

Appendix K

Survey Comments

The Town of Athol's Open Space & Recreation Committee first assembled on September 28, 2005 and began by familiarizing themselves with Athol's 2000 Open Space & Recreation Survey. It was deduced that using similar questions would give the most accurate trend indicators.

Minor additions were added to existing questions and by December, four additional questions were added including Open Space Residential Design, Transportation, methods for preserving open space, and desire to serve on the committee. The original topics looked at Athol's perceived character, interests in future growth, historical significance, demographics for recreational desires and the housing choices of all ages and family constitutions. A comment section was included.

1. Do you Consider Athol:

A) A mill town	yes	no
B) A bedroom community	yes	no
C) A town in transition	yes	no
D) Other (please define)	yes	no

Comment:

Respondents indicated that they felt Athol was a town in transition. This is a significant change from the 2000 survey when respondents indicated that felt Athol was a mill town.

1. A: I moved here one year ago and feel (illegible)Town selectmen etc... are not progressive and need to change with the influx of people moving to the suburbs and to promote education not pregnancy assistance.
2. Poor town
3. Boring.
4. A crowded little town.
5. Fix up what we have.
6. Dead mill town due to Quabbin Res. In transition (illegible)Quabbin Project.
7. Really plain
8. Boring and nothing to do.
9. Child with parents (re-married)
10. Needs more work places
11. This is a poor town. We need more business coming in.
12. Going nowhere. Center for child molesters.
13. More welfare families are coming to Athol. They are getting rents under sec. 8 and wrecking the apartments.
14. Athol is a great place to live - We need a more diligent selectboard and more action from them.
15. Seem to be quite a few low-income move to our area w/ no jobs in site.
16. Dying out
17. Growth too rapid
18. My home. Work = Play
19. Starretts Town
20. From A to B
21. My Town
22. Poor town
23. Don't understand

24. It's a bed and breakfast
25. Athol is coming up - but needs improvement scholastically. The youth need help. Too much alcoholism and pregnancy. Welfare mentality.
26. All of the above
27. Frequent laughing stock. Told so at work because of newspaper articles about Athol in other newspapers.
28. I think Athol has the potential to grow and service the smaller surrounding towns.
29. A dying town, a town in decline.
30. Oppressed, Depressed and Suppressed.
31. Growing too fast.
32. We cannot allow the state to use as a dumping ground for the state's disadvantage. Section eights.
33. Athol presently is somewhat inert.
34. Poor town. Needs more housing.
35. Section 8 dumping ground.
36. We need shops.
37. C: Yes - Hopefully
38. We don't have land to sell.
39. A town presently not doing what is necessary in all aspects to improve its position.
40. Mill town becoming a bedroom community.
41. Kind of a dying mill town in transition to becoming a more bedroom type of town.
42. Mill town becoming a bedroom community.
43. C: Yes - I hope so!
44. A mill town - but dying
45. Town trying to find its identity.
46. Will become a bedroom community as time evolves.
47. Everyone travels elsewhere to work. Everyone that I know!
48. Needs a grocery store. More industry and department stores.
49. A Senior Town
50. I think Athol is stagnant. It's a dead Mill Town.
51. The (illegible) of the world. A town that needs much more improvement.
52. Do not understand.
53. A safe, affordable town.
54. Stuck and shortsighted, unrealistic about the wave of development coming their way, priorities out of order - but getting there thanks to (town manager) Mr. Ames.
55. Tool Town?
56. A small town with not much to offer.
57. Getting closer to bedroom community.
58. Slowly redefining itself.
59. I used to think of it as a small, old factory town, but feel it is now becoming a bedroom community. It is sad to see how much over development is happening.
60. Rapid housing development - New construction both private housing & rental.
61. A center for people needing public assistance.
62. We are seeing a lot of new residents from the east that commute into Boston to work. Working on the town's "appearance" - as in not allowing yet another Dunkin Donuts or places like Job Lots would go a long way to developing that transition positively. Encouraging more upscale retail if more retail is to come in. Zoning for tasteful signage as well! The "all you can eat buffet" is a real eyesore!
63. A mill town that has disintegrated - without enforced regulations property owners are allowed to run rampant with junk and garbage on their front lawns. Other towns scoff at Athol as a "bum town". I am ashamed of Athol!
64. I'd like to see us get over the "mill town" image. In today's mobile society it really is not relevant. If you want to improve yourself - find a better job

65. Until the zb(?) does something about the lot size we are going to continue to build more homes and put strains on the infrastructure without relief. We are a large senior population and they just cannot continue to pay the bills
66. Ghost town. We need food clothing stores. Factories. At least two more
67. We are a town that support the interest of outer towns people
68. State dumping ground!! Section 8 welfare. Fresh air fund camp, sex offenders etc..
69. Dead - Drug and alcoholic town
70. A town with nothing to do
71. All three apply
72. Expansion of our services through new business and recreational growth is a must do
73. We are on the way to bedroom community but not there yet
74. Mill town to bedroom community. Seems like most new housing is for commuters and white collar workers
75. A mill town in transition
76. Too many expensive new homes being built
77. Welfare community
78. Town could be in transition
79. (Choose bedroom community) comment: But I think Athol is in transition
80. Dying town not enough new businesses

2. How important is it to preserve or protect: (1 is least important and 5 being the most)

A) Buildings of historical or architectural interest	1	2	3	4	5
B) Open spaces for recreational purposes	1	2	3	4	5
C) Open space for conservation & water supply needs	1	2	3	4	5
D) Other (please define)					

Comment:

The general tone of the respondents to this question highlighted the importance for Athol to retain its rural character by preserving open space, historical interests, and water supplies.

1. If we had to it would be better to document historically + use those buildings and update them. Open space to develop a community creative center that provides sm. Apts. For homeless that can provide a cooperative education of planting for life-creating solar, independent elect and heating sources. Also working in communities on foreclosed and undeveloped areas.
2. We need to preserve country or rural setting.
3. But we also need to find feasible spaces to promote new industry/commerce.
4. Wildlife runways. Pleasant St. to Bearsden, Chestnut Hill to Millers (many runways)
5. Where will money come from?
6. D: More business & manufacturing. More than grocery store.
7. Run down properties.
8. Stop building. Save a tree.
9. Water and air quality and wildlife conservation should be #5, first in importance.
10. Local beaches
11. We need industry.
12. Preserve our heritage
13. They are all important in one way or another.
14. Lakes need work.
15. A building like Lyman Ward should be made functional without compromising architecture.
16. Downtown as our town center. Uptown as a second center.
17. Wetlands and forests.
18. We need water.

19. We need more industry in this town and if preserving open space prohibits that - then I am against it.
20. Residential and commercial growth (5)
21. Wildlife areas.
22. Forest and wildlife habitats.
23. We need to rebuild, or recondition everything.
24. Protect from development. No subdivisions.
25. Police Station.
26. A) Letting the old fire station go was a sion. B) Fortunately we have the reservoir.
27. Conservation for wildlife.
28. Bike path would help to upscale our image.
29. Conserve area for our children and grandchildren to some day enjoy. Once it is gone, you can never get it back.
30. Farmland for growing food (5) Important to protect our quality (5)
31. I think it is very important to keep the small town New England feel to town.
32. B) What kind of recreation? Land and intrusive dirt bikes and ATV's that destroy the environment?
33. The towns overall small/rural town character
34. Forests and open fields
35. We should not use all of our open spaces

3. To preserve open spaces, would you:

- | | | |
|---|-----|----|
| A) Donate land to the town or a conservation organization | yes | no |
| B) Sell land to the town at a "bargain price" | yes | no |
| C) Sell land to the town at fair market value | yes | no |
| D) Support the establishment of municipal fund to help purchase open space. | yes | no |
| E) Support zoning for open space preservation | yes | no |
| F) Other (please define) | | |

Comment:

Most of the survey respondents stated that they didn't own enough land that they could contribute to open space but indicated that the town should take appropriate steps to ensure that open space is preserved.

1. A: If I had enough land I would. E/F: I would except I myself am having a difficult time meeting my elec. And heating bills. Keeping my elec to the bare min. and heating as lowest possible.
2. I have no land to sell or donate but if I did I would do A B C yes.
3. I don't have any land to give.
4. E: Possible.
5. Don't know.
6. If I had land to donate I would to a conservation organization knowing and trusting that it would be protected.
7. E: No - Do nothing that is confiscation of property or its use.
8. N/A - Not a landowner.
9. B: (yes) If I had land to spare - but I don't. D: (No) OK if not established by a tax - donations and fundraising OK E: (No) Not if it is to the detriment of landowner.
10. Support animal/wildlife-crossing projects.
11. Don't understand question.
12. A/C: Don't have any extra to give or sell. E: Don't have extra money for taxes, etc.
13. Would donate land if I were in financial position to do so.
14. Depends on the financial status of person selling land.
15. I don't own any land.

16. I think yes, but have none to donate or offer at a bargain. If I had land, I might not care to this.
17. I would support a fund if water and wildlife were 1st priority, and only non-motorized recreation permitted.
I own a house lot. So while I support all these strategies, I don't have much to offer.
18. I have no land to offer/sell.
19. Current landowners should not have their rights taken away by re-zoning for land preservation.
20. Land is very important
21. Town has better uses for taxpayers' dollars.
22. Do not own land.
23. Do not have land to donate.
24. No comment
25. Enforce smart growth.
26. Have no land to donate or sell.
27. I don't have enough land to donate.
28. Do not own land.
29. Have no land to donate.
30. Do not own land.
31. D. For what purpose?
32. F. Haven't any to sell.
33. You need to use what you have more wisely.
34. Yes, if I had it.
35. I don't own any land. Change Zoning to stop subdivisions. Create more hiking trails, protect the land.
36. Do not have land or money.
37. Support zoning that would allow landowners options to creating innovative businesses, which are in line with the goals of the open space mission.
38. I don't have land to sell.
39. Limit new housing. Promote tourism along Rt. 2A and Miller River.
40. Do not have land.
41. Cannot blanket purchase of land. Each needs to be separately considered.
42. But I have none!
43. All of the above "yes". Why limit your options in obtaining land to preserve?
44. I would not trust town officials to make the right decision of property purchased for open space. They have squandered thousands just for the police station alone!
45. A, B, C Do not apply to us
46. Support local land trust
47. Under the impression zoning is accomplishing this. We do not own land
48. Have none
49. Yes if I owned any
50. I own no land
51. I don't have any land
52. I am not a home landowner if I were I would donate part of my land
53. We are barely able to make ends meet

4. What residential growth policy do you favor for the town? (Circle one)

- A) No growth
- B) Growth evenly spread
- C) Regulating growth in existing developed areas
- D) Regulating growth in undeveloped areas
- E) Other (please define)

Comment:

Survey respondents indicated that growth should be properly managed and many were concerned about over-development.

1. Doesn't matter.
2. I'm concerned Athol will become overdeveloped.
3. Doesn't our existing zoning bylaw determine location and limits?
4. Growth should be limited to what the town infrastructure can handle.
5. Undecided between B, C and D.
6. E: Control amount and placement of public housing.
7. I would regulate growth in both C & D.
8. C/D: Both kinds of areas need regulated growth, I think.
9. I believe we should save all the undeveloped areas we can from here on, and focus growth in existing developed areas. Re-use old buildings, clean brownfields. We should recycle mills and already developed areas to provide condo housing, store, new green industry, not develop new land. Athol's main attraction is lakes, rivers, wetlands. We need to keep what we have and restore what has been lost.
10. Regulating growth.
11. What is residential growth policy?
12. Something to encourage industrial growth.
13. Regulating growth throughout town.
14. No preference
15. I think you need to take some space and build this town a new school.
16. Little to know regulation, but allow growth.
17. Encouraging growth in and adjacent to existing development with zoning allowing only maximum lot sizes of 1/2 acre or so, to foster development similar to existing older homes.
18. Small town charm is lost and gone.
19. Residential growth should be tied to economical (business and industry) growth.
20. No growth in undeveloped areas.
21. Current development doesn't seem to be a problem.
22. We need to reuse existing housing stock and only encourage new development in areas that can be properly serviced by the town.
23. Well plan zoning to plan for growth.
24. Larger lots. 1.5 - 2 acres.
25. We would like to see more new development to expand the tax base and development of existing properties.
26. Focusing growth undeveloped areas.
27. As little growth as possible.
28. E. Regulating growth in all areas
29. E. Growth without increasing the town's infrastructure. i.e., schools, highways.
30. Less "gays" and sex offenders. Let's get back to nice people.
31. I'd like to see more bldgs going up. I'd like to see downtown refurbished.
32. E. "Smart Growth Principles"
33. Not too much too fast or we'll have problems accommodating children in schools.

34. The question requires more than one answer.
35. Both C & D.
36. Mixed-use zoning.
37. More affordable Senior housing. Seek grants for residential "rehabilitation act". Terms are conditional, no repayment with continued residency after 5 yrs, considered paid off after 10 yrs.
38. Unregulated growth. However bylaws that are in place regulate growth.
39. Please no more low income or trailer parks. I live on Eagleville Lake. It is overgrown. Town needs to take care of what it has.
40. No more growth in undeveloped areas!
41. Both C & D. There's a lot of development in housing, big money from city dwellers taking advantage of lower prices in our community.
42. Limit the number of new building permits per year.
43. Growth slowly, evenly and carefully spread to ensure the town's ability to support the needs of all its citizens.
44. The only kind of people Athol attracts to homes for sale are trashy ones. They buy a beautiful home and in no time degrade the property!
45. Develop plan to expand water and sewer lines. Growth must be in this area to spread cost base
46. C & D encourage growth in C by regulation, Discourage growth in D by regulation
47. We definitely need a lot of size limits. We need to consider "services needed" also for larger developments
48. Unregulated growth (e.g. Proposed subdivision bordering Tully Lake) runs the risk of eroding the small town character that is one of Athol's greatest strengths
49. Maximum on building permits. Limits to be set yearly permits granted
50. Encourage cluster development in undeveloped areas. DO not go with minimum acre lots
51. Needs to be regulated in both developed and undeveloped areas
52. Our town has grown too much in recent years. Our main street and routes cannot support more growth, nor can our schools

5. Of the following open space related problems, which do you feel are the most critical for Athol? (Choose one)
(1 being the least critical and 5 being the most)

A) Destruction of the town's character	1	2	3	4	5
B) Disappearing wildlife habitat	1	2	3	4	5
C) Pollution of water bodies and wetlands	1	2	3	4	5
D) Lack of adequate recreational facilities	1	2	3	4	5
E) Other (please define)	1	2	3	4	5

Comment:

Survey respondents felt that all four were important with pollution of water bodies and loss of wildlife habitat as critical open space related issues.

1. Cooperative that could benefit everyone.
2. Long range - will it be possible to properly maintain anything that is build or created. Don't create a future eyesore.
3. F: Business park space (5)
4. Wildlife crossing projects
5. I think much of the town's character has been destroyed. For example, sale of uptown fire station.
6. We must be careful not to expand too fast and too much. We will need more school, more police and fire personnel and more water. Be careful

7. Greater protection of Millers River watershed
8. We can no longer safely eat the fish from our streams and lakes. It may even be dangerous to wade and swim in the streams because of sediment pollution. My vision of Athol is of fishing for my dinner in my old age, having a garden, and boating and biking along the river.
9. Clean up the trash in town.
10. People don't see character in Athol.
11. Open space problems are very important.
12. The town at this point has no character.
13. Town's character isn't being destroyed. B & D above do not appear to have reached any "vital" stage at present.
14. Thoughtful forward planning needed (This an excellent first step).
15. We need space.
16. What is the town's character? We think the town is in transition with a changing character. C - 5: This is so important for our town, state, and region. D - 5: This is a huge issue! As a town citizen we want proper facilities for us and our children.
17. Truthfully I don't believe open space is a problem. Social and economic problems are.
18. When I bought my house six years ago I choose the town of Athol over other places like Fitchburg that I could have afforded to buy in because Athol's a small town. I like it that way and would like to see it stay that way.
19. Town needs to develop a "character".
20. Character? Outsiders think of Athol as a shithole.
21. Over development - subdivisions, traffic
22. We need a defined character (A)
23. Limit # of building permits per year. Builders are raping Athol because landowners are left with no options due to unreasonable limitations with zoning. Get creative (look at other towns' ZBL and learn from them)
24. School problems.
25. No character left - There are more bums than normal people. We need action - not talk - we need a Board of Health that fines people for trashy properties instead of making fools of Athol by pushing the no smoking ban. We need a pro-active BOH!
26. Increase in taxes for fixed income seniors

6. How satisfied are you with the Town's existing recreational facilities for the following age groups (circle one; 1 being the least satisfied and 5 being the most)

A) 12 and under	1	2	3	4	5
B) 13 – 17	1	2	3	4	5
C) 18 – 29	1	2	3	4	5
D) 30 – 54	1	2	3	4	5
E) 55 – Over	1	2	3	4	5

Comment:

It was a surprise to learn that many survey respondents were not aware of many of the recreational opportunities available in town.

1. We need a senior center where we can have outdoor activities also.
2. We need more than one playground. Why not use Highland School property for the up townies.
3. Doesn't matter.
4. Can't honestly comment on other groups.
5. One the "wooden playground" is rebuilt my answer for "A" (3) would be higher.
6. Need thinks for kids to do that is positive and safe. Not crap like skate parks for the punks.

7. We can thank the YMCA
8. I don't know enough yet - but its not bad overall.
9. Too many bars.
10. Really don't know.
11. Other than what the YMCA and public library, I don't know what else is available.
12. C. (18 - 29) This age group does not stay here. I understand this is a statewide problem because of lack of job opportunities.
13. The only recreation for all ages is the YMCA.
14. Our young people need more facilities.
15. The YMCA I am "5" but I'm not sure it is really considered to be town rec facility - I think improvement is needed at fish park, Silver Lake, Lake Ellis.
16. There are abundant opportunities for undeveloped recreation in Athol. We need more group opportunities for young people to use them safely, perhaps.
17. Need improvement for all.
18. YMCA, an asset for school age. No playground since Lake St. torn down.
19. It would be nice if there was a place for older people to walk during the cold months.
20. New to town - unsure of what is available.
21. I've lived in town only two years and I have no children.
22. I don't know of really any recreational facilities other than Bearsden and Tully and Laurel Lake.
23. Look at Hubbardston's rec area with bandstand, soccer, ballfields, playgrounds, skate park in one area. Silver Lake could be made into a similar comprehensive rec area.
24. Need larger library to meet modern needs and also more accessible. Parking / handicapped.
25. A & B are probably the only groups who need something to occupy them. The rest should be resourceful enough to find their own recreational needs.
26. Restore wooden playground. Improve Silver Lake area. Need bike paths and walking trails.
27. Having no grand children living in town I can't speak for that age group.
28. Don't know. Haven't used.
29. We have a lot of recreational facilities available that are unused. We have a YMCA, Library, swimming, skating, and bowling. The teens are not using facilities and should be encouraged to.
30. Private groups provide most of the recreation. Year round scouts, Golden Agers, Churches.
31. The YMCA is grossly inadequate, and there's no competition.
32. Need more outdoor recreational trails, events, etc.
33. More recreation for younger children.
34. There is no recreational facilities or anything in Athol.
35. Would love to see safe, flat walking paths away from traffic, noise and pollution.
36. I have no idea about any of these.
37. Need to rebuild the wood park.
38. The skate park is the poorest and saddest thing I've ever seen in my life. The parks, or fields, flood. The playgrounds are full of swastikas & swears, glass & cigarettes.
39. I wish you were kinder to the 55 to 65 crowd. More breaks for the 18 - 65 crowd who are basically supporting the town.
40. Wow! God question! Reveals deficiencies!
41. Not aware of recreational facilities.
42. B) Clubs organized for this group have been destroyed by the very kids they were build for. C, D, E) Plenty of bars and drunks already.
43. What recreational facilities do we have now?
44. You will get people downtown if they have a community center and a few "real" restaurants to go to eat on the weekend. And the rest of the business's will better themselves w/ the flow of people coming downtown that normally wouldn't
45. We do not have kids so we're not as attuned to issues relating to younger residents
46. People should be responsible for their own recreation - Life is what you make it
47. Do not know

48. Letting the only grocery store to move out of hurts many residents. It's a sad day when folks have to spend grocery money to they get to the store
49. I don't feel I can comment one way or another. I'm 88 and I think when I was young we had more for young and nothing for the old
50. Need basketball courts near center of town (besides YMCA). The town itself (i.e. Public) has very little rec facilities fortunately the YMCA has many
51. Need lost of stuff
52. Facilities are good condition and groups using them are not
53. Senior center needed
54. Kids need somewhere to go to stay out of trouble besides "walking" Main Street
55. Not familiar with the recreational facilities in town

7. What recreational facilities do you feel are most needed (Top five choices)

- A. No new facilities
- B. Conservation areas
- C. Playgrounds
- D. Playing fields
- E. Ice skating facilities
- F. Neighborhood parks/gardens
- G. Public boat access points
- H. Public fish access points
- I. Beach facilities
- J. Multi-purpose trails
- K. Family picnic areas
- L. Improved Neighborhood sidewalks
- M. Skateboard park
- N. Tennis courts
- O. Fairgrounds
- P. Other, please define

Comment:

Survey respondents showed interest in a wide variety of facilities but expressed the need to upgrade and maintain them.

1. Cooperative
2. C/D: Highland School property.
3. C: There are lots of kids. L: Definitely! There are lots of kids/young families in town...and no facilities for them.
4. P: Horseshoe Court. Comment: Need to be accessible for blind and handicapped.
5. P: Disc Golf.
6. Out sidewalks are crumbling!
7. L: Like on Pleasant St.
8. See #5 comments: Long range - will it be possible to properly maintain anything that is build or created. Don't create a future eyesore.
9. Improve sidewalks! Unity Ave!
10. Bike Paths.
11. No to ATV, Snowmobile trails.
12. Ask the owner of one of the storefront properties to donate the store for kids to hangout.
13. River development.
14. O. Fairgrounds (Used to be @ High School)
15. P: Movies
16. Don't we already have a swim area w/part time lifeguard?
17. No motorized boats on the Millers river excepting as needed for safety like at the annual River Rat's canoe race.
18. No preference
19. M. Skateboard Park - Not really - One at Silver Lake, under utilized. N. Tennis Courts - Improve Silver Lake now that fish park done. I. Beach facilities - Improve.
20. Road repair
21. E. Ice skating facilities - Great skating on both lakes 50 years ago. I. Beach facilities - These used to be much nicer (or so I thought then) J. Multi-purpose trails - We already have some great ones in the area, more would be even better.
22. Parks, river trails.
23. Biking trails, bike lanes. Our current beach at Silver Lake is poorly maintained, even in summer. Dirty diapers litter the beach for days on end, while lifeguards and their girl/boyfriends lie idly on blankets every day. We don't more of that. ATVs ride back and forth over existing beaches. More use or more "facilities" at our beautiful lakes and river will just make more ugly, dirty, eyesore places which the town doesn't maintain or monitor. Please don't make more. Let's take better care of what facilities we have. I am too embarrassed to bring my visitors to them, though I admit I still go myself.
24. Need all facilities are accessible for handicapped and blind.
25. Hiking trails
26. Basketball courts
27. We need to conserve as many areas as we can. If we don't, there will be nothing left for future generations!
28. Movies. Mall
29. Encouraging movie theaters and other entertainment businesses to come to town is the best solution.
30. We need a better or any arcades in town.
31. Places for teen to go to feel welcomed and useful.
32. More than new facilities the town needs to maintain and upgrade existing facilities.
33. New library. New senior citizen center with meeting / activity areas, workout facilities!
34. Improve facilities that cater to people of all ages.
35. Teen center. Boys - Girls club.
36. Dog Park
37. Low priority stuff!
38. Paved bike trail along the river.
39. Bike path/walkway
40. Need area to ride ATVs

41. Designated dog walking areas.
42. Maintain what is available.
43. Dog park where you can "swim" your dog - away from kids and family beaches. We don't need new facilities (yet) but more time and money and thought put into our existing facilities. Improve sidewalks and roads is very, very important.
44. The one that convinces someone to do anything.
45. No side walks on Main St.
46. A teen center that is more structured. We have most of these. I think a skate park is unnecessary! What we need are some parents to supervise and protect.
47. Better roads (paved)
48. P. Tour buses to destinations (Wilson Tours)
49. Walking facilities in the winter.
50. A poolroom would be nice! Or card tables. (No alcohol)
51. Downtown sidewalks - pull the weeds!! Cleaning up the streets can do wonders.
52. P. Rec-centers. Why'd they tear down the baseball court at Fish Park?
53. Would be nice to fix what we have so it can be used.
54. Improve the facilities we already have or at least make sure they are maintained.
55. P. Clean, open nature area with no dog walking allowed.
56. E. Ice skating designated area. Skateboard park located in a highly visible area (vs. secluded area like SL park) I believe would drastically reduce the vandalism & increase it's use.
57. Safe walking area for elderly. Maintain present beaches. Lake Ellis is contaminated (illegible) Clean improve preset facilities.
58. Bike path. Help YMCA to care for our kids after school. Saturday night functions. Kids do not play outside anymore. Video potatoes, overweight.
59. Hiking, biking, heart-healthy exercise trails.
60. Playgrounds - to see the old wooden parks replaced with safer equipment. Beach facilities - With no smoking. All public recreation areas should be deemed No Smoking area.
61. Playgrounds - If you can pry their fingers off the computer long enough to play. Never mind making a skating park. Kids want to be seen on the main street doing their skateboard tricks by people. They don't want to be put out of sight. They want attention. Look what happened to the skate park in Orange. Ice skating facilities - Good idea as long as the ice can hold the fatties in this town. Neighborhood parks/gardens - Don't bother with another park. Only the bums sit there now. Take a look! I never sit on benches on Main Street because of cooties! Multi-purpose trails - Forget this. Good place for drug dealers and rapes. If you put in more recreation areas, who is going to pick up all the litter afterwards?
62. Maintain school courts, like Sander St. Riverbend
63. Stage events, Music, plays, shows
64. Movie, theatre, arcades
65. Some people do not have transportation out of area, so things centrally located would be a benefit as there is community transportation
66. People don't realize what a spectacular area this is
67. No Comment
68. Main street sidewalks
69. Movie theatre
70. Utilize the mountain atmosphere. Tourism. Lakes etc... Bed and breakfast
71. Maintain what we have
72. We have two great lakes. They should be kept up (maintained). That would take care of beaches and ice-skating
73. Do not know
74. Athol need to increase biking trails
75. Roller skating facilities
76. Elderly facilities and activities

- 77. Beach facilities sound great!
- 78. New roads. Snow removal, not to use sand on snow, use salt on snow after the snow plows passes and removes the snow on the side streets
- 79. If people would take their blinders off, there are a lot of facilities to be used

8. Which of the following special events, programs or efforts, if any, would you like to see more of in Athol?
(Circle all that apply)

- A. No new events/programs
- B. Concerts
- C. Dances
- D.) Drama productions
- E. Equestrian
- F. Holiday Events
- G. Movies in the Park
- H. Nature outings
- I. River Events
- J. Road races
- K. Youth programming/activities
- L. Trips and tours
- M. Other, please define

Comment:

Survey respondents showed interest in a wide variety of activities and expressed the need to upgrade and maintain existing recreational facilities.

- 1. Cooperative which would provide basic living to homeless families in hardship and the cooperative should grow their own food. Therefore, large greenhouses need to be part of the development and awareness to good clean filtered water. Experiment fields to create our own energy resources etc.
- 2. Reasonably priced so everyone can afford it, especially seniors.
- 3. How about growing commerce - jobs for residents and the potential to increase property values and to make area more desirable.
- 4. Descriptive/accessible
- 5. Maybe better coordination of special events already offered. Many good events happen at the same time.
- 6. All of above.
- 7. Ethan Stone is doing a great job!
- 8. 1794 Meetinghouse. Bird and Nature Club. Lions Club. Several of these are being well addressed now by local organizations as noted above, but all community activities are good.
- 9. Folk Music, Country Dancing. River Events - Not just on Saturdays - how about Sundays too?
- 10. Equestrian program promoted and developed.
- 11. Off road vehicle areas / opening of conservation areas to ATV and snowmobile trails.
- 12. The outdoor concerts in summer were good. How about indoor in winter - not too many heavy metal.
- 13. All except "A". On "I" see comment above! (No motorized boats on the Millers river excepting as needed for safety like at the annual River Rat's canoe race.)
- 14. A grocery store
- 15. Holiday lights, the whole main street not just the center of town. Where were they this year?
- 16. B. Concerts - Not Rock
- 17. Events like Garlictest, Apple Farm Festival, Starry Night, Tool Town Live are great for local folks as well as visitors. It would be great if we could work together with other towns in the area to enhance the image and reality of the whole area. Some day - probably in the distance future if ever, it might be more practical to combine the Athol & Orange school systems.

18. G. Movies in the park - Great idea I. River Events - River cleanup! Take a small stretch at a time. Keep River Rat Race. I don't have a space at my house for a garden, but I would love to grow some good organic vegetables. Does the town own land that could provide garden space?
19. A better Internet gaming café ("Cyber café"). There is nothing to do here, be more creative. If you can't think of things ask high school kids what they'd like. Movie theaters, arcades, mall, etc. This also benefits the town by bringing in money to pay off things like town budgets or debts.
20. Everything, I guess, except equestrian, but only because I don't ride.
21. Get comedians, June or July, to come in to the parks. Clowns for the kids. Use the downtown area and block it off to traffic. Fun activities that cause community closeness and sense of family - a real love and appreciation for our town. More fairs, art fairs, craft fairs, parades, special events that are unique and exciting for all ages. Things to do with the history of our town.
22. Large community barbecue. Saw it on TV. Tourists now come to southern town because they have built a reputation for pulled-port, chicken, chile, beef, ribs, burgers, and various other food products. They allow vendors, have a carnival and make it a yearly weekend-long event.
23. Senior citizen facilities/events.
24. Arts
25. What about a job/career fair?
26. People need jobs to pay for most of these things.
27. Fishing tournaments
28. They all would be fun, its just finding people/organizations to sponsor them.
29. Programs with an eye toward improving civic pride.
30. D: This would be wonderful! Community Theater is important. F: Publicize the events that already exist. G: Great idea! I: We were once a "River Community" and we should celebrate that! K: We should have an active youth program (especially in the summer and over school breaks)
31. Events where people compete.
32. If we could use what we have and have some parents supervise and instruct the children on using our facilities the right way. There should be penalties for children damaging facilities. Such as cleaning up damage and building/decorating new or existing facilities.
33. Multi-cultural events
34. B. Concerts - Like Orange (Travis LeDoyt for one!)
35. M. Movie theater
36. All of the above. Give the kids something to do besides walk the streets at night. (Between midnight and five am!)
37. I emphasize nature outings such as hikes, tours, kayak/canoe trips, etc.
38. Other towns have special names to set them apart. I.e., Gardner - "Chair City" Athol - ? Orange - "Friendly Town" Think about a special motto to set us apart from other towns.
39. I think this town needs more?
40. River Events - has a bad rep. For being an opp. To drink obnoxiously. Road races - promote health and wellness.
41. All of the above are very important. Continue with present programs.
42. Big brother/sister type programs at the parks with college students to underprivileged kids, or just spending time with younger ones, setting good examples.
43. Parenting programs, career programs, GED programs. It seems in Athol we have a great divide. Welfare/struggling, barely making ends meet.
44. Concerts - Old fashioned concerts, not the eardrum breaking drug magnet heavy metal kind of music they had in uptown common this summer. When I drove by the speakers were turned on so loud, my car windows were rattling. No class! Look at Petersham concerts. Now there is an example of good clean music for all citizens. River Events - I had to pick up litter after River Rat Race. Road Races - Ha, ha - should runners be categorized by age or weight? Other - YMCA would be great if you wash out the dirty mouths of the kids who are allowed to curse without any adult intervention.
45. Re: River events: NO - the one we have is quite enough
46. Re: Road Race Just what we need- have you NOTICED the way people drive in this town

47. Pound donations, expand pound
48. Not only events at the "Y". There are many in our are "working poor: that cannot afford the "Y" and yet all over income to qualify for reduced rates
49. Possibly a more active recreation Dept. offering karate, dancing lessons, soccer, etc..
50. Trips, tours, and other entertainment usually sponsored for members of AARP, Golden agers, and private bus tours. No needed for public fund of Athol town. There is a GREAT need for more grocery stores to accommodate seniors. The traffic hazards in and near Hannafords are absolutely horrible
51. Home for the elderly
52. Utilize the bandstand at town hall or theatre
53. Could be monthly - diversity - polka bands, etc. Whatever is possible
54. I feel we have lots of existing options. I'd rather see the town pour more into it's school systems so we can help educate & support the kids of town, explicitly those from disadvantaged background.
55. With that kind of investment, I believe we'll be raising citizens who are more likely to take advantage of benefits from the existing choices for recreation in town
56. Ethan Stone has done a great job with his concerts. It would be nice to occasionally have an "Old fashioned" band concert
57. All!
58. Do not know
59. Some of these might be the mission of an organized outing club
60. Events that bring in jobs
61. Time and health limits our perspective on this question
62. 1st night like Orange has. Better use of memorial hall (especially at holiday time) more summer events
63. Repair what you have
64. Historical tours

9. Which of the following strategies should Athol pursue regarding recreation opportunities? (Circle all that apply)

- A. Publicize recreation programs/opportunities
- B. Improve parking at recreational areas
- C. Improve handicapped accessibility
- D. Improve maintenance of existing recreational facilities
- E. Provide more recreational facilities and opportunities
- F. Provide more recreational programs/events
- G. Add/improve signage
- H. None of the above. Recreation opportunities in Athol are adequate and well known among residents
- I. Other, please define

Comment:

Survey respondents expressed the need to maintain and publicize existing facilities as well as provide more recreational opportunities.

1. Create a cooperative community that could feed everyone who contributed. It would bring back the family and teamwork that we were created with and it could make us stronger as a people.
2. A sliding area uptown - perhaps off Bearsden Road. Do not forget the children uptown.
3. C: Isn't accessibility the law? E: For children. F: For children. I think recreation for children and families should be publicly supported. But rec facilities for adults should be private or fee-based.
4. River development

5. I'd like to know facilities wouldn't be misused & destroyed before we try to provide more than we can afford.
6. B/C: as needed. Add E, F, G as finances allow. Many of us on low, fixed income.
7. I would like to see our public lakes - Silver & Lake Ellis landscaped & developed, & maintained to exemplify their beauty.
8. D: I think this is an important direction to go in, to prepare for the future.
9. After school nature classes, summer vacation nature and outdoors classes.
10. Encourage recreational/entertainment businesses to come to Athol.
11. Use \$ to advertise and promote facilities we already have.
12. Nice "wish list".
13. Signage
14. We would like biking trails that are safe that we could use as opposed to land set aside for conservation for animals unless there was an educational program to get involved with animals such as beavers etc.
15. B: Yes, the parking tends to be difficult. E: Plan for the future and work with what we have now. Improve what already exists. Provide a great recreational program and please improve signage and create a website to publicize what recreational opportunities exists.
16. Make parents responsible for their children's actions.
17. Feel we should make the most of what we currently have before adding ambitious new opportunities.
18. Attract alternate venues throughout the year.
19. Expand programs to include all ages.
20. Not familiar enough. Should have a choice to simply maintain what is already.
21. This town needs more entertainment. People are leaving.
22. Improve parking for YMCA.
23. Other than the YMCA there does not seem to be a lot of recreation.
24. More community/family involvement.
25. Take care of what you have.
26. Again, they should be non-smoking areas and events unless they are for adults only.
27. C) I haven't seen any more that 1/10 of handicapped parking spaces being used. Too many prime spots taken up. All of the above would be great as long as you hire police to keep the creeps from stabbing one another.
28. Prevent Vandalism of existing facilities
29. D is Key to making the most of parks
30. Silver lake is a beautiful area- maybe nominal fees to parking would help with the upkeep
31. What is purpose of recreation
32. More fishing areas, easy access docks to walk out on and fish from with my children
33. Improve and provide additional recreational facilities

10. How long have you been a resident of Athol? (Circle one)

- A) Less than 5 years
- B) 5 to 10 years
- C) 10 to 20 years
- D) More than 20 years

Comment:

The majority of survey respondents indicated that they have been residents for a significant period of time and have developed a strong bond with the community.

1. I am originally from Gardner. I love this area dearly and would never go back to Gardner or anywhere. There is a lot of potential for country living here, which I love.
2. Lifelong - age 82 - much more recreation available when I was a youngster - roller skating at the uptown common was available for many years - and used on a regular basis. I don't remember of any damage done. DPW member usually around to maintain proper behavior.
3. Living here all of my 76 years except for 2 years in the army!
4. When we first moved to Athol from Worcester the talk was "Police Station". Am glad things are being down - finally.
5. All my life
6. Quarterly Real Estate tax bill is bad idea.
7. More than 50 years. I am excited for the possibilities for the future of this town. We have an awesome natural setting and a great location! (Not too far from Boston, New York, Amherst, Mountains, Beaches) We have the Quabbin nearby, lovely lakes & hills, good people, flora, fauna, fresh air and interesting variable weather.
8. We lived in Athol and Orange our whole lives and we love that the town are connected and work together.
9. As people who are new to town and the area we had a hard time finding out what was available and how to get to rec facilities.
10. I love this town but feel bad that we lack a sense of community. There was a time when people watched out for others. Children ages 8 -16 run free, break-up, spray paint, etc. With no concern of others.
11. I'm 47, and I was born here!
12. I lived in Athol all my life except for 2 1/2 years as I lived in Royalston as well.
13. 15 years.
 - i. Was also a resident from 1972 to 1989.
14. It's a sweet town.
15. Long enough to remember when people had dignity and self-respect. Now all you see are tattoos and skin heads.
16. When I came here 40+ years ago, there were more recreational programs for ALL ages than there are now
17. Born and raised in Athol - When I was growing up there were 2 Theatres, bowling alley, Pack heights had dances, roller rinks, pool halls- Today???
18. Over 75 years
19. I moved back about 2 years ago. I was born and brought up here
20. Ha! Guess you didn't check my age did you?
21. 50+ years

11. Which of the following best describes you current living situation? (Circle one)

- A. Single parent-children at home
- B. Single young adult- living alone
- C. Single young adult-shared quarters
- D. Adult couple-no children
- E. Family with young children
- F. Family with older children
- G. Couple with grown children not at home
- H. Senior couple or family
- I. Senior living alone
- J. Other, please define

Comment:

The comments supported the statistical nature of the question.

- 1. Single middle age adult - living alone.
- 2. Child living with parent.
- 3. Teen with parents.
- 4. Middle age living alone
- 5. None of above - "Single Adult"
- 6. Single Adult - living alone.
- 7. I'm a child w/ dad
- 8. Live with friends
- 9. B: A person living in an apt. building that needs fixing. Plan to move back home Gardner.
- 10. Senior living w/Adult son
- 11. Senior couple with adult child.
- 12. U.S. veteran of the Army.
- 13. W/ grand children
- 14. My husband has 8 children ranging in age from 8 months to 19 years old.
- 15. Single adult grandparent w/grown children not at home.
- 16. HS Student
- 17. Child - young adult.
- 18. Single adult
- 19. Child of married parents.
- 20. Student
- 21. Student at A.H.S.
- 22. 2 kids older/teens, two parents
- 23. Student at home.
- 24. High school senior
- 25. Family with young children and older brother and father living together.
- 26. I am an avid kayaker and walker. Our natural surroundings are one of the major reasons I continue to live in Athol!
- 27. Single working adult living alone.
- 28. Senior with son living at home.
- 29. Single adult
- 30. Don't want any.
- 31. Family with one older child (13) but is trying to have a baby.
- 32. Single adult with grown children, not at home.
- 33. Single older adult with one foster child.
- 34. Single adult - living alone
- 35. Single, mid 30's, disabled.

36. "G" best suits us.
37. Handicapped adults shared quarters.
38. I'm a divorced non-custodial parent. I'm handicapped and disabled [and there's nothing here to help me]
39. G. Also caring for elderly parent in out home.
40. G. Plus 1 young adult.
41. Senior with daughter and two adult grandsons. Help.
42. G. with grandchildren that visit. When I visit the parks, they aren't something I want to expose my grandchildren to because of the profanity and anti-Semitism that I oppose.
43. 55 - 65 supporting self with two jobs. No state assistance, own home. Will move out of state at 65.
44. Single adult living alone.
45. I tried joining some of the organizations in Athol, but was disturbed at the loudness and lack of class a lot of the people had.
46. single adult no children
47. Adult with senior
48. Shared living arrangements W/ grown children and grandchildren
49. I just became a senior. I am very active and think this town needs an "image overhaul"
50. In high school/oldest son and daughter stayed in area hoping for rejuvenation of town (Balta house)
51. Family with 4 generations living in home
52. Single no children
53. Senior with adopted children (2) at home

12. Which of the following transportation choices should Athol pursue? Circle all that apply

A. Increase

- a. Side walks b. Pathways c. Nature trails

B. Increase

- a. Bicycling on road b. Bicycling off road c. Equestrian trails
b. Cross Country trails b. Snowshoe trails c. Snowmobiles

C. Increase access for

- a. Canoe/Kayak b. Tubing c. Non-motorize boat d. Motorboat

D. Increase

- a. Local bus service b. Passenger Train Service c. River boat service

Comment:

Many survey respondents expressed a desire for train service to the Boston area, bus service for the local area and that the town's sidewalks be fixed and maintained.

1. Passenger train service to and from "Cambridge/Boston"
2. Sidewalks in town are in horrible shape.
3. With gas so high a train to Boston would be nice.
4. Too much concern already in these categories. We have plenty of bus service already. What we need are decent roads and streets. Our Main Street is a disgrace. Without good well-traveled roads and streets the town looks like poverty.
5. D) Increase a. long-distance bus service b. You wish! C. ha ha ha
6. I'm not personally aware of transportation needs - Bike paths would be nice.
7. Upgrade and maintain present sidewalks.

8. Bikes on regular roads are unsafe. Dial a Ride is good but I'd like to see bus between Victory Plaza & Hannaford Plaza - say one way on the hour return on the half hour.
9. Bicycling on road: *No! Traffic problem unless an event. Motorboat: No, on Millers river. Most don't affect me of those I know. *Several times encountered bike riders on Daniel Shay Highway after dark 1/no lights or fluorescent straps to warn drivers! Scary!!
10. Pleasant Street needs a sidewalk from Edwards St. all the way out to the Rt. 2 bridge. Many children have to walk to school and this is a very high traffic area. Many adults walk, also.
11. Sidewalks - lovely, but costly. Snowmobiles - Some may like these. Riverboat service - This would be great for local and tourists. Passenger train service - Could there be enough demand to eventually support this? Gas prices are high (and will probably go higher long term) there would be less pollution than from cars, etc.
12. Eliminate powerboat usage on local waterways.
13. Athol has too much pavement, according to a recent water quality report for Millers River Watershed. This affects water quality of the river at and below Athol directly. New recreation facilities should not add impermeable surfaces.
14. Increase airports or share Orange again.
15. Add a municipal airport.
16. Other choices are already adequate.
17. Riverboat service - that would be fun and really nice. Passenger train service - Yes, cool idea.
18. Develop parks by the Millers River.
19. Are non-paved trails cheaper? I would love to see a nature trail for combined uses such as walking, biking, rollerblading (if paved). Even an unpaved trail would be great.
20. Tying Athol into the existing train service would allow for more travel into and out of the area, both by residents and visitors.
21. If we can achieve all of the above, we can rename the town Camelot.
22. Lack of transportation that's affordable.
23. Commuter rail to Boston would create more residents and revenue.
24. Very few jobs exist in this area. Citizens should be given every opportunity to have transportation to gain employment.
25. Riverboat service sounds interesting.
26. Passenger train service to Boston and back.
27. Fix what you've got, and expand on that. *Fix the sidewalks and clear the damned snow out!!
28. Should have purchased train station as historical property and preserved it's original interior and exterior look.
29. Extend/support additional hours for FRCT. Post bus schedules more visibly (in newspaper?)
30. Continue with present rules and regulations.
31. Train service from Athol to Boston - Huge plus for cultural activities, work & people from city to country living to get away from hustle & bustle.
32. Maybe if we improve transportation the welfare recipients would have more opportunity to find work. Improve image.
33. Bring in the T.
34. C. River boat service - Athol - Orange & back. Slow and must pay (nicer ride)
35. Sidewalks - Fix the existing ones.
36. Nature trails - What is there left to look at? Hunters have killed all the beautiful deer and small animals I used to see in abundance. Don't think that putting in trails in Athol will bring people here. Athol has a very bad reputation and no one wants to come here. Passenger train service - Give the bums a free one-way ticket out of town!
37. "That people enjoy a balanced neighborhood" - Where are these people? Look at Crescent Street, Silver Lake Street, and Cottage Street, not to mention that multi-colored freak house on Main Street near the Murphy Funeral Home. These are great in a town that has people that respect property. Not applicable in Athol. Clean it up and enforce the laws!! Then rebuild.
38. Unless Paved, additional areas, trails for ATVs should be restricted

39. Passenger train service - So people can get to areas that provide activities for children & young adults.
40. Love to see the train come to Athol
41. Add train service. We have the depot and track
42. All idea's that could create awareness in the area and creates new revenue in the area. Promote tourism
43. Athol should look into commuter train service to the eastern part of the state
44. Riverboat service between Athol and orange is a very interesting idea and should be looked into to help increase tourism
45. Combination paths, sidewalks and bike path. Train service in the future to main work areas
Devens/Leominster/Fitchburg, Boston etc...
46. Train service to Boston, although that might increase development pressure
47. Other sports should be looked at
48. Public transportation is currently terrible
49. Passenger train service- realize this would rely on cooperation from state and federal government
50. Need buses that go to Fitchburg/Leominster/Worcester etc.
51. I have to admit I don't know much about the local bus service

13. Planners are finding that people enjoy a balanced neighborhood with residences, open space, stores, and employment within walking distance.

How important are the following to you in your neighborhood? (Circle one)

Single-Family residences?	Want	Don't care	Don't want
Multi-unit residences?	Want	Don't care	Don't want
Developed parks?	Want	Don't care	Don't want
Active recreation areas?	Want	Don't care	Don't want
Decorative gardens?	Want	Don't care	Don't want
Community Gardens?	Want	Don't care	Don't want
Picnic Tables?	Want	Don't care	Don't want
Benches?	Want	Don't care	Don't want
Trails?	Want	Don't care	Don't want
Extra-Wide Sidewalks?	Want	Don't care	Don't want
Stores?	Want	Don't care	Don't want
Convenience store?	Want	Don't care	Don't want
Commercial or light industry for jobs?	Want	Don't care	Don't want
Comment:			

The respondents frequently expressed the need for a second grocery store in comments for several questions in the survey. The grocery store located on Lord Pond Plaza had closed just before the survey was distributed and the loss was fresh on many townspeople's minds.

1. Community Cooperative (Want)
2. Frankly I do not believe there is room in our neighborhood for many of the above.
3. Would like industry but not in residential neighborhoods.
4. Keep our area residential - Fix roads and especially sidewalks!
5. Nothing that is going to be a maintenance problem and fall into disrepair.
6. No condos - Apts on homes - OK.
7. Clean some neighborhoods. Run down houses especially. I'm losing thousands of dollars because of these houses on Brattle St. I can't sell my house because of them. I can't get a decent price.
8. Commercial or light industry for jobs? - Want - But not in my neighborhood.
9. Really? Doesn't this fly in the face of 100 years of zoning? Need to tighten up the question a bit. Some answers may be: In the neighborhood, sure. Next door: Hell No.

10. In "my neighborhood" I would like no growth (Bearsden Road)
11. Retain rural. Same as always - rural!
12. Athol needs more (Commercial or light industry for jobs)
13. Need grocery store. This should be a top priority!!
14. Want grocery stores
15. Sidewalks? (Want) New, Improved. Trash receptacles are needed on Main Street! For cleaner gutters and storm drains, less rubbish.
16. I live in a rural area, which I would like to remain as it is.
17. Grocery store - want - to replace Victories
18. Need large grocery store.
19. My small neighborhood is fine as is. No room for above. Dead-end street (Glendale Ave.)
20. N/A We do not have a neighborhood. Live in the middle of open space (Briggs Road)
21. Grocery
22. Sidewalks? - Want - Repair damaged
23. I love being able to walk to the post office. I used to walk to Victory, and miss it. I live near Fish Park. It is wonderful and important. We need more accessible sidewalks, in existing sidewalk areas. I like picnic tables and benches in developed parks. Not in meadows, undeveloped areas.
24. Could use a grocery store nearer town.
25. Too many bars in town
26. Depending on exactly how these are developed.
27. Not in residential areas. Light industry downtown or on outskirts.
28. We need another grocery store. Prices are skyrocketing and we've started shopping in other areas for the sales.
29. I live in a residential area - all single-family residences. Much of this doesn't apply.
30. Grocery store in Athol.
31. I can't image we have enough road traffic in our residential areas to warrant spending \$ on sidewalks.
32. Street too short for anything.
33. Dense neighborhood. No room for these.
34. Grocery and clothing. Need more restaurants.
35. Live near the "park areas".
36. Need food store in downtown Athol.
37. More well paid jobs
38. We would like the town to make it easier and to protect people, who want to be self-employed.
39. We need a lot of jobs.
40. Sidewalks and roads in town are atrocious.
41. We live far out of town and feel that most of these efforts should be made closer to the area/neighborhoods around 2A. (But please pave Riceville Road)
42. Use what we have.
43. I live in a dense residential area. Keep the neighborhood schools!
44. Two family residences (want)
45. Need a grocery store with affordable prices.
46. The old CVS store should be used for groceries.
47. Who's going to police this stuff, if you get it?
48. I don't live in a neighborhood.
49. Happy with neighborhood.
50. Need industry that's going to hire more than temp services and will pay fair wage over \$9.00 an hour.
51. Who would want?
52. I like it the way it is.
53. Upgrade present housing and neighborhoods. More local (commercial) jobs. Industry for young families.
54. A grocery store.
55. We need commerce - Jobs, revenue.

56. Cater to the middle-income family and education.
57. Our experience has not been good. Drug dealers and sex offenders should not be placed in same housing.
58. Certainly as the town grows more retail and light industry should grow as well. But encouraging and seeking out the best you can should be top priority. We do not need another store like Job Lots or Dunkin Donuts. Being that we are right in the middle of the area of Greenfield, Leominster and Amherst, could we not encourage more upscale retail such as Trader Joes, book tours, etc.? Even office space - carefully zoning for signage to stay in line with the small, New England town feel and look.
59. On lower Chestnut Hill Rd not much space available
60. Can't afford current multi-unit residences
61. Clothing Store
62. Grocery to be in town centrally located
63. This home is too far out of town to be practical for much of this
64. Grocery store
65. Grocery store competition
66. I'm in a senior housing park
67. Supermarket in Athol
68. Grocery store - compete with Hannaford's
69. My community is South Athol
70. We live in a very rural area. When we lived in town the checked apply

14a. There are other methods of preservation of open space. Should the Town...

1. Purchase Land	Yes	No
2. Accept donations of Land?	Yes	No
3. Purchase CR/CA?	Yes	No
4. Accept CR/CA?	Yes	No
5. Purchase Recreation Easements?	Yes	No
6. Accept Recreational easements?	Yes	No

Comment:

Some survey respondents did not fully comprehend the terminology used in this question but indicated that the town should acquire lands of high conservation value when fiscally prudent.

1. 5/6: Don't know what this is.
2. Don't know.
3. Purchase land? - Yes - Sure if we had the \$.
4. Purchasing might not be feasible with budget constraints.
5. Purchase only fiscally sound.
6. What is easement?
7. Yes to all provided no infringement of landowner's rights.
8. On a case-by-case basis.
9. I don't understand #s 3 & 4
10. Try not to spend more money.
11. I don't feel the town has the money to purchase the above.
12. Two three, & four should be on a case-by-case basis.
13. Maybe we need our open space/conservation staff person.
14. I'm too uninformed to decide on this.
15. When fiscally sensible
16. Don't know what 3 & 4 mean.
17. Depends on what they are!

18. Town should negotiate and recruit donations.
19. You cannot make land.
20. We're not really sure what these are and how they might or might not aid the town.
21. Again, I live in a dense residential area.
22. These questions are too generic. Questions like these should be about specific places.
23. There's plenty of vacant bldgs and lots if you'd use them. (Clean them up)
24. The town should expand zoning bylaws to inc. mixed use - allowing land owners the "option" of preserving their land by being able to open/conduct an eco-friendly business in line w/the open space goals. There are some smart & creative people living in town!
25. Agricultural farming is very important in this world today. We need to be more self-reliant. Agriculture is necessary. Reward the farmers!
26. Do whatever is best for the town.
27. After purchasing open space, who will decide what to do with it? Guess what? More places where the sick hunters will have to kill and maim the wildlife.
28. "Yes" to purchase / accept conservation - What are agricultural restrictions? Are you discouraging uses of land for farming?
29. Blind person that walks w/dog no sidewalk safety? Children walking to school- safety?
30. I don't think we can afford to purchase land
31. Current tax structure prohibits use of town funds for above
32. The town has enough financial burdens, make the best, wisest decision about land procurement

14b. For the purpose of preservation of Open Space, would you?

- | | | |
|---|-----|----|
| 1. Allow the purchase of your land? | Yes | No |
| 2. Donate your land or portion thereof? | Yes | No |
| 3. Allow the purchase of a conservation and/or agricultural restriction on your land? | Yes | No |
| 4. Donate a conservation and/or agricultural restriction on your land? | Yes | No |
| 5. Allow the purchase of recreational easements on your land? | Yes | No |
| 6. Donate recreational easements on your land? | Yes | No |

Comment:

Most survey respondents indicated this question was not applicable to them as they lack significant amounts of land that could be preserved for open space.

1. Don't own enough land.
2. 3/4: If it were used / cooperative and care was given to the animals and wildlife. Comment: Need a cooperative community development area that would also provide housing for those who need it. It would lower crime and raise supportive care to one another.
3. No room available for any of the above.
4. Don't own land.
5. N/A not land owner.
6. Not a landowner.
7. Don't know.
8. Once again if I had hundreds of acres of land I would want it conserved and protected for future generations. I would not want it developed.
9. Don't own land - rent land.
10. Possible - to several of these depending on circumstances.
11. Don't own land, unfortunately.
12. We already have a lot of preserved areas. Don't think we need more.
13. Only own 1/4 acre in town.
14. N/A not land owner.
15. I don't own my land. (Riverbend Woods)
16. Don't have very much land.
17. I do not have any land except for my house.
18. Have no land in Athol, MA!
19. We don't own enough land - only what our house sits on.
20. I live in a very residential area.
21. I don't understand about easements, restrictions etc.
22. I don't understand what some of these mean!
23. I don't want to be homeless.
24. Don't own land.
25. Don't understand 3 & 4
26. Do not own any land but if so I would let you all use it.
27. My land is so small it wouldn't be of any use to anyone but me, but I might consider a financial donation to a good cause.
28. My landlord owns the land.
29. I don't own that much land.
30. I have an acre house lot. This question doesn't "fit" my situation.
31. We no longer own a house or land.
32. I purchased land to prevent building and protect my privacy but had to pay purchase price and taxes as if developed. Unless seriously compensated, it would be unfair to change the status of this land. I have a strong distrust of fair regulation.
33. Don't have my own land.
34. All of the above would depend on the situation at the time.
35. Don't have the luxury of large amount of land.
36. I can't answer except to say No because I have a very small lot. If I had more maybe the answer would be different.
37. We don't own land.
38. I don't really have the acreage but I would if I had it.
39. These sound good, but not owning land that might be useful for this, I'm not sure how I would feel if I did.
40. Not a landowner.
41. I only own 1/3A, so I am not sure how meaningful my answer is.
42. N/A not land owner.
43. I own a small lot.
44. Do not have land to donate.

45. I feel we should be concentrating on bringing more forms of employment to this town. I think that should take priority.
46. Do not own land.
47. Not applicable.
48. Animals need a good home in Athol.
49. I don't have much land; it's a very small yard.
50. I don't care, tear it down.
51. N/A - I only own 0.6 acres!
52. Not applicable though, we own no land.
53. I don't own enough land to be purchased by the town.
54. I only own a house lot - not large acreage.
55. I don't own land. I rent apt.
56. I live downtown - these questions are not applicable!
57. Don't have enough to sell or donate.
58. I have none.
59. Dense neighborhood. 14b does not apply.
60. What land!
61. Not applicable
62. Do not have enough land to give.
63. Very small lot in town. If I had land though I would accept all of the above.
64. I am not the owner of said property.
65. Not applicable to me.
66. We don't have much land.
67. Lot is too small.
68. I have no land except a small backyard rented. So this doesn't apply to me.
69. I don't own land.
70. My land would not be appropriate.
71. Have no land
72. Do not own land.
73. There is enough town own land. It should be used wisely!
74. May change my mind in the future - Not sure.
75. Have none to sell. Wendell St. is been built up, even more than necessary. Even sandbanks, with no yards.
76. Sounds like you just want to steal people's property.
77. I don't have enough land for any of these options.
78. I live in a "tight" neighborhood without that kind of land/room.
79. I would consider above options.
80. Live on busy neighborhood street - little yard.
81. I have very little land. Answers could have been different if I had more.
82. Land area too small.
83. Don't have any land to donate/sell.
84. 5 & 6 - This could really get out of control. I saw what almost happened on Flat Rock Road. If easements are allowed for recreational purposes in private neighborhoods, you end up with cars parking all over both sides of narrow roads, blocking driveways, lawns, etc. I stand firmly on 5 & 6 with NO.
85. I don't own any land.
86. After watching what happened with Mrs. Broulliet estate I would think twice about willing land to the town!
87. I have no land.
88. Grandfather - Impose conservation and restrictions to future or untested uninhabited lands.
89. If I had enough land.
90. Do not have any land.

91. Well thought out survey! Provocative. Just a couple of questions needing further explanation. Lots of room for exploration.
92. For a tax break.
93. This is a loaded question. Implications are too varied.
94. I do not own my land.
95. Don't know what this is.
96. We live "in town" so the above could not pertain to us. Though no one should be forced to sell property.
97. Allow the purchase of your land - Not on your life! Donate a conservation and/or agricultural restriction on you land? - Only when I decide to leave and find a decent town!
98. Can't afford to
99. Does not apply to us
100. Do not own acreage
101. N/a do not own land
102. Because my property is my largest asset I could not afford to give it away. It would have to be purchased at "fair market" value. I have worked all my life for what I own
103. Have no recreational land
104. See article 3
105. Would like to see grocery store and another dept. store
106. I don't own more than 1/2 acre
107. I would serve on a committee; there are not many opportunities to serve on a committee that doesn't work together as a team. Recently served on needs assessment committee for police station and wasted six of seven money of my time.
108. We are retired in Miller's woods
109. We don't have a large parcel of land under an acre
110. My house lot has no area for any of them
111. My plot is too small sorry
112. 1/2 acre is all ledge not suitable
113. Strengthen the zoning law to control new housing construction
114. I don't have land but would otherwise
115. Re: 3 & 4 don't know what that means
116. We rent our land
117. Not sure of constitutionality
118. I own no land
119. Have none to give
120. Have no land
121. I don't own enough land for this to be an issue

15. Would you serve on the Open Space Committee? No Yes (please contact Town Manager)

Comment:

Sixty-five survey respondents indicated a willingness to help and many offered thanks and appreciation to those who could.

1. Yes. As much time as I have available. I work as a nurse and contribute to communities outside our community. Cooperative Base. Make housing available. Greenhouses. Gardens outside.
2. No. Being a senior and not too good health would serve in a small way. Helping with mailings, etc. As a senior citizen would like to see another grocery store in town, a new senior center. The old buildings in town torn down or better made into senior or handicap housing or assisted living. Also some decent low income housing for families. Handicap apts are in great need.

3. I do not know - I think young people would be the ones to serve. I am an old lady! I was once very proud to live in Athol. Not so, the last several years. It's beginning to look like I can once say with pride - I live in Athol. Thank you.
4. Put a restriction on home building and condos. Too many houses and people for this town.
5. Senior Living Quarters
6. I think Athol is a nice town... but it is lacking things. The playground was taken down... now there isn't anything for kids. We also needs more stores especially supermarkets. Hannaford's has a monopoly here!
7. Possible -> Residents have asked me to possibly work (illegible) Town board.
8. State agencies have staff available to help plan for accessibility for blind and handicapped. Please contact them for assistance.
9. Already on committee
10. Don't know.
11. Read in Daily News or T&G on 1/13/06 that "only 2 adults" had returned survey... This did not arrive until 4:00pm Jan. 12, 2006.
12. Possibly.
13. Yes - Finished.
14. Athol should be restoring the buildings that already exist and which were really built. Many new building built today are junk and deteriorate quickly. Many new municipal buildings have had roof leaking problems within 2 years.
15. I enjoy living in Athol, we spend a lot of time at Silver Lake and, used to spend time at the wooden playground. I would like to see the playground rebuilt, bike trails, and our sidewalks fixed. We enjoy the wilderness and outdoors.
16. Keep smiling
17. If I were younger = yes
18. Support reasonable zoning.
19. Maybe
20. My neighborhood is already overcrowded. Construction of new homes should be granted with care, not only for profit for the businessman. We need to be wise and cautious in development of our town
21. Not at this time only because of schedule. I really am interested in Athol developing Millers river with nature trails, biking, boating rentals, picnic areas, kayaking rentals. We need a grocery store first and foremost.
22. At this time can't. Thank you!! Please do not destroy anymore old buildings!! My heart is still broken for what the town did to the Old Fire Station!! Knock it off!!
23. Would like to see some of the downtown storefronts remodeled. I feel the appearance of the downtown is very important when trying to attract new business or homeowners. (illegible) Empty storefronts.
24. Geography unique = Need wildlife runways. Don't believe government should force any landowner to compromise their ownership rights - ever.
25. Fire alarm boxes need to be easily seen. Some need a new coat of paint! Maybe a boy scout project? The flower boxes on Main St. (By Rotary Club and Brooks, MacMannis) are lovely. Also, the shade trees (not so the boxes donated by Mr. Colo) For safety's sake. the riding of bicycles, skateboarding, etc on main sidewalks should be prohibited and law needs to be enforced! Enforce law requiring snow removal from sidewalks.
26. Restrict building. Traffic congestion. Lights at CVS.
27. There is too much recreational area that is controlled by the few in town for their own likes with a blatant disregard for the needs and wants of many without public input (Bearsden) no handicap access.
28. The south Main St. bridge sidewalks could use a lot of work.
29. Bring back the picnic tables at Silver Lake + also BBQ grills. Also could use picnic area at Lake Ellis. Walkway and/or picnic area along Millers river.
30. We need a new form of government in Athol because our select board is useless.
31. An update or current book about Athol.

32. Too old. Try to get the people (illegible) are (illegible) to agree on something instead of disagreeing most of the time. More things would be accomplished if this was practiced.
33. Take care of some traffic around town of Athol. There's been too many accidents here in Athol. Problem people are driving too fast and no signal lights. Make Athol a place where people would stay to live. Make new places be something to do for people and children. Keep drugs and liquor both out of town.
34. My thanks to all involved in trying to help with improvements to our town.
35. Athol must rezone other areas of town to support industrial and commercial business, i.e., South Athol Road area. All of Main Street should be rezoned light commercial for specialty shops. Planning board needs to limit growth. Residence C should be 2 acres.
36. There should be restrooms at all parks, and open to the public.
37. Hopefully we would keep in step with Orange in the development of the Millers River walkway and not be years behind.
38. Many people on committee's are self-serving! That includes egos! Need to have adequate police department and officers who could patrol our streets more often. Would like to see people working together for goal and completing it!
39. No. I am almost 90 yrs old & not able to walk well. I have been wanting to write to you about the use of Police Cruisers and ambulances. People call 911 for a ride to the hospital or home. It was not allowed in the past. There is a taxis service now and people should be patronizing it also use the bus service. It would save a lot of wear and tear on the cruisers.
40. Try to make it the best small town to live in for people of all ages.
41. Too old - The younger member work schedule does not allow at this time. This area has become a paradise for builders. I am very pleased to see that the town planning office and the Board of Planning & Community Development have become very serious about future development. We have talked about "Smart Growth" so lets get Smart!
42. We desperately need a grocery store.
43. I would like to see Athol return to the 40 - 50's year/era. There was a bustling downtown and 2 movie theaters, 4 restaurants, 3 diners.
44. The town shouldn't be purchasing anything. We can't afford what we need now. We (town) don't need open space. We need public services - Police, fire, education.
45. It is very important to protect the very thing that sustains us.
46. My name is Larry A. Collette not Lanny. Please make a note of this. Thank you.
47. We need more for the 2 and under age group, possibly roller skating, cyber café w/ lock-out for their protection, arcade, afternoon free movie house with popcorn and snacks for sale w/ air hockey tables, etc. A movie theater for all age groups. Organized tours & hiking trails for all age groups and abilities ending in picnic area or fishing trips.
48. We are an older couple who moved here 3 years ago. We love the "country town" atmosphere that is so much a part of Athol. One thing we find missing - Recycling. Please implement this important service ASAP!
49. I heard in the 60's this town was booming with factories, jobs, right in downtown area. The streets were filled with people, especially on Thursday evenings Athol was alive - Now Athol is slowly dying out. Some of us have discussed moving out. Higher taxes - everything going up for a town that offers very little.
50. Presently on Board of Selectmen. I am looking forward to the results of the survey. I am looking forward to working with the Open Space Committee with the best interest of the town of Athol in mind. Taking into consideration all people with all views and interests.
51. Have a place to deposit mail & other papers in the town hall after hours. A slot in the door or a box by the entrance. Make compost container a trifle in price. Have recycle program that would almost pay for itself.
52. Thank you for what your doing.

53. While I realize that Athol was once a thriving mill town and to a lesser extent continues to be one (Starretts) Would it be a possibility, by controlling too rapid growth, to follow the guidelines of towns like Petersham, New Salem or Warwick?
54. Update tennis court on Lincoln Ave as well as baseball fields. Playground at old Highland school property for uptown children.
55. Elderly - not available.
56. Thank you very much for doing this great survey. Athol is a wonderful environmentally literate town. There are a lot of undeveloped passive recreation opportunities here and nearby. Motorized recreation uses could spoil them. Folks enjoying motorized recreation can get in their motorcars and drive to it on National Forests or lower pools of Connecticut River. On the other hand, I want to be able to walk to non-motorized recreation, and can only do that in Athol, because I live here.
57. Publicize need as they occur so folks can (illegible) And volunteer.
58. State agencies are available to help with planning for accessibility for the blind and handicapped. I recommend these agencies be contacted.
59. I think our priority should be to bring fulltime jobs into the area.
60. After retirement
61. We need a skate park
62. We should try to get more business but keep the town mostly residential.
63. Too young. Conservation ?? ?? Huge ??. Even though we are in a rural town, we can still need to become conscious of our effect on the environment. Good survey! Relevant info!
64. How about we concentrate on education first. Make this a better town that way.
65. Too young.
66. Like I said build a mall, arcade, internet gamming area. It'll bring business and give the town more money.
67. A revitalized community will be its own reward.
68. Food and outdoor and sporting events are great draws for both community and tourists. Like a town bar-b-que in downtown. Other much larger cities and towns have had great success with them.
69. How about a dog park. People who want to use it volunteer a few hours of their time to watch it and make sure people's dogs are well behaved and are up to date on their shots. Collect a small fee to maintain the enclosure.
70. Athol needs to realize that it is moving from a mill town to a more diverse community. Many of the new homes are attracting a more literate population. Library facilities were great in their day but very limited by space to meet modern demand.
71. The town needs to fix the sidewalk that exist! They are terrible. We also need our roads all over town repaired! Then, and only then, concentrate on recreation issues!
72. Use and improve existing facilities. Promote projects that appeal to all age groups. Create volunteer positions. Advertise and improve public transportation (bus). I do a lot of kayaking and love the natural spaces we have! Thank you! This survey was a great idea.
73. After retirement w/5 yrs. I am very dissatisfied with town leaders and legal person for looking at using money left to town by school teacher - different than her wishes - Gives others a 2nd thought for future.
74. Open space, recreational facilities are great if they can be done with 100% grant money! Taxpayer money has to be reserved for problem areas such as (1) paving Main St., (2) South Main St. bridge, police station construction, fire station addition? Misc. infrastructure and probably any other urgent priorities (School issues are obviously a mess!) Survey's a pleasant diversion from Athol's main issues.
75. The town needs to fix the road coming into Athol from the high school to the end of Starretts. Excluding the wall along Millers River.
76. We need to have a balance between land, commercial, and residential to help offset the cost, and keep the value of personal property up. Growth is good on moderation.
77. Thank you for the work you do.
78. Thank you for putting this survey together. It is an excellent step in the process of improvement for Athol. The town needs to clean up and "spruce up" as another first step.

79. I would like to see the streets repaired, the sidewalks too. The trees are so old, the branches keep blowing down.
80. A bike path along the river to connect to Orange's path would be really great for bikers and walkers.
81. Please widen and pave our road!! Conant Road.
82. The Athol Bird and Nature Club would be willing to help.
83. Better signs. Even the residents have little idea of the beaches, canoe ports, environmental center, waterfalls and so many attractions. More Signs, More Signs, More Signs.
84. Stop section 8 housing increase.
85. Something needs to be done about traffic, getting out of a side street is almost impossible.
86. Bearsden woods is a nice place to hike and hunt. I would like to see more marked trails for ATV riders somewhere in town. The equestrian park should allow snowmobiles and hunting during December for deer season.
87. This town does not have a large enough tax base to support big time projects! School costs are escalating; The 25-yr police station could have been completed long ago. At half the cost. For especially people with fixed incomes some of these things are unaffordable!
88. We will pray for people involved with this committee. We are happy that the town cares about what we want. We enjoy living in a small rural town that has modern conveniences but is a safe place for our family to live and grow.
89. Most trails post dogs on leash or no dogs. I would like to see a more accepted attitude towards responsible dog owners to walk their pets off leash in wooded areas with permission.
90. Town isn't doing a bad job. It's the school's condition that will marginalize any improvements the town makes. Thank you.
91. There are too many school needs. I feel that this is the priority, not open space. There is a super amount of open space in the vicinity.
92. I answered some of the questions because an answer was necessary. I wish, when a survey is issued, that clarity in some cases was given, such as definitions of some terms. Words, for the town government, means different things than my normal day to day ???
93. Am delighted that you have young people wanting to bring something new and positive to Athol (Ethan Stone and Osprey Entertainment). We have so much negativity in this town I hope they will persevere. I would love to see a nice ice skating facility for young and old built. Ice skating at Silver Lake in the 40's and 50's was so great!
94. We are new to town and love living here. My husband and I want to see the town improve and are interested in helping further develop a recreation plan and bring such a plan to fulfillment. We both have time and energy and Ideas. Please let us help.
95. I do not believe the town is responsible to find or create recreational activities for the population. We are blessed with lakes, ponds and accessible wooded areas. We are also blessed with parks that are used because of the population's attitudes.
96. It's not safe to walk down Main Street. There is no sidewalk on one side. It remains an unsafe neighborhood only because of this. Children are walking in the street! Even public sidewalks are not shoveled or salted.
97. Any improvement to recreation areas should not become a taxpayers cost. It should be a fundraising project or grant funded project. People in this town are already stretched beyond their means. No one should have to decide between paying their taxes or eating/heating.
98. I think it is very important to upgrade and maintain the areas we do have. It is admirable and desirable to want to increase recreational opportunities but if we cannot find a way to finance the upkeep and management of areas these efforts will reflect poorly on the town.
99. It would be nice to serve providing there is no political or financial agenda's. This town has enough of those issues! My observation is that the population of Athol is either very young or has Senior citizens and for years have missed the target with providing an outlet of recreation for young adults and middle age persons, who go out of town to pursue their recreation goals.
100. Athol is a great place to live. It would be nice to be able to maintain the small town flavor while growing.

101. Our schools are our worst problem. We need at least one new elementary school and a new high school.
102. If possible. Athol is my home for 5 generations. Am very concerned about the "sex offenders" being transplanted from the cities and being accepted here. Why?? Hope this helps a little.
103. Possibility - would need to know a little more of the commitment.
104. Would be unable to commit time.
105. No one would take me seriously. Athol is my home, for 47 years, but I'm ready to leave it, because there's nothing here. And the town has a shitty attitude and a shittier reputation!
106. I know this is an Open Space survey, but I think the most important item for this town is to get more industry. This would help us with out tax rate and keep people from moving out of this area.
107. I am a graduate of the North Quabbin Guide Training Program. I believe a market should be create to lead hikes, boat trips, etc., tourism. Outdoor recreation should be the goal of Athol and all of the North Quabbin Region.
108. No, my age is against me. We need industry in this town to support the number of people moving into homes in this town and in the area.
109. This town is built up on historical facts and places. There is absolutely nothing in this town, at all.
110. Open Space is directly related to the Master Plan, yet how many planning board, zoning board, finance board and selectmen have actually read it? The answer is an embarrassment. Stop appointing/removing board members not versed in the Master Plan goals. One major MPG is to increase eco-tourism, recreational businesses, yet zoning bylaws review & planning & development boards clearly ignore this. It would be nice to see the Planning & Dev. Boards actually make a bylaw proposal that addresses these issues instead of leaving it up to petition articles. At the May '05 town mtg., the majority of voters opted for two bylaw changes that would allow peaceful, commercial recreation & expand the definition of "campground" (supported by planning & finance boards). Just because the 2/3 margin was not met, these initiatives were still SUPPORTED BY THE MAJORITY!! Yet they have been left by the wayside. Why? If the town waits for zoning bylaw review committee to address these crucial changes, it will be too late. It almost is too late!
111. I would like to see the town of Athol bring in more shopping businesses into the town. For example Target Stores. Not junk stores like Ocean State Job Lot. How about Kohl's for instance too! Just a thought. That way people don't have to travel so far to the malls.
112. Would like consideration given to a skating area - (not on a lake) For the youth of our town to use at such a place as Fish Park in the winter.
113. We need the new Police Dept. Trade schools are very important. Maintain present schools. We need a grocery store (Market Basket) Continue with all immediate construction plans for Athol in the 2-3 yrs. Maintain existing homes. Fill up present homes. Athol is almost big enough! More work areas for young people!
114. Please remember at all times that you are serving the community of Athol - all the people, not just a few voices. Try to leave the town in a better condition when you are finished than when you began. Best of luck to you.
115. I live on Eagleville Lake and notice it is not well cared for by the town (overgrowth, etc) Take care of what you have. The roads down here are terrible. Still dirt roads in places?
116. I moved here 9 months ago and I am so disappointed, the area is so beautiful but, the town is unfriendly and very unorganized. Nothing for teenagers and you wonder why this is the teenage pregnancy capital.
117. I would like to see a grocery store in town.
118. I am glad to see this survey! I look forward to Athol improving itself! There is a lot of good to be said about small towns! We do need to see a reduction in alcoholism/drug usage - more programs need to be created/enforced? Thank you!
119. I think the town has a lot of opportunity for all ages, businesses and industry is a big part, but we need to make the town welcome with appearance and the outdoors!
120. Best wishes!!

121. We need people who are intelligent and who have integrity on planning boards, not like that last nut who was found working for a porn company, setting up the web sites. These kinds of people and their seedy activities are being written about in the Boston Globe for all to read about!
122. I will consider it
123. Maybe in a year or two
124. We need to get a grip on the single family residences and developments that are sweeping over this town putting a burden on schools, highway Depts. and other town expenses, open space will be no more
125. Stop lines at all stop Signs!! Look at for example North Orange Rd. and Mt Pleasant rd. A stop line would help to keep people from running the stop sign
126. On two Town committees now
127. New growth should in on water & Sewer paid by developer or infrastructure grants. If not done, the cost of water and sewer to existing customers will become a major burden and jeopardize the success of the enterprise systems
128. I think money should be allowed for expanding the pound. There is no landing or storage at the pound. You have the land to expand. The pound helps both towns with the dog and cat problems. People don't even know where the pound is located.
129. Open Spaces are all well and good, but let us consider how much of the taxpayers dollars are being spent in other areas (towns). Example - Theatre in Gardner, pick up a movie at blockbuster, do your grocery shopping at stop and shop. You're there already, drive down the road to the Wal-Mart.
130. This is such a beautiful are. I feel sad it has such a poor image. If the ARHS campus was in Concors for instance, they'd be teaching sailing and swimming etc.. And publicize it. I'm tired of complaints. I do think we need a stronger recreational Dept. to offer low cost services for the kids.
131. Athol appears to be a growing community that requires more multi-family homes, and commercial stores with decent transportation in order to survive and for the population to increase
132. Age prohibits. Very concerned about the ability of police to cover all areas of town. Crime seems to be increasing. Perhaps due to the influx of people. Maximum speed laws not being adhered to
133. We need to get a grip on the single family residences and developments that are sweeping over this town putting a burden on schools, highway Depts. and other town expenses, open space will be no more
134. We need a dump/recycling center
135. Main street is in severe need of sidewalks on both sides. Children in Athol should not have to walk in the street
136. We really need sidewalks on both sides of Main street
137. Enforcement of laws pertaining to dirt bikes and 4 wheelers should be provided. An increase in the fines should happen
138. Everyone needs a little help now and then. I've always works outside this area, down toward Worc/Boston. People outside this area know of Athol as a dumping ground for the state. The Be successful, it's imperative we change this image!
139. Need Market basket food store. Eating place open late night - Early AM until 2AM at least
140. Grocery store needed - to be centrally located - accessible to all senior walking residents - to much traveling uptown to Hannaford's (VERY expensive)
141. Your town manager is a good guy and great for this town
142. All monies had better start going towards our school system before we don't even have a town that people want to live. Recreation facilities shouldn't be a consideration while this horrible problem exists
143. Grocery Store within walking distance for elderly. Local service for elderly, needy. Better transportation for all. Work to keep earned money in Athol!
144. We should be taking better advantage of what we already have. Our lakes and areas around them are becoming a disgrace. Our main street is a mess, and could use better care. We desperately need another grocery store .
145. at convenient location. Small business should be encouraged to locate here

146. New industry is poorly needed
147. Keep up the good work, this is a worthy survey
148. The most important challenge for Athol is the control single and multi family housing construction
149. Preserve history in Athol by encouraging local business' with historical significance to open museums and/or gift shops to bring in revenue (e.g. Starrett tools museum near main street).
150. No one will want to come and enjoy our facilities of this town with the roads in such terrible condition. Also growth in the pleasant st / uptown area has surpassed it's ability to handle the increased traffic volume.
151. Perhaps a traffic light at the bottom of pleasant st used at certain times of the day would help
152. Athol is ideally suited for the governors open space plan of concentrating housing around centrally located transportation and shopping (i.e. train station, downtown, shopping area)
153. Please be aware of how Athol appears to a visitor passing thru. The conditions of our roads as is presented by Starretts corner (also the danger of this situation) the need to financial uses in a practical sense.
154. before the presentation of land conservation etc. around town areas
155. Interest in fixing up what we have. 1/3 of Athol already conserved and park exist but in very poor condition
156. Athol open & rec space is complicated due to pressure of city area and rural areas. I would suggest some rec near city, and conservation in rural areas. Also encourage development in city (new businesses).
157. Commuter rail to Boston would be great to encourage more people to work in, but would increase development pressure in rural areas
158. Not at my age!
159. We need a supermarket - we don't need any more 'junk' stores (like ocean state or family dollar) We need decent restaurant (not another pizza place!) Too many new homes/condos going up
160. I think there are a lot more important ways to improve the town other than spending money on activities. That the loud voice of the minority would like to push through every time we turn around
161. I believe the town needs to work to ensure there is an effort to establish even development, both commercial/rental/industrial along w/ housing. But at the same time maintain rural character.
162. I feel large developments like the proposed 55 - plus unit plan for chestnut avenue should be restricted
163. I have no problems with Athol only that bar across the street, but now that is closed thank GOD. No fighting screaming, racing or cars from 11:30 at night until 3 in the morning.
164. With it closed you can even get a good night sleep. Thank you
165. Need manufacturing to move into town. Real need to have reasonable priced grocery store for competition and convenience
166. Grocery Store and jobs
167. I was born and grew up in Athol. A lot has changed over the years. I would like to see more business down town. Maybe a movie theatre, more clothes shops. Also another small pharmacy for the elderly and also another grocery store and better care to sidewalks also see High school on school seldom in use