

VILLAGE LIFE QUESTIONNAIRE, September 1996

Within the last 25 years, two plans for the future of the Village of Piermont have been completed:

1. A comprehensive plan completed in 1974, where the continued industrial use of the pier was assumed
2. A 1992 Waterfront Revitalization document, completed after the demolition of the majority of the factory buildings, but prior to the beginning of new construction on the pier.

The Planning Subcommittee of the Mayor's Piermont 2000 Committee has been working to understand and bring up to date the issues raised in the two earlier plans in the light of the changes that have occurred since each of them was completed. Twenty two years ago, the first comprehensive plan was done after the Village residents had been asked what they wanted Piermont to be in the future. Since then, the closing of the factories, the construction of housing on the Pier, and tourism have all changed the face of Piermont.

Piermont is becoming more popular every day, and while we have no choice but to share Piermont with the outside world, we have come to understand that we can have the kind of Village we want to live in only if we try to direct change so as to preserve what we value. The Planning Subcommittee has worked hard to understand the kind of choices that the Village faces. Now we need to know which of those choices the citizens of Piermont prefer. Therefore we are asking you to tell us what you want Piermont to be as we approach the next century. By completing the enclosed questionnaire you will be telling us what you want Piermont to be as we approach the next century.

The choices offered in this survey do not necessarily represent those of the Piermont 2000 Committee. We hope these questions will provide you with an opportunity to express any and all of the diverse opinions of Piermont Villagers.

We hope you will not only answer all the questions in the attached questionnaire but provide additional comments on any areas of Village life that you want to make known to us. We value your comments. PLEASE forward the completed questionnaire NO LATER THAN October 15. The results of the survey will be available about 2 months later at the Village Hall and offered for publication to the Village papers. Thank you for participating.

Locating Yourself -

1. In which area of the Village do you live?

>>>>Map here<<<<<

- ___ Area 1 South of the traffic light at the intersection of Paradise Avenue, Ferdon and Piermont ave, including Paradise Avenue.
- ___ Area 2 Downtown. Both sides of Piermont Avenue from the traffic light to Kinney, extending west to Tate and east up to and including the Yuda Apts and building "C".
- ___ Area 3 Piermont Landing
- ___ Area 4 Riverside of Piermont Avenue from Kinney north
- ___ Area 5 Area bounded by Tate, 9W, and Ash Street
- ___ Area 6 North of Ash, West and North of Kinney to 9W
- ___ Area 7 Lawrence Park, Roundtree, and Piermont Commons.
- ___ Area 8 Both sides of 9W North of Ash Street.

2. When people ask you, how do you describe the part of the Village you live in?

Section 1 DOWNTOWN

[Discussion – There is a widespread feeling among Piermont residents that the weekend traffic and parking situations in the Village are getting out of hand. This applies to motorists, bicyclists, rollerbladers, and people walking on the sidewalks.]

1. Is traffic/people congestion a concern to you?

Yes ___ No ___

The following list of actions have been proposed to improve "problem" situations. Please list your opinions.

2. Bicycle traffic on Main Street should be controlled.

agree ___ disagree ___ no opinion ___

a. by routing bicycles around Main Street past Pasta Amore

agree ___ disagree ___ no opinion ___

b. by requiring bicyclists to dismount and walk Main Street

agree ___ disagree ___ no opinion ___

c. by locating bicycle racks with coin operated locks at either end of Main Street, and require bicycles to be parked there and not in front of stores in the Village.

agree ___ disagree ___ no opinion ___

d. by enforcement of the "one-abreast" bicycle regulation that currently exists in Village laws.

agree ___ disagree ___ no opinion ___

e. by placing grates on either end of Main Street that would force bicyclists to walk through the Village.

agree ___ disagree ___ no opinion ___

3. Parking availability for residents should be improved.
agree ___ disagree ___ no opinion ___

a. by more emphasis on enforcement of existing laws using alternate personnel, meterfols or additional police for ticketing.
agree ___ disagree ___ no opinion ___

b. by extending the 15 minute parking restriction to the entire east side of Main Street.
agree ___ disagree ___ no opinion ___

c. by rigorously enforcing laws that reserve part of the downtown parking lot for residents.
agree ___ disagree ___ no opinion ___

d. by installing Parking meters on Main Street.
agree ___ disagree ___ no opinion ___

4. Traffic flow should be improved in the Village
agree ___ disagree ___ no opinion ___

a. by making some streets one way
agree ___ disagree ___ no opinion ___

b. by placing signs to direct traffic to parking areas, highways, etc.
agree ___ disagree ___ no opinion ___

c. Other ideas on improving traffic flow in the Village?

5. Zoning should be changed to prevent the expansion of businesses into areas currently zoned for business but are presently primarily residential.
agree ___ disagree ___ no opinion ___

6. Other comments on the Downtown area?

Section 2 - The PIER

[Discussion -- The land we know as the Pier was deeded to the Village of Piermont in 1974 by the Continental Can Co. The land not occupied by buildings is dedicated to park land [check], and maintenance is entirely paid for by Village taxes. The south shore of the Pier is owned by the New York State Dept of Environmental Conservation.

In the past several years, Pier usage appears to have increased, especially on weekends. Citizens have expressed concern about traffic, littering and other issues.]

1. Is Pier maintenance a concern to you?

Yes _____ No _____

2. Do you use the Pier?

Yes _____ No _____ If no, skip to question 7

3. When you go out on the Pier do you ... *(mark the most appropriate selection)*

_____ a. Usually drive

_____ b. Usually walk

_____ c. Walk only

_____ d. Bike or skate

4. How often do you go out on the Pier? *(mark the most appropriate selection)*

_____ a. Almost every day

_____ b. Several times a week

_____ c. At least once a month

_____ d. Several times a year

5. Do you use the Pier to: *(mark all that apply)*

_____ a. Enjoy the scenery

_____ b. Exercise walk, run or jog

_____ c. Fish

_____ d. Bird watch

_____ e. Other (describe)

[Discussion -- The rest of this section requests your input on suggestions that have been made for helping the Village better manage the Pier. Some are intended to reduce access by non-Residents or restrict some uses. Others are intended to raise revenues to help pay the costs of policing and cleaning up the Pier.]

ACCESS TO THE PIER

[Discussion -- Presently, walking, bicycling, skateboarding and other non-motorized usage is allowed to anyone without restriction. Vehicular access is restricted only to vehicles bearing "Pier stickers" (there is a \$75 fine for illegal entry). Pier stickers are given out free to all Piermont residents who complete an application at the Village Hall. A limited number of Pier stickers are sold to non-Piermont residents at a cost of \$100 for Orangetown residents, \$150 to others (renewals only, no 'new' permits are being issued)].

6. A broad spectrum of "access controls" can occur at the Pier. **Complete the sentence by marking as many of the usage types you are in favor of (mark as many or as few as you wish):** "Access to the Pier should be limited only to:

- Walkers - Residents
- Walkers - "Free Access" to Visitors
- Walkers - "By Annual Paid Permit" Visitors
- Walkers - "Daily Entry Charge" Visitors

- Bicyclists - Residents
- Bicyclists - "Free Access" to Visitors
- Bicyclists - "By Annual Paid Permit" Visitors
- Bicyclists - "Daily Entry Charge" Visitors

- Motorists (Auto/Motorcycle) - Residents
- Motorists (Auto/Motorcycle)- "Free Access" to Visitors
- Motorists (Auto/Motorcycle)- "By Annual Paid Permit" Visitors
- Motorists (Auto/Motorcycle)- "Daily Entry Charge" Visitors

- Restrict Auto/Motorcycle access on weekends.
- Allow auto access for seniors and handicapped citizens (residents)
- Allow auto access for seniors and handicapped citizens (non-residents)

USE OF THE PIER

7. The Village should try to reduce the impact of vehicular traffic on the Pier.
agree ___ disagree ___ no opinion ___

- a. Reduce car use by closing the Pier to motorized traffic on certain days
agree ___ disagree ___ no opinion ___

- b. Slow vehicular traffic with speed bumps/other measures
agree ___ disagree ___ no opinion ___

- c. Reduce car use by eliminating non-resident Pier permits
agree ___ disagree ___ no opinion ___

- d. Other suggestions on this vehicular traffic?

8. The Village should investigate ways of making the Pier a revenue generating facility:
 agree ____ disagree ____ no opinion ____
- a. by charging people a modest fee to walk on the Pier
 agree ____ disagree ____ no opinion ____
- b. by charging people a modest fee to drive on the Pier
 agree ____ disagree ____ no opinion ____
- c. by charging everyone but residents and their guests for parking in the ball field lot.
 agree ____ disagree ____ no opinion ____
- d. by hiring a part-time policeman to ticket people who are not obeying sticker and litter laws.
 agree ____ disagree ____ no opinion ____
- e. by installing pay toilets at the Goswick Pavilion
 agree ____ disagree ____ no opinion ____
- f. Other suggestions for generating revenue?

9. The Village should investigate ways of making the Pier cleaner
 agree ____ disagree ____ no opinion ____
- a. by having DPW clean the Pier more often
 agree ____ disagree ____ no opinion ____
- b. by scheduling volunteer clean-up days (Visitors encouraged to help)
 agree ____ disagree ____ no opinion ____
- c. by installing more trash cans, at appropriate Pier locations
 agree ____ disagree ____ no opinion ____
- d. by putting portable rest rooms on the Pier to discourage public toileting
 agree ____ disagree ____ no opinion ____
- e. Other suggestions for making the Pier cleaner?

[Discussion – Some citizens suggest we should avoid making improvements to Pier facilities, as they will encourage “day trips” by visitors, turning our Pier into another Tallman Park picnic area].

10. The Village should avoid making improvements that will encourage “day trip” usage of the Pier.
 agree ____ disagree ____ no opinion ____

11. Any suggestions/comments on how the Village should handle the Pier?

Section 3 - NEW CONSTRUCTION

NOTE: THIS SECTION IS STILL UNDER CONSTRUCTION!

Lot size on steep slopes:

[Discussion – The Village Planning Board recently recommended adoption of a guideline to regulate subdivision of land on steep slopes areas. The guideline would require a builder on steep slope land to have a lot larger than would be required on level land, so that the exposed surface can better absorb rainwater runoff.]

1. An ordinance should be written to control steep slope development.
agree ____ disagree ____ no opinion ____
2. Controlling development on steep slopes would infringe on private property rights.
agree ____ disagree ____ no opinion ____
3. The Village should act to preserve the character of steep slopes over the Village
agree ____ disagree ____ no opinion ____
 - a. by passing an ordinance should be written to control steep slope development.
agree ____ disagree ____ no opinion ____
 - b. by limiting the extent of terracing to preserve the slope character of an area.
agree ____ disagree ____ no opinion ____
3. Other options/comments on steep slope regulation?

Visual effect of new buildings and construction

[Discussion -- On steep slopes, building may be highly visible to those looking up from below. Current Village laws regulate the average height of buildings. This system allows that a house on a steep hill may have 4 ½ stories facing the river with 2 ½ stories on the hill side and still satisfy the current 35 foot average height limit. There is no regulation requiring the builder to limit the unbroken exposed area facing the riverfront view.]

4. Regulation of visible area on new construction is an unfair encroachment on property rights.
agree ____ disagree ____ no opinion ____
5. There should be regulation to control the height and visible area of new construction to maintain the present character of the hillside.
agree ____ disagree ____ no opinion ____
6. By requiring all new structures to underground their electric/phone/cable/etc connections Visual clutter.
agree ____ disagree ____ no opinion ____
7. In the downtown area there should be a public policy requiring Utilities to underground their electric/phone/cable/etc when
agree ____ disagree ____ no opinion ____

8. Which of the following types of housing does Piermont need more of (*check all that apply*):

- a. Senior citizen housing
- b. Low income housing
- c. Middle income housing
- d. High income housing
- e. No new housing
- f. Other housing suggestions?

9. Other options/comments on new building construction?

Tree Cutting/Removal

[Discussion – Tree cutting is a difficult issue in the Village. Those who develop properties or who live in the hills often wish to clear large areas to maximize the views. Those who live below them usually prefer to see trees on the hills, not conspicuous houses. Property owners on the hills may also be concerned with runoff and erosion caused by tree-cutting above them].

10. Tree removal should not be regulated by the Village.

agree disagree no opinion

11. The Village should regulate the removal of trees (over a certain height and diameter).

agree disagree no opinion

12. Other options/comments on tree removal?

Section 4 - QUALITY OF LIFE:

1. The Village should investigate ways to improve services and lower costs by joining forces with other river villages (such as Grandview, South Nyack, etc.) ?? Should we ask this??

agree disagree no opinion

2. The Village should make efforts to ensure that walking routes and access to the Erie Path (and other trails) are not blocked by future development.

agree disagree no opinion

3. Having local Village Police enhances the sense that Piermont is a small village with a distinct "neighborhood" feel.

agree disagree no opinion

4. The Village should investigate ways to provide Piermont residents with a launching point on the Hudson River for small boats (car-top).

agree disagree no opinion

5. The volunteer groups in the Village should look into sponsoring "Village events" that will bring the diverse groups of people in the Village together, without bringing the masses of "visitors" that attend current events and dilute the sense of community.
agree ____ disagree ____ no opinion ____

6. The Village should investigate options with the Post Office to provide all Piermont Villagers with a Piermont mailing address.
agree ____ disagree ____ no opinion ____

7. The Village should investigate options to reduce the intensity of the Fire Signal (or by other means reduce the intrusion of the siren on Piermont). ?Should we ask this?
agree ____ disagree ____ no opinion ____

8. The speed limit on 9W should be reduced to the same as in Upper Nyack (30 mph), due to the hazards for residents exiting driveways.
agree ____ disagree ____ no opinion ____

9. The Village act to obtain the railroad station on Ash to create a Village museum.
agree ____ disagree ____ no opinion ____

10. The Village police are rigorously enforcing current Village laws.
agree ____ disagree ____ no opinion ____

a. Which laws should the Police Department give higher priority?

Section 5 - POPULATION AND HOUSING STATISTICS

[Discussion - the previous survey asked questions on Piermont demographics. This section will clarify how the Village has changed].

1.a. Do you live in Piermont? Yes ____ No ____

1.b. Do you own your dwelling? Yes ____ No ____

2. How many people in your household? _____

3. How many members of the household are:

- _____ a. Under 5 years old?
- _____ b. Between 6 and 20?
- _____ c. Between 21 and 40?
- _____ d. Between 41 and 60?
- _____ e. Over 60?

4. How long has your family lived in Piermont? _____ years

5.a. Were you or other adults in your family born in Piermont? Yes ___ No ___
If yes, which members

5.b. Were any of their parents born in Piermont? Yes ___ No ___

6. Where did you live before you moved to Piermont? *Mark the most recent location*

- ___ a. Elsewhere in Rockland County
- ___ b. New York City
- ___ c. Always lived in Piermont
- ___ d. Other (specify) _____

7. If you moved to Piermont as an adult, what was it about the Village that attracted you?

8. Do you live in a:

- ___ a. Single family home?
- ___ b. Two family home?
- ___ c. A building with three or more apartments/condos?
- ___ d. Other (*describe*)

9. In your opinion is Piermont a good place to live (*check all that apply*):

- ___ a. for retired people
- ___ b. for couples without children
- ___ c. for people with young children
- ___ d. for newly married couples
- ___ e. for single people

10. Please answer ONLY if you've lived in the Village for more than 10 years:

a. The changes that have occurred over the last decade has improved my quality of life (that is, "I'm happy with the changes").
agree ___ disagree ___ no opinion ___

b. What conditions cause you to feel this way?

Thanks for taking the time to fill this out. We'll get the results out as soon as we can.

Return this survey in the Envelope provided or drop off at the Village Hall:

Village of Piermont Village Hall

Attn: Shirley Lynch, Clerk

Piermont Avenue

Piermont, NY 10968