

Town of Harrisburg Survey Results - Comments

Q2.a Please indicate the number of years you have resided or owned land in the town.

0 – 5	6 – 10	11 – 15	16 – 20	21 - 25	26+
21	9	6	13	8	28

Q5.a Please indicate other reasons for choosing to live and/or own property in the town?

- Investment
- I plan to build a home here soon
- Land Development/small business
- Hunting/privacy/quietness
- Back in 1964, we moved here for work
- Was born here
- Originally planned a summer place there
- Occupation, dairy farming
- Love the healthy country atmosphere
- Being in country surrounding, quiet
- To be closer to spouse's work. To be "in the country"
- I have great neighbors and love the trail
- Farmed here many years
- Know the area - peaceful
- Living out in country with few neighbors
- Not crowded
- Beauty, peace and quiet
- Rural setting
- Moved in with boyfriend
- Liked country living
- Scenic countryside
- I like the winters
- Left from my father
- Family farm happen to be in Harrisburg
- Property part of farm - rest of farm in Lowville and Denmark
- Beautiful scenery
- Family land (2)
- Inherited
- I was raised in this town
- My land consists of a small cabin, we like x country skiing and nearby hiking/canoeing
- I like the SNOW
- Family home
- Good location for my work
- Be able to ATV 4x4 and snowmobile and hunt
- Raised and born in the area
- Family owned property

- Rural lifestyle
- Farm is there
- Country living
- Purchase of a dairy farm
- Agricultural community atmosphere

Q9.a Please indicate other issues you are concerned about.

- This question could be taken two different ways
- Wind farm money town seems to benefit only a few - not the entire town
- Need trails and roads to ride snowmobiles and ATV's
- Junk cars and other eyesores
- Maintenance of town equipment and record keeping of same
- Tourism and snowmobiles in a positive way
- Less property tax payers
- Open burning of materials containing toxins is rampant. Illegal hunting
- Illegal burning of toxic materials (plastic, rubber)
- Need more homes and jobs
- Be more tourist friendly
- Wind farm - we think it's a positive
- Lack of controls on land developers and development especially subdivisions
- Lack of garbage disposal service
- Town Supervisor
- Not concerned - only I'm against spraying
- All the junk cars on people's lawns!!
- Animal dumping dogs/cats
- Quality of life being devalued, land being devalued because of windmills

Q13.a Please indicate other areas you would like to see growth in.

- Windmills take up half our town
- Fuel and grocery store
- Teen center, swimming pools and Mexican restaurant
- None
- horse trails
- Wind turbine development
- Jobs

Q14.a Please indicate other areas of the Town you think are worthy of special protection for the future.

- Property marked and patrolled trails would also help to keep these areas protected
- Stiffer fines for littering
- Any type of good feeding grounds for wildlife
- Affordable land ownership so undesirable uses or development doesn't become necessary
- No special protections
- Everything should be treated the same

- Set back distances of windmills from family homes of at least 1 mile

Q17.a Please indicate other items your household has in the event of a natural disaster.

- Radio, battery TV, Flashlights, oil lamps, candles
- Gas stove and oven
- No home on ground
- Propane cooking
- Oil lamps, battery packs, extra batteries for radios, flashlights, TV
- Guns, radio
- Gas lamps, fire/smoke alarms, batteries, flashlights
- Me
- Candles and the ability to get out!!
- Tractor
- Gas Stove - Kerosene Heater

Q18. Please use the following space for any additional comments you would like to make.

- It's just a piece of land.
- I am in favor of developing the area by building single family homes and establishing farms in order to help the community also more business. I feel installing trailers or mobile homes as permanent residences will not help the area but bring down the area.
- I think we have enough windmills on Tug Hill. In this survey you ask a lot of questions about preserving the natural beauty in our area. I don't think that by dotting the hill with more mills is a thing of beauty. My family enjoys hunting, fishing and riding ATV's. Thank you for sending us this survey.
- It would be nice to have a spring clean up where a town resident could bring to the town hall items for disposal. Copenhagen village has one and it works well. People can dispose of larger items, which would hang around and become junk or get carried out into the woods and fields. This could be a controlled and 1st step to getting people to throw away larger junk items. We are going to be spending extra money in the future - let's use some towards cleaning up our town.
- Our tax dollars should be going to improve our town and area we live in, to improve roadways and recreation, encourage people to move into the area and stay in the area. We need to help people that live here, afford to live here and those that are in business or farming to stay in business or farming and encourage new businesses. There is no good reason why 3 or 4 similar towns couldn't share, and use, alot of the same services. Rather than each town paying salaries for their own superintendent and similar positions. We should be able to consolidate some positions between the towns and some tax dollars. Each year taxes go up and quality of services goes down. We should be seeing improvement each year if we are paying more each year.
- Road maintenance: Humphrey Road in Harrisburg needs cold patch work in the bad spots, otherwise they continue to get worse and break-up more. Also, Harrisburg town crew plows the roads with the plow where there is no or very little snow. They also drive to fast when plowing.
- Tug Hill is already known for it's snowmobile, ATV recreation - let's promote and build on what is already there. Ski trails, bike trails, campgrounds, open more seasonal roads for easier trail access, etc.

- Some homes and farms in Harrisburg are disgusting eyesores with junk cars and obsolete farm equipment. Houses in total disrepair, looks like the heart of Appalachia. We desperately need legislation to address this problem. To me this is the most important issue to be addressed.
- It is most unfortunate that Lewis County has about the 2nd highest unemployment rate in NYS. Many people have lost jobs, therefore unable to buy property, homes, etc. It is difficult to see my children staying in Lewis County as adults because of limited employment, high taxes and outrageous Niagara Mohawk bills.
- Whether it is a town or county responsibility, enforcement of junkyard laws should come into play. Too much just plain junk is in our town - too many abandoned, unlicensed vehicles. I try to maintain my property so it looks decent and I am surrounded by "dumpy looking properties". Residents should take some pride and respect in this town and a great deal of them don't. It's almost as if the worse their place looks the better they like it.
- Over the last 8 years, I have had to give up snow shoe rabbit hunting completely. Still one of the best spots (Tug Hill). Why, snowmobiles and noise from them. The stillness of Tug Hill is gone forever!
- I would like to see someone or a group take all the vacant farm land and think about growing corn for the production of ethanol. The land owners benefit, it creates jobs, gets gas prices down. The people in the North Country struggle every winter trying to pay heating bills. It would benefit everyone. We have to stop depending on foreign oil. Then we can build our own future.
- Clean up all houses and back yard properties, i.e. Cobb Road and 177. Try to treat everyone in the town the same, no matter what their name is. Helping people who are in need. Clean up the Town of Harrisburg, so we can have a town to be proud of.
- I think this survey is a waste of taxpayer money because of cost of postage and printing and the amount of information asked for. I think the town board is trying to stifle the maintenance of the highways by cutting funds.
- Get the county to fix Cobb Road, as it is the main artery for the Town of Harrisburg. Any business wishing to come into our town has to visit our facilities and Cobb Road (and its condition) gives the wrong impression.
- Junk law - for cars, etc., too many junk cars and trucks.
- I wish I was more involved perhaps someday soon I will retire and move up there and build on my property.
- No large scale abrupt changes to this wilderness area. An area of this scale in our state should be protected not developed.
- Harrisburg needs more parking areas for snowmobiles and 4-wheel trailers. Many stop at Barnes Corners now, and if more areas off 177 were available, more business would stay in our town. We need more "low cost" garbage removal because people are "dumping" in wooded areas and on old roads. Need amnesty days for old tires and garbage. Houses and trailers like the one on 177 should not be allowed to have hundreds of junk items in their front yard. Need a "news letter" generated from the town for those of us that do not live in the area, to be kept abreast of future problems or plans for our town. We pay taxes too.
- Have to lower property tax for dairy farmers.
- I feel that the roads should be plowed more to suite early morning people and when buses travel. Concentrate on lowering taxes, taxes way to high for what we have, people who have a hog hole for a house and yard must have extra cash to pay taxes with because they don't put it in their houses to improve the community. If you take care of your place to help make your community look presentable you should have a tax break. Our town is full of dumpy houses.
- I think that some how we should come up with a way to lower property tax for dairy farmers in the town because they already pay a good share of the tax for the town and there are very few farms left in operation. If something is not done very shortly, what few farms are left, they will be forced out of business.

- I would really like to see the town get some type of trash or recycling collection.
- I may not have given the most accurate answers due to unfamiliarity, but the consensus of the survey seems logical. However, there is no secret about my name. Best wishes.
- The town road was improved a few years back and today they seem to be going backwards. Why? Taxes are same so money should be same. What happened?
- Harrisburg needs faster internet.
- I would like to see an ordinance on junk car numbers on one's property. Finishing topping on end of Humphrey Road and the repair of pot holes on the paved section. Seasonally maintained roads considered on the Agenda for the Town Board discussion.
- Property taxes are quite high here compared to where we moved from, and services are somewhat less (no transfer site in particular). We are not concerned with more services but with lower tax rates. It was said that EVERYONE would benefit from the wind towers. I would hope that translates to lower tax rates. Although I see logic in the snowplow purchases, I hope lowering taxes is a higher priority than making purchases. By the way, I think our town crew does an excellent job of clearing snow, more plowing than sanding. You cannot promote snowmobiling and then sand the hell out of the roads! ATV trespassing and illegal hunting are a big problem around here, so are loose dogs running deer. Garbage and plastic burning is a common and toxic practice, something needs to be done about that.
- I hope that the monies received from the wind farm are used such that it benefits the greatest majority of the residents. Any projects that are developed should be done so that they can be maintained in the future when the monies are no longer being received. Proper long-term maintenance is essential. Maybe if there were a transfer station closer more people would use it instead of burning everything (very unhealthy.) If there is a transfer site it needs to be more accessible than the one in Lowville. There hours are horrible for most working people.
- Medical conditions are for 3 people with very bad asthma.
- 1/2 the use of our town land will have windmills and will be restricted by windmill contracts so why are you trying to restrict the other half?
- Please don't be foolish. The only thing growing in New York State is ATV & Snow Sled tourism!! I plan on retiring on my property in Harrisburg! The only people bringing in money to that area are visitors or camp owners. By being friendlier to recreation your property values and assessment will go up but be shared by many people that will only spend a small percentage of their time in Harrisburg. *Look at Old Forge!* Along with the tourists come money, then business, then jobs. Also expect better law enforcement and a growing community. Thanks for this opportunity.
- *Keep trails open!
- Get rid of junk cars, junk machinery, dilapidated houses & structures - fence in junk yards so not visible from highway. Zoning & building code enforcement should be carried out equally to all and not pertain to just some. Clean up the rotting hay. Maintenance (regular) of the town equipment & keep thorough records of such. More effort should be put forth to promote and attract tourists rather than "drive them away." Enforce residents to just "generally clean up their property" this town is a fright.
- I am all for expanding the recreational base. More ATV and snowmobile trails are needed, along with more secondary roads to ride on.
- Positive effort must be made to develop trails for snowmobiles and ATV's to stimulate the economy.
- There would be a lot less garbage along roadsides if there were a transfer station.
- It would be very unfair for us to comment on the questions asked in this survey because we do not live in Copenhagen and never had. We purchased the land in 1984 as an investment. It is still vacant. We have no plans to develop it at this time.
- Improve the roads. Limited wind turbine development. Focus on activities for youth and families. Provide cable and high speed internet to folks outside the Village of Copenhagen.

- People live here because they want to, they choose not to live in a different place. Do not change this town into a different place.
- I wish there was better supervision of the roads during snowmobile season. I get a lot of snowmobiles on the road I live on and it is not an open road to snowmobiles. Most of them are going in excess of 70 mph and I have children living in my home. The vehicle traffic is not much better. The cars/trucks speed too much near my home too. The condition of the road my home is on is disgraceful! It is a country road and hasn't been properly maintained since I've lived here. I've lived in this town since 1986. Another comment would be the abandoned homes & sloppy farms in this town. I would like to see this town cleaned up!
- Land developers buying up private land is a concern. ?bulldozed trails along gulf - state land.
- There are presently in place in town and county laws, the restrictions and guidelines to prevent unencumbered land development and "slice and dice" subdivision development only for the benefit of the land sub divider. The town Planning Board MUST learn and implement the built in protection against these developers in order to protect the quality of life we used to enjoy. Changes can be made for the betterment of the town, without the sacrifice to the residents and landowners.
- I believe this survey is a great idea and would be interested in the results. I think a transfer station or recycling facility would benefit our town greatly. I also believe the snowmobile/ATV trails is good for our town as long as it is done as to protect the privacy of year-around residents.
- A better job mowing roadsides. It is done too late in season and grass gets too tall.
- I don't know of any road in Town of Harrisburg that doesn't need rebuilding. Need speed limit sign and/or child at play on Sears Pond Rd., people think they can drive at any speed and with road condition I'm surprised no one has gotten in accident.
- Taxes are too high. Hate the Wind Mills!!
- I work in Lowville and drive a car. Some mornings going to work (around 7 - 7:30) the 1/2 of the road are plowed the other 1/2 is up to my bumper. We also live on dirt road where we do have ATV's, motor bikes running around and making pot holes in the road. One more thing we do not have dogs and think if people should have them they should be on a leash. I like to walk a lot and not be bothered or bite from the neighborhood dogs. I think there are more dogs then kids on this road.
- Lets all try to get along in planning the future of our township. We need to be open minded and understanding of new and different changes in our town. Hopefully there will be many good times and changes in our future!
- I would like to see money from wind towers use to build a senior housing unit in our town for low income people. I would also like for people who run for office to know how to do there job and spend the time doing it.
- Remove old cars, trucks, mobile homes, campers.
- As a resident I feel abandoned houses and barns should be cleaned up along the 177, the town of Harrisburg has some of the worst looking places that are along the 177. Owners that have a lot of junk should clean up. It would help the town of Harrisburg to look lots better.