

Is there anything else about Amherst and planning for its future that you would like to share with us?

Your contribution to this effort is greatly appreciated. Please return your completed questionnaire in the enclosed postage-paid envelope as soon as possible. Thank you.

**Comprehensive Planning Committee
C/O Planning Department
4 Boltwood Avenue
Amherst, MA 01002
(413) 259-3040**



PLANNING AMHERST TOGETHER
a community survey
www.planningamhersttogether.org

**COMPREHENSIVE
PLANNING
COMMITTEE**

Amherst Planning Department
4 Boltwood Avenue
Amherst, MA 01002

In the following questions, we would like to know how you view Amherst today, and what you would like Amherst to be like in the future.

1. How many years have you lived in Amherst?

_____ YEARS

2. Do you rent or own your place of residence?

1 RENT

2 OWN

3. There are six “village centers” in Amherst: Echo Hill, Cushman, North Amherst, Pomeroy, Atkins Corner, and East Amherst. A seventh center would be the Downtown Area. Which of these seven areas do you live closest to? (Please circle only one area.)

1 Echo Hill

2 Cushman

3 North Amherst

4 Pomeroy/West Street

5 Atkins Corner

6 East Amherst

7 Downtown Area

8 None of the Above

9 Don't Know

29. Please tell us which ethnic or racial group you most closely identify with:

1 ASIAN

2 BLACK/AFRICAN-AMERICAN

3 HISPANIC/LATINO

4 WHITE/CAUCASIAN

5 OTHER _____

30. What is your approximate annual household income before taxes?

1 LESS THAN \$15,000

2 \$15,001 - \$34,999

3 \$35,000 - \$49,999

4 \$50,000 - \$74,999

5 \$75,000 - \$99,999

6 \$100,000 - \$149,999

7 GREATER THAN \$150,000

31. Are you:

1 MALE

2 FEMALE

32. Do you have children living at home?

1 YES

2 NO

If YES, what are their ages? _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____

33. In your household are there (including yourself):

How Many

Persons 65 years of age and over?..... YES NO _____

College students..... YES NO _____

24. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the development of small scale businesses, like convenience stores, should be encouraged in or near areas of town where access to public transportation is not convenient?

Strongly disagree 1 Disagree 2 Neutral 3 Agree 4 Strongly agree 5

25. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. (Please circle only one answer per item.)

- | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|----------|---------|-------|----------------|
| | Strongly disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly agree |
| a) Historic resources are part of the distinctive character of Amherst | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| b) Historic resources are worth preserving even at the expense of some development..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| c) Historic resources deserve support through tax incentives..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

The following questions will help us learn more about the citizens of Amherst. The information you provide will be kept strictly confidential, and you will never be linked to or associated with the information.

26. What best describes the highest level of education that you have completed?

- 1 LESS THAN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA
- 2 HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA
- 3 SOME COLLEGE
- 4 COLLEGE GRADUATE
- 5 MASTERS DEGREE/Ph.D.

27. What is your occupation (including retired)?

_____ OCCUPATION

28. What is your age? _____ YEARS

4. Community meetings held in October and November, 2006 and February, 2007 generated a variety of ideas for changing the zoning in town. In the following questions, please indicate the extent to which you support or oppose each idea? (Please circle only one number per item.)

In the downtown area and the existing village centers listed in Question #3, would you support or oppose:

- | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|--------|---------|---------|------------------|
| | Strongly oppose | Oppose | Neutral | Support | Strongly support |
| a) Increasing the density (number of housing units allowed, perhaps an increase in building height, etc.) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| b) Encouraging mixed-use buildings (such as buildings that combine housing, retail & offices) in the town center and village centers . | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| c) Allowing the more intensive uses (a and b above) of the downtown/village center areas only if they bring a reduction in the number of new homes and businesses in other parts of town | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

In residential neighborhoods, would you support or oppose:

- | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|--------|---------|---------|------------------|
| | Strongly oppose | Oppose | Neutral | Support | Strongly support |
| d) Encouraging apartments being added to existing houses | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| e) Allowing increased housing density while requiring compatible design standards..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| f) Allowing increased density while giving current residents significant input into planning and design..... | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| g) Requiring that developers of subdivisions cluster the homes on smaller lots and place remaining land in conservation | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Elsewhere in town, would you support or oppose:

- | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|--------|---------|---------|------------------|
| | Strongly oppose | Oppose | Neutral | Support | Strongly support |
| h) Allowing businesses that need to have walk-in or drive-in customers to locate in professional research parks | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| i) Zoning for a light industrial/office park | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

5. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following ideas about future development in Amherst? (Please circle only one number per item.)

	<i>Strongly disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly agree</i>
a) New development should take place in and near the existing village centers listed in Question #3	1	2	3	4	5
b) Additional village centers for mixed business and residential use should be created in Amherst	1	2	3	4	5
c) New development should be spread evenly across the town (NOT concentrated in the village centers and downtown).....	1	2	3	4	5
d) More commercial uses that serve the student population should be encouraged in appropriate areas close to the UMass campus..	1	2	3	4	5

6. Where would you take public transportation if it were available? (Please circle all that apply.)

- 1 To other towns
- 2 To shopping areas
- 3 To downtown
- 4 To Village Centers
- 5 To recreation areas
- 6 I would not use public transportation

7. In future land use decisions, do you think the creation of moderate income housing should get less priority, equal priority, or greater priority than the protection of additional open space? (Please circle only one number.)

<i>Much lower priority</i>	<i>Lower priority</i>	<i>Equal priority</i>	<i>Greater priority</i>	<i>Much greater priority</i>
1	2	3	4	5

21. The two most common types of residential developments in towns like Amherst are:

Conventional Subdivision: This is the development type under which most of Amherst is currently built. It has no open space requirements and homes are built on relatively large lots.

Cluster Subdivision: This type of development typically preserves a sizeable portion of the land as open space, and in return offers the developer increased density on the remaining portion of the land.

To what extent would you support or oppose additional residential development of either type in Amherst?

	<i>Strongly oppose</i>	<i>Oppose</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Support</i>	<i>Strongly support</i>
a) Conventional Subdivision	1	2	3	4	5
b) Cluster Subdivision	1	2	3	4	5

22. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements concerning transportation in Amherst? (Please circle only one answer per item.)

	<i>Strongly disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly agree</i>
a) Create a car-free pedestrian mall in part of downtown Amherst	1	2	3	4	5
b) New residential development should be accessible to bus service.....	1	2	3	4	5
c) New residential development should be accessible to bicycle routes	1	2	3	4	5
d) Bus service should meet the year-round needs of Amherst on all routes	1	2	3	4	5

23. In your opinion, how important is it that Amherst promote alternative forms of transportation (walking, cycling, buses, vans, etc.) as a means of:

	<i>Not at all important</i>	<i>Slightly important</i>	<i>Moderately important</i>	<i>Very important</i>	<i>Extremely important</i>
a) managing traffic congestion	1	2	3	4	5
b) decreasing Amherst's contribution to global warming.....	1	2	3	4	5
c) promoting a more active community	1	2	3	4	5

18. Do you agree or disagree that the following are transportation problems in Downtown Amherst? (Please circle only one number per item.)

	<i>Strongly disagree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Strongly agree</i>
a) Lack of downtown parking	1	2	3	4	5
b) Downtown traffic congestion	1	2	3	4	5
c) Infrequent buses	1	2	3	4	5
d) Too few bicycle lanes leading into the downtown area	1	2	3	4	5
e) Poorly maintained bike lanes	1	2	3	4	5

19. Would you support or oppose an increase in the property tax rate to pay for each of the following purposes? (Please circle only one number per item.)

	<i>Strongly oppose</i>	<i>Oppose</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Support</i>	<i>Strongly support</i>
a) A new multi-generational recreation center	1	2	3	4	5
b) Enhance town library offerings	1	2	3	4	5
c) Acquire additional open space	1	2	3	4	5
d) Enhance fire and ambulance services.....	1	2	3	4	5
e) Enhance public school program offerings.....	1	2	3	4	5
f) A new Department of Public Works building	1	2	3	4	5
g) A revolving fund for historical preservation projects	1	2	3	4	5
h) Enhance Town supported social services	1	2	3	4	5
i) To create affordable housing	1	2	3	4	5
j) Other	1	2	3	4	5

20. From the items listed in Question #19 above, which three do you feel are the most important for Amherst to do? Please put the letter associated with that item in the proper space below.

_____ Most Important _____ Second Most Important _____ Third Most Important

8. Would you support the construction of a greater number of small homes on smaller lots rather than a fewer number of large homes on larger lots, if this resulted in homes that were affordable to moderate income households?

<i>Strongly oppose</i>	<i>Oppose</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Support</i>	<i>Strongly support</i>
1	2	3	4	5

9. Below is a list of examples of housing types that involve greater density. To what extent would you support or oppose each of these in order to create housing that is more affordable to the average household? (Please circle only one number per item.)

	<i>Strongly oppose</i>	<i>Oppose</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Support</i>	<i>Strongly support</i>
a) Small houses on small lots	1	2	3	4	5
b) Duplexes.....	1	2	3	4	5
c) Condos.....	1	2	3	4	5
d) Apartment buildings.....	1	2	3	4	5

10. If increasing density is used as an incentive to create a mix of moderately priced housing choices, then:

- a) do you think increased density should be concentrated in Downtown and Village Centers? YES NO DON'T KNOW
- b) do you think increased density should be allowed in all areas of the Town, if open space is also required as part of the development? YES NO DON'T KNOW

11. Do you believe that all new residential developments should contain a mix of housing prices?

- 1 YES
- 2 NO
- 3 DON'T KNOW

12. To what extent would you support or oppose each of the following?

	<i>Strongly oppose</i>	<i>Oppose</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Support</i>	<i>Strongly support</i>
a) Having housing specifically set aside for seniors.....	1	2	3	4	5
b) Small, moderately priced units set aside for seniors.....	1	2	3	4	5
c) Upscale, market rate units set aside for seniors.....	1	2	3	4	5

13. To what extent do you feel the following economic development initiatives are desirable or undesirable. (Please circle only one number per item.)

	<i>Very undesirable</i>	<i>Undesirable</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Desirable</i>	<i>Very desirable</i>
a) University/research/clean/high technology.....	1	2	3	4	5
b) Retirement communities	1	2	3	4	5
c) Culture and tourism based.....	1	2	3	4	5
d) Agriculture based businesses and services.....	1	2	3	4	5
e) Retail services	1	2	3	4	5
f) Light industry	1	2	3	4	5
g) Luxury housing	1	2	3	4	5
h) Off-campus privately owned student housing....	1	2	3	4	5

14. From the economic development initiatives listed in Question #13 above, which three do you most prefer? Please put the letter associated with each initiative in the proper space below.

_____ Most Preferred _____ Second Most Preferred _____ Third Most Preferred

15. In your opinion, how important is it that Amherst: (Please circle only one number per item.)

	<i>Not at all important</i>	<i>Slightly important</i>	<i>Moderately important</i>	<i>Very important</i>	<i>Extremely important</i>
a) Protect its environmental quality (air/water quality).....	1	2	3	4	5
b) Protect its natural environment (forests, wildlife, fish, habitat)	1	2	3	4	5
c) Create a range of housing alternatives	1	2	3	4	5
d) Preserve historic structures and landscapes in Amherst	1	2	3	4	5
e) Provide public facilities for cultural activity.....	1	2	3	4	5
f) Encourage historic preservation.....	1	2	3	4	5
g) Have more recreational facilities.....	1	2	3	4	5
h) Preserve the current level of farming	1	2	3	4	5
i) Better link existing parcels of open space.....	1	2	3	4	5
j) Actively support contemporary cultural life	1	2	3	4	5

16. From the items listed in Question #15 above, which three do you feel are the most important for Amherst to do? Please put the letter associated with that item in the proper space below.

_____ Most Important _____ Second Most Important _____ Third Most Important

17. How many more of the following types of new housing units should be built in Amherst? (Please circle only one number per item.)

	<i>None</i>	<i>A few more</i>	<i>Some more</i>	<i>Many more</i>	<i>A great many more</i>
a) Large single-family houses on large lots.....	1	2	3	4	5
b) Small single-family houses on small lots.....	1	2	3	4	5
c) Duplexes.....	1	2	3	4	5
d) Apartments added to existing houses	1	2	3	4	5
e) Rental apartments.....	1	2	3	4	5
f) Townhouses/Condominiums	1	2	3	4	5
g) Retirement housing	1	2	3	4	5
h) Privately-owned student housing	1	2	3	4	5
i) Luxury homes.....	1	2	3	4	5