

**The Community Dispute Resolution Center's "Facing the Challenges of Growth Together:  
A Community Conversation on Land Use in Schuyler County"**

Notes from Tuesday March 18th 2008 Event

*The community's answers to our initial questions*

**1] Why do you live in Schuyler County?**

- Life long resident with some time away. Here because of the wilderness of the area and the beauty. First concern is environmental and the protection of our land and water. Very pleased with the movement that was taken on waste product spread on the hillsides of the Bergen Farms.
- To be near family
- Rural location
- Great place to live
- Family property here since 1968
- Rural area; "relatively" low taxes
- Seemed like the best place to raise our kids
- Quiet and beautiful, but close to cities
- Rural but walk-able nature of villages like Montour Falls and Watkins Glen
- Small community where you can get to know one another
- A place "where everyone knows your name"
- Safe
- Affordable
- Rural, agricultural, small villages, plenty of woods and swamps; affordable, quiet, mix of farmland, wooded hills; within reasonable driving distance to Ithaca
- Views of Seneca Lake
- The rural area; activities (shopping, etc.) are easily accessible
- The scenery and the calm lifestyle
- The gorges and natural landscape

**2] What is/are the most important places in the County and why?**

- Finger Lakes National Forest: unique and diverse habitats are a real treasure
- South Hill: born and own property there
- The farm lands and the rolling hills
- The historical architecture that gives us a sense of place is unique to us; gives us a sense of where we've been (Montour Falls especially)
- Watkins Glen State Park
- All the many waterfalls
- The State Fire Academy: an important building
- The farm stands and farmer markets
- Finger Lakes National Forest and Connecticut Hill
- My house on Mills Road in Montour; peaceful, quiet
- Connecticut Hill, lots of water
- Seneca Lake: recreation, drinking, aesthetics, fishing and water sports

**3] What has been your experience with the growth that's happening in Schuyler?**

- Seen increase in residential growth near Searsburg Road due to employment growth in Ithaca
- Positive effect: increased tax base
- The structures erected are not often aesthetically sensitive to our beautiful surroundings
- New buildings in Historic areas (Watkins Glen) need to be regulated
- Losing landscape to asphalt; adding “green” softens
- Losing property to politics
- Don't like land values going up due to incoming people
- Land is becoming “farmettes”: will this land continue to be productive or will it just become huge lawns?
- Things are changing quickly
- New buildings are ugly
- Interesting new neighbors; old houses are getting fixed up.
- Lack of respect for the unique qualities that make it so nice to live here.
- Increased density is causing an increase in disputes among neighbors

**4] How would you like to see Schuyler County grow?**

- Sustainably, smartly, and with forethought
- Agriculturally (more than one mention)
- In a way that addresses historic preservation (more than one mention)
- In a way that addresses tourism
- With a planned approach (more than one mention)
- In balance with quality of life
- In a way that protects the area through land use plans and practices
- Through more “off season” activities
- Only through tourism – not by increasing the population
- By adding more walking possibilities (pedestrian friendly streets and trails)
- By protecting our historic architecture
- With planning boards that are better trained to work with new development
- By adding scenic byways
- By protecting Seneca Lake
- Through innovation: smart people, smart companies
- Through energy initiatives: sustainable power production

**5] What are the most important things that happen in Schuyler?**

- Green Grand Prix, Grand Prix Festival, Earth Day
- Farming
- Hector Carnival
- Cardboard boat race
- The grape harvest
- Fireworks over Seneca Lake
- Road races
- Community
- Races/cardboard boat/hunting/fishing
- Italian festival
- Great fishing
- World class wine
- Agriculture
- Outdoor recreation
- Agriculture, local products, wineries