

+ + + + PLEASE READ THIS + + + +

This is a survey that will be used to update the Town of Parsonsfield Comprehensive Plan.

We want and need to hear the Voice of the People and have created the attached survey for you to provide detailed feedback on what you value about living here and how the Town should protect our resources. The town continues to grow with new homes, farms, businesses and more.

We have held several meetings with the public in the last few months asking for input from the residents. Thank-you to all that have participated. The discussions have been excellent and much information has been shared.

Hopefully even more people will attend and participate at the upcoming meetings. Meeting dates will be published in the Shoppers Guide and on the Town of Parsonsfield website.

Please remove this front cover page to complete the survey. It should take about 20 minutes to complete.

When the survey is complete please fold, staple and mail it to the Town Office (see next page) or drop it off at the Town Office during normal business hours.

Copies of this survey are available at the Town Office and Library. Read only and download only copies are available at the Town of Parsonsfield website.

The results of the survey will be published in the Shopping Guide and reviewed at our scheduled monthly meetings.

This is an important first step in updating our Comprehensive Plan and we hope you will support this work by completing the survey and attending and participating our meetings.

If there are any questions or concerns please call committee member Cliff Krolick at 207-625-8189 or Email at bcountry@psouth.net.

Thank-you for your valuable time and input!!!

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Staple here

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Town of Parsonsfield
634 North Road
Parsonsfield Maine, 04047

Comprehensive Plan Survey for The Town of Parsonsfield

A committee to revise and update our Comprehensive Plan has been formed by the Town of Parsonsfield. We need to hear from all citizens of the Town of Parsonsfield regarding your ideas, wants and needs to direct our town's land development and protection of natural resources.

Our current Comprehensive Plan must be updated (it's over 25 years old) and approved by the voters. The Comprehensive Plan is used by all town officials to guide their decision making when considering land development, business development, agricultural practices, etc. The town voters must approve the Comprehensive Plan before it can be implemented.

The State requires the town's Comprehensive Plan be up to the current minimum state requirements. If it not, funding provided to the Town of Parsonsfield for some projects could be eliminated or reduced. This will increase our local taxes.

Therefore, the least we can do and must do is bring the current plan up to minimum state standards. Please note we can go above and beyond the state standards if the town's people want to protect particular aspects of life and living here in the Town of Parsonsfield.

The committee members are keenly aware of how much we all love this area and the lifestyle we enjoy. We want this plan to reflect what we love about the area and therefore protect it from being taken away. Once it's gone, it's gone forever.

We have attached a survey on topics that will determine the direction of preservation and development for our town. We hope that you will take the time to give us your thoughts, concerns and ideas. Your input will be

The survey should take approximately 20 minutes to complete depending on the written comments you provide.

Completed survey's must be received by Saturday, July 6, 2019.

For each completed survey we receive we will enter your name into a drawing for two prizes of \$50 each. To enter we will need your completed survey attached to the contact information below. Please note these funds are from private donations, not money from the town treasury!

Thank you on behalf of the Comprehensive Planning Committee.

PLEASE FOLD, STAPLE AND MAIL THIS SURVEY OR DELIVER TO THE TOWN OFFICE ON NORTH ROAD WHEN COMPLETE.

DO NOT DETACH THIS PAGE FROM THE SURVEY TO BE ENTERED IN THE DRAWING!!!

How can we contact you if you are the winner of the drawing?

Please continue with the survey questions starting on the next page.

A. DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION:

Please check one of the following categories:

1. Are you: _____ a year-round resident of the Town of Parsonsfield?
_____ a summer resident of the Town of Parsonsfield?
_____ a non-resident landowner in the Town of Parsonsfield?
2. How long have you lived in the Town of Parsonsfield?
_____ 10 years or less
_____ 11 to 20 years
_____ 21 to 30 years
_____ 31 to 40 years
_____ over 41 years
3. How many people live at your home? _____
4. Do you: _____ own or _____ lease/rent property in Town of Parsonsfield?
5. Which village or closest village do live in or near within the Town of Parsonsfield?

_____ Taylor City	_____ Kezar Falls
_____ South Parsonsfield	_____ Maple Wood
_____ East Parsonsfield	_____ Middle Road
_____ North Parsonsfield	

B. THE ECONOMY:

1. Should the Town of Parsonsfield promote economic development? _____Yes _____No _____Unsure
2. Should the Town of Parsonsfield promote economic development in all villages or focus business development in Kezar Falls, the current center of business? _____Yes _____No _____Unsure

If Yes to either question 1 or 2 above, which of the following ways should the town promote economic development?

- Provide limited Tax breaks for economic development? _____Yes _____No _____Unsure
- Hire someone to help bring in jobs? _____Yes _____No _____Unsure
- Make zoning laws less restrictive? _____Yes _____No _____Unsure
- Apply for grants and raise taxes to bring in business development? _____Yes _____No _____Unsure
- Help developers reduce their cost by providing town funds for public facilities/road/etc.? _____Yes _____No _____Unsure
- How else should the Town of Parsonsfield support business growth? Please provide your ideas:

3. Are there enough areas zoned for economic development in Parsonsfield? _____Yes _____No _____Unsure
4. When balancing economic and environmental concerns, is Parsonsfield presently: (check one)
_____balanced about right _____too pro-economic _____too pro environmental.
5. Should Parsonsfield set high performance standards for industrial and commercial development (including logging) to protect surrounding land use and landscapes? _____Yes _____No _____Unsure
6. Is there development that you think might be threatening to Parsonsfield? _____Yes _____No _____Unsure
 - If yes, please describe your concerns: _____

7. Is housing affordable in Parsonsfield? _____Yes _____No _____Unsure
 - If no, what action should the town of Parsonsfield take? _____

-
8. Part of Kezar Falls Village lies within Porter. Should Parsonsfield take steps to support economic growth in Kezar Falls with the Town of Porter and South Hiram? If no, please go to question 9.
- If yes, what steps? _____
-

9. Please check the appropriate box for the items below. Please leave the line blank and skip the question if you're Unsure or Don't Know.

Land Use	Encourage	Allow Anywhere	Confine to Specific Locations	Discourage
Affordable Housing				
Agriculture				
Animal Shelters				
Bed and breakfasts				
Campgrounds				
Clear Cutting				
Cottage Industries				
Day Care				
Duplexes				
Elder Housing				
Fast Food Restaurants				
Heavy Industry				
Keeping Livestock				
Land Fills				
Light Industry				
Medical Facilities				
Mobile Homes				
Mobile Home Parks				
Motels-Hotels				
Multi-Family Housing				
Offices				
Offices in the Home				
Restaurants				
Retail Stores				
Seasonal Conversions				
Seasonal Dwelling				
Shopping Centers				
Timber Harvesting				
Other?				

Comments: _____

C. PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES: Please rate the following public facilities and services. Please place an "X" at your answer. Feel free to comment further at the end. Please leave

Poor Fair Good Excellent

Water Supply (Aqua Maine) — — — —

Solid Waste Management	—	—	—	—
Storm Water Drainage	—	—	—	—
Recycling	—	—	—	—
Police Protection	—	—	—	—
Fire Department	—	—	—	—
Rescue Service	—	—	—	—
Educational System	—	—	—	—
Summer Road Maintenance	—	—	—	—
Winter Road Maintenance	—	—	—	—
Town Office Services	—	—	—	—
Board of Selectmen	—	—	—	—
Code Enforcement	—	—	—	—
Planning Board	—	—	—	—
Board of Appeals	—	—	—	—
Animal Control	—	—	—	—
Health Care Facilities	—	—	—	—
Recreational Facilities	—	—	—	—
Cable & Internet Access	—	—	—	—
Library Services	—	—	—	—
Public Assistance	—	—	—	—
Emergency Services	—	—	—	—

1. Should the Town of Parsonsfield provide direct assistance to residents that are in need of food? Please note the town provides funds to local Food Banks now.

Yes No No opinion Unsure

Comments: _____

D. Roads: Please be aware the Town of Parsonsfield is responsible for town owned roads only.

1. Should tax support be increased for Summer road maintenance? Yes No Unsure

• Comments: _____

2. Should tax support be increased for Winter road maintenance? Yes No Unsure

• Comments: _____

3. Are road signs adequate in Parsonsfield? Yes No Unsure
• If No, what changes would you make? _____

4. Can you identify any hazardous locations on roads in Parsonsfield?
• Please list them: _____

5. Do you or a family member ever: Please circle your response.
• Walk on a sidewalk or side of the road outside of Kezar Falls village? Yes No
How many times per week? 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 less often
Comments: _____

• Bicycle on a road outside of Kezar Falls village? Yes No
How many times per week? 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 less often
Comments: _____

• Use a trail for ATV, snowmobile or mountain bike riding? Yes No
How many times per week? 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 less often
Comments: _____

• Use a trail for hiking or snowshoeing? Yes No
How many times per week? 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 less often
Comments: _____

• Should more be done to support the above activities? Yes No
What type of support or changes would you recommend? _____

6. How many cars or trucks does your family have?
Please circle one: 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 +

7. Do you own or lease an all-electric car? (no gas or diesel engine, electric motor only) Yes No

8. What is your total mileage per year for all your vehicles? Please check the appropriate line.
 0 to 10,000
 10,000 to 20,000
 20,000 to 30,000
 30,000 to 40,000
 40,000 to 50,000
 50,000 to 60,000
 60,000 to 70,000
 70,000 to 80,000
 80,000 to 90,000
 90,000 to 100,000
 100,000+

9. How many miles (one way) do you or a family member travel in your car to get to the following. Please check the appropriate box.

	Number of miles (one way)										
	<10	10 to 20	21 to 30	31 to 40	41 to 50	51 to 60	61 to 70	71 to 80	81 to 90	91 to 100	>100
Work											
School											
Grocery Store											
Pharmacy											
Medical care											
Church											

10. Do you use a car pool on a regular basis? ___ Yes ___ No
11. Do you ever plan a trip with someone else to cut down your mileage? ___ Yes ___ No
12. Have you ever used any public or commercial transportation in Parsonsfield? ___ Yes ___ No
13. Would you like to have public transportation available? ___ Yes ___ No
14. Do you have transportation available to get you to and from medical services and other appointments? ___ Yes
 ___ No
15. If public transportation (bus, etc.) were available in the Town of Parsonsfield, where would you most likely travel?
 Check all that apply. Please add other locations.
 ___ Cornish ___ Kezar Falls ___ Waterboro ___ Portland / S. Portland
- Other locations? _____

Please provide your comments on Questions 6 to 15: _____

E. FORESTRY AND AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES:

- The Town of Parsonsfield should continue to offer financial incentives for forest landowners such as tree growth tax breaks. Agree___ Disagree___
- Courses in Forest Management should be offered at our local high school. Agree___ Disagree___
- Loggers should be required to post a performance bond to help minimize damage to Town of Parsonsfield roads. Agree___ Disagree___
- The Town of Parsonsfield should encourage the preservation of farmland and forest lands Agree___ Disagree___
- The Town of Parsonsfield should encourage profitable farming by:
 - Granting tax breaks for land in farm use. Agree___ Disagree___
 - Forming partnerships with farmers and local schools. Agree___ Disagree___
 - Promoting farmers markets and community supported agriculture (CSA). Agree___ Disagree___
- The Town of Parsonsfield should restrict residential and commercial development of land currently under agricultural use or larger forested tracts of land. Agree___ Disagree___
- The Town of Parsonsfield should allow farm stands in the Village and Rural Districts so that local farmers can sell produce easily. Agree___ Disagree___

8. Should the Town of Parsonsfield provide land for residents to use for a community garden? Yes No
 Unsure

Please provide your comments on Questions 1 to 8: _____

F. HOUSING:

Please leave the question blank if you have no opinion or don't know.

1. Housing codes in the Town of Parsonsfield should be amended to allow in-law apartments: Agree___ Disagree___
2. Affordable housing in the Town of Parsonsfield should be encouraged: Agree___ Disagree___
3. Regulation of waterfront property development in the Town of Parsonsfield should be less restrictive: Agree___ Disagree___
4. Housing for Town of Parsonsfield residents should include a mobile home park: Agree___ Disagree___
5. The Town of Parsonsfield should require new building construction/ additions to conform to the Maine Universal Building and Energy Code? Currently, MUBEC applies only to towns with population over 4,000 or those under that population that have chosen to adopt it. The code can be found <https://www.maine.gov/decd/meocd/bbcs/index.html>; Agree___ Disagree___
6. The Town of Parsonsfield should encourage cluster housing development as an alternative to single housing lots? Agree___ Disagree___
7. The Town of Parsonsfield should establish minimum standards for site upkeep and appearance for property that is owned by absentee landlords. _____ Agree _____ Disagree

Please provide your comments on Questions 1 to 7: _____

G. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS:

Do you have suggestions for capital improvements needed by the town? If so, please describe:

H. HISTORIC AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Historic and archeological resources include, but may not be limited to, buildings, abandoned cellars or foundations, millworks, bridges, cemeteries, trees, or landscapes.

Please leave the question blank if you have no opinion or don't know.

1. What historic resources do you want to see protected in the Town of Parsonsfield? Please be as specific as possible.

2. Do you believe that stone walls and cellar holes are worth protecting? Agree___ Disagree___

3. What do you see as the biggest potential threats to these resources? _____

4. Should the Town of Parsonsfield require property developers to look for and identify any historic and archaeological resources and take appropriate measures to protect those resources?
 Yes No
5. What other steps, if any, should the town take to protect these resources? _____

I WATER RESOURCES:

1. Are you aware of any **direct** discharges of pollution into waterways in the Town of Parsonsfield? Yes No
 • If yes, can you describe the location: _____

2. Are you aware of any **indirect** discharges of pollution related to agriculture, forestry, industry, housing developments or other possible sources of contamination that may be affecting water quality in the Town of Parsonsfield?
 • If Yes, can you describe the location of the indirect discharge? _____

3. Do you think that Parsonsfield road construction and maintenance practices adequately protect Parsonsfield water resources? Yes No Unsure
 • If No, what practices concern you and can you cite an example? _____

4. Is there currently adequate protection of water quality for Parsonsfield lakes, streams, rivers and ponds? Yes No Unsure
 • If No, would you describe threats to those water resources that concern you, and where are they located? _____

5. Do you have concerns about the safety of your own drinking water? Yes No Unsure
6. Do you have concerns about the safety of your neighbors drinking water? Yes No Unsure
 • If Yes, what are your concerns and where is the location of your concern: _____

7. Do you favor updating town policies to protect the quality of our water resources?
 Yes No Unsure
8. Do you favor exceeding the state requirements or meeting the state requirements?
 Meet state standards Exceed state standards
9. Do you favor the Town of Parsonsfield providing farmers, loggers and other relevant residents with "best management practices" information to protect our water and forest land resources?
 Yes No Unsure
10. Do you favor the Town of Parsonsfield having an active plan to prevent the spread of invasive plant species in our waterways? Yes No Unsure
11. Should the Town of Parsonsfield allow large water extraction within the Town limits? (Example: bottled water companies or other large-scale water intensive businesses) Yes No Unsure

Please provide your comments on Questions 1 to 11: _____

J. CRITICAL NATURAL RESOURCES: These are defined as “those areas of the town comprised of shore land, large habitat blocks of land, wetlands, essential wild life habitats, freshwater fish habitat, fragile mountain areas, flood plains”.

1. Do you think that current regulation provides enough protection for our critical natural resources?
___Yes ___No ___Unsure
 - If No, what additional protection do you feel is needed? _____

2. Are there other non-regulatory ways to protect our critical natural resources?
___Yes ___No ___Unsure
 - If yes, could you describe what those ways might be? _____

3. Are there any areas of land in the Town of Parsonsfield, such as the Plantation, that you feel should be protected from development, overuse or other human interference? ___Yes ___No ___Unsure
 - If yes, where are those wild lands located? _____

4. Are there scenic areas and views in the Town of Parsonsfield that you feel should be protected into the future?
___Yes ___No ___Unsure
 - If Yes, where are they located? _____

5. Are there road construction or maintenance practices that you feel threaten the Town of Parsonsfield’s critical natural resources? ___Yes ___No ___Unsure
 - If Yes, what are those practices and where is an example located? _____

6. Does the Town of Parsonsfield share critical natural areas with other towns that would require a cooperative multi-town partnership for cooperative protection of those areas? ___Yes ___No ___Unsure
 - If yes, where are those areas and what towns share the responsibility of protecting those areas? _____

7. Should the Town of Parsonsfield limit the type of lighting used for all signs? Meaning prohibit LED lighting or any other type of lighted sign that may impact the abutter’s property at night?
___Yes ___No ___Unsure

8. Do you have any other thoughts or concerns to share with the Comprehensive Planning Committee or Planning Board regarding our town’s water or critical natural resources?

K. RECREATION:

1. Please place an “X” in the box that aligns with your thinking. Please leave the line blank and skip the question if you’re Unsure or Don’t Know.

Town of Parsonsfield residents have sufficient access to:				
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
a. Area ponds.				
b. Scenic or historical areas.				
c. Hunting areas.				
d. Hiking trails.				
e. Snowmobile/ATV trails.				

There are sufficient recreational opportunities in Parsonsfield for:				
	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
a. The elderly.				
b. Adults.				
c. Teens.				
d. Children.				

2. Do you have other thoughts about recreational opportunities in the Town of Parsonsfield? Please describe.

L. FUTURE LAND USE ISSUES: Please place an "X" in the box that aligns with your thinking. Please leave the line blank and skip the question if you're Unsure or Don't Know

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
The Town of Parsonsfield should have a system in place to acquire important open spaces and access sites using either outright or conservation easements.				

- Should the Town of Parsonsfield allow downzoning by individual home and land owners? "Downzoning" is the act of rezoning a tract of land for a less intensive use than the existing or permitted use. For example, land zoned for industrial purposes could be downzoned to residential use by the landowner. NOT the other way around.
 Yes No Unsure
- Should the Town of Parsonsfield have a system in place to acquire open spaces (land, fields, forest, etc.) and/or easements to such to be financed with town funds, private donations, gifts (financial and/or property), etc. Yes No Unsure
- Are you a property owner and do you have plans now or think in the future you may want to develop your property? In this case "develop" means build an additional residence that you would not occupy, build multiple residences for sale or lease, add a structure or structures or parking lot to conduct business, sell goods and/or services.
 Yes No Unsure

Thankyou for your valuable time and input!!!

Please provide any other ideas or comments: _____

Appendix

- 1) This book is an excellent resource that shows how many, if not all, of the past methods to control growth and maintain the local quality of life failed. The first 125 pages is most relevant to Parsonsfield. [The Limitless City: A Primer on the Urban Sprawl Debate](#), written by Oliver Gillham, published by Island Press in 2002.
- 2) The link below will bring you to the entire “Comprehensive Planning Manual For Maine Communities”. This document is over 250 pages and defines the purpose of the Comprehensive Plan and the process to follow.
https://digitalmaine.com/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1048&context=spo_docs
- 3) Many voters told us they highly value Food Sovereignty and want local control of food production/distribution. Below please find a link to the Local Food Movement organization in Maine Local Food RULES (LFR) formed in Hancock County. The purpose of the group is to work with towns to help pass local ordinances supportive legislation at the state level, while maintaining the focus on the local level and exerting community rights to self-governance. This is one resource the Comp Plan team uses <http://localfoodrules.org/>.
- 4) Many voters asked if tax relief could be given to those property owners that want preserve land from development. The link below is to the bulletin from the State of Maine describing the Open Space classification of Current Use property taxation relief.
<https://www.maine.gov/revenue/forms/property/pubs/bull21.pdf>