

Stow Master Plan Survey 2008

Survey Status: Active Launched: 11/11/2008 7:25 AM Closed: N/A

Email Invites: 0	Visits: 608	Partials: 0	Screen Outs: 0	Over Quota: 0	Completes: 387 <i>(Does not include blank responses)</i>
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Image - Introduction This survey is designed to help capture what is important to Stow residents today and into the future. The survey results will be used to prepare an updated Master Plan. This is your chance to be heard. Thank you for your input! General Instructions This survey is intended to be completed by adults (18 years or older). The survey can also be completed online at www.stow-ma.gov. Paper forms can be downloaded from the Town Website www.stow-ma.gov or obtained from the Town Clerk, the Planning Board or the library. Questions are followed by one or more check boxes or a space for entering a value. Please read the question in its entirety before checking the appropriate box or filling in a value. Return completed surveys to the Planning Board Office at the Stow Town Building (use the mail slot in the front door if you arrive after business hours) or by return mail to Stow Master Plan Committee, 380 Great Road, Stow, MA 01775. Completed surveys are due by December 15, 2008.

1. General / Demographic Information Are you (please check all that apply)



A resident of Stow		365	95%
Someone who works in Stow		8	2%
Someone who lives in and Works in Stow		23	6%
A business owner in Stow		15	4%

2. Please check your age group



74+		11	3%
60-74		70	18%
45-59		150	39%
30-44		151	40%
18-29		0	0%
Total		382	100%

3. If you are a resident, how long have you lived in Stow?

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If you are someone who works in Stow, how long have you worked here?

4.

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5. Community Character What do you like best about Stow?

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6. What do you like least about Stow?

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7. Looking ahead to 2020, what aspects of living in Stow would be most important to you?

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8. Would you support creation of a historical district within the Town Center -- a clearly identified municipal and historic center where people access government; placement of historic markers, well maintained monuments?



Yes		253	69%
No		115	31%
Total		368	100%

Villages and Economic Development Typical town villages in New England feature a tightly clustered mix of stores, houses, local government buildings, and civic uses within walking distance of each other. In answering the questions below, you should recognize that village development may result in more density in these locations, may require greater investment in infrastructure, and may increase the total build-out of Stow.

9. Would you support planning efforts and possible zoning changes to create village districts in the areas described below? See the map denoting the designated villages at http://www.stow-ma.gov/pages/StowMA_BComm/StowMA_MasterPlan/Stow_Villages1.pdf.



Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	Yes	No
Gleasondale (Encourage restoration of the mill building as an anchor to promote redevelopment and re-establishment of a neighborhood commercial center with a mix of housing types that are in proximity to jobs, shops and services; increase the Town's stock of affordable housing; and promote a greater sense of Gleasondale's community throughout the Town.)	277 73%	101 27%
Lower Village (Encourage redevelopment of the commercial		

center; increase the Town's stock of affordable housing; enhance the Lower Village's identity and development potential as a focal point for pedestrian-related uses; and promote a greater sense of community.)	276 72%	105 28%
West Stow (Promote small retail shops to support existing high-density development and foster recreational amenities with a goal toward protecting additional open space where possible.)	260 69%	115 31%

10. Would you support the rezoning of industrial properties for commercial use for the following classifications? Check all that you would support



Retail		253	70%
Offices		266	74%
Research & design (a category that connotes lower employee occupancy and less traffic than traditional office space)		327	91%

11. Do we need more industrial or commercial land in town?



Yes		179	48%
No		191	52%
Total		370	100%

12. Would you support changing zoning to allow townhouse or condominium developments to provide for more diversity in housing stock?




Yes		123	33%
No		251	67%
Total		374	100%






13. Would you support changing zoning to encourage the development of small-scale alternative energy (wind, solar, and other innovative technologies) to meet local energy needs?






Yes		332	86%
No		52	14%
Total		384	100%

Housing A range of housing options may be desirable for the sustainable health of our community. The state 40B law penalizes communities that have not reached a target of 10% "affordable" homes. By reaching a target of 10% "affordable" homes (defined in Stow as approximately \$150,100) of our total housing units (our count is 6.26% or 132 affordable units as of 10/08; based on the 2000 Census), Stow will gain more control of future housing development. See information about affordable housing at http://www.stow-ma.gov/pages/StowMA_BComm/StowMA_HousingPartner/STowMA_HPdocs/Housing%20Choice.pdf

14. Do you see a need for an increase in the quantity of housing in Stow for any of the following categories of people? Please check all that apply.  [Create Chart](#)

Elderly parents on fixed income		193	73%
Children relocating to Stow from elsewhere (college, etc.)		105	40%
Spouses of divided families		90	34%
Town employee or local teacher		183	69%
Employee or coworker in a local firm?		78	30%

15. Do you see a need for an increase in the quantity of types of housing in Stow in any of the following categories? Please check all that apply.  [Create Chart](#)

Rental single family homes		69	42%
Rental apartment style housing units in multi family buildings		53	32%
Rental town house style housing units in detached buildings		89	54%
Other, please specify View Responses		48	29%

16. Within the next ten years, will you or a family member likely be in need of any of the housing for categories of people listed in Question 14 and/or for the types of housing listed in Question 15?

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17. Would you support using Town funds to subsidize development of affordable homes?  [Create Chart](#)

		116	32%
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Yes			
No		252	68%
Total		368	100%






18. In a town-sponsored housing development, would it be more important to:
(choose one)



Maximize the number of subsidized affordable units (while maintaining consistent neighborhood standards)		110	34%
Minimize the cost to the Town by including more market-rate units		214	66%
Total		324	100%

19. If neighborhood standards and characteristics were substantially preserved, would you support a waiver from current zoning in order to build the following types of affordable housing? (check as many as apply)



Single family houses		180	60%
Duplexes		101	34%
Condominiums		91	30%
Rental apartments		48	16%
Cluster housing (higher density to preserve open space)		175	59%
Mixed-use (commercial and housing mixed)		154	52%

20. Would you support changes in zoning for new developments that allow a higher housing density in exchange for a greater percentage of subsidized affordable homes?




Yes		143	39%
No		224	61%
Total		367	100%


21. Would you support the use of town-owned land to build affordable housing?  [Create Chart](#)



Yes		127	35%
No		238	65%
Total		365	100%


Transportation



22. If there were more sidewalks or trails, would you or your children use them regularly for either of the purposes below? (Check all that you support)  [Create Chart](#)

Transportation		208	62%
Recreational Use		318	95%

23. In order to slow traffic and accommodate pedestrian crossing, the Town installed temporary pedestrian refuge islands in the Lower Village area. Would you support installation of permanent pedestrian refuge islands?  [Create Chart](#)

Yes		245	65%
No		134	35%
Total		379	100%

24. In 2006, a professional traffic study identified several possible solutions to improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety in the Lower Village. This study resulted in a recommendation to create two modern roundabouts, see the Traffic Study info at www.stow-ma.gov. Modern roundabouts differ from rotaries in that they channel traffic continuously in a smaller circumference at a slower speed.  [Create Chart](#)

Would you support funding for a one-lane roundabout at the intersection of Great Road, Pompositticut Street and Red Acre Road to slow through traffic and accommodate the approach traffic on Pompositticut Street and Red Acre Road? (See "Roundabouts" map here http://www.stow-ma.gov/pages/StowMA_BComm/StowMA_MasterPlan/roundabouts1.pdf .)		184	48%
Would you support funding for a one-lane roundabout at the Elm Ridge Road intersection with Great Road to serve as a distinctive west gateway to Stow Lower Village and provide easier access to Great Road from Elm Ridge Road and slow traffic in the vicinity of Bradley Road/Deerfield Lane? (See "Roundabouts" map here http://www.stow-ma.gov/pages/StowMA_BComm/StowMA_MasterPlan/roundabouts1.pdf .)		105	27%

25. If a public shuttle service were available in Stow, would you use the shuttle to/from (please check all that apply)  [Create Chart](#)

The South Acton Commuter Rail Station?		132	34%
Other, please specify		52	13%

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Municipal Land Use How do you see the importance of the following possible needs and uses for Town land in the future? To help us assess the most important items related to municipal land use, indicate whether you see each item as representing a high, medium or low need to you by checking the appropriate box.

26. Please indicate whether you see each item as representing a high, medium or low need to you.

 [Create Chart](#)

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	High	Medium	Low
Future school site	171 45%	96 25%	110 29%
Recreation fields or facilities	137 36%	116 31%	127 33%
Additional parking in Town Center	35 9%	120 32%	216 58%
Town well for future water needs	123 32%	162 43%	96 25%
Open space for conservation or passive recreation	159 42%	117 31%	103 27%
Senior center	83 22%	171 45%	124 33%
Additional town office space	17 5%	139 37%	215 58%
New fire station	70 19%	193 52%	110 29%
Town-initiated affordable housing	40 11%	108 29%	228 61%
Sewage treatment for existing or future village centers	86 23%	162 43%	126 34%
Land to lease for agriculture	105 28%	126 34%	143 38%
Community Center	114 30%	151 40%	114 30%

27.

Infrastructure and Municipal Services How do you see the importance of the following possible town services in the future? Indicate whether you see each item as representing a high, medium or low need to you by checking the appropriate box.

 [Create Chart](#)

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	High	Medium	Low
Curbside trash pickup + curbside recycling	149 39%	96 25%	134 35%
Shuttle Service to South			

Acton Train Station	70 18%	119 31%	190 50%
Sidewalk network throughout Town	147 39%	124 33%	105 28%
Paramedic coverage on all Fire Department shifts	174 46%	163 43%	40 11%
Public Water Supply for densely developed areas	103 27%	159 42%	116 31%
Sewage Disposal for densely developed areas	109 29%	153 41%	115 31%
Acquire easements or land to complete the Assabet River Rail Trail	184 49%	109 29%	86 23%
Gas service throughout Town	67 18%	113 30%	192 52%
Replace overhead utility lines with buried cables	74 20%	135 36%	166 44%

28. Additional Comments:

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29. This survey can be taken anonymously. However, if you'd like to be notified of future master plan meetings, please provide us with your contact information.

[View 387 Responses](#)