

Q.# 45 **What is your vision for how you would like Southwest Harbor to be in 10-20 years? Please describe what you hope will change and how, as well as what you hope will stay the same.**

Total Responses: 115

Respondee

Response

- 1 New personnel for water and sewer depts;no sense building facilities unless they are successfully operated and managed. We don't need more tourists! We need greater local citizen participation in planning to avoid what is happening in Bar Harbor and Boothbay area. Active citizens could stem the negative change. The most (heartily to be commended) recent innovation is the program housed at what used to be Annabel's place;these people exemplify the kind of cooperation and change that SWH badly needs. More power to them!!!
- 2 Traffic control, real bike paths; a shore (?).
- 3 I hope that SWH has designated bicycle lanes everywhere, that we have mandatory curbside recycling and pay-per-bag garbage pick-up. I would love to see Pemetic school become a learning institution for ALL ages - this could transform this side of the island
- 4 Bike lanes to Manset corner, creative imaginative response to changing economic times, public transportation, small, fishing/boat centered.
- 5 The tax burden for owners of property with a water view has been astronomical; if continued, we will become another property for sale.
- 6 I am concerned that the high rate of assessment and property taxation will force many to sell to affluent owners creating another situation like NE Harbor. Although I am a summer resident, I enjoy all my year round neighbors and hope that they will not be forced out of town - as I may be myself if taxes continue to increase. Do you really want the character of this town to change? I have no vote or voice here, but **you do**.
- 7 I do hope the town's "quiet and small" atmosphere will prevail; I hope that the year-round residents will be supported through tax relief/support to keep the working families viable in summer; more \$ for community organizations/space like BH has & public library would ensure places for children and families to spend time. Anything to promote public transportation in summer is a good thing. Safety of people using public facilities is important (public water, sewers, roads, playgrounds, harbor facilities, etc. and should be supported.
- 8 Hold the line on too much development; police and firemen seem to do a good job; post office people are super-super; us govt should pay fully for Coast Guard students; better pavements would mean more walkers/bicyclists.
- 9 Keep the wonderful small town feel and (?care) while growing with the times. By investing in items such as sidewalks, bike paths and better roads, residents (and visitors) can propel themselves by self-power thus reducing traffic and adding to the cleanliness of the environment and contributing to the community aspect of what small towns are about - in addition to showing support for measures such as FOA's and LL Bean's bus system and efforts to contribute to our quality of life as resident shareholders of Acadia National Park. Keep our working waterfront, develop and maintain procedures and policies that are friendly to our local fishermen, boat builders and visiting yachts people. Thank you for taking the time to develop this survey. Wish we could have answered more, but need definition of many items addressed.
- 10 Mixed use residential and commercial without overbuilding or commercializing. Important to maintain he character of the town, insulate residential and rural areas from commercialization and improve safety for pedestrians/cyclists along roads. There should be careful consideration given to density and appearance of any new buildings, parking and traffic flow.
- 12 Changes are needed: new town manager to work with the town of SWH; SWH to stay pretty much the same.
- 13 Little Island project and dredge the NW corner of the harbor. Connect freeman Ridge Road with Long Hill; Connect Long Pond Rd with Carroll's Hill, City water out Fernauld Point. Move sewer plant to Seawall. Add a new street East Ridge Rd and Seal Cove Rd;
- 14 Attract more business not dependent on tourist or summer population.

- 15 Health-approved drinking water, adequate sewage - the harbor smells often; fair assessments for erosion and other cleanup conditions to waterfront property as well as building restrictions.
- 16 We love SWH for its diversity and for its year-round community status. If this could be maintained we'd call it a success. But the steady rise in taxes and the lack of services that should be attached suggest that the present "mix" of residents cannot be sustained. The water is undrinkable, the roads are a mess, we have no sewer and our own public works super can barely do a tenth of his job!!
- 17 Traffic calming measures in place from Norwood Cove to Manset corner (good sidewalks, bike lanes, trees, slow traffic. Community-wide recycling, be a "green town", clean healthy water, clean air, town swimming pool.
- 18 My hope is that the town will buy land on the shore for more public use; that views from the main road will be unobstructed to the water; that we will not be just a tourist town but will encourage the fishing industry and will return the character of our great town.
- 19 I hope that the economics of the town and the businesses here support the life style of the community and the infrastructure of support services. Wish all merchant spaces were rented and full, attracting more customers, etc.
- 20 Changes are needed; new town manager to work for the town of SWH to remain unchanged.
- 21 We are anti-growth and anti-development and for maintaining the character of the town as is. We do not believe any more of the tax burden can be placed on the waterfront owners without risk of losing us. Why are boats allowed on Long Pond if it is the town reservoir? Don't motor boats have plenty of space on the ocean without polluting Long Pond & Echo Lake?
- 22 Easier traffic flow through Main street, otherwise we like the town and town management.
- 25 1. People who work here will be able to live here; 2. Strong downtown, shops, school, HH, Church, Library. Stores servicing REAL needs - drugstore, clinic. A walkable town; 3. Fewer cars and more bike paths, good sidewalks with snow removal; 4. Good medical centers (2); 5. Moratorium on asphalt; 6. Design review board; 7. protection for trees and open space; 8. Town planner; 9. Limit conflicts of interest; 10. 90% recycling and composting; 11 working waterfront- not a Walsh(BH) or NE Harbor scenario. Thank you for this opportunity.
- 27 We like small town atmosphere with working harbor to be protected by: 1. preventing more marinas; 2 limited building size/height and commercial development; 3 maintaining trees and greenscapes; and 4 controlling use of water in harbor and on Clark Point/Fernauld Point/Manset Shores(i.e. no cigarette boats and jet skis). Two areas to which more attention is needed are: 1. Actual enforcement of building regs and set backs; 2. Summer traffic through town.
- 28 Clean, space, current balance of summer and year-round, store filled, add dry cleaner.
- 30 While I would like to see the town keep its downeast character, I realize you can't stop change. You have to control it. It is sad to see a working town becoming a yuppieville. It is losing its friendly fishing/boatbuilding character. I don't know how to preserve that but hopefully you are trying to do that. The roots (5 generations) my family have established are important to us but as growth occurs and costs continue to escalate(i.e. the proposed % increase in already outlandish water rates) our family heritage is SWH may sadly come to an end.
- 32 Maintain its current essential character while looking for incremental; ways to improve on a good thing.e.g. help build businesses on the waterfront and downtown, but not by making wholesale changes. For example, allowing one or two larger hotels/Inns on/n
- 34 Stay the same; keep the government out of our life as much as practical
- 35 This town is on a one-way track to being like NEH: empty on the winter and full of "masters" in the summer. I'd like it to be the way it used to be: a wonderful town.
- 36 The town 10-2- years ago was fine; let's try going in that direction. Bigger isn't always better.
- 37 I would like to see more locals, more children and young people; businesses being open tear-round/ SWH is starting to feel like Bar Harbor.
- 38 I hope that more young people can afford to live in town; the taxes are causing people to leave the area. I know that the infrastructure needs to be maintained and improved; it takes money to do this but other savings and revenue sources must be found, i.e. more payment from Nation Park, grants loans, etc.

- 39 1. Keep the sky dark; 2. We moved here for the community not for development - we purchased an existing home. 3. Would love more eco-friendly - recycle, wind, solar, bicycle paths, sidewalks. If there was a SAFE bike path from Manset into town, we would ride to town so much more than driving.
- 40 I don't expect to live here 10 years from now.
- 42 Smaller town government!
- 43 My hope is to be able to remain in my home for 10-20 years. It is difficult for me to pay my taxes and pay for fuel.
- 46 I would like the look of the town to stay the same, however it would be nice to have more year-round stores, bars and restaurants. Also would like the development of affordable housing to encourage young people to stay.
- 47 I would like to see the aesthetics of the town stay the same - buildings fairly close to road with sidewalks, large trees protected, parking behind bldgs,. I would like sidewalks installed and improved and to be able to bike safely to town; businesses and other development to be required to plant trees in front of their buildings. I would like the electric lines in town buried, a vibrant community with year-round businesses, the ugly parking lot in front of the post office to become a park with a covered bus shelter. Development to be sustainable over time, clean water, no Norway maples or European red ants. Continue to have a great school (Pemetic) and a vibrant Harbor House and public library. MOST OF ALL - I want the community to be safe, drug-free and a place where we don't have to lock our doors and our children are safe.
- 48 Less traffic congestion, especially in summer.
- 51 As a summer resident I am happy with the town as is; as a taxpayer, I would like to be better informed about what changes are being considered and implemented.
- 53 I hope the town will keep its small town feel and appeal with minimum govt intervention into the lives of its citizens. Make it easy for people to walk and ride bikes around town; connect town center with Manset and Smugglers Den.
- 54 1. More emphasis on infrastructure; 2. More housing affordable to avg worker; 3. Better/more transportation options.
- 55 Same population; no high rises; preserve mix of residential, waterfront and fishing; preserve current density-no developments
- 56 Better zoning practices, better cycling/pedestrian lanes, moderate tax increases, more merging of services with other towns.
- 58 I hope the town will continue to have its small town charm. I would like access to the water by opening up Lawler Lane and any other access to the harbor. This is so important to many of us. We need to limit the type and height of trees that can be planted as this can block our views of the harbor, Work needs to be done on Chris' Lane. The road is not done properly and will wash out again. This creates run-off problems for all neighbors. The State of Maine has very strong run-off laws. Chris' Lane should be redone using rock, reinforcement mat, loam and then seeded with grass. In this way the road will not wash out. Grass always holds up. Need to address the run-off from Chris' Pond when heavy rain hits the area. Need to reduce housing development above the Pond as it impacts run-off in a serious way. I think the town manager is doing a good job. Don LeGrange is also doing a good job and is responsive to the Towns resident's needs.
- 59 Do not lose the flavor of this wonderful town with too many unessential changes.
- 60 I would like to see SWH maintain as much of its character as possible, yet for the town to be viable it needs to evolve and attract business suitable to the environs and build a tax base so that people aren't forced to leave due to higher taxes, It will
- 61 1-small town atmosphere; 2-green space; 3-successful local year-round business; 4-improve summer traffic management.
- 62 I hope you will oversee and enforce ordinances, We have a neighbor who cuts trees that don't belong to him - changes bunkhouse to full size guest house built too close to property lines, lies about his intent.

- 63 I would like to see SWH keep its small town qualities but would appreciate more services offered on Main Street. I would like the quality of drinking water to improve and recycling of plastic, paper, glass and aluminum mandatory. Sidewalks need to be repaired and street lights installed to encourage visitors to walk to town versus driving. Enforce 25 mph speed limit!! Before developing new "virgin" areas re-use (recycle) those properties that have stood empty for years. Offer incentives to builders who re-do existing real estate into duplexes and quads. Every comprehensive plan needs to include "affordable" housing for lower income earners. Think outside the box.
- 64 Small-town-mixed use-waterfront I am for more bike paths, consol. Schools, alternative energy.
- 65 We fully expect SWH to enjoy normal growth, but would hate to see it become a summer zoo like bat Harbor. This is a small town and cannot accommodate many more summer visitors than we do now.
- 68 Too much money spent for what we get.
- 69 Maintain local police dispatch, maintain 5 police officers and one summer parking/traffic officer. This is a great community.
- 71 Wish another crosswalk up from Marina; boaters would use it and not walk with traffic going to town. They do not use the one for the restaurant and they bunch up (not single file) and it is hard to drive in that congested area.
- 73 A place that supports year round business and population.
- 74 Rules that are in place should be enforced, especially code violations.
- 77 Mostly keep things the same. Protect harbor from McMansions! Improve bike paths and storm water management. Definitely consolidate Tremont/Pemetic schools
- 78 Retirement community, summers only
- 79 Do away with street lights outside of the town center so we can have "dark skies".
- 80 Better roads. Public transportation between SWH/Ellsworth/Bangor. Currently there is none. Safe drinking water. Currents motivated us to drink bottled water. Affordable housing for the working population and retirees.
- 82 Would like this to be a community with a varied population, with a mix of young working families and retired people. Would like to see a thriving local business community with incentives to establish locally-owned retailers and service providers. Hope to see Main street storefronts occupied.
- 83 More quiet, better roads, less buildings and fancy summer homes.
- 87 SIDEWALK TO Seawall; no empty storefronts in middle of town; Better grocery store(I'd rather have that Town Hill Hannaford right where the Foodmart is; keep the library going strong-it is the best part of the whole town.
- 88 Better traffic control.
- 90 I hope this wonderful community remains a viable, year-round village. It is important that we promote and support small business owners. K-8 school consolidation of some configuration must happen to maintain quality education at an affordable price. Full-time librarians at Pemetic and Tremont schools is not sustainable. Taxpayers cannot continue to support duplicate programs with shrinking student numbers. If school consolidation were put to a referendum vote in both towns, I believe it would pass, especially given the economic times and concerns about taxes not increasing. Somewhere we need to start reducing costs as revenues diminish, i.e. excise tax collections.
- 91 Give people more room to make small additions to their homes.
- 92 A place families can still exist in safety.
- 93 I'll be 88 years old on 8/25/09; I probably won't be around.
- 94 I hope the town gets the water so you can drink it without putting us all in the poorhouse. I hope also that the rich people do not buy up all the property and tax the rest of us out of town. SO hope we get out of debt and the selectmen use common sense about borrowing money.

- 95 There needs to be some way of keeping taxes and prices down on year-round residents so people can afford to stay in town and the town does not just become summer homes. Year-round rental properties need to be available. Limit lodging to smaller places, such as the B&Bs. Provide tax breaks for maritime businesses so they stay in town. For example: What happens if Beal's was sold to a developer, who is able to manipulate the ordinances to create expensive housing(year-round and/or tourist)? Another example: Why couldn't the old Morris property sell? Another maritime business could not afford the price AND taxes. But if the ordinance keeps those affordable, the maritime businesses would come in. Otherwise all you get is tourist or summer lodging, which is what we have enough of already on the shore.
- 97 Very light industry, service-related businesses, great restrictions on multi-family dwellings, good zoning for residential and commercial water treatment, bike path improvement, wind energy, town by-pass, retain the flavor of the town by very good and responsible zoning.
- 98 Our hope is that SWH would continue to be a strong, year-round working community rather than another coastal resort. We would also hope that in 10-20 years SWH will reflect a vision and careful planning along the way - as opposed to "closing the barn door after the horse gets out." We would hope it would be a safe, thriving, balanced yet diverse year-round community.
- 99 Volunteerism needs to be promoted throughout our community.
- 102 Moderate growth with employment opportunities.
- 103 Make town water drinkable before doubling rates; safe sidewalks on both sides from Forest Ave to Manset corner; hope Pemetic school remains open-er-asses properties in a falling economic market to give homeowners a break.
- 104 Small town feeling will stay the same.
- 105 Taxes need to come down; summer [people to pay an extra tax to help pay for school, roads, etc. Would like SWH to be more vibrant working place not a summer playground for the rich; look after year-round residents, lower taxes for the 70 an older and lived here for 30+ years.
- 106 Maintain and beautify harbors, add a marina but not lose sight of the great "working" community that is the real attraction to visitors. Obviously, we need more parking. Sidewalks and bike paths to Seawall attract "healthy" visitors on the fall/winter. Our children can walk to school to improve their health and also save the town money in transportation. No More Condos!! They strain the existing water and sewer system and add to our refuse problem. Encourage "green" residential areas on specific lot sizes, height, etc. etc. Please make sure the CEO enforces the laws for ALL - prior to, during and after any development.
- 108 Vehicles will be electric including pickup trucks; industry will focus on renewable energy; The reality is that ocean acidification will destroy all forms of fishing; there will be some hotels on the harbor.
- 110 Active year-round community with no empty storefronts. Sidewalks and bike paths safe enough to encourage walkers and bikers so we can reduce car usage and our carbon footprint. Tax incentives for residents working in necessary services like education and health care trades. A place where young year-round families can afford to live. SAFE drinking water from a source that does not allow motor boat activity, swimming and sewer lines running into it. Increased school enrollment.
- 115 Above sea level- supporting sustainable year-round economy.
- 116 I would like to see more businesses surviving and more families affording our town.
- 117 The roads need great improvement and bike lanes; the roads are very dangerous to ride on-maybe if we had better roads and bike lanes more people would bike instead of drive; better for the environment and healthier.
- 119 The small town atmosphere is caring and neighborliness.
- 120 No parking on both sides of main street; Alternate route around town; at Village Green, Herrick and Apple lanes - widen main road so that through traffic can go around left turning traffic.; traffic signal @ Clark Point Road & Main;
- 122 I want it quieter & friendlier; safer for walkers & cyclists; attractive & healthy; common sense not bells & whistles; find ways to get families to settle here - we need more kids. Spend more town money in town - costs are a poor basis for decisions.

- 124 I hope we can keep our working waterfront and nor encourage large subdivisions such as Oceans End. The denuding of the property is atrocious.
- 125 1. We need affordable housing desperately, not subsidized but affordable; it's the only way our town can attract young families.2. It's probably not going to happen but I'd love to see more "locals' participate in our town.3. I'd like to see Tremont & SWH have one school, maybe even a new one and turn the present school into taxable property with a good parking and park plan.
- 126 would like it to be SWH - environmentally & financial secure.
- 127 Hope that people who work in SWH live here.
- 128 Affordable housing; family oriented community; clean accessible public bathrooms - use of portapotties in high use locations; include all businesses in overall business plan- not just Main street - B&Bs, restaurants, shops, restaurants; Sometimes it seems the most emphasis is put on downtown Main Street. Work to attract year-round businesses to area that have a low impact on the environment.
- 130 Southwest Harbor is no longer a friendly, little town. Taxation has forced out the locals. We look to the town officials to look out for us. They only look to get further into our wallet. Like the "Great Ideas" on this form - providing sidewalks and paths for tourists at our expense is totally ridiculous. We are on the threshold of a depression! The current town manager is not qualified to lead this town.
- 131 Same: mixed use, year-round services and stores; Change: Stop decline of school population & modest income families; ease congestion in center of town on summer.
- 133 Denser downtown w/mixed use residential and commercial district with good access to water with a shoreline path where possible; bike paths and sidewalks and public transit to discourage auto and truck traffic.
- 134 1. Maintain working harbor;2. better roads and bicycle paths;3. Buy Hood parking lot (Manset); 4. protect the aesthetics and character of the harbor.
- 135 Better traffic pattern; fewer signs on lawns, etc. on 102; need for drinkable town water
- 136 Would like to see more young, year-round families.
- 139 We need civic pride to keep our town clean and in good repair; we need a major facelift led by the board of selectmen and the CoC.
- 140 My vision is to have it the way it was 20+ years ago- small, rural;, friendly - not what it is growing up to be.
- 141 Would like to see a vibrant, year-round community of mixed demographics, complete services and a thriving marine-based economy.
- 142 vibrant business in town center no empty storefronts, winter not greatly different from summer - better access by foot & bike from Foodmart to Manset corner, wider road, room for bikes, sidewalk on one side - limits on larger developments - zoning ordinance so development in keeping with town character; more families of school-age children; more involvement in town affairs (and boards) by retirees and others who choose to live here(but haven't always lived here; I like the entrepreneurial spirit in town - lots of self-employed people.
- 143 A year-round active community with accessible housing(affordable) for residents while maintaining an attractive town for tourists/summer residents.
- 144 More varied job opportunities; more affordable workforce housing; more children attending Pemetic; more alternative transportation; keep SWH a walkable community; encourage basic services to remain and relocate here.
- 145 Noise ordinance; more investment in the harbor; Once the Hook property is acquired and the dockside property across the street, build another dock in Manset. Make a little beach park; Build bike paths everywhere. Public internet access covering town and harbor; remain unpretentious. Finally, a well-mapped and organized mooring field. All else is OK.
- 146 More opportunities for year round residents; traffic control
- 147 The current tax structure is patently unfair to summer residents. We pay huge amounts and get little benefit relatively speaking.
- 148 ***Wrote letter, included separately.***

- 149** I hope that we will have a few more active storefronts year-round. I hope we are a town committed by consensus to maintain small town values of an intergenerational community. I hope we continue to focus on green initiatives and become a model for how a town can become environmentally exemplary in ways that: 1. benefit the community and people here; 2. benefit the planet and people everywhere by decreasing carbon output; 3. provides a model for how it can happen. The school is already providing leadership on this.
- 150** Keep its sense of community.
- 151** Stabilized population with families; Stronger summer support realizing we compete for traveler dollars with other localities. Sidewalks and other amenities to lure people to Quietside.
- 152** Mixed use community without large commercial growth (malls, marinas, hotels and shopping centers). Encouraging climate for small local entrepreneurs. We are not against biking, but with limited resources sidewalks and curbs should come first.
- 153** Keep it a small town; try not to make it a city experience. It is a village - quiet and quiet; that's the appeal.
- 154** Develop ecotourism on the Quietside. Make it a tourist destination point as the area is well suited for such an initiative.
- 155** To walk safely from Seal Cove road to town; Thriving downtown not totally dependent on tourism; Pemetic/Tremont schools merge - one way or another; Healthy shade trees in the streets; Increased year-round transportation services (shuttles, etc.) as our population ages; Still allow for a working waterfront; The mall and the intersection of Main and Seal Cove would be made beautiful and safe (It is ugly and barren).
- 156** Promote local business which in turn ensures year-round population with assisted living housing not low income housing. Change is inevitable, however the mix of commerce, tourists and summer residents is terrific and should be maintained at all costs. It has been a gift to grow up and live my life in SWH.