

Bucksport NEXT Survey 05
RESULTS NARRATIVE
04/29/2016



Results are in for the fifth and final Bucksport NEXT Public Opinion Poll. People filled out the online and newspaper surveys as well as at the new Heart & Soul Headquarters at 72 Main Street. Most responders to these polls are from Bucksport, but some are from other towns and states.

On the first question regarding natural resources, the answers were as follows:

24% - The town should have as much property as possible in private (taxpayer) hands.

22% - The town should consider acquiring rights to protect significant scenic vistas.

19% - The town should seek to acquire more lands to protect its natural resources.

19% - The town should do more to provide public access to natural areas in Bucksport.

13% - The town should have its regulations of private property kept to a minimum.

3% - The town should have more regulation to help protect its natural resources.

One responder suggested that the town participate in the Land for Maine's Future Program.

On the second question regarding regulations for agricultural and other uses:

28% - The town's current ordinances strike a good balance between freedom and regulation.

25% - Property owners should not be prohibited from using land in any way they see fit.

17% - The opinions of neighbors should count in the approval process of an intrusive new use.

17% - The town should have more regulation to help protect neighboring property owners.

13% - The town needs more areas devoted to urban or suburban residential development.

Comments included a show of support for cows in the rural area, a call to control junk yards and a suggestion that the Hancock County Soil and Water District can be of service here.

On the third question regarding historical and archaeological resources:

48% - Historic properties are beautiful, valuable assets to the town and should be preserved.

17% - Historic properties are nice, but the town should not get involved with preservation.

17% - The town should consider creating a protective historic district in the downtown area.

14% - I would like to see more attention paid to local Native American and colonial sites.

5% - Historic properties should be replaced by more efficient and safer modern buildings.

One reminded that the situation is “Not all or nothing- some things should be preserved, others allowed to pass.”

Regarding question four on town zoning, the answers were as follows:

37% - The list of allowed uses should be broadened to get the best possible use at the mill site.

28% - The downtown area needs to allow owners enough flexibility to change with the market.

19% - The downtown area needs to stay focused on retaining store fronts to be vibrant.

14% - Bucksport is becoming a bedroom community and should expect to spread out more.

2% - We should keep the current map and retain the more traditional land use patterns.

0% - The mill site/industrial area has a limited list of allowed uses that should not be changed.

One comment summed it up as “We should change as our circumstances have changed.” The one area where the town exercises authority in the mill site redevelopment question is in the zoning regulations for the district. The biggest responses on this poll question shows the public’s desire for the town to be flexible regarding the industrial zone as well as in the downtown commercial area.

That’s the poll #5 results thus far. See the actual questions, choices and response data for yourself at <http://tinyurl.com/BucksportNEXT-Poll1>. The surveys will available to take online until we are done with the inventory phase of the Comp Plan. We will use the final results to help build the goals and objectives section.

Jef Fitzgerald, Comprehensive Plan Committee Chair