

Alstead Community Survey

Master Plan Update 2005

1) Are you a: Home Owner (in Alstead) - or - Renter - or - Other

2) Are you a: Permanent Resident (of Alstead) - or - Seasonal Resident

3) How long have you lived in Alstead? less than 1 year 1 to 5 years
 5 to 10 years 10 to 20 years
 over 20 years if over 20 years, how many years:

4) How many more years do you intend to live in Alstead? 1 to 5 years
 5 to 10 years
 indefinitely

5) In what town or city do you work?
 Alstead Keene Claremont Other (specify)

6) Why do you choose to live in Alstead?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
Family Ties	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Character	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Closeness to Job	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quality of Schools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Low Crime Rate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (specify): <input type="text"/>			

7) If you feel that Alstead is a desirable place to live, please circle all that apply:

Small Town / Rural Atmosphere	Proximity to Cities	Town Services
Employment Opportunities	Historic Character	Scenic Areas
Educational System	Affordability	Recreational Facilities
People / Community Spirit	Other <input type="text"/>	

If you do not feel that Alstead is a desirable place to live, why not?

8) Name three features of Alstead that you feel are essential in defining the Town (i.e. people, places, organizations, etc.)

9) What do you like most about Alstead and do not want to see change?

10) What do you like least about Alstead and feel needs to change?

11) Many people speak of “preserving the character of our town” as being important. What does this mean to you?

12) What do you feel are the most serious problems facing Alstead today? Please rate each of the following as:
1 = not a problem, 2 = minor problem, 3 = a serious problem

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Solid Waste Disposal | <input type="checkbox"/> Property Taxes | <input type="checkbox"/> Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Roads | <input type="checkbox"/> Employment Opportunities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Telecommunications Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____ | |

13) Do you have concerns about population growth in Alstead? Yes No

If yes, what concerns do you have?

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> increased school enrollment | <input type="checkbox"/> decreased privacy | <input type="checkbox"/> increased taxes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> increased demand on town services | <input type="checkbox"/> increased traffic | <input type="checkbox"/> loss of rural character |
| <input type="checkbox"/> loss of open space | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify): _____ | |

14) In your opinion, which best describes Alstead’s rate of overall growth: (Please circle all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alstead is growing too fast | <input type="checkbox"/> Alstead is not growing fast enough |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alstead is growing as fast as neighboring Towns | <input type="checkbox"/> Alstead is not managing its growth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Growth is not a major issue in Alstead | <input type="checkbox"/> No Opinion |

15) What types of housing would you like to see Alstead encourage?

	Encourage	Discourage
Single-Family Homes	_____	_____
Condominiums/Town Houses	_____	_____
Two-Family Homes	_____	_____
Addition of Accessory Apartments with Single-Family Homes	_____	_____
New Apartment Buildings	_____	_____
Conversion of Large Homes into Apartments	_____	_____
Manufactured/Mobile Homes on Individual Lots	_____	_____
Manufactured/Mobile Homes in Parks	_____	_____
Mixed Residential with Businesses	_____	_____
Multi-Unit Housing for Elderly Residents	_____	_____

16) “Smart growth” is an approach to community planning that considers and appreciates the essential qualities and features of a community as it grows and changes. Specifically, it is about increasing choices and opportunities to meet community and regional needs for housing, employment, goods and services, and quality of life through more efficient, creative development. Principles of “smart growth” include maintaining traditional, compact settlement patterns; incorporating a mix of uses; protecting environmental quality; and, managing growth locally.

Is it important for Alstead to develop and implement the community’s policies and plans such that they encourage a “smart growth” approach to planning for the community’s future? (please circle answer)

- a) Diversity of Density (a mix of compact village centers including new villages and neighborhoods and rural areas with varied minimum lot sizes) Yes No No Opinion
- b) Mixed Use (combine residential and commercial opportunities to limit sprawl and increase local employment opportunities) Yes No No Opinion
- c) Preserve the Working Landscape (sustaining contiguous tracts of farm and forest land and allowing home-based businesses for agriculture and forest production) Yes No No Opinion
- d) Provide Choices in Transportation (create a livable, walkable community that increases accessibility for people of all ages, whether on foot, bicycle, or in motor vehicles) Yes No No Opinion

17) How should Alstead respond to prospects for growth in each of the following areas?

	Encourage	Stay As Is	Discourage	Where Should They Be Encouraged or Discouraged? Why?
Building Trades				
Child Care Centers				
Farms				
Home-based Businesses				
Clinics/Health/Dental Offices				
Gas Stations				
Large Commercial/Industrial Firms				
Windmills/ Wind Towers				
Hotels/Motels				
Mini-Storage				
Professional Offices				
Restaurants (sit down)				
Restaurants (fast food)				
Retail Business Shops				
Small Manufacturing Firms				
Tourism and Outdoor Recreation				
Other (specify)				

18) How important is it for Alstead to protect and enhance the following:

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
Forested Areas	_____	_____	_____
Existing Farmland	_____	_____	_____
Historic Buildings & Sites	_____	_____	_____
River Corridors	_____	_____	_____
Scenic Roads	_____	_____	_____
Wildlife Habitat	_____	_____	_____
Wetlands	_____	_____	_____
Lakes, Ponds & Streams	_____	_____	_____
Aquifers (groundwater)	_____	_____	_____
Parks & Recreation areas	_____	_____	_____
Open Space (undeveloped land)	_____	_____	_____

Other (specify): _____

19) Should the town create or maintain regulatory standards for the following (please circle answer):

Water Quality Protection:	Yes	No	No opinion
Construction on Steep Slopes	Yes	No	No opinion
Noise	Yes	No	No opinion
Outdoor Lighting	Yes	No	No opinion
Setbacks from Streams, Ponds and Wetlands	Yes	No	No opinion
Protecting Special Habitat and Places	Yes	No	No opinion
Ridgeline Construction	Yes	No	No opinion

20) Please indicate your views on how Alstead might finance the protection of open space (this may include woodlands, waterways, fields, wetlands, farms, scenic vistas, recreation fields, hiking trails, and a variety of other undeveloped areas) through the purchase of land or acquisition of easements by agreeing or disagreeing with the following statements. (Please circle answer)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	No Opinion	Agree	Strongly Agree
a) I would support the town using a bond to help finance the protection of important open space.	1	2	3	4	5
b) To finance open space protection, I would support using a portion of the current use penalty tax.	1	2	3	4	5
c) To finance open space protection, I would support a tax increase.	1	2	3	4	5
d) I would support using a portion of the town budget surplus to finance the protection of open space.	1	2	3	4	5
e) I would support the creation of a municipal land trust to purchase land or easements for open space protection.	1	2	3	4	5

21) Please indicate your views on how Alstead should use zoning regulations to protect open space by agreeing or disagreeing with the following statements. (Please circle answer)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	No Opinion	Agree	Strongly Agree
a) I would support zoning that preserves open space.	1	2	3	4	5
b) I would support regulations requiring that development on ridgelines be as unobtrusive as reasonably practicable.	1	2	3	4	5
c) I would support regulations requiring buildings on certain parcels to be sited so as to preserve special views in town.	1	2	3	4	5
d) I would support regulations requiring buildings and other structures to be located, when reasonably practicable, so as not to interfere with wildlife habitat and other natural resources.	1	2	3	4	5

22) An “open space subdivision” contains the same number of lots as any other subdivision in that zoning district, but houses are located closer together and 50% or more of the original area can be permanently protected as undeveloped land. This type of subdivision can be mandatory or optional. Developers can be given bonuses for extra lots in return for saving important open space. Please indicate your views on the use of “open space subdivisions” by agreeing or disagreeing with the following statements: (Please circle answer)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	No Opinion	Agree	Strongly Agree
a) I would support making “open space subdivisions” mandatory on any parcel 10 acres or larger.	1	2	3	4	5
b) I would support giving a developer a choice of using an “open space subdivision” or a conventional subdivision.	1	2	3	4	5
c) I would support encouraging, but not requiring, developers to use “open space subdivision” by giving them more than the normally allowed number of lots in return for using an “open space subdivision.”	1	2	3	4	5

23) Conservation Easements are a means of protecting open space by specifying uses allowed or not allowed in the future in the property deed. (Please circle answer)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	No Opinion	Agree	Strongly Agree
a) I would consider putting a conservation easement on my property	1	2	3	4	5
b) I do / do not know what a conservation easement is			Do Know	Do Not Know	
c) I would like more information about how I can preserve some or all of my property			Yes	No	

24) How well do you think the town is performing/providing the following services or opportunities?

Town Services or Opportunities	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't Know / No Opinion
Selectmen's Office				
Planning Board				
Conservation Commission				
Zoning Board of Adjustment				
Town Clerk				
Access to Public Waters				
Animal Control				
Cemetery Care				
Fire Protection				
Ambulance Services				
Historical Preservation				
Land Conservation				
Library				
Police Protection				
Public Assistance				
Recreational Facilities & Trails				
Summer Road Maintenance				
Snow Removal				
Schools				
Enforcement of Zoning & Building Codes				
Senior Services				
Waste Disposal				
Recycling				
Disaster Preparedness				
Environmental Protection				
Economic (Business) Development				

25) How do you get your information about news and events in Alstead?

town newsletter
 word of mouth
 community bulletin boards
 local radio
 local/regional newspaper (specify) _____

26) What other informational resources would you like to have available in Alstead?

email/listserve
 Town website
 bulletin board
 other _____

27) Do you feel that the quality of education in Alstead is competitive with other towns? (Please circle answer)

Yes
 No
 Unsure
 No Opinion

Please explain why or why not?

28) In what ways do you enjoy Alstead's recreational opportunities? (Please circle all that apply)

Bird-Watching
 Horseback Riding
 Camping
 Boating
 Fishing
 Mountain Biking
 Snowmobiling
 Hiking
 Skiing
 Hunting
 Snowshoeing
 Canoe/Kayak
 Swimming
 Other _____

29) Specifically, which recreational facilities do you use (e.g. Millot Green, Wellmen Pond, Town Forest, Pratt Rock, Vilas Pool, school grounds, hiking trails, parks, etc.)?

Would you like to see improvements to any of these facilities? If so, what?

If you are not using these facilities, why not?

Vilas Pool and Vilas Pool Dam were constructed in 1927 as a gift to the town for community recreation. The area is open and staffed part-time during the summer (June-August). The Park has a variety of programs for children and is also available for use by community groups and families.

30) Have you or your family used the recreation facilities at Vilas Pool in the past year? Yes No

If Yes, how many times _____

31) What activities have you engaged in at Vilas Pool? (Please circle all that apply)

- Picnics/Barbeques Camping Swimming Paddle boat
- Horseshoes Baseball Volleyball Other (specify) _____

What additional activities should be available at the Park? _____

32) Vilas Pool:

	Needs Improvement	Does Not Need Improvement	
Parking			
Signs			
Advertising			
Maintenance			
Hours of Operation			Suggested hours:

33) What could the Town do to improve use of Vilas Pool by the community?

34) Are there any intersections, sections of roadways, or bridges that you feel are hazardous for vehicles, and need improvement?

35) Are there any intersections, sections of roadways, or bridges that you feel are hazardous for pedestrians, and need improvement?

36) Alstead's road network is: (Please circle answer)

- Adequate for your personal travel needs Yes No
- Limits growth in town Yes No
- Encourages growth in town Yes No

37) Is there a need for transportation services for senior residents of Alstead to and from any of the area communities?

Yes No

If Yes, please check all that apply:

Bellows Falls Brattleboro Charlestown Claremont Concord
 Keene Newport Walpole

38) Circle the number below that indicates how important you feel that the availability of “Broad Band” (high-speed internet) telecommunications access in Alstead is to the following matters:

(1 = essential, 3 = desired but not essential, and 5 = not important)

Your Home Life	1	2	3	4	5
Your Business	1	2	3	4	5
Education	1	2	3	4	5
Economic Development	1	2	3	4	5
Community Character	1	2	3	4	5

39) Should the Town target particular parts of the community for commercial and/or industrial growth? Yes No

If so, where? _____

40) Should the Town actively promote the Village as a location for new businesses? Yes No

41) Do you support the Town of Alstead building a new town hall or community center? Yes No

42) What is your single greatest hope or wish for Alstead in the next 10 years?

43) What is the single greatest threat to Alstead in the next 10 years?

44) Long-term planning is a difficult and time-consuming process for our volunteer boards, and is unlikely to get any easier as the Town grows. Many towns have part-time planners who help develop long-term plans, work with regional planners and seek out grants for their towns. Should Alstead consider doing the same? Yes No

45) Please comment on any additional issues you believe are important to Alstead:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INPUT!
Alstead Planning Board