MEMORANDUM

TO: Bolton Planning Commission
FROM: Emily Nosse-Leirer, Planner
DATE: November 9, 2015
RE: Selected Results from the 2017 Town Plan Community Survey

Goals in order of prioritization

1.Growing the tax base
2.Bringing more jobs to the town
3.Supporting the working landscape
4.Promoting community spirit and community involvement
5.Encouraging alternative energy production
6.Improving the quality of roads and bridges
7.Preventing flooding
8.Conserving land
9.Increasing the amount of affordable housing
10.Increasing opportunities for youth

Other goals suggested by more than one person:

- Support the resort/helping Bolton Valley stay viable: 5 people
- Keeping Smilie open: 5 people
- More local businesses: 2 people
- An interstate interchange: 2 people
- Lower property taxes: 2 people
- Creating more of a village center on Route 2: 2 people
- “Smart” development: 2 people
- Maintaining formal and informal recreation opportunities: 2 people

Most creative 5-word descriptions:

- “A jewel in the rough.”
- “Close, but very far away.”
- “Paradise, populated by very special people.”
- “Winter snow globe, summer paradise.”
- “The heart of the Green Mountains”
- “Rugged, rural, recreation, resilience, regulations.”
- “Narrow valley with a ski area.”
- “There is no better place.”
Most common words used to answer “Describe Bolton in 5 words:”
Where Respondents Live

- Duxbury River: 16%
- Route 2: 21%
- Bolton Valley: 27%
- West Bolton: 7%

Age of Respondents

- <20: 1%
- 20-30: 4%
- 31-40: 16%
- 41-50: 16%
- 51-60: 28%
- 61-70: 8%
- 71-80: 4%
- 80+: 0%

Answers to "What do you value about Bolton?"

- Natural beauty or other natural resources: 47%
- Small-town/rural atmosphere: 28%
- Connection with other residents: 69%
- Agricultural heritage: 41%

Answers to "Why do you live in Bolton?"

- I like living in a rural town: 58%
- I like being close to outdoor recreation like hiking and skiing: 48%
- It is convenient to commute from here: 33%
- It’s a good place to raise a family: 32%
- I have strong relationships with my neighbors and other members of the community: 22%
- My family and/or friends are nearby: 18%
- Housing costs are affordable: 16%
- I grew up here and have always liked it: 6%