

Did DPAC hear your two cents?

What do people want most for Damariscotta - an amusement park built next to the municipal parking lot? An international airport in the middle of town? Twenty-story apartments overlooking the river? Or maybe more bike paths and crosswalks, locally-owned businesses, and good-paying jobs to help support families?

Whatever the vision for Damariscotta, it's important that every voice be heard. More than 200 people have already filled out a quick survey or attended meetings and so far no one has called for mega-malls or high-rises, but to help ensure that future growth and development will represent what the people, everyone is invited to take a few minutes to throw in their two cents.

As part of Damariscotta's Heart & Soul Community Planning process, the Damariscotta Planning Advisory Committee (DPAC) wants to hear from everyone who lives in, works in, plays in, or just cares about the future of Damariscotta. Visit www.damariscottame.com to fill out the survey, learn more about DPAC and get involved. The deadline for taking the survey is Sept. 1.

Half of the respondents so far

have been full time or part-time residents of Damariscotta; over 30 percent have lived here for 11 or more years and some more than 50 years. However, DPAC especially needs to hear from Damariscotta's youth. To date, only one percent of survey responses have come from 21-30 year olds, and only six percent from people ages 20 and under.

Here's what survey results indicate so far:

- Ninety percent of the respondents believe it is extremely important or very important that new growth and development in Damariscotta should be safe for pedestrians; 81 percent believe new development should have locally owned businesses.

- Eighty percent believe it is extremely important or very important that "bigbox" commercial development is prohibited. Seventy-eight percent believe it is extremely important or very important that new development welcomes a diversity of incomes and ages.

- Seventy-one percent believe it is extremely important or very important that well paying jobs be provided. Fifty-seven percent believe it is extremely important or very important that property taxes do not increase with new growth

and development.

- Sixty-three percent of respondents believe that a hotel is completely unimportant or it matters a little.

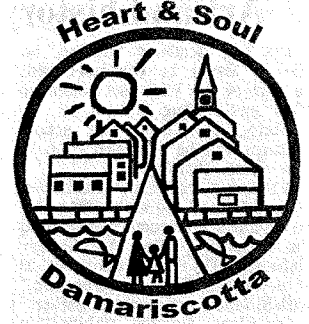
- Only 49 percent think family entertainment, like bowling or a movie theater, is very important or extremely important.

People care about Damariscotta. Help DPAC take charge of the future and make the community even better by filling out the survey. Remember, respondents don't have to live here to have input on what they really want Damariscotta to become.

There are plenty of ways to voice an opinion and get involved:

- Fill out the survey about Damariscotta's future by Sept. 1. Find it online at www.damariscottame.com and paper copies are available at the office, located at the Chamber of Commerce on Courtyard St.

- Stay tuned for a September visioning meeting and an October



planning charrette and help create a vision and design options for the Business Route One corridor.

- Stay informed by signing up for the Damariscotta Heart & Soul mailing list at dpac@damariscottame.com

- Learn more and get involved by visiting the project website at www.damariscottame.com and send comments by emailing dpac@damariscottame.com.

- Join the youth Facebook group, Damariscotta Generation Y, to discuss ways to make Damariscotta better for young people (for teens and young adults in their 20s and 30s).

DPAC is a committee of the Town of Damariscotta, appointed by the Board of Selectmen to lead a community-driven visioning process to make the Damariscotta region a better place to live, work and play, do business and visit. Its work includes establishing and maintaining a long range planning process and incorporating public dialogue into ongoing planning efforts.