



**Bolton Planning Commission
Route 2 Neighborhood Forum
Smilie School, 2712 Theodore Roosevelt Hwy, Bolton VT
October 15, 2015 from 6-8pm**

At the forum, residents discussed the issues facing their neighborhood. Conversation was guided by the questions below.

What are the best things and what do you value about the Route 2 area?

- Beautiful fall colors
- Beautiful Joiner Brook
- Rural
- Foliage, friendly people
- Wild game
- Recreation activities
- Wildness, bears
- Hiking access
- Access to Camel's Hump and the Winooski
- Neighborly support
- Small town, feels like home
- No street lights
- New paving on Route 2
- Access to backcountry
- Easy and quick commute
- Good neighbors
- Out in the country
- Short commute but still in the country
- Kitchen window view of Camel's Hump
- Great neighbors

What do you hope will stay the same in the Route 2 area?

- Everything listed above
- Peaceful nature of town
- Keeping views clear—no windtowers to ruin the views

- The view brings people into town
- Small town character—no dollar stores, strip malls, etc.
- Keep I89 the way it is—no exit, no more traffic!
- Keeping Bolton Valley solvent
- No solar panels disturbing the view
- Maintain scenic vistas and wildlife corridors—but no wildlife overpasses. Underpasses are OK.

What ideas do you have for the future of the Route 2 area?

- Small business development in some of the open spaces along Route 2
- Pop-up shops or a food truck in the Smilie parking lot during busy seasons
 - “Food with a view!”
- Volunteer driver networks for seniors and others
- Park and Ride in Latham’s parking lot?
- Need to use or clean up abandoned places—they’re eyesores
- The eyesore trailers on Route 2 by Jonesville also need to be fixed

What do you hope will change in the Route 2 area?

- Add an exit on I89—it could help with public safety in the event of an emergency
- Jogging track on town property in the flood plain, or a community garden and park
- Better access to the river
- Review and assess floodplain, seek a full engineering study for the town to address the fact that the flood level drops four feet at the Richmond/Bolton border
- Huge change in the culture of the potholes is needed.
 - They’re dangerous, there are tons of issues with parking, people use the bathroom everywhere because there are no facilities, there are drugs and people having sex, etc.
 - It should be family oriented again
 - Visitors don’t respect property rights of the Pothole’s owners
 - Long term camping takes place near them, probably with social and environmental impact
 - There hasn’t been much support for regulating the potholes in the past—the town tried to work with The River Conservancy and it was not effective
 - Would signage help?
 - Could a food truck park in the Smilie parking lot and provide a way for visitors to spend money and a trash can?
- Better trail maintenance is needed

Ideas and Thoughts about the Whole Town?

- More town events, led by enthusiastic people like Kim and Allison
- Community sports leagues?

- People like school events more than town events and are more likely to attend. Bolton is like 4 tiny towns in one because people are so separated.
- More winter events: Game night? Movie night? Carnival? Etc.
- Need a volunteer coordinator
- Need to create, maintain and improve recreational opportunities
- Need livable, affordable tax rates
- Need elder care so people can age in place and keep the support of their communities
- Volunteer workers are needed for those in need—and a way to link volunteers with those who need work done
- Could the town benefit from time banking, such as what's done by Onion River Exchange?
- There should be a listing of town businesses online, or a section for paid advertising on the town website
- The town should focus on building community spirit somehow, maybe by shifting events around town
- **If Smilie School closed, what should be done with the building?**
 - It's already a great rental place for parties. By charging a small fee for lots of events, the town can help pay for upkeep and add money to the general fund
 - It could become a senior center—it's already ADA compliant
 - However it's important to note that Richmond is already building one
 - It could be converted into studio apartments
 - It could be the winter location of something like the Waterbury Flea Market
 - It could provide space for a full size town library