

**RESULTS OF THE  
PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY**

**TOWN OF OSSINING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

**March 2001**

## PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

The public opinion survey was prepared for the *Town of Ossining Comprehensive Plan* as a means of soliciting input from residents, local businesses and property owners. It provided an opportunity in the planning process for the public in the Unincorporated Town of Ossining<sup>1</sup> to identify their opinions on various topics and issues, such as: community appearance, economic development, services, traffic and commuting, housing, quality of life, and the most pressing planning issues.

The public opinion survey was mailed to 2,229 residents, merchants/tenants and property owners in the Unincorporated Area of the Town of Ossining. Careful attention was given to developing a database for the mailing which targeted people within the unincorporated areas of the Town, and not property owners in the Villages of Briarcliff Manor and Ossining.

A total of **328** surveys were received and tabulated for this analysis, which results in a **14.7% response rate**. The strong response rate indicates that local residents, businesses and property owners were interested in expressing their opinions on issues of concern to them and identifying subject matters for consideration in the Comprehensive Plan. In addition to responding to options listed for each survey question, most respondents took the opportunity to provide written comments for many of survey questions — several respondents actually attached pages to their survey with more written comments.

[*Note: several surveys received after the extended deadline were reviewed but not included in the tabulated results.*]

The following considerations were made in tabulating and analyzing the surveys for the *Ossining Comprehensive Plan*:

- Some of the respondents did not answer all of the questions, or all of the choices for each question. Hence, the total numbers for each question may not be the same.

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<sup>1</sup> The Town of Ossining includes the incorporated Villages of Ossining and Briarcliff and the areas outside of these Villages. For the purposes of this document and the Comprehensive Plan project, we are dealing with the Unincorporated Town of Ossining (as depicted on the map).

- A number of surveys were received after the extended deadline, but during the period of tabulation. Therefore, every effort was made to include all of the returned surveys.
- The written comments provided for many of the questions have been incorporated into the appropriate sections of the survey analysis. For this survey analysis report, most of the written comments have been grouped together and summarized for clarification. [*Note: there is a separate, large file with a compilation of all the written comments for each survey question. A copy of this file has been provided to Village officials for their review in connection to this survey analysis report.*]
- In some of the survey analysis, if written comments were received by several respondents for the same question, the responses were totaled. For example, in Question 9, many of the responses received regarding the quality of new development were "good", "poor" etc. Rather than repeating the same responses over again, similar responses were totaled and appear in parenthesis at the end of the response.

In addition to the overall Survey results, an effort was made to target specific interest groups to find out how their responses matched the overall Town responses. Of the 146 surveys distributed to property owners around the ORM zoning district, 20 were returned (13.7% response rate). In contrast, of the 52 surveys sent to merchants/tenants and non-residential property owners on North State Road and Executive Boulevard, only 4 were returned (7.7% response rate).

The Public Opinion Survey provided options which respondents could select for each of the questions. Most choices were ranking, options or opportunities to write comments about a specific matter (often as an expansion on the question options). For Questions 1, 9 and 11 there were five choices: Strongly Agree, Agree, No Opinion, Disagree, or Strongly Disagree.

### **Community Appearance**

*1 = Strongly Agree    2 = Agree    3 = No Opinion    4 = Disagree    5 = Strongly Disagree*

#### **1. What are your opinions about Community Appearance?**

	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
a. Enhance the Town appearance through tree plantings, flowers and landscaping, improved signage and facade improvements	<b>142</b> <b>43.3%</b>	<b>138</b> <b>42.0%</b>	<b>32</b> <b>9.8%</b>	<b>11</b> <b>3.4%</b>	<b>5</b> <b>1.5%</b>
b. Establish design guidelines to provide oversight and standards for building/ sign/streetscape design and renovations	<b>137</b> <b>41.7%</b>	<b>132</b> <b>40.2%</b>	<b>42</b> <b>12.8%</b>	<b>9</b> <b>2.7%</b>	<b>8</b> <b>2.4%</b>
c. Promote and enhance historic preservation efforts in the Town	<b>125</b> <b>38.1%</b>	<b>139</b> <b>42.4%</b>	<b>49</b> <b>14.9%</b>	<b>11</b> <b>3.4%</b>	<b>4</b> <b>1.2%</b>
d. Enforce the building and zoning codes (e.g., unauthorized uses; non-compliance, overcrowding) to maintain the character of the community	<b>208</b> <b>63.4%</b>	<b>102</b> <b>31.1%</b>	<b>11</b> <b>3.4%</b>	<b>2</b> <b>.6%</b>	<b>5</b> <b>1.5%</b>

**Note: the written comments are summarized in the Survey Analysis Report**

## **Economic Development**

### **2. Do you go to restaurants, stores or services in the Villages of Ossining, Briarcliff Manor or Croton?**

YES: 321

NO: 14

**Note:** the written comments are summarized in the Survey Analysis Report

### **3. Would you shop, eat out or go to more services in the Town (Unincorporated Area) if these uses were available**

YES: 277

NO: 49

**Note:** the written comments are summarized in the Survey Analysis Report

**4. How do you use North State Road?** *(Check all that apply)*

Shopping: **88**

Work: **16**

Errands: **67**

Services: **92**

Recreational or entertainment activities: **69**

Restaurants: **182**

Through Road: **164**

**Note:** *the written comments are summarized in the Survey Analysis Report*

**5. What do you like most about North State Road?** **All Written Comments**

**6. What do you *not* like about North State Road?** **All Written Comments**

**7. Do you think there are adequate day to day shopping opportunities convenient to your home?**

YES: 159

No: 169

If **no**, identify the **types of services or retail establishments** you would like to be located closer to your home or elsewhere in Ossining:

Drug store: 58

Bank: 15

Convenience store: 36

Bookstore: 107

Gas station: 14

Video Rental: 9

Bakery/deli/produce market: 102

Laundromat: 3

Dry cleaner: 8

Clothing store: 74

Restaurant: 64

Entertainment-related use: 34

Sports facility (ice skating rink; indoor courts etc.):  
47

Neighborhood type/smaller scale stores: 58

Grocery Store: 49

"Big box" store (such as: Wal-Mart): 78

Other: *refer to comments*

**Note:** *the written comments are summarized in the Survey Analysis Report*

**8. What kinds of shops and services *not* currently located on North State Road do you think are appropriate?**

Restaurant: **57**

Retail: **105**

Hotel: **24**

Historic character Bed and Breakfast: **91**

An indoor arts and cultural facility (such as: gallery or museum): **96**

Entertainment facility: **75**

Sports facility (hockey rink; indoor courts etc.): **59**

Passive parkland: **98**

Active parkland/recreational facilities: **66**

Housing: **18**

Day Care (child, elder): **27**

Warehouse/Storage : **9**

Other: **\*\*Refer to comments**



*1 = Strongly Agree    2 = Agree    3 = No Opinion    4 = Disagree    5 = Strongly Disagree*

**9. What are your opinions about Business Development in the Office Research-Manufacturing (ORM) Zoning District, assuming traffic circulation is addressed?**

	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
a. New types of <b>services</b> should be permitted in the district (with limited hours of operation)	<b>60</b> <b>21.9%</b>	<b>73</b> <b>26.7%</b>	<b>72</b> <b>25.6%</b>	<b>30</b> <b>10.5%</b>	<b>44</b> <b>15.2%</b>
b. Day Care (child and elder care) facility should be permitted	<b>64</b> <b>21.1%</b>	<b>113</b> <b>37.3%</b>	<b>75</b> <b>24.8%</b>	<b>20</b> <b>6.6%</b>	<b>31</b> <b>10.2%</b>
c. Sports facility should be permitted	<b>56</b> <b>18.9%</b>	<b>73</b> <b>24.7%</b>	<b>65</b> <b>22.0%</b>	<b>35</b> <b>11.8%</b>	<b>67</b> <b>22.6%</b>
d. The area should remain as it currently exists	<b>64</b> <b>21.6%</b>	<b>48</b> <b>16.2%</b>	<b>81</b> <b>27.4%</b>	<b>61</b> <b>20.6%</b>	<b>42</b> <b>14.2%</b>
e. If yes to new services and/or sports facility, please identify which type: <b>**Refer to summary of comments in the Survey Analysis report.</b>					

**Note: the written comments are summarized in the Survey Analysis Report**

*1 = Strongly Agree    2 = Agree    3 = No Opinion    4 = Disagree    5 = Strongly Disagree*

**11. What is your opinion about whether the following services adequately meet the needs of residents?**

	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
a. Police protection in the unincorporated Town	<b>125</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>
b. Fire protection in the unincorporated Town	<b>114</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>
c. Overall effectiveness of the Town government	<b>48</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>7</b>
d. Trash and recycling removal in the unincorporated Town	<b>133</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>5</b>
e. Snow removal/street sweeping	<b>134</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>
g. Activities for senior citizens	<b>24</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>6</b>
h. Activities for youth and teenagers	<b>21</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>18</b>
j. Library services	<b>95</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>6</b>
k. Other: <i>**Refer to comments in the Survey Analysis report</i>					

**12. Are there new services, or improvements to existing services, that you think should be provided for residents?**

Yes: 107

No: 129

**Note:** *the written comments are summarized in the Survey Analysis Report*

**13. What kinds of municipal, social or educational facilities are *not* currently located in the Town, but should be?**

**Note:** *the written comments are summarized in the Survey Analysis Report*

**14. Should additional efforts be made to protect natural resources and open space areas in the Town?**

Yes: 307

No: 21

**Note:** *the written comments are summarized in the Survey Analysis Report*

**15. Should the Town work with land trusts and other groups to educate residents and property owners about conservation easements, benefit credits and other preservation techniques?**

Yes: 310

No: 18

**Note:** the written comments are summarized in the Survey Analysis Report

**16. Should the Town enhance its Code and other ordinances in terms of landscaping and setback requirements, tree preservation, overlay zones and scenic road designations?**

Yes: 283

No: 45

**Note:** the written comments are summarized in the Survey Analysis Report

**17. What are your opinions about the parks and recreational services in the Town?**

	Yes	No
a. There are enough recreational services for families	<b>179</b>	<b>97</b>
b. There are enough programs and services for teens and children	<b>119</b>	<b>135</b>
c. There are enough programs and services for senior citizens	<b>130</b>	<b>75</b>
d. There are enough organized activities for singles and adults	<b>78</b>	<b>122</b>
e. The facilities are adequately maintained	<b>187</b>	<b>65</b>
f. More park space and facilities are needed	<b>145</b>	<b>113</b>
Other: <b>**Refer to comments in Survey Analysis report</b>		

**18. If you are a commuter, please answer the following:**

I primarily use the train station

Ossining: **79**    Scarborough: **8**    Croton Harmon: **59**    Other: **3**

There is adequate parking at the Train Station I use    Yes: **47**    No: **98**

There should be shuttle buses to the train station    Yes: **105**    No: **34**

There should be more carpooling and commuting options available as an alternative to driving and to reduce traffic congestion:    Yes: **98**    No: **39**

**19. Are the following roads dangerous or do they need to be better maintained?**

	Yes	No
a. North State Road	<b>91</b>	<b>126</b>
b. Stormytown Road	<b>70</b>	<b>117</b>
c. Morningside Drive	<b>49</b>	<b>110</b>
d. New York State Route 9A	<b>168</b>	<b>75</b>
e. Croton Dam Road	<b>70</b>	<b>92</b>
f. Route 133/Somerstown Road	<b>69</b>	<b>117</b>
g. Route 134/Hawkes Avenue	<b>85</b>	<b>115</b>
h. Quaker Bridge Road	<b>43</b>	<b>107</b>
i. Cedar Lane	<b>44</b>	<b>128</b>
j. Route 100/Saw Mill River Road	<b>45</b>	<b>132</b>
k. Ryder Road	<b>32</b>	<b>116</b>
m. Specific Intersection which is dangerous or needs improvement: <b>**Refer to summary of comments</b>		

**20. Is there an intersection in the Town which has limited sight distance or other problems which could be improved with a stop sign, speed bumps or clearing of trees/shrubs/ other obstacles?**

Yes: 126

No: 54

*Note: the written comments are summarized in the Survey Analysis Report*

**21. Is there a specific area in Town where safety should be improved for pedestrians?**

Yes: 89

No: 63

*Note: the written comments are summarized in the Survey Analysis Report*

**22. What are the most important housing problems in the Town? (Check all that apply)**

Not enough rental housing: 48

Property maintenance: 71

High purchase prices: 75

Not enough housing for single people: 34

Not enough housing for young couples/families: 53

Not enough senior citizen housing: 46

Not enough choice in moderate price ranges: 65

Not enough affordable housing: 41

High property taxes: 220

**23. Do you think there is a good Quality of Life in Ossining?**Yes: **289**No: **26***Note: the written comments are summarized in the Survey Analysis Report***24. Is there a street or neighborhood you feel is changing or in transition?**Yes: **62**No: **93****25. Why did you choose to live in the Town of Ossining?** (Please indicate a maximum of three reasons, ranking them from 1 to 3, with 1 being the most important.) *\*Note: few respondents ranked their options*

Lived here all my life	35	Family and friends nearby	104
Close to work	93	Convenience of services	39
Small town atmosphere	128	Scenic beauty	139
Proximity to NYC	166	Hudson River and other environmental resources	98
Housing availability or cost	167	Quality of schools	59
Other: <b>**Refer to summary of comments</b>			



**26. Other than a change in employment, which of these factors would be most likely to cause you to leave Ossining?** [Note: few respondents ranked their choices as requested.]

	Yes	No
a. Inadequate housing opportunities	<b>59</b>	<b>81</b>
b. Quality of the schools	<b>147</b>	<b>46</b>
c. Area is becoming overdeveloped	<b>193</b>	<b>38</b>
d. Taxes are too high	<b>275</b>	<b>20</b>
e. Inadequate community services	<b>75</b>	<b>64</b>
f. Not enough parks and recreational facilities	<b>65</b>	<b>76</b>
g. Loss of community character	<b>165</b>	<b>41</b>
h. Other: <b>**Refer to summary of comments</b>		

**27. What do you think should be given special attention in the Town Comprehensive Plan?**

	Yes	No
a. Employment opportunities and development of vacant sites	<b>125</b>	<b>93</b>
b. Parking and traffic circulation	<b>214</b>	<b>35</b>
c. Availability of public recreation facilities and trails	<b>157</b>	<b>66</b>
d. Natural resource protection and open space preservation	<b>248</b>	<b>24</b>
e. Housing opportunities (e.g., overcrowded housing)	<b>104</b>	<b>82</b>
f. Conservation of water supply	<b>219</b>	<b>34</b>
g. Protection of historic buildings and sites	<b>193</b>	<b>41</b>
h. Neighborhood preservation	<b>232</b>	<b>16</b>
i. Other: <b>**Refer to summary of comments</b>		

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**     *(Note: everyone did not provide this information)***Street where you reside:**

- Hudson Watch Drive    7
- Chase Court    2
- Bridle Path Road    3
- Waterview Drive    9
- Hawkes Avenue    18
- Somerstown Road    5
- Old Albany Post Road    4
- Tuttle Drive    1
- Quaker Bridge Road    5
- Morningside Drive    19
- Cedar Lane    5
- White Birch Drive    4
- Reebock Drive    2
- Stormytown Road    2
- Ridgeview Drive    3
- Woods Brooke Court    5
- Chappaqua Road    2
- Stonegate Road    7
- Ganung    14
- Spring Pond Drive    9
- Croton Dam Road    8
- Tappan Terrace    5
- Narragansett Road    4
- McCarthy Drive    6
- Croton Dam Road    4
- Brooke View Drive    2
- Horseshoe Circle/Fox Hill Condos    4
- Minkel Road    6
- North State Road    4
- Haymont Terrace    2
- Downey Road    3
- Wyche Way    3
- Tavano Road    5
- Pheasant Ridge Road    3
- Feeney Road    3
- Mystic Drive    4
- Gordon Avenue    3
- Mancuso Drive    2
- Nicole Circle    3
- Studio Hill Road    2
- Kitchawan State Road
- Woods Brooke Circle
- Locust Road
- Redway Road
- Grandview
- Spring Road Drive
- Bridge Path
- Samstag Avenue
- Parker Drive
- Aspen Court

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|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Haymont Terrace           | • Hillcrest Avenue    |
| • Cherry Hill Circle        | • Riverview Farm Road |
| • Deerfield Lane            | • Quail Hollow Road   |
| • Club Court                | • Fox Hill Condos     |
| • Applegate Way             | • Claremont Road      |
| • Leawood Drive, Briarcliff | • River Parkway       |
| • Fawn Court                | • Hillcrest Avenue    |
| • Bracken Road              | • Fowler Avenue       |
| • Hillcrest Drive           | • Antler Ridge        |
| • Cherry Hill Creek         | • Pine Avenue         |
| • Bayden Road               | • Riverview Farm Road |
| • Town outside              | • Ryder Avenue        |
| • The Woods Condo           |                       |
| • Ogden Road                |                       |
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**How long have you lived in the Town of Ossining?****Number of People In Household**

<i>Less than 1 year:</i>	<b>11</b>
<i>1-5 years:</i>	<b>78</b>
<i>6-10 years:</i>	<b>53</b>
<i>11-15 years:</i>	<b>65</b>
<i>16-20 years:</i>	<b>19</b>
<i>More than 20 years:</i>	<b>102</b>

<i>1:</i>	<b>43</b>
<i>2:</i>	<b>137</b>
<i>3-5:</i>	<b>146</b>
<i>6 or more:</i>	<b>2</b>

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*Homeowner :*                    **323**

*Renter:*                                **5**

*Local Landlord:*                **6**

*Local Business Operator:*   **11**

**Your Age:**

*18-24:*   **2**            *25-29:*   **6**            *30-44:*   **107**            *45-54:*   **94**            *55-64:*   **57**            *65-74:*   **46**            *75+:*   **18**

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