

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SUMMARY

In 2002, the Town of Dresden completed a six year effort to update the pre-existing comprehensive plan. The document was submitted to the State Planning Office and accepted. In February of 2003, the approved Comprehensive Plan was presented to the public at a special Town Meeting to allow for discussion and a vote to adopt or reject the plan. It was overwhelmingly rejected for, among other things, seeming to be too restrictive and too confusing. Many felt the Comprehensive Plan had not been communicated properly to the public. A "rejection survey" was sent out to all residents via USPS to gain insight into why the plan had been rejected. Following are the results:

COMP PLAN REJECTION SURVEY SENT 2-6-2003		
118 sent out 42 responses		
Is a Comprehensive Plan Needed? Yes/No	LIKES	DISLIKES
Yes		Too restrictive
Yes		Needed more communication/mistrust
Yes		Needed more communication plus too complicated
No		Intrusion
Yes		Growth areas
No		Needed more communication
No		Communism
No		Everything
No		Everything
Yes		Everything plus the current one is too restrictive
Yes	5 member select board	Did not protect natural resources enough
Yes		Too restrictive
Yes	Liked it	
No		Too many restrictions
Yes	5 member select board	Too restrictive
Yes		Communicate the process better
Yes		The Select Board did not back it
Yes		Everything
Yes		Everything
No		Everything
No		Too restrictive
Yes		Overwhelming
Yes	Many features	Growth areas not well defined
Yes		Too restrictive
Yes	Through/thoughtful	
No		Too restrictive
Yes	Good for the town	
Yes	Good road map	Economic section weak
Yes	Well put together	Misunderstood
Yes		Too complex
No	It was as start	Need more input from people
Yes		Confusing
Yes	Action committee	Old plan still has open items, & was not supported
Yes		Anti business and property owner Deceptive
Yes		Anti business
Yes		Too restrictive
Yes		Too long/too focused in the Mills
No		Too restrictive
Yes	Controlled growth	
No		Too restrictive
Yes	Content & final product	Too detailed w/limitations
Yes		Should be up to the planning board / didn't understand
Yes		Too restrictive
Yes		One plan does not fit all

At the annual Town Meeting held in June of 2011, it was announced that a new Comprehensive Planning Committee was going to be established, and would be made up of at least one person from each of the following groups:

- Selectboard
- Business
- Public service
- Planning board

Public participation was not only welcome, but encouraged and that updates could be followed in the Lincoln County Newspaper as well as the monthly Dresden Communicator. The Dresden Comprehensive Planning Committee (DCPC) would meet on a monthly bases with minutes of each meeting recorded.

The new Comprehensive Planning Committee was established in October of 2011. The first task was to study the results of why the plan of 2003 failed and then create a new survey to incorporate public opinion into the new document. The Comprehensive Plan Public Opinion Survey was sent to the residents via USPS in February 2012. The results are as follows:

**DRESDEN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY
DRESDEN DEMOGRAPHICS and OPINION POLL
RESIDENT RESPONSE RESULTS**

We received a total of 169 surveys returned. Here is a quick breakdown of the results and any added comments.

1.) How long have you lived in Dresden? (In years)

a.) 0-5	22
b.) 6 – 10	23
c.) More than 10 years	96
d.) Lifelong resident	28

General Comments :

- 1 Brief explanation of this survey would have been helpful.
- 2 Thank you.
- 1 Property taxes are too high
- 1 There is no public transportation

2.) What brought you to Dresden?

a.) Country Environment	79
b.) Location	61
c.) Work	21
d.) Family	29
e.) Marriage	13
f.) Property more available	32
g.) Born here	23
h.) Reasonable taxes	28
i.) School system	9

General Comments :

- 1 Property costs

3.) What type of water supply do you use?

a.) Drilled well	144
b.) Dug well	11
c.) Spring	6
d.) Town water	5

General Comments : none

4.) Has there been a decrease in the water available from your water supply in the last five years?

a.) No	125
b.) Yes	6
c.) Don't know	26

General Comments : none

5.) Has there been a decrease in your water quality in the last five years?

- | | |
|----------------|-----|
| a.) No | 112 |
| b.) Yes | 16 |
| c.) Don't know | 34 |

General Comments :

1 Rust

6.) Dresden's tax base is composed of residential houses and a number of small service-type businesses.

With this in mind, would you want to encourage industry to move into Dresden in permitted areas?

- | | |
|----------------|----|
| a.) No | 43 |
| b.) Yes | 90 |
| c.) No Opinion | 25 |

General Comments :

2 Clean industry

1 Depends on type

1 Will not happen without updating to 3-phase power

1 Small agriculture

7.) What is the location of your work?

- | | |
|----------------------------|----|
| a.) Augusta | 23 |
| b.) Bath | 26 |
| c.) Brunswick | 13 |
| d.) Dresden | 21 |
| e.) Richmond | 3 |
| f.) Wiscasset | 8 |
| g.) Gardiner | 1 |
| h.) Other – please specify | 57 |

General Comments :

(Other work locations)

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| 2 Boothbay Harbor | 1 Nobleboro |
| 33 Retired | 3 Damariscotta |
| 5 Portland | 1 Newcastle |
| 1 Waldoboro | 2 Out-of-state |
| 3 Self-employed | 3 Travel around |
| 1 Topsham | 1 Auburn |
| 1 Sabattus | 1 Woolwich |
| 1 Lewiston/Auburn | 1 Scarborough |
| 1 Rockland | 1 Freeport |
| 1 Falmouth | |

8.) How important do you feel it is to limit development in the following areas?

- | | Very Important | Important | Not Important |
|------------------|----------------|-----------|---------------|
| a.) Open fields | 70 | 38 | 47 |
| b.) Scenic areas | 80 | 47 | 29 |
| c.) Forest areas | 72 | 66 | 32 |
| d.) Ground water | 87 | 48 | 18 |

e.) River shore lands	75	48	26
f.) Deer years	82	43	33
g.) Steep slopes (erosion control)	71	60	25
h.) Potential park/rec area	52	48	52

General Comments :

- 1 Don't limit private development except with present zoning.
- 1 Would like to see the Town keep it's character.
- 1 We need balance.

9.) Would you support the Town's purchase of land for any public use?

Yes	89
No	46

General Comments :

- 3 Depends what land is purchased for.
- 1 With Towns support.
- 2 For recreation.

10.) At present, the Lincoln County Sheriffs and the Maine State Police patrol Dresden.

Do you think this is satisfactory?

Yes	126
No	16
No Opinion	1

General Comments :

- 5 Need more coverage.
- 2 Route 128 is a raceway.
- 3 Better response time.
- 2 Never needed thus far.
- 1 Would support local enforcement.
- 1 LCSD could be more effective.
- 1 The LCSD can't be everywhere.
- 1 State Police do good job.

11.) Do you favor the construction and operation of the following in Dresden?

a.) Apartments	Yes 50	No 78	No Opinion 26
b.) Multi-family buildings	Yes 50	No 78	No Opinion 23
c.) Cluster housing	Yes 52	No 79	No Opinion 22
d.) Mobile home parks	Yes 33	No 101	No Opinion 15
e.) Low-cost multi-unit housing for senior citizens	Yes 109	No 30	No Opinion 16
f.) Shops / stores	Yes 123	No 24	No Opinion 11
g.) Offices	Yes 96	No 42	No Opinion 14
h.) Motels	Yes 57	No 78	No Opinion 20
i.) Restaurants	Yes 114	No 31	No Opinion 14
j.) Industrial developments	Yes 66	No 67	No Opinion 15

General Comments :

- 1 Private or tax supported.

- 1 If done thoughtfully and without destroying the rural landscape and atmosphere.
- 2 All of Rt 27 only.
- 1 Light industry.

12.) How do you rate the following services?

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion
a.) Snow removal/sanding	42	57	30	23	2
b.) Road maintenance	17	72	43	27	2
c.) Solid waste disposal & recycling	83	55	10	7	10
d.) Education					
K – 6	23	42	15	3	67
7 – 8	18	26	23	9	75
9 – 12	18	25	22	10	72

General Comments :

- 1 Bus ride too far for kids.
- 1 Snowplowing noticeable improvement the last few months.
- 2 Education too costly and inefficient.

13.) At present, Dresden has an all-volunteer fire department.

Do you think that the protection by this service is satisfactory?

Yes	136	No	4	No Opinion	30
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General Comments :

- 1 Present building too large for present time.
- 3 Not volunteer if being paid.
- 1 FD does a great job.
- 3 Never had to use them.
- 1 With sharing with other towns.
- 1 Need two full-time positions.

14.) Should Dresden provide for more recreational areas and/or programs?

Yes	97	No	35	No Opinion	30
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If yes, check items you would prefer:

Ice skating rink	44	Town park	46	Snowmobile trails	26
Tennis court	22	Playground	44	Cross-country ski trails	41
Picnic areas	51	Bike/jogging paths	58	Recreation program	41

Other – please specify

General Comments :

- | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------|
| 2 Senior group | 1 Senior center | 1 Senior busing |
| 3 Not at Towns expense | 1 Update existing | 3 Boat landing |
| 1 Put the land the Town owns to use | 1 Gun range | 1 Hard to find volunteers |
| 2 ATV trails | 1 Walking | 1 Baseball/softball |
| 1 Safe environment for children to play | 1 Revitalizing Green Point Orchard for public use | |
| 1 Dog park | 1 More activities | |
| 1 Tear down Old Town Hall for access to Eastern River (Note: Lot does not go to river.) | | |

A public forum was held in January of 2014 to present and explain to the public what had been accomplished to date. It was also an opportunity to gather feed-back for future work on the “plan”. Notice of this meeting was posted local papers as well as a mailer sent to each address via USPS. An update on the progress of the DCPC has been included in each of the Annual Town Reports.