
TOWN OF SCHROON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

MEETING #4 SUMMARY NOTES

Location: Town Hall
Date: January 24, 2024
Time: 6:00 pm

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Committee Members

Roger Friedman, Committee Chair
Lynn Donaldson, Town Council
Jessica Deslauriers, Essex County
Pam Ireland, Resident
Joan Lawless, Town Library
Bruce Murdock, Planning Board
Sue Palisano, Chamber of Commerce
Glen Repko, Planning Board
Sue Repko

Joe Steiniger, Adirondack Foundation
Ethan Thompson, Town of Schroon
Meg Wood, Town Supervisor
Jenny Pitkin, SLCS
Larry Reid, ZBA
David Williams, Resident

Consulting Team

Tracey Clothier, Clothier Planning & Consulting
Jamie Konkoski, LaBella Associates

SUMMARY NOTES

1. Meeting #3 Summary Notes approved.
2. Review of Public Workshop #1
 - See Public Workshop #1 Summary Notes
 - 65 people signed in which does not include everyone in attendance.
 - Poster boards and presentation slides from the meeting are posted on the project webpage along with a link to a survey for responding to the discussion questions.
 - Survey link will be open for 2 more weeks.
 - Jamie will provide a social media post to inform the community of the opportunity to provide input.
 - Concern about reaching renters, which was addressed with social media posts.

- Post card mailing included some businesses.
- The workshop summary, community survey results, summary of stakeholder meetings will be summarized and included as an appendix in the final comprehensive plan.
- All of the public input will be used to inform the draft vision, goals and recommendations.

3. Community Survey Results

- See attached highlights.
- 3 paper surveys were submitted and will be added to the results.
- Discussion of key takeaways – majority of responses are positive; 93% rate experience living in Schroon as good or excellent which indicates that focus should be on making what we have better as opposed to striving for changes; boat docks and ramps need work; desire for dedicated pickleball courts.
- Create a word cloud for survey and public meeting comments.

4. Discussion of Draft Community Profile

- Jamie summarized highlights from each section.
- Demographic trends – presented at last meeting. Edit: “school” enrollment.
- Economy – 57% employed in private sector which includes retail, arts, food service, lodging, and construction. 28.7% government workers. 55.6% of residents not in the labor force (retirees). Poverty rate is lower than national rate. Majority of residents commute to work outside of Schroon. Median Household Income is lower than national/state but similar to other communities in the region.
- Housing – reviewed at last meeting. Added information from building department on # of new residential permits – mostly single-family homes. Median home values have increased as well as rents – both trends are similar in Chester. Rent data has small sample size/high margin of error. Number of households that are cost burdened has declined but ¼ of households with a mortgage and 35% of renters are currently cost burdened. Affordability is a key issue. 72 short-term rental listings in December 2023. 99% are entire homes. Occupancy rate has declined by 11% in the past year. Annual revenue has decreased by 17% in the past year. Trends data will be added to the profile.
- Land Use was reviewed at last meeting. Added data on building permits and approvals for last few years.
- Infrastructure – profile includes data that is available online. Need to get information on age, capacity and maintenance needs from stakeholder meetings with town employees. Town conducted a survey of households for broadband access – 75 households had no service. Some have since got access through Starlink.
- Transportation – roadway network summarized; need to confirm location of sidewalks; speeding ticket information included.
- Parks & Public Spaces – includes inventory of facilities, description of conditions and needs. Accessibility is a challenge for town facilities. Eagle Lake launch has closed. Paradox launch needs maintenance.

- Historic & Cultural Resources summarized. Confirm Seagle name. Add Severance Mtn as scenic resource.
- Natural Resources summarized. Areas of concern for climate change – add the following: Shore Road (not Lake Shore), Adirondack Road, French Road, and situation in lake with silt.
- Fiscal Resources – profile includes a breakdown of budget allocations. Majority of funds support essential services. Highest percentage of funds dedicated to General Fund and Highway. Breakdown of General Fund included: 33% admin staff and operating expenses; 25% employee benefits and debt service; 20% culture and recreation activities/facilities.

5. Stakeholder Meeting Update

- Stakeholder meetings are scheduled for January 30th.
- Jamie will share schedule with committee; all are encouraged to attend any meetings they are interested in. RSVP to Jamie so she can share any changes in the schedule.

6. Subcommittee Discussions – next step for subcommittees will be to prioritize projects/recommendations.

7. Next Steps:

- Next Meeting is February 21st at 6pm – present a summary of public input.
- Stakeholder Interviews on January 30th
- Newsletter #2 by February 15th
- Prepare Vision, Goals and Objectives

ITEM	ACTION ITEM	OWNER
1	Social media posts for Workshop #1 survey	Jamie, Sue, David
2	Stakeholder Interviews	All
3	Edit Community Profile	LaBella
4	Newsletter #2	Tracey
5	Public Input Summary	Consulting Team
6	Zoning Map edits	Glen, Roger
7	Water and Sewer district maps	Meg, Jess, Jamie

OVERVIEW OF TOWN OF SCHROON SURVEY RESULTS

Mailing to 874 households yielded 431 responses

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

49% is a Great Response Rate!

Response rate of 5-30% is considered good
Average results are about 12%

Over 300 comments for each open-ended question

Great majority are positive

Quality of responses very informative

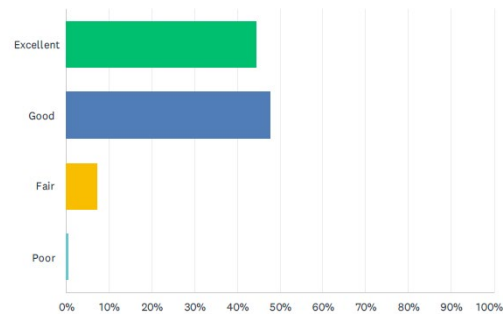


KEY DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

- 60% are year round residents
- 69% lived in Schroon over 10 years; nearly half 20+ years
- 74% over the age of 55
- 52% Women/42% Men
- 238 (78%) respondents have no children in their household
- 1 out of 3 respondents live less than 25 miles from their work
- 38% work from home

RATE YOUR EXPERIENCE LIVING IN SCHROON

93% rate their experience as good or excellent



SPECIAL PLACES IN THE COMMUNITY THAT SHOULD BE PROTECTED OR PRESERVED

- Town Beach
- Boathouse
- Bandstand
- Town Park
- Schroon Lake

HOW ATTRACT FAMILIES AND GROW THE POPULATION

- Affordable Housing
- Keep Taxes Low
- Childcare

ONE THING YOU WOULD CHANGE ABOUT SCHROON

- More Lodging Options
- Balance Needs of Residents and Visitors

WHAT PRESERVE IN SCHROON FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

- Small town character and sense of community
- Access to the park and lake
- Nature
- School Boathouse

TOWN RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

Generally Very Good

Playgrounds (43%) and Cross-country Ski Trails (27%) rated Poor or Fair

STATE SITES AND FACILITIES THAT NEED TO BE IMPROVED

44% Schroon River Route 74 Canoe Launch and Fishing Site

34% Pharaoh Lake Wilderness Area

32% Hoffman Notch Wilderness Area

MORE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES NEEDED ON STATE LAND?

64% No

SHOULD THE TOWN PLOW STATE-OWNED PARKING LOTS IN WINTER MONTHS?

64% yes

IS LOCAL TOWN GOVERNMENT RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY?

67% yes

RATE SERVICES AND FACILITIES IN THE TOWN

Generally all rated as good

Library 60% excellent

HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT DOWNTOWN SCHROON

Just Under 40% Visit 3 or More Times

RATE THE FOLLOWING DOWNTOWN AMENITIES

Majority is Good

BUSINESSES OR SERVICES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE

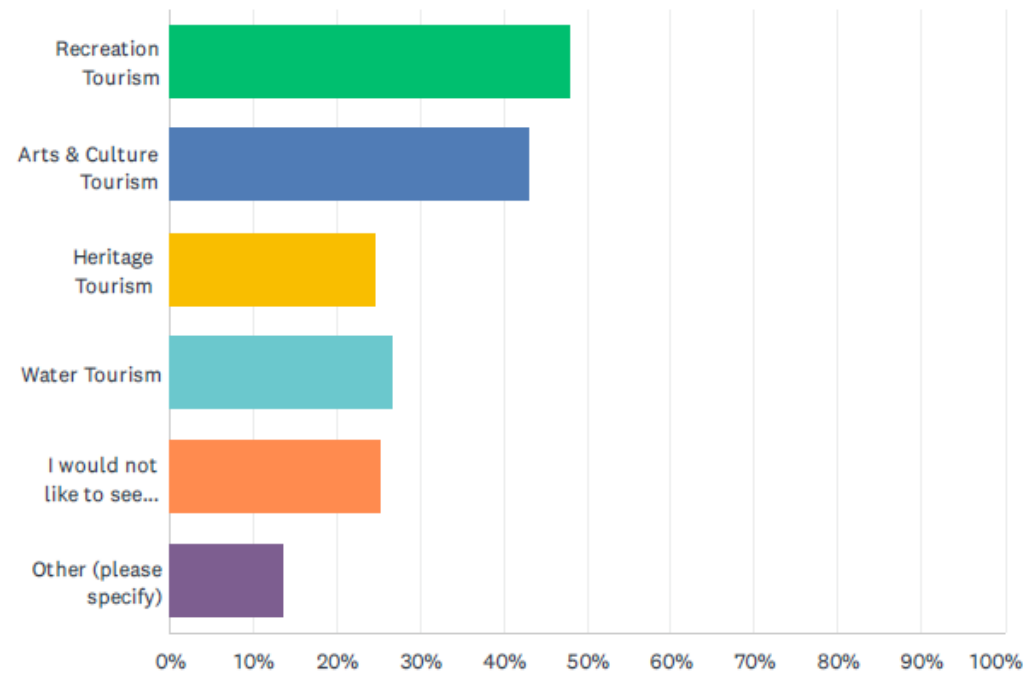
Strongest Support for:

- Recreational Goods Store
- Fitness Center
- Outdoor Dining Venues

AMOUNT OF COMMUNITY EVENTS WITHIN TOWN?

68% have enough versus 31% need more

TYPE OF TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES NEEDED



RATE TYPES OF HOUSING OPTIONS AND ISSUES

Nearly 60% said Affordability Largest Issue

Fair to Poor Category:

- Retirees/Seniors
- Summer Employees
- Young Professionals
- New Families

IMPACTS OF SHORT-TERM RENTALS

- Noise
- Competition to other Overnight Accommodations
- Impacts to the Availability of Local Housing Stock

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING
IN THE SURVEY!