

APPENDIX B:

ENGAGEMENT REPORT

THE IMPORTANCE OF ENGAGEMENT

Community input is integral to the planning process. The engagement of stakeholders and community members provides an opportunity for input on the town's future vision. Community members, landowners, stakeholders, elected officials, and local organizations have vested interest in the success of the plan and must become partners for implementation.

MAY 14, 2024, OPEN HOUSE

The first public engagement event for the Plan Update occurred on May 14, 2024, at 7 pm on the third floor of the Opera Block Building, 17 Genesee Street, Avon, NY. The purpose of the Open House was to explain the planning process and how public input will be collected. A prioritization exercise was also conducted.

Jenny Loewenstein of the Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council (G/FRLRPC) and Paul Drozdiel, committee chair were in attendance. 20 Town and Village residents and steering committee members were in attendance. Mr. Drozdiel committee chair did an introduction, and a presentation was given by Ms. Loewenstein. The presentation provided an overview of the comprehensive plan update process, including the plan update timeline and engagement activities. The presentation also provided an overview of smart growth. After the presentation, time for questions was available and a prioritization exercise was conducted.

The slides from this event can be found on the following pages.

Prioritization Exercise

Attendees placed their six (6) red dots onto the following topic areas to indicate that they were a priority for them in the Plan update.

- Housing
- Economic and Business Development
- Infrastructure (transportation, renewable energy, broadband, and utilities)
- Natural Resources (land use, agriculture, parks, and recreation)
- Town Services and Government
- Other Issues

Housing

Housing received 12 dots.

- We need options for aging in place, and for independent aging. Single-family, freestanding houses are the preferred type of development.

Economic and Business Development

Economic and business development received 26 dots.

- We want small local businesses that provide "priority services within the region"
- It's more important to keep the "small town charm" than necessarily staying a "small town"

Infrastructure

- Infrastructure received 26 dots.
- People are interested in learning more about the new solar laws.
- The water tower and related issues came up.

Natural Resources

Natural resources reviewed the most dots, representing the top priority to the group (43 total dots)

- "Don't invade the farmland with development"
- Avon should be an "experiential place" with lots of outdoor recreation opportunities
- We are "blessed with vistas" and should protect them.
- We should emphasize our "streams, woods, and the relationship with nature that has been fostered for generations"
- The east Avon wetlands should get attention
- There's a big interest in 'protecting farmland' and in getting local farm goods sold here in Avon.

Town Services and Government

Town services and government received 14 dots

- "Our ambulance and fire are currently volunteers and we're going to have a problem"
- Expand public water and sewer

Other Issues

The other category received 2 dots. This category was reserved for starting conversations about topics that were not on the other posters.

- People responded better to 'resiliency' than to other 'green development' language.
- We want to be a place of choice and one with choices.
- People interested in 'legislation and the benefits from the 'What IS a comp plan, and what is it NOT' slides.

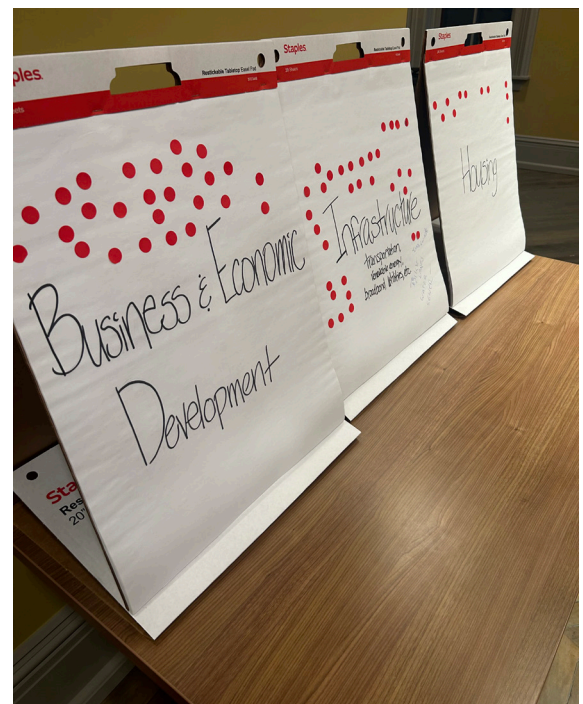


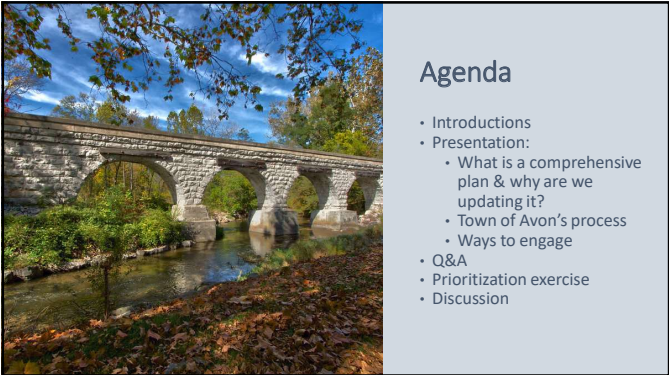
Figure B-1: Prioritization Exercise



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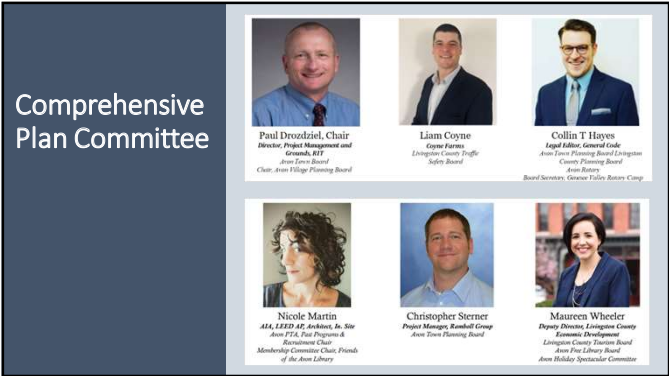
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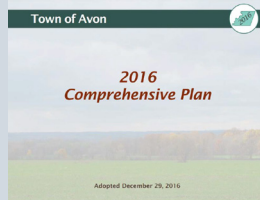


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Why Update the Comprehensive Plan?

The Town of Avon's current Comprehensive Plan was adopted on December 29, 2016, and may not reflect the challenges and opportunities the Town of Avon currently faces today or will face in the future.



Build on previous plans & studies

Incorporate Smart Growth principles

Incorporate renewable energy best practices

Leverage public input & support

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Benefits of a Plan



- Represents policy & priorities by the Town.
- Provides direction for decision-makers.
- Increases the Town's standing in the face of legal challenges.
- Increases the chance of receiving funding.
- Fosters economic development.
- Strengthens community partnerships.
- Provides a forum for discussion.

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Topic Areas



Municipal & Community Services



Housing



Transportation



Economy



Agriculture



Natural Resources, Parks, & Recreation



Energy



Current & Future Land Use

9

Smart Growth

Smart growth covers a range of development and conservation strategies that help protect our health and natural environment and make the Town more attractive, economically stronger, and more socially diverse.



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Smart Growth Principles

Mix of land uses

Compact development & developing within existing neighborhoods

Housing choice

Walkable neighborhoods & transportation choices

Foster distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place

Preserve open space, farmland, natural beauty, and critical environmental areas

Make development decisions predictable, fair, and cost effective

Encourage community and stakeholder collaboration in development decisions

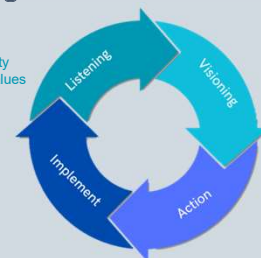
www.smartgrowthamerica.org

Avon Planning Process

Where are we now?

- Hear from the Community about challenges and values
- Understand existing conditions

Adopt & Implement the Plan

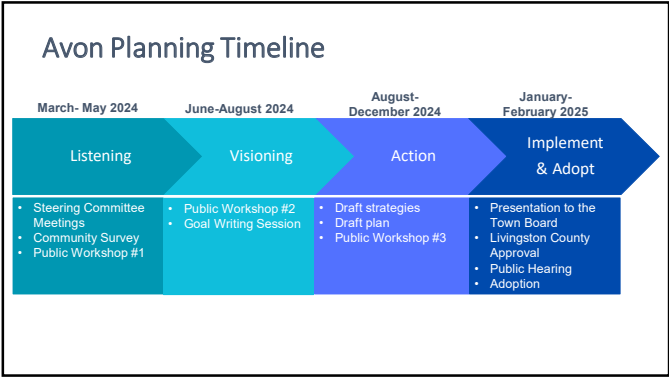


Where are we headed?

- Develop a vision for the future

How do we get there?

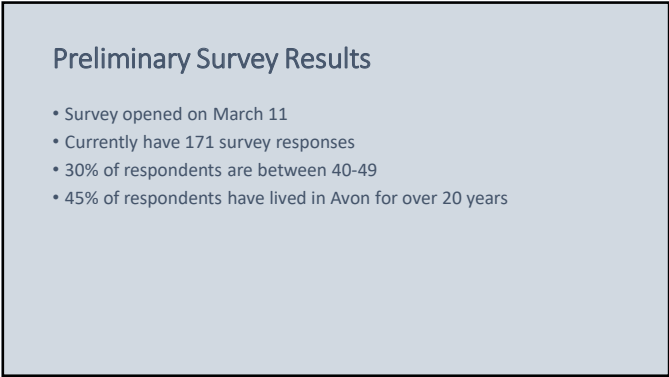
- Strategies to realize the vision



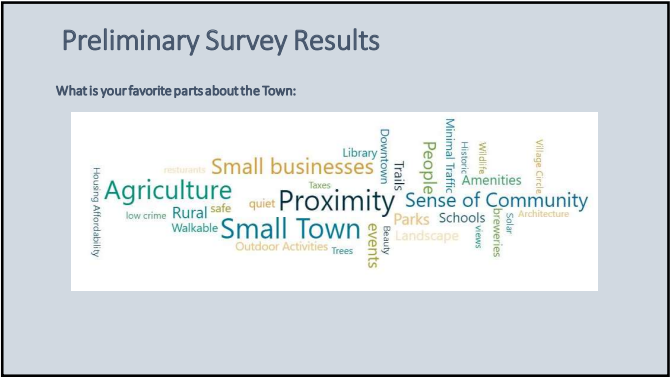
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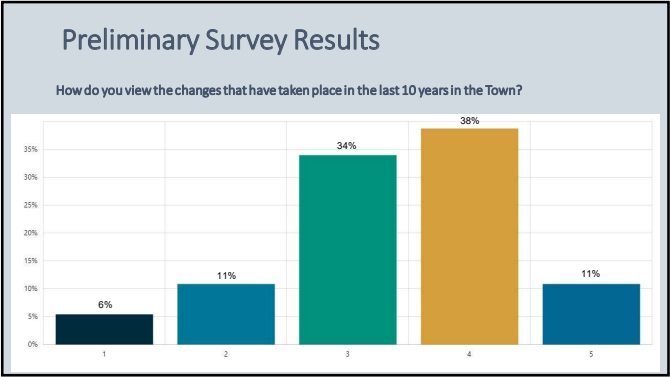
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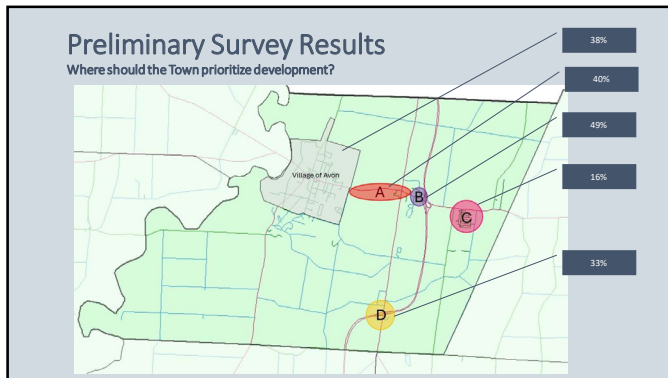


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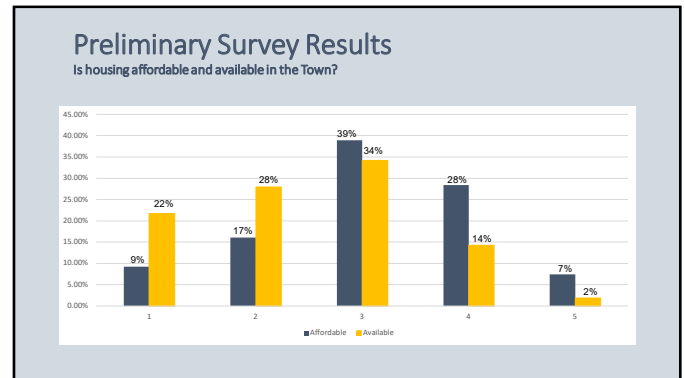


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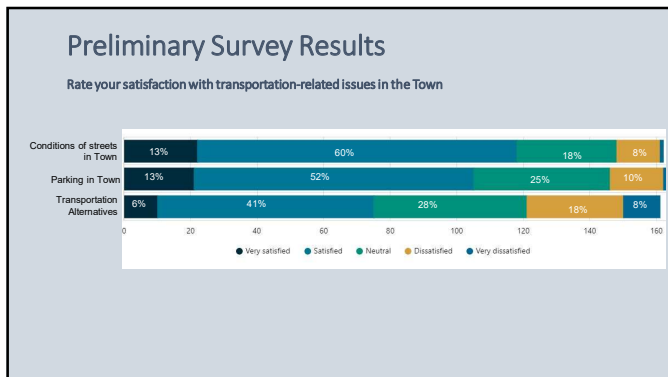




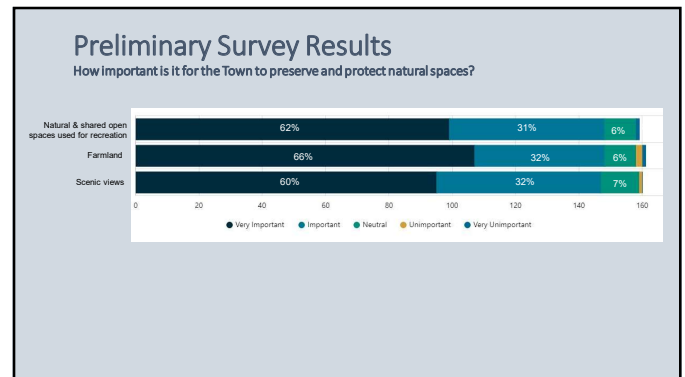
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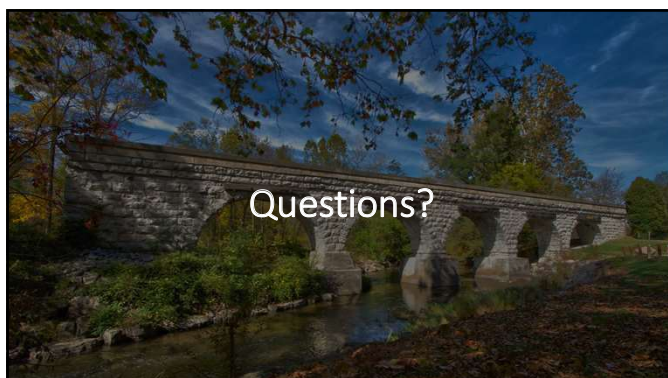
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Prioritization Exercise

Directions: take a dot and place it next to the topic(s) that you feel should take the highest priority. You can use all your dots on one topic, or you can spread them around.

Everyone will have **six** dots



AUGUST 13, 2024, VISIONING WORKSHOP

The second public engagement event for the Plan Update occurred on August 13, 2024, at 7 pm on the third floor of the Opera Block Building, 17 Genesee Street, Avon, NY. The purpose of the Workshop was to discuss residents' vision for the future of Avon. A visioning exercise and visual preference activities were conducted. Jenny Loewenstein of the Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council (G/FLRPC) and Paul Drozdiel, committee chair were in attendance. 20 Town and Village residents and steering committee members were in attendance. Mr. Drozdiel committee chair did an introduction, and a presentation was given by Ms. Loewenstein from the Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council. The presentation provided an overview of the comprehensive plan update including the plan update timeline and engagement activities. After the presentation visioning and visual preference activities were conducted by residents.



Figure B-2 & 3: Visioning Workshop

Visioning Exercise

At each table every participant had a visioning activity sheet. Each person wrote down their answers to the following questions:

- Image- What do you want the Town to be like in the next 10- 30 years? What is the Town known for, and what do you want it to be known for?
- Assets- What are the assets of the Town that should be capitalized on? What things in the Town enhance the quality of life and provide opportunities?
- Actions- What actions should be taken to enhance the image and assets of the Town?
- Values- What convictions and beliefs should guide the Town's actions?

Afterward participants formed a small groups to discuss their vision for Avon and developed a list of key words/phrases. We discussed the lists afterward.

Image: How Would you like the Town to look in 2035?

+ Symbol indicates the number of times that this word or phrase came up during the activity.

- Public transit and Transportation alternatives +
- Trails, fishing, biking, hiking, recreation opportunities, and open spaces +++
- Common sense
- Comfortable
- Diverse, growing economy
- A place of choice, with choices
- Connection
- Rural character ++++++
- Views and vistas +
- Small, local retail shops and restaurants
- Vibrant agricultural community +++
- Like it does now ++
- Community gathering spaces ++++++
- Preserved and historic +
- Small Town with active Village Center +
- Quiet and peaceful ++
- Manufacturing
- Family friendly and supports children ++
- Community +
- Inviting ++
- Well landscaped, sidewalks, public gardens, lots of healthy trees
- Clean and well maintained ++++++
- Spacious +++
- Organized, thoughtful development, and integrated +++
- Safe +++
- Available and affordable housing options ++
- Unique
- Progressive
- Healthy ++
- The details matter
- Welcoming and friendly +
- Green
- Attractive +
- Desirable
- No more solar please
- Well-supported central school system +
- Efficient roadways
- More density
- Bustling
- Invested
- Inclusive community
- "Avon Up"
- Great place to live
- Good neighbors

Welcome!

Mapping Activity: Use the markers to draw in areas to preserve and areas to develop using the corresponding colors.

Preserve-Yellow marker

Development-Blue marker



EXAMPLE

1

Town of Avon Comprehensive Plan Update

Visioning Session

August 13, 2024

7:00pm



2



Agenda

- Comprehensive Plan Overview
- Visioning Exercise
- Visual Preference Activity
- Questions

3

Comprehensive Plan Committee



Paul Droudzial, Chair
Director, Project Management and
Grassroots, RTT
Avon Town Board
Chair, Avon Village Planning Board



Liam Coyne
Coyne Farms
Livingston County Traffic
Safety Board



Collin T. Hayes
Legal Editor, General Code
Avon Town Planning Board/Livingston
County Planning Board
Avon Mayor
Board Secretary, Greene Valley Baiters Camp



Nicole Martin
AIA, LEED AP, Architect, Jr. Sr.
Avon PEA, Past Program &
Relationships Chair
Membership Committee Chair, Friends
of the Avon Library



Christopher Stemer
Project Manager, Randall Group
Avon Town Planning Board



Maureen Wheeler
Deputy Director, Livingston County
Economic Development
Livingston County Tourism Board
Avon Fire Library Board
Avon Holiday Spectacular Committee

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Background

- Avon is updating its Comprehensive plan to better reflect the challenges and opportunities facing the Town today and in the future.
- A Comprehensive Plan provides a vision for the future of the community and the steps needed to make that vision a reality
- The Plan informs several Town functions:
 - Budgeting and capital improvement
 - Cultural and economic development
 - Grant Acquisition
 - Zoning, subdivision, and land development



Avon Planning Timeline

March- May 2024

June-August 2024

August-December 2024

January-February 2025

Listening

Visioning

Action

Implement & Adopt

- Community Survey
- Public Workshop

- Public Workshop
- Visioning activity survey

- Draft strategies
- Draft plan
- Public Workshop

- Presentation to the Town Board
- Livingston County Approval
- Public Hearing
- Adoption

Ways to Engage

- Visit the Project Website
- Attend Public Meetings & Events
- Participate in Surveys & Online Discussions

Project Website

<https://engage.gflrpc.org/TownofAvonCompPlan>

Town Website

<https://www.avon-ny.org/town-of-avon/town-home.html>

Town of Avon Comprehensive Plan Update

We want your Input!

Help shape the Town of Avon's future by participating in upcoming events and feedback opportunities.

[Click Here!](#)

[Digital Suggestion Box](#)

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8

Visioning

9

What is Visioning?

- Visioning is a KEY part of the comprehensive planning process that informs the Town's future.
- Vision Statements should:
 - Positive, present-tense
 - Town's uniqueness
 - Inclusive
 - People focused

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Avon's 2016 Comprehensive Plan Vision

Our Vision for the Town of Avon is to remain a rural town identified by our pastoral vistas and active farms that surround our historic Village. We will be a community known for our scenic rural environment, vibrant economy, and desirable quality of life. We will strive to achieve this through sustainable growth and development policies and private sector decision-making. Our ultimate indicators of success will foster people-friendly, inviting neighborhoods, a strong sense of community, and a sense of pride among Avon residents.



Visioning Exercise

1. Write down your answers.
2. Pair up/form small groups and develop a joint list of key words/phrases.
3. We will go around the room and post all answers.
4. We will then come to a consensus about the concepts in the Town's vision.

13

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14

Image

What do you want the Town to be like in the next 10- 30 years? What is the Town known for, and what do you want it to be known for?

Assets

What are the assets of the Town that should be capitalized on? What things in the Town enhance the quality of life and provide opportunities?

Actions

What actions should be taken to enhance the image and assets of the Town?

Values

What convictions and beliefs should guide the Town's actions?

15

Visual Preferences

16

Visual Preferences

- Take green stickers and put them on the photos that best represent your vision.
- Take red stickers and put them on photos that do not represent your vision.

Areas to Preserve

- We will look at ways to enhance these areas.

Areas to Develop

- We will look at different development types.



Thank You!

Please Reach Out

Jenny Loewenstein
Sustainability Program Manager,
G/FLRPC
jloewenstein@gflrpc.org





SURVEY RESULTS

The town of Avon conducted this survey of residents to learn more about their views on issues facing the town. Gathering input from residents is an important part of the development of a Comprehensive Plan.

The questionnaire was developed by G/FLRPC with input from the Steering Committee. The survey was hosted on the Town of Avon Engagement website that can be found here: <https://engage.gflrpc.org/TownofAvonCompPlan>. Physical copies were also made available at the Town Hall. Response was garnered using various methods such as online links on social media and the Town website, direct emails, Penny Saver advertising, at events, and posters/flyers. The school district and businesses were directly contacted to take the survey as well.

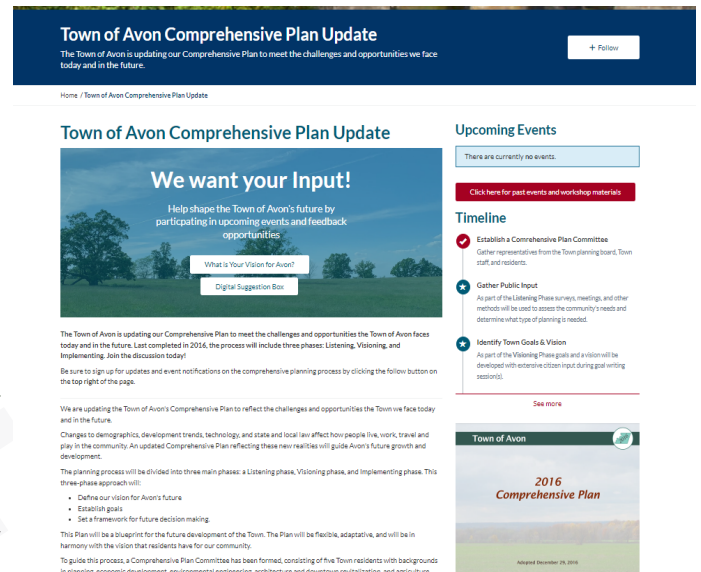


Figure B-4: Engagement Website

The survey was conducted from March 11 to August 14, 2024, and in total 231 residents completed the survey.

About the Respondents

Where do you live in Avon (Required)

231 people responded. 50% of respondents live in the town, and 48% live in the village.

Where do you live?

If you live in the town, how many years have you lived here?

What is your age?

230 people responded. Almost half of the respondents were between 50 and 69. No one under the age of 18 completed the survey.

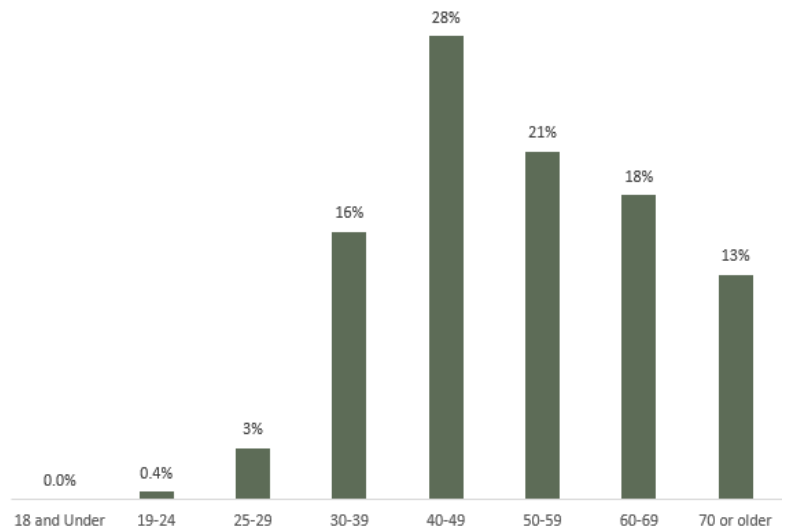


Figure B-5: Respondents Age

Why Avon?

Why do you live in the town of Avon?

227 people responded. Responders were able to select all answers that applied. Small town charm was the most selected answer (62%), followed by rural character (44%). 9% of respondents selected 'other.'

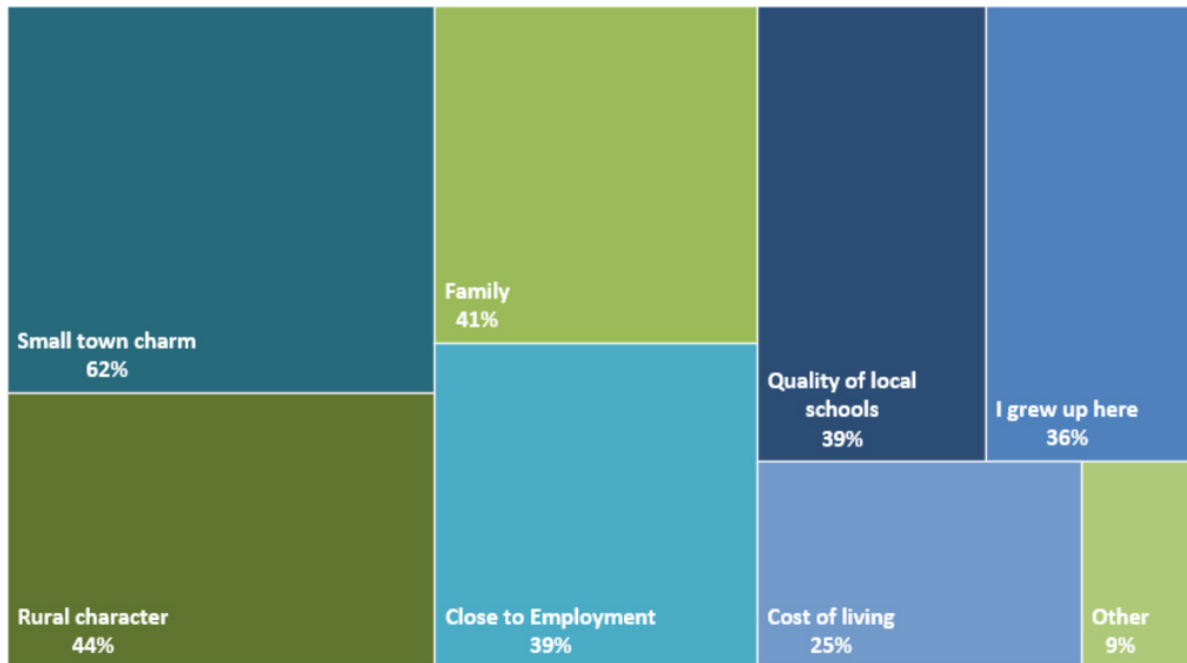


Figure B-6: Why Avon Residents Live in Avon

Other responses include:

- Low crime, close to major shopping area, attractive housing, clean & quiet industry
- Love our house.
- We wanted a small home on a quiet street.
- Spouse employed here for many years.
- Location. Far enough from the busy city, but close enough to get there quit for work or shopping.
- Close to 390, halfway between my parents and my in-laws.
- We found a house we liked, and the community seemed pleasant.
- It's not cramped. Countryside. The solar panels have removed some of that need and drive to live here in the country though.
- After returning to NY, I overheard a conversation in Pizzaland that was community focused and benevolent. That conversation convinced me Avon was the right town to live in.

What is your favorite part of the town?

203 people responded. The word cloud below shows the keywords that were mentioned. Answers related to the people, small town, and the proximity to other locations were the top answers. Some responses include:

- Rural area, parks, friendly people, taxes have stayed low.
- Farmland
- View of the valley
- Quiet, rural, easy access to city/employment.
- Small town feel, rural character, agriculture, easy to get to what we need, and things are mostly simple here.
- Feeling of relative safety compared to other areas (even other rural areas).
- Quiet, without the bustle of what a larger town or city would include
- Small yet business friendly
- Great town workers, green spaces
- Small but close enough to Rochester
- Convenient location near where spouse works and can go into Rochester and back out for larger events and restaurants.
- Quiet setting, typically peaceful.
- Rural character small town charm and quality schools
- Rural area—fields and beautiful scenery. Friendly neighbors who help each other. Out in the country but close to 390 to get to Geneseo or to Rochester.
- Rural nature



Figure B-7: Favorite thing about Avon

If you could change one thing about the town, what would it be?

188 responses. Some answers were more about changes people would like to see in the Town, and others responded with the types of amenities, facilities, or programs they would like to see added to the Town. The word cloud below shows the keywords that were mentioned. Answers related to the increasing recreational opportunities, amenities, and small businesses within the Town, and reducing large scale solar, and being more mindful of where large scale solar in being sited. Some responses include:

- *Less solar fields*
- *The fire departments should merge and share resources. This would be a benefit to all residents and provide better service.*
- *I wish we had a bigger park for more recreation.*
- *Bringing in more establishments for the kids, especially the middle school to high school ages, they get bored.*
- *I wish we were able to engage and keep more small business or have a larger variety of places to eat out.*
- *Sidewalks*
- *Encourage more businesses to locate here.*
- *I would love to see a Disc Golf Course and more hiking trails to be built at the School, the Driving Park, or other available outdoor space to give more options to get outside and stay active.*
- *Beautification and business enhancement at the intersection of 15 with 5&20.*



Figure B-8: What would you change in the town?

6. How do you view the changes that have taken place in the Town in the last ten years?

202 responses. This question was rated on a 1-5 scale, 1 being very negative and 5 being very positive. 37% of people answered 4 on the scale and 35% of people answered 3 on the scale. The average response was a 3.37.

Provide any additional feedback about the town.

94 people provided additional comments about the Town. Many of which were related to the changes over the last 10 years. Some responses include:

- *Many businesses come & go and there remain vacancies in buildings. We can't seem to find and keep good wholesome business. How can we attract better businesses? Perhaps have a goal to promote health & our heritage.*
- *Street & sidewalk repairs take too long.*
- *Thankful that the water rate has remained stable.*
- *I really wish we could build a large multi-use community recreation center to provide more indoor practice space, meeting space and allow us to host events and tournaments.*
- *We need to make sure that the Town of Avon is accessible for those with disabilities and mobility challenges.*
- *Better pushed communication out to town residents*
- *I like the village events that have been happening. Corn Fest, Holiday Spectacular*
- *Mixed feelings about changes over past 10 years.*
- *Reasonable midscale solar development is supporting NYS commitment to renewable energy.*
- *High speed Internet.*
- *Way too many solar farms. Need broader variety of businesses so you don't have to leave town to shop for necessities.*

Town & Community Services***Please rate your satisfaction of the following town provided services.***

Respondents were ranking their satisfaction of emergency services, building department and code enforcement, road maintenance, snow removal, water and sewer services, parks and recreation, and community spaces. 226 people responded to this multi part question. Most people who responded stated that they were very satisfied or satisfied with each of the Town services.

Snow removal received the highest approval rating- 84% of all respondents were either very satisfied or satisfied. Emergency services were also ranked very highly by respondents, 76% were very satisfied or satisfied. Respondents explained their rankings. Some responses include:

- *Emergency services are great & very they are glad located here in Town.*
- *Water & Sewer - Capital Budget needs to be updated as needs expand & equipment maintenance and replacement required*
- *Avon does NOT need 2 fire departments.*
- *There are many properties (both business and private) that have an unkempt appearance and look like a storage yard.*
- *I think it would be great if we had more community space or more appealing community space. I'm looking forward to seeing how the 3rd floor of the Opera Block will be utilized*
- *Where I live it seems like we have an issue with water/sewer services once a month.*
- *I would like water and sewer to be extended.*
- *Revitalize Driving Park*
- *Lots of potholes on 5&20*
- *Promot and adopt programs such as safe routes to school, tree town USA, etc.*

How do you learn about issues impacting the town?

228 people responded. People could select all the answers that applied and had an opportunity to write in other places they learn about Town news. 82% of respondents said they learn about issues that impact the Town from friends and neighbors, and 61% said from social media. 'Other' responses included:

- School newsletters/school
- Primarily at Chamber of Commerce meetings
- Library
- Emails
- Planning/ Zoning meetings

Are town notices transparent and accessible?

174 people responded with mixed reviews. Approximately 37% of respondents found that the Town notices were transparent and accessible, whereas 30% of people found Town notices not to be transparent and easily accessible. Those who reported negatively state that the Town needs to have active social media pages to better provide updates to residents. Others stated that it can be difficult to find updates on the current Town website. Some responses included:

- *I believe more should be done to make residents aware of significant development decisions that impact their lives.*
- *If you don't flip through the whole of the Penny Saver, not really, but the Avon Community Facebook helps.*
- *Hard to find and monitor on the town website.*
- *Yes, but average person doesn't regularly check town website daily. Should email or mail to residents.*

Provide any additional feedback on Avon town Services

51 people provided additional feedback. Many people commented on the Town website needing updating, and better communication to Town residents, road maintenance and repaving, and the inclusion of more community events, activities, and spaces. Some of the responses included:

- If the website were upgraded, more appealing to navigate, and updated with more interesting info, people might go there more regularly for things. There isn't always a good way to know what is going on or way to find out what Avon has to offer if you are new to the area.
- Any Project approval process details should be available to everyone to review.
- I think there are a lot of services available that are not advertised well to those who rent in Avon.
- My wish is for the town and the village to work together.
- Hope the swimming program can return. More community events. Do something more for the Corn Festival besides crafters. Love the Holiday Spectacular event.
- Need for trails need for improved recreational facilities. Provide any additional feedback on Avon Town Services has to offer if you are new to the area.
- It is particularly satisfying that there are actual town and village offices, staffed with helpful people available. This conveys a true spirit of public service.

Town Development

What types of businesses should be encouraged in the town?

175 people responded. Many people want to see small, local, and family-owned businesses that enhance the quality of life for people who live in Avon, bring in employment opportunities, and attract other people into the Town to spend money.

Approximately 30% of respondents mentioned that they wanted to see more dining options in the Town. Many people want to see a diversity of dining options including fancier/upscale restaurants, coffee shops, cafes and bakeries, as well as a variety of cuisine options. Approximately 14% of people want to see a hardware or supply store in the Town. Many respondents stated that they do not want to see large chain stores. Which is reflected in the next question. The top ten responses were:

1. *Restaurants*
2. *Small businesses*
3. *Hardware stores*
4. *Agricultural businesses*
5. *Retail*
6. *Coffee shop*
7. *Local businesses*
8. *Family friendly*
9. *Entertainment*
10. *Recreation*

Additional responses included:

- *Businesses that promote health & wellness, which is what Avon has historically been known for would be best. We should promote other like businesses that make Avon more of a destination for people to come & shop for these types of things. Or we could promote relaxation & health - like massage, spa treatments, health & specialty eateries, etc.*
- *Small, clean, non-chain businesses.*
- *Dining, shopping options, to offer more*

options to shop locally. Commercial legitimate businesses that provide quality employment opportunities and grow tax base for funding and economy purposes, slow but steady town growth.

- *Retail businesses (including cannabis), local bar/restaurants, activity destinations (arcade, bowling, escape room, etc.), and any large-scale businesses that can ease our tax burden.*
- *I think all the existing business are great and should continue to be encouraged. I think the town does well when local businesses are supported and thriving.*
- *Businesses are good community citizens and improve the quality of life of the community.*

What types of business should NOT be encouraged in the town?

153 people responded. Approximately 27% of respondents do not want the Town to encourage smoke shops and smoking related businesses, 24% of respondents do not want the Town to encourage big box stores or chain stores/restaurants. The top ten responses were:

1. *Smoke shops*
2. *Big box stores*
3. *Solar*
4. *Pizza shops*
5. *Chains*
6. *Adult entertainment*
7. *Polluters*
8. *Businesses not part of the community*
9. *Fast food*
10. *Bars*

Additional responses included:

- *Large corporate with businesses*
- *Unhealthy businesses like fast food & those promoting damaging behaviors.*
- *Businesses that have the potential to damage the environment should be discouraged such as*

those that create air/water/ground pollution.

- *Big box/chains, anything too industrial or detracts from the small town feel*
- *Chain restaurants, smoke shops, strip malls, supermarkets*

Where should the town prioritize development?

201 people responded. This question was based off the map shown below.

- A. NYS Routes 5/20 and Route 15 in East Avon
- B. Crossroads Commerce Park (Exit 10 I-390)
- C. NYS Routes 5/20 East of I-390
- D. Along Route 15 Exit 9 I-390
- E. Village
- F. Other

Respondents could select as many answers as they felt applied. 52% of respondents believed that the Town should prioritize development at the Crossroads Commerce Park (location B).

Approximately 4% of the respondents selected 'other.'

Other responses include:

- *If we have manufacturing jobs and people work. They will come to you for a house permit right?*
- *We should be open to improving and developing all of those areas.*
- *No new development until the empty store fronts have successful businesses in them.*
- *Near Berilla*
- *Fill empty spaces before building new big buildings*
- *Let's do strategic recruitment for the existing buildings in Village & Town.*
- *A: Development shouldn't be all along the corridor, where I'd personally like to see the greenbelt remain. But I def would pick the 15/5&20 intersection!*
- *Driving Park*

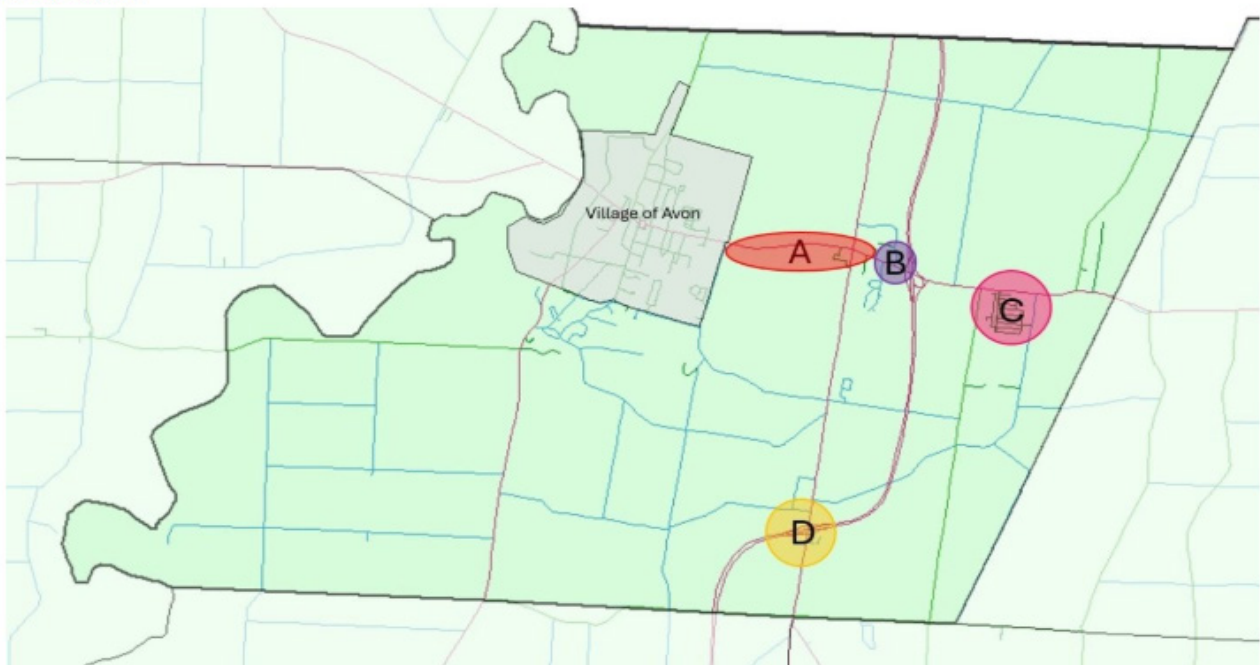


Figure B-9: Where should development be prioritized in the Town?

Indicate if you feel the town should encourage or discourage the following development types.

Respondents indicated if they believe the Town should encourage or discourage certain types of development. Development types included mixed-use development (development can be classified as mixed-use if it provides more than one use or purpose within a shared building), industrial, commercial, multi-family/apartments, and single-family residential development.

210 people responded to this multi part question. Single family residential and commercial development saw the highest number of respondents wanting the Town to encourage these development types. Whereas industrial and multi-family saw the highest number of respondents wanting the Town to discourage those development types.

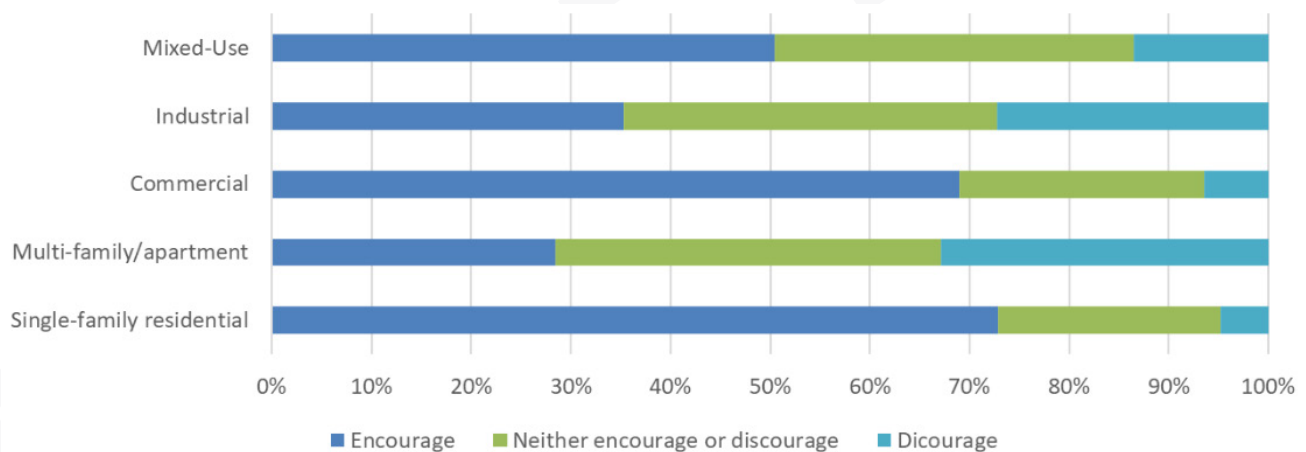


Figure B-9: What type of development be encouraged in the town?

Provide any additional feedback on development in the town.

71 people provided additional feedback. Responses ranged from discussing a variety of challenges, opportunities, threats to the Town. Many responses recognize the benefits of new development they indicate the importance of developing in a way that enhances the Town's vibrancy but preserves the rural, small-town character. Some of the responses included:

- Any development that will bring in tax dollars and/or serve the needs of residents should be encouraged.
- As the population ages, we could use walkable neighborhoods of inexpensive but housing near retail for seniors and people with disabilities.

- While some development is beneficial, destroying our current agricultural land for industrial and residential development may ruin that feeling.
- We should continue to focus on encouraging and promoting small businesses and the development of empty lots.
- A variety of new housing is essential to keeping a community vibrant.
- Any development that will bring in tax dollars and/or serve the needs of residents should be encouraged.

Housing

What types of housing is needed in the town?

This question ranked five housing options (single-family, multi-family, senior living/assisted living/retirement communities, subsidized/affordable housing, and mobile homes) from 1-5. 1 being the housing type that should be prioritized the most, and 5 is the housing type that is not needed and should not be prioritized.

209 people responded to this multi part question. 75% of respondents ranked single-family homes as 1, indicating that the Town should prioritize single-

family housing as the most important housing type needed in Avon. Over half of the respondents indicated that mobile homes should not be prioritized and ranked them as number 5. The deferent housing types were ranked the following way:

1. Single family
2. Mult-family homes (e.g. apartments and condos)
3. Senior living, assisted living, retirement communities
4. Subsidized housing, or affordable housing
5. Mobile homes

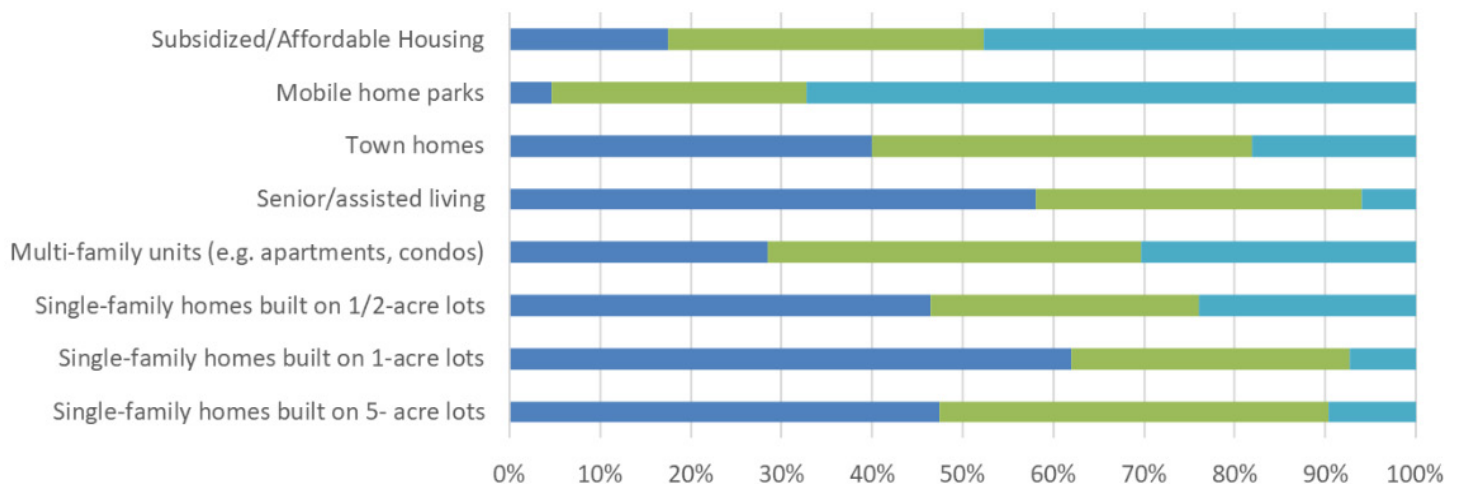


Figure B-10: What type of housing development is needed in the town?

Indicate if you feel the town should encourage or discourage certain types of housing developments.

Respondents indicated if they believe the Town should encourage or discourage certain types of housing development. Housing types included single-family homes built on 5 acre lots, single-family homes built on 1-acre lots, single-family homes built on ½ acre lots, multi-family units (e.g. apartments or condos), senior/assisted living, town homes, mobile home parks, and subsidized/affordable housing units. 220 people responded to this multi part question.

Single-family homes on 1-acre lots and senior and assisted living facilities were both highly rated as housing types that should be encouraged by the Town. 62% of the respondents indicated that single-family homes built on 1-acre lots should be encouraged, and 58% of respondents indicated that senior and assisted living facilities should be encouraged. Respondents indicated that mobile home parks and affordable or subsidized housing should not be encouraged by the Town.

How do you rank the overall affordability of housing in the town of Avon?

221 responses. This question was rated on a 1-5 scale, 1 being very unaffordable, and 5 being very affordable. 43% of respondents answered 3 on the 1-5 scale. Almost the same number of respondents believe that housing was very affordable (8%) and very unaffordable (9%). The average response was a 3.07.

How do you rank the overall availability of housing in Avon?

218 responses. This question was rated on a 1-5 scale, 1 being very unavailable, and 5 being very available. 35% of respondents answered 3 on the 1-5 scale. 20% of respondents indicated that housing was very unavailable in the Town. The average response was a 2.46.

Where should the town prioritize additional housing?

94 people provided responses. Responses to this question varied, but many people indicated that if new housing were to be developed in the Town of Avon that it should be adjacent to areas that are already built up and have infrastructure and services, including near the Village to preserve prime farmland. Some of the responses included:

- *Adjacent to Royal Springs and Twin Cedars*
- *The area behind Tops already feels like it is in the development area - so this should continue rather than starting a new area.*
- *The village or very close to the village*
- *Where utilities are affordable and accessible.*
- *The previous comprehensive plans suggested housing development on the south side of the village and Littleville road.*
- *Near infrastructure, not in corn fields.*
- *In existing unused buildings*
- *Near the village - higher density, townhouses, Senior living to encourage walkable communities*
- *Near the high school.*

Provide any additional feedback on housing in the town.

- *51 people provided additional feedback. Some of the responses included:*
- *Patio homes should be prioritized*
- *Affordable housing is important. Not just apartments/rentals, but owner-occupied housing.*
- *Housing market in general is tough.*
- *Renovating or improving the current multi-family units and apartment complexes should be emphasized before building anything new.*
- *Do not allow farmland to be rezoned for new housing tracks to be built!*
- *The Town should encourage the Village to put on additional housing if needed. Oversaturating the remaining Town space with additional housing will take away from the existing rural characteristics, open green space, and small town atmosphere that we currently have.*
- *Traffic patterns should be considered before building more housing.*
- *Knock down the undesirable apartments and build homes or condos to replace them, with very little expansion to the overall footprint.*
- *A residential community like the Hammocks in Geneseo would be beneficial.*
- *I don't think Avon town or village has enough room for any of these types of housing.*
- *Need more large land lots and housing development for young families that aren't above \$400k.*

Transportation

Please rate your satisfaction of the following transportation related issues.

Respondents were ranking their satisfaction of transportation related issues including conditions of the streets in town, parking in town, transportation

alternatives (biking, walking, etc.).

225 people responded to this multi part question. Most people who responded stated that they were very satisfied or satisfied with each of the Town services.

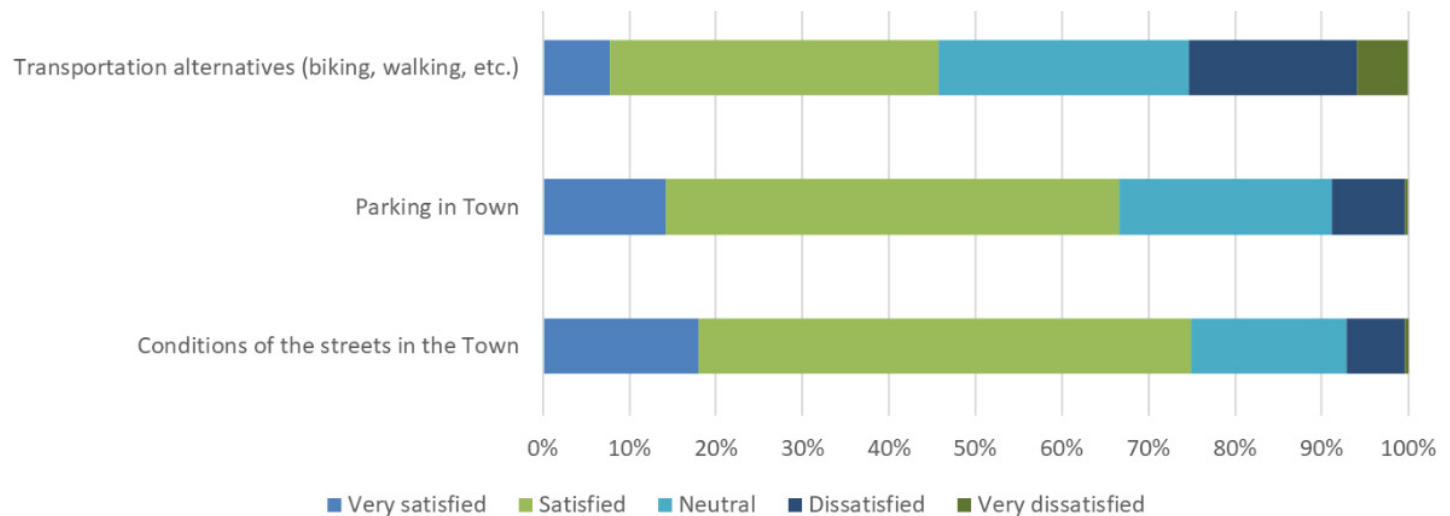


Figure B-11: Transportation related issues ranking

Are your transportation needs met traveling in the town?

117 people responded. Almost half of which felt that their transportation needs have been met in the Town, and 17% of respondents had mixed reviews. Of the 20% of the people who feel that their transportation needs have not been met felt that the Town needs to add sidewalks and bike lanes to make the Town more connected. Some of the negative responses included:

- *My experience is primarily with traffic between Rt 390 and the Genesee River. My needs are met as I have a vehicle. If one does not have a vehicle and lives between Twin Cedars and the village, good luck. I imagine uber or lyft may be available but other than that it is a dangerous walk on Rt 5 & 20 due to speed of traffic, very little lighting, poor pedestrian habits and little to no traffic enforcement.*
- *Walking in the town is quite dangerous, as*

reflected in the pedestrian death that occurred in December. The village has sidewalks. How can the town extend these? Or at least make the shoulders wider.

- *Parking in lots needs to be ADA compliant - this is currently not true for Avon Town Plaza (no access aisles for accessible parking spots). Need sidewalks for walking and biking safety along 5&20.*
- *The Town could benefit from a sidewalk or bike lane along North Littleville Road for safe transportation alternative into the Village.*
- *We need bike lanes. It's crazy dangerous walking or biking in the town*
- *Highly recommend for safety and to encourage active living. Bike paths along 5/20, 15, 39 would be very helpful and would make these roads safer. I'm in the most bike/pedestrian area in Town, and it can be frightening to bike anywhere. We can do better.*

Provide any additional feedback on transportation in the town.

41 people provided additional feedback. Some of the responses included:

- *I would like to see a pathway between Avon and East Avon.*
- *Sidewalks need improvement*
- *More parking at the Avon Driving Park*
- *I own a car. No issues.*
- *Greenbelt, sharrows, sidewalks and trails that connect. Signage. See the Silver Lake Outlet Trail in Perry - we have trails, we should connect them with additional trails, and to the community, and sign it well, promote it, etc.*
- *Our community is not "walkable" or "bikeable" as it could be.*
- *The no right on red turn at the 390 exit from Rochester is not needed, plenty of road to judge oncoming traffic and make safe right on red turns.*
- *Some sidewalks are pretty rough in the village, makes it tough to push my daughters stroller comfortably or for my son to bike safely.*
- *Folks should be encouraged to walk and bike.*
- *I think it would be beneficial to add a sidewalk leaving the village, heading towards 5&20. I see a lot of pedestrians walking that route and it can be quite dangerous for them.*

Open spaces, Recreation & Entertainment **What recreation and entertainment opportunities would you like to see more of in the town? Where would you like to see them?**

53 responses. Just over 17% of the respondents mentioned that the Town needs more activities for kids and teens, which included the Town building a community, fitness, or recreation center for people of all ages to take classes, exercise, and have places to hang out in- do homework, play games etc. Places like the Driving Park, the Downs, and the school was brought up as places where people would like to see

more outdoor recreation activities take place. Many respondents would like to see more community events like festivals, farmers markets and live music. Some responses include:

- *A Community Center is greatly needed that can be used for all types of functions. It could provide alternatives for youth and offer more desirable activities; it should offer free or low-cost activities.*
- *Weekend summer concerts, entertainment of some sort for children, something for the seniors.*
- *I would like to see a Disc Golf course added to the town.*
- *More parks, open space, places for families to congregate. Community center focused on families.*
- *More sports fields for soccer and lacrosse, maybe some with bathrooms and a pavilion for gathering.*
- *Rec center big enough for more gym space. Avon central is accommodating but we need more. Also, we need a splash pad.*
- *Continue to add to the Downs. It might be nice to have an enclosed pavilion there for use year-round.*
- *Another arts focused event. (Thinking of the event for the murals.)*
- *It would be nice to see school resources be more open to the public. This may require such things like a field house with just turf to be built if possible, between the library and nursing home so it frees up the gyms*

How important is it for the town to preserve and protect the following natural elements.

Respondents were ranking the importance of preserving and protecting natural and shared open space farmland, and scenic views in the Town.

221 people responded, a majority of which indicated that preserving and protecting each element was very important.

Please provide additional feedback on open space, recreation & entertainment in the town of Avon.

53 people provided additional feedback. Some responses include:

- The town desperately needs a Recreation Center
- I know the LivWell Community Center is still

working on obtaining funding, a facility of this sort would be very beneficial for our town.

- More greenspace activities
- Consider protecting important scenic vistas as viewsheds
- Take better care of the parks we do have and create more for athletic recreation.
- I would like to see more outdoor recreation activates for all age levels. If there are groups meeting for events they should be advertised (Pickle ball at the Downs).
- Open spaces, agricultural and scenic views are some of the best things Avon is known for. We should preserve these as much as possible.
- I think the Town should partner with the Genesee Valley Conservancy help maintain farmland.

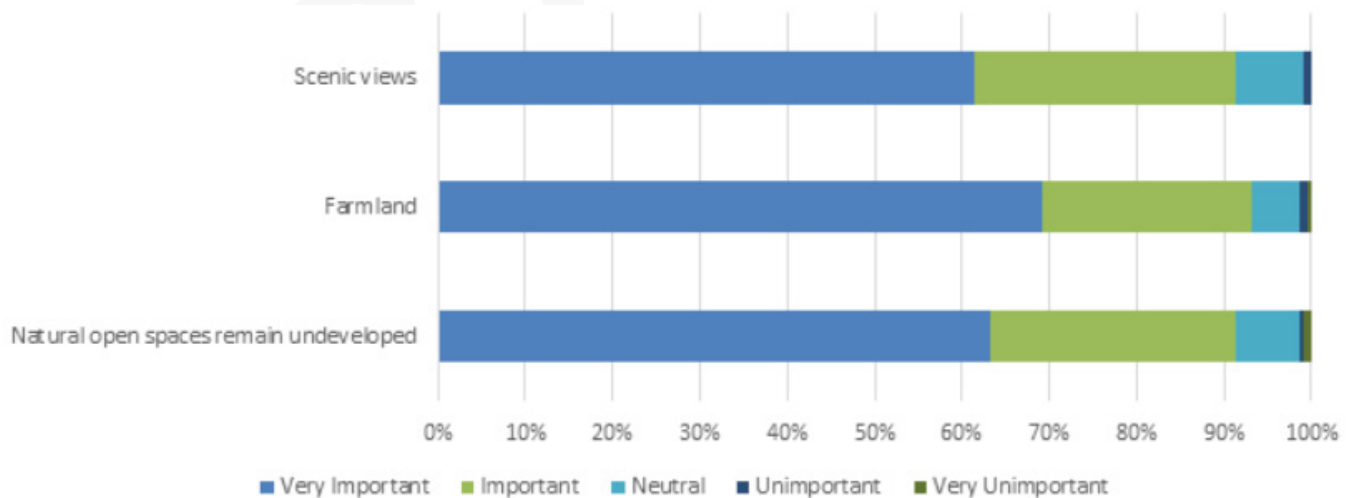


Figure B-11: Importance of preserving and protecting natural paces in Avon

Renewable Energy Development

What types of renewable energy do you support in the town?

155 people responded to this question. Approximately 28% of respondents would like to continue to see solar in the Town of Avon, and approximately 19% of respondents are OK with renewable energy but are interested in certain exceptions or regulations. Some of the exceptions and regulations indicated in the survey were:

- *Not on very productive farmland*
- *Supported on marginal land not in viewsheds*
- *Depends on what it is. Solar farms are ok on the outer edges of Town as it is and near the school. Enough now. No windmills please. Geothermal where it is doable! Not sure what else we could promote here.*
- *As written and regulated by current 2023 town law that is in effect. 25-acre maximum size.*
- *No where*
- *Rooftops and parking lots. Not in fields, but that is up to the owner, not the town.*
- *I would only question the placement of solar farms on farmable agricultural lots. I do not know enough about the economics of farming balanced against solar in the short term or long term.*
- *Solar where it is not an eyesore and where it is not removing quality agricultural land from use for crops.*
- *People should have a right to develop their property as long as it is done in a reasonable and prudent manner*

Do you have any comments or concerns about renewable energy development happening in the town of Avon?

133 people provided additional feedback. Like the other questions related renewable energy questions ranged from wanting all energy types to be sited anywhere in Town, to wanting none in the

Town at all. Many respondents would like to learn more about renewable energy, especially solar and how it can benefit the Town and are worried about potential negative outcomes. Some of the responses included:

- *Stop solar farms now. No windmills please. No pollution, including visual pollution, especially when viewsheds are a lot of what Avon has to offer!*
- *I completely support solar renewable energy development as outlined in current law. It is good that as a community, we can contribute to supplying a portion of our own energy needs. To farm solar energy actually allows that ground to rest, ready to be farmed again when the next advance to renewable energy is perfected.*
- *Development is OK as long as it is not on farmland.*
- *I do not think energy development should impede on farmland/otherwise useable land. I'd like to see the town utilize the solar panels we already have installed and continue taking care of our environment by planting trees, keeping our sidewalks and streets clean from litter and minimizing waste. I would be curious to see how much the solar panels we currently have contributed to our clean energy use since the time they were installed.*
- *I would be interested in learning some facts about the costs and benefits, in dollar terms, that a farmer in Avon considers when deciding whether to put in a field of solar panels*
- *In theory, renewable energy sounds wonderful. But I have Tons of concerns when it comes to how it works*

DRAFT