

1 | Introduction

A public opinion survey was distributed to all Lewis households in April 2012 and 105 surveys were returned (20% response rate). This survey was the first opportunity for Lewis residents to offer opinions, ideas and concerns as work commenced on writing a comprehensive plan for the town. It was intended primarily to gauge residents' level of satisfaction with the community, and to identify issues to be further explored at a subsequent planning workshop and during the development of the comprehensive plan.

A summary and analysis of the survey results is presented in Section 2 of this report and the complete results may be found in Section 3.

2 | Summary and Analysis of Survey Results

Demographics. The survey included three demographic questions - the respondent's age, number of years the respondent had lived in Lewis, and whether the respondent owned or rented a home. Nearly 60% of survey respondents had lived in Lewis for 20 years or more and only 6 had lived in town less than 5 years. Only 3% of respondents were under age 30 and just 3 were renters.

Comparing these results to the demographic profile of the town shows that renters (20% of the town's total households) were significantly underrepresented in the survey responses. Residents under age 30 were also underrepresented, but to a lesser degree, in the survey responses.

General Outlook. Questions 1-3 asked about residents' general outlook on Lewis - the quality of life in the community, the town's image or reputation, and its overall direction. The largest number of respondents rated overall quality of life in Lewis as good, while more rated the town's image/reputation and overall direction as fair. When asked in Question 4 whether they planned to remain

living in Lewis for at least another five years, nearly 90% replied yes.

These responses suggest that residents are generally satisfied with Lewis today, but feel that the town is not moving in a positive direction. Still nearly all respondents plan to continue living in Lewis, which indicates strong connection with the community.

- » I love Lewis and want to see it get even better.
- » My perception of Lewis is it is a nice quiet town full of nice people.
- » As to Lewis's "reputation", I can't say what other might think of it, but I think it is a wonderful, comparatively clean, peaceful and beautiful place to live, comparatively free from the ridiculous and dictatorial restrictions of too much government.
- » Most of the residents have generational ties here but do not have the proper motivation to keep this town moving forward yet maintain the integrity of our history.
- » The town has remained the same in the 26 years that I've lived there. Behind the times.

Roads. Questions 5-9 asked about residents' level of satisfaction with roads in Lewis. Respondents were fairly positive about road conditions and maintenance for vehicular travel, but were dissatisfied when asked about walking/biking on town roads or trails. Sidewalks, paths and trails were mentioned frequently in the written comments.

- » Everyday I see people walking on Route 9 for exercise. Walking their dogs, pushing strollers and whole families. Having a place to walk around town without having to breathe car and truck exhaust and worry about traffic.
- » There seem to be areas of Lewis that could be made into recreational use. Bicycle trails (non-motorized), horse trails, hiking trails. Put bicycle paths between Lewis and Elizabethtown, Lewis and Keene.

The written comments also indicated a strong desire on the part of residents of some of the town's gravel roads to have those roads paved. Question 10 asked residents whether action was needed to improve stormwater management along town roads and a majority replied yes.

- » I live on the Trout Pond Road. Every part of my road had to be rebuilt after Irene except the part that was paved. None of the residents can enjoy walking, bike riding, paddling the river or horseback riding without choking on dust from the big trucks. Please pave our road.

Housing. Questions 11-16 were related to the availability and affordability of housing in Lewis. Responses indicate a perception that housing is becoming less affordable in Lewis. Question 21 asked residents' opinion of the rate of housing development in recent years and the largest number of respondents felt that it had been about right.

- » Better affordable housing for young couples is necessary so that they will build or buy family homes to stay!
- » Another concern is the inflating of the value of our homes. This trend for the last few years has got to be corrected. The thought "We can not raise taxes so we will jack up the assessed value of the homes/land" is wrong.
- » Education of how to maintain your home to keep its value. I have been looking for a home in Lewis but have not seen one that was in a desirable area. So I found a home in Elizabethtown and will be moving from Lewis.

Community Appearance. Questions 17-20 asked residents about their level of satisfaction with the overall appearance of the town and property maintenance. The response to all four questions was quite similar and the largest number of respondents rated overall appearance and property maintenance as fair.

Community appearance and upkeep of property was the most prominent issue mentioned in the written comments. Many respondents feel that the lack of property maintenance has reached an unacceptable level and are calling upon town government to take action. This issue appears to be one of the leading factors contributing to respondents' general outlook on the community and its overall direction.

- » I would like to see some pride of the town return. It reflects on everyone when properties are allowed to decay or debris is everywhere. I would hope that soon a town can act on fixing this.

- » It seems as though people don't want to take pride in their homes for fear of their taxes going up. Why do we penalize people for that? It makes the town look like a depressed area.
- » In my opinion in the last 5 to 7 years the Town of Lewis has gone downhill. It used to be a nice looking town. There are some residents of the town that are ruining it. Until it's stopped, it will only get worse.
- » Lewis is a sleepy town with beautiful views, lovely woods, and then there are unsightly properties, overcrowded lots of trailers and mobile homes, unkempt houses crowded with debris and left to deteriorate as people live in them. Home ownership in Lewis is not desirable due to having a beautiful home next to a trashed house.

Employment and Services. Questions 23-27 were related to job opportunities, the business climate, and access to goods and services within Lewis or nearby. Respondents rated the job opportunities, business climate, and availability of goods and services as poor. However, they were more positive when asked about employment and services available within 30 miles of Lewis.

Question 22 asked residents' opinion of the rate of business development in recent years and respondents overwhelmingly felt that it had been too slow. The need to attract more businesses to Lewis was expressed strongly in the written comments - both to expand the town's tax base and make it possible for more young people to remain in town.

- » I hope to see Lewis become a place where businesses would look to locate (perhaps a commercial park) bringing with it the opportunity for the youth of this area to remain near family.
- » Some economic growth! We need some businesses to employ our youth. We have a great town that no one knows about, we need some way to change that. We also need something to expand our tax base. NYCO can't pay all the bills and neither can those who are getting older.
- » Increase in local business without reducing the quality of life.

Public Safety. Questions 28-32 asked residents to rate the quality of police, fire and ambulance services in Lewis, as well as overall safety from crime and preparedness for emergencies. Respondents

were generally very satisfied with these aspects of Lewis. Given the large number of respondents who did not provide a rating for the question related to preparedness, further public outreach and education on this topic may be beneficial.

Environmental Quality. Questions 33-37 were related to various aspects of the town's natural environment - air quality, water quality, quiet, ability to enjoy nature and outdoor recreation. Responses were generally positive to these questions. The written comments indicate that the scenic beauty, access to natural areas, and the privacy that are hallmarks of a living in a rural area are enjoyed by many residents. A number of respondents stated that they would like to see Thrall Dam developed into more of a recreation resource for residents and visitors.

- » More recreational opportunities such as hiking, bike trails, fishing, hunting.
- » Development of Thrall Dam Park as a camping area and fishing lake would greatly benefit the town and area businesses. A plan to dredge, deepen and enlarge the pond should be considered. Most towns in the Adirondacks are dependent upon tourism and outdoor recreational activities. The majority of small towns with thriving tourism have one thing in common - a lake for boating, fishing and swimming.
- » That our water, land and air quality remain as great as it is now!

Land Uses and Ownership. Questions 38-40 asked residents whether they would like to see any change in the three major land uses/ownerships in Lewis - state land, private forestland, and land being mined. Respondents generally wanted to see these remain the same as they are currently. Written comments suggest that some residents have concerns with the impacts of timber harvesting and mining, but such concerns do not appear to be widely held or high priorities for a majority of residents.

- » Discover way to make mine presence a positive with offset eco-friendly activities.
- » Everywhere you turn someone is logging the land. The land looks terrible after the loggers are done.

- » Too much mining and not enforcing the lawful conditions (NYCO). A mining operation as large this has enormous impact and nothing is being done to change these conditions.

Activities and Amenities. Questions 41-48 asked residents about a variety of community services and activities - recreation, cultural events, childcare, education, library, healthcare. Respondents generally rated the quality of the school system, access to healthcare services and opportunities for outdoor recreation as fair to good. Youth recreation opportunities, availability of childcare, and access to a public library were rated as fair to poor. Respondents rated opportunities for cultural activities and activities for seniors as poor.

There were a number of written comments related to increasing activities and services available to town residents. Many respondents mentioned the new playground as an example of a positive change in the community.

- » We miss the bookmobile! It would be wonderful for our community to have a library in town.
- » No cultural events to keep people here.
- » Need better public transportation system! Should have regularly scheduled bus, daily, to Plattsburgh and occasional bus service to Burlington/Glens Falls. Also should promote commuter/ride share opportunities to Plattsburgh/Burlington.
- » The town needs to come up with an event or something unique to the Town of Lewis. A day of celebration, community. A day of hope for our future. It needs to be lively and include several events. But unique - something to set Lewis apart from another town's celebration.
- » I'm proud to say that I'm from Lewis with the new playground. Big kudos to everyone who was involved. It was nice to see the entire community come together like that.

Infrastructure. Questions 49-52 were related to infrastructure in Lewis. Respondents were generally satisfied with the town water system. Asked whether Lewis should construct a public sewer system, respondents overwhelmingly stated no. The availability of

high-speed internet and cell phone services were rated as very poor by respondents. The lack of these last two services was also mentioned repeatedly in the written comments and was identified as a limiting factor for attracting businesses to Lewis by multiple respondents.

- » Improved cell and internet services a must!
- » We would like for the town to catch up to 21st century technology that other New Yorkers have access to. If we want to attract people to our area, we cannot be so outdated.

Community Character and Governance. Questions 53-58 asked about various aspects of community life and governance. Respondents were generally positive towards the sense of community in Lewis, acceptance of new residents in Lewis, Lewis as a place to raise children or as a place to retire. Respondents were also generally satisfied with town government, but were less satisfied with the value of services received for taxes paid and the level of participation in community affairs.

- » Services considering tax rate are very poor - no sewer, town water, trash pick-up, very poor road care particularly in winter, no cell service, poor internet access, few retail services such as fast food and groceries.
- » I rarely see more than a few townspeople attend the monthly town board meeting. If there is a way to put the agenda on our website or town bulletin board or at the post office maybe more people might want to attend and be involved!

The response to this series of questions at the end of the survey presents a somewhat more positive outlook on the town than the responses to the first three survey questions, which asked about residents' general outlook on Lewis.

- » This thoughtful survey made us see what we have, which is a lot! The town playground and Town Hall look great! The church improves as we speak (or write)! Many people have a lot of talent to offer. We hopefully can make more welcome to the work that is always necessary.
- » Lewis has great potential for planned, sustainable growth if done right!

Weighted Scores. Responses to the questions that asked residents to rate aspects of Lewis on a scale of excellent, good, fair or poor were converted to a numeric score on a scale of 0 (poor) to 100 (excellent).

The lowest scoring aspects were:

- Job opportunities in Lewis. [6 out of 100]
- Opportunities to attend cultural activities. [14 out of 100]
- Activities for senior citizens in Lewis. [14 out of 100]
- Availability of goods and services in Lewis. [18 out of 100]
- Availability of walking paths and trails in Lewis. [19 out of 100]
- Availability of cell phone services. [20 out of 100]
- Availability of high-speed internet. [23 out of 100]

The highest scoring aspects were:

- Quality of ambulance services in Lewis. [78 out of 100]
- Quality of fire services in Lewis. [74 out of 100]
- Air quality in Lewis. [73 out of 100]
- Winter maintenance of town roads. [72 out of 100]
- Quality of the town water system. [70 out of 100]
- Safety from crime in Lewis. [68 out of 100]
- Quality of police services in Lewis. [68 out of 100]
- Town preparedness for emergencies/disasters. [68 out of 100]
- Ability to enjoy nature in Lewis. [66 out of 100]
- Ability to have quiet and privacy in Lewis. [66 out of 100]

3 | Complete Survey Results

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure		Score
1. Overall quality of life in Lewis.	14	54	29	4	4		59
2. Overall image/reputation of Lewis.	3	39	41	15	7		44
3. Overall direction that Lewis is taking.	5	26	38	11	25		44
5. Condition of town roads.	18	48	28	10	1		57
6. Winter maintenance of town roads.	41	44	15	5	0		72
7. Safety of driving on town roads.	17	63	18	5	2		63
8. Safety of walking or biking on town roads.	6	30	42	25	2		39
9. Availability of walking paths & trails in Lewis.	2	9	23	50	21		19
11. Cost of housing in Lewis.	4	29	44	9	19		44
12. Quality of housing in Lewis.	1	35	49	10	10		43
13. Availability of homes for sale in Lewis.	1	21	46	9	28		39
14. Availability of homes for rent in Lewis.	1	6	34	22	42		26
15. Ability of young adults to afford living in Lewis.	1	14	39	27	24		29
16. Ability of senior citizens to afford living in Lewis.	1	20	36	27	21		31
17. Overall appearance of Lewis.	5	33	48	19	0		41
18. Quality of recent development in Lewis.	5	28	24	25	23		39
19. Maintenance of residences in Lewis.	5	22	50	26	2		35
20. Maintenance of businesses in Lewis.	5	32	44	19	5		41
23. Job opportunities in Lewis.	0	2	14	80	9		6
24. Job opportunities within 30 miles of Lewis.	1	21	39	35	9		29
25. Lewis as a place to start & run a business.	2	19	32	37	15		28
26. Availability of goods & services in Lewis.	1	9	36	57	2		18
27. Availability of goods & services w/in 30 miles.	10	48	37	9	1		52
28. Safety from crime in Lewis.	25	59	16	2	3		68

Community Opinion Survey Results

Revision: 1 May 2012

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure		Score
29. Quality of police services in Lewis.	29	49	16	5	6		68
30. Quality of fire services in Lewis.	38	46	11	3	7		74
31. Quality of ambulance services in Lewis.	45	45	8	2	5		78
32. Town preparedness for emergencies/disasters.	19	37	13	2	34		68
33. Quality of the natural environment in Lewis.	21	53	22	3	6		64
34. Air quality in Lewis.	34	55	8	4	4		73
35. Water quality in Lewis's rivers and streams.	17	56	16	6	10		63
36. Ability to enjoy nature in Lewis.	35	39	21	8	2		66
37. Ability to have quiet and privacy in Lewis.	33	41	20	8	3		66
41. Opportunities for outdoor recreation in Lewis.	11	30	40	18	6		45
42. Youth recreation opportunities in Lewis.	2	20	41	28	14		32
43. Activities for senior citizens in Lewis.	1	5	20	54	25		14
44. Opportunities to attend cultural activities.	1	7	21	64	12		14
45. Availability of childcare in Lewis.	1	15	30	16	43		34
46. Quality of the school system.	10	38	39	11	7		49
47. Access to a public library.	7	20	32	32	14		34
48. Access to healthcare providers.	6	46	25	18	10		47
49. Quality of the town water system.	16	26	7	2	54		70
50. Availability of high-speed internet.	6	11	21	50	17		23
51. Availability of cell phone service.	6	8	25	61	5		20
53. Sense of community in Lewis.	14	36	45	6	4		52
54. Community acceptance of new residents.	11	43	27	12	12		52
55. Lewis as a place to raise children.	22	49	21	4	9		64
56. Lewis as a place to retire.	17	45	23	17	3		54
57. Level of participation in community affairs.	4	23	45	14	19		40
58. Overall quality of town government.	12	48	30	7	8		56

Community Opinion Survey Results

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	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure		Score
59. Communication between town gov't & residents.	12	41	33	10	9		52
60. Value of services for taxes paid in Lewis.	6	37	28	23	11		43

	Yes	No	Unsure		Score
4. Do you plan to continue living in Lewis for at least 5 more years?.	86	11	8		89
10. Should Lewis act to improve stormwater management on roads?	59	33	13		64
52. Would you like to see a public sewer system constructed in Lewis?	12	75	18		14

	Two Fast	Too Slow	Just Right	Unsure		Score
21. The rate of housing dev. in Lewis since 2000 has been...	4	37	56	8		33
22. The rate of business dev. in Lewis since 2000 has been...	0	79	21	5		11

	Increase	Decrease	Same	Unsure		Score
38. The amount of state land in Lewis should...	14	28	55	8		43
39. The amount of private forest land in Lewis should...	20	16	62	7		52
40. The amount of land being mined in Lewis should...	14	34	52	5		40

	<5	5-19	20+	Unknown	
61. Respondents by number of years living in Lewis.	6	36	62	1	

	<30	30-59	60+	Unknown	
62. Respondents by age group.	3	57	44	1	

	Own	Rent	Unknown	
63. Respondents by home owners or renters.	101	3	1	

Community Opinion Survey Results

Revision: 1 May 2012

What are your concerns about current conditions in Lewis?

Property Maintenance and Community Appearance

1. We need to clean up Lewis more.
2. The post office needs some cosmetic work.
3. Business area having cleaner surrounding.
4. Appearance.
5. It seems as though many homes in the hamlet have been nicely spruced up and well maintained. I think a low level trailer park that has recently been “trucked in” is terrible.
6. Need to be cleaned up in some areas. Example area across from the Smith’s in South Lewis looks like a landfill.
7. There are some properties that could be neatened up a bit, but it should be done in a positive way. Keep in mind some people may not physically or economically be able to improve their properties.
8. Many homes and yards are neglected, full of junk, look awful.
9. Removal of abandoned structures. Town code enforcement for upkeep of property (no vulgar language spray painted on trees).
10. I think things should continue to be kept up by residents to keep our town beautiful.
11. Condition of many homes is poor. People realize that when they fix up their assessment also goes up beyond the salable price.
12. The overall appearance of some homes needs to be addressed. Some properties are in total disrepair. Aren’t there town ordinances addressing this?
13. The mess at Vaughn’s first store. The mess at the former Montville home. The mess at the former Karen Brown home.
14. Cost of landfill use is preventing residents from keeping yards, buildings free from trash. There needs to be a way to get rid of tires free of cost.
15. Places that used to look nice now look like eyesores. There needs to be zoning. In my opinion in the last 5 to 7 years the Town of Lewis has gone downhill. It used to be a nice looking town. There are some residents of the town that are ruining it. Until it’s stopped, it will only get worse. The town needs to balls and tell people to clean up their pigsties.
16. Concern for the unkempt properties, danger to children and encourages rodent occupation as well as fire dangers. A drive through town will reveal many crumbling buildings. Noise levels in the hamlet. Crowding of trailers and apartments on too small a plot. Was never a fan of zoning but something needs to be done.
17. The people who have not cleaned up the yards that are very messy!!! It’s an eyesore!! The town has never done anything about it!!
18. There are many residents with abandoned cars, machinery, junk strewn throughout property. Town laws governing unregistered vehicles and illegal dumps need to be enforced
19. Due to poor economic conditions, mental health issues, general laziness, many properties (both private and business) have fallen into disrepair. Some of these are dangerous in nature. In my opinion, people and businesses will not come to Lewis until these issues are addressed.
20. The most obvious eyesores are unfortunately the large number of poorly maintained homes along Route 9. I’m not trying to tell anyone what to do with their money, but I just wonder how the town will attract residents when you have to live next to a home that stores its junk in the front yard.
21. Overall appearance of property in the town.
22. Some of the residences need to keep up with maintenance outside. It makes our town look bad when there is garbage and crap everywhere.
23. Physical appearance of a few residences mostly located on Route 9.

24. Lewis is a sleepy town with beautiful views, lovely woods, and then there are unsightly properties, overcrowded lots of trailers and mobile homes, unkempt houses crowded with debris and left to deteriorate as people live in them. Home ownership in Lewis is not desirable due to having a beautiful home next to a trashed house. No zoning, no regulations for homeowners to maintain their homes, lots or property and keep property values stable. Code enforcement seems nonexistent.
25. Appearance of some houses and businesses.
26. If we could find some way to encourage people who either can't or won't make a visually pleasing appearance at their home site. Even junk can be neat or hidden. It's a touchy subject we're sure.
27. I see a number of places that don't bother to keep their outdoor areas cleaned up. It makes the town look dump.
28. There are a couple of places in the trailer park that should be forced to clean up. It must be cheaper to live in a trailer but it doesn't mean you should leave a mess. It gives the place a bad reputation.
29. People clean up around their house and property better.
30. Some housing is below good standards!
31. How did you allow an eyesore of a trailer park to go in on County Route 10. The town made everyone clean up "junk" and then put 5 trailers in that honestly look like s---t and lose the clean, quiet, quaint town.
32. Some homes are very cluttered or abandoned. They look junky. Who wants to live next them.
33. Make sure trailer parks aren't junky.
34. The properties in Lewis both business and private are on the decline. Some of the businesses in town look like junk yards. Some of the homes are disgraceful to look at.
35. The clutter around some houses, especially coming in to Lewis.
36. Houses and yards with junk on them all year long.
37. A few properties are in need of much help in cleaning them up.
38. Garbage along roadsides.
39. Unkempt homes and yards.
40. Lack of enforcement of property maintenance.
41. Lack of town-wide clean up days sponsored by the town.
42. Lack of resource to dispose of hazardous waste (paint cans, aerosol cans, etc.)
43. Too many poorly maintained housing rental units with no restrictions for zoning.

Community Services, Infrastructure and Activities

44. The town has remained the same in the 26 years that I've lived there. Behind the times.
45. I would like to see more services.
46. Services considering tax rate are very poor - no sewer, town water, trash pick-up, very poor road care particularly in winter, no cell service, poor internet access, few retail services such as fast food and groceries.
47. Cell phone coverage would be great.
48. Lack of cell service in town.
49. We need cell service. We have a perfectly good church tower in which to place cell service.
50. I need access to more than dial-up internet if I were to expand my business. Not everyone in town has access to broadband.
51. Lack of services, particularly broadband communications and cell coverage.
52. Better cell coverage in town.
53. Lack of high speed internet outside of hamlet and lack of reliable cell service inside the hamlet.
54. Love the idea of making a few walking/biking trails!

55. Improved sidewalks.
 56. Raised sidewalks for children and disabled safety.
 57. No sidewalks, bike paths, jogging areas.
 58. Better sidewalks.
 59. There are no paths for kids to ride bikes.
 60. Walking on the streets with my kids or jogging on my own and getting bit by a dog or meeting an unfriendly/scary resident.
 61. Not enough social activities for adults.
 62. Not enough town activities or celebrations - social events to bring the community together - to feel a sense of community.
 63. No cultural events to keep people here.
 64. Lack of events for youth and seniors.
 65. Lack of senior housing.
 66. Low census of volunteer firemen.
 67. Scarcity of public transportation.
 68. Need better public transportation system! Should have regularly scheduled bus, daily, to Plattsburgh and occasional bus service to Burlington/Glens Falls. Also should promote commuter/ride share opportunities to Plattsburgh/Burlington.
 69. We do not need a sewer system (nor can we afford it) so hopefully that is not a thought.
- Roads
70. Bridges still out from storm. Did not take advantage of DEC lifted regulations to reconstruct storm damage.
 71. Roads not great. Shoulders not maintained.
 72. The amount of ATV/4-wheelers on back roads - dangerous, noisy, lack of helmets and no concern for drivers and homeowners. Badly enforced by law enforcement.
 73. Ditches in dirt roads make them narrower every year. Can't meet another car. Nowhere to go.
 74. Bump on Redmond Road needs fixing.
 75. Town roads need to be swept in the spring - dangerous to motorcycles.
 76. I enjoy fishing but most places where there is fishing access is on non-paved roads. The silt in the river impacts the quality of fishing in our town. Plus the dust from the dirt roads while I am fishing is overwhelming. So I mostly fish in other towns.
 77. I live on the Trout Pond Road. Although there are only 6 homes on my road, it carries a high amount of traffic, including commuters, tractor trailers hauling logs, pulp and chips back and forth to local mills, and town and private dump trucks going to and from our local quarry. Since the majority of my road is not paved, all this heavy traffic creates a great amount of dust that we have to breathe and it floats through my home. Own town crew works hard, and it costs us money, with hauling fill and gravel, monthly grading, yearly ditching, not to mention rebuilding after every flood. And where does all the road material go during a flood? Into the river. The river fills with silt, raises the bed and creates the potential for even more flooding. Not to mention silt reduces the quality of the river. I have received many reasons why less traveled roads in Lewis are being paved and mine is not. One reason that I hear over and over is that the pavement will only wash out in a flood. Irene proved that there is a good chance that it would not wash out. Every part of my road had to be rebuilt after Irene except the part that was paved. None of the residents can enjoy walking, bike riding, paddling the river or horseback riding without choking on dust from the big trucks. Please pave our road.
 78. Doesn't seem to be a priority to repair roads and damage regardless of voiced impact on the residents.
 79. Need to fix roads (potholes, bumps, general repair).
 80. Slow traffic through town.

81. Lower Route 9 speed limit to 30-35.

Government and Development

- 82. Current Town Board and Supervisor do not pay close attention to issues that don't affect them personally.
- 83. Seemingly responsive local government is good.
- 84. Keep our town government small and personal as it currently is.
- 85. I have a great deal of faith in Mr. Blades. He is professional, honest and helpful.
- 86. Why do we pay a woman 40 hours a week to do nothing? Please establish hours to do business and cut cost.
- 87. Difficulty getting accurate information from some town officials.
- 88. Lack of knowledge of some town officials regarding development within the hamlet.
- 89. Lack of control of development in town.
- 90. Uncontrolled development due to lack of APA rules. Hamlet is without control. Code Enforcement Office - be serious!!!
- 91. Lack of planning/guidance when it comes to the village of Lewis (i.e. lack of development rules with in the hamlet and lack of enforcement of current rules in place.)
- 92. Need of much larger hamlet. Need for space for small businesses.
- 93. Development with out proper regulations so that overcrowding does not happen.
- 94. My concern is that there will be more government or governmental regulations (and laws). I do not want to see zoning and the like. We have the APA and that is bad enough.
- 95. APA restrictions outside the hamlet.
- 96. Keep Lewis quiet at about the size it is. Encouraging a lot of "growth" means an influx of many people with values and aims not in harmony with a quiet small town life and

atmosphere. We would then lose much of our freedoms from numerous restrictions. City people tend to want to make their "new home" just like the city they left to escape city conditions.

- 97. Zoning issues must be addressed.
- 98. Lack of zoning!!
- 99. Lack of zoning and noise ordinances.
- 100. Trailer park in center of town.
- 101. Nasty trailer parks being put in.
- 102. Trailer park in the center of town.
- 103. More dog control. Enforce the leash law.
- 104. A leash law should be enforced.
- 105. Apathy of the town's citizens.
- 106. Apathy of town residents to town governing body.
- 107. Lack of outdoor wood burning regulations and concerns for air quality.
- 108. We don't always need government direction - if we can just gather enough people into the think tank.
- 109. Roads, schools, development.

Taxes and Property Values

- 110. Better affordable housing for young couples is necessary so that they will build or buy family homes to stay!
- 111. School taxes are too high.
- 112. Another concern is the inflating of the value of our homes. This trend for the last few years has got to be corrected. The thought "We can not raise taxes so we will jack up the assessed value of the homes/land" is wrong.
- 113. Taxes too high and not equal or in line with other area homes.
- 114. Property is over assessed for such a depressed area. This squeezes out the middle class working people.
- 115. Taxes too high.

- 116. Assessments out of proportion to actual value of property.
- 117. Too high school taxes (for amount of school children).
- 118. Taxes (school and land), and over assessment on property.
- 119. Increasing property taxes.

Economic Development and Businesses

- 120. Discover way to make mine presence a positive with offset eco-friendly activities.
- 121. Too much mining and not enforcing the lawful conditions (NYCO). A mining operation as large this has enormous impact and nothing is being done to change these conditions.
- 122. No jobs to keep our young adults here.
- 123. Low tax base.
- 124. No job/employment growth. No new businesses.
- 125. The Town of Lewis does not have many businesses or recreation opportunities.
- 126. Concerned about lack of new businesses in the town.

Other

- 127. No major concerns
- 128. Things are going well I think.
- 129. Illicit drug activity seems to be increasing.
- 130. Drugs/drug dealers.
- 131. More interest in natural resources.
- 132. Everywhere you turn someone is logging the land. The land looks terrible after the loggers are done.
- 133. Tree cutting near Route 9 needs to stop!
- 134. The younger people will leave small towns to move to the city because they won't have to pay for a driver's license, tax and insurance on a car or expensive gas to drive 50 miles to work. They will never be able to buy a house because by the time they pay their student loans, the taxes on a home will be equal to their house payment. They may just as well live in

- the city, pay rent and use public transportation. The state has already lost 18% of drivers between 18-26.
- 135. Noise from neighbors - parties, shooting, and "burning rubber" on roads.

What are your hopes for the future of Lewis?

Economic Development and Businesses

- 1. I hope for economic development at a pace that can be influenced by the desires of the citizens of Lewis.
- 2. More job opportunities.
- 3. More jobs and business.
- 4. For every business to thrive and prosper.
- 5. Greater business growth.
- 6. A few businesses that will bring employment.
- 7. Jobs - businesses - keeping the younger generations here.
- 8. Increase in local business without reducing the quality of life.
- 9. I hope to see Lewis become a place where businesses would look to locate (perhaps a commercial park) bringing with it the opportunity for the youth of this area to remain near family.
- 10. Some economic growth! We need some businesses to employ our youth. We need something that will bring some developers and the like. We have a great town that no one knows about, we need some way to change that. We also need something to expand our tax base. NYCO can't pay all the bills and neither can those who are getting older.
- 11. A business that would allow young couples to remain in the area to raise a family in the quiet of the Adirondacks.
- 12. More business. Our youth need a reason to stay.
- 13. More nature-oriented businesses.
- 14. Some kind of sustainable economic growth.
- 15. Need a slightly more vibrant "core" downtown.

16. Moderate growth of village for access of employment and services to keep our youth here and wanting to stay!
17. Get back some manufacturing jobs.
18. Establish an industrial park separate from the county plan.
19. Not sure that Lewis will ever be a mecca for jobs. Perhaps building a sewer system in the town center may attract businesses that Elizabethtown cannot attract - car wash, laundry, etc. (Vaughan's is an eyesore.)
20. Develop into an Adirondack Village. Introduce tourism opportunities and seek economic opportunity which complements the north country feel.
21. Lewis is a small town and will never be a tourist town with a profitable base population and scenic attractions.
22. Not too many big businesses popping up so that it gets too big of a tourist attraction. Small towns should stay small.
23. Lewis is unique in a way because the road through town does not lead to any specific tourist areas, so besides not providing opportunity for tourism in itself there are no transient travelers to spend their money here.
24. Laundromat.
25. Grocery store with competitive prices and great service.
26. Car wash.
27. Gas stations (either improve appearances of current ones or add some competition like Maple Creek or Stewarts).
28. Good food, casual dining options.
29. One more restaurant would be nice.
30. A restaurant where that old abandoned house is by the Northway.
31. I think it would be great to have some sort of fast food / drive-thru by the interstate.
32. A small grocery store - well stocked.

33. I would like to see a resurgence of business for Lewis. A variety of business - grocery, furniture and crafts, barber/ hairdresser, hardware... This would be ideal.
34. I do not want box/franchise stores like everywhere. I would like to see small, unique businesses encouraged.
35. A gas station other than the truck stop would be good.
36. To gain a few more businesses.
37. Small business needs some help. We don't need more government jobs.
38. To grow in a more positive way.
39. To grow.

Recreation and Community Activities

40. Dog park.
41. Bowling alley.
42. A place for young adults to go for gathering.
43. Some kind of activity for teens.
44. Some kind of activity for seniors.
45. More recreational opportunities such as hiking, bike trails, fishing, hunting.
46. Development of Thrall Dam Park as a camping area and fishing lake would greatly benefit the town and area businesses. A plan to dredge, deepen and enlarge the pond should be considered. Most towns in the Adirondacks are dependent upon tourism and outdoor recreational activities. The majority of small towns with thriving tourism have one thing in common - a lake for boating, fishing and swimming.
47. Clean up and re-open Thrall Dam.
48. It would be nice to see Thrall Dam revitalized for recreation purposes.
49. Clean up Thrall Dam.
50. Clean up Mill Pond.
51. Water access for recreational purposes.

52. Hiking trails.
53. Bike path.
54. Walking path.
55. The playground was a great addition. Establish walking and bike paths.
56. Everyday I see people walking on Route 9 for exercise. Walking their dogs, pushing strollers and whole families. Having a place to walk around town without having to breathe car and truck exhaust and worry about traffic.
57. There seem to be areas of Lewis that could be made into recreational use. Bicycle trails (non-motorized), horse trails, hiking trails. Put bicycle paths between Lewis and Elizabethtown, Lewis and Keene.
58. Greater development of activities (recreation) and access to things like high-speed internet.
59. Sidewalks past the Stowersville Road would be good. A lot of people walk, but have to walk on the side of the road.
60. See the Lewis ball field (Fish & Game) be updated. Replace the basketball court. Give the youth something to do.
61. I would like to see walking/bike paths and for Thrall or Mulholland Park open up for some type of recreation area.
62. More sidewalks.
63. Bike path and/or adequate shoulders on town and county roads.
64. Trails expanded.
65. To walk to the park with my kids, or jog down the road without carrying mace in wonders of who I will run into.
66. That we can offer more socialization and travel needs for our elderly - community shopping, etc.
67. I would like to see more community events.
68. I would also like to see the church become a more centered institution in Lewis (i.e. expanding on the "potluck" dinners.)

It brings with it more opportunities for people to gather, reminisce, and expand on ideas about our community.

Community Services and Infrastructure

69. Improved cell and internet services a must!
70. Cell service and high speed internet town wide.
71. Cell service and better internet.
72. Better internet services in the outskirts of the town.
73. We need high-speed internet, better cell phone service.
74. Cell service for entire town.
75. Affordable internet for all citizens.
76. I would like to see greater availability of high speed internet. I have charter, but I have many friends who cannot access cable. I would love to see Verizon Fios develop in the area but I know it will be years before that happens.
77. We would like for the town to catch up to 21st century technology that other New Yorkers have access to. If we want to attract people to our area, we cannot be so outdated. This can be done without losing our rural/country values.
78. High speed internet beyond Route 9.
79. Better cellular service.
80. Better cell service.
81. Attract quality healthcare options.
82. Road maintenance.
83. To see Ray Woods Road and Steele Woods Road paved.
84. We miss the bookmobile! It would be wonderful for our community to have a library in town.
85. More fire department members.
86. Combine services with Elizabethtown.
87. Policing to protect and promote safety for all ages.

Property Maintenance and Community Appearance

88. Hope they clean up Lewis soon.

89. Better looking maintenance of private property. Overall attractiveness/appearance improved slowly.
90. Requiring homes and surrounding property to be neat and tidy. There are a few places where there is a lot of trash and old cars that should be removed.
91. Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend the May 5th workshop. Perhaps household debris pick-up day similar to one a few years back. Enforce that people not place unoccupied trailers or appliances on front lawns, etc. So many of us take close care and the pathetic few bring the tone of the town down.
92. Maybe regular clean up days would help - once a year anyway.
93. To see the community grow socially and to have certain houses and areas cleaned up. There are rundown homes that have stayed like that for 3-4 years. Tear down eyesore buildings and plant trees or put in park benches and walkways. The town needs small areas of face lifts. Small park area for older people to enjoy the town in the evening or picnic in the day. Plant some flowering trees to brighten up the area. Put in bird baths, flower boxes. Bring in some local trades/artists from the Adirondacks (central location).
94. Homes be better cared for.
95. For the town to always have a good appearance.
96. To clean up the town.
97. Clean-up of messy properties. Act on current laws to enforce cleanup of properties.
98. Lewis can be maintained through regulation and incentives for homeowners to maintain or be fined.
99. I would like to see some pride of the town return. It reflects on everyone when properties are allowed to decay or debris is everywhere. I would hope that soon a town can act on fixing this.

100. That the town will be cleaned up and new businesses will come to town.

Taxes and Government

101. Get land and school taxes under control. It's getting to the point that many people are thinking about selling and leaving.
102. To have the town be an affordable, nice place to raise a family. That won't happen because of too many state mandates to take money from the residents.
103. Hope that I can afford to live here long enough to retire.
104. Lowering taxes so people can afford to stay here.
105. Less taxes.
106. That it stay small, simple, uncomplicated, community involvement.
107. Zoning to provide consistent lifestyles and quality of life.
108. I hope it keeps its small town conditions, limited government and few onerous rules and regulations. We don't need a lot of "progress".
109. Less restrictions on development outside the hamlet.
110. Possibly expanding the hamlet towards I-87.
111. I rarely see more than a few townspeople attend the monthly town board meeting. If there is a way to put the agenda on our website or town bulletin board or at the post office maybe more people might want to attend and be involved!
112. A town board that is more concerned with the majority of Lewis rather than a few certain select groups.

Community Character and Quality of Life

113. Provide incentives for families to live in our community.
114. Make it a place where our young adults want to stay.
115. To be a place to raise children, a place to retire and enjoy your grandchildren. A place where birds can be heard with the laughter of children. Remember the balance is needed.

116. That young people would be able to afford to live and work here.
117. Senior citizen housing.
118. For seniors to be able to live a healthy and comfortable life.
119. Attention to the needs of aging population.
120. Bringing all ages together for a combined effort to improve the town.
121. For more community minded interaction.
122. When considering the future of the town, I hope all those participating will keep an open mind and try to do what is best for all the people - adults & children - not just a few.
123. My hope is that more people will come together for the entire town; not only the hamlet or their own small neighborhood. Some roads only have a few residences, but those few deserve as much support as those in town. Being fiercely independent is a good quality, but it can also spell disaster for necessary projects.
124. That it stay a safe, pleasant place to live.
125. That our community will remain safe.
126. Be a decent, clean, safe community to live in.
127. Better quality of life.
128. That Lewis remains a small town. We'll never have all the amenities of Plattsburgh and we shouldn't strive to be like a big town.
129. Hopefully we can become more than a sleeper community for Elizabethtown.
130. Moderate residential development.
131. An emphasis on the existing positive aspects in Lewis - Meadowmount Music School, Twin Valleys Education Center are two that come to mind.
132. Keeping the "quiet" community that we are accustomed to.
133. Keep it quiet (noise-wise).

Environment

134. Windmills along the Northway to help with the increased cost of electricity and better use of natural energy.
135. Maintain relatively high environmental quality.
136. That our water, land and air quality remain as great as it is now!
137. More protection of the environment. Cease tree cutting; no wide slashing!!

Other

138. We are a small town. People do not have a lot of money. It's hard to live with gas prices and oil prices going up everyday. I think we should keep things going the way they are and try to keep our heads above water. Thank you.
139. At present I see no change.

Other comments?

Property Maintenance and Community Appearance

1. Clean up residences along Route 9. Enforce the laws we currently have. First sight off road is disturbing when going by. Lots of trashed houses, cabins, barns, garages...
2. Christmas lights should not be left up year round.
3. Clean up along the roadsides. Way too much garbage. Use of the prisoners would help. Bottles could be used to help the needy in Lewis. We need to assist our own residents also, not just the county.
4. Lewis just needs to be cleaned up more and dogs need to be chained so people can walk safely.
5. Very few homeowners care for the appearance of the home and land. Some have garbage and dump items in and around their homes.
6. Clean up the town!!!

7. A certain landowner has purchased properties in Lewis and has such high prices on them that they are not selling. They have been empty now for over 4 years and not maintained adding to the area looking like an eyesore. Press homeowner (who does not live in these homes) to maintain them.
8. Education of how to maintain your home to keep its value. I have been looking for a home in Lewis but have not seen one that was in a desirable area. So I found a home in Elizabethtown and will be moving from Lewis.
9. It seems as though people don't want to take pride in their homes for fear of their taxes going up. Why do we penalize people for that? It makes the town look like a depressed area.
10. Those who struggle to have upkeep should be informed of grants and be provided with help in applying.
11. When properties are an eyesore it truly affects the value of all the homes around it.

Recreation

12. The town park is fantastic! Thanks so much.
13. My compliments on the new playground/park!
14. The playground looks great! What an exciting time for Lewis!
15. I'm proud to say that I'm from Lewis with the new playground. Big kudos to everyone who was involved. It was nice to see the entire community come together like that.
16. The playground area looks great!
17. The playground is great. Do something for the older kids or sports-oriented people. I played ball in this town as a kid and frankly it's sad that it has not been updated in 15 plus years.
18. The playground is great, a nice asset to the town.
19. Nice job maintaining the outdoor spaces...the reason I'm here is too enjoy nature.
20. Walking paths and trails in Lewis - not needed!

Survey and Comprehensive Plan

21. Thank you for trying to do something. I commend all of the committee members.
22. Nice effort here. Better to plan, have a plan.
23. I feel this comprehensive plan is a good place to expand on the strengths of Lewis.
24. Not sure why this survey is being taken, but hope that it is not another little political ploy for zoning.
25. No need for a comprehensive plan at this time!
26. This is essentially a "bedroom suburb" and no comprehensive plan is needed.
27. No grants or grant writers needed. If Lewis needs a project or program, we can plan and budget for it locally.
28. Keep an eye on committee member Pulsifer and any hidden agenda he may have with mining for forestry interests.
29. Questionnaire a little too "canned" or generic. Questions such as those related to winter road maintenance answered without reference to whether participant here in winter etc.

Government

30. More reaching out to residents is needed and enormously appreciated. Especially so is the effort by our supervisor, Mr. David Blades, and much more recognition needs to be made for the unending work by our superintendent of highways, Eldred Hutchins.
31. Being "out of the loop" I feel that our board and chairperson are doing an excellent job.
32. More government and more regulations are not the answer to quality of life issues. Individual responsibility and self-reliance are what made this nation great. Abandoning these ideals is a sure recipe for disaster.
33. The APA rules are out of touch with what needs to be done to help Lewis.

34. This small community eventually should become part of Elizabethtown government.

Roads

35. Time spent in Lewis for me is usually on my property, Trout Pond Rd., working on building my house. Years ago my partner and I renovated and sold my first house in Lewis. I then bought the property next door and am working on getting my CO completed so that I may truly be a full-time resident. Since the town had spread wollastonite on my road, the quality of living on this road has severely diminished. The road is a commuter road used by many people coming and going to work. Some of my neighbors use this road to get to locations where they provide much needed volunteer services to our community. Other neighbors who are physically challenged might be able to enjoy the ease of a paved road to enjoy a walk or wheelchair usability outdoors and perhaps do a little fishing with “dust”. In the summer visitors take in the views of mountains and rivers as it makes its way to. Visitors as well as us residents walk, bike, ride on the road to enjoy this little bit of heaven, which brought me here in the first place twenty some years ago. I plan on having a vegetable garden this summer, to be self sustaining, but I will not as long as there are unnatural pollutants drifting up from the road onto my soil with every passing vehicle. My partner of twenty five years is a retired Vet and the two of us physically love developing a homestead and gardening. Working outside has caused discomfort because of poor air quality from traffic raising the “dust” on the road. I also have acreage across the road with two public fishing rights-of-way which I hope to open up for those who want to fish. Because this road is a county road maintained by my town of Lewis, perhaps we need to invite the county to assess the situation: air quality testing, soil samples, water samples from the river, and testing aquatic life for the impact of silt settling into the river from the road. Because

this North Branch of the Boquet is a large tributary in the town of Lewis, I am very concerned that the future health of the river and citizens living in this beautiful area are being compromised without a paved road. My road, summer and winter, is so well-maintained by the road crew of Lewis, could we please give them a clean paved surface for them to continue maintaining our roads in their professional manner. Thank you for this opportunity through this survey to share my thoughts on our basic right of healthy air, clean water, and to continue providing the unique beauty of Lewis to each of us who visit and love it here.

36. Replace the bridge on the Hulbert Road by the Christmas tree farm. This most important at this time (with gas so high). All the additional miles people must drive to get to work.
37. Highway Department does a good job but could do better. They get paid 8 hrs/day. I don't think they are utilized 8 hrs/day.
38. Anyone or everyone keep their speed down and watch out for our children.

Other

39. Love Lewis and look forward to being a part of its future and hope to support smart growth.
40. Although we keep mostly to ourselves, we can see that Lewis, be it on a civic level or the good deeds the church does, is a town of good community values and goals.
41. We enjoy our quiet and natural beauty of Lewis.
42. As to Lewis's “reputation”, I can't say what other might think of it, but I think it is a wonderful, comparatively clean, peaceful and beautiful place to live, comparatively free from the ridiculous and dictatorial restrictions of too much government. I hope it can stay that way. Don't try for too much growth; you will ruin it.

43. Lewis has great potential for planned, sustainable growth if done right!
44. I love Lewis and want to see it get even better.
45. My perception of Lewis is it is a nice quiet town full of nice people. I love that part.
46. This thoughtful survey made us see what we have, which is a lot! The town playground and Town Hall look great! The church improves as we speak (or write)! Many people have a lot of talent to offer. We hopefully can make more welcome to the work that is always necessary.
47. Lewis is a very old, historic community. Most of the residents have generational ties here but do not have the proper motivation to keep this town moving forward yet maintain the integrity of our history.
48. The town needs to come up with an event or something unique to the Town of Lewis. A day of celebration, community. A day of hope for our future. It needs to be lively and include several events. But unique - something to set Lewis apart from another town's celebration.
49. Gas and food are very high priced in Lewis and Elizabethtown.
50. I lived in Lewis for 9 years. I moved almost 3 years ago. I would not recommend the town to anyone.
51. ARC buys the good homes and takes them off the tax roll.
52. Merge local schools into a central building here in Lewis.
53. Stormwater management could be improved by having Moriah Shock Camp help with cleaning out debris in our brooks and rivers during low water in the summer!
54. Get-R-Done!!!
55. Just do it!

