

MEDIA ADVISORY for Immediate Release

From SAVE Colonie: A Partnership for Planning

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SAVE Colonie: A Partnership for Planning, recently completed an informal non-scientific on-line survey to gauge Colonie residents' attitudes about and support for various aspects of life in the Town of Colonie. SAVE, begun a year ago by a handful of Colonie volunteers concerned about certain aspects of recent development, has grown to over three hundred members. This survey was an opportunity for SAVE to learn about issues of interest to residents, provide strategic guidance to focus the group in its second year, and gauge residents' opinions about a number of issues raised with SAVE in various meetings.

The survey was available from February 21 to April 3, 2017. It was publicized in several Times Union and Colonie Spotlight articles, and through the SAVE Facebook page, website, Twitter, and the group's email list serve. Three hundred twenty-one individuals took the survey; there were no duplicate IP addresses, indicating that no one took it twice.

The main take-away was that while over 90% of respondents think that Colonie is a good or excellent place to live, nearly a third said they would NOT recommend Colonie to their friends. Two-thirds found residential growth "too fast" and "changing the character of the Town," and more than half said commercial development is "too fast." Conservation, preserving open space, and protecting wildlife habitat were high priorities, with 80% supporting dedicated Town funding for conservation.

Other key findings from the survey include: Protecting the well-being of existing residents and quality of life in existing neighborhoods in the development process was identified as extremely important, including: applying appropriately stringent design/architectural standards to commercial development and renovations; preserving open spaces, developing bike/hike trails and greenways; creating more pedestrian-friendly communities, and requiring adequate buffers between existing neighborhoods and new development.

Probably in response to this winter's spate of water main breaks and potholes, two thirds of respondents rated water and sewer maintenance as a high priority, and nearly 100 percent rated it as a moderate or high priority.

Nearly all respondents identified traffic congestion as a growing issue facing the Town, with nearly half recognizing it as a serious problem already. More than 70% of respondents want more sidewalks and bike lanes: specific recommendations included along Route 9, Albany-Shaker, Osborne and Wolf Roads. There was little support for additional public transportation, some citing that the Town is too spread out, and people's destinations too varied for additional public transportation to be feasible.

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