



**Bolton Planning Commission  
Duxbury Road Neighborhood Forum  
Kilpeck Barn, 895 Duxbury Road, Bolton VT  
October 1, 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 Duxbury Road/Back River area?**

- Family heritage
- Long family histories
- Being “born and raised” here
- Small town
- “Growing up in Bolton” Facebook group
- Access to nature
- Moose
- Wildlife in our yards
- Knowing your neighbors
- Neighbors always willing to help
- History of the area by Honey Hollow Road
- Pretty close to Burlington, Waterbury, Richmond
- Still farming here

**What do you hope will stay the same?**

- Family will stay here
- There can't really be much change—mountains on one side, river on the other
- Easy access to outdoor recreation
- Everything that we said for the first question

**What ideas do you have for the future?**

- Need police for speed/driving enforcement on Duxbury Road
- Traffic calming on Duxbury Road, maybe with narrower fog lines like in Richmond
- Parking on this side of the river for the Long Trail bridge
- More businesses

**What do you hope will change?**

- Bikes on the roads are unsafe, especially when they're riding 3 abreast
  - It's hard to see them around curves, so turning curves can be dangerous

- Logging trucks and big trucks from the gravel pit drive too fast on the road, and drive out of their lanes/into the other lane on the road
- Need safer roads
- Might benefit from speed bumps
- People need to stop speeding!
- There needs to be education for drivers and policing for speeding. People can't keep getting away with it.
  - There have been fatalities on the road
- Lower speed limits in places combined with better enforcement
- Reckless drivers need to be stopped
- Road washouts are too common—residents want less erosion/washout
- Road was moved after the 1927 flood and is now in a poor location, cutting through people's property [fact check this]

### **Do you have any thoughts for the whole town?**

- What will Bolton do if Bolton Valley closes? Especially what will Bolton Valley residents do?
  - Are there grants we could get to help the resort?
- Road washout is a huge problem for everyone in the town
- Bolton and Bolton Valley should become a hub for ATVs, especially out of state visitors who bring money to town
  - However ATVs can be bad for erosion, so development has to be done right
  - Bolton needs trail standards/guidelines to ensure that development happens in a good way
  - Could we work with an ATV association (like VAST for ATVs) to develop this idea more?
- How can we make Bolton Valley a 4 season resort?
  - Could we advertise it?
  - Note that it's difficult to work with Bolton Valley because they don't have a master plan
- We need to find out who is interested in starting/expanding business here
- We should look into using the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development to market Bolton
- The spot where Latham's used to be would make a good spot for a business, but it's difficult to develop because it's in the flood plain
- We want to be able to have more town gatherings
- The town could really use a town park or a town center of some kind
- People want a restaurant on Route 2, like Bisson's was
- Bolton is a great and friendly community—everyone has something to offer to each other, people just need to be invited to an event.
  - How can we draw interest for town events and gatherings?
- Event Ideas:
  - We could have a bingo night at Smilie and use it as a fundraiser for creating a town park or similar town center development
  - A Bolton Art Walk or Livelihood Showcase for artists and craftspeople to display and sell their work?
  - Another fundraising event idea: Spook Walk around Halloween
    - What's the liability for a private citizen who holds an event (fundraising or not) on their property for the whole town?

- The Kilpecks host a pre-Thanksgiving potluck, could an event like that be held for the town?
  - The potluck before town meeting has lapsed because of a lack of interest/attendees
- A Town Fair?
- If Smilie was ever closed, how could it be repurposed?
  - Use the auditorium/gym as a town event space, and rent the rest to small businesses?
- Bolton should get involved with the Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce
  - Work our connections to bring businesses into the town
- What are your feelings about wind and solar development?
  - Alternative energy is like free money for people
  - Any developments would have to be low impact in terms of wildlife impact on endangered species and stormwater/erosion issues
  - Wind towers “have their place” but that place is not on every ridgeline in town