

2011 Bolton Community Survey Results

64 surveys were returned

Note:

- Not every survey was fully completed.
- Some surveys were “overly” completed – additional boxes checked.
- Where applicable, percentage results follow numbered results.

1. What do you appreciate most about living in Bolton? (Check Top 5)

Note: Top 5 responses highlighted

24 Sense of Community	19 Outdoor recreation	9 Personal and family safety
43 Rural Character	45 Natural environment	10 Home, property
13 Family ties	8 Working at home	2 Affordability
31 Privacy, peace, quiet	34 Scenic beauty	6 Available services
17 School	15 Community events	8 Bolton Valley Resort
25 Neighbors	7 Location in relation to work	4 State land (parks, forests)

Note: percentages add up to 500% as question asked for top 5 answers

38% Sense of Community	31% Outdoor recreation	14% Personal and family safety
47% Rural Character	71% Natural environment	15% Home, property
20% Family ties	12% Working at home	3% Affordability
48% Privacy, peace, quiet	54% Scenic beauty	10% Available services
27% School	23% Community events	12% Bolton Valley Resort
39% Neighbors	10% Location in relation to work	6% State land (parks, forests)

2. What are the five most critical issues facing Bolton over the next 10 years? (Check Top 5)

Note: Top 5 responses highlighted

17 Development pressure	32 School consolidation	7 Flooding, natural hazards
36 Success of ski area	26 Energy, fuel shortages	5 Crime
29 Changing climate, weather	16 Day care	3 Environmental degradation
42 Cost of living	9 Senior housing	11 Public access to land, trails
10 Aging population	12 Affordable housing	19 Road improvements
48 Property taxes	7 Transportation alternatives	4 Local food supply
4 Access to goods, services	3 Traffic, speeding	13 Access to jobs

Note: percentages add up to 550% as question asked for top 5 answers, and some surveys marked more than 5 answers

27% Development pressure	50% School consolidation	11% Flooding, natural hazards
56% Success of ski area	41% Energy, fuel shortages	8% Crime
45% Changing climate, weather	25% Day care	4% Environmental degradation
66% Cost of living	14% Senior housing	17% Public access to land, trails
15% Aging population	19% Affordable housing	30% Road improvements
75% Property taxes	11% Transportation alternatives	6% Local food supply
6% Access to goods, services	4% Traffic, speeding	20% Access to jobs

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3. Please rate the following facilities and services:

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion
a. Town office (facility)	22	22	15	3	2
b. Town administration	17	29	6	7	5
c. Development regulation	14	24	10	3	12
d. Health regulation	11	22	9	6	11
e. Town planning	10	19	8	5	18
f. Town highways	16	22	11	9	4
g. State highways	8	21	23	7	3
h. Winter road maintenance	18	27	3	12	4
i. Summer road maintenance	16	29	5	10	4
j. Fire protection	14	28	5	3	12
k. Emergency medical services	7	20	18	12	8
l. Emergency/disaster response	9	23	15	7	9
m. Police protection (state police)	4	17	21	13	6
n. Phone service	13	17	14	17	2
o. Internet/broadband service	15	23	10	2	12
p. Outdoor recreation facilities	17	25	2	2	16
q. Indoor recreation facilities	9	13	8	5	15
r. Child care services	6	18	16	7	15
s. Senior services, programs	14	12	8	3	17
t. Smilie School (facility)	23	16	5	3	14
u. Educational services	21	18	7	2	14
v. Community events, programs	10	21	12	14	7
w. Trash, recycling services	26	15	9	7	4
x. Electrical utility service	17	23	4	9	8
y. Fuel services (e.g., heating, propane)	12	13	10	5	12

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion
a. Town office (facility)	34%	34%	24%	5%	3%
b. Town administration	26%	45%	9%	11%	9%
c. Development regulation	22%	38%	16%	5%	19%
d. Health regulation	19%	37%	15%	10%	19%
e. Town planning	17%	32%	13%	8%	30%
f. Town highways	26%	35%	18%	15%	6%
g. State highways	13%	34%	37%	11%	5%
h. Winter road maintenance	28%	42%	5%	19%	6%
i. Summer road maintenance	25%	45%	9%	15%	6%
j. Fire protection	23%	45%	8%	5%	24%
k. Emergency medical services	11%	31%	28%	18%	12%
l. Emergency/disaster response	14%	37%	24%	11%	14%
m. Police protection (state police)	7%	28%	34%	21%	10%
n. Phone service	21%	27%	22%	27%	3%
o. Internet/broadband service	24%	37%	17%	3%	20%
p. Outdoor recreation facilities	27%	40%	3%	5%	26%
q. Indoor recreation facilities	18%	26%	16%	10%	30%

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	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	No Opinion
r. Child care services	10%	29%	26%	11%	24%
s. Senior services, programs	26%	22%	15%	6%	32%
t. Smilie School (facility)	38%	26%	9%	5%	23%
u. Educational services	34%	29%	11%	3%	23%
v. Community events, programs	15%	33%	19%	22%	11%
w. Trash, recycling services	42%	25%	15%	11%	7%
x. Electrical utility service	28%	28%	7%	15%	13%
y. Fuel services (e.g., heating, propane)	23%	23%	19%	10%	23%

4. Are there additional facilities or services the town should plan for over the next 10 to 20 years?

List:

- **A train station for Amtrak trains to pull skiers from Montreal/Boston/NY (xs 2)**
- **After school programs**
- **Be more development friendly, especially for ski area for winter and summer recreation and development**
- **Better planning for the town owned buildings; maintenance/improvements**
- **Bike/rec path by the river**
- **Cell and cable services**
- **Community center**
- **Day care**
- **Driving range**
- **Energy projects – solar/small scale wind projects**
- **Farmer’s market**
- **Historical society space with local treasures of historic Bolton**
- **I89 Bolton Exit (xs 6)**
- **Ice skating rink**
- **Improve highways/culverts (xs 3)**
- **Improved town center**
- **Keep the school open! Only community facility other than town “hall”**
- **Local grocery**
- **Make sure there is a program in case of another Irene or some other disaster**
- **More activities for teens**
- **Natural gas infrastructure**
- **Outdoor music venue**
- **Park and ride facility (xs 2)**
- **Parks/skateboard parks**
- **Passenger train service to Burlington and Montpelier (xs 3)**
- **Pave Notch Road**
- **Police services**
- **Public library (xs 5)**
- **Recreation center; pool, courts, etc.**
- **Restaurants and B & Bs in the village**
- **RT 2 bike lanes**
- **RT 2 public transportation (xs 5) / to other towns with services**
- **Security**
- **Sidewalks around village to trailer park**
- **Subsidized condos for mixed elderly/low income/regular people**

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- The Rt 2 corridor is totally underutilized and seemingly unplanned
- Water improvement at Bolton
- Way to attract new businesses, including agricultural and forestry businesses (xs 4), and a mod size business to anchor the future's tax base
- We should downsize fire/school

5. Do you support school district consolidation and why?

Yes **29**

Yes **46%**

- Better opportunities district wide
- Combine the administration and the decreased enrollment
- Efficiency (xs 2); however I would be very sad to see Smilie close
- Elementary school is too small
- Expense/less expensive per student (xs 3)
- I believe that consolidation may actually be a step toward keeping our local school open rather than a step toward closing it as others have said
- If enrollment continues to decline, consolidation may be necessary (xs 2)
- In reference to board consolidation
- It's what's best for the kids
- Less volunteers needed
- Not enough resources for so few students
- Not so difficult to manage for superintendent
- Reduce costs
- Smilie is too small to provide for the programming other schools do
- Too expensive to maintain a small school (xs 3)
- We don't need to pay for a building that's partly empty
- Yes if there is tax savings
- Yes, if it gives me a tax break for something I don't use (no children in system)

No **13**

No **21%**

- Because Smilie School needs to stay open for the good of the community; not just educational but also because of broad support of families in need (i.e. food, clothing drives etc.)
- Believe the school should stay, it's good for the community
- Small children shouldn't have to travel long distances to school.
- Small children should be schooled in a caring-local-community based environment
- Grades K- 6 need to stay close to home, many reasons
- Smilie is unique in its small nurturing environment
- Smilie School is the glue of the community
- It should remain with its town for decisions, not full district
- Young students on bus way too long
- Loss of local representation, potential loss of school (xs 2) (Smilie, as it is, would disappear forever)
- Smilie IS Bolton

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Not Sure 21

Not Sure 33%

- **Children grown up**
- **Depends on how far location would be from Bolton**
- **Don't know anything about it**
- **In favor of concept, like having Smilie School worry it will close, like idea of school choice & cost savings**
- **Larger schools can serve kids better at lower cost, but we can lose what little local control still exists**
- **No children in the system**

6. If the Smilie school student population were to drop below 40 students, would you support school closure?

Yes 34

No 12

Not sure 18

Yes 53%

No 19%

Not sure 28%

If Smilie School were to be closed, should the town plan for its use as a community facility?

Yes 49 No 2 Not sure 10 Yes 80% No 3% Not sure 17%

- **Depends on financial implications for the town**
- **Don't think we would have enough demand, and very expensive**
- **Only for community, not commercial or private use**
- **Parking for the potholes!**
- **Rent space to businesses**
- **Sell it to a private business**
- **Use as a 2 – 3 room school and use the rest for other community purpose; business startup, office rentals, community library, community childcare, elder care program**

7. Should the town install and maintain a local park-and-ride facility? Yes 33 No 17 Not Sure 13

If so, where do you suggest?

Yes 52% No 27% Not Sure 21%

- **At proposed Long Trail parking lot**
- **Behind the Bolton store – old gas company area**
- **Below I89 bridge/crossing**
- **Bottom of Notch Road**
- **Cider house BBQ lot**
- **Fire station, tear down building!**
- **In front of Fernwood Manor on west side**
- **Latham trailer sales lot (xs 4)**
- **Location previously considered, next to interstate (xs 3)**
- **Near Smilie School (xs 2)**
- **Near town office/fire station (xs 3)**
- **Rt 2 convenient to Fernwood and Access Road**
- **Rt 2 on any land already owned between town office/store and Jonesville area (xs 4)**
- **Siegal's field**

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Additional Comments:

- **Not enough need right now, don't spend more \$\$**
- **Not necessary**
- **The ones in Richmond and Waterbury have room**

8. Should the town develop a 20-year village plan (Route 2) – for higher density commercial and residential development, community facilities, and supporting infrastructure (e.g., sidewalks, water, wastewater)? Yes **33** No **13** Not sure **17**

Yes **52%** No **21%** Not sure **27%**

- **Flood plain concerns (xs 4)**
- **Is significant development anticipated?**
- **Unsure of need for supporting infrastructure**
- **Yes, as long as West Bolton wasn't totally left out of long range infrastructure change**
- **Yes, clustered housing and businesses consume less land, is more affordable, and leaves more land for open space**

9. Do you support additional land acquisition and conservation projects in Bolton

By nonprofits (e.g., Green Mountain Club, VT-CRAG, VT Land Trust)? Yes **39** No **12** Not Sure **11**

Yes **63%** No **19%** Not Sure **18%**

By the State? (e.g., state forests, parks, wildlife management areas)? Yes **38** No **15** Not Sure **9**

Yes **62%** No **24%** Not Sure **14%**

If not, why?

- **All projects should be voted on by town people – no more cutting new hiking trails without a vote.**
- **Enough already!**
- **It is off tax income for the town**
- **Loss of tax dollars/let's increase our tax base, not decrease it**
- **State can't afford to maintain current property/does a poor job (xs 2)**
- **Takes property out of the tax base.**
- **The more "big brother" takes ownership of tracts of land in the town, the less control we individuals will have over the use of our property, and ultimately over our own lives**
- **There is enough state owned land**
- **These do not add to our tax base and I do not support the additional tax that will be asked of us in March**
- **We can't afford it**
- **We have a lot of public land, there may be some exceptions, but the Green Mountain Club routinely bans timber harvesting anywhere near its trails and motorized trail crossings of its trails.**

Additional Comments:

- **Depends on property & plan to use it**
- **Depends on the obligations and agreements and effect**
- **Support – but should be strategic – target most valued properties (high conservation values)**

10. Should the town consider purchasing the Preston-LaFreniere Farm property – one of two properties in town that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places – which is scheduled for sale by the state? Yes 14 No 23 Not Sure 26

Yes 22% No 37% Not Sure 41%

- **It's better in private hands**
- **Let the state or private owners take control of the property**
- **Not if this means from property tax**
- **Where is this located?**

If so, do you have some ideas for its use by the community?

- **Agricultural working museum. The barn is a type not built after 1821, but is in bad shape**
- **All uses must be permitted or don't buy it – keep haying it**
- **Ball & recreation area (xs 2)**
- **Community/meeting space (xs 2)**
- **Golf course**
- **Summer camps and field trips for river, flood plain, Native American, & interdependence studies (curriculum studies)**
- **Historical society (xs 2)**
- **Museum (xs 2)**
- **Nature center**
- **Public trails; multi use**
- **Rent/lease as an agricultural resource**
- **Rental place for events like the Monitor Barn – how about contact the Kingdom Trails in Burke and Fellowship of the Wheel...the P/L Farm could be a bike center! Connect VAST trails and Bolton Valley Nordic trails and Catamount Trail...the P/L building could be a small café and bike center with a few bike tools...Burke can do it, so can we...I'll even work the counter of the bike center! :)**
- **Something the community could use year around**
- **Town park/playground (xs 2)**
- **Town pool (xs 2)**
- **Walking trails**
- **Well-designed housing subdivisions with their own wells & septic systems will add to the tax base and create jobs**

11. Should the town continue to maintain its Conservation Fund to help finance local conservation projects? Yes 45 No 9 Not sure 7

Yes 74% No 15% Not sure 11%

- **If the money comes from property taxes it should be scrapped and taxes lowered. If finding comes from non-tax sources, it should be kept**

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If yes, how should the fund be used? Please indicate a priority level for each type of project:

	High	Moderate	Low	Not for this
Natural resource protection (e.g., natural communities, critical wildlife habitat)	32	13	4	1
Scenic resource protection (e.g., scenic views)	20	20	9	1
Land conservation (e.g., farm, forest land)	24	21	7	1
Historic preservation (historic sites, structures)	11	22	14	2
Resource inventory, mapping studies	7	17	19	4
Public land acquisition (parks, rec areas)	18	19	7	3
Outdoor recreation (access, trail easements)	20	19	8	1
Multiple values (must address more than one type) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't know what this means (xs 3) 	14	13	8	4
Infrastructure projects (e.g., trail improvements, signs)	10	26	6	4
Other: Get ATVs licensed, keep them out!				

	High	Moderate	Low	Not for this
Natural resource protection (e.g., natural communities, critical wildlife habitat)	64%	26%	8%	2%
Scenic resource protection (e.g., scenic views)	40%	40%	18%	2%
Land conservation (e.g., farm, forest land)	45%	40%	13%	2%
Historic preservation (historic sites, structures)	22%	46%	28%	4%
Resource inventory, mapping studies	15%	36%	41%	8%
Public land acquisition (parks, rec areas)	38%	40%	15%	7%
Outdoor recreation (access, trail easements)	42%	40%	16%	2%
Multiple values (must address more than one type)	36%	34%	20%	10%
Infrastructure projects (e.g., trail improvements, signs)	22%	57%	13%	8%

If yes, how should the Conservation Fund be financed? Check all that apply:

- 23** Annual town budget (property tax)
- 11** Special appropriations (property tax)
- 40** Grants
- 36** Local fundraising, donations
- 6** Other:
 - **Annually to build reserve; other for special projects**
 - **Dances**
 - **25/75 raffles**
 - **No more taxes! (xs 3)**

Note: percentages add up to more than 100% as some surveys marked more than 1 answer.

- 35%** Annual town budget (property tax)
- 17%** Special appropriations (property tax)
- 62%** Grants
- 56%** Local fundraising, donations
- 9%** Other:

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12. Which types of development should the town actively plan for and promote over the next 10 to 20 years? Please indicate your level of support for the following:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Opinion
Village retail and services, Route 2	22	21	5	3 flood plain concerns	3
Village residential, Route 2	14	19	12	4	6
Resort, Bolton Valley	32	23	3	1	1
Village retail and services, Bolton Valley	22	26	5	0	8
Village residential, Bolton Valley	15	23	5	2	9
Village residential, West Bolton	8	25	11	3	6
Scattered rural residential	3	19	14	5	10
Clustered rural residential	8	19	13	7	7
Affordable housing	10	23	14	3	3
Senior housing	4	31	12	0	9
Assisted living facility	2	20	18	3	10
Home based businesses	17	29	3	1	6
Forestry, forest-based businesses	13	25	7	0	9
Farming, farm-based businesses	18	28	3	0	8
Sand and gravel extraction, quarrying	5	14	29	4	6
Community center	13	25	9	3 use the school	5
Outdoor recreation facilities	17	28	9	2	4
Indoor recreation facilities	12	26 regional ice rink	8	1	8
Non-motorized trail networks	16	29	4	2	4
Motorized trail networks	5	14	21	10	6
Telecommunications (broadband, cable)	24	26	1	1	6
Large (utility, mountaintop) wind energy	18	24	7	6	2
Small net-metered wind, solar energy	26	27	2	3	1
Municipal/community energy generation	21 Only if no taxes involved	17	9	3	4
Other: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I 89 Exit (xs 2) • Let the market dictate what comes here, then review under zoning with public hearings on anything major. Small lot zoning is good – housing must be more affordable, leaves more land for open space • Light industry (xs 2) • Motorized trails for kids • Mountain biking • Public library (xs 3) 					

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	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Opinion
Village retail and services, Route 2	42%	39%	9%	6%	6%
Village residential, Route 2	25%	35%	22%	7%	11%
Resort, Bolton Valley	53%	38%	5%	2%	2%
Village retail and services, Bolton Valley	36%	43%	8%	0%	13%
Village residential, Bolton Valley	28%	43%	9%	4%	17%
Village residential, West Bolton	15%	47%	21%	6%	11%
Scattered rural residential	6%	37%	27%	10%	20%
Clustered rural residential	15%	35%	24%	13%	13%
Affordable housing	19%	43%	26%	6%	6%
Senior housing	7%	55%	21%	0%	16%
Assisted living facility	4%	38%	34%	6%	19%
Home based businesses	30%	52%	5%	2%	11%
Forestry, forest-based businesses	24%	46%	13%	0%	17%
Farming, farm-based businesses	32%	49%	5%	0%	14%
Sand and gravel extraction, quarrying	9%	24%	50%	7%	10%
Community center	25%	48%	17%	6%	10%
Outdoor recreation facilities	28%	47%	15%	3%	7%
Indoor recreation facilities	22%	41%	15%	2%	15%
Non-motorized trail networks	29%	53%	7%	4%	7%
Motorized trail networks	9%	25%	38%	18%	11%
Telecommunications (broadband, cable)	41%	45%	2%	2%	10%
Large (utility, mountaintop) wind energy	32%	42%	12%	11%	4%
Small net-metered wind, solar energy	44%	46%	3%	5%	2%
Municipal/community energy generation	39%	31%	17%	6%	7%

13. Are you retired or intend to retire and live in Bolton? Yes **21** No **24** Not Sure **18**
 Yes **33%** No **38%** Not Sure **29%**

If so, what services and facilities would you like to have available locally?

- **Bigger grocery store**
- **Bolton zip code**
- **Good well maintained roads**
- **Like it as it is**
- **Local health care/ MD**
- **Meeting space/community center**
- **More variety of local retail businesses (xs 2) (that cater to the wide array of outdoorsy stuff that happens here all year)**
- **More jobs**
- **Park & ride**
- **Pharmacy**
- **Public transportation (xs 6)/ bus/van services**
- **School consolidation**
- **Whistle stop on the RR**

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Additional Comments:

- **Our house is valued way more than what we could ever sell it for, keep taxes manageable**
- **Too expensive**
- **Would choose a larger town when retiring**

14. As a small town, Bolton relies heavily on volunteers to serve on local boards and to sponsor community programs and events. Do you currently serve on one or more local boards or as a community volunteer? Yes 15 No 40

Yes 27% No 73%

Would you like to volunteer? Yes 7 No 19 Not sure 18

Yes 17% No 43% Not sure 40%

If not, why not? No interest 3 No time 14 Scheduling conflicts 7 Qualifications 2

No interest 11% No time 54% Scheduling conflicts 27% Qualifications 8%

Other:

- **Already served many years in past (xs 4)**
- **Do not agree with the leadership direction the town is going**
- **Family health prevents**
- **Large time commitment, can't afford that right now**
- **Not aware of opportunities**
- **Plenty to do now**
- **Will be moving**
- **Will have more time as kids grow - later can participate more**

15. The Town of Bolton was incorporated in 1763 – how should Bolton celebrate its 250th birthday in 2013?

- **A day at Bolton Valley; fireworks, craft sales, chair rides, outdoor meal/potluck, bungee jumping, raffles for free nights/passes, free kid activities, \$2.50 cider, \$2.50 skiing etc. (xs 4)**
- **Community BBQ (xs 4) (Smilie School)**
- **Cut the ribbon on a factory opening**
- **Events (xs 2) – a group of volunteers/committee to plan?**
- **Fireworks (xs 3)**
- **Get a zip code!**
- **Giant beer party at Baher's**
- **Heritage festival**
- **Ice cream social**
- **Live music (xs 2)**
- **Local history book/historical presentation (xs 2)**
- **Local paddle**
- **Local food celebration/start up**
- **Music festival**
- **Parade (xs 4)**
- **Party (xs 5) with cake (xs 3) with photo booth w/ 1763 clothing**
- **Photo album**
- **Picnic (xs 3)**
- **Plant 250 of a distinctive kind of tree**
- **Potluck**

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Home 12% Bolton 12% Waterbury 7% Richmond 3% Williston 11% Burlington Area 48% Montpelier 8%

Other:

- **Essex/Essex Junction – 6%**
- **Jericho - 3%**
- **New Jersey – 1%**
- **South Duxbury – 1%**

Note: percentages add up to more than 100% as some surveys marked more than 1 answer.

How many miles is your average commute from home to work (one-way)?

Miles: 0 - 1	2 - 5	6 - 10	11 - 15	16 - 20	21 - 25	26 - 30	31 - 35	36 - 40	Other
3	1	4	6	16	14	4	0	1	350 30k/year

Miles: 0 - 1	2 - 5	6 - 10	11 - 15	16 - 20	21 - 25	26 - 30	31 - 35	36 - 40	Other
6%	2%	8%	12%	31%	27%	8%	0	2%	4%

Do you carpool? Yes 9 No 48 Sometimes 4

Yes 15% No 79% Sometimes 6%

Do you use public transportation? Yes 4 No 57 Sometimes 3

Yes 6% No 89% Sometimes 5%

Do you bike to work? Yes 3 No 58

Yes 5% No 95%

- **Motorcycle when possible**

Where do you do most of your shopping?

Bolton 2 Waterbury 9 Richmond 23 Williston 43 Burlington Area 23 On-line 7 (more than one place checked)

Other:

- **All of the above - 1**
- **Essex Junction – 5**
- **Barre/Montpelier Road area – 1**

Note: percentages add up to more than 100% as some surveys marked more than 1 answer.

Bolton 3% Waterbury 14% Richmond 35% Williston 67% Burlington Area 35% On-line 10%

Other:

- **All of the above – 1%**
- **Essex Junction – 7%**
- **Barre/Montpelier Road area – 1%**

What is your primary source of home heating?

Heating Oil 14 Propane 28 Wood 24 Passive Solar 2 (solar comments: **Need back up for this in VT!, and I don't think it is possible in VT to have passive solar be primary – is this a trick option? :)**)

Other:

- **Kerosene - 2**
- **Pellet stove – 3**

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Heating Oil 21% Propane 43% Wood 37% Passive Solar 3%

Other:

- **Kerosene – 3%**
- **Pellet stove – 5%**

Note: percentages add up to more than 100% as some surveys marked more than 1 answer.

Additional comments:

- **You should use survey monkey, it'll make your work easier**
- **Good survey – good idea – hope you get a good response**
- **We need interstate ramps please!**
- **We need to take a close look at what we can afford as a rural community**

See following scanned 1 page attachment with comments

Comments

20011 Bolton Community Survey

The most critical issue facing Bolton right now is fact that we have a small population, tax base, which limits the Town's ability to finance the current & increasing needs of the community.

The Select Board must look at the reality of sustaining this level of increasing expenses & the Town's limited financial resources.

Yes, we need the Ski Area to be financially successful. The Town cannot control how the economy grows or how the owners manage their resources.

The reality is that the Town has no real commercial tax base & cannot grow one given the current Town regulations & general economic climate.

Yes, the Town could try to encourage Route 2 development but, it cannot happen. It just is not viable based on existing patterns of the area, Chittenden County, development. Did anyone say flood plain?

Residential densities, clusters, should be increased but, the Planning Commission has moved in the opposite direction. Why did they increase lot size? Not because of any health & safety issues! Why the merging of previously subdivided preexisting lots? This only lowers the Town's Grand List it does not expand it. Less lots = less taxes. The tax payers lose. Bolton's limited residential tax base is shrinking or at least stagnant relative to the increasing needs of the community.

Talk all you want about planning & zoning to encourage commercial development or residential density bonuses for clustered development. The fact is that Bolton is a no growth community, a Not In My Backyard Town, a bedroom community with limited potential for growth.

The Select Board needs to realize that the Town of Bolton cannot afford to maintain/sustain its current & increasing levels of spending.

With Departments in Richmond, Jericho & Waterbury the Bolton Fire department is a luxury & has become a Black Hole for our tax dollars. The current & continued need/requirement for state of the art equipment & facilities drains financial resources away from other important community needs. Disband the Fire Department, sell the assets & tear down the building for use as a Park & Ride. The Town of Bolton/Smiley School just does not have the resources to expose the students to the same level of learning opportunities as other area schools. Shrinking enrollments & increasing expenses are not sustainable. Direct the School Board to develop a fast track plan for consolidation with Richmond/Jericho. Sell Smiley, convert it to Town Offices, a community center or develop business rentals.

Take care of our roads! School buses, cars, SSTA vans, utility trucks, garbage trucks, fuel trucks, even fire trucks need good roads & continual maintenance. Hire a Road Foreman & Crew that does not wait to plow & sand the roads until someone goes in the ditch. Someone who really knows how to build a road, drive a grader, crown a road, etc.