

Proctor Town Plan Update

2010 Survey Results:

Noteworthy results to apply to Town Plan Update:

- Most citizens are not familiar with the Town Plan
- Most citizens enjoy living in Proctor
- There are a lot of long term residents
- There are a lot of homeowners
- Not a lot of young children in town (affects education)
- Child care is not an issue
- Drinking water situation is a HUGE issue
- Fire, Recreation, Sewage & Garbage are popular town services
- Road maintenance and Town Governance are not popular (not to the level of drinking water unpopularity)
- Town Governance unpopularity is not surprising (results were expected – like this in every town)
- Education is a HUGE issue (results indicate that most citizens realize the situation, want change and are open to the possibility of closing/merging schools)
- Citizens want improved road pavement and sidewalks, however do not want to increase taxes/costs to fund improvements
- Park and Ride is not popular
- Expanded curbside pick-up and transfer station is popular
- Citizens are happy with recreation opportunities
- Acquisition of Beaver Pond is popular, however, would probably require a fight to acquire (due to increased perceived costs)
- More citizens favor constructing a new facility than renovation, however, the results indicated this would require a fight (due to increased perceived costs)
- Professional services, restaurants, home-based businesses, agriculture development and senior citizen facilities are popular
- Citizens REALLY want more light industry, small crafts and tourist/rec.
- Citizens do not want more educational institutions, heavy industry and vacation home development

- Solar and wind projects are popular (this might not be the case in reality and the minority is usually much more vocal)
- Cell coverage is not a priority
- Citizens think living in Proctor is relatively affordable, however want more economic development to lower taxes/costs and favor closing/merging schools to achieve affordability
- Housing (affordable housing) is NOT an issue
- Citizens OVERWHELMINGLY want the PC to focus on Economic Development issues
- Other PC areas of focus should be the Education issue (if anything can be done) and Alternative energy
- The Housing Town Plan goal was unpopular
- The Transportation Town Plan goal was surprisingly unpopular
- Citizens enjoy the quiet/safe/small town feel of Proctor and its recreation assets – they do not want some of the perceived Rutland undesirables
- Citizens want lower taxes and costs (this is not surprising)
- Citizens want more business development, however, they don't want the town to change too much
- Citizens are concerned the town is becoming a ghost town or bedroom community for Rutland

Top five issues for PC to work on for Town Plan Update (just my opinion):

1. Economic development – bring in more small business
2. Education/Schools (not sure the PC can do anything)
3. Services residents are receiving for the costs (taxes) - Improving the municipal services of drinking water/road maintenance and town governance. Keeping the fire, garbage and sewerage services the same
4. Continuing recreation/small town assets
5. Alternative energy

Proctor Town Plan Update

2010 Survey Results: (120 Surveys)

RED FIGURE REPRESENTS
NUMBER OF VOTES

1. Check the statement that best describes your familiarity with the Proctor's Plan.

I do not know what the Town Plan is – **30**

I did not know we have a Town Plan – **23**

I know we have a Town Plan but I'm not familiar with it – **54**

I am familiar with our Town Plan – **13**

2. How would you rate Proctor as a place to live?

Excellent – **39**

Good – **67**

Fair – **9**

Poor – **6**

3. If you are a resident, how long have you lived in Proctor?

Less than 1 year – **1**

1-5 years – **15**

5-20 years – **32**

More than 20 years – **72**

4. If you are a non-resident, how long have you owned property?

Less than 1 year –

1-5 years –

5-20 years – **1**

More than 20 years – **2**

5. Do you rent or own?

Rent – **5**

Own – **113**

6. Do you have children under 16 years old?

Yes – **29**

No – **91**

7. Is Child care a problem for you?

Yes – **1**

No – **100**

8. How satisfied are you with the current level of the following municipal services?

Education:	Satisfied - 55	Neutral - 27	Needs Improvement - 31
Police Protection/Animal Control:	Satisfied - 53	Neutral - 31	Needs Improvement - 36
Fire Protection:	Satisfied - 109	Neutral - 10	Needs Improvement - 3
Road Maintenance:	Satisfied - 53	Neutral - 22	Needs Improvement - 46
Snow Removal:	Satisfied - 73	Neutral - 16	Needs Improvement – 30
Drinking Water:	Satisfied - 31	Neutral - 24	Needs Improvement - 64
Sewage Disposal:	Satisfied - 83	Neutral - 23	Needs Improvement - 15
Garbage Disposal:	Satisfied - 109	Neutral - 4	Needs Improvement - 2
Recreation Facilities:	Satisfied - 92	Neutral - 21	Needs Improvement - 8
Town Government:	Satisfied - 45	Neutral - 25	Needs Improvement - 47
Ambulance/Rescue:	Satisfied - 43	Neutral - 52	Needs Improvement - 2
Public Transit (“The Bus”):	Satisfied - 55	Neutral - 51	Needs Improvement - 4

Comments:

- **Better governance / transparency / Less bickering on Selectboard - 7**
- **Bad water quality- 7**
- **What do we get from our taxes -1**
- **Bad road paving - 1**
- **Require recycling - 1**
- **Good winter road care**
- **Speeding enforcement**
- **Smaller government**
- **Better audio on PEG TV of meetings**
- **Replace Tower Road**
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9. ...As we think about the future education of our children, do you feel we should?

Support the existing schools:	Yes - 47	No – 32	No Opinion - 4
Close a school(s) and merge with schools in our district:	Yes - 69	No - 18	No Opinion - 4
Close a school(s) and tuition students:	Yes - 37	No – 34	No Opinion – 5

Comments...

- Keep grade school open/close high school -14
- Proctor too small for 2 schools -5
- Merge schools while Proctor still has a say. -5
- Quality has decreased in last 3-4 years -2
- Send other towns to Proctor -1
- Care less about closing/merging than ensuring top-quality education -1
- 7-12 students to O.V.
- We only live here for local K-12 schools
- Close schools/use buildings for town offices
- Merger would better prepare kids for college
- High School is town identity

10. Would you support a Town Constable for police protection and animal control services?

Yes – 56

No – 66

11. Which parts of the transportation network would you like to see improved?

Road Pavement – 72

Bike Paths – 26

Sidewalks – 62

Public Transit – 6

No improvement needed – 18

12. Would you support the use of local tax dollars to rehabilitate the section of VT Route 3 from the triangle intersection to Grove Street?

Yes – 43

No – 71

13. Would you like to have a Park & Ride facility in Proctor for car pooling?

Yes – 24

No – 86

14. Would you like to elect a separate Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners?

Yes – 38

No – 73

15. Do you support both a transfer station and curbside collection service for garbage disposal and recycling?

Yes – **103**
No – **18**

16. How satisfied are you with the following recreational opportunities?

Skating Rink:	Satisfied - 98	Neutral - 16	Needs Improvement - 2
Olympus Pool:	Satisfied - 92	Neutral - 19	Needs Improvement - 4
Youth League Baseball Fields:			
	Satisfied - 93	Neutral - 23	Needs Improvement -
Bicycling:	Satisfied - 34	Neutral - 54	Needs Improvement - 21
Hiking:	Satisfied - 38	Neutral - 53	Needs Improvement - 16
Snowmobiling:	Satisfied - 35	Neutral - 66	Needs Improvement - 6
Cross Country Skiing:	Satisfied - 30	Neutral - 61	Needs Improvement - 15
Fishing:	Satisfied - 43	Neutral - 56	Needs Improvement - 9
Hunting:	Satisfied - 35	Neutral - 62	Needs Improvement - 7

17. Would you support the Town’s acquisition of Beaver Pond to expand the recreational opportunities in Proctor?

Yes – **60**
No – **52**

18. Do you find the municipal website (www.proctorvermont.com) to be a useful source of information?

Yes – **50**
No – **35**

19. Do you think the current Town Office building is adequate for conducting municipal business and preserving vital records?

Yes – **48**
No – **62**

If no, would you support renovating the existing building 21 or constructing a new facility? 42

20. In Proctor there should be more:

Professional Services:	Agree - 48	Neutral - 37	Disagree - 16
Restaurants:	Agree - 47	Neutral - 38	Disagree - 22
Lodging – B&B, Motels:	Agree - 41	Neutral - 42	Disagree - 25
Health Care Facilities:	Agree - 33	Neutral - 39	Disagree - 30
Housing:	Agree - 30	Neutral - 44	Disagree - 27

Home Based Businesses:	Agree - 59	Neutral - 36	Disagree - 9
Educational Institutions:	Agree - 23	Neutral - 40	Disagree - 42
Small Crafts, Artisans:	Agree - 66	Neutral - 28	Disagree - 12
Light Industry:	Agree - 92	Neutral - 20	Disagree - 6
Heavy Industry:	Agree - 35	Neutral - 31	Disagree - 36
Tourist, Recreation:	Agree - 63	Neutral - 26	Disagree - 9
Vacation Home Development:			
	Agree - 17	Neutral - 27	Disagree - 46
Agricultural Development:	Agree - 44	Neutral - 41	Disagree - 18
Senior Citizen Facilities:	Agree - 54	Neutral - 40	Disagree - 11

Other:

- **Convenience Stores -2**
- **Corporate Headquarters**
- **Child care**
- **Historical society**
- **Boat access to Otter Creek**

Comments:

- **More industry/commercial -3**
- **Gas station -2**
- **Waterfall attraction**
- **Be more open to change and growth**
- **Keep Proctor residential**

21. Would you support solar or wind renewable energy projects in Proctor?

Solar – **72**

Wind – **59**

Do not support either – **32**

22. Do you think the expansion of cellular coverage in Proctor should be a municipal priority?

Yes – **54**

No – **63**

23. Do you consider living in Proctor to be affordable?

Yes – **55**

No – **60**

If no, what in your opinion could be done to make it more affordable?

- **Lower taxes -13**
- **Bring in business/industry -12**
- **Close schools -5**
- **Lower water costs -3**
- **Better management -2**
- **Limit school taxes/costs -1**
- **Sub-contract highway functions**
- **Mandate curbside recycling**
- **Cut town staff by half**
- **Make schools magnet schools and bring in tuition**
- **Merge schools**
- **Stop spending on bonds**

24. Do you feel there are adequate housing options available in Proctor?

Yes – **88**

No – **20**

If no, what type of additional housing do you feel would best fit the needs of our residents?

Single Family – **10**

Apartments – **10**

Two Family – **7**

Mobile Homes – **3**

Condos – **9**

Vacation Homes – **4**

Other: Senior housing - **1**

25. What are the most important issues for the Planning Commission to address in revising the Proctor Town Plan?

Economic Development – **85**

Forests – **15**

Transportation – **14**

Wetlands/Floodplain – **8**

Education – **57**

Police Protection – **34**

Housing – **14**

Fire Protection – **16**

Recreation – **24**

Ambulance/Rescue – **16**

Conservation – **15**

Alternate Energy – **37**

Agriculture – **16**

Tourism – **29**

26. Below is a list of Town Plan goals. Check the statement that best reflects your opinion of the goals:

Community Facilities and Services Goals:

Agree - **94**

Disagree - **8**

Energy Goals:

Agree - **86**

Disagree - **12**

Education Goals:

Agree - **84**

Disagree - **15**

Natural Resource Goals:

Agree - **80**

Disagree - **10**

Recreation, Historic and Cultural Resources:

Agree - **88**

Disagree - **7**

Housing Goals:

Agree - **58**

Disagree - **37**

Transportation Goals:

Agree - **64**

Disagree - **30**

Economic Development Goals:

Agree – **79**

Disagree - **13**

Land Use and Growth Goals:

Agree – **84**

Disagree - **9**

Comments:

Create noise ordinance (church bells are aggravating – **1**)

Proctor is a ghost town

Develop a Neighborhood Watch

Zoning to reflect reality of built environment (not suburban standards)

Support school and library; promote recycling

Fiscal responsibility

27. In your opinion, what is Proctor's greatest asset (or assets)?

- Quiet, safe small town -35
- Recreation -23
- schools/education -16
- history/physical historical assets -14
- Citizens -13
- Visual appeal & cleanliness -12
- Community Pride -11
- Library -11
- location -10
- Quality of life -5
- Great place to raise children -3
- Marble Bridge -3
- Town Plan
- No assets -3
- Services we receive from our taxes -1
- Tourism -1
- Garbage removal - 1
- OMYA Land

28. In your opinion, what is the biggest problem (or problems) facing Proctor in the next 3-5 years?

- High taxes/affordability -27
- School(s)/ enrollment -12
- Water and sewer costs -10
- Selectboard/Poor Governance -10
- Business development -8
- Drinking water situation -7
- Trying to support schools -7
- School cost -7
- Bad infrastructure -6
- Closing schools -5
- Lack of tax base -5
- Electric costs/issues -4
- Lack of industry -3
- Electric costs - 2
- Crime -2
- Economy -2
- Safe, high-quality water -1
- State of Vermont - 1
- Enforcement of Town Plan
- Town employees (excess number, inexperience)
- Empty buildings
- Becoming a bedroom community
- Outsourcing services
- Aging population/population decline
- Renters moving in and not maintaining properties
- Excessive town regulation; animals not allowed
- Wasteful spending
- Agriculture / loss of farms
- Enforce leash law

29. What would you like Proctor to be like in 10 years?

- More small industry/comm./economy -24
- Same as today -19
- More affordable place to live -7
- Busy/thriving town -7
- Lower taxes -5
- Safe -3
- Occupied/well-maintained homes -3
- Young families -3
- Recreation -2
- More tourism -2
- Like it was in the 1960s -2
- More energy efficient -2
- Sustainable/self-sufficient (food, energy) -2
- Senior services -1
- Good education- 1
- Quiet/peaceful - 1
- More social events -1
- Happier and forward-looking - 1
- Authentic -1
- Building reuse -1
- Prosperous - 1
- Fiscally responsible
- Better zoning
- More single-family, less multiple-family
- Low crime rate
- Active co-op with local foods
- Sidewalks

30. What would you NOT like Proctor to be like in 10 years?

- Empty buildings (“ghost town”) -12
- Bedroom community -8
- Over-developed/congested -8
- Low-income housing/undesirables - 8
- No polluting/heavy industries -7
- Rutland -7
- Large towers (wind/cell) -5
- No schools -3
- Town bankruptcy -3
- Trying to maintain two schools -3
- Woodstock/Manchester/Stowe -3
- High taxes -2
- More town government -2
- Strip development/suburbia/big boxes 2
- No services - 2
- Same Selectboard Behavior -2
- Drugs and Crime -2
- The way it is now -1
- No young population -1
- Unchanged -1
- Affordable for “ordinary” people – 1
- Less town bickering -1
- Center Rutland - 1
- All residential for taxes
- Bad Roads