

Blaine Township Visioning Session Results
One Word Description

"One word"	Times Mentioned (Tables 1-6, 8-10, J)	Votes Received
Peaceful; peaceful / serene; tranquil, peaceful	1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 10	17
Beautiful; natural and seasonal beauty	1, 4, 6, 8, 9, J, MB	12
Rural; rural / agriculture	1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, ME	11
Agriculture; agricultural	5, 6, 8, 10	8
Irreplaceable	8	8
Recreation: fun and games, fishing, hunting; outdoor, sports; many recreational opportunities	2, 3, 8, 9, J	6
Scenery; scenic; scenic / beautiful	1, 5, 9, 10	6
Relaxing; relax, retreat, refresh	3, 4, 8, 9	5
Caring; caring / concerned	8, J	4
Wildlife; abundant wildlife; wildlife - lots	4, 5, 9, MB	3
Home	3, 4, 6	3
Lakes	5, MB	3
Fresh water and air	6	3
Natural resources, rich in	2	3
Population: sparse	6	3
Preserved	1	3
Pristine	5	3
Unchanging	10	3
Water/lake paradise	3	3
Friendly	2, 4, 6, 8, 9, J	2
Natural; natural / conservation	1, 6, 8, J	2
Quiet	1, 4, 5	2
Tourism / visitors; touristy	3, 9	2
Bountiful	6	2
Concerned, involved citizens	2	2
Diverse people / lifestyles / education / permanent and visitors	5	2
Economically challenged	5	2
Healthy	10	2
Neighborhood - family and friends	3	2
Picturesque	3	2
Protected	10	2
Quaint	MB	2
Waters, great	4	2
Fishing; good fishing; good / great fishing	2, 4, MB	1
Beaches; clean beaches	4, 5	1
Diverse land use	2, 6	1
Historic	8, 10	1
Low light pollution	5, 6	1
Animal habitat, good (bears)	2	1
Comfortable	1	1
Fractured	J	1
Haven	1	1

Blaine Township Visioning Session Results
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Laid back	4	1
Multi-generational	8	1
Talented people	4	1
Water, clean	2	1
Fruit; fruit - wild; fruit orchards	4, 5, MB	
Retired; retiree basis	3, 8	
Traditional	8, J	
Attracts tourism	2	
Boating	4	
Chosen destination	10	
Christian	8	
Church	3	
Diverse weather	5	
Diversity (natural, woods, lakes, farms, dunes)	10	
Economically diverse	2	
Farms	9	
Forests	5	
Heavenly	4	
Involved	8	
M-22	5	
Neighborly	8	
Not overly developed	MB	
Outdoorsy	2	
Population: older	2	
Safe	J	
Scenic Highway threads through it	10	
Seasonal	10	
Serene	2	
Small	MB	
Spacious	8	
Stars	5	
Sunsets, great	4	
Supportive	J	
Timeless (throwback to mid-20th century)	J	
Traffic, low	6	
Transportation	3	
Water, abundant	8	
Watershed, large	MB	
Wealth	3	

J: Table of Blaine residents who attended the Joyfield visioning session. Poster sheets marked "J 10"
 MB: Table of Blaine residents who attended the makeup visioning session. Poster sheets marked "MB 5"

Blaine Township Visioning Session Results
What We Have Done Well

"Done Well"	Times Mentioned (Tables 1-6, 8-10, J)	Votes Received
Conservancy and preservation: township has supported conserving natural land areas and shorelines; good stewards; maintaining natural beauty / resources; partnering with conservancy to protect land and shore; preservation of land and water; protecting land and shore	1, 4-6, 8-10	33
Eradicating turbine development; stopping wind energy program; moratorium on wind park	3, 4, MB	8
Zoning	1, 2, J	6
Township Hall; built and maintained improved Township Hall; location, facility, and voting at Township Hall	2, 3, 8, 9	4
Cemetery	3, 8	3
Lake stewardship (associations, watershed); protecting water quality in lakes; manage beaches	2, 5, 6	3
Property and owners have been respected ("left alone")	2	3
Dam maintenance on Lower Herring Lake	8	2
Fire/EMS response time	3	2
Recycling program	3, 4, 5	2
Social safety net	10	2
Township board performs well	6	2
Community involvement	1	1
Finding volunteers for township positions	9	1
Library; library support	1, 4	1
Movie theater	4	1
No bars	4	1
Property taxes	5	1
Benzie Bus	10	
Election day - process	8	
Fire department coverage	5	
No chain businesses	10	
Phragmites, baby's breath, garlic mustard	10	
Schools	3	
Snow plowing	5	
Tax assessments: township has been reasonable	9	
Unity and talking around controversial topics	2	
Use of highway money	4	
Maintain water access	1	
Wild loon program	6	
Betsie Valley Trail	MB	
10-acre land purchase requirement	MB	

Blaine Township Visioning Session Results
What We Could Have Done Better

"Could've Done Better"	Times Mentioned (Tables 1-6, 8-10, J)	Votes Received
Internet: access, high speed	1, 2, 3, 5, 8	21
Road repair; timely road repair; road repair / improvement; mprove roads; condition of local roads; secondary road snowplowing; better secondary roads	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, J, MB	16
Planning and zoning; long-range planning and zoning; promoting planned growth	4, 5, 6	7
Water / lake quality	3, 10	6
Natural gas and broadband utilities	9	5
DNR boat launch (too shallow)	3	4
Prevent rural sprawl	4	3
Assessor	8	2
Invasive species; zebra and quagga mussels	10, MB	1
Agriculture support	5	1
Collaboration efforts	10	1
Communication from board to people	8	1
Conservancy property acquisition that creates tax loss to county	J	1
Land division	6	1
No natural gas	5	1
Park space, more	9	1
Regulate billboards	9	1
Taking care of elderly and impoverished	MB	1
Active involvement of ALL	2	
Cemetery	8	
Closer recycling center	5	
Consolidate school districts	5	
Zoning inspection fees	4	
Light pollution	10	
Property taxes	5	
Township hall: better floor	3	

Blaine Township Visioning Session Results
Barriers to Our Goals

"Barriers to Our Goals"	Times Mentioned (Tables 1-6, 8-10, J)	Votes Received
Financial: Lack of funds; lack of general, public and private funding; public and private funding; money; lack of money for projects	3, 4, 6, 8-10, AM	26
Financial, public	1, 2, 5	22
No employment opportunities; lack of employment opportunities; lack of viable employment opportunities; lack of good paying jobs; jobs	1, 3, 6, 8, 10, J	7
Internet / broadband	10	7
Communication: lack of communication; communication poor in community; lack of information / communication	4, 8, MB	5
Diversity in community: tourism vs. agriculture; agricultural vs. recreational residents; diversity may create barriers	2, 3, 8	4
Apathy; low community involvement	6, 8	4
Township, county, and state government may not have same objectives; state rules block local decisions	2, 9	4
Awareness of community issues and moving to interest in issues	9	4
Bridging "livelihood" and "loveliness"	10	4
Clear goals	2	4
Lack of full-time residents	5	4
Poor economy; very poor economy	4, J	3
Participation; lack of interest and non-participation	10, MB	3
Build a better relationship with GTRLC	6	3
Fact finding and complete disclosure of options available	9	3
Incentives to preserve rural character	1	3
Need more local volunteers	5	3
Territorial disputes	8	3
Township/county government	5	3
Transparency	4	3
Unclear vision on zoning and other issues	2	3
Regulations; excessive government regulation; too much government	8, 10, J	2
Communication between planning board and public	4	2
Community unity: pioneer families vs. newcomers	5	2
Land division	6	2

Blaine Township Visioning Session Results
Barriers to Our Goals

Non-taxable land (protected properties)	3	2
Politics	3	2
Attendance at township meetings	4	1
DNR funds	3	1
Failure to focus on problems	5	1
Lack of community cooperation	9	1
Lack of consensus / political polarity: "It's my way or no way!"	J	1
Lack of diversity: predominantly agriculture and tourism	J	1
Lack of planned growth	6	1
Millage	4	1
Population: aging, small	3	1
Retirement: reluctant to assess taxes	3	1
Township leadership in tune with community's desires and needs	2	1
Unreasonable fear of change	9	1
Cable	10	
Cohesiveness between landowners	8	
Financial, private	5	
Lack of effective zoning	6	
Lack of local control	5	
Lack of leadership	4	
Local officials need more training	5	
Loosening dune protection	10	
Medical	3	
National and foreign policies are not fair to our nation and it trickles down to state and local government	J	
Shopping: TC or Cadillac only	3	
Urban problems becoming rural problems: drugs, crime	J	

Blaine Township Visioning Session Results
Who Should Be in the Sandbox

"Who Should Be in the Sandbox?"	Times Mentioned (Tables 1-6, 8-10, J)
Township officials; township board; township board members	1-6, 8, 9, J, MB
Michigan Department of Natural Resources	1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, MB
Benzie County Road Commission	1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, MB
Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy	1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 10
County; county commissioners; county government; county officials	3, 4, 5, 6, 8, MB
Benzie Conservation District; conservancy; conservation department; conservation district; conservation district offices	1, 4, 8, 10, J
Citizens; local citizens; general public - all citizens / residents; local people; entire community	1, 2, 3, 9, MB
Agricultural community; farmers	3, 4, 5, 9
Lake associations; Lower Herring Lake Association; UHLA, LHLA, Evergreen Shores etc.	3, 5, 6, 8
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality	1, 3, 8, MB
State government; State of Michigan; State elected officials	5, 6, MB
Township planning board	1, 8, MB
Emergency services	5, 8
Library	5, 6
Michigan Department of Transportation	1, 2
MSU Extension; MSU Regional Economic Planners	5, 6
Property owners	4, 8
School boards; school districts	5, J
Soil and Water Conservation District (BCD)	5, 9
Watershed associations; watershed	2, 10
"Farm to Table" MLUI	10
4H club representing youth	J
Benzie Bus	6
Benzie County Visitors' Bureau	J
Business owners	4
Churches	J
Consumers' Power	6
Department of Agriculture	6
Farm bureau	J
Fire department	6
Frankfort Rotary Club	J
Groebel Environment / Beckett & Raeder	10
Health services	10
Internet provider	10
Land owners	6
Non-resident property owners	4
Schools / youth / future generations	2
University resources	2
Zonta	J
Social service agencies	MB

Blaine Township Visioning Session Results
Envisioning Our Future

"Envision Your Community"	Times Mentioned (Tables 1-6, 8-10, J)	Votes Received
As is; just like it is today; little change; looks the same; same as is and upgraded; stay the same	3, 4, 5, 6, 8, J	23
Cleaner water; maintain clean water for drinking and recreation; improved water quality; clean lake with no phragmites, mussels, etc.; still maintaining healthy lakes and streams	1, 3, 8, 9, 10	22
High speed internet; better access to improved technology; broadband to bring young people to community; fast and affordable "good communication" technology; broadband internet and cable TV	3, 5, 8, 10, MB	20
Road improvement; better roads	3, 4, 5, 8, MB	13
Self-sustaining agriculture; maintain agricultural community; continue agricultural growth	5, 6, 10	11
Peace and serenity	2	8
Up-to-date technology	2	8
Scenic, peaceful, and RURAL	10, MB	7
Natural beauty, maintain	6	7
Natural gas access	4	7
Natural resources, keep	8	7
Protected water and wildlife resources	2	7
Retain small local businesses and farms	2	7
Maintain clean lakes and forests, maintain	5	6
Like it is, with better roads	1	6
Still scenic with plenty of natural beauty	9	6
Low density; maintain low residential density	5, 10	5
Good 21st century schools; improve schools	6, MB	5
Preservation efforts, maintain	1	5
Keep farm and residential mix; many healthy, operating farms	2, 9	4
No jetskis or ATVs on beach	8	4
Improved roads with biking and walking lanes; biking lane	2, MB	3
Ability to age in place	10	3
Collaboration for preservation goals	10	3
Community picnic, annual	1	3
Dark Park designation	1	3
Invasive aquatic species controlled; no invasive species	4, 8	2
Dark skies, maintain	5	2
Farmers selling produces from their farms	9	2
Get rid of blight	J	2
Low unemployment	3	2
Roads, farm-friendly	6	2

Blaine Township Visioning Session Results
Envisioning Our Future

School consolidation	3	2
Township needs some commercial space: grocery, produce market, laundromat	9	2
Trail development, more	6, MB	1
Affordable housing, more	5	1
Coordinated waste / recycling system	8	1
Employment, better year-round	5	1
Improved fishing opportunities (salmon)	6	1
Law enforcement; effective fire protection	3	1
Property improvement (with improved economy)	6	1
Starbucks	J	1
Township income increase	4	1
Underground utilities	2	1
Wind farms, none	J	1
Winery	J	1
Community center; community gathering place / watering hole	2, J, MB	
Growth in condensed areas; move toward more clustered, high-density residential	6, 9	
Ban jet skis	4	
Bigger trees	10	
Community social events and projects (unity)	2	
Cultural	1	
More bike paths	J	
More small businesses	8	
Organized	4	
Progressive energy generation and conservation on homeowner scale (solar, wind, etc.)	J	
Quietness	4	
Reduction in poverty	J	
Restored scenic pullouts on M-22	J	
Retirees, more	8	
Roads, bike-friendly	6	
Tourism, more and more year-round	5	
Transportation - continue bus	3	
Improve parks	MB	

Blaine Township Visioning Session Results
Accomplishing Our Vision

table	Keep it like it is with better roads	Maintain clean water for drinking and recreation	Maintain preservation efforts	Protect water and wildlife natural resources	Up-to-date technology (wi-fi, high speed internet, cable, buried utilities)
1	Lobby county road commission				
1	Strong zoning				
1	Funding				
1		Watershed planning			
1		Landowner stewardship			
1			Planning / zoning		
1			Community involvement		
2				Define standards for protection	
2				Enforcement; strengthen zoning; educate selves	
2				Monitor frequently	
2				Keep small, local farms	
2				Continue to attract tourists - roadside stands	
2				Support lake association	
2					Grants, private funds
2					Local support

Blaine Township Visioning Session Results
Accomplishing Our Vision (2)

table	Maintain peace and serenity	"As is"	Clean lakes	Fast and affordable internet / communications	Natural gas access
	Strengthen and clarify zoning;				
2	educate selves				
2	Stay the same				
3		Do nothing			
		Elect reps who follow the wishes of the public			
3		Increase "tourist" tax, such as room tax			
3			Monitor		
			Identify problems and take action to correct		
3			Pay the bill		
3			Engage entire community		
			Permit for out-of-staters		
3				Research	
3				identify provider, competitive bidding	
3				Sign up enough participants	
3				Pay the bill	
					Petition gas company - public and private effort
4					
					Funding - private and government
4					

Blaine Township Visioning Session Results
Accomplishing Our Vision (3)

table	Road improvements	Stay the same	Maintain clean lakes and forests	Maintain low residential density	Maintain natural beauty
4	Millage request				
	Request state				
4	funding				
	Lower weight				
4	limits on roads				
		Limit housing			
4		development			
		Community			
5		involvement			
5		Local control			
5		Funding			
		Responsible			
		zoning /			
5		ordinances			
			Community		
5			involvement		
5			Local control		
5			Lake associations		
			Involve BCD, DNR,		
			GTRLC, MSUE,		
5			agriculture		
5			Funding		
				Responsible	
				zoning /	
5				ordinances	
5				Training	
				Community	
5				involvement	
					Enlist cooperation
					of relevant
6					organizations
6					Planning
					Preserving diverse
6					land use
6					Water quality

Blaine Township Visioning Session Results
Accomplishing Our Vision (4)

table	Good, 21st-century schools	Looks the same	High speed internet	Keep natural resources
6	Common core standards (national standards)			
6	Relevant technology			
6	Small class sizes			
6	Maintain food-school program			
6		Continue agriculture		
6		Greater community involvement		
6		Support ongoing work of planning commission		
8			Funding - corporate investment	
8			Tower for Lower Lake	
8				Plan for future
8				Continue farming, logging, and reforestation
8				Destroy invasive species
8				Respect for nature and one another
8				Enforce existing pollution laws
8				Maintain septic systems
8				Keep relationship with conservancy

Blaine Township Visioning Session Results
Accomplishing Our Vision (5)

table	No jetskis or ATVs on beach	Maintain healthy lakes and streams	Still scenic with plenty of natural beauty	Still many healthy operating farms	Self-sustaining agriculture
8	Lansing law to allow locals to set regulations				
8	Enforce current laws for ATVs on beaches				
9		Continue to fund conservation district and lake sampling			
9		Watershed overly district and related zoning rules			
9			Update and maintain zoning ordinance		
9				Only as many rules as needed	
9				Respect the needs of small farms	
9				Encourage farm stands	
10					Farms sustainable and sustaining us
10					Continuing public education to eat locally

Blaine Township Visioning Session Results
Accomplishing Our Vision (6)

table	Self-sustaining agriculture	Scenic, peaceful, and rural	High speed internet	Get rid of blight	Winery
10	Farms sustainable and sustaining us				
10	Continuing public education to eat locally				
10		Zoning protecting our natural resources			
10		Volunteer to pull garlic mustard, etc.			
10			A lot of support!		
J				Enforce existing ordinances	
J				Organize community cleanup efforts	
J					Make zoning "friendly and open" to this type of business
J					Develop a market

Blaine Township Visioning Session Results
Accomplishing Our Vision (7)

table	Just like it is today	Better roads	Keep rural feel	Broadband
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J Careful zoning that maintains the essential character of the township

J Public awareness

MB Find funding - state and federal grants

MB Continually updated zoning

MB Coordinate with other communities

Blaine Township Visioning Session Results
Collective Prioritization

Collective Prioritization	Votes
Maintain health and quality of lakes, streams, forests; watershed planning	55
Maintain rural community ("stay the same")	42
High speed internet service, cable or tower, fast and affordable	31
Healthy, operating, sustainable farms	27
Maintain scenic beauty of township	20
Road improvements	10
Responsible zoning and planning specific to the township	8
Access to natural gas lines	6
Good schools for 21st century	2
Maintain natural resources within township	1
Support planning commission	1
Increase tourist tax for revenue	1
Maintain farm-to-school food program	
Keep low residential density / limit housing development	