

Town of Erin Comprehensive Plan

Planning for the community of
tomorrow, today



Picture Credit: Christina Cowan

Adopted: April 2024



Breesport Station with the track to the right in the direction of Erin.

Acknowledgements

Comprehensive Planning Committee

Deda Cedar

Christina Cowan

Dawn Burlew

Diane Wise-Hollenbeck

Neil Vesek

Dave Dietterich

Don Bower III

Darael Ann Mahoney

Planning Consultants

Chloe Thornton, Planner

Jack Cook, Planner/GIS





Table of Contents

Executive Summary.....	5
Summary of Recommendations.....	5
Comprehensive Plan Purpose and Goals	7
Community Vision	7
Introduction.....	8
Location and Town Overview.....	8
The Comprehensive Plan.....	9
Comprehensive Plan Process.....	9
History of the Town of Erin	10
Foreword.....	10
Early History of the Town.....	10
Historical Attractions	12
Demographics.....	13
Population	13
Population Pyramids	14
Educational Attainment	15
Demographics Recommendations.....	16
Economy	17
Income and Poverty.....	17
Employment.....	18
Occupation and Industry	19
Housing	21
Permit Data.....	23
Economy Recommendations	24
Quality of Life	25
Insights from the Visioning Session	25
Recreational Opportunities	28
Town Services	29
Transportation	32
Quality of Life Recommendations	33

Land Use	34
Land Use with Ag Districts for the Town of Erin Map	35
Town of Erin—Development Map	36
Town of Erin—Preservation Map	36
Land Use Recommendations	37
Natural Resources	38
Topography	38
Geology and Soils	38
Forests	38
Drainage and Sediment Control	38
Water Features for the Town of Erin Map	39
Water Resources and Wetlands	39
100-Year Floodplain Map	40
Flooding	40
Watersheds for the Town of Erin	41
Natural Resources Recommendations	42
Renewable Energy Resources.....	43
Wind Resources	43
Solar Resources	43
Energy Improvements	44
Renewable Energy Resources Recommendations	45
Appendix A: Town of Erin Comprehensive Plan Survey Results	46
Appendix B: Town of Erin Comprehensive Plan Survey.....	71



Executive Summary

The Town of Erin worked with Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board (STC) in gathering information and preparing this Comprehensive Plan. The Committee used a Visioning Session held on September 14, 2023, and a survey to inform this planning process. The survey results appear at the end of the document with a copy of the survey itself.

The Town of Erin and Southern Tier Central developed this plan intending to guide municipal leaders in developing and implementing specific policies for the Town to provide better services to residents and landowners. The goal of a Comprehensive Plan is to understand what the highest good is for a town through speaking with all of the Town's stakeholders: residents, business owners, and elected officials. This effort will develop a framework that further guides a municipality's local laws, regulations, and spending. The comprehensive plan is intended to guide public and private decision-makers regarding the community's future growth and development. The plan will address issues such as population, housing, agriculture, environmental and water quality protection, using natural resources such as wind and transportation, traffic circulation, parking, and pedestrian networks, and the appearance and vitality of the hamlet, residential, and rural areas.

Summary of Recommendations

Throughout the Comprehensive Plan, there are several recommendations for adopting policies, areas for future studies, and trends to encourage in the Town. When appropriate, the Plan provides further guidance for implementing these policies. A summary of the recommendations is below; for more information on each recommendation, please refer to the section heading the recommendation is under.

Demographic Recommendations

- Maintain population
- Maintain Town character

Economy Recommendations

- Preserve open spaces
- Meet housing demands
- Support reasonable development
- Support code enforcement

Quality of Life Recommendations

- Expand cellular and internet access
- Support senior and youth services
- Maintain Town roads
- Preserve scenic views



Land Use Recommendations

- Review current zoning map
- Ensure zoning map is updated and available
- Promote and support agriculture within the Town

Natural Resources Recommendations

- Encourage forest management practices
- Encourage best management practices for water resources

Renewable Energy Resources Recommendations

- Review laws related to wind farms
- Develop a solar law
- Participate in the Clean Energy Communities Program
- Participate in the Climate Smart Communities Program



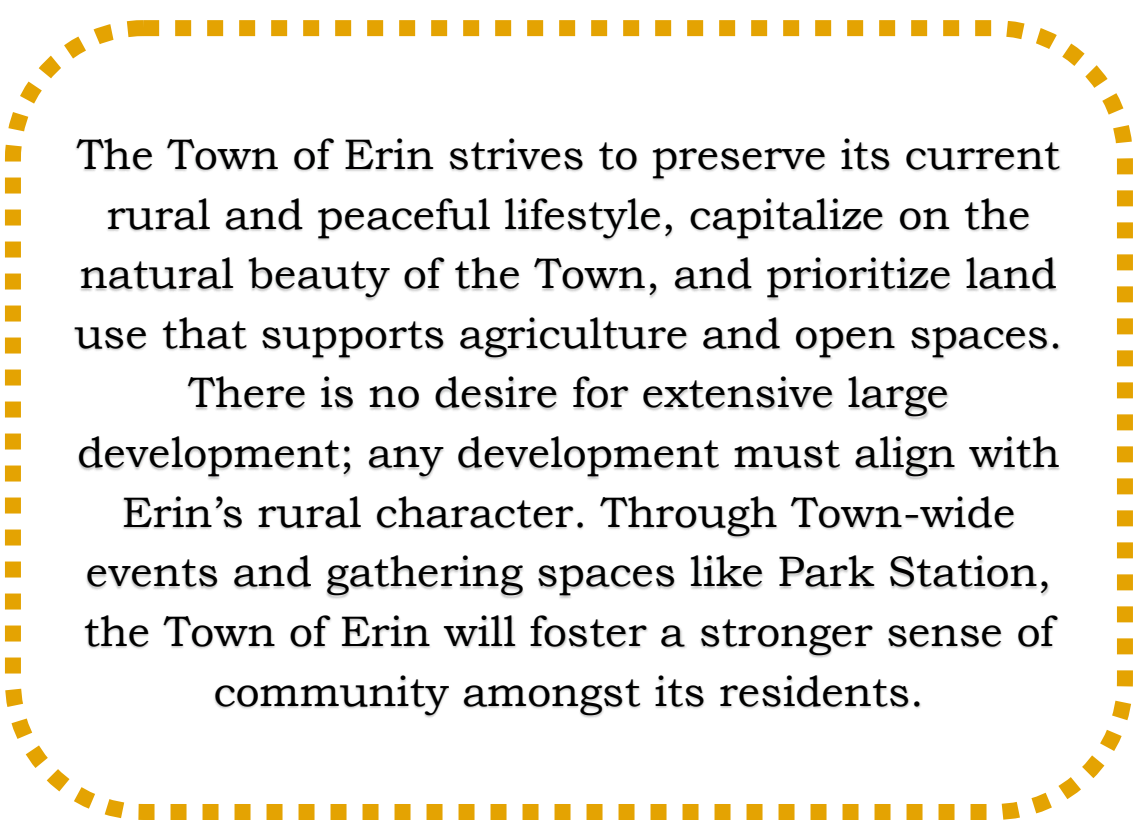
Comprehensive Plan Purpose and Goals

The below goals were identified during the Visioning Session and helped to inform the Community Vision. The Vision will serve to summarize the below goals into a short statement that can guide the Town decision-makers about the future of the Town of Erin:

1. The Town of Erin wants to preserve the close-knit, small-town, rural community feel that residents say defines Erin's culture.
2. Preserving open spaces, agricultural land, and scenic vistas is crucial to maintaining the essence of the Town of Erin and what matters to the residents.
3. Community events and gathering spaces are essential to foster neighborly relationships, a sense of belonging and ownership, and a connection to the community.
4. Residents support minor development, within the hamlet and preferred areas, that does not limit or damage the enjoyment of the small-town feel or the rural character of Erin.

Community Vision Statement

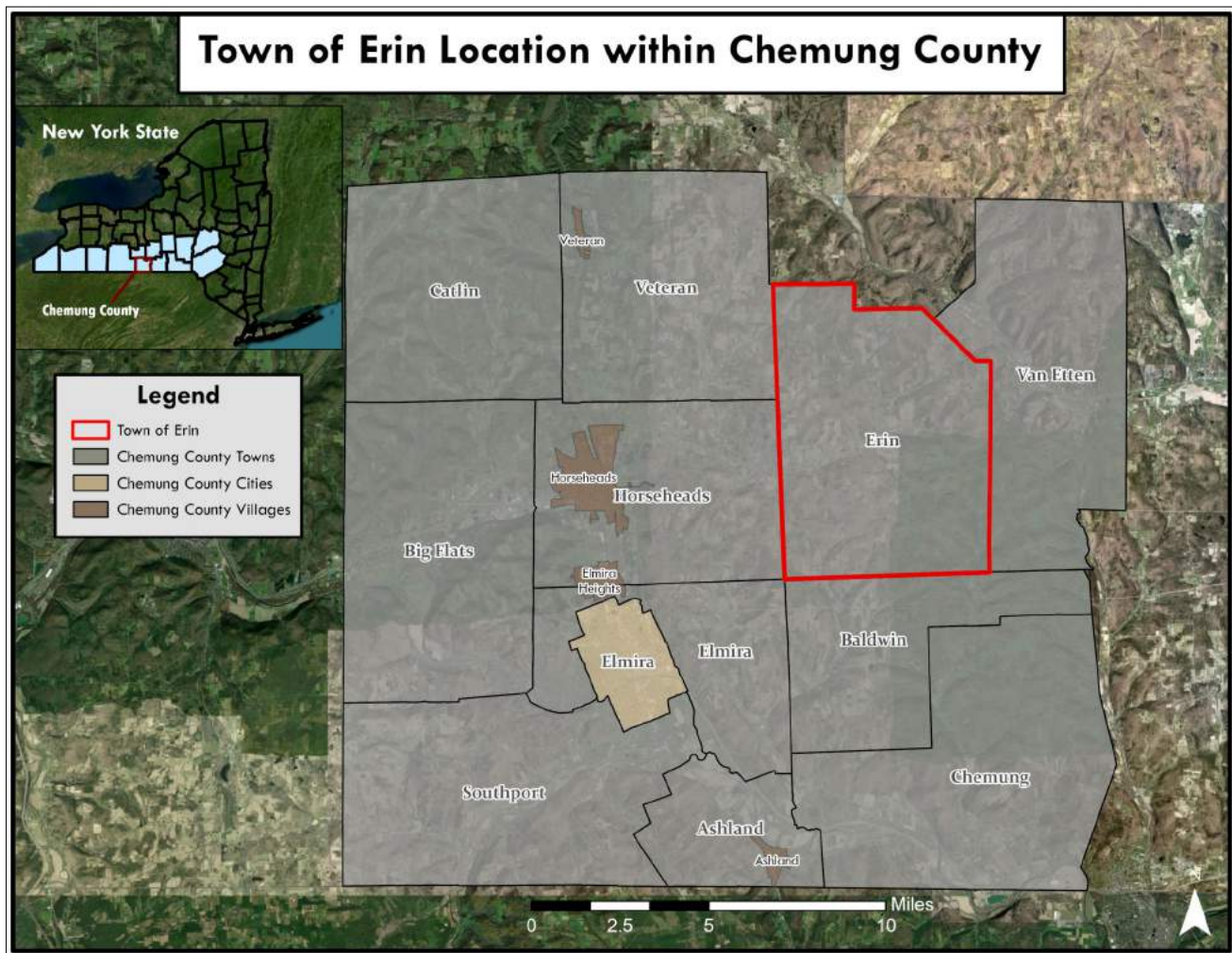
This community vision was determined through the Visioning Session and other relevant data collection. It is a summary of the feelings of the community on what they see as their future. The above reflect the values of Erin residents and were the foundation of the visioning statement.



The Town of Erin strives to preserve its current rural and peaceful lifestyle, capitalize on the natural beauty of the Town, and prioritize land use that supports agriculture and open spaces.

There is no desire for extensive large development; any development must align with Erin's rural character. Through Town-wide events and gathering spaces like Park Station, the Town of Erin will foster a stronger sense of community amongst its residents.

Introduction



Location and Town Overview

The Town of Erin is located in the northeastern part of Chemung County, neighbored by the Town of Van Etten to the east, the Town of Baldwin to the south, and the Towns of Veteran and Horseheads to the west. The Town of Cayuta, a part of Schuyler County, borders the Town to the north. The Hamlet of Erin is located near the center of the Town. Within New York State, Erin is a part of the Southern Tier Region; its location is highlighted in the inset map in the upper left corner of the above image in light blue.

According to the 2020 U.S. Census, the population in Erin was 1,806. The Town has a land area of 44.2 square miles and a water area of 0.23 square miles. The most dense pockets of population can be found in the Newtown Creek Valley, which is crossed by State Route 223 and extends west towards the Town of Horseheads.

ERIN AT A GLANCE

2020 Population	1,806
2010 Population	1,962
Town Area	44.2 sq miles
Median Age	44.3 years
Population Density	43 people/sq mile

Data: US Census American Community Survey 2021 and 2020 Census

	Median Income	Population with Bachelor's Degree or Higher	Poverty Rate	Unemployment Rate
Town of Erin	\$63,750	21.4%	10.8%	3.1%
Chemung County	\$60,219	27.8%	15.1%	6.9%
New York State	\$74,315	39.9%	13.9%	8.7%
United States	\$69,717	35.0%	12.8%	6.3%
<i>Data: US Census American Community Survey 2021 and 2020 Decennial Census</i>				

The above table details some basic demographic statistics used to characterize a community. By comparing how the Town measures to the county, state, and nation, the Town can be understood as it compares regionally and nationally. For example, the Town of Erin has a higher median income than the rest of Chemung County by \$3,531. However, the median income in the Town of Erin is lower than that of New York State and the United States. In the Town of Erin, 21.4% of its population has a Bachelor's degree or higher education, which is lower than the rates of Chemung County, New York State, and the United States. The poverty rate in the Town of Erin is lower than in Chemung County, New York State, and the United States at 10.8%. In the Town of Erin, the unemployment rate is less than half of the unemployment rate of Chemung County and almost a third of the unemployment rate of New York State.

The Comprehensive Plan

The Comprehensive Plan guides a community's public and private decision-makers regarding its future growth and development. Within the document is a wealth of demographic data, survey results, and Town residents' input that outlines the community's current state and the vision for its future. The plan focuses on the present, intermediate, and long-range needs and goals of the Town, including its protection, enhancement, growth, and community development. Issues to be addressed include population, housing, agriculture, environmental protection, natural resource use, commercial services and businesses, community parks and recreation, public facilities, utilities, transportation, and the appearance and vitality of the hamlet, both residential and rural areas. The plan will also use public input from survey data and a visioning session to identify community concerns and strengths.

The Town of Erin Comprehensive Plan is an update from the previous version, which was adopted in July 2009. Erin and its people have changed in the past 14 years, and the update of its comprehensive plan will provide new information on how the Town has changed and what its residents would like to see it become. This plan will also highlight the Town's strengths and what steps can be taken to protect the character of Erin.

Comprehensive Plan Process

Erin's previous Comprehensive Plan was completed in July of 2009. The Town approached the Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board in early 2023 regarding a contract to update the Comprehensive Plan to include new issues the Town is facing, such as solar. The process began in May of 2023 with chapters on existing conditions and the creation of the Erin Comprehensive Plan Committee on June 15, 2023. The Committee developed a survey deployed on July 21, 2023; Appendix A of this plan shows those results. Appendix B shows the survey. A visioning session was held with the community on September 14, 2023, which had 12 residents attend and offer additional input on top of the survey results to inform the Comprehensive Plan better. This plan was completed on 3/14/24.



History of the Town of Erin

Foreword

The following section was taken from the previous comprehensive plan, adopted in April of 2004.


The following information has been gleaned from a number of sources regarding the history of the Town of Erin. We have been fortunate in having ancestors, who have taken the time and interest and pride in recording the rich history of this lovely town/hamlet of Erin, New York, nestled in the hills of this beautiful County of Chemung, State of New York. Fortunately, we have an active Historical Society here in Erin, a museum full of information and artifacts, and a historical society that is alive and well. Since the Town of Erin Planning Board Committee is in the process of revising and updating the rules and regulations pertaining to the this town and its growth, I have attempted to put together a brief account of the history and events leading up to this time (April, 2004).

Early History of the Town of Erin

The Town of Erin is closing in on its Bi-centennial Anniversary! On March 29th, 1822, the Legislature of the State of New York accepted this township, and it was called "Erin." Erin was originally dubbed "Erin Go Bragh," (which means, "Erin Forever"). An Irishman, Michael Robinson, gave the new settlement this name, though Irish folk were in the minority; most of the initial settlers were Scotch and Dutch. Erin was the third township formed in Chemung County, and the log cabin home of John Banfield was the sight of the first town meeting in May 1822. The County of Chemung has not always been within the boundaries that it is now. It has been incorporated in other sections/counties of New York State, and its lines of demarcation have changed several times, before becoming what they are now. The Town of Erin had several settlements within its boundaries, the first being settled in 1815 by Basil Sperry: this section called "Red Chalk" was so named because settlers and surveyors blazed trails by marking trees with red chalk, in order to find their way to and from various locations. The area was dense with forests of pine and hemlock, and one could easily become lost without some way to mark their trails; Austin Hill was named for Ardon Austin; Park Hill for Robert and Alexander Park; Tuthill Ridge for Col. John Tuthill. Folks of Scotch descent were among the early settlers, thus came Scotchtown; there was also South Erin, Erin Center, and Harrington Corners. More ethnic groups migrated to the Erin area; IE., the Finns, Austrians, Canadians, English, Germans, Italians, Czechoslovakians and other Slavic folks. Erin is rich in the history of the immigrants that settled within its boundaries; it has been a true melting pot of folks, contributing to the diversified community it has become today.

The logging industry grew in Erin, and sawmills were built; James Rodbourn moved to Erin and built a large steam powered sawmill in 1868. This was a going concern in Erin for nearly half a century. Railroads to transport products and people to their destinations were built. The Utica, Ithaca, and Elmira Railroad transported lumber, wood made products and hides. Later the railway serving this area was the Elmira, Cortland and Northern Railroad, which was the last to serve this area. As the land became cleared, farms sprang up; grain, potatoes, apples, cider, and dairy products were now among the items shipped from Erin to markets. Other businesses such as chair makers, creameries, blacksmiths, a tannery, a basketry, and cabinet makers were among the shops that opened. Churches that developed were the Methodist Protestant, Methodist Episcopal, Presbyterian, and the Simpson Methodist Episcopal, which is the only remaining church in Erin.

As the settlers came and the population grew, so did the need for schools. In 1818 the first school was started in the area called Scotchtown. By 1890, there were 13 school districts in the Town of Erin. The history of the one and two room school houses could fill volumes all by itself. If you've had the opportunity to be a student in one of those




room school houses could fill volumes all by itself. If you've had the opportunity to be a student in one of those schools, you are indeed fortunate. The teachers in these country schools were also the music and art teacher, nurse, confident, disciplinarian, substitute parent, sports and activity coach, and any other job that needed to be filled during the course of a school day. These teachers were a rare breed!

Of course, there was time for merry making! The Churches, Schools, village stores, mills and railway stations were pretty much the centers of activity for Erin Residents. We must not forget to mention the Beckwith Hotel; it was one of the most popular places for recreation, located at Park Station. There was a ball room in the hotel and a pavilion outside for enjoyment during the summer months. The popularity of this establishment was enriched by the U. I. & E. Railroad, which was built through the township. Ezra Cornell and the Rodbourns helped finance the U. I. & E railway. If the horse and buggy couldn't get you there, you could always go by rail. Important to the history of any settlement in this wonderful nation of ours, is the United States Post Office. There were a number of post offices in Erin; one was in Erin Center; one on Route 223; another was in Herrington Corners to mention just a few. In the early 1920's, Alice Rodbourn was serving as Postmaster of the Erin Post Office. She often received requests for mail to be hand canceled on March 17th, St. Patrick's Day. Mrs. Rodbourn mentioned this to James L. Smith, who later became a Post Master of the Erin Post Office in 1938. Mr. Smith had an interest in cancellation stamps himself. In 1949, Mr. Smith engaged Russ Havens of Breesport to create a design for a cachet, appropriate for St. Patrick's Day, for his own personal use. As time went on, others became interested, such as the Chemung County American-Irish Society and the Elmira Stamp Club. In 1952, 11,000 cachets were canceled and mailed all over the United States and to some countries. In 1969 the Erin Firemen's Auxiliary saw the value of the tradition and sponsored the St. Patrick's Day cachets and cancellations. Then, in 2003, the Erin Historical Society took over the project once again. The cachets are created and hand canceled with pictorial stamps designed by Erin residents and authorized and made up by the U. S. Postal Department. These cachets can be purchased from the Erin Historical Society. The local postmaster hand cancels the mail with the special stamp on March 17th, as well as on the date of the Irish Festival in Erin. I would be remiss, if I did not mention as a part of the Erin History, the Erin Volunteer Fire Department, established in 1955, housed in a new fire station built in 1998. They have and are serving the community well.

In 1956 the Newtown Creek Watershed Project was established, by the Chemung Co. Bd. Of Supervisors. District Officers, led by Robert D. Erway, Sr. of Erin, encouraged the improvement of soil and water resources. This project led to the Park Station Dam construction, where area folks can now camp, picnic, swim, hike and bicycle. Another dam, the Federal Rd. Dam has been completed; the Greenbush Rd. Dam was not. In 1972, Erin dedicated a new Town Hall on Rt. 223; it also serves as a community center. A landmark not to be forgotten, is a cross on the hillside in the Hamlet of Erin. The cross is made of evergreen trees planted by Benjamin Nichols and Milton Campbell; the evergreen saplings were acquired from the Future Farmers of America as a conservation project. The cross can be seen from Route 223 and the air, marking Erin for pilots who fly over the hamlet.

The Town of Erin continues to grow in population, homes, and business development. Still, it maintains its air of the small, country town. The rolling hills in the fall are brilliant in their splendorous color, and the sightseers are out in large number to view the beauty; the lush green in spring and summer makes you want to linger, as you drive the winding roads through the Erin countryside; and a hard winter in Erin can be a challenge for sure! The four seasons only serve to enhance Erin's charm. One can not begin to incorporate in a couple of pages, the wonderful history of the Town of Erin. Fortunately, there were folks like James L. Smith, who was born, raised, and lived his whole life in Erin.

Mr. Smith wrote volumes of historical accounts of the beginning and growth of Erin; he was one of Erin's Town Historians and co-founder of the Erin Historical Society and Museum. Other folks who were diligent in recording the



history of Erin were Alice Cornell McDowell, Town Historian in 1927; Mrs. Lucille Rounds, past President of the Erin Historical Society; Debba Cornell, Carol Vaughn, and another Past President of the Erin Historical Society, Mrs. Kathleen (Kitty) Schanbacher. These are only a few of the men and women, who have made sure that the history of Erin would not be lost.

Suzanne M. Murphy— Erin Town Historian— April 2004

Historical Attractions

From the previous Comprehensive Plan (page 37):

- The Erin Baptist Church
- List of Categories of Historical Interest in the Erin Historical Society Museum
 - Patricia Wainwright, Curator for the Erin Historical Museum, compiled this list April 23, 2009:
 - Family Histories – 1970's and 80's; obituaries and marriages
 - Town Clerk Minutes of early meetings
 - Tax Records – 1800' and early 1900's
 - Justice of the Peace Records – 1800's
 - Cemetery Maps and Listing for each one.
 - Rodbourn (stores) Employee Pay Records
 - Rodbourn General Store Inventory
 - Maps of Erin (for different years)
 - Maps of several other Chemung Co. Towns
 - Maps of Chemung County
 - Scrapbooks of Erin and Van Etten, New York
 - Railroad artifacts and notebooks
 - Musical Instruments
 - Textiles
 - Handmade farm tools and other old/antique tools
 - Cooper Tools
 - Cobbler Tools
 - Chair making information
 - Wood Working Tools
 - Model of Elmira Civil War Prison Camp
 - Toys (old/antique)
 - Children's Books
 - Research Books

Demographics

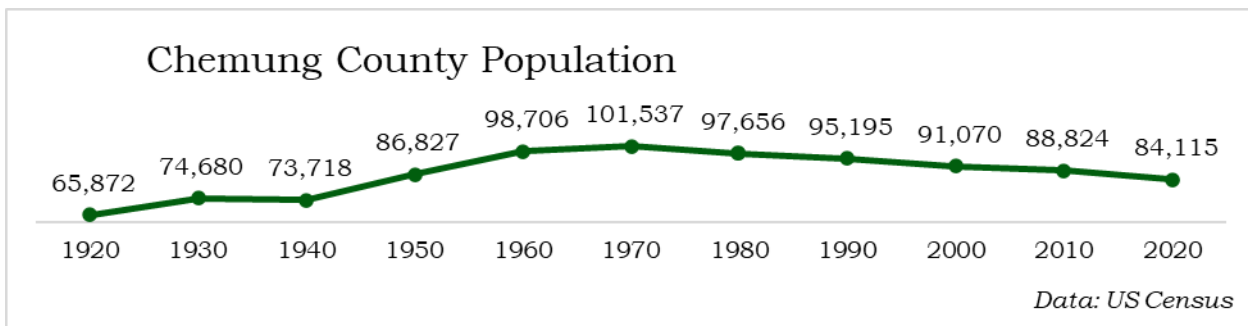
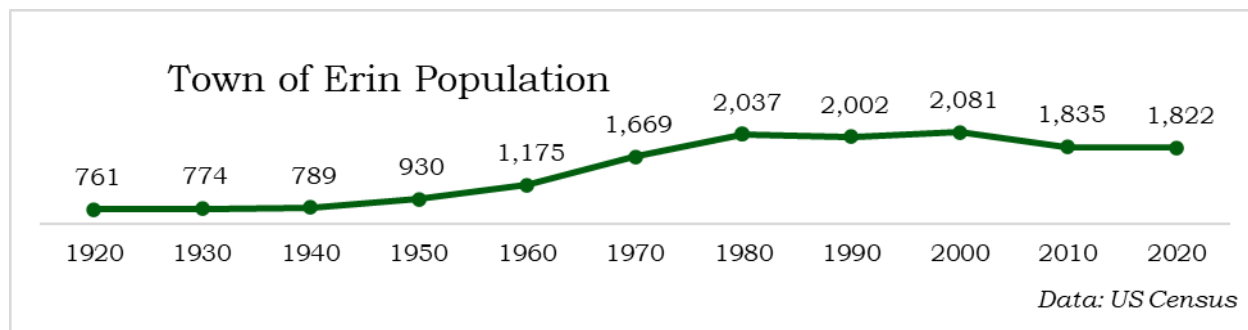
Municipality	Population				Percent Change 1990-2020
	1990	2000	2010	2020	
Town of Ashland	1,966	1,951	1,985	1,478	-24.82%
Town of Catlin	2,626	2,649	2,618	2,541	-3.24%
Town of Erin	2,002	2,081	1,835	1,822	-8.99%
Town of Van Etten	1,507	1,491	1,557	1,539	2.12%
Town of Veteran	3,468	3,271	3,313	3,355	-3.26%
Chemung County	95,195	91,070	88,824	84,115	-11.64%

Data: US Census 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020

Population

The 2020 US Census shows that the Town of Erin has 1,822 residents. The Town's population has decreased by 8.99% from 1990 to 2020. In the same period, Chemung County experienced an 11.64% decrease in population. As seen in the above chart, many rural towns in the area are also experiencing a loss of people. The population decrease does present an opportunity for growth, as this allows new residents to move into the vacated houses and bring the population to the area if they can be attracted to move to Erin.

Over the last 100 years, the population of the Town of Erin has flourished and decreased in response to changes in the community. The Town's population grew steadily from 1920 until around 1980, and it has been on a relative plateau for the past 40 years. This population trend indicates the Town's population is stable if decreasing slightly. The stability of Erin's population since the 1980s is positive in that the last 40 years have seen a relatively stable population with no significant decline in residents leaving to live elsewhere. The population of Chemung County is much larger than that of the Town of Erin and has been experiencing a steady decline since the 1970s, losing around 17% of its population between 1970 and 2020.



Population Pyramids

The charts to the right of this text are known as population pyramids. These charts are used to visualize the age and sex of a population. The youngest are at the bottom of the chart, and the oldest are at the top. The shape these pyramids take can demonstrate and help to visualize trends within the community. The data for these charts comes from the 2021 American Community Survey of the United States Census.

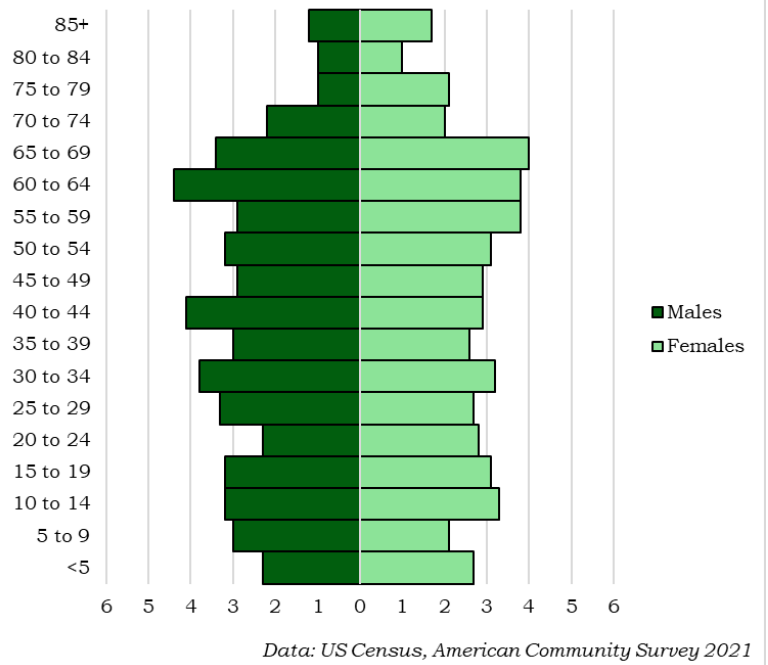
The shape of Chemung County resembles a pillar, which indicates that the population trend is stationary. A stationary population trend shows low death and birth rates. This type of population will remain stable unless there is a sudden change in birth or death rates within the studied population.

The Town of Erin's population pyramid is similar to Chemung County's but has some irregularities due to its smaller population. From the below chart detailing the population within the Town of Erin, there is a lower concentration of residents aged 25 to 39. The fact that the Town of Erin has proportionally fewer residents within this age range begs the question, "Why?"

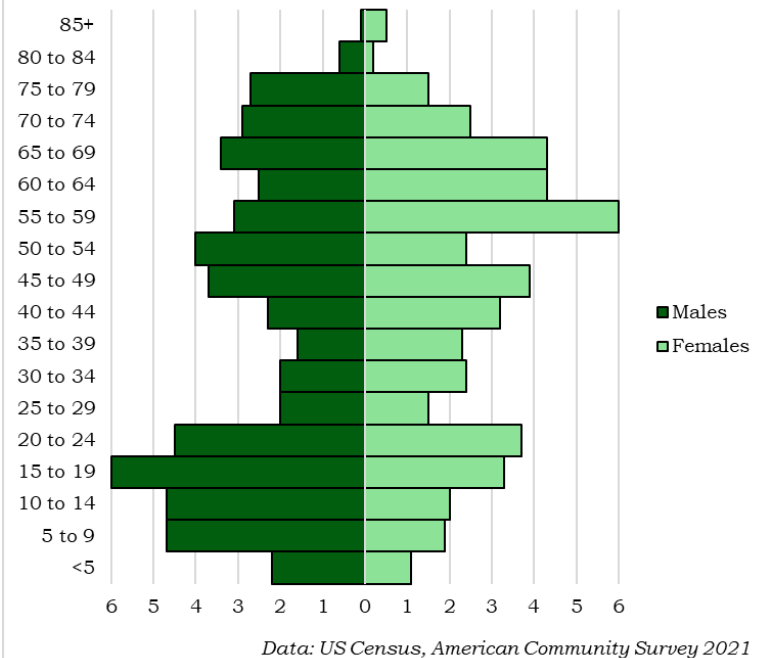
When a town is missing a specific demographic, it can be due to several factors. Residents within the 25- to 39-year age range are typically starting their careers or in the middle of their careers and potentially are starting a family or having small children. If this demographic is missing from the Town, it means that their needs are not being met in a manner that would encourage them to stay or desire to move to Erin from another municipality. Generally, those within this age range decide where to further their career and settle down to raise their family.

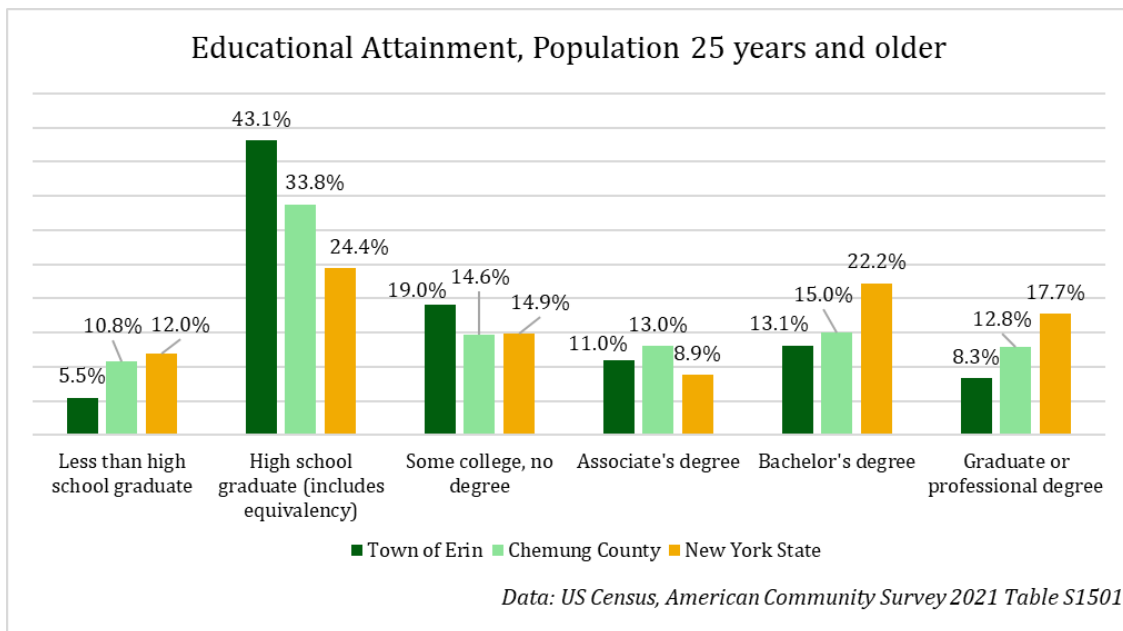
Missing this age demographic allows Erin to reflect on what aspects of the Town can be strengthened or advertised to encourage this demographic to stay in Erin or move from another municipality.

Chemung County Population, by Age



Town of Erin Population, by Age





Educational Attainment

Within the Town of Erin, the percentage of the population with a high school degree or equivalent is higher than that of Chemung County and New York State. Around 32% of residents have an associate's degree or higher, which is lower than the percentage of those with an associate's degree or higher in Chemung County, which is 41%. This data shows that residents within the Town of Erin are slightly more likely to have their high school degree or equivalent as compared to education through college. This data could indicate a higher concentration of tradespeople and other occupations that do not require a college degree.

The table below shows the educational attainment of different age groupings across the Town of Erin, Chemung County, and New York State. This chart highlights that the percentage of the population with a high school degree or higher is higher in the Town of Erin than in Chemung County and New York State in all age groupings. The residents of the Town in all age groupings (except the age group 35 to 44 years) have a lower percentage of the population with bachelor's degrees or higher than both Chemung County and the State of New York.

Population Range	Town of Erin		Chemung County		New York State	
	High school graduate or higher	Bachelor degree or higher	High school graduate or higher	Bachelor degree or higher	High school graduate or higher	Bachelor degree or higher
Population 25 to 34 years	98.0%	15.1%	85.4%	36.6%	92.9%	49.6%
Population 35 to 44 years	98.3%	34.1%	89.4%	27.9%	89.1%	46.5%
Population 45 to 64 years	94.4%	22.6%	90.7%	26.6%	87.5%	36.5%
Population 65 years and over	91.2%	15.8%	89.5%	23.5%	84.0%	32.3%

Data: US Census, American Community Survey 2021 Table S1501



Demographics Recommendations

The following recommendations are for all topics under the demographics section. Recommendations were developed by evaluating statements made at the visioning session, in the survey responses, and based on best practices in planning for towns of similar size.

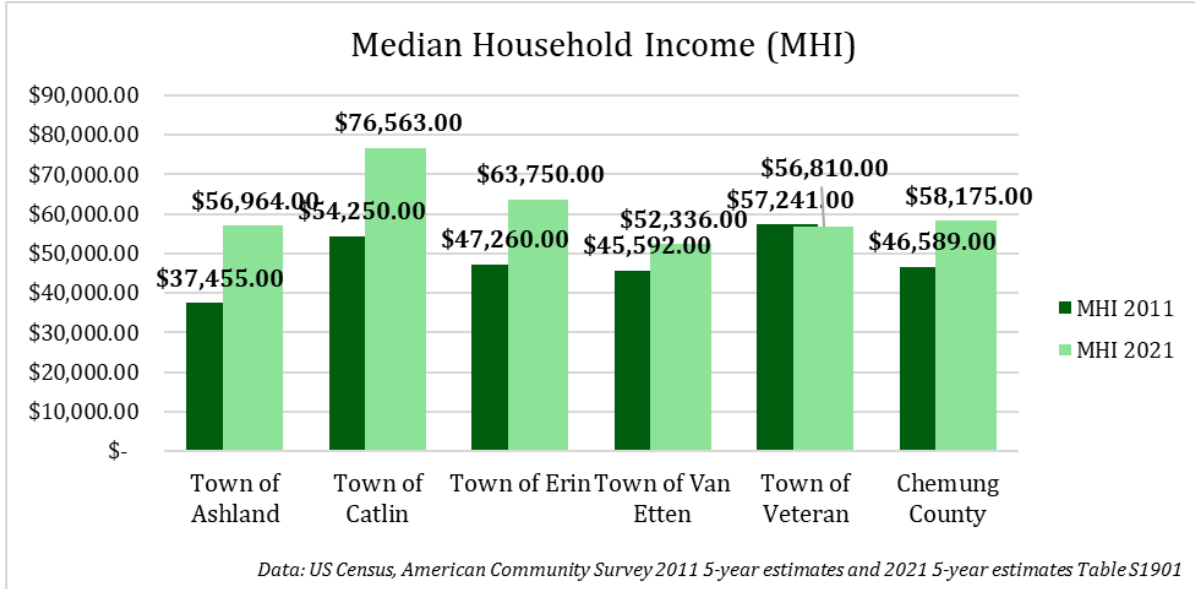
Maintain Population

Like many rural communities in upstate New York, the population within the Town of Erin is decreasing. To maintain the population and make the community attractive to its residents, the Town should ensure stable employment, affordable housing, and appropriate services. Erin's population isn't decreasing as rapidly as the rest of the county and has been steady over the past few decades. It is crucial to maintain this population to replace those that age and depart, and ensure those that move to Erin are invested in the Town and see a future as its resident.

Maintain Town Character

Maintaining Erin's small-town character can also help promote resident retention. The maintenance of this character can be achieved through a wide variety of measures and will be most successful if several methods are used. For example, the zoning should reflect the desire to preserve agricultural land and the residential area of the hamlet. Erin is a rural community and the residents want to maintain their rural lifestyle. Prioritizing the preservation of open space, farmland, natural beauty, and critical environment areas will ensure the protection of Erin's rural character. The town should continue to invest in its existing community gathering locations. Older residents yearn for the community events they once brought their children to and once partook in as children. Additionally, the Town can focus on events to celebrate its history with cultural and community events such as parades or a picnic that allows residents to congregate and get to know their neighbors.

Economy



Income and Poverty

According to the 2021 American Community Survey, the median household income in the Town of Erin is \$63,750, higher than that of Chemung County, whose median household income is \$58,175. Each town above has the median household income from the 2021 American Community Survey and the 2011 American Community Survey. The change in median household income can be analyzed by looking at the two datasets apart by ten years. Over ten years, the Town of Erin has increased its median household income from \$47,260 to \$63,750, an increase of 26%.

Within the Town of Erin, residents experience an unemployment rate of 3.1%, over half the unemployment rate within Chemung County at 6.9%. Compared to other municipalities, Erin's unemployment rate is below average. Erin's poverty rate is two-thirds the rate of Chemung County but comparatively similar to other nearby towns. According to the Comprehensive Plan survey, 3.5% of respondents were unemployed.

Poverty and Unemployment Rates		
Municipality	Poverty Rate	Unemployment Rate
Town of Ashland	11.0%	6.3%
Town of Catlin	7.7%	6.1%
Town of Erin	10.8%	3.1%
Town of Van Etten	11.7%	2.8%
Town of Veteran	5.8%	4.0%
Chemung County	15.1%	6.9%
<i>Data: US Census, American Community Survey 2021</i>		

Employment

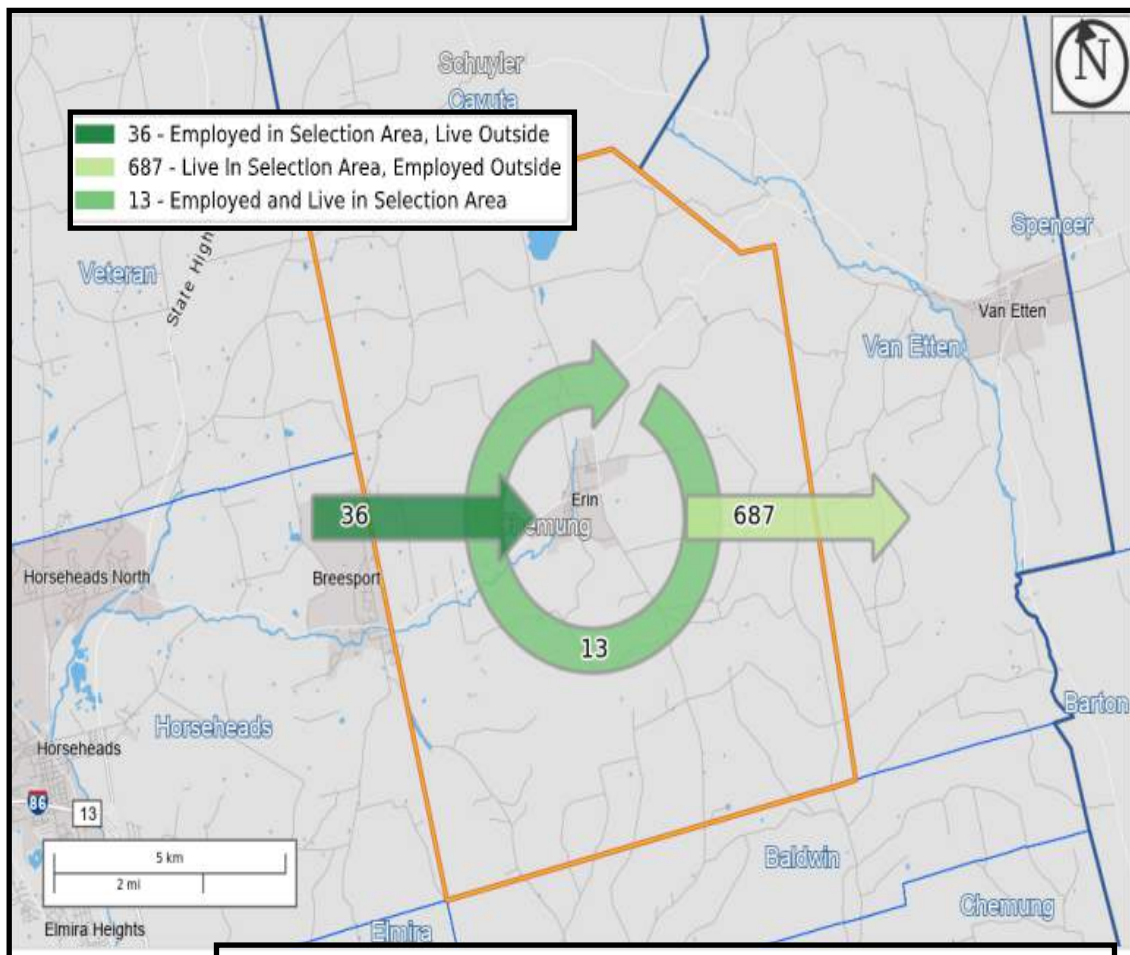
According to the Comprehensive Plan Survey, 54.9% of respondents were full-time employees, 3.8% were part-time employees, 3% were unemployed, 24.8% were retired, 9% were self-employed or a business owner, and 4.5% categorized their employment status as “other.”

Many who live within the Town do not work within the Town. Most workers live within the Town but are employed outside the Town (687). Thirty-six individuals live outside of the Town but work inside the Town (687). Thirty-six individuals live outside of the Town but work inside the Town, and 13 residents also work in the Town they live within. It is important to note that this data does not account for self-employed individuals who work in their residences. The inflow/outflow analysis below considers both public and private sector jobs.

There are many locations where individuals travel for work within the region, with almost 80% of those traveling to work having a commute of 35 minutes or less (Data: US Census, American Community Surveys 2021 B08303). A 35-minute commute includes Watkins Glen, Corning, Big Flats, Elmira, Southport, and Sayre, PA. There are several smaller towns within the commute radius, and of those 687 individuals who work outside of Erin, there are several municipalities where they could work within this radius.

What is your employment status?

Full-time employee	54.9%
Part-time employee	3.8%
Unemployed	3.0%
Retired	24.8%
Self-employed/ Business Owner	9.0%
Other	4.5%



Data: US Census, Center for Economic Studies, LEHD, OnTheMap Application 2020

Occupation and Industry

Workers who live in the Town of Erin are employed in various occupations. Of the civilian population 16 years and older employed, just over a third fall under the management, business, science, and arts occupations. Other common occupations are in the sectors of production, transportation, and material moving.

Among the specific industries an individual could be employed within, the field of educational services, health care, and social assistance has 27.9% of the civilian employed population. The second most prevalent industry is manufacturing, with 17.7% of the civilian employed population, followed by retail trade at 10.6%.

US Census ACS 2021: Occupation and Industry

Occupation		
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	896	
Management, business, science, and arts occupations	309	34.5%
Service occupations	149	16.6%
Sales and office occupations	162	18.1%
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	78	8.7%
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	198	22.1%
Industry		
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	896	
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	22	2.5%
Construction	44	4.9%
Manufacturing	159	17.7%
Wholesale trade	12	1.3%
Retail trade	95	10.6%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	48	5.4%
Information	16	1.8%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	32	3.6%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	41	4.6%
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	250	27.9%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	59	6.6%
Other services, except public administration	58	6.5%
Public administration	60	6.7%
Data: US Census American Community Survey 2021		

Survey respondents were asked “What is your current industry of employment?”. All 133 respondents answered this question and their responses were then grouped into the categories provided by the census for a more sufficient comparison of the data.

Unlike the 2021 5-Year ACS data, the largest occupation from the survey respondents is those within service occupations at 36.1%, with the added category of retired/unemployed reporting at second at 21.8%. Among the specific industries an individual could be employed within the field of educational services, health care, and social assistance has 21.8% of the survey respondents, once again the top industry but tying with retired/unemployed. The second highest industry among employed survey respondents are professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services with 10.5% and wholesale trade at third with 8.3%.

Survey Responses: Occupation and Industry

Occupation		
Survey respondent occupation and employment status	133	
Management, business, science, and arts occupations	13	9.8%
Service occupations	48	36.1%
Sales and office occupations	22	16.5%
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	8	6.0%
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	13	9.8%
Retired/Unemployed	29	21.8%
Industry		
Survey respondent industry and employment status	133	
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	6	4.5%
Construction	3	2.3%
Manufacturing	7	5.3%
Wholesale trade	1	0.8%
Retail trade	7	5.3%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	4	3.0%
Information	0	0%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	10	7.5%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	24	18.0%
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	29	21.8%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	6	4.5%
Other services, except public administration	1	0.8%
Public administration	6	4.5%
Retired/Unemployed	29	21.8%
Data: Erin Comprehensive Plan Survey 2023		

Housing

The most predominant type of housing within Erin based on property tax codes is the single-family year-round residential, with 355 total 725 parcels. The next most common type of housing within Erin is Rural Residential with Acreage and Mobile Homes, which demonstrate a variety of living situations. There are a few other uses, but Erin needs more multi-family housing, showing only five parcels throughout the town. This lack of multi-family housing is not uncommon in rural areas and is consistent with the town's size. Nationally, affordable housing is a problem, but rural areas must deal with this differently than cities. Mobile homes are a great affordable housing option, of which Erin has a significant number.

Residential Properties					
Property Classification and Code	Parcel Count	Total Assessed Value	County Taxable Assessed Value	Muni Taxable Assessed Value	School Taxable Assessed Value*
One Family Year-Round Residential (210)	355	32,387,823	31,340,661	31,516,995	25,349,366
Two Family Year-Round Residential (220)	2	173,780	173,780	173,780	152,000
Rural Residence with Acreage (240)	168	22,762,627	21,926,616	22,040,658	18,886,030
Primary Residential, also used in Agricultural Production (241)	5	747,550	628,838	628,838	517,970
Recreational Use (242)	1	216,700	178,948	178,948	194,920
Seasonal Residences (260)	11	552,606	552,606	552,606	530,826
Mobile Home (270)	173	10,216,797	9,756,091	9,814,011	7,053,127
Multi Mobile Homes (271)	5	441,150	408,309	408,309	270,509
Residential, Multi-Purpose Multi Structure (280)	5	757,650	748,938	748,938	591,490

**Adjusted for STAR Program*

Data: New York Office of Real Property Tax Services 2022

Length of Residency

An important determining factor for the type of housing an individual or family group needs is the time they have already spent in the Town. Respondents of the survey were, for the most part, established as residents of the Town. Of respondents, approximately 70% had lived in Erin for their entire lives, or at minimum 20 years. It is also important to note that some newcomers responded to the survey, with around 7% of respondents only living in Erin for four years or less.

How long have you lived in the Town of Erin?

Less than 1 year	2.3%
1-4 years	6.8%
5-9 years	9%
10-19 years	15.8%
Over 20 years	46.6%
My whole life	18.8%
I don't live in the Town of Erin	0.8%

Type of Residency

Survey respondents were asked a series of questions gauging their housing and residency. Of those who own their homes, several residents of the Town of Erin also own real estate outside of their primary residence. On the survey 12.9% (15 respondents) of the respondents answered that they do own real estate outside of their primary residence within the Town of Erin.

The majority of survey respondents live on some variation of a single family residence. With 48.1% on a lot less than 10 acres and 21.8% on a lot over 10+ acres with no agricultural use and 20.3% also on a lot of 10+ acres but with agricultural use.

Type of Residence		
Data collected from Erin Comprehensive Plan Survey 2023		133 Respondents
Single Family residence on under 10 acres	64	48.1%
Single Family residence on 10+ acres, no ag use	29	21.8%
Single Family residence on 10+ acres, with ag use	27	20.3%
Two Family residence on under 10 acres	3	2.3%
Three Family residence on under 10 acres	0	0.0%
Multiple residences on a single property	2	1.5%
Residential with commercial use	2	1.5%
Seasonal Property	0	0.0%
Trailer Park	1	0.8%
Mobile Home Park	1	0.8%
Mobile Home	1	0.8%
Mobile Home renting the lot	3	2.3%

Zoning and Restrictions

Survey respondents were asked if they are familiar with the zoning and zoning restrictions. The majority, 62.4%, of respondents are familiar with their property's zoning classification; 18% said No and 19.5% said they are unsure.

When asked "Are there any zoning restrictions that limit what you would like to do on your property, or those that reside on your property?" the majority, 50.4% answered No. While 39.8% said they are unsure, 9.8% answered yes and were then asked what are those restrictions. The restrictions had to do with size restrictions for livestock, expansions on existing structures, and the building of new structures. 77.4% of respondents do not currently own any farm animals such as horses, cows, goats, and chickens. The majority of respondents 67.7% answered zoning is not preventing them from owning "farm animals", 25.6% answered unsure and 6.9% answered yes.

Permit Data

The Code Enforcement Officer of the Town of Erin provided data on building permits that were distributed within the Town between November 4, 2019 and February 6, 2023. This is a smaller sample size of data, but it does provide some insight as to the type of development that occurs within the Town. The data was organized into several categories that were analyzed: type of permit, permit category, and date. Permits were categorized as either commercial or residential. There were a total of 114 permits that were included in this analysis, eight of those were designated as commercial permits, and 106 of those were residential. Within the Town of Erin, there is more residential development than commercial development. Beyond the designation of whether a permit is commercial or residential, the following

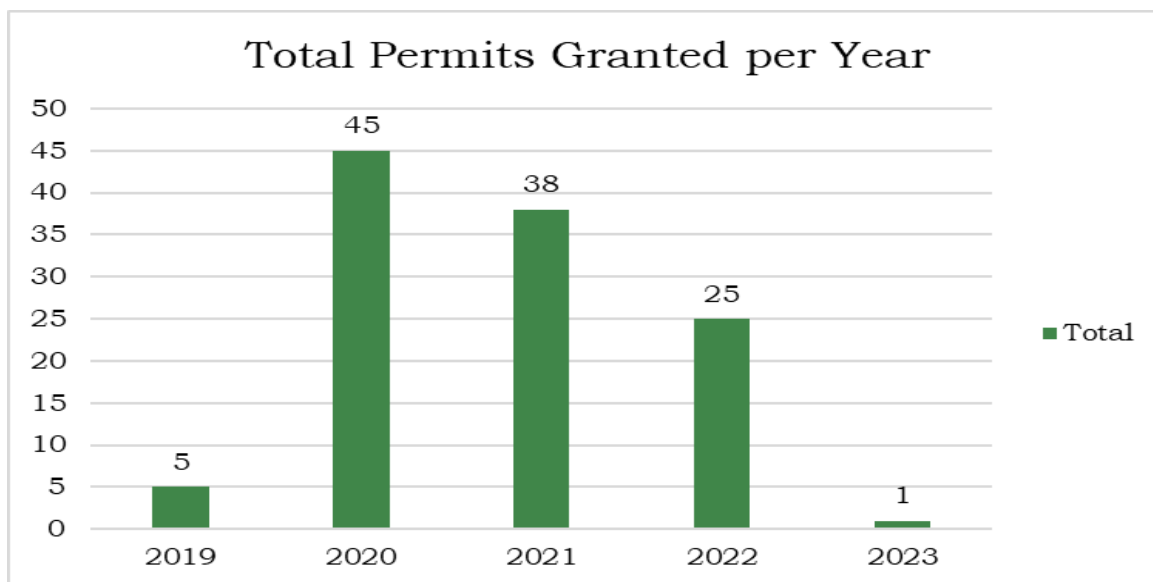
Permit Category	Number
Accessory Building	39
Addition	3
Alteration	15
Deck	10
Demolition	2
Garage	2
New Building	1
New House	11
Pool AG	4
Renewal	1
Roof	18
Shed	2
Siding	4
Solar Farm	1
Wood Stove	1

table denotes the type of development and the amount that were permitted for during the time window analyzed.

From this data, it is apparent that the most common type of permit granted within the Town is for an accessory building, such as a shed, or a pole barn. There were 39 permits granted for accessory buildings over the time period analyzed. The next most common type of permit that was granted was for roofs; this included the installation of new roofing over an existing layer, putting in a new roof, or improvements to an existing roof.

The category receiving the next most permits is alterations, which includes a variety of different types of work. Among these are upgrades to cell phone towers, installation of HVAC system in a residential home, renovation or remodeling an existing structure, the installation of windows, and the building of a handicap ramp, among other types of alterations.

Below is bar chart that shows the total number of permits that were granted each year that was included in this study. The data for 2019 and 2023 are incomplete, but the data from 2020-2022 is complete and shows that the number of permits granted has decreased since 2020. The total number of permits for each year is displayed above the bar for the corresponding year.





Economy Recommendations

The following recommendations are for all topics under the economy section. Recommendations were developed by evaluating statements made at the visioning session, in the survey responses, and based on best practices in planning for towns of similar size.

Preserve Open Spaces

The Planning Board and Town Board should review the zoning law to determine if the current zoning supports open spaces and ways that it could be updated to support open spaces. The preservation of open spaces could be achieved by increasing the minimum lot size for residential land. Preserving open spaces will also maintain Erin's rural character and retain its rural lifestyle the residents enjoy.

Meet Housing Demands

As the population within Erin ages, it is important to seek alternative housing solutions for older residents. Most of Erin's housing stock is single-family homes, which may be too large or expensive for retirees or recent graduates. The Town needs to have appropriate housing of several varieties to promote migration to the area. These demands for varied housing can be met while maintaining Erin's rural charm.

Support Reasonable Development

It is vital to the residents of the Town of Erin to maintain the town's small-town character and rural atmosphere. However, they do understand the importance of supporting local development. Several forms of commerce could bring jobs, bolster the economy, and still maintain the rural charm of Erin. The town should pursue policies and actions that encourage the type of development residents wish to see within the preferred areas.

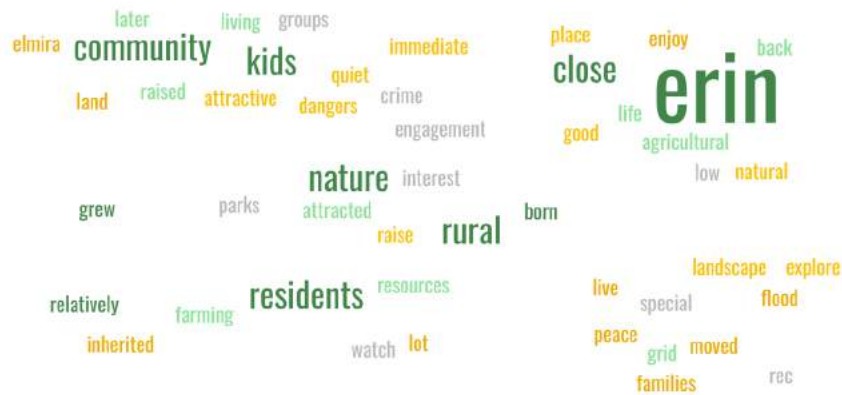
Most popular developments from survey:

- Locally owned general store/Convenience store
- Restaurants/Cafe
- Farmer's Market/Produce stands

Support Code Enforcement

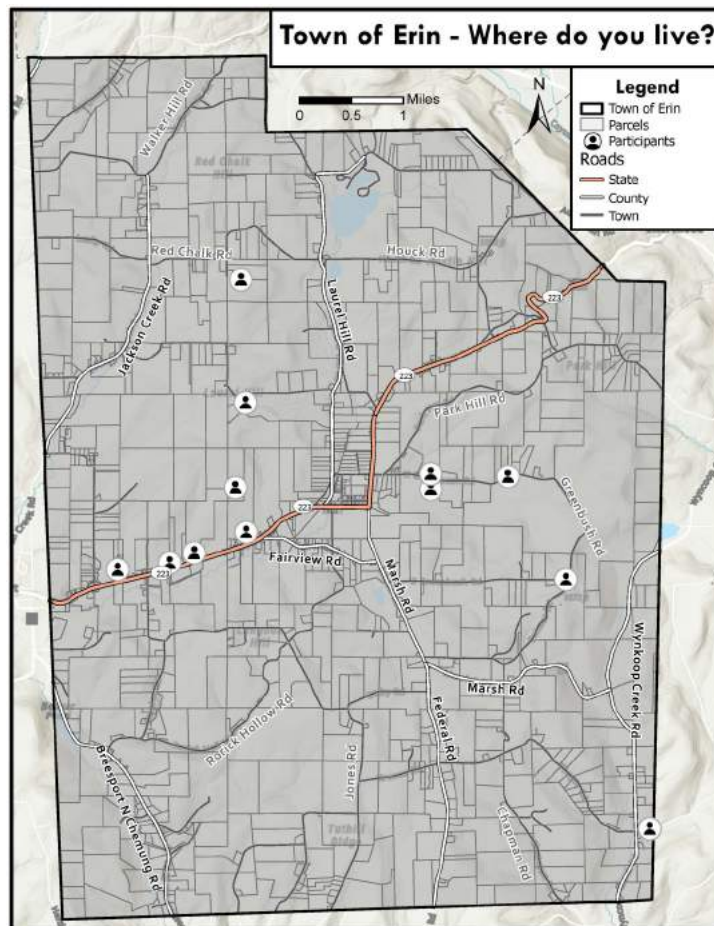
To ensure that the Town code is enforced, houses and properties are looked after, and new developments can be monitored, the code enforcement officer should be supported through training. Encouraging and facilitating the code officer's training will allow them to conduct inspections and enforce the code on all properties within the Town. Ensuring that the code enforcement officer has the means and capabilities of fulfilling their duties will uplift residents' enjoyment of living in Erin by protecting the beautiful rural viewsheds and vistas they cherish.

Quality of Life



Insights from the Visioning Session

During the Visioning Session, residents could discuss and define what makes Erin the unique town they all love. Twelve residents of the Town of Erin attended and participated in the Visioning Session activities. The above word cloud visualizes the reason why residents moved to Erin and why they stayed. Below is a map used as an introductory activity to understand where residents who attended the Visioning Session lived. While this is not representative of the entirety of Erin, it gives valuable information concerning the opinions and focuses of those who participated in the Session.





Strengths of the Town of Erin

During the Visioning Session, residents were asked to discuss what they found as the strengths of the Town of Erin. The answers could be separated into two overarching categories: the culture of the Town and its location. Regarding the location of the Town, attendees of the session discussed the ease of access to any amenities they would need due to the major roadways that connect Erin to the rest of the county. These highways allow residents to quickly travel to nearby cities like Elmira, Corning, Watkins Glen, and Sayre. The location of Erin also allows easy access to tourist hot spots in the Finger Lakes region, with many state parks, wineries, and other tourist spots within a short drive of the Town. An additional strength frequently mentioned for the Town is the peaceful and quiet rural community within Erin. Residents enjoy the landscape, opportunities for an outdoor lifestyle, and the diverse wildlife within the Town. This culture is considered a strength of Erin and a source of pride.

When asked, “What do you like most about living in Erin? (Please choose no more than three items)”. Respondents choose “peace and quiet” 67.2%, “beauty of natural surroundings” 59.5%, “good neighbors and sense of community spirit” 41.2%, and “low density of people” 42.1%, as their top strengths about living in Erin. Residents love living in Erin due to its rural lifestyle and see that as the Town’s strongest strength.

Weaknesses of the Town of Erin

Residents were also asked during the Visioning Session what they saw as the weaknesses of the Town of Erin. The weaknesses of the Town were challenging to divide into two distinct categories like the strengths were. Residents had a lengthy discussion on what they viewed as Erin's weaknesses. The first weakness mentioned was the effect of the State on the Town; residents are concerned about losing home rule. This concern comes from, among other reasons, specific laws passed statewide that affect local municipalities. Solar is the current example, and residents have concerns about how statewide measures will impact and alter the culture and landscape of Erin.

Another concern residents had was the uncertain future that awaits Erin. In the past, the Town was primarily agricultural, with many children choosing to remain and live on their parent's land. Now, the younger generation is not staying in the Town, and the prevalence of agriculture has decreased over the years. Residents recognize that there are ways to encourage the future of Erin to maintain its rural and peaceful culture while still moving forward.

Erin’s unique challenge is that it contains two school districts, which pull children of the Town into two separate schools and develop different identities depending on their school district. This division leads to a fractured sense of identity within the Town. Instead of identifying as a town resident, individuals may associate their school district more closely with their identity. Residents are concerned that the Town's identity will continue to fade with a lack of outreach, communication, and community involvement in municipal proceedings. The Town needs reasons and events where residents can unite and develop a sense of community.

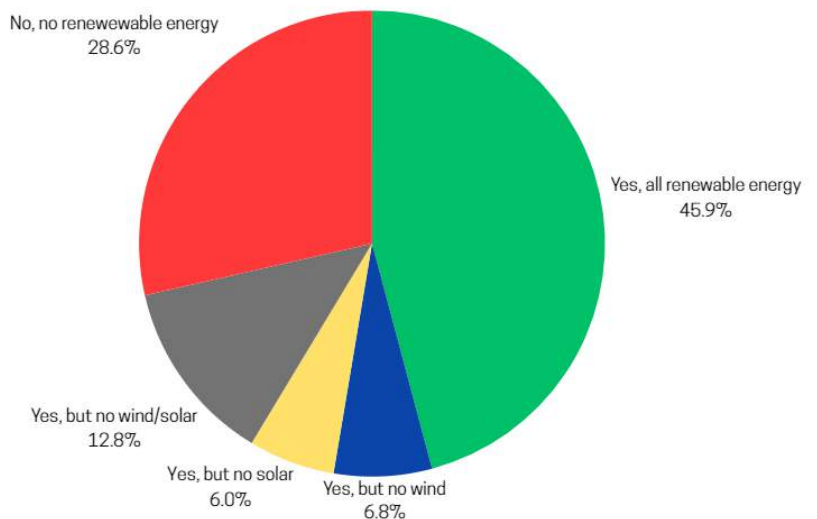
Throughout the comprehensive plan process, residents have been vocal about numerous other issues that face the town. Many residents have expressed concerns about the deteriorating road quality and the excessive speeding and reckless driving along 223 and secondary roads. Another weakness residents discuss about Erin is the presence of drugs in the community. In the survey many state strong concerns about the rise of drugs, drug addicts, and drug relating issues that harms the sense of place in Erin. These relate to a greater weakness residents see in the town which is a lack of police presence. They wish to see an increase of policing to reduce endangerment of their town from reckless driving and drug related issues to preserve and promote the peace and quiet rural lifestyle they have in Erin today.

Code enforcement and property maintenance was mentioned frequently throughout the survey in open ended questions. This is an issue residents want the town to greatly improve on. The sights of junk and not well kept property inflicts on residents' viewsheds and vistas of the beautiful natural landscapes they enjoy.

Issues of Erin's Future

The survey highlights what respondents think are the most important issues facing Erin in the future. Economic development is the least important concern, residents enjoy the rural lifestyle of Erin and find the Town's location suitable for their needs. The most important issues have to do with the preservation and protection of farmland, natural resources, and water quality. The natural resources and viewsheds of Erin are the strengths residents admire the most. Another high concern of the respondents is the increase of property tax as the town already has higher property taxes compared to other towns and the cost of living has been increasing.

Large-scale commercial solar development is a divided issue among the residents. Even if the majority of the residents are anti-solar development they see it as inevitable and wish to regulate the development. The survey respondents were asked "Do you think that the Town should encourage alternative renewable energy development in the Town, such as wind and solar?". The respondents answered as strictly anti-solar, 5.2%, strictly anti-wind, 7.8%, anti both, 13%, against any form of development, 26.1%, and support all renewable energy, 45.9%. Those who oppose renewable energy development do so as they believe it will hinder the rural lifestyle of Erin by harming the natural resources, open space, and beautiful viewsheds and vistas. Throughout this comprehensive planning process, residents have articulated that they have no major concerns about individual residential installments and uses of renewable energy; the concerns and the opposition is towards large scale commercial solar development.



Moderately important issues respondents for Erin's future are senior housing, affordable housing, zoning issues, and a plan for controlled growth. Residents do not want their rural lifestyle to be hindered by the increased cost of living, zoning requirements, or uncontrolled development. These issues can threaten the way of life they value from living in Erin. When asked, 54.1% of respondents answered No to the question "Do you think the Town should actively try to attract a senior housing project?".

The least important issues the respondents see Erin facing in the future are economic and industrial development as the majority oppose any significant increase. Residents want to retain Erin's primarily residential character and rural lifestyle.

Recreational Opportunities

Erin is fortunate to have a Town and a County park within its borders. The Town of Erin maintains a small park next to the Town Hall on Route 223, which includes a playground for the children of the Town. Above is a photo of this park. In addition to this Town park is the Chemung County Park Station Recreation Facility on Beaver Pond Road in Erin. This park is wildly popular with residents all over Chemung County, and Erin is very proud of its existence and history intertwined with the Town. The Town also has the Town of Erin park behind the fire station which has been an essential recreation location for the town.



Picture of the Town Park by the Town Hall on Route 223

Park Station is a campground with 40 campsites, some located right along the 100-acre lake. It is a popular vacation destination for residents and visitors alike, with several activities available, including hiking, swimming, camping, boating, picnicking, fishing, and bicycling. Chemung County maintains the park with several pavilions and campsites that can be rented. Park Station has long been a place for Erin's residents to gather and enjoy spending time outdoors with family and friends.

Survey respondents were asked "How many times each year do you use the recreational facilities available in the Town, including Park Station?". The majority, 63.6%, of respondents use the Town's recreational facilities 1 through 9 times a year. A little less than a fifth, 18.9%, said they never utilize these facilities. The remaining 17.4% use them the most, at least 10 times or more each year. The town should continue to invest in the existing recreational facilities that so many residents enjoy throughout the year.

The Erin museum contains decades of historical artifacts and history that have made Erin the lovely place it is to live. Residents donate artifacts and money to support the museum and are fond of having a place to commemorate and appreciate their past and their ancestors.



Picture of Park Station entrance sign



Town Services

Utilities

The Town of Erin has access to telephone and electric service. The electric infrastructure of the Town is owned and maintained by the New York Electric and Gas Company (NYSEG). However, residents can purchase electric service from NYSEG or other vendors. Verizon owns the local telephone infrastructure; however, there is limited cellular telephone service throughout the Town with any provider. NYSEG also provides natural gas to the Town, but the service area is limited to the low-lying areas of the Town and along the highway corridor. Like natural gas, cable service is limited to the highway and major road corridors and includes Road Runner broadband Internet access. In recent years, the Town has successfully expanded these services to be accessible throughout Erin but residents still report reliability and connectivity issues, particularly with cell service. Erin does not have public water or sewer service within the Town. Respondents were asked “Would you support the Town in exploring municipal water service to assure water quality in the Hamlet area, using grant funding where possible? “. The results of this question are 54.3% for No and 45.7% for Yes. Residential properties have individual water wells and septic systems, which should be monitored for the health and safety of residents.

Town Government

The Town is governed by the Town Supervisor and the four additional members of the Town Board. The Board is responsible for implementing the policies and directives of the Town on behalf of its residents. The Town Clerk, the Town Court, the Assessor, Code Enforcement, and the Highway Superintendent support the Town. Animal control is provided by the City of Elmira, which lies to the south of Erin. The planning and the zoning board of appeals deal with all zoning issues. The Town is also fortunate to have a Town Historian who records the history of Erin and provides access to records.

Services

Within the Town Hall, Erin has space where groups can meet and hold activities. There are two major groups: the Town of Erin Senior Services and the Town of Erin Youth Services. The Senior Services group meets in the town hall monthly and organizes activities such as bus trips for its members. The Youth Services group was founded in 1994 and has experienced a decrease in membership to the point it no longer exists.

Survey Results Relating to Services

There are several services in the Town of Erin that residents would like to explore or enhance within the Town. The survey addressed these opinions. The most important services are the availability and quality of utilities and roadway maintenance. The majority of respondents have reliable access to internet, cable TV, landline phone, and cell phone service. However, cell phone service is the least available to the respondents with over 50% answering they have access. Even more respondents answered that cell phone service is the most important service in need of improvement. In a growing digital world rural communities are often forgotten in expanding internet and cell phone service for their suburban and urban counterparts. The least important services to the survey respondents are services like nearby restaurants, entertainment venues, and distance to schools. Respondents were asked ““What businesses or services would you like to see in Erin?”, they answered with a wide range of replies. The table shows the count of times the following businesses or services were mentioned in reply to the question. The most popular response was a local general store that sells household necessities as well as fresh meat and produce. The second most common was none/ none followed by restaurant/cafes such as a pizza place, coffee shop, non-bar family style or takeout options. Gas station/convenience store that is accompanied by a small convenience store was the fourth most common. Community activities such as farmer’s markets, more parks, and other gathering places were very appealing to residents .

Desired Businesses/Services

Restaurant/Café (pizza place, coffee, fast food, family style, non-bar)	22
Farms/Farmers Market/Produce Stands	12
General Store	25
Hardware Stores (auto parts, tools)	4
Convenience Store/Gas Station	17
Recreation/Community Places (parks, library, places for youth, dog parks)	7
Better Cell Service/Internet	9
Infrastructure (municipal water, road maintenance, signage)	5
Senior Oriented Development (housing, transit)	5
Personal (doctors, veterinarian, laundromat, gym)	6
Housing	1
Other	4
None	24

However, a lot respondents answered by advocating for no new development in the Town of Erin. This message is consistent, as they want Erin to remain as similar as possible in 10, 20, and 50 years. Those who do wish to see minor development of the hamlet, they hope it will be locally run, operated, and owned. Community activities such as farmer's markets, more parks, and other gathering places were very appealing to residents in the survey and during the visioning session .

Emergency Services

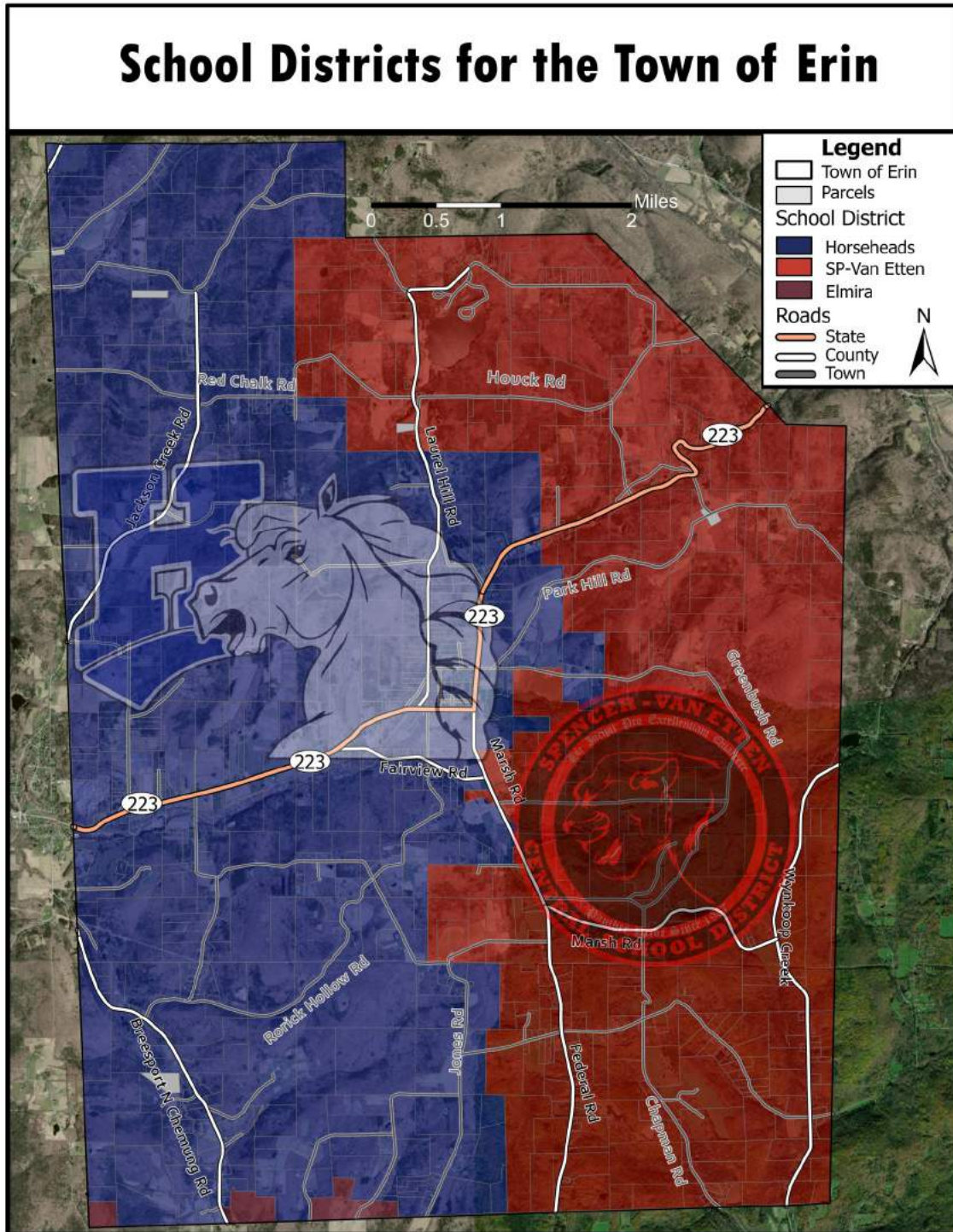
The Town of Erin does not have a police force and receives this service through the Chemung County Sheriff's Department and the New York State Police. The Erin Town Hall does have a sub-station for the Chemung County Sheriff's Department. Any specialized support that requires crime scene investigation comes from New York State Police out of the Troop E Headquarters in Canandaigua. The State Police and Chemung County Sheriff's Department are connected to the Chemung County 911 Emergency Center. If police service is requested in the Town, whichever department is closest will respond, and that department will take charge of the incident.

Erin has a Fire Department located on State Route 223 within the hamlet of Erin. The Erin Fire District No. 1 has a relationship with the Breesport Fire District, and the two departments will respond together to significant incidents in either municipality.

Ambulance services are provided by Erway Ambulance Service, a private ambulance company authorized to operate in the Town by the Chemung County Health Department. Ambulances are dispatched from Erway's Station on McCann's Boulevard in Horseheads, and patients are transported to area hospitals.

Education

The Town of Erin has a unique educational system with three districts within the Town—essentially divided in half by Horseheads Central School District to the west and Spencer-Van Etten School District to the east. Very few parcels belong to the Elmira School District in the southwest corner of the Town. All school districts provide education from kindergarten to twelfth grade. This division of the Town between the two school districts presents a unique challenge to uniting residents.



Transportation



The Erin station looking upgrade toward Park Station. The building on the left side of the track is a milk station.

Throughout the public outreach sessions, the transportation infrastructure in Erin was listed as one of the Town's highlights, allowing residents to easily access nearby cities and their amenities. There are approximately 82.96 miles of state and local roadways within the Town, 55.43 miles of these belonging to the Town and under the responsibility of the Town of Erin Highway Department. Erin has more miles of roadways in the Town than many nearby municipalities, meaning their maintenance is a significant Town expense. Road maintenance includes the human resources, equipment, and materials costs for maintaining the roadways annually.

Unlike larger municipalities, Erin's roadways do not experience the typical wear and tear from rush hour congestion and insufficient parking facilities. The road that receives the most significant volume of local and thru traffic within the Town is New York State Route 223. Route 223 divides the Town in half, running on an east-west path for around 7 miles, and is maintained by the New York State Department of Transportation. It is crucial in any municipality for residents to feel safe using their roadways, so their maintenance and improvement must be a priority to the Town.

Although Erin is rural, it does have public transportation through the Chemung County Transit System that provides services to Elmira daily. To better serve residents, the Town should foster its relationship with the State and County transportation agencies to enhance current offerings to residents and expand offerings in the future. It is important to note that different challenges are faced in the Town's rural sections and the hamlet. The concerns in the hamlet include managing on-street parking and encouraging pedestrian safety, while in the rural areas of the Town, transportation concerns are mainly upkeep of the roads.



Quality of Life Recommendations

The following recommendations are for all topics under the quality of life section. Recommendations were developed by evaluating statements made at the visioning session, in the survey responses, and based on best practices in planning for towns of similar size.

Expand Cellular and Internet Access

Access to cellular is crucial for providing connectivity and safety in rural areas, this is a top issue for residents. The Town should seek to expand cellular access across the Town to make the entire Town connected so residents and visitors can use their cell phones for emergency communications and general purposes. This connection could be achieved through investment in expanded infrastructure, which could be accomplished through seeking out grant funding through places such as the USDA Rural Development, and ensuring that the zoning code allows for appropriate infrastructure to be put in place. In recent years the town has successfully expanded internet access across the far majority of the town with only a few homes unconnected. As technology advances, the Town should continue to invest in these services so the residents can have access to reliable highspeed and up to date services.

Support Senior and Youth Services

The Town should continue to support and invest and expand their senior services with an aging population. This could be through shuttle services, assisted living, senior housing, etc. The Town of Erin had a Youth Services Board founded in 1994 but has since experienced a decrease in membership and participation. This group should be regrouped and used to encourage the youth of Erin to come together for activities and community service. Regrouping the Youth Services Board would help develop an identity across all the children in Erin, regardless of the school district or where they live. In the past, at its peak, the Youth Services group had activities and different opportunities for recreation and community service which decreased vandalism within the Town. These youth services shaped a strong sense of community.

Maintain Town Roads

Road maintenance is crucial for the expansive road network across the Town of Erin. The Town should work to support the Highway Department and ensure that the infrastructure within Erin is kept in good condition. Any roadway improvements should be determined based on funding requirements and residential density. The Town should work with the Highway Department to determine the best mid and long-range goals for capital improvements within the Town and funding sources that can support these goals.

Preserve Scenic Views

Residents who attended the visioning session discussed the importance of maintaining and supporting the scenic views found in the Town. There are several methods to keep and enhance the preservation of scenic vistas, including reviewing zoning laws to ensure that relevant design guidelines are consistent with scenic view preservation. Zoning laws are crucial in preserving scenic vistas by limiting the height of buildings; zoning could be expanded to restrict height, setbacks, and dimensions concerning identified scenic vistas. Ensure with development such as solar, that mitigation such as landscaping will be done to protect the viewsheds and vistas resident's enjoy everyday.

Land Use

The following page has a complete page map of the land use based on the tax parcel map of the Town of Erin, with agricultural districts overlaid on the parcels. This map defines the land use within the Town based on Chemung County tax parcel designations. There are 31,129.5 acres within the municipal boundary of Erin and of those. Within the Town, 11,535.7 acres are vacant, 5,113.7 acres are wild, forested, public parks and private hunting land, 11,753.3 acres are used for residential, and 1,314.1 acres are used for agriculture. Land used for agriculture may or may not be a part of the county agricultural district, and in many cases, there is land used for agriculture that is not in an agriculture district and vice versa. 13,321.2 acres are in the Agricultural District of Chemung County. Agricultural Districts are recognized by the State after adoption by the















Picture Credit: Christina Cowan

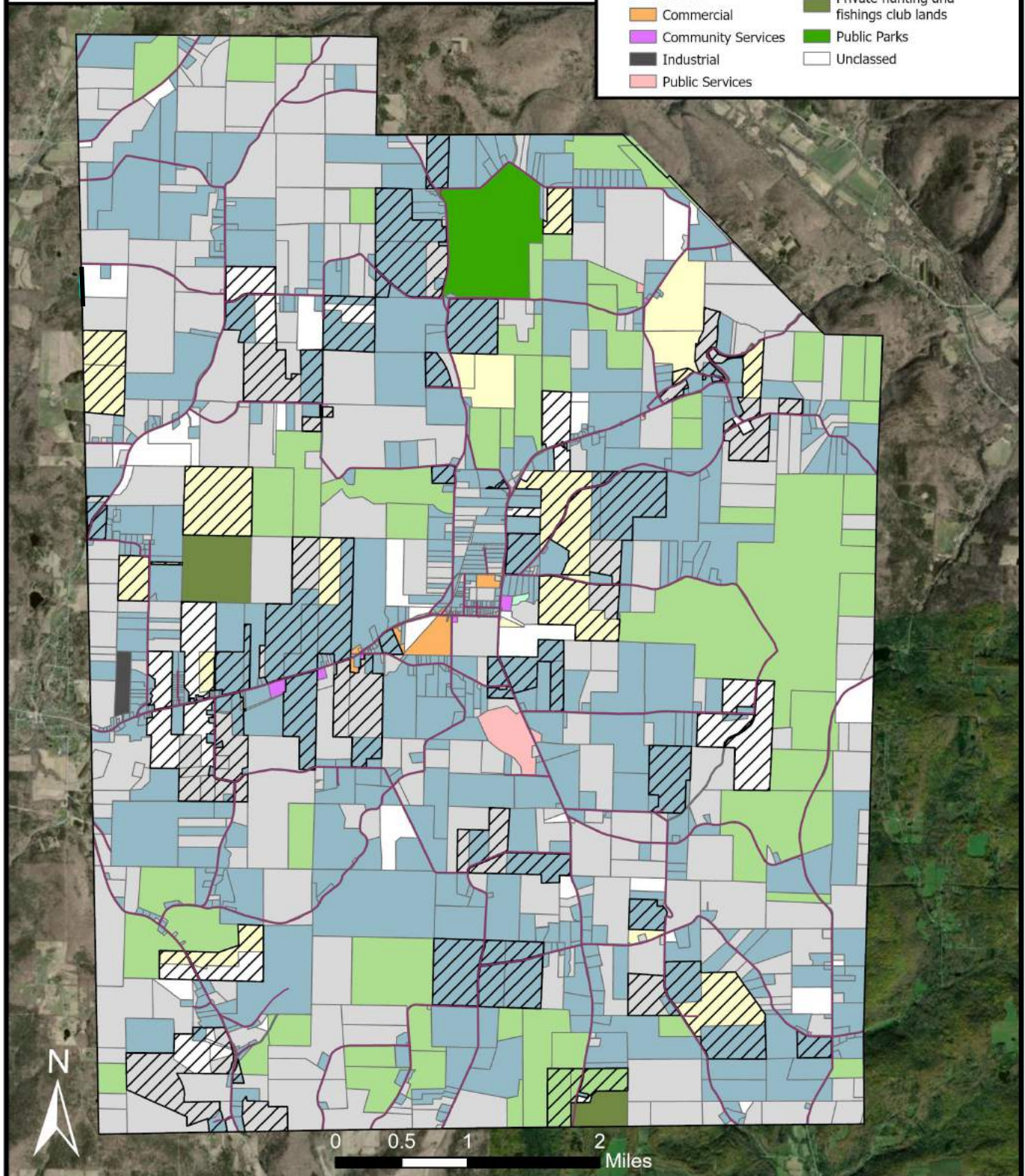
County. The goal of Agricultural Districts is to protect and promote agricultural production within them by exempting them from local regulation unless deemed important for public health and safety. While this does provide an incentive to continue agricultural practices on the property, it does not limit development on the property. Farmers can also utilize the agricultural assessment program which does real property assessments to provide tax relief for farmers that qualify. The history of Erin, like much of Chemung County, was predominantly agricultural, which can still be seen in the existing farms today. There were a variety of factors that caused farms to be abandoned and subsequently caused a decline in population over the years. While the population is relatively stable, the land is used more for residential than agricultural purposes. With the decline in agriculture within Erin there is still a chance for some of the fields that haven't been used to be converted back to agricultural use. This re-use does not apply to all vacant land, only land that has not fully transitioned back to forest. This type of land is referred to as "old fields" and can be successfully reclaimed back to production levels of agriculture relatively quickly.

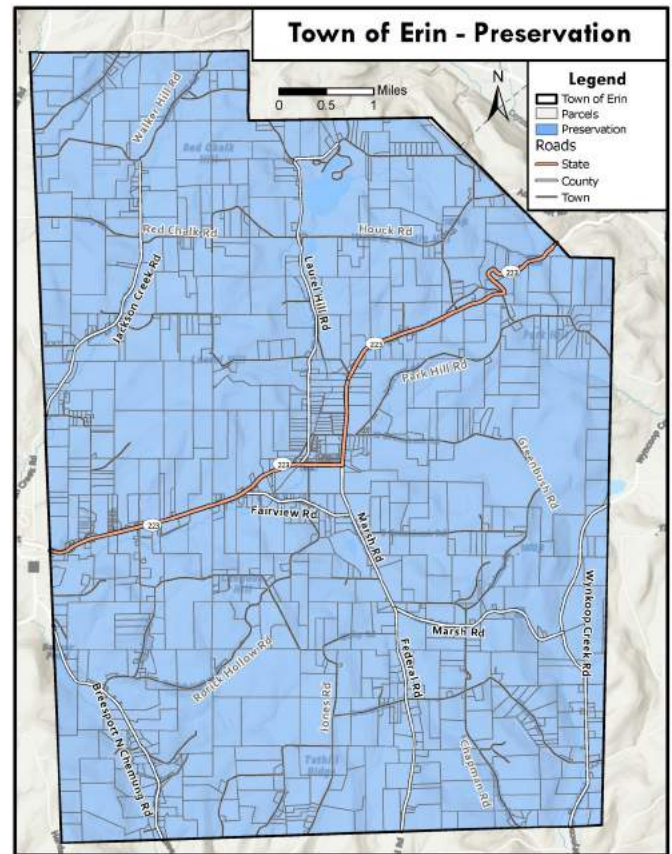
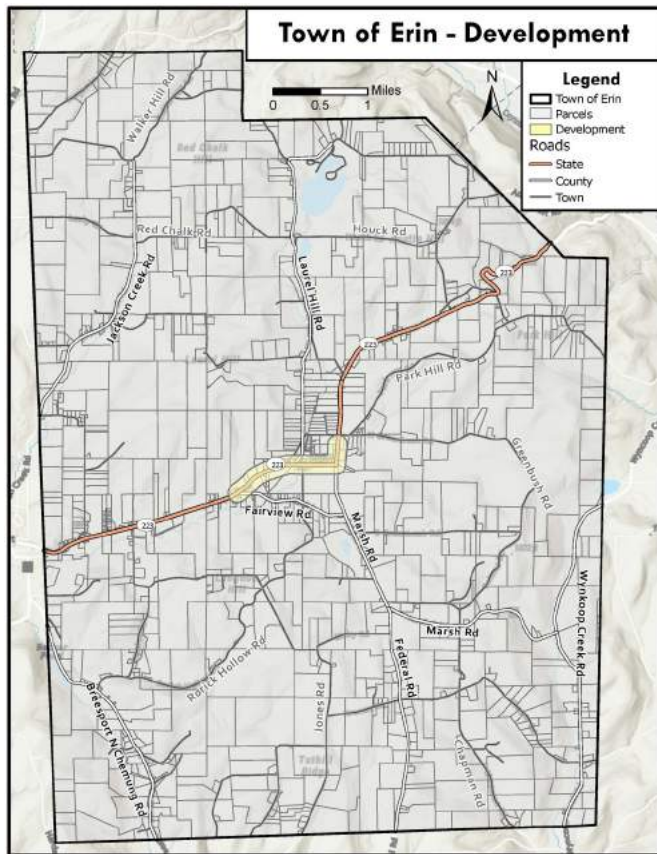
The Land Use map is based off the property tax codes established by the state. These codes used state-wide in every municipality. The code is broken down into nine general categories each assigned an hundred level increment 100s-Agriculture, 200s-Residential, 300s-Vacancy, 400-s Commercial, 500s-Recreation and Entertainment, 600-s Community Services, 700s-Industrial, 800s-Public Services, and 900s-Wild,forested, conservation lands, and public parks. These are the further broken-down into specific uses for example, the code of 111 is for poultry and poultry products: eggs, chicken, turkeys, ducks, and geese while the code 120 is field crops such as potatoes, wheat, hay, dry beans, corn, oats, and other field crops. They are different uses but both are agricultural usage of land. The code 900 "wild, forested, conservation lands and public parks" includes county/town owned public parks and recreation areas, private wild and forest lands, private clubs, and other private lands. To provide clarity, this classification was broken down into the three prevalent private/public uses of this tax class code in Erin. This division of private land also includes all lands which are associated with forest land areas that do not conform to any other classification and plantations/timber tracts that have merchantable timber. The "unclassified" property have not been assigned a code due to a variety of reasons, such as that it may be a new existing parcel that resulted from a subdivision which has not been assigned a code yet or have no prevalent use.

Land Use with Ag Districts for the Town of Erin, 2023

Legend

- | | |
|--|---|
|  Agricultural Districts |  Other private lands, private timbering/hunting/fishing lands, not clubs |
|  Agriculture |  Private hunting and fishings club lands |
|  Residential |  Public Parks |
|  Vacant |  Unclassed |
|  Commercial | |
|  Community Services | |
|  Industrial | |
|  Public Services | |





Preservation and Development Maps

The two maps shown above resulted from an activity during the Visioning Session. The activity that resulted in these maps required residents to color in areas of the Town that they believed should be either preserved or developed. It was explained that this data could inform an update to the zoning map.

In the activity, residents marked a small section along Route 223 that should be used for development—this is consistent with the idea of having local businesses and growth concentrated in one area of the Town. The preservation map, however, consists of the entire Town. While this does not initially seem helpful, it highlights the residents' commitment to preservation.

Discussion on Current Zoning

The two maps above show the residents' desire to preserve most of the town and restrict development to the Hamlet of Erin. The current zoning map of Erin has two main zones: agricultural and residential. During the Visioning Session, residents discussed their desire to possibly implement a limited local growth mixed use district that would facilitate the development and concentrate the location of businesses within the Town to a central area. Mixed-use development allows for commercial and residential uses to be on the same site, maximizing the use of space, controlling growth to preserve the rural character, and meet housing and desired development demands. Mixed-use is in reference to developments that typically offer for commercial space on the bottom floor with residential spaces on the above floors. Dense local development of the hamlet will assure residents' demands be met. Residents expressed their desire to preserve most of the land within the Town so that the open spaces and scenic vistas were not impeded by development. There is a delicate balance between encouraging development and preserving small-town charm. The residents discussed how this district would promote this balance. A revision of the current zoning that maintains the majority of the Town as agricultural would align with the development and preservation activity results.



Land Use Recommendations

The following recommendations are for all topics under the land use section. Recommendations were developed by evaluating statements made at the visioning session, in the survey responses, and based on best practices in planning for towns of similar size.

Review Current Zoning Map

The Town of Erin adopted its current zoning code in May 1992, and it has not been updated since. When the comprehensive plan is updated, it is typical to update the zoning map. Several points were raised during the visioning session about how the zoning map could be revised better to serve the Town. Residents would like to see the hamlet become more developed with a few local businesses such as a general store, restaurant, café, produce stand, etc.

Ensure Zoning Map is Updated and Available

If and when zoning amendments are made to the Town map, it should be updated and published in several places where residents can see it. This could be achieved by including the zoning map on the Town website and displaying it at the Town hall. Convene with code enforcement officer, town board, and residents to address issues in existing zoning code. Include comprehensive regulations, setbacks, lot coverage to strengthen the protections and actions dedicated to preserving open space, farmland, and Erin's rural character.

Promote and Support Agriculture within the Town

With the history of agriculture in the Town but a decrease in active farms, Erin should work to identify and support active farms and limit the introduction of non-agriculture uses on agricultural land. The Town could host workshops with Cornell Cooperative Extension, the Chemung County Farm Bureau, or other agriculturally based agencies. Additionally, the Town could pursue agricultural grant opportunities, such as seeking a Farmland Protection Planning Program grant. This grant could result in developing an Agricultural Protection Plan that would identify prime soils for agricultural production within Erin.

Natural Resources

Located in the center of the Southern Tier region of New York State, the Town of Erin has abundant natural resources such as forests, creeks, gravel mines, waterbodies, and wind and solar resources. These natural resources shape the culture and enjoyment residents experience. Many residents prefer and desire this rural nature experience these natural resources form.



Picture Credit: Amber Orr

Topography

The Town of Erin lies in the northeastern part of Chemung County. Erin is primarily within the foothills of the Appalachian range, providing scenic sites of rolling hills and gorgeous forests. The highest peak is Austin Hill, at an elevation of 1894 feet above sea level, with the lowest of 1080 feet along Baldwin Creek in the southwest of Erin. Most hilltops range from 1500 to 1900 feet. Gentle slopes are very frequent and allow ease of access for residents to the natural resources.

Geology and Soils

Based in the Finger Lakes Region, Erin shares the glacial history that formed the Finger Lakes. Its soils are glacial till, primarily limestone-based, with a silty texture. Large limestone gravel and sand are mainly found within Erin's low slopes and valleys. These deposits are an essential part of the town's natural resources.

Forests

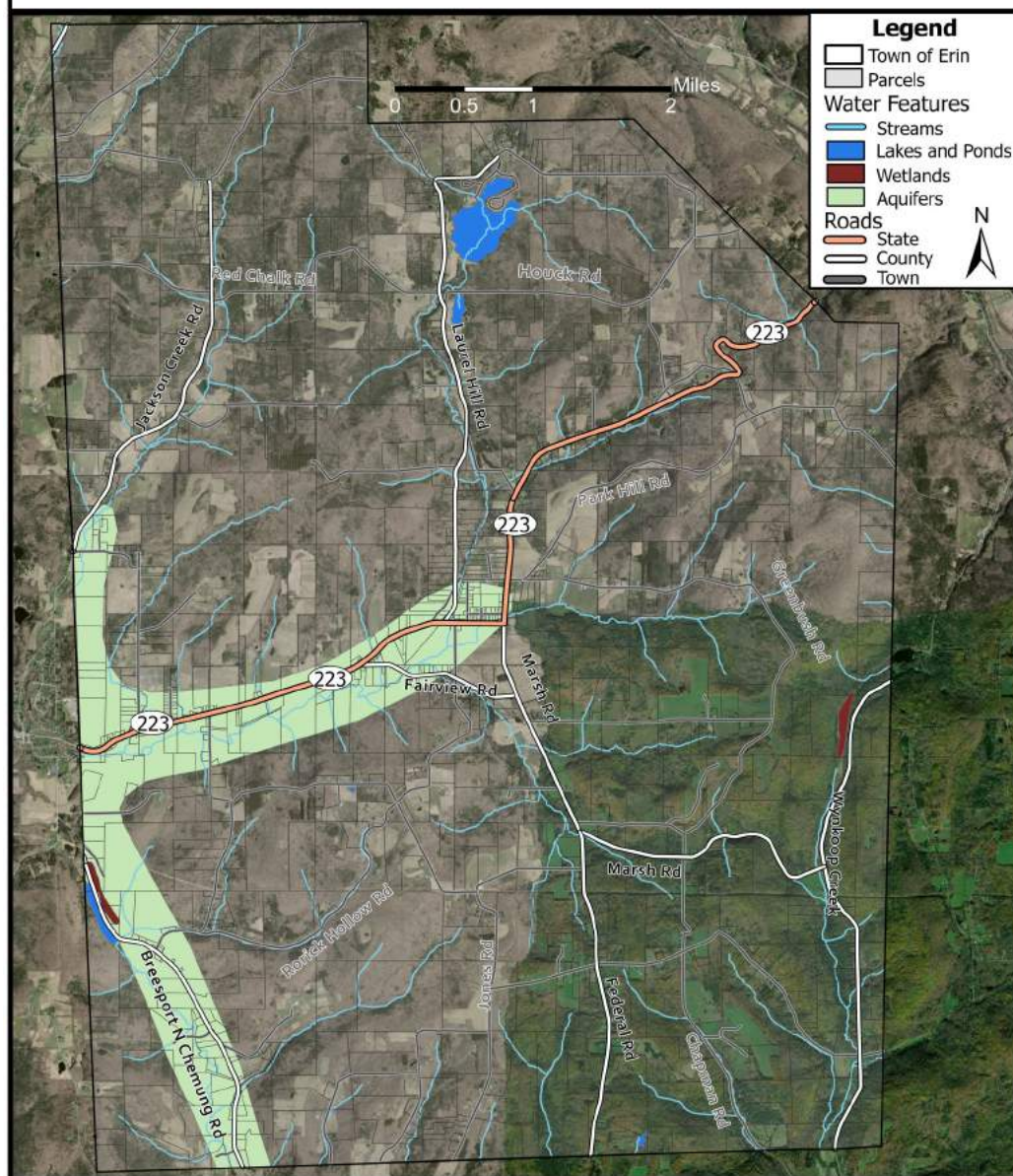
The mature forests in Erin are diverse in wildlife and cover most of the town. Northern hardwoods such as maple, oak, walnut, ash, and hickory trees form these lush forests. Residents and locals enjoy and deeply value these forests for their recreation and scenic uses. They remain accessible through existing roads, trails, and gentle slopes. These forests are essential to the resident's way of life, wildlife, and habitats.

Drainage and Sediment Control

Most of the Town drains into the Chemung River through Jackson Creek, Newtown Creek, Baldwin Creek, and Wynkoop Creek. Small sections in the north and west of the Town drain into the Susquehanna, mainly through Baker Creek. Eventually, the Chemung River empties into the Susquehanna River, making the Town lie entirely within the Greater Susquehanna River Basin, a part of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Water Features for the Town of Erin

This map portrays the water features for the Town of Erin using DEC defined features

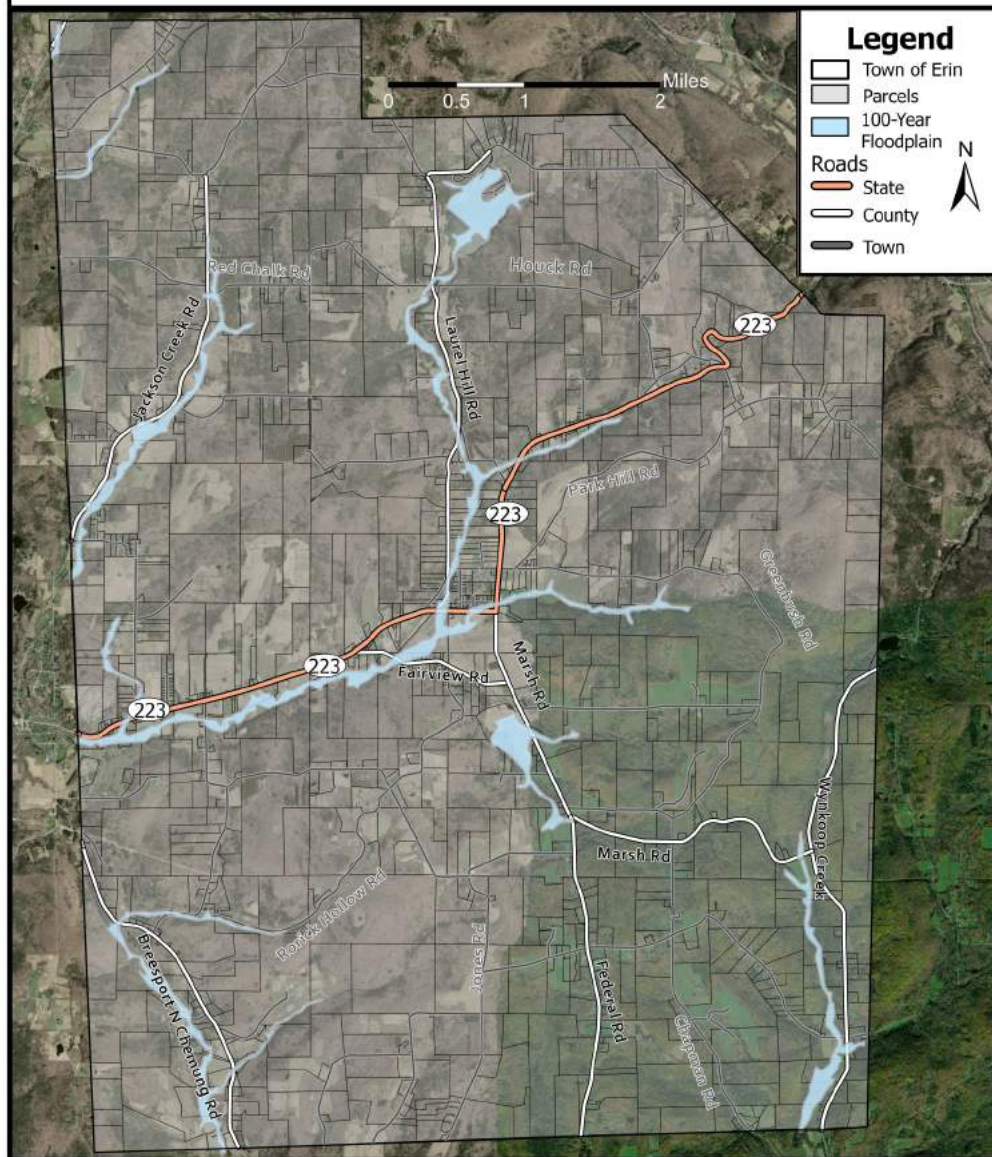


Water Resources and Wetlands

The Town of Erin has five creeks that flow through Wynkoop Creek, Baker Creek, Jackson Creek, Newtown Creek, and Baldwin Creek. Throughout the town, there are surface-level ponds and streams. There are two state-regulated wetlands within Erin along the northern end of Wynkoop Creek along the road in southeastern Erin. The second wetland lies within Erin and its southwestern neighbor, the Town of Horseheads. It falls on upper Baldwin Creek adjacent to Breesport-North Chemung Road. Several more wetlands follow and fall along the creeks and streams.

100-Year Floodplain for the Town of Erin

This map portrays the 100-Year Floodplain as defined by FEMA



Flooding

Erin is prone to flash flooding along its narrow valleys and low-lying creeks. Homes, businesses, property, wildlife, and natural resources are all impacted by flash flooding events. Many stream banks are forested, which reduces these problems, but some have been plowed or graded so that they become unstable. A map of the 100-year floodplain within the Town of Erin is shown above.

The following page has a map of the watersheds within the Town. The watersheds within the Town include:

- North Branch Newtown Creek watershed,
- Headwaters Cayuta Creek watershed,
- Upper Newtown Creek watershed,
- Upper Cayuta Creek watershed,

Town of Erin Watersheds

12-Digit Huc as defined by FEMA


Legend


 Town of Erin


 Parcels


Watersheds

 Baldwin Creek

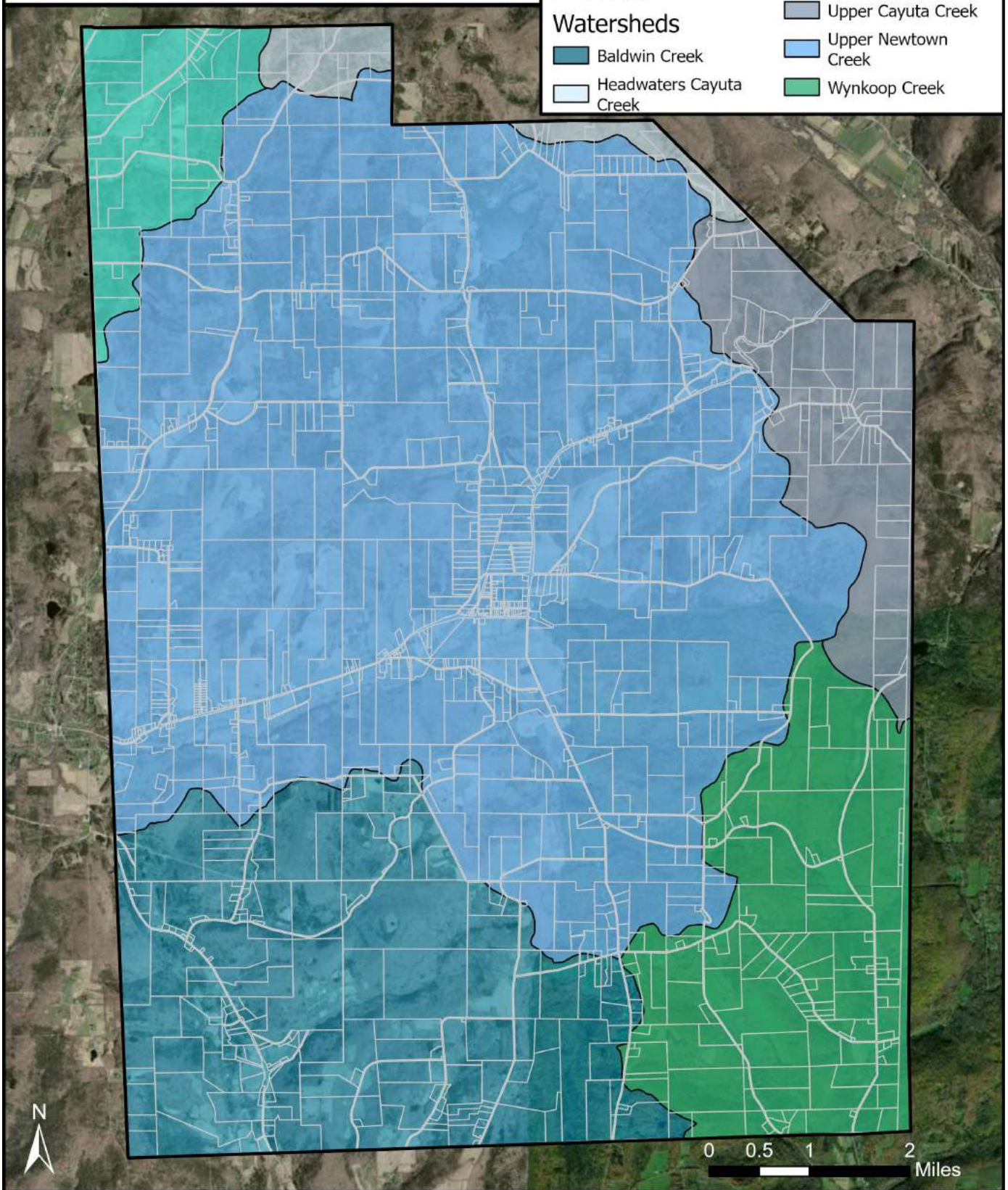
 Headwaters Cayuta Creek

 North Branch
Newtown Creek

 Upper Cayuta Creek

 Upper Newtown
Creek

 Wynkoop Creek



Natural Resources Recommendations

The following recommendations are for all topics under the natural resources section. Recommendations were developed by evaluating statements made at the visioning session, in the survey responses, and based on best practices in planning for towns of similar size.

Encourage Forest Management Practices

There are several forestry management practices that the Town can explore to serve its residents better. These practices include timber harvesting, of which there is a current logging ordinance that should be evaluated regularly to ensure they are using best practices. Part of this ordinance is a registration of new timber harvesting operations so that information on good harvesting practices can be shared with their owners. Additionally, there should be outreach to residents to inform them of forest management practices on their land.

Encourage Best Management Practices for Water Resources

Several best management practices can be employed to preserve water resources in the Town. These practices include project design and practices that minimize impervious cover, direct runoff onto vegetated soils, maintain healthy soils, maintain healthy vegetation, preserve and create areas for water to pond. Provide public education and technical assistance to promote voluntary use of these practices on private land.



Picture Credit: Amber Orr



Renewable Energy Resources

Renewable energy has been identified as a priority for the state of New York in the future, and all small municipalities are expected to try and support the development of these industries. New York State's goal to obtain 70% of electricity from renewable resources by 2030 highlights the direction that funding sources and planning are heading. To be proactive about this new priority for the State, Erin can work to determine what residents desire and how to benefit from the direction funding sources will go while maintaining a Town that residents want to live in.

Wind Resources


So far in New York State, wind energy has come from large-scale wind farms. These large-scale windfarms typically exceed the 25 MW permitting threshold established by the state and, therefore, go through a state review process before approval. Local-level wind projects are generally small, residential outfits and go through the State Environmental Quality Review Act and applicable municipal land-use regulations. For any wind project, there needs to be adequate wind to make any wind project feasible. Larger wind generation systems require at least 15.7 mph sustained wind, with commercial power generating systems needing 16.8 mph sustained wind or higher (according to the American Wind Energy Association). For smaller-scale residential or agricultural wind, sustained wind speeds of 9.8-11.5 mph must be sustained, which can be a challenge for some locations.

Larger wind generation systems are generally clusters of wind turbines generating electricity on land owned or leased by a developer in areas with reliable, favorable wind speeds. Wind farms are not only the turbine; they also include a substation and transmission lines. Developing wind farms in a community often improves the local infrastructure, such as roads and bridges. It can generate revenue for the municipality and jobs or income for landowners and residents. Some potential adverse effects from wind could include damage to roads, disruption of scenic views, the noise of the turbine, and disturbance to natural areas.

Solar Resources

Solar energy resources are becoming more prevalent in communities across New York State. There are incentives statewide to encourage solar development, but this must be balanced with the community's desires. Solar energy provides opportunities for economic growth, decreased utility and energy expenses, and can provide an increased sense of self-reliance within the community. These positive outcomes will likely come after a municipality has planned for solar within its community. Rural areas are more likely to be targeted for their available land to sustain utility-scale solar farms, but this can conflict with residents' desires. These large-scale solar projects can bring jobs and private investment into rural areas, but it is essential to consider the cost as it can be at the loss of critical scenic vistas.

Within New York State, large-scale solar projects greater or equal to 25 megawatts are considered utility-scale solar and must seek approval through the Office of Renewable Energy Siting. This process supersedes local authority, so local regulations may be less relevant. Where local laws come into play is with community solar projects and other large/small scale solar projects and how they are permitted at the local level. Part of this permitting process includes guidelines for the implementation of solar projects, their approval, and subsequent decommission so that the Town has a role in all aspects of the process and can work to protect agricultural land and the interests of the Town.



Residents discussed their feelings and reservations about solar during the visioning session and survey. Many felt that while solar has benefits, it should only be permitted to develop with guidelines in place by the municipality. The best way that the town can maintain compatibility between solar developments and rural land uses is to require special use permits for all utility-scale solar and educate landowners on the logistics of working with solar developers so that they are aware of their rights. The Town should work with the New York Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and organize a public information session to be held at the Town Hall to produce solar information for land owners.

Energy Improvements

There are benefits to investing in solar, wind, and other forms of renewable energy. Erin can protect their best interests by getting ahead of energy trends and establishing guidelines for incoming developments. There is also the added benefit of participating in statewide programs that provide incentives for supporting these renewable energy strategies and other measures to help a municipality adapt to climate change. Clean Energy Communities and Climate Smart Communities offer municipalities opportunities to earn grants of varying amounts. Completing four actions within the Clean Energy Communities program would yield an award of \$5,000. In conjunction with Climate Smart Community Coordinators, Erin could capitalize on energy improvements and receive statewide recognition and rewards for entering into the Clean Energy Communities and the Climate Smart Communities program.



Renewable Energy Resources Recommendations

The following recommendations are for all topics under the renewable energy resources section. Recommendations were developed by evaluating statements made at the visioning session, in the survey responses, and based on best practices in planning for towns of similar size.

Develop a Solar Law

Using guidance from New York State, feedback from residents, and examples from nearby communities, Erin should create and adopt a solar law. This law will allow the Town to regulate the community/large scale solar projects that come into the Town and make solar developers meet the town's demands. Residents are concerned that solar development will damage their rural lifestyle and enjoyment of their natural surroundings. This solar law should be aligned with the residents' demands and the zoning code, and set regulations aimed at protecting Erin's rural character.

Review and Develop Laws Related to Wind Farms

The Town should work to review related laws to wind farms and update them based on new guidance and best management practices. Review other local and regional municipal wind farm laws and their effectiveness for guidance.

Participate in the Clean Energy Communities Program

There are several programs through New York State that the Town of Erin can benefit from participating in. One of these programs is the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)'s Clean Energy Communities program. Participating in this program would make the Town eligible for a series of grants. Some actions the Town could take to earn grants include adopting a unified solar permit, participating in benchmarking municipal buildings, and participating in Community Campaigns to promote program opportunities. Completing high-impact actions would earn the Town statewide recognition as a Clean Energy Community.

Participate in the Climate Smart Communities Program

Another program through New York State is the Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)'s Climate Smart Communities Program. By earning recognition through completing the program's actions, the Town could be eligible for various grants that can assist projects such as flood mitigation and road infrastructure. The goal of the Climate Smart Communities program is to complete actions that work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate and greening economy.

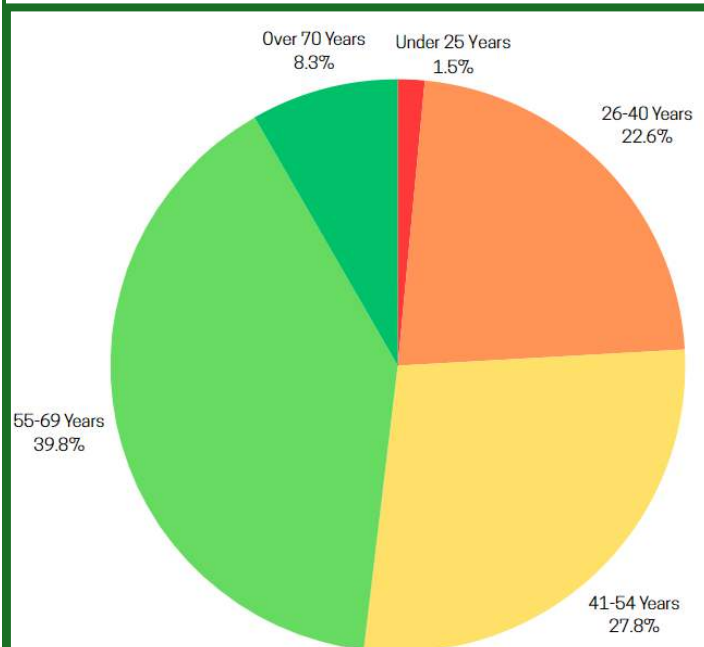
Appendix A

Town of Erin Comprehensive Plan Survey Results

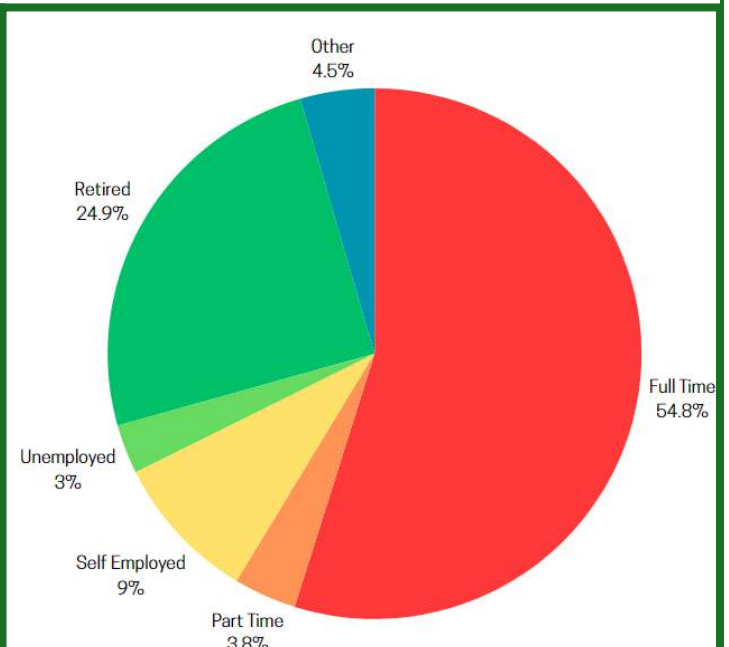
Below are the results for the Town of Erin Comprehensive Plan Survey. The survey was deployed on Friday, July 21st, 2023 and the online version was held open until Sunday, December 31st, 2023. This extended window was held to try and encourage residents to complete the survey during the Visioning Session and during the general elections. There were 133 respondents during this window and the results are listed below. A full copy of the survey is listed in Appendix B.

Demographics

1. What is your age?



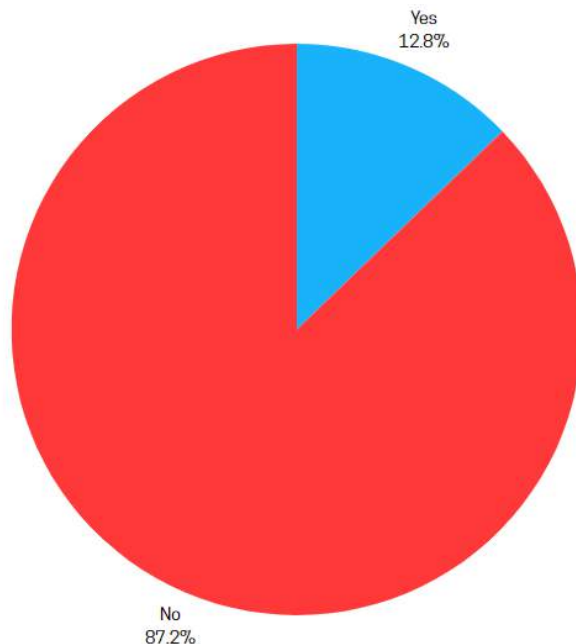
2. What is your current employment status?



3. What is your current industry of employment?

◇ Retired x14	◇ Transportation x3	◇ Sales x3	◇ Natural Resources x2
◇ Education x14	◇ Government x7	◇ Food x2	◇ Engineering x2
◇ Healthcare x15	◇ IT/CAD Technician x3	◇ Volunteer x1	◇ Administrative x2
◇ Finance x4	◇ Security x1	◇ Aircraft Mechanic x1	◇ Machining x2
◇ Real Estate x3	◇ Auto Industry x5	◇ Construction x1	◇ Human Services x1
◇ Insurance x3	◇ Manufacturing x10	◇ Religion x1	◇ Marketing x2
◇ None x13	◇ Maintenance x1	◇ Wholesale x1	◇ Hospitality x3
◇ Retail x6	◇ Trades x5	◇ Livestock/Agriculture x3	

4. Are you currently running a business out of your residence or property in the Town of Erin?



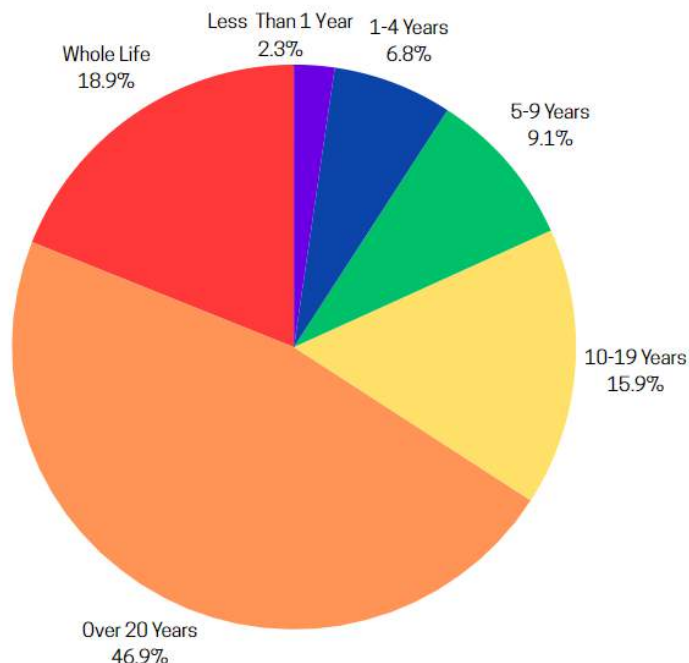
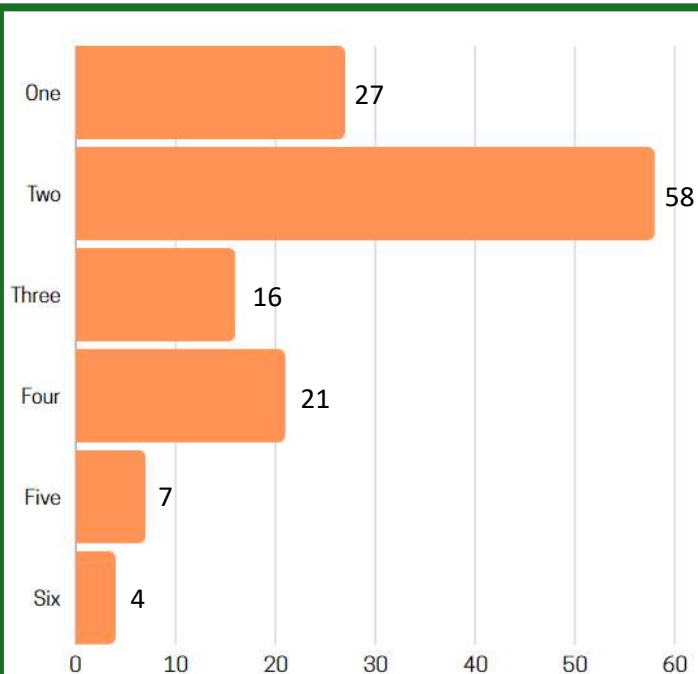
Residency

5. Please describe the status of your residency in the Town of Erin:

- Year-round homeowner: 97% (129 responses)
- Part-time homeowner: 1.5% (2 responses)
- Rent/Lease: 0.8% (1 Response)
- Other: 0.8% (1 Response)

6. How many people live in your household?

7. How long have you lived in Erin?



8. What type of residence do you live in?

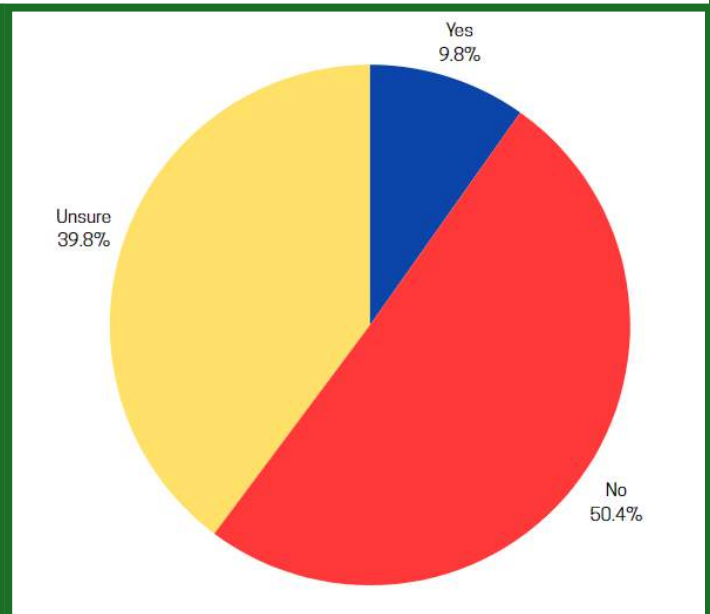
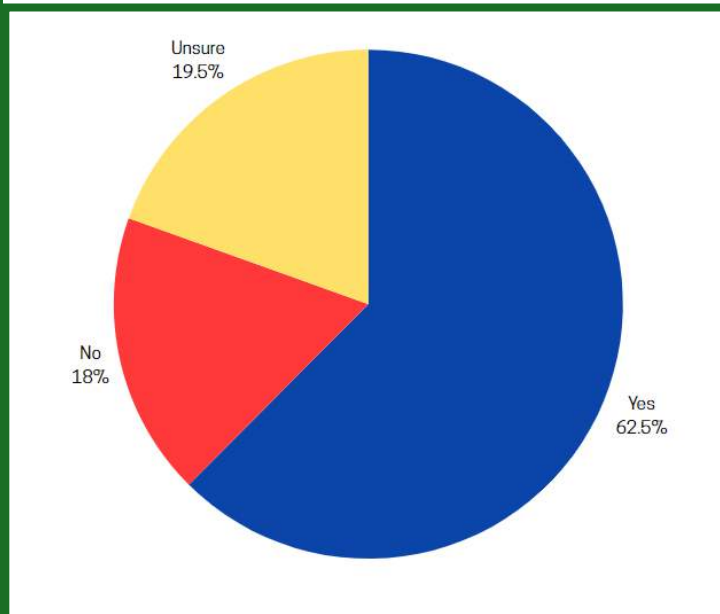
Single Family residence on under 10 acres	64	48.1%
Single Family residence on 10+ acres, no ag use	29	21.8%
Single Family residence on 10+ acres, with ag use	27	20.3%
Two Family residence on under 10 acres	3	2.3%
Three Family residence on under 10 acres	0	0.0%
Multiple residences on a single property	2	1.5%
Residential with commercial use	2	1.5%
Seasonal Property	0	0.0%
Trailer Park	1	0.8%
Mobile Home Park	1	0.8%
Mobile Home	1	0.8%
Mobile Home renting the lot	3	2.3%

9. Do you own real estate in the Town that does not include your residence?

Yes: 12.8% (17 responses)

No: 87.2% (116 responses)

10. Do you know what your property is zoned for?



11. Are there any zoning restrictions that limit what you would like to do on your property, or those that reside on your property?

12. If you answered yes to the last question, please describe which restrictions limit the use of your property:

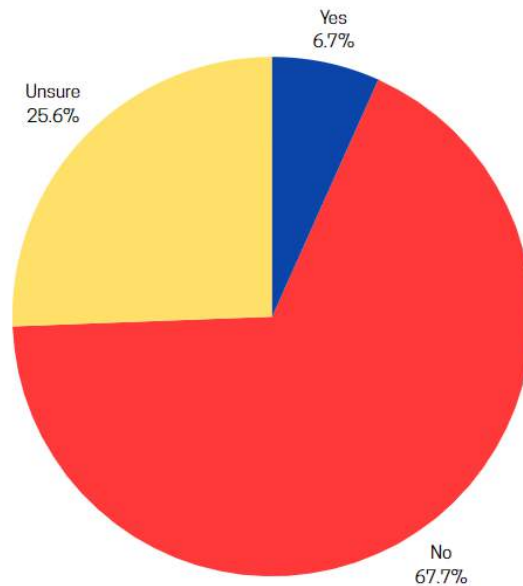
- ◇ Size restrictions for live stock x3 ◇ Size restrictions for building x2 ◇ General code restrictions x2
- ◇ One dwelling per Parcel x2 ◇ Farm/Ag restrictions on “residential” lots x2

13. Do you currently have any “farm animals”, such as horses, cows, goats, chickens, etc?

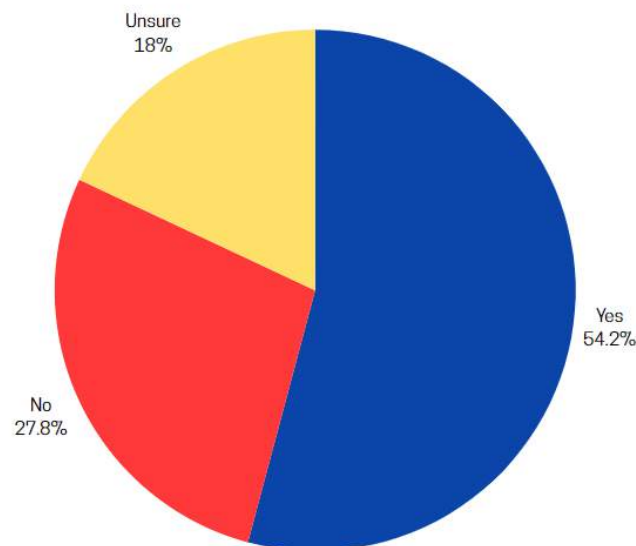
Yes: 22.6% (30 responses)

No: 77.4% (103 responses)

14. Is current zoning preventing you from owning “farm animals”?



15. Do you feel that the Town of Erin should be more aggressive when creating and enforcing laws regarding junk cars, abandoned structures, trash and debris on private property?

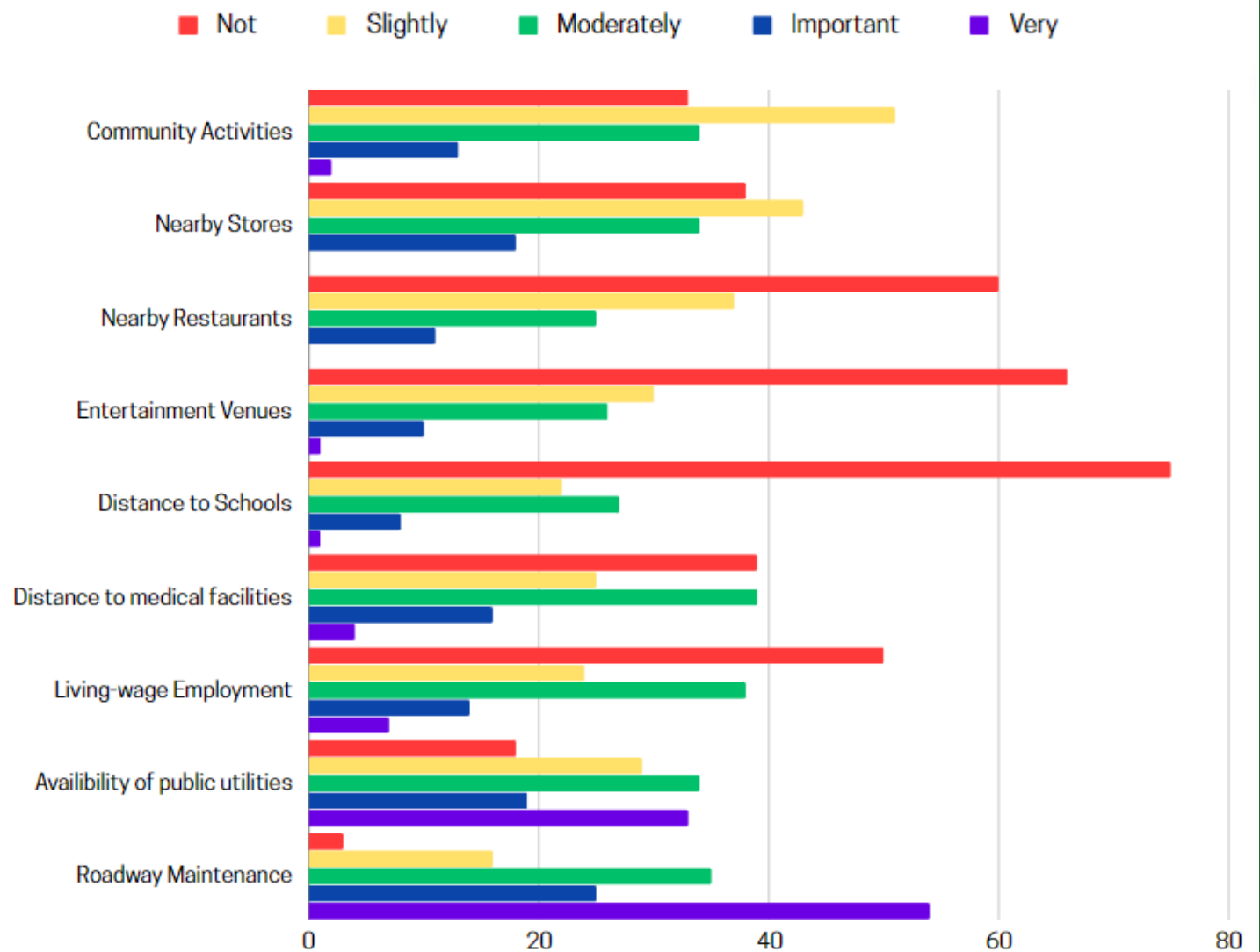


Quality of Life

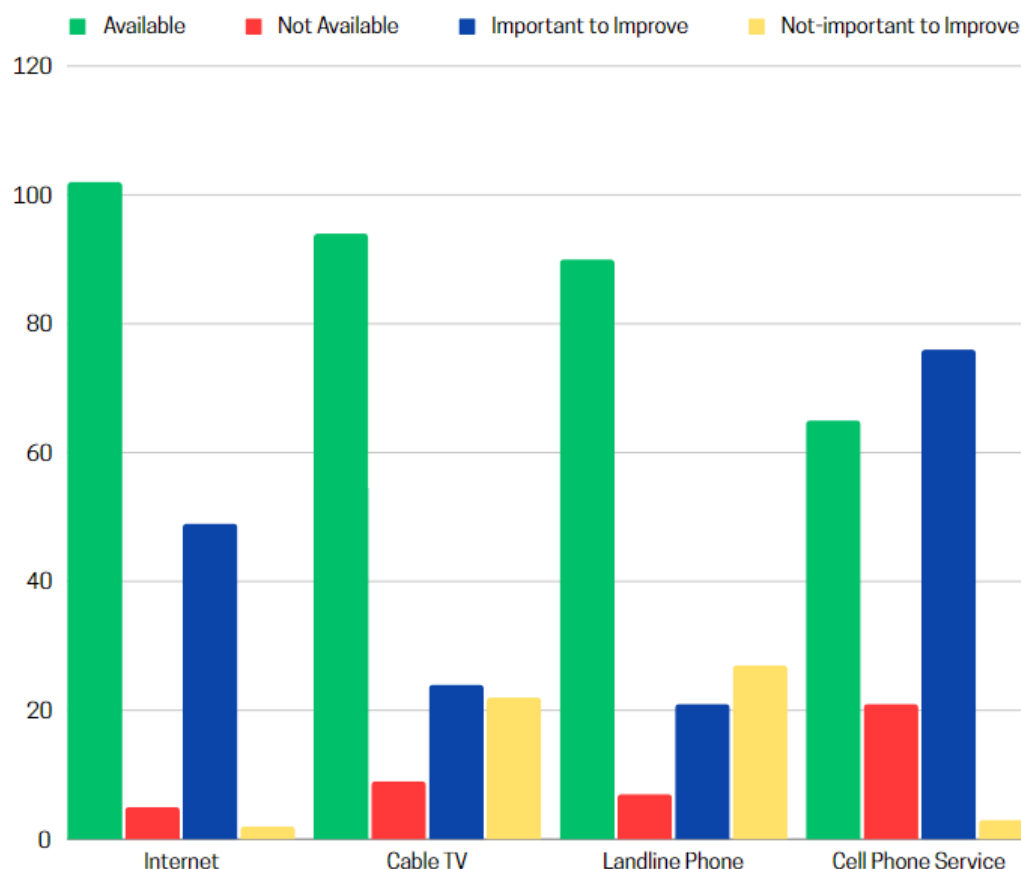
16. What do you like most about living in Erin?

- ◇ Peace and quiet x88
- ◇ Beauty of natural surroundings x79
- ◇ Low density of people x55
- ◇ Lack of traffic congestion x37
- ◇ Little commercial activity x31
- ◇ Low crime rate x30
- ◇ Quality of drinking water x23
- ◇ Closeness of sites for outdoor activities x22
- ◇ Low town taxes x21
- ◇ Affordability of land x15
- ◇ Ancestral home/hometown x2
- ◇ Near family x1
- ◇ Proximity to urban areas but still living rurally x1
- ◇ Small town but growing x1

17. How important are the following services to you?



18. What services do you have available reliably at your residence? Is it important to improve the availability of these services?



19. Would you support a seasonal market in Erin, with farm produce and other local products, by visiting regularly?

Yes: 78.9% (105 responses)

No: 0.8% (1 responses)

Maybe: 20.3% (27 responses)

20. How many times each year do you use the recreational facilities currently available in the town, including park station?

Never: 18.9% (84 responses)

1-9 Times: 63.6% (25 responses)

10+ Times: 17.4% (23 responses)

21. Do you think the town should actively try to attract a senior housing project?

Yes: 45.9% (72 responses)

No: 54.1 (61 responses)

22. Do you think the town should encourage residential growth by zoning specific areas for subdivision?

Yes: 84.3% (107 responses)

No: 15.7% (20 responses)

23. Do you think that the Town should explore infrastructure improvements to attract commercial and residential developments?

Yes: 70.3% (90 responses)

No: 29.7% (38 responses)

24. What businesses or services would you like to see in Erin?

- ◇ I would like a few more business. But the farm country life is best.
- ◇ A playground closer to the center of town. The Town Hall is too far for kids to be walking along a very busy road
- ◇ Laundromat
- ◇ store and or fast food establishment or small restaurant
- ◇ a store gas station , some gaming place for kids to go and hang out
- ◇ Gas and car wash
- ◇ A convenient store again.
- ◇ Coffee shop, gift shop, small business
- ◇ Community watch, park moved to fire station clubs, groups for young children and younger new families that are popping up in Erin
- ◇ I feel the town is perfect.
- ◇ Country store
- ◇ None
- ◇ Just the pizza shop and no bar
- ◇ Something for kids to do
- ◇ A small store with gas would be nice.
- ◇ Restaurant
- ◇ cell service and internet reliably available, maybe and ice cream store.
- ◇ Food
- ◇ Emergency vet
- ◇ Veterinarian
- ◇ We've always been rural. I don't want that to change. Every service we need is available within 15 minutes. I don't want higher taxes!
- ◇ Lowe's or ace hardware
- ◇ Lowe's or ace hardware
- ◇ Not sure
- ◇ Gas/Convenience Store
- ◇ Ice cream/coffee stand
- ◇ Cell service
- ◇ Gas station/dollar store
- ◇ Gas station
- ◇ Nothing comes to mind
- ◇ A store
- ◇ General store
- ◇ How about cell phone service and internet
- ◇ Restaurant, cafe, library, gas station
- ◇ A car wash, better cell phone service , how about a cable or internet service . Not all of Erin can get service. Like Marsh road and Wynkoop creek road.
- ◇ A car wash , laundromat, gas, family style restaurants
- ◇ Farm type stores
- ◇ Local food products
- ◇ Restaurant, store, library
- ◇ Car wash and Chinese restaurant
- ◇ None
- ◇ Ice cream/coffee
- ◇ Love our town the way it is
- ◇ a small restaurant would be great. The only food is the bar and I do not and will not go there.

◇ Local business.	◇ Convince store and another place to eat out besides the tavern
◇ Agricultural based markets/stores. Hardware store.	◇ Not sure
◇ a list of the businesses that are currently in business in Town of Erin	◇ Small food stands/farm stores
◇ None	◇ At least a general store
◇ grocery, gas station	◇ Car wash
◇ Better street signs. Signs for park station.	◇ Gas station
◇ Municipal water	◇ None that I can think of
◇ Farms. Nothing else. We chose this town for the lack of commercial development	◇ Store
◇ Hay fields	◇ I'm not sure
◇ Gas station	◇ Farmers Market
◇ Year round indoor and outdoor when weather permitting farmers, craft, vendor market, solar farms that are mostly hidden from road	◇ None
◇ I believe a Senior Housing Development would allow the life long residence an affordable option for community assisted housing.	◇ Better/more affordable internet service
◇ A mini mart of some kind	◇ Elderly help in transportation
◇ A mini mart would be nice	◇ Grocery store, car wash, restaurant
◇ None	◇ Family owned
◇ Convenient store/gas station	◇ A local store
◇ Better Paved Roads	◇ Not needed
◇ Dollar General or Small Convenient store	◇ Gas station
◇ Dollar General	◇ None
◇ farmers market	◇ None
◇ Brewery	◇ Everything is close by or readily available
◇ Cottage Industry	◇ Laundromat
◇ None, everything we need is either here or close by in Hhds/Breesport.	◇ General store in the hamlet
◇ None	◇ Autozone
	◇ Gas station
	◇ N/a
	◇ N/A
	◇ None

- | | |
|--|--|
| ◇ Gas station/dollar store | ◇ Restaurants |
| ◇ Gas station | ◇ None, I would like it to stay a small town, not be destroyed by bringing in anything more. |
| ◇ Nothing comes to mind | ◇ Transportation for service's |
| ◇ A store | ◇ None |
| ◇ General store | ◇ Dog park |
| ◇ How about cell phone service and internet | ◇ Small store |
| ◇ Restaurant, cafe, library, gas station | ◇ None |
| ◇ A car wash, better cell phone service , how about a cable or internet service . Not all of Erin can get service. Like Marsh road and wyncoop creek road. | ◇ Cheap gas |
| ◇ A car wash , laundromat, gas, family style restaurants | ◇ Weed store |
| ◇ Farm type stores | ◇ None |
| ◇ Local food products | ◇ Farmer market |
| ◇ Restaurant, store, library | ◇ Better internet and cellphone services |
| ◇ Car wash and Chinese restaurant | ◇ None I like the country feel of our town. We are close enough to drive to businesses |
| ◇ None | ◇ Farmers market |
| ◇ Ice cream/coffee | ◇ Not sure |
| ◇ Love our town the way it is | ◇ Improver road maintenance |
| ◇ a small resturant would be great. The only food is the bar and I do not and will not go there. | ◇ A store |
| ◇ Local business. | ◇ Better Gas station |
| ◇ Agricultural based markets/stores. Hardware store. | ◇ Maybe a fitness center, and a grocery store with meat and produce |
| ◇ a list of the businesses that are currently in business in Town of Erin | |
| ◇ None | |
| ◇ grocery, gas station | |
| ◇ Better street signs. Signs for park station. | |
| ◇ Municipal water | |
| ◇ Farms. Nothing else. We chose this town for the lack of commercial development | |

- ◇ Food
- ◇ More things for the community as a whole
- ◇ Start with housing, business will follow
- ◇ Senior housing
- ◇ None. Keep Erin rural
- ◇ Cell phone coverage is poor, however, I hope the new tower going in will help. Better road maintenance would be a plus.
- ◇ gas station, convenience store
- ◇ sub pizza shop
- ◇ Maybe SR housing so they can enjoy the outside with counter living
- ◇ Restaurant
- ◇ Unsure
- ◇ A good pizza shop that delivers.
- ◇ A better gas station that isn't falling apart. General store.
- ◇ Small parts store
- ◇ Cell phone

25. Would you support the Town in exploring municipal water service to assure water quality in the Hamlet area, using grant funding where possible?

Yes: 45.1% (60 responses)

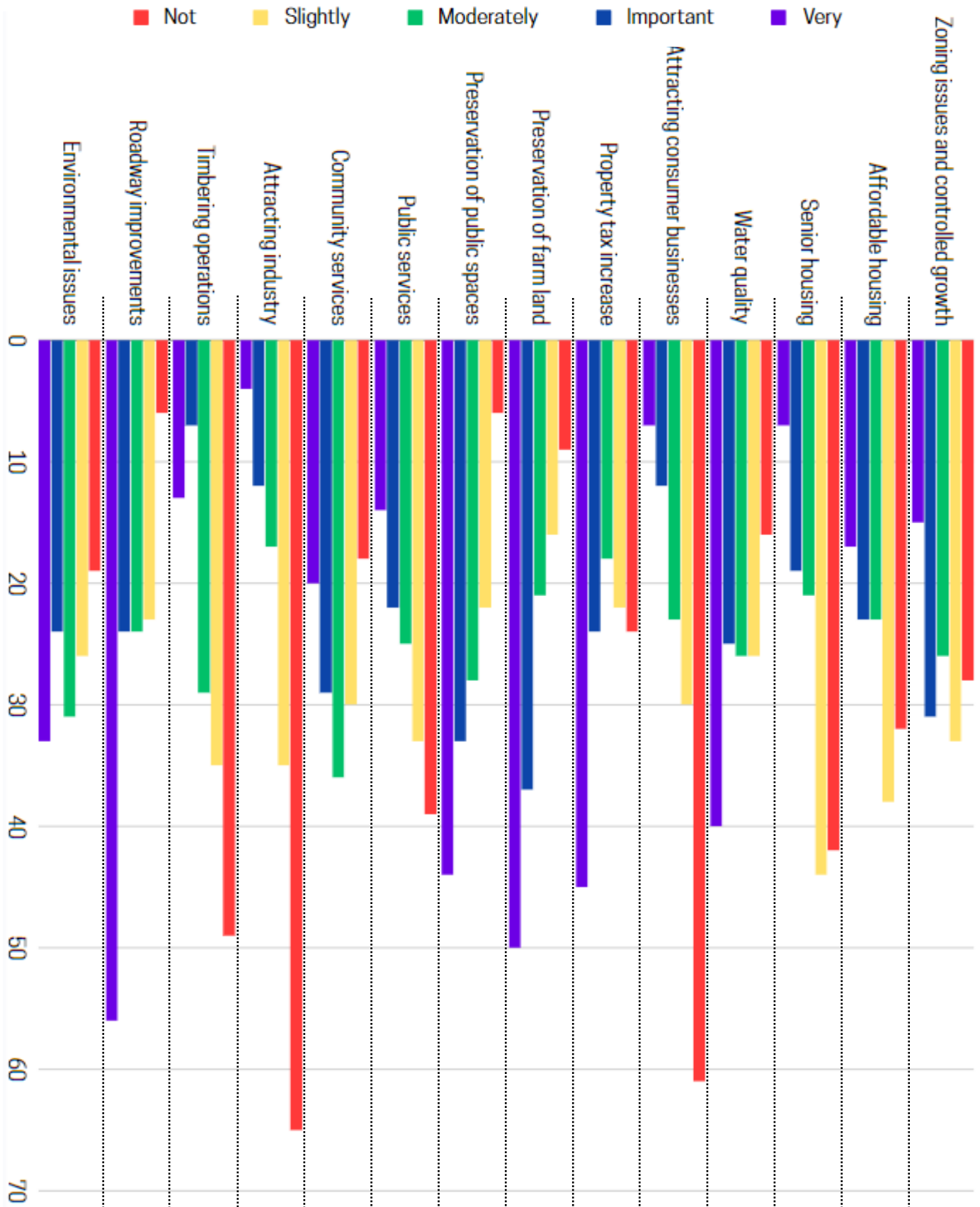
No: 54.9% (73 responses)

Future of Erin and Development

26. Over the next 25 years what would you like to see in Erin?


1. Retain its primarily/residential atmosphere: **75.2% - 100 responses**
2. Develop into a residential/commercial community (medium density with some businesses located within appropriate zoning districts within the Town): **21.1% - 28 responses**
3. Develop into a residential/commercial/industrial community (some high density housing, and some light industry within appropriate zoning districts within the Town) : **3.8% - 5 responses**

27. What do think will be the most important issues facing the Town of Erin in the future?



28. Are there any other issues facing the Town that are not on the above list?

- ◇ No
- ◇ None
- ◇ no
- ◇ Property taxes are high
- ◇ Water in Fairview rd was claimed to have chemical toxins years back I received a study that was done not far from my home.
- ◇ I'd like to see a place or system that helps support our local farms.
- ◇ Not that I'm aware of
- ◇ Not sure
- ◇ Crime and Dangerous Drivers
- ◇ Less drug use
- ◇ Buildings and structures that are falling down or destroyed by fire should be fully demolished and cleared away.
- ◇ I think the town's biggest value lies in preserving the quaint, country atmosphere NOT in throwing away all of its natural beauty and charm to become an ugly Elmira wannabe.
- ◇ Better cell phone service . Better internet service (east) right now not able to get Spectrum would be nice to have both services.
- ◇ No
- ◇ Maybe
- ◇ Noise and excessive speed of motor cycles and vehicles
- ◇ Why are our taxes so much higher than Veteran?
- ◇ Danger of becoming commercialized and gentrified as shown by this survey.
- ◇ Yes
- ◇ Making people clean up their properties and keep their lawns and ditches mowed. I have a problem right now with a neighbor and there are rats and mice because of the mess of the property.
- ◇ Too many dirtballs, clean up the town we there is a stigma around this area that it is dirty people need to clean and fix up there properties. Crack down on drinking and driving in the area.
- ◇ Paving secondary residential roads
- ◇ We need cell phone service and internet service. Can't get cell service right now.

- 
- ◇ Solar and wind high taxes. We need more development to Keep taxes from raising.
 - ◇ Attracting more members of our fire department
 - ◇ We need cell phone service and internet or cable service. Out in the rural areas. Not just near Rt 223. How about banking/vision FCU. A car wash. WE Need better communication from the town .how about a town calendar? Or activities for all senior citizens, like bus trips to places we can't drive to instead of one so close we drive to easily.
 - ◇ Stop these solar farms or anything that's destroying our wild life !!!!
 - ◇ The tax rate and equalization rate is crazy and will only get worse. Erin needs to do a competent revival and encourage growth.
 - ◇ Remove leading questions like “timbering..” or the ones that follow regarding tax increases for the hamlet... it is not an incorporated separate entity, just a grouping of homes.
 - ◇ Protect ground water quality, but don't install water lines. It's an unnecessary cost for people that don't want it. It was one reason we chose to move to the area.
 - ◇ Things being promised by groups or people like waling trails behind fire hall, park moved , earl childhood groups, push for newer updated, fresh and inciting community involvement
 - ◇ The people who drive all over Jackson creek on dirt bikes and four wheelers at all hours of the night. And all the crappy looking houses towards the entrance. Also the amount of vandals and drug addicts.
 - ◇ Limitations that people in the town want to put on our use of our private farm land. I pay the mortgage, taxes, etc. Land owners should have some land rights here. We own a farm that we still are trying to keep in operation as a farm. This has been a family farm for over 100 years. A small portion of this farm not visible from the road placed into a solar farm parcel would allow us to keep the rest of this property as a working farm. This is better than a sub division or better than shutting down the farm in our opinion. And state-sponsored solar does not need town approval but uses many more acres and does not have to care about aesthetics. The town should allow responsibly-planned smaller scale community solar. We spent 1 year and \$5000 to a lawyer to responsibly plan a community solar project only to have it stalled for so long by the town that the solar company gave up and went to all Horseheads. This company was also going to pay 12 million dollars to upgrade the electrical transformer to Erin.

29. Do you think that the Town should encourage manufacturing and industrial development in the Town?

Yes: 19.5% (26 responses)

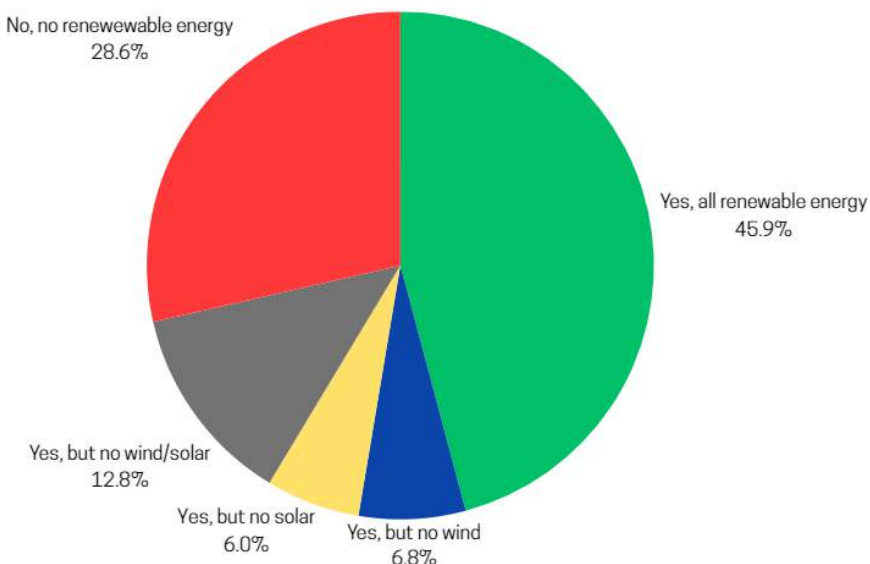
No: 80.5% (107 responses)

30. Would you be in favor of a manufacturing facility being located in Erin which uses local raw materials, such as wood pellet manufacturing or sawmill?

Yes: 59.1% (75 responses)

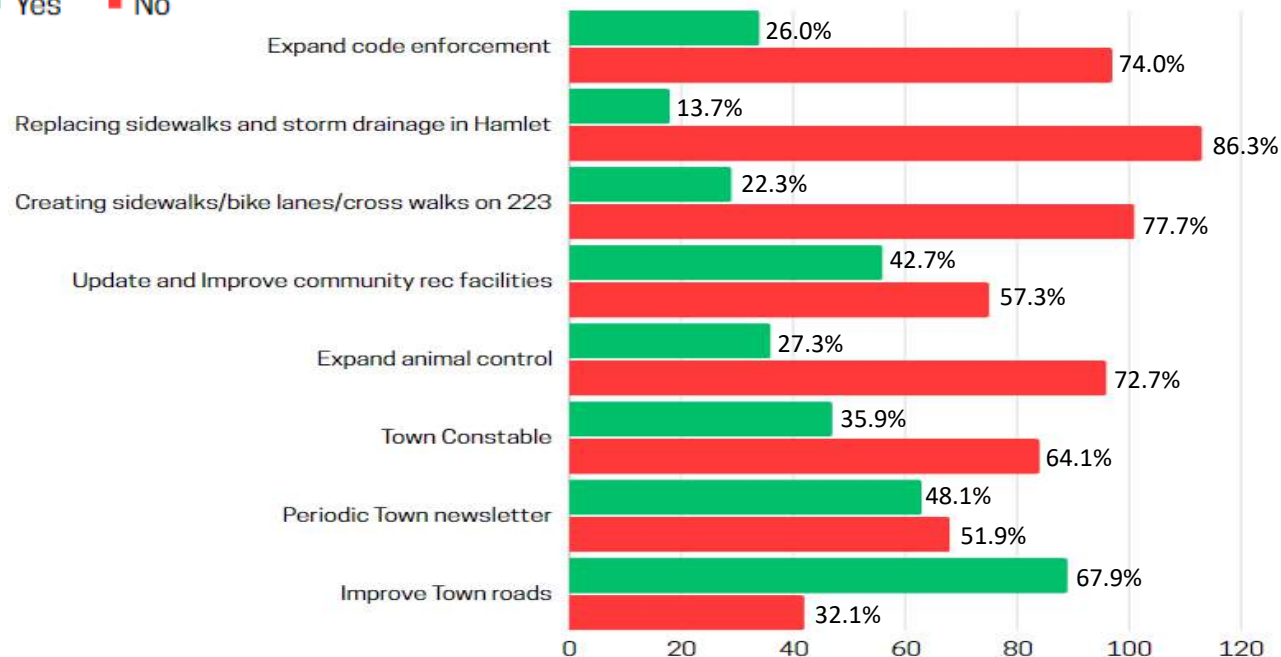
No: 40.9% (52 responses)

31. Do you think that the Town should encourage alternative renewable energy development in the Town, such as wind and solar?



32. Would you be willing to pay additional property taxes to support:

■ Yes ■ No





Final Thoughts

33. What do you like about living in Erin?

- ◇ Location and freedom to live your life the way you want with out disturbance (other then people who are out to ruin and bitch about suck things, like parties on private property and gatherings on private owned properties
- ◇ I have loved living in Erin for almost 50 years now. I have seen it change so much and I fear that in the future what I have loved most, (the natural beauty, the wildlife, the neighborly friends looking out for each other, the peace and serenity, the simplicity and honesty, the bubbling creek and hills covered with gorgeous trees) all of that will be gone. We as a community need to place a VALUE on our identity, we need to recognize what makes us special and not throw that away. Erin is a unique and rare place to live. It is a special place where you can still escape the ugly loud noise, the chaos and confusion, the craziness and crime of almost everywhere else where people live on top of each other like ants in an ant hill. Please, let's not lose that!
- ◇ I live here specifically because it is the way it is - low density, peace and quiet, good neighbors; no industrial activity; as of this writing, I feel like there are very good people running the town including the Planning Board
- ◇ That we are rural but we need better law enforcement & Ambulance Service. Like the food bank services. Like the senior citizens group but they need to be organized could use some help in that area
- ◇ We love living here because of the beauty and ruralness. Hopefully that will be maintained.
- ◇ I can live peacefully on top of the hill, and then go into town and still feel a sense of community
- ◇ Proximity to finger lakes and other areas. Lack of traffic, quiet country living.
- ◇ Very grateful to have grown up here and now raising my children here
- ◇ Freedom. I enjoy having my own space. There are currently not rules for everything. Neighbors are great for the most part and help each other out.
- ◇ The country feel, yet being close to businesses in the area. I don't want city life or I wouldn't be here. Extra businesses equals extra traffic equals extra people equals the potential for extra crime. No thank you!!!
- ◇ I like that it's country, if you bring in all that you have mentioned we may as well live in Elmira. If I wanted a city atmosphere, I would have bought a house in the city.
- ◇ Quiet, country vibe, generally down to earth people, pretty scenery.
- ◇ Being close to town (horseheads, Elmira), but still able to be in country.
- ◇ That people for the most part let you live your life with out harassing you
- ◇ The quiet sense of community. The Town Tavern delivering food.

- ◇ Born and raised here. Great place to raise your kids
- ◇ I love being out where there are not a lot of people, and there is a lot of space.
- ◇ Being out away from the city but close enough to drive to and the quiet but hate the 4 wheelers up and down Jackson creek at all hours
- ◇ The peace and quiet. Neighbors helping neighbors. Friendly people for the most part.
- ◇ Small town with minimal development and a lot of country. That's why I moved here.
- ◇ The quite beautiful country living with a great community of people
- ◇ Location and freedom to live your life the way you want with out disturbance (other then people who are out to ruin and bitch about suck things, like parties on private property and gatherings on private owned properties
- ◇ Use to like the solitude, now too many new houses and people
- ◇ I like it just the way it is. However, it was a lot better 50 years ago
- ◇ I love the people and friendliness of the community
- ◇ The people here are so great! I love the people in Erin.
- ◇ A feeling of home with security of friendly neighbors
- ◇ Beauty, quiet most of the time, kind neighbors
- ◇ Quiet. No business with traffic. People leave you alone
- ◇ The country life and small town community.
- ◇ Mostly peace and quiet, concerned neighbors/friendly
- ◇ The peace and quiet i have living here
- ◇ small town , people, farming
- ◇ Everything
- ◇ Everyone minding their own business.
- ◇ It's great other than the drug dealers
- ◇ Rural / small town atmosphere
- ◇ Love the small town feeling,
- ◇ I love the people and views
- ◇ Safe and quiet
- ◇ I grew up here. Thats it
- ◇ Beautiful nature
- ◇ Generally a quiet area
- ◇ Rural location
- ◇ It's calm and quiet
- ◇ I love it here so peaceful
- ◇ Quiet, good neighbors, community spirit and activities.
- ◇ The people
- ◇ country living quietness
- ◇ Love the space and outdoors
- ◇ the peace and quiet of the country
- ◇ Open spaces
- ◇ Quiet, country life, freedom
- ◇ Small town look and quiet and people. Only "woke" we have to worry about is getting up in the morning.

- | | |
|--|--|
| ◇ Peace and quiet | ◇ It's peaceful It's quiet |
| ◇ The quietness | ◇ Beautiful country side |
| ◇ The peace and quiet. | ◇ Wonderful people |
| ◇ Remoteness | ◇ Peaceful, quiet |
| ◇ It's rural, the wildlife, and privacy. | ◇ The quietness and small neighborhood |
| ◇ The amount of open land | ◇ Its not the city |
| ◇ rural atmosphere | ◇ Country life |
| ◇ The way it is | ◇ Quiet, rural |
| ◇ Small town community | ◇ Beautiful country, remote, no neighbors, great water |
| ◇ Everything | ◇ Quiet, neighbors, wildlife |
| ◇ My family is here | ◇ country, but not far from cities |
| ◇ It's peaceful | ◇ The quiet beauty |
| ◇ It's quiet and peaceful | ◇ peace and family |
| ◇ The good people and way of life | ◇ Peace and quiet |
| ◇ Peace and quite | ◇ its home |
| ◇ I love the community and rural atmosphere | ◇ Small town atmosphere |
| ◇ Calm and peaceful | ◇ Country , wildlife , quietness |
| ◇ Country quietness peaceful | ◇ Everything |
| ◇ Quiet. | ◇ Quiet |
| ◇ Quiet | ◇ The quiet, and the freedom |
| ◇ Privacy | ◇ Peace and quiet |
| ◇ It is quiet and peaceful | ◇ Country life |
| ◇ It used to be a great place for kids but it's going down hill and for 15+ years we were supposed to get a park at the fire station and still nothing | ◇ It's peaceful It's quiet |
| ◇ Peace and quiet. | ◇ Beautiful country side |
| ◇ Quiet | ◇ Wonderful people |
| ◇ My property | ◇ Peaceful, quiet |
| ◇ Quiet. Space. | ◇ The quietness and small neighborhood |
| | ◇ Its not the city |

- ◇ Quiet, neighbors, wildlife
- ◇ country, but not far from cities
- ◇ The quiet beauty
- ◇ peace and family
- ◇ Peace and quiet
- ◇ Country , wildlife , quietness
- ◇ Everything
- ◇ Quiet
- ◇ its home
- ◇ Small town atmosphere
- ◇ Country life
- ◇ Quiet, rural
- ◇ Beautiful country, remote, no neighbors, great water
- ◇ The quiet, and the freedom
- ◇ Peace and quiet
- ◇ Country life

34. What do you dislike about living in Erin?

- ◇ Nosey people
- ◇ Very little to do
- ◇ Lack of things for kids to do and playground closer to the Hamlet where the kids could actually have access to it without walking a mile to get there. Code enforcement only patrolling up and down 223 and ignoring the heinous conditions of properties on the back roads. Lack of animal control for all animals....not just for dogs but for all animals.
- ◇ the drugs that some people are making and using in erin
- ◇ the drugs that are making the way back in erin by certain people
- ◇ Bad cell service
- ◇ Lack of motivation to make improvements. Those who don't take pride in their homes and property by neglecting upkeep and throwing garbage around.
- ◇ I feel like older outdated generation refusing to accept or give chance to new ideas new attractions new growth with the goal of keeping the once but now lost thriving as a whole community vibe and using the good
- ◇ It's in New York State
- ◇ Lack of cell service in some places.
- ◇ No police presence
- ◇ Its a bit far if you need to get anything but that is understood when living here.
- ◇ That we have no internet or cell phone service
- ◇ People moving in wanting to change a community they wanted to live in at the beginning.
- ◇ Long long winters
- ◇ Not allowing unlicensed cars
- ◇ Taxes both property and school is outrageous
- ◇ That I can not get internet or cell phone service
- ◇ Diet road. High taxes with high equalization rate because town won't do reval.
- ◇ Nothin
- ◇ Crappy roads
- ◇ I love it all
- ◇ There is not a strong sense of community. Not crazy about living on dirt road. School taxes too high because of equalization rate.
- ◇ I honestly can't think of much
- ◇ nothing

- ◇ ol method of trial and error because people say ◇ I dislike that people are scoping out properties online the support things but its easy to do that and stealing and that i have to watch every-thing and i feel like i am unable to leave my home and feel it may be broke into.
- then lea e your home and pund the pavement and make it happen. We need bad ass no bullshit tell it how it is so no one is riding on wishes hopes and ◇ Lack of jobs/businesses
- false information. People who want to save a great ◇ roads, wish they would close my road so it isn't pkace to raise your kids and gather your loved ones.... maintained only by me
- ◇ Nothing. Haven't found anything yet ◇ All the people who speed down the roads espe-pecially the drug crotch rockets
- ◇ Meth ◇ need local services, grocery etc
- ◇ Some road conditions, amount of time for road con-conditions to improve in winter ◇ Dislike not having internet and cell phone ser-vice.
- ◇ Lack of pride for property for some residences ◇ Nothing
- ◇ "For the most part, I love living in Erin and have al-ways loved coming home. While working in Ithaca, I ◇ Meth houses and crack heads causing drama. was always happy to see it in my rear view mirror All the ugly solar things
- and head toward Erin, my place of peace and sanity. ◇ A lot of drug addicts
- While working in Elmira, I am ALWAYS glad to head ◇ To much to list
- on out 223 toward my place of peace and quiet in ◇ This issue of land rights and unfairness of how the woods. I have driven over some pretty bad roads our solar project was killed. We want to keep
- over the years to get home, so yes, the roads could ◇ we want to keep this farm going, but we need help. We already be better. But not if the price is losing the peace and got audited by NY state because they want to
- quiet. know why we keep trying to run this business
- ◇ What I REALLY DON'T like is having 4 wheelers and ◇ that shows no profit. We passed the audit com-pletely, but if we can't start to even break
- side by sides driven by young people from who ◇ even, which a small community solar project knows where, (who dont give a rats ass about the not visible from the road would help us do,
- new born fawns) driving out into wooded property ◇ then we will shut down the farm.
- (sometimes posted property) and tearing it up ◇ Lack of law enforcement especially the lack of
- weekend after weekend! I don't like having some ◇ enforcement of speed limits. It is very unsafe to
- maniac on a crotch rocket practically commit suicide ◇ travel to work in the morning between the
- and take me with him for why? And there are some ◇ hours of 5 and 8 a.m. Also the speed limit is 55
- scary looking wild-eyed gas pedal stomping maniacs ◇ on our road and drivers are to often well above
- driving cars in Erin too. So yes, if we could keep ◇ those speeds creating extremely dangerous
- more crazies from living here, that would be a good ◇ situations at times.
- thing."
- ◇ Lack of action for animal neglect/cruelty

- ◇ Slow decline and lack of home and building improvements
- ◇ Cell service
- ◇ Excessive speeding and careless driving on the main roads...223 & 224.
- ◇ The community has a very dirtball feel to it at times it needs to be cleaned up. There needs to be a crackdown on drinking and driving.
- ◇ poor quality roads
- ◇ Arses who want to change the way it is
- ◇ No gas station or store
- ◇ the dirt roads - especially in summer - there is dust everywhere.
- ◇ adding too many development houses and losing potential farm land
- ◇ Rough dirt roads
- ◇ Nothing
- ◇ No grocery store
- ◇ Drug use and poverty
- ◇ Cell service could definitely improve. I had an accident in a dead zone and that shouldn't be happening in this day and age.
- ◇ The drunks
- ◇ Road maintenance and repair
- ◇ Nosey people
- ◇ Seems to be an area that is attracting drugs and crime lately
- ◇ People complaining that there's nothing to do, but there is. They just need to get involved.
- ◇ Crime and Drugs
- ◇ Drugs
- ◇ Sheriff support with road traffic.
- ◇ The distance to the nearest grocery store
- ◇ u dont want to know
- ◇ Solar farms and anything taking away farming and our wild life!!!
- ◇ Outdated lighting
- ◇ I live in the hamlet and my roads are shit and plowed like crap
- ◇ Roads that are used like racetracks
- ◇ The drug runners on their motorcycles and people having junk cars and tractors all over.
- ◇ Trashy unkept properties
- ◇ The lack of interest of the public to get involved in programs to bring people together in fun and comradery
- ◇ Stores, gas stations too far away
- ◇ The people who don't take care of their property
- ◇ Drugs
- ◇ The fact that we are in New York State.
- ◇ Too far from business and store
- ◇ Nothing to dislike
- ◇ The old trailer parks
- ◇ People driving way above speed limit on Jackson Creek rd
- ◇ High taxes
- ◇ bad electric grid, and lack of strong internet and cell service
- ◇ Police screaming by at least a couple times a week
- ◇ Not having a store, gas station, or bank nearby.
- ◇ The drug presence is unfortunately increasing out of control
- ◇ I hate the fact that you have to drive 20 minutes to go anywhere.
- ◇ trash and cars and un maintained property
- ◇ No law enforcement to junk cars and noise control vehicles aka 4 wheeler and dirt bikes at all hours of night
- ◇ Nothing
- ◇ u dont want to know
- ◇ Solar farms and anything taking away farming and our wild life!!!
- ◇ Living here is great!
- ◇ Some of the roads are junk. Some people are super loud.

35. Where do you think the Town needs to improve?



- ◇ The youth need more activities. And N Greenbush should be paved. But there's got to be a way to make improvements without a significant increase in taxes.
- ◇ "I believe Steve and Harold do a good job with maintaining the town roads in Erin, with their limited budget, equipment and manpower. I do believe there are a few things that could be improved with little cost up front and a cost saving in the long run. The roads need to be able to shed run off from the edge of pavement. The roads need the grass and sod removed and a small shoulder with sufficient pitch to drain the water away from the edge of the road.
- ◇ I believe if this is not done on Kronus road along with oil and stone that the same thing that happened to Langdon hill road will occur. The pavement will fall apart and have to be replaced."
- ◇ A municipal water system, allow atv and utv use on the town roads
- ◇ Stop letting people buy land for commercial use!!
- ◇ Lighting
- ◇ In general, small towns and villages are dieing out as many people want to live close to city environments. Cities offer many things small towns cannot. That said, there are people (like myself) who don't want what the cities have to offer. Depending on availability of land & housing, others will also come. Somehow we need to market the availability of quiet country living with the close proximity to other locations, such as Elmira, Watkins, etc.
- ◇ Improve by being less progressive. Not every town needs to get bigger, denser, and increase tax revenue. Let it stay as it is. If people want densely populated place they can move to any where else.
- ◇ we need more police patrol to watch the runners of drugs on the mini bikes and crotch rockets nightly or every couple days
- ◇ Communication to reach everyone maybe newsletter sent thru emails
- ◇ Zoning enforcement of property management.
- ◇ Leadership, decision makes if you will! The town needs clean slate as far as what will work the best to do the above answer....
- ◇ I think the attitude of many people living here needs to change. People who cannot or will not appreciate the beauty and unique 'wild natural' quality of Erin need to go live in Elmira. Seriously. If there are any extra resources or grants to be spent, I think making the roads better should be a priority. After the roads, I would next prioritize any money or influence that could be leveraged on greatly improving cell phone and internet service for all of us living out here! That would be huge.4. Finally, I think it is so important for the leadership in Erin to work proactively on preservation. They need to work to preserve and develop the unique qualities of Erin that set it apart from Horseheads, Elmira, and Ithaca. Preserve the woodlands, safe guard the wildlife, encourage places that let people experience nature and natural experiences like Park Station, picking blueberries, making maple syrup, the Erin Woodfest, picking apples, going on a hayride. When was the last time you saw a hayride in Elmira? You didn't.
- ◇ There needs to be more follow through by code enforcement and enforcement of local regulations before adding more new ones

- ◇ More law enforcement. And better cell reception.
- ◇ Highway
- ◇ Encouraging people to get rid of their garbage
- ◇ More community help
- ◇ Need to grade some of the roads down and put a decent surface on them. 30+ Years of oil and stone ...the road is raised up and now drains in our yards.
- ◇ something for kids to do
- ◇ We need to value and place huge importance on those things that make Erin so unique and special, not bring in manufacturing, housing developments, or car dealerships. Those things will destroy the special quality of Erin, and we will never get it back!
- ◇ Hamlet
- ◇ Cell service.
- ◇ Gas / convenience store would be nice
- ◇ Internet & cell phone service
- ◇ Judgement of new ideas for change before understanding the long range implications
- ◇ Can't think of anything. Been happy here a long time.
- ◇ Stay out of our business sometimes
- ◇ Road paving
- ◇ We need cell and internet service
- ◇ Keep up with changes
- ◇ Cell and internet Services
- ◇ How about a business like a pharmacy with store items.
- ◇ Road and drainage.
- ◇ Nothing specific
- ◇ I think the town is generally doing well with what they have.
- ◇ I think there's an opportunity to support the community in their health and well being.
- ◇ Letting the community know what's going on
- ◇ Creating a community based on farming etc..
- ◇ Roads
- ◇ Ice cream store like Grand Central or Big Top maybe include candy so the kids will work to get money and spend it there.
- ◇ Unsure
- ◇ Getting news out to the people. Cell phone service and internet service.
- ◇ Water quality in hamlet
- ◇ Taxes
- ◇ More jobs
- ◇ Again, to much to list
- ◇ Posting information on board meetings in the way that it should be posted so that town members can attend.
- ◇ Letting residents now what happening in the town other than posting on Facebook
- ◇ I think we need a small general store. I also believe unlicensed, junk vehicles should be removed from properties unless the property is a licensed business such as a scrap yard
- ◇ Just clean its self up the optics of the town are very dirty
- ◇ Pave all residential roads
- ◇ It's attitude. You moved here because you liked Erin, stop changing it into what you left.
- ◇ Needs to encourage farming

- ◇ Pave the dirt roads or at least maintain them properly. They dig the ditches out but don't take down the trees on the side of the ditches so they become hazards. Dead trees near the road and power lines are not cut down. Some ditches are never cleaned out. Lastly, I hope the town will resist the urge to continuously make new rules, regulations and codes.
- ◇ consistent and clear rules for zoning, code enforcement for everyone
- ◇ Enforcing private property clean up (trash)
- ◇ Putting a park in the hamlet so the kids have something closer to play on
- ◇ Activities for our youth like a local pool would be great/ activities like playing pool and games
- ◇ Property maintenance. Some of the homes in town look very unkempt and junk around.
- ◇ Preserving Erin for what it is and used to be
- ◇ Road maintenance and repair
- ◇ Roads , garbage prices , land taxes , getting more then one energy source more then one internet and cable source
- ◇ The town park behind the fire house. It is just a waste, there is nothing there to attract people to use it.
- ◇ Crime and Drugs
- ◇ Trash pick up, road maintenance
- ◇ More community events
- ◇ Something to bring more people to board meetings
- ◇ Roads
- ◇ Making people clean up their properties and being quiet after a certain hour at night.
- ◇ Trailer parks
- ◇ Stop thinking more is better. We live here because we like country life.
- ◇ Taxes are too high
- ◇ The roads, specifically Austin Hill Road
- ◇ Trash pickup
- ◇ Lower taxes
- ◇ roads, signs, ditches
- ◇ Not sure
- ◇ More information available. I like the Facebook pages but not everyone has Facebook.
- ◇ Getting rid of the drugs
- ◇ Lower town officers. Not as many are needed. Maybe joining Horseheads with services.
- ◇ road and ditches
- ◇ People that is running the town and in charge

36. Is there an issue that is important to you that has not been covered in this questionnaire, or something you would like to expand on further concerning the above topics?

- ◇ more police activity through the town to stop the meth being made and done in this town
- ◇ Since we have laws about loud parties they should be enforced as well as junk cars which don't have license plates. Fine people to keep up our standards
- ◇ The leaders of this town are like many of us stuck in a rut and sinking fast when it comes to accepting re-searching working together to get the ball rolling on simple yet effective changes. Great things do not ever happen over night remember hard work reassurance broad shoulders and dedication with a no BS attitude in the nicest not nice way
- ◇ I think I have already expanded and expounded on all you probably want to hear (and more)! I sincerely thank you for taking the time to read and hear what I have said, and I am always happy to talk about these issues further.
- ◇ If the hamlet wants more services they should pay for it - not all of us. What benefit does a street light or sewer have to the minority of our population in the hamlet have to anyone except those living there? What are we trying to become and why? If people want what you're proposing they. An move down the road. Re trash in yards if you really want to spend some money offer a junk drop off to residents.
- ◇ Natural gas resources
- ◇ Thank you to the board and all members of the community who step up and lead. I appreciate your service.
- ◇ Cell and internet
- ◇ I know there is a senior citizen gathering but don't know any information on it. There is nothing anywhere what the rules are to join ,who can join and what they do.. that seems to be something that could be improved on to get others to join . If we just knew what they stand for.
- ◇ How about the dumping station. Could we extend the hours?
- ◇ I would love to see an AED at the town hall and opportunity for health classes like CPR, healthy eating, etc.
- ◇ I'm trying to figure out your question about the Town supporting renewable energy. Is the question regarding utility scale wind or solar projects? Or does it pertain to an individual installing solar panels or small wind for residential use? I'm assuming utility scale when I say I do not think we should encourage it. However, because the question is ambiguous, and people will instantly say they support solar or wind, I'm not sure the responses you get to this question are necessarily going to be a valid way to craft a comprehensive plan.
- ◇ Seasonal roads are falling apart and private property owners are having to clean up dumped garbage on them.
- ◇ I want to commend Billy V and all his efforts in our town that sometimes go unnoticed.

- 
- ◇ Would like to have more news on what the town is doing. Like what is the church doing what are the senior citizens doing with their group. Senior citizens group needs to be more organized with some guidelines or bylaws. They need help and more member to participate.
 - ◇ Why good people get dinged for a nice Lexus without plates stored in their well manicured lawns while known hoarders and meth cooks continue on business as usual
 - ◇ Taxes that are putting farmers under
 - ◇ Community scale solar so that we don't get state sponsored solar, which the town has no say in
 - ◇ Zoning and codes
 - ◇ need to fix the zoning to make it clearer and not use special permits as often this costs the town money
 - ◇ Being more easy on small business in Erin
 - ◇ Drug problem
 - ◇ Leave homeowners/property owners alone. Let us build/demolish whatever we need to on our own property without needing to get approval. The most possible liberty for the most possible people in the most possible ways.
 - ◇ Questions are what the committee is concerned with. Survey the people stop and talk to them. Then publish the thoughts to the town. Then have them rate each response on a scale. Your survey would be more accurate.
 - ◇ People are ready to complain about things but don't come to board meetings to see what is going on ,or to ask questions.
 - ◇ Free spring junk pick up
 - ◇ Some of the topics did not have enough information, like the renewable energy options. If I didn't know enough about a topic I have to say no until I know more.
 - ◇ Even though we don't currently have farm animals, we eventually hope to. Those of us who live on the back roads should not have unnecessary barriers to the ownership of such animals.
 - ◇ The Wood Festival needs to update and become an attraction, now it seems to be just an annual chicken bbq with some booths. Also, waterway , stream and drainage maintenance
 - ◇ I think the fact that I rarely have to think about or talk about the management of the town means they are doing a good job. It's there, it's viable, but since I don't much think about the happenings of the town, they are doing a good job.
- 

Appendix B

Town of Erin Comprehensive Plan Survey Copy

This survey is a part of the Town of Erin Comprehensive Planning process and aims to determine the needs and priorities of the Town. Your input will help to influence potential funding priorities for the Town. This survey should take you around 20 minutes and all submissions are anonymous.

Please return surveys by **November 10th, 2023**. You are able to fill out the survey online, or go to the Town Hall to get a paper copy that can be turned into the Town Hall. A drop- box will be provided at the Erin Town Hall or you can mail the questionnaire to:

The Town of Erin
C/O Planning and Zoning 1138 Breesport Rd.
Erin, NY 14838

**Indicates Required Question*

Demographics

1. What is your age? *Please check one box.*

- ☐ Under 25 years of age
- ☐ 26-40 years of age
- ☐ 41-54 years of age
- ☐ 55-69 years of age
- ☐ Over 70 years of age

2. What is your current employment status? *Please check one box.*

- ☐ Full-time employee
- ☐ Part-time employee
- ☐ Unemployed
- ☐ Retired
- ☐ Self-Employed/Business Owner
- ☐ Other: _____

3. What is your current industry of employment?

4. Are you currently running a business out of your residence or property in the Town of Erin? *Please check one box.*

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

Residency

5. Please describe the status of your residency in the Town of Erin. *Please check one box.*

- ☐ Year-round resident/homeowner
- ☐ Part-time resident/homeowner
- ☐ Land owner/non-resident
- ☐ Rent or lease
- ☐ Other

6. How many people live in your household?

7. How long have you lived in the Town of Erin? *Please check one box.*

- ☐ Less than 1 year
- ☐ 1-4 years
- ☐ 5-9 years
- ☐ 10-19 years
- ☐ Over 20 years
- ☐ My whole life
- ☐ I don't live in the Town of Erin

8. What type of residence do you live in? *Please check one box.*

- ☐ Single family residence on under 10 acres
- ☐ Single family residence on 10+ acres, no agricultural use
- ☐ Single family residence on 10+ acres, with agricultural use
- ☐ 2 family residence on under 10 acres
- ☐ Multiple houses on a single property
- ☐ 3 family residents on under 10 acres
- ☐ Residential with commercial use
- ☐ Seasonal Property
- ☐ Other: _____

9. Do you own real estate in the Town that does not include your residence? *Please check one box.*

☐ Yes

☐ No

10. Do you know what your property is zoned for? *Please check one box.*

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unsure

11. Are there any zoning restrictions that limit what you would like to do on your property, or those that reside on your property? *Please check one box.*

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unsure

12. If you answered yes to the last question, please describe which restrictions limit the use of your property:

13. Do you currently have any "farm animals", such as horses, cows, goats, chickens, etc.?

☐ Yes

☐ No

14. Is current zoning preventing you from owning "farm animals"?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unsure

15. Do you feel that the Town of Erin should be more aggressive when creating and enforcing laws regarding junk cars, abandoned structures, trash and debris on private property?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unsure

Quality of Life

16. What do you like most about living in Erin? (Please choose no more than three items)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peace and quiet | <input type="checkbox"/> Good neighbors and sense of community spirit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Low Town taxes | <input type="checkbox"/> Quality of drinking water (well water) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Low crime rate | <input type="checkbox"/> Low density of people |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affordability of land | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of traffic congestion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Closeness of sites to outdoor activities (hiking, boating, cross-country) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beauty of natural surroundings (forest, bodies of water, wildlife) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Little commercial activity | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

17. How important are the following services to you? *Please put a mark the box below to show importance of each service.*

	Not important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Important	Very important
Number of community activities					
Number of nearby stores					
Number of nearby restaurants					
Number of nearby entertain- ment venues (live music, thea- ters, sports, cultural facilities)					
Distance to schools					
Distance to medical facilities					
Nearby living-wage employment					
Availability of public utilities (water, natural gas, cable, high speed internet)					
Roadway maintenance (patching, potholes, snow re- moval, dust control)					

18. What services do you have available reliably at your residence? Is it important to improve the availability of these services? *Check all that apply.*

	Check if available	Check if NOT available	Check if important to improve availability	Check if NOT important to improve availability
Internet				
Cable TV				
Land line phone				
Cell phone service				

19. Would you support a seasonal market in Erin, with farm produce and other local products, by visiting regularly? *Please check one box.*

☐

Yes

☐

No

☐

Maybe

20. How many times each year do you use the recreational facilities currently available in the Town, including Park Station? *Please check one box.*

☐

Never

☐

1-9 times each year

☐

More than 10 times each year

21. Do you think the Town should actively try to attract a senior housing project? *Please check one box.*

☐

Yes

☐

No

22. Do you think that the Town should encourage residential growth by zoning specific areas for subdivision? *Please check one box*

☐

Yes

☐

No

23. Do you think that the Town should explore infrastructure improvements to attract commercial and residential development? *Please check one box.*

☐

Yes

☐

No

24. What businesses or services would you like to see in Erin?

25. Would you support the Town in exploring municipal water service to assure water quality in the Hamlet area, using grant funding where possible? *Please check one box.*

☐ Yes

☐ No

Future of Erin and Development

26. Over the next 25 years what would you like to see in Erin? *Please check one box.*


☐ Retain its primarily/residential atmosphere

☐ Develop into a residential/commercial community (medium density with some businesses located within appropriate zoning districts within the Town)

☐ Develop into a residential/commercial/industrial community (some high-density housing, and some light industry within appropriate zoning districts within the Town)

27. What do you think will be the most important issues facing the Town of Erin in the future? *Please put a mark the box below to show importance of each service. (next page)*

	Not important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Important	Very important
Zoning issues and a plan for controlled growth					
Affordable housing					
Senior housing					
Protecting water quality					
Property tax increase					
Preservation of farm land (undeveloped open space)					
Preservation of public open spaces (public recreation, parks, trails)					
Public services in the Hamlet (water system, lighting, sidewalks, street improvements)					
Community services (youth activities, senior activities, community recreation/center)					
Economic development: attracting consumer businesses (shopping, tax base)					
Economic development: attracting industry (jobs, tax base)					
Timbering operations (potential for individual income, potential for loss of trees on a large scale)					
Roadway improvements (paving, oil and stone, widening, etc.)					
Environmental issues (flooding, pollution, etc)					



28. Are there any other issues facing the Town that are not on the above list?

29. Do you think that the Town should encourage manufacturing and industrial development in the Town?
Please check one box.

☐

Yes

☐

No

30. Do you think that the Town should encourage alternative renewable energy development in the Town, such as wind and solar? *Please check one box.*

☐

Yes, all renewable energy should be encouraged

☐

Yes, but no wind energy

☐

Yes, but no solar energy

☐

Yes, but renewable energy that is not wind or solar

☐

No, no renewable energy should be encouraged

31. Would you be in favor of a manufacturing facility being located in Erin which uses local raw materials, such as wood pellet manufacturing or sawmill? *Please check one box.*

☐

Yes

☐

No

32. Would you be willing to pay additional property taxes to support: *Please check either yes or no for each item.*

	Yes	No
Replacing sidewalks and storm drainage in the Hamlet area		
Creating sidewalks, bike lanes, or crosswalks on NYS Route 223		
Updating and improving the community park outdoor recreation facility at the Town Building		
A community center that is open days and evenings		
Improvements to Town roads, such as expanding paving or other surface treatments		
Expand Code enforcement		
Expand Animal Control		
A periodic newsletter to inform residents of local news, including Town Board actions, upcoming events, and other items of local interest		
A Town constable or other increased law enforcement		



Final Thoughts

33. What do you like about living in Erin?

34. What do you dislike about living in Erin?

35. Where do you think the Town needs to improve?

36. Is there an issue that is important to you that has not been covered in this questionnaire, or something you would like to expand on further concerning the above topics?

37. If you would like to be contacted regarding Town information, please type your email below. You can also send an email to the Town Clerk, Diane Wise-Hollenbeck, at etownclerk@stny.rr.co

