

# The Town of Hamilton Comprehensive Plan Survey

*The Town of Hamilton's Comprehensive plan is getting an update.* The Plan identifies “goals, objectives, guidance and policies for the immediate and long-range protection, enhancement, growth and development of our Town. It provides guidance to town leaders and helps ensure the needs of the community will be met.”

Hamilton's 1999 Comprehensive plan is being revised to address issues that are important to our community today, and its goals are being updated to reflect the needs and views of residents in response to emerging local and national trends.

**You are invited to be part of this process.** All residents and property owners 18 years and older are encouraged to complete and return a survey, by mail or **online at <http://www.townofhamiltonny.org>**. Your response will be kept strictly confidential.

**Your participation will help define the future of the Town of Hamilton!** Use the survey to voice your opinions on issues important to our community. We will use these responses and information gathered at our **upcoming public meeting on November 7 at 7pm** in the Poolville Community Center to shape our new comprehensive plan.

**Return the surveys by November 1.** Please use the self-addressed envelope to return the survey. Need more than one copy so all family members 18 and older can participate? Copies of the survey are available at the Village Libraries in Hamilton and Earlville, at the Town Office, and online at the Town of Hamilton website.

**Need more information on the public meeting, the survey, or prefer to download or complete the survey online?**

Visit the Town of Hamilton website: <http://www.townofhamiltonny.org>

Or, contact the Town of Hamilton office: 16 Broad Street, Hamilton, NY 13346 • 315-824-3380

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## Please share some information about yourself:

1. Do you own or rent your home?

own  rent

If you own property, how many acres?

under 1 acre  6 to 10 acres  51 to 100 acres  
 1 to 5 acres  11 to 50 acres  over 100 acres

2. Do you live in the Town of Hamilton?

yes  no

If yes, how long have you lived in the Town of Hamilton? \_\_\_\_\_

Where do you live in the Town of Hamilton? Are you in or near the following?

Hamilton Village  Earlville Village  the Hamlet of Hubbardsville  
 the Hamlet of Poolville  the Hamlet of East Hamilton  
 the Hamlet of South Hamilton  outside of a village or hamlet

3. If you are employed, how far do you commute to work?

work from home  1-10 miles  11-30 miles  30+ miles

4. Do you have school-aged children under the age of 18 at home?

yes  no

5. Are you retired?  yes  no If no, do you plan to retire in the Town of Hamilton?  yes  no

6. How old are you?

18-24yrs  25-34 yrs  35-44yrs  45-54yrs  55-64yrs  65-74yrs  75-84yrs  85+yrs

## Agriculture in the Town of Hamilton

7. How important is local agriculture to you?

very  somewhat  not at all  no opinion

8. If local agriculture is important you, why? (check all that apply)

agriculture is part of the regional economy  
 agriculture maintains the town's rural character  
 availability of fresh local food  
 agriculture preserves open space  
 other \_\_\_\_\_

9. Should Town government play a role in supporting local agriculture?

yes  no  no opinion

How?

yes  no assist with obtaining grants for promoting agriculture and recruiting new farming operations

yes  no have zoning that works to promote agriculture

yes  no support conservation easements (purchase of development rights)

yes  no promote agricultural economic development

yes  no facilitate first time farmer financing programs

yes  no develop tax incentives

other \_\_\_\_\_

10. Are you actively engaged in farming in the Town of Hamilton?

yes  no

If yes, what type of farming? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, how many acres do you farm? \_\_\_\_\_

11. Do you rent your land or use rented land in the Town of Hamilton for farming?

yes  no

Check all that apply

I rent other's land for farming \_\_\_\_\_ acres  I rent land to a farmer \_\_\_\_\_ acres

### Economic development in the Town of Hamilton

12. Should the Town of Hamilton be actively involved in attracting new local businesses?

yes  no  no opinion

If yes, in what way?

yes  no marketing and promotion

yes  no increased support of the Partnership for Community Development

yes  no extend hi-speed internet throughout the town

yes  no assist with grant writing for business retention and expansion

yes  no tax incentives

other \_\_\_\_\_

13. What sort of business or industry would you like to see in the Town?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

14. Where would you like to see new business located in the Town?(number in order of preference with 1 as top choice)

Village of Hamilton

on rte.12

hamlets

Village of Earlville

south of the Village on rte.12b

other \_\_\_\_\_

### Housing in the Town of Hamilton

15. Are any of the following housing topics problems in the Town of Hamilton?

yes  no availability of Senior Citizen housing

yes  no vacant houses

yes  no housing stock in disrepair

yes  no absentee homeowners

yes  no student rentals in residential areas

yes  no high housing costs

other \_\_\_\_\_

16. Should the Town of Hamilton pursue any of the following?

yes  no grants to help fund residential home improvements

yes  no promote development that conserves open space

yes  no facilitate a first time home buyer programs

yes  no tax incentives when builders address housing needs

other \_\_\_\_\_

**Energy development in the Town of Hamilton**

The Town of Hamilton currently has zoning regulations dating from 2009 for Commercial Wind Power facilities, as well as for Private Wind Power facilities.

17. Do you support Commercial Wind Power Development in the Town of Hamilton?  
support with Town regulation      oppose      no opinion

18. Do you support Private Wind Power in the Town of Hamilton?  
support with Town regulation      oppose      no opinion

When the existing Town of Hamilton Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Law were written High Volume Hydrofracking gas development (HVHF, also known as "fracking") was not an issue for the Town.

19. Is High Volume Hydrofracking gas development (HVHF) now an important issue for the Town of Hamilton?  
yes      no      no opinion

20. Should the Town of Hamilton:  
Take no action, and allow HVHF gas development according to New York State regulation  
yes      no      no opinion

Revise the existing Town of Hamilton zoning to identify areas in the Town that can accommodate HVHF with the least impact, and allow HVHF in those areas  
yes      no      no opinion

Prohibit HVHF everywhere in the Town of Hamilton  
yes      no      no opinion

21. Should the Town of Hamilton pursue more green energy projects for the town office, garage, and the community?  
yes      no      no opinion

If so, which ones?  
yes   no   solar projects  
yes   no   community bio-digester (to produce energy from farm and food waste)  
yes   no   energy conservation  
yes   no   attract green energy businesses  
other \_\_\_\_\_

**Hamilton's Natural Environment**

22. Is the Town of Hamilton's natural environment important to you?  
yes      no      no opinion

If yes, what aspects are important to you? (check all that apply)  
natural resources (water, streams, wetlands, forests)      scenic views  
open spaces      wildlife  
outdoor recreation      other \_\_\_\_\_

23. How can the Town support these resources? \_\_\_\_\_

24. What outdoor recreational activities are important to you?  
biking      hiking      skiing/snowshoeing  
boating      hunting      running  
fishing      snowmobiling      other \_\_\_\_\_

25. How can the Town support or promote these activities? \_\_\_\_\_

**Hamilton's Town Services**

26. Are you satisfied with the following services from Town government? (check all that apply)

- Hours of operation of Town Office                   \_\_yes                   \_\_no                   \_\_no opinion
- Access to Town officials and employees           \_\_yes                   \_\_no                   \_\_no opinion
- Responsiveness of Town officials to your concerns   \_\_yes                   \_\_no                   \_\_no opinion
- Access to Town records/minutes from meetings   \_\_yes                   \_\_no                   \_\_no opinion
- Town Road maintenance and snow removal       \_\_yes                   \_\_no                   \_\_no opinion
- Building & Code enforcement process           \_\_yes                   \_\_no                   \_\_no opinion
- Building permit process                            \_\_yes                   \_\_no                   \_\_no opinion
- Planning Board/Zoning Board of Appeals        \_\_yes                   \_\_no                   \_\_no opinion
- The Town of Hamilton website                    \_\_yes                   \_\_no                   \_\_no opinion

27. Which of the following actions do you think the Town should pursue? (check those you feel are important)

- shared Town and Village services
- high-speed internet throughout the town
- more funding for extreme weather events
- increased public transportation in the Town of Hamilton
- support for recreational programs
- more financial support for local libraries
- more financial support for cultural events
- provide services for seniors
- more financial support for SOMAC (local ambulance service)
- other \_\_\_\_\_

28. Would you support modest tax increases to finance any of the actions discussed in this survey?

- yes                     no                     no opinion

If so, which ones?

- yes    no   agricultural programs
- yes    no   economic development
- yes    no   housing initiatives
- yes    no   energy initiatives
- yes    no   environmental programs
- yes    no   town services

**Community Character**

29. How would you describe the Town of Hamilton's character in 5 words?

(list in order of importance, with 1. most important)

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_

30. What would you like to change about the Town of Hamilton?

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

31. Which 3 topic areas on this survey are the most important issues facing our town?

(list in order of importance, with 1. most important)

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

other topic of importance to you not listed in survey \_\_\_\_\_