mobile homes).

Town of Burlington Resident Survey  
July 2008

**Question 20. The Town should be involved in controlling junk and debris (abandoned cars, appliances).**

Responses:

1. Should be obvious.
2. High priority; ruins Town image.
3. This absolutely ruins beautiful views.
4. Town would be more appealing if yards were clean.
5. A few places need it.
6. It can be an eyesore in the community.
7. Establish a law to control bad situations. Establish fines.
8. Enforce the laws and restrictions already on the books.
9. Depends on definition of junk and amount.
10. If creates unattractive appearance.
11. Privacy screening.
12. Define junk yard. We've argued this before.
13. People should be able to have junk on their property.
14. A man's home is his castle.

**Question 21. The Town should be involved in restricting energy solutions (large windmills, exploration).**

Responses:

1. We all should think hard on this one.
2. Need to hear more on this subject.
3. More information.
4. Important to encourage. Needs to be thoughtfully sited.
5. Depends on what and where. Not sure.
6. Depends on type of energy solution.
7. Encourage energy solutions.
8. We need to pursue natural renewable resources.
9. Get involved. Don't restrict.
10. Allow green energy. Discourage fossil fuels.
11. "Solutions" is not what I'm concerned about. Should be looking for possible development, but involved in protecting residents' quality of life.
12. I suspect I know more than many Burlington residents about wind power and gas exploration. Whether these industrial scale activities are "solutions" is debatable. Calling them such will affect how people respond. I never favor restricting solutions. However, I strongly favor minimizing impacts that may affect the quality of life in the town. I would not want a wind turbine or gas compressing station so close to my house that I couldn't sleep. Nor would I want my household water or pond contaminated by hydrofracturing from gas exploration.
13. Make sure done in safe (way) and protect our area.
14. Looking to greater good, not vanity in regards to local negative impact.
15. Town needs to set standards and process. Very dangerous.
16. Only if cause a hazard or nuisance.
17. Restricting impact to residents—noise and pollution esp.
18. Special consideration given to planning and preserving natural beauty.

(Continued on next page.)

**Continued Question 21. The Town should be involved in restricting energy solutions (large windmills, exploration).**

Responses:

19. Energy solutions need to be explored without prostituting our lands.
20. Windmills ok. Exploration needs regs.
21. Windmills are a good source of energy.
22. Windmills would be great.
23. We need windmills.
24. Windmills aren't eyesores.
25. Windmills take away from natural beauty.
26. Windmills are for social dreamers.
27. Get rid of power lines.
28. I don't think restricting, but a voice on effect on the community.
29. This shouldn't include residential housing.
30. If a homeowner can put up 1 or 2 windmills on their property to help with electric costs, that would be ok, but not industrial public windmills. Leave that to Cooperstown. No exploration such as this new drilling issue.
31. If this was done 10 years ago, it might have helped.
32. Absolutely not.

**Question 22. The Town should be involved in restricting entrepreneurs and home-based businesses.**

Responses:

1. Depended on business.
2. It depends on the type of business.
3. More people are working at home via internet, but type of business will be important (i.e., garage repair compared to computer-based documents)
4. Depends on positive or negative impact.
5. Only if cause a hazard or nuisance.
6. Only if they create junk or hazards or are otherwise undesirable.
7. Encourage creative thoughts.
8. Get involved. Don't restrict.
9. Regulate.
10. I would not deny a person his income (legally).
11. Not if you want more taxes.
12. Will depend on zoning.
13. Based on zoning—little else in Burlington.
14. Farm-based businesses need more support.
15. As long as it does not deter privacy of adjacent homes.
16. Home-based businesses that don't spill over to public/neighbor impact are fine, but scrap metal business, quarries, sawmills, etc. need more regulation and/or prohibition. And if farming is "home-based", needs support and encouragement.
17. Absolutely not.

Town of Burlington Resident Survey  
July 2008

**Question 23. The Town should be involved in promoting tourism.**

Responses:

1. Needs clarification before we can comment.
2. Enough tourists.
3. Tourism brings more traffic which there is already too much of.
4. Should not promote tourism.
5. Surrounding tourism is Cooperstown
6. Should be a County function.
7. If you don't like "baseball", go somewhere else.
8. Tourism will increase demand for growth and commercial development.
9. What else is there?
10. No BF tourist attractions.
11. We are not a tourist attraction in any way.
12. Tourism is where we should be focusing our attention. With Cooperstown a short drive away, Otsego and Canadarago Lakes and miles and miles of country roads, it is ideal for boaters, sports enthusiasts, motorcycle riders and cyclists to enjoy their favorite pastime. Burlington can grow, but it must grow in the right direction if it is to serve its residents.

**Question 24. If the following services were available, I would use them this frequently: recreational services (parks, trails, running paths).**

Responses:

1. They are available state land.
2. Go try to walk in State land.
3. Already have them.
4. I live in the country. I have my own trails.
5. Excellent idea.
6. Good idea. I don't reside in town. Otherwise I would use these frequently.
7. Non-motor biking paths/cross-country ski trails.

**Question 25. If the following services were available, I would use them this frequently: bus service to Oneonta, Cooperstown, Herkimer (shopping not job commute).**

Responses:

1. One of the most necessary.
2. Need to consider senior citizens and non-drivers.
3. Good idea with gas prices and will allow our young folk to find employment outside of Town.
4. Need one for jobs.
5. May have benefit.
6. Transportation from country to city needed.
7. Would have to poll the area. With gas prices increasing, it is a good idea.
8. Good idea. I don't reside in town. Otherwise I would use these frequently.
9. Residents may need more commuter service.
10. Depends on hours of operation.
11. Depends on timing. I might use more often.
12. Not as long as I can drive my car.
13. Never in present circumstances/Only if no longer able to drive.

Town of Burlington Resident Survey  
July 2008

**Question 26. If the following services were available, I would use them this frequently: Town website for news and announcements.**

Responses:

1. Many towns and counties have this.
2. A local newsletter and/or email address for local info. West Winfield has a weekly town newspaper. How about the same here?
3. Depending on cost-effectiveness compared to newsletter.
4. We still use word-of-mouth.
5. No attractions.
6. Some people don't even know what a website is.

**Question 27. If the following services were available, I would use them this frequently: Branch of local bank or ATM**

Responses:

1. Not free.
2. A bank is a good idea.
3. Good idea. I don't reside in town. Otherwise I would use these frequently.
4. Edmeston has that.
5. Not so important. I use one in Edmeston.
6. Use local bank in Edmeston.
7. Edmeston is close enough.
8. Use the bank in Edmeston.
9. Depends on where it is. Bank in Edmeston works fine for me.
10. There are banks locally.
11. Depends on which bank.
12. I can still get to the bank.

Town of Burlington Resident Survey  
July 2008

**Question 28. Regarding future residential growth, the Town should restrict mobile home parks (3 or more units).**

Responses:

1. Not sure.
2. Should have requirements for skirting, tie downs, (illegible)
3. Plus slabs, sewer, etc. (Codes).
4. Proper layout, planning and landscapes might be considered, and location.
5. Parks can be nice, but also be poorly maintained and bring in undesirable clientele.
6. A mobile home park might have 3 units and be an eyesore or 12 units and be attractive.
7. Small inside means junk and stuff tend to collect outside and maintenance is poor.
8. Allow them but restrict number of them and where they are.
9. Favor clustering of these.
10. Junky development in other towns will come here.
11. These are needed.
12. Absolutely necessary today.
13. In the economy my children may have to move into trailers placed on my land.

**Question 29. Regarding future residential growth, the Town should ban single wide mobile homes.**

Responses:

1. These are needed.
2. You may need one.
3. We live in a low income area so it is necessary for some people to live in SWT. As long as they keep them presentable. SWT can always be removed since they come in on wheels.
4. Too many people need them for decent housing.
5. I don't want to live in one, but can your children afford \$800-\$900 month mortgage?
6. Some people can only afford a single-wide when starting out, especially.
7. If taken care of, it's ok. It's a problem when people don't take care!
8. Good maintenance is more important than size.
9. Regulate.
10. Need to cover how they are set and where.
11. Limit number and locations. Keep lot size 1-5 acres.
12. Limit number; set acreage levels.
13. Location and plot plans can result in some very nice homes sites.
14. People tend to "clump" many of these on one piece of property.
15. Should not detract from surroundings.
16. And double-wides.
17. Only new Units.
18. As long as people are paying taxes and trailer meets building codes, it shouldn't be government's business.

**Question 30. Regarding future residential growth, the Town should ban single-building apartment complexes.**

Responses:

1. These are needed.
2. (Cover) them. Do not restrict them.
3. Regulate.
4. Restrict.
5. Restrict number of buildings and number of apartments in each building.
6. Restrict number allowed.
7. Have guidelines.
8. Need special areas.
9. Depends on what plans/locations and designs are submitted.
10. Possible in the towns, not countryside, but am not in favor of it.
11. Cluster in hamlets.
12. No tall buildings (real apt complexes).
13. Affordable and safe housing.

**Question 31. Regarding future residential growth, the Town should ban multiple-building apartment complexes.**

Responses:

1. These are needed.
2. Will see more in the future.
3. Town should have some regulatory rights, but some complexes (for Aging) are desirable.
4. Regulate.
5. Restrict.
6. Restrict number allowed.
7. Have guidelines.
8. Use zoning to manage.
9. Cover them.
10. Single complexes-proper location-and layouts may be okay.
11. Need special areas determined by master plan.
12. Depends on architecture but also number of people it will house.
13. Clustered senior housing with 2 or 3 units would be ok.
14. Within hamlets or villages, apartments are acceptable.
15. Cluster in hamlets.
16. Best serving of community.
17. Flood zone and Code restrictions apply.

**Question 32. Regarding future residential growth, the Town should ban more than one residence per lot.**

Responses:

1. Depending on lot size.
2. Determine by lot size—divide lot.
3. Depending on lot.
4. Definition of lot?

**Continued Question 32. Regarding future residential growth, the Town should ban more than one residence per lot.**

Responses:

5. What size lots?
6. What is lot size?
7. Based on lot size. One residence to 1-5 acres.
8. Depends on what size the lot is. Maybe 1 house on up to 5 acres.
9. This would depend on lot size.
10. Depends on lot size and use. Guest house may be ok.
11. In mobile homes, only one per lot. In some instances it might be necessary.
12. Restrict.
13. Require subdivision approval.
14. Not if there is a parent or child who needs supervision and a need to live close.
15. What about mother-in-law homes?
16. How can you ban in-law apartments with the older generation growing?
17. Unless house is already there and they make it a multiple dwelling.
18. 8 kids mean 8 acres?
19. Why?
20. What is a lot? A parcel?

**Question 33. Regarding future residential growth, the Town should establish minimum road frontage rules.**

Responses:

1. Not sure. I like my flowers.
2. Not sure.
3. Need debate so we can see pros and cons.
4. Stop allowing land investors ruining our #1 resource.
5. Disagree on private roads and in developments.
6. May not be necessary with minimum acres required.
7. What about clustered subdivisions as an alternative?
8. There are several options. Clustering of houses with open space is an alternative.
9. Effective housing can be "off" road sites.
10. For new buildings; ok for present ones.
11. We were here 30 years ago.

**Question 34. Regarding future residential growth, the Town should establish minimum lot size rules (1-5 acres).**

Responses:

1. One-half acre plots ok.
2. 1 to 2 minimum.
3. 1 to 5 or 2 to 5 on wasted land.
4. 1 to 5 ok; 2 to 5 better?
5. 5 acres.
6. 5 acres.
7. I feel 5 acres per lot should be implemented.

(Continued on next page)

**Continued Question 34. Regarding future residential growth, the Town should establish minimum lot size rules (1-5 acres).**

Responses:

8. Should be 5 acres to build unless it is on family property.
9. Depends on what size the lot is. Maybe I house on up to 5 acres.
10. This is very important in preserving nature.
11. Dependant on location.
12. Depends on where you are talking about. Needs debate.
13. Yes for developments; no for single owner homes.
14. What about clustered subdivisions as an alternative?
15. There are several options. Clustering of houses with open space is an alternative.
16. I support subdivision regulations that would allow clustering instead of traditional large lot sizes.
17. How much lawn you gonna mow at 80?
18. Who needs a (illegible) lot?
19. No way as most town houses do not have 1 acre.

**Question 35. Regarding future residential growth, the Town should establish minimum distance between houses.**

Responses:

1. Flexible on lot shape.
2. Based on lot size, hamlet or rural.
3. I don't want to see homes too close to each other.
4. Within (reason).
5. Five acres.
6. Must be 5 acres between.
7. And between house and lot lines.
8. What about clustered subdivisions as an alternative?
9. There are several options. Clustering of houses with open space is an alternative.
10. Difficult in towns, but possible in country.
11. How can you do that if they own the property?
12. In Town, can touch 2 residents at once.
13. Needs debate—don't understand all sides of story.

**Question 36. Regarding future residential growth, the Town should establish visual barrier rules (to hide junk, machinery, structures).**

Responses:

1. Junk cars, boats, washing machines should be removed at owner expense.
2. More important, ALL property must be kept in a neat and clean manner. Machinery itself doesn't need to be hidden; it needs to be maintained and stored in a functional manner. As all property (i.e., the "Prate place", Roger Parker, Co. Hwy 16, Basswood School House) should be well-maintained (cleaned up) or taxed as an eyesore.
3. Let's try to eliminate junk.
4. Obvious.
5. Control junk!!
6. Establish a "junk tax", also.

(Continued on next page.)

**Continued Question 36. Regarding future residential growth, the Town should establish visual barrier rules (to hide junk, machinery, structures).**

Responses:

7. Junk should be controlled. Machinery (etc.) (and structures) is ok.
8. Dependant on location.
9. For registered junk yards, yes. There should be fences.
10. And between residential and business zones.
11. Enforce what rules we have before adding more.
12. Needs more definition. On a farm, machinery is outside.
13. Not working farm machinery, but collections of junk, vehicles, old fire trucks, etc.
14. We need parts off old machinery.
15. Lady Bird law still in effect?

**Question 37. Regarding future residential growth, the Town should restrict where multi-unit complexes are built (apartments, developments).**

Responses:

1. No complexes.
2. Flood zone in effect.
3. Obviously.
4. And restrict the size, area coverage, building design and landscaping.
5. Again, zone for these structures.
6. Cluster in hamlets.

**Question 38. Regarding future residential growth, the Town should restrict year-round development on seasonal roads.**

Responses:

1. Need tax base.
2. Need for more people on tax roles.
3. We need all development.
4. Roads should be reused and reopened.
5. All roads should be available for building.
6. Where will future growth take place?
7. Where will growth occur if you limit lot size?
8. Town should not have to clear winter roads.
9. Should not result in greater burden on Town to provide year-round service (fire protection, etc.).
10. Some roads. Conduct cost/benefit analysis to determine tax load caused by development.
11. Some roads. Cost analysis on benefit to town.
12. Have better guidelines.
13. Allow people who build there to maintain roads themselves.
14. If someone builds on season road, let them maintain it.
15. Not if builder maintains the road.
16. Does this have anything to do with snowmobilers and 4-wheelers?
17. I don't understand what impact would be. Needs debate.

Town of Burlington Resident Survey  
July 2008

**Question 39. Regarding future residential growth, the Town should establish different restrictions for property within hamlet versus property outside the hamlet.**

Responses:

1. Not sure.
2. Not realistic.
3. Reasonable idea!
4. Needs more defining.
5. Land is used differently in hamlets than on farms in some ways, not all. Where there is a reason for the difference, ok to have one, but not junk, scrap, etc.
6. This would lead to different rules for junk and dumps (etc.) outside the hamlets. Have common rules: administer them with common sense.
7. Trailers outside hamlets used for storage ok.
8. Obvious.
9. Yes, only for grandfathered houses. Grandfathered should be allowed. Small home-based business if they reside there only.
10. Still have to pass Codes. Farmers would rebel.
11. Possibly. Individuals who live in a hamlet could possibly have some different restrictions, but not outside hamlets.
12. It may not seem fair, but practical. What is the definition (or radius) for hamlet?
13. Has no effect on us. We live outside.

**Question 40. Regarding future commercial growth, the Town should ban gas stations.**

Responses:

1. Should at least be gas station and general store in Town!
2. We need them.
3. We need one.
4. How often I wish we had a gas station—wish we did.
5. Rural areas need gas stations. Follow strict guidelines.
6. Not ban in a rural community.
7. A small well-planned station would be beneficial to the area.
8. Ban national chain gas stations, not the small private ones.
9. Ban commercial chains, allowing “Mom& Pop” stores.
10. Ban chain stores, not “Mom & Pop’s”.
11. For chain stores.
12. Try to avoid a Stewart’s that drives out established business like Miller’s in Edmeston.
13. Miller’s in Edmeston needs competition to drive down prices.
14. Need to make sure they are built in appropriate places.
15. Restrict/maybe.
16. Regulate yes, ban no. Control noise, excessive lighting, visual impacts, locations.
17. Regulate -- not ban, but consider noise, location of things, lighting, effect on character of area.
18. Regulate.
19. Need master plan with “Zoning.”
20. Per standards on appearance, activity.

(Continued on next page.)

**Continued Question 40. Regarding future commercial growth, the Town should ban gas stations.**

Responses:

21. Control how many and how big they are (number of pumps) and where they can be.
22. Limit the number.
23. Restrict numbers.
24. Serving future growth.
25. Within reason.
26. Monitor it.
27. Need competition.
28. We need jobs.
29. In a rural area?
30. Growing up here we had 5, now 1.

**Question 41. Regarding future commercial growth, the Town should ban national chain fast food or convenience stores.**

Responses:

1. Need to make sure they are built in appropriate places.
2. No fast food. Maybe small convenience store only.
3. No fast food; convenience store ok.
4. No fast food; convenience store ok.
5. Keep convenience—ban fast food.
6. Fast food chains are objectionable; however, convenience stores, if small, are handy.
7. No fast food.
8. No chain stores.
9. Ban anything “chain.”
10. Regulate yes, ban no. Control noise, excessive lighting, visual impacts, locations.
11. Regulate -- not ban, but consider noise, location of things, lighting, effect on character of area.
12. Regulate.
13. Control where they are allowed and how big they are and building design.
14. Limit locations.
15. Need to follow structure design that fits county life. They do not need to look alike.
16. I'd like a Stewarts. More convenience stores would be nice. More than 1 **crook**.
17. Restrict/maybe.
18. Limit the number.
19. Within reason.
20. Need master plan with “Zoning.”
21. We need jobs.
22. Some seem to attract crime.
23. Why?

**Question 42. Regarding future commercial growth, the Town should ban strip malls.**

Responses:

1. Need to make sure they are built in appropriate places.
2. Seldom long term value.
3. Stores go out of business and sit empty.
4. Usually go out of business.
5. Restrict.
6. Limit the number.
7. Need master plan with "Zoning."
8. Regulate yes, ban no. Control noise, excessive lighting, visual impacts, locations.
9. Regulate -- not ban, but consider noise, location of things, lighting, effect on character of area.
10. No way hamper them.
11. We need jobs.
12. We could use one?
13. Leave for Cooperstown.

**Question 43. Regarding future commercial growth, the Town should ban theme parks (baseball camps).**

Responses:

1. Definitely would NOT want baseball camps.
2. Ban theme parks; baseball ok.
3. Located near Cooperstown.
4. Leave for Cooperstown.
5. Restrict/maybe.
6. Need more information on effect on area—visual and traffic, etc.
7. Need master plan with "Zoning."
8. Not "ban", but town will not benefit from such projects and there must be a review process and strict standards. Regulate and critically review.
9. Regulate yes, ban no. Control noise, excessive lighting, visual impacts, locations.
10. Regulate -- not ban, but consider noise, location of things, lighting, effect on character of area.
11. Control where they are and how big and building design.
12. Who ... would have predicted the changes in the quality of life – noise, week night fireworks, excessive lighting, traffic- that resulted from the baseball camps?
13. This is a low impact business—taxes, etc.
14. What cleaner industry?
15. We need jobs.
16. Would help the Town tax base.
17. Could be beneficial to the town and tourist trade.
18. Tourism/business equal tax money.
19. Believe net cost to Town could be more than revenue and would have a negative effect on rural character.

**Question 44. Regarding future commercial growth, the Town should ban adult bookstores.**

Responses:

1. Need to make sure they are built in appropriate places.
2. We don't need.
3. No value.
4. Heavily restrict.
5. Need master plan with "Zoning."
6. Regulate yes, ban no. Control noise, excessive lighting, visual impacts, locations.
7. Regulate -- not ban, but consider noise, location of things, lighting, effect on character of area.
8. Controlling what people read?

**Question 45. Regarding future commercial growth, the Town should ban liquor stores or bars.**

Responses:

1. People have to have some place to meet & greet.
2. Ban bars; no ban on liquor stores.
3. Restrict.
4. Need master plan with "Zoning."
5. Regulate yes, ban no. Control noise, excessive lighting, visual impacts, locations.
6. Regulate -- not ban, but consider noise, location of things, lighting, effect on character of area.
7. Regulate.
8. Need more information—where, cause and effect, etc.
9. Manage.
10. There is no liquor store within 10-15 mile limit.
11. Prohibition is over.
12. Why?

**Question 46. Regarding future commercial growth, the Town should ban billboards.**

Responses:

1. Or size restrictions.
2. Depending on size and content.
3. Need to have size and content guidelines.
4. Small, not lighted, etc. ok. Question of scale and rural character.
5. Restrict.
6. Need master plan with "Zoning."
7. Regulate yes, ban no. Control noise, excessive lighting, visual impacts, locations.
8. Regulate -- not ban, but consider noise, location of things, lighting, effect on character of area.
9. Little value to Town.
10. Does nothing to improve countryside.
11. They serve a purpose.
12. Lady Bird Johnson supposedly does.

**Question 47. Regarding future commercial growth, the Town should restrict logging practices (limit percent cleared).**

Responses:

1. Logging serves a purpose.
2. Logging is needed to maintain healthy forests.
3. Absolutely not. Buy PDR's or purchase land.
4. A form of socialism.
5. No strip logging.
6. Only selective logging should be allowed-no clear cutting.
7. I don't believe in clear cut; gov't does.
8. Need master plan with "Zoning."
9. Many instances of bad practice. Is there a model law?
10. Do regulations exist (federal or state) to prevent erosion, etc.?

**Question 48. Regarding future commercial growth, the Town should restrict office buildings (number of units, location).**

Responses:

1. Would benefit Town employment and taxes.
2. Business equal good.
3. More revenue generating businesses.
4. Too many of these buildings sit empty.
5. Where would this area be? Less office space.
6. Limit where they are.
7. Location only.
8. Control where and size and building design.
9. Depending on size, restrict location.
10. Need master plan with "Zoning."
11. Why?

**Question 49. Regarding future commercial growth, the Town should restrict hotels, motels and inns (not Bed& Breakfast).**

Responses:

1. Again, tourism brings more people and traffic. I love it here because of lack of population.
2. Location and zoning.
3. Limit where they are.
4. Limit locations.
5. Depends on what and where—land use regs.
6. Location/lighting.
7. Location/lighting/size.
8. Control where, how big and building design.
9. Restrict to limited size.
10. Need master plan with "Zoning."
11. With our Code enforcement, we should be ok.
12. Would benefit Town employment and taxes.
13. Open-ended future growth.
14. An inn featuring lunches and dinners would be nice.
15. No way.

**Question 50. Regarding future commercial growth, the Town should restrict heavy construction businesses.**

Responses:

1. If it's outside of hamlet and if kept neat.
2. Limit areas.
3. Limit where they are.
4. OK if in right area.
5. Depends on what and where—land use regs.
6. Depends on not impairing or materially impairing your neighbor's quiet enjoyment, view, etc. of his property.
7. Need master plan with "Zoning."
8. Would benefit Town employment and taxes.
9. Limited.
10. No way.
11. Does this include farm machinery?
12. What is an example of a heavy construction business?

**Question 51. Regarding future commercial growth, the Town should restrict manufacturing /warehousing businesses.**

Responses:

1. But may be desirable economically if appropriate site(s) can be identified and shielded from views.
2. Limit areas.
3. Limit where they are.
4. Limited.
5. OK if in right area.
6. Depends on what and where—land use regs.
7. Limit mfg by size and impact.
8. They are good tax **rateables** but need to control where, size and building design.
9. Need master plan with "Zoning."
10. Depends on not impairing or materially impairing your neighbor's quiet enjoyment, view, etc. of his property.
11. Night lighting.
12. Location/night light/noise.
13. Light manufacturing facilities in an industrial park is a good **rateable**.
14. We need.
15. Would benefit Town employment and taxes.
16. Touchy, earn a living small shops.
17. Depends on possible employment.

Town of Burlington Resident Survey  
July 2008

**Question 52. Regarding future commercial growth, the Town should restrict natural gas or wind generation businesses.**

Responses:

1. Wind generation may be good.
2. Wind generation has many pros and cons—bigger issue to discuss here.
3. Again, personal windmills for private use should be allowed.
4. Windmills good for us all.
5. Wind power ok.
6. Wind only; restrict gas.
7. Allow green energy, disallow fossil fuels.
8. Wind generation ok. Gas must be well-regulated.
9. Not wind generation.
10. Wind generation needed.
11. I would not restrict wind generation very much.
12. Including power lines.
13. No natural gas. Encourage non-fossil fuel.
14. Restrict gas; wind no restriction.
15. Gas questionable. Gas exploration may affect my well water. Gas exploration would be noisy, dirty, etc.
16. Who among us anticipated gas exploration using new technologies with toxic chemicals?
17. Natural gas is very dangerous. Wind generation takes away from natural beauty.
18. I think natural gas drilling is the biggest threat to the town's character and more importantly the water supply and quality. I would support any wind generation projects.
19. Natural gas would destroy the town. Must be careful!
20. Be cautious to protect our water.
21. Limit where they are.
22. Limits set-zoning. Integrity of business.
23. Regulate.
24. Need master plan with "Zoning."
25. As long as environment is not harmed.
26. Only with due cause after thorough research.
27. Minimum impact to quality of life.
28. Minimize impact of quality of life.
29. No restriction for residential use/application.
30. Depends on not impairing or materially impairing your neighbor's quiet enjoyment, view, etc. of his property.
31. We need.
32. Energy power is needed.
33. Would benefit Town employment and taxes. We need renewal energy.
34. We/you should encourage power generation without negatively impacting the environment.
35. Beats high power voltage lines all over.
36. If we are opposing windmills cell towers should be removed.
37. With consideration.

**Question 53. Regarding future commercial growth, the Town should restrict inherently noisy or pollution generating businesses.**

Responses:

1. Quiet setting should be maintained.
2. Absolutely, including CAFOs.
3. Depends on not impairing or materially impairing your neighbor's quiet enjoyment, view, etc. of his property.
4. Limit where they are.
5. Distance restrictions.
6. Depends on definition.
7. Depends on type of noise.
8. Except agriculture.
9. Need master plan with "Zoning."
10. Too ambiguous.
11. DEC has lots of rules-enough.
12. We have federal guidelines in place already.
13. Some businesses need to run 8am -5pm.

**Question 54. Regarding future commercial growth, the Town should set weight limits on Town or county roads.**

Responses:

1. State has done.
2. Unnecessary consideration.
3. Keep it on the State roads.
4. Strongly disagree unless safety is an issue.
5. Drive the back road and see what we have.
6. Where are or will heavy businesses be located?
7. Question is too general. Please specify. No fuel trucks? No UPS or FEDEX? Or heavy trucks that already pay over on taxes already?
8. And speed limits, too!

Town of Burlington Resident Survey  
July 2008

**Question 55. Other comments you would like to make.**

Responses:

1. I don't think the Town of Burlington should be able to tell a homeowner/taxpayer what they can or can't do with their property.
2. The town should be involved in my life as little as possible.
3. We are supposed to live in a country called America the Home of the Free.
4. Free people breed enterprise. Government restrictions only hamper. This area should remain free for growth. Anything helps.
5. Individuals should be free to use or sell their lands anyway they want. It appears to me that city people who earn a lot of money then come up here to the country and want to change it—put in a lot of rules, etc. Leave the area alone. If people want rules and restrictions they should move to the city. Also too many and ridiculous building codes. We need business and industry to offset individual taxes.
6. I think anyone should be able to put any single family home on their property. Any commercial use should need approval by a planning board and residential or commercial development over a certain value or acreage should be subject to a review period and referendum vote at the general election.
7. I think we need to deter non-local people and companies from building and destroying our rural setting. To do this I feel we should put in place a tax, surcharge or fee on new construction by non-residents (i.e., locals who have lived here at least 5 years). Enough to deter anybody new coming in. After 5, 7 or 10 years taxes could be lowered to the normal rate. If they are going to move into the area and build above the town's income level, then the town should benefit.
8. We have restrictions through State and Feds. Besides cost of enforcing new laws and restrictions. Let Feds, State and County do their jobs.
9. Town Board should first consider upkeep of our present advantages and facilities instead of new rules and ordinances to control progress and continue our decadence.
10. Instead of banning, we should encourage needed services and businesses.
11. Any business bringing employment and services to the Town would be good for it.
12. Be pro-business. Generate income to limit taxes on land owners.
13. Would like to see anything to stimulate economy.
14. Some development may be positive to our community, such as a convenience store or grocery store. Right now we have to travel at least 30 minutes for this and who can afford that with the price of gas. We have to turn to Miller's when we need gas or milk locally, but their prices are so high it is like a monopoly.
15. I don't believe we/you should "ban" any future revenue generating businesses. What should be done is to consider each on a case by case basis. You never know what the future will bring. We/you should keep the area as naturally as possible. Require "green" solutions for businesses for example or require a certain number of trees be planted in/around a parking lot, etc.

(Continued on next page.)

**Continued Question 55. Other comments you would like to make.**

Responses:

16. In my experience whenever there is development, and everyone says the tax base will improve, it does not work. Taxes go up faster. I am satisfied with the Town as it is now-no big development.
17. After living all my life in New Jersey, I believe every effort should be made to restrict all kinds of development. Development does not result in low taxes. N.J. is a perfect example of proving that fact. If people want development let them move to developed areas. I plan on moving permanently to Burlington because I want to live in a rural area, which there are fewer and fewer such areas. Do everything to keep what you have! . . . All of the development that I have seen take place in New Jersey was and continues to be for the quest of the tax dollar and to that end. Greed. Little concern was ever given to the impact it would have on local wildlife or the quality of life of local residents. While steps were taken to give the illusion of a park-like setting in new developments, it was to be nothing more than a glossing over of the hundreds of cookie-cutter homes, the stripping of the landscape and traffic that accompanies it. . . . While all of these developers will boast of the jobs they create, the consumer economics they claim that will boost the region's cash flow and growth that will follow, they never speak of the congestion, the noise, the crime, the drop in property values, the loss in quality of life, and the increase in stress for residents, local officials and workers. Certainly, none of them will ever comment or care about the impact their project will have on wildlife, equine or livestock in the area.
18. I moved here to enjoy the natural beauty of the area. I feel it is important that we/the Town do as much as possible to protect the area and keep its beauty without overly restricting the residents. I would hate to see what happened in Hartwick happen here. Thank you for starting to think about these things.
19. We purchased our property about 20 years ago because of the area's natural beauty and privacy. We may be newcomers here, but value the old time residents' view of a small, quiet, personal town. Any industry or conveniences can be found not too far away in Cooperstown, Norwich, Oneonta and Utica. Please keep Burlington a beautiful place to spend your life.
20. I love our quaint, charming town, but I would not be opposed to a multitude of the above as it would add to our economic community. I do believe we should have town ordinances in place to control and monitor the building activity to make sure it's conducive to our community appeal. I would gladly offer my support toward this effort.
21. This is a farming/agricultural community.
22. We cherish our rural setting. Let's protect it.
23. Once we give away the rural-ness of our Town, we'll never get it back. So we shouldn't sell our birthright for a mess of **potage**.

(Continued on next page.)

Town of Burlington Resident Survey  
July 2008

**Continued Question 55. Other comments you would like to make.**

Responses:

24. There is a reason why 90% of towns have land use regs! Those who don't are asking to be unfairly exploited for the benefit of others, not the residents! Land Use regs are at least a speed bump protecting the town from abuse—not a blow against freedom.
25. As your letter states, we are among a small minority of towns without any land use restrictions. This makes us especially vulnerable. Corporations seeking sites for activities that will involve large impacts first seek out towns without zoning. Our town's position becomes even more vulnerable as more towns restrict high impact uses. The primary issue for me is quality of life. Not only is our town beautiful, it is quiet, dark at night and relatively free of pollution. I desire to keep it so. . . I do not think we can anticipate what may threaten our rural lives in the future. . . . If even the least restrictive zoning laws were in place in Burlington, a future threat could be temporarily stopped with a year-long moratorium while the town discussed and considered ways to lower impacts on residents.
26. I live on Long Island and have witnessed unbridled development at its worst. I hate developers. Save the rural setting of the Town.
27. We are not entirely opposed to commercial growth, but this needs to be carefully and sensitively zoned and contained, planned and landscaped in order to protect and preserve the natural attributes of the area.
28. It's important to have a master plan for the Town to keep its beauty and rural setting, and balance between residential, business and industrial areas.
29. There should be separate zones determined by a master plan. Each on these issues (commercial growth) should be addressed by a professional master planning group that does this as a business. It should be some one who has done many rural areas and can document their work.
30. I think there should be an industrial park established and control what is allowed there. Restrict some types of business to this area.
31. The Town should get past the idea that a person can do whatever he or she wants, regardless of the impact on others in the Town. This is not "freedom"; it's exploitation. The Town's costs are going to keep increasing and the Town must protect and enhance land/property values and encourage middle income residential growth. Ten hunting camps probably use as many public services and pay less tax than 2 new family homes, which fit Burlington's small, neighborly style better, too.
32. To establish a good set of rules concerning issues in this questionnaire should be made by experienced and knowledgeable persons. A good Town area map should be established showing areas that could be involved with Town growth.
33. Restrict all development that would change the rural character of Burlington. If someone wants the benefits of development they can do as people have done for centuries. They can move to developed areas. Burlington should be preserved as a rural area for people who want that kind of development.

(Continued on next page.)

Town of Burlington Resident Survey  
July 2008

**Continued Question 55. Other comments you would like to make.**

Responses:

34. All restrictions should look to future growth and the “greater good”. Wind energy is certainly a safe, clean, nondestructive industry worth investigating.
35. There should be restrictions on businesses about: smells, excessive lights, noise, potential traffic problems and visual eyesores.
36. General principle of clustering is desirable, particularly for multi-unit dwellings and business.
37. We need to use our common sense and not get too anal about any of this.
38. “Banning” common legal businesses seems extreme while regulating them seems reasonable.
39. Limited personal use windmills would be a good idea. The wind up here never stops. A homeowner could power and heat their home at a savings, not to mention a release from need of fossil fuels.
40. I would like the town to explore a better location/appearance for our post office.
41. We could use a local gas and convenience store. It’s crazy to have to drive 15 plus miles to get gas.
42. The town should also consider limiting future installation of outdoor furnaces to the cleanest available model.
43. Improve the phone lines. They are archaic.
44. Bed & Breakfast and transient rental units should be regulated and monitored.
45. I would like two (commercial, residential and industrial) activities added to your list: large private incineration facilities – possible even for toxic materials – and concentrated animal feedlot operations (CAFOs). We currently have no way of stopping a large polluting industry. CAFOs are not farms. They are factories which can contain tens of thousands of animals. Odors and waste from CAFOs have destroyed lives, property values and water bodies.
46. Some public transportation would be helpful to the young seeking employment outside of town and to the elderly who can no longer safely drive.
47. Because of the lack of local good jobs our young people are leaving. Families cannot survive on minimum wage jobs. Also because of our rural setting we must use a lot of gas to get to decent stores.
48. Our sons and daughters leave and do not return.
49. Back in ’57 and ’58 era, we were all farm-oriented, other than people coming n with strip malls, theme parks, etc. Anyone ask the elderly why they are still here?
50. The Highway Dept. does a great job and that is important. PS—I am not related to anyone in the Highway Dept.
51. I moved to Burlington Flats to raise my family in the country. The school was also important. Please save the pool.
52. Send the Daily Star newspaper to residents twice a year for free.
53. Well thought-out. Happy to help.
54. Thank you for doing this important task. It is very much needed.
55. Thank you for your and our concerns. We’ll be watching the paper for notices.
56. Great idea and extremely important.
57. Thank you for looking ahead as rural America is being discovered. Let’s keep our rural setting. (Continued on next page.)

Town of Burlington Resident Survey  
July 2008

**Continued Question 55. Other comments you would like to make.**

Responses:

58. It has been obvious for years that, although there is a spirit of independence among the citizens of the town, there are growing concerns about regulating land use in order to prevent ongoing and future abuses.

The town is to be commended for realizing what the future can hold if land use is to continue unregulated.

There are obviously many examples of misuse and abuse now existing in the Town of Burlington.

The time has long since passed when there should have been measures in place to raise the level of land use above what was once thought acceptable and desirable. Rural areas have progressed beyond the 1800s in concepts of what is allowable usage, so there must be regulation, onerous as it may appear to some. For many now, pride in appearance and order have become increasingly a basic factor of civil existence. We are no longer living on the frontier where only the basic modes of behavior prevailed.

Many “old timers” will oppose regulation (zoning), but they will nevertheless complain if a neighbor or a business irks them by using a property in a way which is troublesome to them. The time has come when the town has to take a look at the larger picture, town-wide, and create legislation which will provide for orderly, reasonable land use.

The Town of Exeter dealt with growth and regulation years ago. How successful the town has been, is largely based upon willingness to enforce its zoning ordinance. Without strong enforcement, the effort at regulation is meaningless. The intestinal fortitude of the ordinance enforcement officer is paramount. He, or she, must be prepared to be committed to making the ordinance work and must be chosen for the ability to avoid crumbling in the face of political or other pressure. He, or she, will need a tough hide and must be prepared to be reviled and threatened, especially in the early stages of enforcement. The old Dodge City by comparison will seem a pleasant place to live. However, the success of the ordinance will depend upon this person and the support given by the Town Board.

I am sure that a great deal of thought has been given to preparing the townspeople for the move that the town is about to make. A public relations program has no doubt already been envisioned, if not prepared.

The Town of Burlington will be the focus of a great deal of attention with this effort. I hope that the town officials will have the guts to get the job done in spite of the mountains of calumny that will be heaped upon them.

But it has to be done, and done right. Good luck.