

## Draft Town of Mina Survey Data

### 1.) Response Rate:

The exact survey response rate is difficult to calculate due to the seasonal nature of the Town of Mina's population. Therefore, an estimated response rate was utilized based upon the following population assumptions:

- a.) There are 393 owner-occupied and rental units in the Town. The average household size is 2.46, which results in a full-time population of 967.
- b.) There are 332 vacant seasonal housing units in the Town. Based on census data for never married individuals and married couples over the age of 55, the average household size was adjusted to 2.0, which results in a seasonal population of 664,
- c.)  $967 + 664 - (24.7\% \text{ of population under } 18) = 1,228$
- d.) 449 respondents began the survey with 349 respondents completing the survey for an estimated completed response rate of 27.8%

### 2.) Place of Residence and Length of Time in Community (Q# 1 &2):

Of the completed survey response pool, 51.29% (179) respondents lived in the lakefront area, 23.78% (83) lived in Findley Lake Hamlet and 24.93% (87) lived in other areas of the Town.

It was interesting to note that 50.23% of lakefront area residents had lived in or visited Findley Lake for over 20 years. 51.98% of residents of Hamlet had also lived in or visited the hamlet for over 20 years.

While there is a large portion of the population that has a long history and connection to the community, 23.32% of the population has lived in Mina for 5 years or less.

### 3.) Age Group (Q# 3):

The largest portion of the responses, 73.28%, came from the age groups between 45 and 74 years of age. 14.70% of the remaining respondents were 75 or over and 12.03% were under 45.

4.) Are you a full-time or seasonal resident of Mina? (Q# 4):

44.54% of respondents were full-time residents, 36.30% were seasonal and 19.15% were weekenders.

Lakefront area - 29.45% of respondents were full-time residents, 48.63 of the respondents were weekenders and 21.92% were seasonal.

Findley Lake Hamlet – 51.43% of respondents were full-time residents, 21.43% of the respondents were weekenders and 27.14% were seasonal.

Other Areas – Respondents were not identified in this category as full-time or seasonal. Responses mainly came from North Road, Bailey Hill, Sulfur Springs, Marks Corners, Routes 430 and 426 and Greenman Road.

5.) Which best describes your family? (Q# 5):

46.99% of respondents were retired (36.75% retired married, 10.24% retired single). 29.40% were couples with children and 16.04% were couples without children. Singles only made up 7.58% of the respondent pool and there were only 6 single parents.

6.) How many miles do you travel to your place of work? (Q# 6):

As can be seen in the proceeding summaries, close to 47% of respondents identify as retired. Therefore, the following percentages are based solely on the respondents estimated to be in the workforce today.

31.25% of working respondents do not live in Mina during the week. 25.48% of working respondents travel less than 15 miles to work. Another 21.15% travel 16 to 30 miles for work, which would allow them to get to the urban centers in Jamestown, New York, or Erie, Pennsylvania. 14.9% travel greater than 30 miles to work and 7.21% (15) telecommute from Mina.

7.) Rate the quality of life in the Town of Mina (Q# 7):

86.28% of respondents rate the quality of life in Mina as good (62.75%) or excellent (23,53%). 13.45% of respondents rated the quality of life as average and only 1 person rated it as fair/poor.

8.) Rank the factors which would most likely cause you to leave Mina (Q# 8):

There were 362 responses to this question. The following were the order of priority:

- Taxes become too high
- Deteriorating Lake Quality
- Loss of open space/rural lifestyle
- Lack of Public Sewer
- Inadequate parks
- Inadequate shopping opportunities
- Decrease in quality of schools
- Lack of Senior Housing Options

9.) How important are the following choices to make Mina a desirable place to live? (Q# 9):

There were 362 responses to this question. The following are the order of priority and represent what residents value the most:

- Quality of Findley Lake
- Property Tax
- Preservation of Small Town Character
- Scenic Views
- Friends and Family
- Appearance of the Town
- Sense of Community
- Aesthetically Pleasing Downtown
- Public Sewer improvements along Lake
- Availability of Shops and Restaurants
- Access to Medical Care
- Provision of Public Water
- Design of New Commercial Development

10.) Rate the Town of Mina in the following areas (Q# 10):

- a.) The Community Center was rated highest overall with 73.49% rating it as good or excellent and only 1.73% rating it below average.
- b.) The library was second with 71.75% rating the library as good or excellent and only 1.73% rating it as below average.
- c.) Fire protection/EMS came in third with 70.60% rating it as good or excellent and 5.77% rating it as below average.

d.) Road maintenance came in at fourth with 63.98% rating it as good or excellent with 5.77% rating it as below average or poor.

e.) Town Administration came in fifth with 57.35% rating it as good or excellent and 8.94% rating it as below average or poor.

f.) Code enforcement came in last with 35.73% rating it as good or excellent and 25.36% rating it as below average or poor.

11.) Do you generally feel informed about what is going on in the Town of Mina and how do you typically get information about the Town? (Q# 11&12):

58.79% (204 of 347) did not feel informed about what was happening in Mina. The majority of those rely on local conversations to get information about the community with Facebook and the Town's website coming in tied for second (33.04% & 33.04%) as sources of information. The post office or town bulletin boards and the newspaper do not appear to be places where most seek information consistently.

12.) What types of business or industry should the Town encourage to locate in Mina? (Q# 13):

Strongly Rated:

- Small Retail Shops
- Restaurants
- Health Care Services
- Home Occupations

Somewhat Split:

- Short-Term Rental
- Agri-Business
- Hotels
- Light Industry

Opposed:

- Warehouses / Distribution Centers
- Big Box Retail Stores
- Heavy Industry / Manufacturing

13.) Should Mina focus on or update local land use with respect to the following? (Q# 14):

- Property Maintenance (65.99% Yes, 20.46% No)
- Commercial Design Guidelines (59.65% Yes, 15.56% No)
- Short-Term Rentals (58.21% Yes, 25.36% No)
- Standards for Signs (57.06% Yes, 16.43% No)
- Solar Energy (46.40% Yes, 29.39% No)
- Marijuana Dispensaries (30.55% Yes, 49.57% No)

14.) How appropriate are the following or current land uses in the Town of Mina? (Q# 15):

- Farms (91.99% appropriate)
- Campgrounds (89.35% appropriate)
- Self-Storage Units (63.5% appropriate)
- Solar Farms (56.67% appropriate)
- Townhouses (55.39% appropriate)
- Multi-Family Dwellings (41.69% appropriate)
- Wind Turbine (Commercial) (43.84% appropriate)
- Marijuana Dispensaries (39.99% appropriate)
- Mining and Extractive Industries (22.59% appropriate)
- Adult Entertainment (15.53% appropriate)
- Junkyards (14.84% appropriate)

15.) Rank the economic development strategies the Town of Mina should focus on (Q# 16). The following are listed in order of rank by respondents:

- Promote and encourage small local business development.
- Work to improve downtown appearance.
- Improve sidewalks, parking, and other infrastructure.
- Encourage and support downtown programming.
- Work to expand retail sector of the economy.
- Promote growth in tourism and service economy.

16.) What would you like to see in the Town of Mina in the next 10-20 years? The following are listed in order of priority (Q# 17):

- New buildings that respect town character.
- Better recreational opportunities for residents.
- Greater variety of retail shopping locally.
- More Senior Housing.
- More High-Tech Industries.

17.) How important is the development of the following in Hamlet or along Findley Lake? (Q# 18):

Sewer Service – (44.71% very important/ 25.88% important)

Improved Sidewalks on Main Street - (25.29% very important/ 53.53% important)

Parking - (23.82% very important/ 50.00% important)

Water Service - (26.76% very important/ 32.06% important)

18.) Would you support moving the Fire Hall off Main Street to a new location? (Q# 19):

An overwhelming majority of respondents, 71.18%, believe that the Fire Hall should be moved off of Main Street to a new location.

19.) Does the Town need more building/zoning code enforcement? (Q# 20):

While 57.35% of respondents do not believe the Town of Mina needs more code enforcement, this response does not align with the low rating code enforcement received in question # 10 or the open-ended comments in question # 25.

Current code enforcement, which manages zoning and building codes, is provided on a very limited basis through a part-time contracted employee. The responsibilities of the code enforcement office entail fire inspections, building permits, building permit inspections, and zoning permits and enforcement. With such a heavy list of responsibilities, all the duties cannot be undertaken within such limited hours, which is the most probable reason for the low ratings on the other questions in the survey.

In addition, if the enforcement of codes is already an issue in the eyes of respondents, we can only theorize that many may have interpreted this question as “Do we need more codes or regulations in the Town of Mina?”

20.) Rate the lake water quality of Findley Lake (Q# 21):

Very Good Water Quality – 5.59%

Good Water Quality – 23.82%

Average Water Quality – 42.65%

Fair Water Quality – 18.53%

Poor Water Quality – 9.41%

29.41% of respondents find the water quality of Findley Lake to be very good or good. It is notable that an almost equal number of respondents, 27.94%, find the water quality to be only fair or poor. It is obvious that over half the community is split on their feelings regarding the condition of the Lake.

21.) Are you satisfied with efforts to improve the quality of the lake? (Q# 22):

Very Satisfied – 4.71%

Satisfied – 25.00%

Neutral – 35.00%

Dissatisfied – 24.12%

Very Dissatisfied – 11.18%

22.) Do you feel safe when boating, swimming, or kayaking on Findley Lake? (Q# 23):

Very Safe – 17.06%

Safe – 35.29%

Neutral – 30.29%

Not Safe – 12.35%

Very Unsafe – 5.00%

23.) Depending on how you responded to the prior question, please let us know why you do feel safe or why not. (Q# 24):

The highest priority issues identified by respondents to the prior question are listed below in the order of importance:

- Lake users boaters and jet skis) not following the rules (27 responses)
- Water quality for swimming (17 responses)
- Need for enforcement of rules on Lake (14 responses)
- The high volume of users – too crowded - too many boats (11 responses)
- Size and horsepower of boats on Lake (9 responses)
- Weed growth impact on use and swimming (9 responses)

24.) List the three (3) community strengths or things you find MOST desirable about the Town of Mina. (Q# 25):

The highest priority strengths or things that were identified by respondents are listed below in the order of importance:

- The Lake (40 responses)
- Small Town Atmosphere (39 responses)
- Friendly People (37 responses)
- Local Shops (24 responses)
- Quiet/Peaceful (14 responses)
- Downtown/Holiday Events (11 responses)
- Sense of Community (10 responses)
- Safe Community (7 responses)
- Location (7 responses)
- Fire Department (6 responses)
- Natural Beauty (6 responses)
- Community Connections (5 responses)
- Library (5 responses)
- Rural Living (5 responses)
- Community Center (4 responses)

25.) List the three (3) community weaknesses or things you feel need to MOST improve in the Town of Mina. (Q# 26)

The highest priority weaknesses or issues that were identified by respondents are categorized and listed below in the order of importance per category:

#### The Lake

- Need sewer (27 responses)
- Water quality (21 responses)
- Weeds (12 responses)
- Sheriff Patrol (2 responses)
- Bad septic's (2 responses)
- Need more boat fueling options (2 responses)
- Post warning signs for Lake conditions (1 response)
- Lack of tax revenue being spent on Lake (1 response)

#### Downtown

- Need more retail/shops (16 responses)
- Lack of restaurants (8 responses)
- Parking (8 responses)
- Downtown appearance (4 responses)
- Need for fresh food/meat (3 responses)
- Lack of winter sidewalk maintenance (2 responses)
- Need more events (2 responses)



- Dollar General impact (2 responses)
- Sidewalks (1 response)
- Downtown infrastructure (1 response)

#### Government / Administration

- Communication (14 responses)
- Taxes (8 responses)
- Town Board (5 responses)
- Update sign regulations (2 responses)
- Dumpsters in residential areas (1 response)
- Dock codes (1 response)
- Decrease number of short-term rentals (1 response)

#### Code Enforcement

- Enforcement (7 responses)
- Dilapidated properties/ zombie properties (4 responses)
- More stringent enforcement of short-term rentals (2 responses)
- Scrap wood on Shadyside (2 responses)
- Hard to open a business (1 response)

#### Services

- Enforcement of speed limits (9 responses)
- Garbage pick-up (3 responses)
- Fire Department Manpower Issue (3 responses)
- Walkability (3 responses)
- Cleaning of drainage ditches (1 response)

#### Misc.

- Small from dairy (2 responses)
- Need for non-profit coordination (2 responses)
- Less police (2 responses)
- People not joining watershed foundation (1 response)
- Need for service directory (1 response)
- Need to consolidate school districts (1 response)
- Difficult to advertise business (1 response)
- Gentrification – McMansions (1 response)
- Unsafe trees by edge of road (1 response)

26.) List the three (3) opportunities the community should pursue. (Q# 27)

The highest priority opportunities that were identified by respondents are listed below in the order of importance:

Top Opportunities (order of priority):

- 1.) Sewer System
- 2.) Encourage/recruit small business
- 3.) Lake water quality
- 4.) Water system
- 5.) Marijuana dispensary
- 6.) Small shops
- 7.) Fire/EMS Membership
- 8.) Events (art, music, yard sale, farmer's market, triathlon, etc.)
- 9.) Family recreation

The Lake

- Sewer system
- Lake water quality

Downtown

- Encourage / Recruit small businesses  
\*Pharmacy, brew pub, coffee café, brewery, car wash, medical clinic, bank,  
grocery store, more restaurants
- Act as a tourist attraction -4 seasons
- Sidewalks & Parking
- Events
- Promote businesses

Government / Administration

- Communication
- Small business grants or loans for revitalization
- Property maintenance enforcement
- Free broadband
- Solar/Wind
- Speed control

Misc.

- Free Lake access
- Public park
- Senior housing
- Remove truck traffic in some areas
- Nature trails or trails around Lake
- Community activities
- Boat horsepower restrictions
- Certified kitchen

27.) What is your vision for the Town of Mina in the next 5 or 10 years? (Q# 28)

1. My vision is to work hard to keep the quaintness of the lake houses and downtown, the rural beauty, and fresh air to breathe.
2. To balance the charming small town feel with modern amenities and conveniences.
3. Make it nicer looking.
4. Established sewer system. Improved lake quality. Improved communication. Downtown businesses. Supported fire department.
5. In the interest of fiscal responsibility and more educational/extra-curricular opportunities for local children, I would like to see the area school districts merge. If Clymer School District refuses to merge I would hope Findley Lake might find a way to secede from the current district and merge into a more progressive district.
6. Keep it as beautiful as it is meant to be.
7. Keep the small-town character.
8. Continue to have a small-town atmosphere but enhance property value due to water and sewer services.
9. A beautiful community.
10. Maybe like a small-town Ellicottville
11. Investment in action to improve the lake water quality, and the continuing investment in residential property improvements around the lake, which will surely follow.
12. New fire department building, paid fire/EMS system due to lack of volunteers, combined services with other towns (have one highway supervisor for merged services/salary savings). Water service needs to go in at the same time sewer does or the water table will drop with a negative effect on residents.
13. A clean lake, a sewer and water system, and the creation of a safe Sunnyside Road. There is no reason heavy truck traffic should be permitted on this road. At least route truck traffic on Mann Road from May 15-October 15.
14. To stay a small town but with more places for employment and small conveniences such as a 24 hr gas station.

15. Improve lake water, safe for humans and animals to swim year-round. Increase functions like water skiing events, rowing regattas, fishing tourney boat show, wooden boat events. Small scale events, to showcase the town and its offerings.

16. Continue being known as a CHARMING community, with a focus on HEALTHY LIVING and promoting our Town Employees to being positive examples for the Community to follow.

17. na

18. small growth, but not too much. NO box stores or franchises! Nothing ruins a town quicker than a franchise

19. a resort community more akin to Ellicottville - the peace and tranquility of Findley is a strength so we shouldn't go overboard, but a we're missing out on tourism dollars that would help the town and encourage long-term residency (maybe?)

20. Maintain quaint lake feel, better downtown retail and appearance

21. Town needs to be very protective of Lake quality and the beauty of country town. But there is added values the can be looked into. Park attractions for kids and families, new retail and expanded business that fits the quaintness of town. Look at downtown Ellicottville, North East, ect. for ideas.

22. More shops, restaurants, and events to draw visitors.

23. Relocate the hill top industrial CAFO/cesspool somewhere outside of the watershed. Fewer short term rentals. Improve property maintenance standards, remove junk piles and unregistered vehicles.

24. Continue to prosper yet remain quaint

25. Weed free lake. Improved downtown. Water and sewer service installed.

26. Increase the tax base so that seniors can afford to live here when they retire. Make the town more attractive to small businesses so that they will want to locate here.

27. Provide the tools (broadband, community center, library) that supports a healthy community and lake. It's important to preserve the town's legacy and feel for residents and visitors.

28. An improvement in living conditions

29. Fix the algae bloom by providing public water and sewage

30. Not as many large places, back to cottage feel

31. Improve infrastructure while maintaining community & aesthetic.

32. Nice quiet community with better infrastructure

33. remain welcoming more small shops downtown

34. The best vacation spot in the US that no one knows about yet. A real grocery store to service the community Wegmans, target, Walmart something that is competitively prices and well stocked. More affordable restaurants the people who live in mina are not the vacationers that have money we can't afford the cost of going out in Findley.

35. Sewer systems and more oportune for a vibrant down town. A brewery would be great.

36. Public Sewer and a fast food restaurant

37. Continuing to preserve the history. Enhance the small town feel. No commercial businesses. Enforce buildings that looks like the surrounding areas. No modular homes-close to the lake.

38. GROWTH

39. Maintain quaintness and small-town atmosphere with improvements mentioned above. Opposed to hotels and an inordinate amount or Airbnbs.

40. Try to keep town the same, improvements to sidewalks and business fronts if needed or as wanted, keep traditional festivals and whatnot, don't bring in big box stores. It's simple and nostalgic the way it is. Preserve that for the people.

41. The biggest attraction to the area is the LAKE and it needs to be taken care of.

42. Continue to be a great family town.

43. Keep the same smalltown charms with a more robust retail space to draw new visitors and revenue.

44. Na

45. Fire department funded and modernized Alexander's, pine junction and tavern remain as established restaurant Public sewer plans established and 5yr implantation in-progress New townhomes near lake with dock rental availability Taxes stabilized with 5 and 10yr projection in place and managed

46. Municipal, sewer and water and a well-developed downtown with a decent family restaurant.

47. Better Water Quality for the Lake and Water Wells.

48. A cleaner version of what we have today. Perhaps some solar and wind energy efficiencies put into place. We would like it to maintain its small town charm.

49. hope it doesn't change to much

50. Im going to erase my input to ask why there's a parsimonious character limit?

51. NON-RESIDENT PROPERTY OWNERS TREATED/RESPECTED EQUALLY IN RELATION TO OUR CONCERNS THAT EFFECT THE COSTS OF OWNING IN FINDLEY LAKE. DO NOT CONTINUE TO LOOK AT US AS JUST A SOURCE OF REVENUE. REALIZATION THAT A SEWER SYSTEM DOES NOT MEAN A BETTER LAKE! JUST MORE COSTS

52. Implementing a public sewage and water system is most important in my opinion. This will also improve Findley lake water quality

53. Cleaner lake, a modern housing development plan, a few more businesses/restaurants/brewery/

54. Overall the Town of Milna has done a great job. There's been a lot of growth and our property values are rising. The lake is a beautiful natural resource. I would like to see more required investment from lakefront owners who use the lake, then use that money to continue to improve the lake. Also encourage more local retail (I miss that wine shop!) and local restaurants like Alexander's.

55. To put the infrastructure in place now -- especially sewers -- so we can grow.

56. A more vital/vibrant village atmosphere with breathtaking views everywhere and no more diesel trucks/Harleys showing off their exhaust noise.

57. The asset of FL is the lake. Must have long term plan to improve water quality with focus to reduce phosphates and weed growth. Then a plan to improve navigation and accessibility.

58. Healthy lake Strong recreation activities

59. Clean lake and better communication between governing bodies and community. Let the community know how they can help!!

60. Maintaining the lake to make it a place people want to visit anytime of year!

61. Create a vibrant town with multiple businesses/co-ops, especially restaurants/breweries/wineries.

62. Continued development consistent with the existing character.

63. Improved usage of the Main Street /lake side store fronts

64. Modernize infrastructure, adding sewer and water. Provide more signage and safety information for boaters.

65. Downtown renovation of shops. Perhaps a restaurant on the water.

66. Improvement of lake quality, maintenance of small town feeling, stable taxes, continued beautiful views of lake/trees, and working sewer system.

67. I would like to see the town of mina stay as much the same as possible.

68. A clean lake with a leadership that provides appropriate enforcement of rules and regulations.

Leadership willing to keep the community well informed.

69. a clean lake with town leadership that provides appropriate enforcement of rules and regulations

70. Small town with the small-town "feel" but larger-town amenities

71. Have a beautiful town with a sewer system, and a thriving town with eclectic mix of shopping and food items! Limited Airbnbs and those here will have a strict rules to be followed.

72. For the downtown area to have more small retail shops. For our lake to have improved quality water to boat. More public docks and picnic areas, and possibly even a beach area? For our little town to STAY a smaller community!

73. Small town vibes that still promotes tourism. Great location but the town seems to want to hide it from anyone not local.

74. No major changes. Like it the way it is.

75. Maintain a family friendly - small town environment and not a corporate run mentality. Help in the development of small businesses to make Findley a destination and generate revenue.

76. slow improvement to upscale resort living

77. improved water quality and sewer district

78. independent small businesses, artisans different kinds of food restaurants, food trucks? frisbe golf course? modern safe playground for all children ( physically challenged)

79. A nearly pure lake with active stewards of the lake

80. Senior housing to prevent the loss of our elders who can no longer maintain their homes and property. Maintain and improve all the natural resources. Increase incentives to further encourage small business development

81. Improvement downtown area. Consistent lighting, signs etc. Hodgepodge of bulletin boards that don't match. New sidewalks in town. Also, eliminate truck traffic on Rt 426 and make it exercise friendly to bike or walk around the lake.

82. Still a family welcoming community. Small town atmosphere Lake sustainability

83. Maintain small town feel

84. While encouraging small business / retail development, the town maintains it's core values as a supportive community to it's full-time residents.

85. Lower taxes, better quality of water

86. Closed lake with houses selling for pennies on the dollar. If the water quality is improved, then it'll be the place that I share with my children in same way it was shared with me.

87. It's a nice place for my family to come and enjoy the lake it doesn't need to get much better just clean water<sup>9</sup>thankyou

88. A vibrant down town with all the stores filled and people from the outside of Findley stopping in.

Need to find a way to draw people to Findley as in the past. People used to talk about weekend drives to Findley and a lot of that is gone due to the lack of shopping opportunities

89. Sewer system in place, thriving restaurants and retail opportunities, big trucks driving on a different road rather than 426, speed limit enforced, and lake continuing to be take care of to control the weeds.

90. A quiet rural town with a great community of people that have open communication available to all, seasonal, fulltimers, renters...to get the bad agriculture practices under control, to improve our lake quality and the surround water shed. To have open meeting that are well advertized, including the watershed.



91. I would like to see more local businesses, enabled by tourism and travel sectors.

92. Preserve the lake--It is our best asset. Sewer infrastructure to improve water quality. Establish municipal law enforcement. Growth as a retirement community--increasing no.of retired residents. Historic local business destination.

93. Cleaner lake with clearer water and stump removal

94. Improved water quality in the lake due to elimination of on lot private sewers. Continued rural character with a collective vision for downtown improvements to attract more retailers.

95. To see some of the changes, that we and others have listed, implemented in the near future.

96. consolidated school districts immediately

97. Updated downtown in Findley Lake

98. keep small town atmosphere, rural feeling

99. To have a better town assessor and clerk that is understanding.

100. I imagine a community where neighbors look out for neighbors. A thriving downtown that attracts shoppers and diners brings in revenue and strengthens our town. A safe and clean lake provides recreational opportunities and enhances property values.

28.) Please provide any additional comments or suggestions you may have for the Comprehensive Plan Committee? (Q# 29) – *Not included with this draft.*