

**The 2007 Eliot Comprehensive Plan Town Survey** was sent in September 2007 to each Eliot household (3300). We received 650 responses which exceeded normal expectations of 5% (20%). These responses have provided guidelines for the team to follow in the preparation of the new "Plan". The survey trapped information in three major categories: **Future Use of Tax Dollars, Town Services, and Personal statistics** of the responders.

**Question 1** - Regarding the importance of issues facing Eliot in the near future The majority of responses in the category **Very and Somewhat Important** were: Tax increases (86%), Loss of Rural Character/roads (82%); Loss of Wetlands (82%); and Recycling/Solid Waste Disposal (82%).

**Question 2-** Do you favor subdivision development design techniques that encourage the preservation of open space? Yes (74%) No (11%)

**Question 3** - The wording of Question 3 regarding future growth was not clearly stated and the responses were not clear enough to be quantified.

**Question 4** - The response about changing a portion of the commercial/industrial zone to mixed use on Route 236 was Yes (60%) No (31%).

**Question 5** - asked the importance of the use of our tax dollars. The highest responses of **Very and Somewhat Important** were in these categories: Education (83%); Protection of Groundwater Supplies/Aquifers (82%); Protect the woodlands (76%); Electrical energy derived only from renewable resources (68%). While the wish list for items such as outdoor recreational areas, playgrounds, hiking trails, bicycle trails, and playing fields received healthy support (45-55%), the willingness to pay more in taxes

**Question 6 and 7** for these improvements was Yes (43%) to No (53%).

**Question 8** - rated Eliot Town Services **Excellent to Good** as follows: Fire Department (90%), Municipality buildings (83%) and the Public Works Department (81%) receiving the highest marks. Other services that received a 75% rating are: Boat Ramp Facilities, Library, Police Department, Recreation Department, School Department.

**Question 9 – 14** The statistical results are as follows:

Residents who have lived in town more than 10 years (10-19 = 106; 20 plus = 283). Responders were over the age of 35 (35-54=205, 55-64=141, 65 plus=169);

Responders who have children in the public schools. (31%) Own their own home. (96%). Those working in the area work in Greater Portsmouth (99), Kittery (68), Eliot (54), Dover (30), and Massachusetts (42). Retired. (57)

**Question 15** "Other Comments" Almost 200 Additional handwritten comments were received. The major categories of concern were 1. That every decision made by Town officials should consider how it will effect taxes, as many property owners may not be able to keep up with future increases. 2. The Town Codes are not being enforced; 3. Subdivision needs to be controlled; 4. The Town is small and rural and we should keep it that way; 5. Conserve the land and clean water; 6. Route 236 traffic and appearance is a mess; 7. There is a desire for sewer and water service.

Citizen Comment: "I would like to commend all who are and have taken leadership responsibilities for Eliot's development...I keep being amazed at how Eliot remains one of the "gems" and I feel so lucky to have chosen this town as my home – the greatest resource..."the people". Truly special. Thank you."

*Anonymous*

The complete Survey results and Citizen Comments are available at Eliot Web site: [http://www. Town of Eliot.gov](http://www.TownofEliot.gov).