

Report on Responses
to
Survey of Residents' Vision of Hancock in the Next 10 Years
November 2006

Introduction. The Master Plan Advisory Committee distributed a survey through the November issue of *Hancock Happenings* and during November and December 2006 at the Town Office, the Library and the Hancock Market. We received 139 responses, representing the views of 143 residents.

A Survey Appendix containing all responses to “open” questions and all additional comments made on multiple choice questions is provided with this Report. It will be made available on the Town’s website and at the Town Offices and the Library. (A spreadsheet containing all responses and comments, whether multiple choice or written, will also be made available on the Town’s website.)

Where the survey asked “open” questions (rather than multiple choice questions), the responses are summarized by grouping related items together. For example, the most cited responses to Question 2 were natural resources, open space, beauty of the area, fresh air and conservation, all of which are treated as a single item. Many responses cited multiple items. (When the meaning of a response was not entirely clear, a best estimate of the meaning was made.)

Question 1: The following goals and objectives are stated in Hancock’s current Master Plan and have been the basis of planning for the last 20 years. Please indicate your views on their appropriateness today:

Question 1 (a)	“Protect and preserve the village center and the approaches to it from encroachment of business and commerce.”	Strongly agree	97	<p>Question One (a)</p>
		Agree	28	
		Disagree	5	
		Strongly disagree	6	
		No Opinion	4	
		Weighted Average ¹	1.464	
Question 1 (b)	“Provide guidance for orderly growth of residential areas, especially in the northeast and southerly directs where soil is more suitable for residential use.”	Strongly agree	89	<p>Question One (b)</p>
		Agree	37	
		Disagree	6	
		Strongly disagree	3	
		No Opinion	2	
		Weighted Average	1.482	
Question 1 (c)	“Provide guidance for growth in the amount and size of industry, business and commerce to the point that they will not become the predominant characteristic of he town.”	Strongly agree	95	<p>Question One (c)</p>
		Agree	26	
		Disagree	6	
		Strongly disagree	8	
		No Opinion	1	
		Weighted Average	1.426	

¹ Thus, if each Strongly Agree is assigned +2, Agree = +1, Disagree = -1 and Strongly Disagree = -2 and the total of these is divided by the total number of responses, the result is the “Weighted Average”. A score of +1.4 is between Strongly Agree and Agree.

Question 1 (d)	“Encourage a green belt of conservation land especially in the northern and western sectors of town where soil conditions do not lend themselves to higher density residency and in the wetlands to the northeast and south of the village center.”	Strongly agree	105	<p>Question One (d)</p>
		Agree	25	
		Disagree	3	
		Strongly disagree	7	
		No Opinion	1	
		Weighted Average	1.546	
Question 1 (e)	“Encourage agriculture and forestry as a means of retaining open space.”	Strongly agree	101	<p>Question One (e)</p>
		Agree	30	
		Disagree	6	
		Strongly disagree	1	
		No Opinion	2	
		Weighted Average	1.6	
Question 1 (f)	“Provide for the use and care of resources, including waste management, energy, sewage disposal, water and pollution”	Strongly agree	100	<p>Question One (f)</p>
		Agree	30	
		Disagree	5	
		Strongly disagree	1	
		No Opinion	1	
		Weighted Average	1.628	

Question 1 also elicited additional comments which are included in the Survey Appendix and the spreadsheet referred to on page 1.

Question 2. Please list what you think are the best reasons to live in Hancock.

56 responses - Natural resources, open space, beauty of the area, fresh air and/or conservation.

48 responses - The character of Hancock residents (e.g. varied, friendly, kind, helpful, interesting, volunteerism, shared values, valuing cultural events).

42 responses – Small town, rural character of Hancock.

17 responses – Sense of community.

16 responses – Village area.

14 responses– Peace, quiet and/or safety.

10 responses – Good planning, housing or zoning regulations.

A number of other reasons were cited, but all less than 10 times - please see the Survey Appendix or spreadsheet for more detail.

Question 3. Briefly describe your vision of the future of Hancock in the next 10 years.

Question 4. Please list things you would most like to see introduced or changed in Hancock in the next 10 years.

Question 10. Other Comments.

Responses to these questions have been combined as there was considerable overlap in the responses.

42 responses – Little or no change.

20 responses – Slow, minimal or controlled growth/development.

Versus 10 for restricted or no growth/development and 3 pro growth.

17 responses – Affordable housing (for seniors, the young and/or service providers)

17 responses - Continue conservation, trails.

14 responses – Bury the wires!

12 responses – Traffic concerns.

11 responses – Tax concerns (don't drive people away).

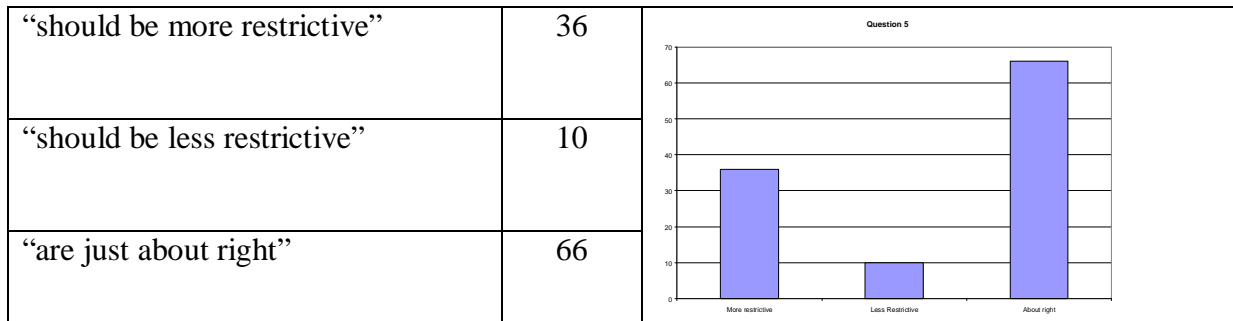
8 responses – Encourage small business, commerce.

versus 6 who cited the lack of business as their best reason to live in Hancock (in Question 1) and 5 who were against the expansion of business.

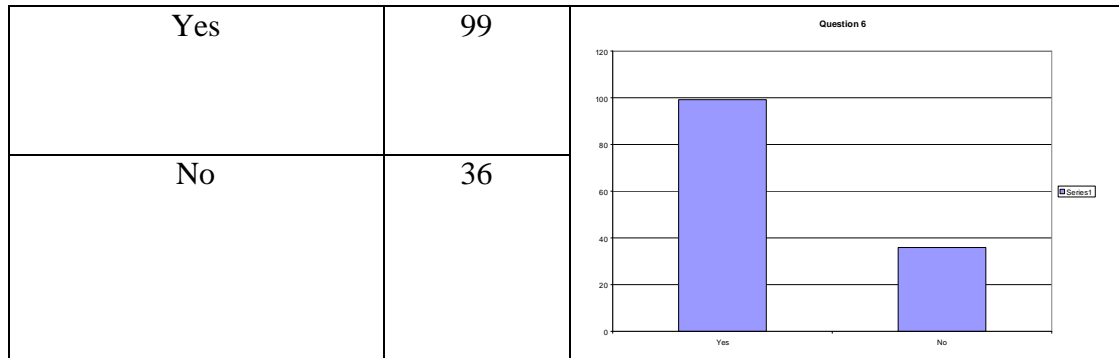
Many other topics were raised by respondents but none by more than a few respondents. These can be found in the Survey Appendix or spreadsheet.

Finally, 26 respondents thanked the Committee for its work!

Question 5. Please indicate whether you think that the current zoning rules



Question 6 - Are you satisfied with the existing goods and services available in Hancock?



I would like there to be

- 17 responses – gas station
- 4 responses – pub, inexpensive restaurant
- 7 responses – gift shop/craft shop
- 3 responses – antique shop
- 2 responses – fruit and vegetables
- 5 responses – public transportation
- Single responses for book shop, laundromat, dry goods, pharmacy, barber/hairdresser, massage therapy

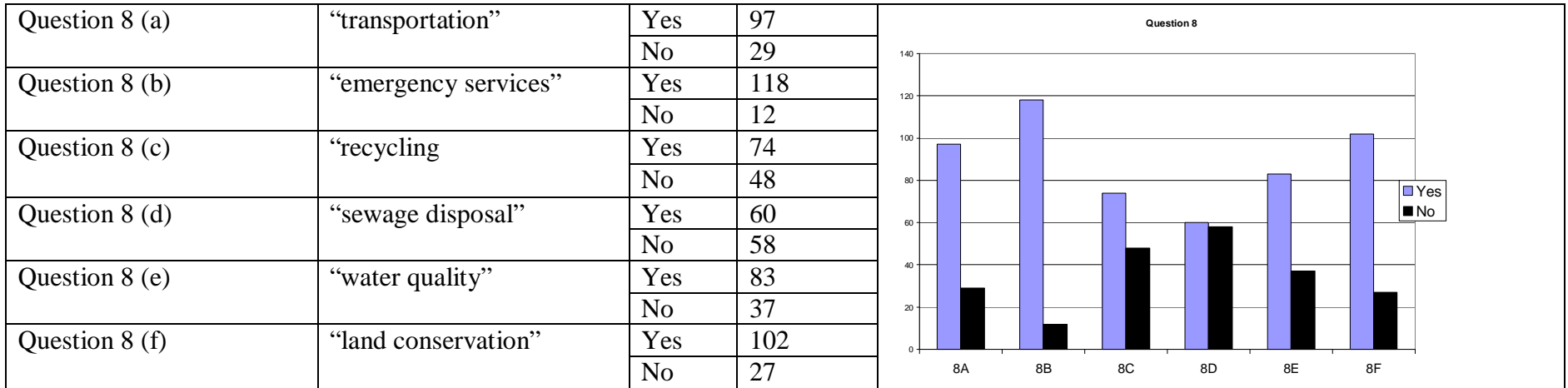
Question 6 also elicited some additional comments which appear in the Survey Appendix and the spreadsheet.

Question 7 – Please indicate what your views would be if there were a proposal for a large development of, say, about 200+ acres, relating to the following:

Question 7 (a)	“a retirement community”	Strongly support	7	<p>Question 7(a)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Strongly agree</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Agree</td> <td>34</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Disagree</td> <td>33</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Strongly disagree</td> <td>53</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No Opinion</td> <td>8</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Percentage	Strongly agree	8	Agree	34	Disagree	33	Strongly disagree	53	No Opinion	8
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No Opinion	8															
Support	34															
Oppose	33															
Strongly oppose	53															
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Question 7 (b)	“a corporate complex”	Strongly support	5	<p>Question 7 (b)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Strongly agree</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Agree</td> <td>14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Disagree</td> <td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Strongly disagree</td> <td>83</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No Opinion</td> <td>6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Percentage	Strongly agree	5	Agree	14	Disagree	26	Strongly disagree	83	No Opinion	6
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Question 7 (c)	“a residential development”	Strongly support	6	<p>Question 7 (c)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Strongly agree</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Agree</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Disagree</td> <td>32</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Strongly disagree</td> <td>68</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No Opinion</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Percentage	Strongly agree	6	Agree	23	Disagree	32	Strongly disagree	68	No Opinion	5
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Question 7 (d)	“an educational center”	Strongly support	7	<p>Question 7 (d)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Strongly agree</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Agree</td> <td>43</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Disagree</td> <td>28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Strongly disagree</td> <td>36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No Opinion</td> <td>18</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Percentage	Strongly agree	7	Agree	43	Disagree	28	Strongly disagree	36	No Opinion	18
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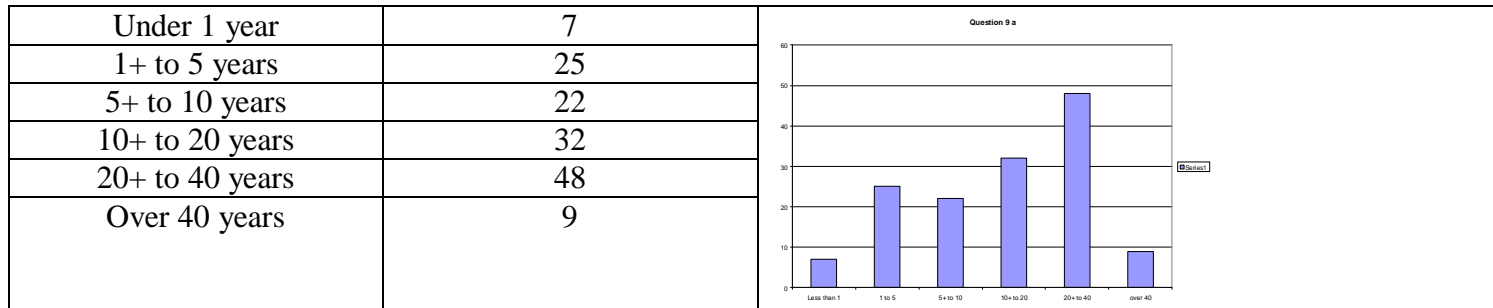
Question 7 also elicited some additional comments which appear in the Survey Appendix and the spreadsheet.

Question 8 – Do you favor a regional approach to issues affecting Hancock and adjoining towns relating to:

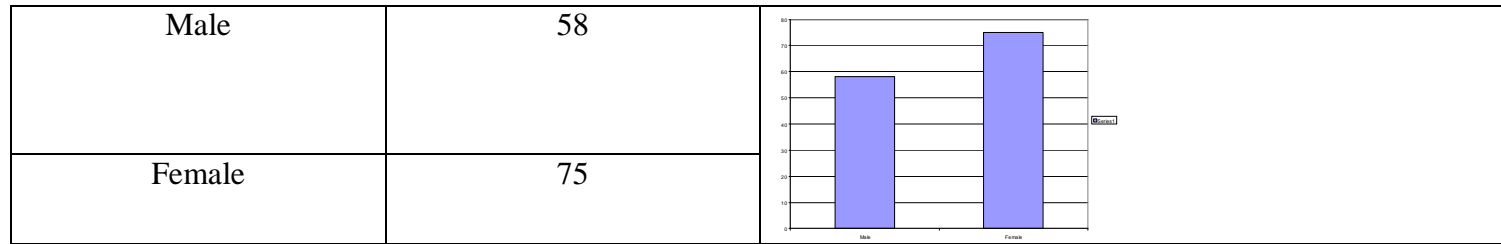


Question 9 -

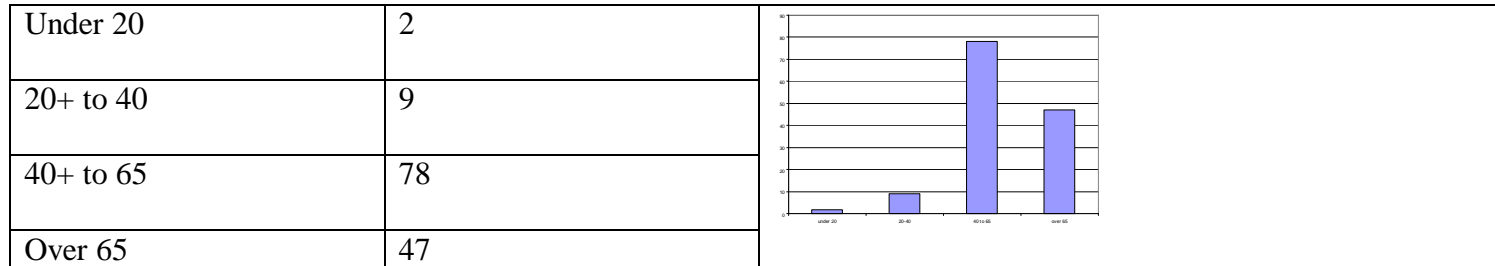
How long have you lived in Hancock?



Are you male or female?



What is your age group?



Question 10 - Other comments. Please see pages 4 and 5.

**Submitted by the VSF Working Group
to the Master Plan Advisory Committee
January 20, 2007**

Tabulations and summaries of “open” question responses – Tricia Froling.
Tabulation of multiple choice responses – Roberta Bell.
Charts of multiple choice responses – Stephen Froling.