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Lyndeborough Master Plan 2024 Survey Results

226 participants

September 2024 through January 2025

Respondent Demographics

- ▶ Majority of respondents (49%) were between the ages of 55 and 74
- ▶ There were no participants aged 24 years or younger
- ▶ 50% male, 47% female, 3% did not wish to answer
- ▶ 95% of respondents owned their home
- ▶ Majority of respondents had a household income between \$150,000 and \$199,999
- ▶ 44% of participants have lived in Lyndeborough 20 years or more

Why does your family live in Lyndeborough?

Top 5 Answers:

1. Rural atmosphere - 74%
2. Outdoor Recreational Opportunities - 28%
3. Sense of Community - 26%
4. Closer to Family - 20%
5. Native to Lyndeborough - 18%



What do you like best about Lyndeborough?

Top 5 answers

1. Rural Character - 85%
2. Small Town Atmosphere - 69%
3. Natural Beauty - 65%
4. Open Space/Natural Areas - 52%
5. Proximity to Mountains and Lakes - 29%



How concerned are you with these issues?

- ▶ Growth Rate - majority said “somewhat important”
- ▶ Loss of Rural Lifestyle - majority said “very important”
- ▶ Road Conditions - majority “somewhat important”
- ▶ Property Taxes - majority said “very Important”
- ▶ Lack of Sense of Community - majority said “somewhat important”
- ▶ Worried about Safety - majority said “somewhat important”
- ▶ Internet and Cell Coverage - majority said “very important”
- ▶ Cost of School Services - majority said “very important”
- ▶ Cost of Town Services - majority said “somewhat important”
- ▶ Lack of Affordable Services - majority said “not important”

Remote Working

- ▶ 59% of respondents have an occupation that allows working from home
- ▶ 72% of respondents work remotely or have a hybrid schedule



Small Businesses

- ▶ 68% of respondents would like to see more small businesses in town
- ▶ 67% of respondents support zoning amendments that allow growth for small businesses
- ▶ 85% of respondents own a home-based business



What concerns you most about our roads?

- ▶ Winter Maintenance - majority said “very important”
- ▶ Road Washouts - majority said “very important”
- ▶ Road and Shoulder Maintenance - majority said “very important”
- ▶ Road Surface Integrity - majority said “very important”



How do you feel about making public transportation available?

- ▶ Creation of a ride share program - majority said “somewhat important”
- ▶ Develop volunteer services - majority said “somewhat important”
- ▶ Periodic bus service - majority said “not important”



Road Maintenance

- ▶ 86% of respondents wish to maintain existing roads as they are
- ▶ 88% of respondents do NOT wish to pave all roads
- ▶ Which gravel roads should be paved?
 - ▶ New Road
 - ▶ Mountain Road
 - ▶ Cemetery Road
 - ▶ Old Temple Road
 - ▶ Winn Road
 - ▶ Crooked S Road

Road Maintenance

- ▶ 92% of respondents feel that when new roads are built, paving/not paving should be determined by use
- ▶ 84% of respondents support the Town putting funds aside for large culvert replacement



Historical Buildings and Character

- ▶ 84% of respondents feel that the town's historical character is important and should be preserved
- ▶ 88% of respondents feel that it is somewhat or very important to continue to preserve historic public buildings
- ▶ 79% of respondents feel that the town's annual budget should include appropriations to preserve and maintain historical public buildings
- ▶ Top 3 most visited historical buildings in town are Citizen's Hall, Center Hall, and Purgatory Falls/Senter Falls.

Town Resources

- ▶ The top 3 most attended events are Community Day, Town Meeting, and the Memorial Day Parade/Observance
- ▶ The majority of respondents feel that it is “very important” to preserve the following town resources
 - ▶ Groundwater supply
 - ▶ Wetlands
 - ▶ Wildlife habitat
 - ▶ Forests
 - ▶ Conservation land
 - ▶ Nature-based recreation
 - ▶ Agriculture

Town Resources Cont.

- ▶ Land acquisition for the purpose of preservation, conservation, and/or nature-based recreation - somewhat or very important (73%)
- ▶ of respondents said that land acquisition for the purpose of acquiring conservation easements - somewhat or very important (79%)



Agriculture

- ▶ About 10% of respondents meet the federal definition of a farm (IRS Schedule F)
- ▶ The top agricultural products produced by farms (that responded to the survey) are:
 - ▶ Livestock
 - ▶ Crops
 - ▶ Firewood
 - ▶ Maple Products

School

- ▶ 19% of respondents currently have school-aged students at home
 - ▶ 43% go to school in the Wilton Lyndeborough
 - ▶ 10% attend private day school
 - ▶ 10% are pursuing higher education (college or grad school)



The Wilton-Lyndeborough School District

- ▶ Offers a well-rounded curriculum - 55% said NO
- ▶ Provides appropriately for advanced students - 64% said NO
- ▶ Provides appropriately for special needs students - 55% said YES
- ▶ Provides appropriate vocational training - 72% said NO
- ▶ Provides good value for tax dollars - 73% said NO
- ▶ 71% are NOT satisfied with the current SAU #63 School District
- ▶ Should the town explore alternatives to SAU #63? - 72% said YES

J.A. Tarbell Library

- ▶ 78% respondents have been to the Library
- ▶ 50% respondents have a library card and 50% do not
- ▶ 40% have attended Library programs and/or speakers
- ▶ 16% belong to a community group that meets in the Library
- ▶ 17% have booked the community room for an activity
- ▶ 30% read the Library newsletter
- ▶ 17% have used the museum passes made available at the Library

Center Hall & Citizens' Hall

- ▶ 25% of respondents have used or rented Center Hall
- ▶ 20% of respondents have used or rented Citizens' Hall in the Village



Town Communications

- ▶ 81% would like to receive a periodic Lyndeborough Community Newsletter by email
- ▶ Top ways respondents find out what's happening in town:
 - ▶ Town Website or Facebook Groups (tied at 56%)
 - ▶ Monadnock Ledger-Transcript or Town Village Store (tied at 17%)
 - ▶ Public Meetings (16%)
 - ▶ Milford Cabinet (11%)
 - ▶ Word of mouth came up frequently under "Other"

What types of housing would you like to see built in town over the next 10 years?

- ▶ Single-family - majority said “very important”
- ▶ Duplex - majority said “not important”
- ▶ Attached ADU - majority said “somewhat important”
- ▶ Detached ADU - majority said “not important”
- ▶ Multifamily (renovate existing houses) - majority said “not important”
- ▶ Multifamily (new construction) - majority said “not important”
- ▶ Retirement Community - majority said “not important”

What types of housing would you like to see built in town over the next 10 years?

- ▶ Condominium - majority said “not important”
- ▶ Cluster Development - majority said “not important”
- ▶ Tiny Homes - majority said “not important”
- ▶ Manufactured Housing - majority said “not important”
- ▶ Modular-built Homes - majority said “not important”

Housing

- ▶ How important are the following housing opportunities:
 - ▶ Rental Housing - majority said “somewhat important”
 - ▶ Senior Housing (55+) - majority said “somewhat important”
 - ▶ Transitional Housing with Supportive Services - majority said “not important”
- ▶ 72% believe that the current level of housing in Lyndeborough is adequate
- ▶ 51% feel that there is NOT an adequate amount of workforce housing available in town.
- ▶ 51% would support zoning ordinance amendments to increase affordable housing opportunities

Utilities

- ▶ 70% would like more choices for communication services (internet, telephone, TV)
- ▶ 69% said the available internet is sufficient for their home business/occupation
- ▶ 66% would support additional cellular towers in town if it created more robust cellular service
- ▶ 65% of would support private green energy sources in town
- ▶ 53% would like to revisit Community Power
- ▶ 67% would support zoning ordinances to limit the commercial development of wind farms on ridge areas of Lyndeborough

Town Facilities

- ▶ 53% would support land purchase opportunities for a Safety Complex
- ▶ 57% would NOT support land purchase opportunities for the development of recreational facilities
- ▶ 56% would NOT support utilizing current Wilton Recycling Center funds to have home trash pick-up