
POULTNEY TOWN PLAN



Adopted July 20th, 2015

Approved by the Poultney Planning Commission at a Public Hearing held on May 28th, 2015

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 What is the Plan?

The Poultney Planning Commission has prepared this Plan to help guide the future of the town. The 2011 update is a result of input from various sources, including the public, local and regional organizations, and statistics from the US Census Bureau (including American FactFinder and LEHD On the Map Program), the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the Vermont Department of Labor. Further information was gathered from reports and research analysis, including the 2010 Vermont Housing Needs Assessment, the 2005 Rutland County Housing Needs Assessment, and the 2008 Rutland Regional Plan.

This plan seeks to reflect this input and be an effective guide to the future growth and development of the Town.

1.2 How will it be used?

This Plan includes analyses of current conditions and features of the town and includes a number of ideas for the town's future. While none of these ideas are binding, it is hoped that community members, town officials, and others use them to help steer the town in a positive direction.

1.3 How is the Plan updated?

The Poultney Town Plan is updated every 5 years as required by Vermont Statute, and as needed to address local concerns. The planning process emphasizes citizen participation from beginning to end. Community organizations and regional agencies, such as the Poultney Area Chamber of Commerce, the Poultney Downtown Revitalization Committee, the Volunteer Fire Department and Poultney Rescue Squad, the Village Trustees, the Poultney Selectboard, the Poultney Public Library, the Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District, the Poultney Mettowee Watershed Partnership, the Lake St. Catherine Association, Green Mountain College, the Rutland Southwest Supervisory Union, the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, the Rutland Economic Development Corporation and other local and regional entities are routinely invited to participate in the process as subject experts.

The 2011 Town Plan Update, funded by a Municipal Planning Grant awarded by the Vermont Department of Economic, Housing and Community Development (DEHC), involved several public forums on topics important to the Poultney community, including the appropriateness of development on ridgelines, poverty and joblessness resulting from the 2009/2010 recession, the recent identification of significant natural areas in town, and analysis of the Future Utility district and smart growth mechanisms.

The 2015 update process, also funded by a Municipal Planning Grant awarded by VT DEHC, included several public meetings, incorporation of the RRPC's Enhanced Consultation results, and a community forum to discuss the increasing use of renewable energy structures in Town and appropriate siting of these resources. The Planning Commission also worked closely with the Poultney Downtown Revitalization Committee to ensure all Act 59 requirements have been met so that they can pursue Downtown Designation Renewal.

1.4 How is the Plan implemented?

The Plan is implemented primarily through the Poultney Unified Bylaws; while the Town Plan informs planning efforts, the Unified Bylaws implement and enforce these efforts in tandem. Several of the goals and objectives discussed throughout this document enlist the support of various community organizations, further demonstrating the importance of bringing these organizations to the table throughout the planning process, as addressed in Section 1.3 above.

2.0 Purpose / Authority

2.1 Overall Goal of the Plan

The plan of the Town of Poultney is designed to guide future growth and development in a manner that best matches the values of the community.

2.2 Statutory Authority

The Town of Poultney Planning Commission prepared this Plan under the authority of the Board of Selectmen and the provisions of the Vermont Municipal and Regional Planning and Development Act (24 VSA Chapter 117 §4381 Authorization and §4382 The plan for a municipality).

3.0 Community Profile

The Town of Poultney is located in the southwestern part of Rutland County, 17 miles from Rutland, 35 miles from Glens Falls, NY and 80 miles from Albany, NY. The historic Poultney Village is within the town's 44 square miles.

The Town of Poultney was chartered in 1761 and named after Lord William Poulteney, Earl of Bath. This Village, with East Poultney, is listed in the National Registry of Historic Places. Although simply a rest stop on the Albany to Montreal turnpike in early days, the village now includes the Town's main business district, the homes of approximately 1,700 residents and Green Mountain College.

East Poultney was settled in 1771 by Ethan Allen's cousins. His brother, Heber Allen, was the first town clerk. Its Historic District includes about 60 houses, two churches, a store and post office and three museums.

The north half of Lake St. Catherine is within the Town's boundaries, and has been recognized as a vacation resort for over 100 years. Although the lakeshore is mostly in private ownership, the State Park and campground on the east side of the Lake provides campsites, picnic areas and swimming facilities for general public use. An exceptional expanse of wild and undeveloped land lies in the Northeast sector of the Town and is characterized by mountain peaks, steep slopes and a high ridge line.

Green Mountain College, a 4-year environmental liberal arts college emphasizing environmental science and offering bachelor's and master's degrees, is located in Poultney Village and offers educational, cultural, recreational and employment opportunities for area residents.

This Plan utilizes data from the 2000 and 2010 Census (utilizing the American FactFinder and LEHD On The Map tools), statistics from the Vermont Department of Labor, and various state, regional and local publications.

Poultney has a varied natural environment. It is bounded on the west by the Poultney River. Its land boundaries range from elevations of 500 feet or less to 2,320 feet elevation at Spruce Knob on the east boundary. Several small streams ripple through the hills to the east and flow west to the Poultney River or to Lake St. Catherine. The Bozeck Marsh Wildlife Management Area (96 acres) is located about halfway between the Village and the Lake south of Route 30. The Bird Mountain Wildlife Management Area (350 acres) is located in the northwest corner of Poultney. The Dean Nature Preserve is east of the lake and encompasses the row of prominent cliffs that extend into the Town of Wells.

Government is divided into Village and Town components. Poultney Village is governed by an elected 5-member Board of Trustees. The Town is governed by an elected 5-member Board of Selectmen. Day-to-day administration is provided by a Town Manager; and in the Village, by a Village Manager.

Village facilities include a sewage treatment facility, a water system, the Village offices and 5 miles of streets. Village offices are located next to the old firehouse.

Town facilities include a library, a visitor center that also houses important service organizations, a senior center, a highway department garage and the solid waste transfer station and recycling center. Town offices are located at the corner of Main Street and Route 30.

Green Mountain College, a 4-year liberal arts college with a focus on Environmental studies, is located in Poultney Village and offers educational, cultural, recreational and employment opportunities for area residents.

Recreation opportunities are plentiful. The Town's Recreation Commission provides a year-round program for children and adults. Many private organizations also provide social and recreational opportunities. The Delaware and Hudson (D&H) Hiking Path, local rivers and streams and Lake St. Catherine provide outdoor recreational opportunities. The Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST) uses the D & H right-of-way and an extensive system of trails.

During the past century Poultney's population has fluctuated significantly, from a high of 3,699 in 1910, to a low of 2,781 in 1940. The most current decennial census of 2010 reported a population of 3,432, a decrease from the 2000 census (3,633). Poultney's population changes have generally coincided with population changes in the County and State.

While population projections estimate that Poultney's population will continue to decrease slightly over the next decade, trends show that a shift to a larger elderly population will also occur. The Town Plan will have to address ways to accommodate these changes.

More Poultney residents are receiving formal education. The population with four or more years of higher education increased from 21.0% of the total population 25 years old and older in 1990 to 29% in 2000.

Changes in income are effective ways to assess the economic health of the people of a community. Tracking the number of individuals and families living in poverty is another method of understanding the local and regional economic situation. Real per capita income is projected to keep increasing for the Town of Poultney.

Poultney is a very historic community that has retained many of its original buildings. The Town's housing stock is among the oldest in the county. Fifty percent of Poultney's residences were built before 1939, according to the US Census. Because of this, housing availability and affordability is based not only on the number of units of housing in the Town but the condition of the housing stock as well.

4.0 Future Land Use

4.1 Introduction

The Town of Poultney is generally rural with residential and agricultural uses comprising most of the land use outside of the two Village centers. Slate quarrying and processing is a dominant land use along the western edge of town. There are three distinctive population centers: Poultney Village, East Poultney centered on the green, and the shore of Lake St. Catherine. Beyond the Village, home sites are scattered with newer homes built among the older residences. It would appear that in earlier days, rail service and landscape together set the pattern of home distribution. The Poultney River flows through the Town and delimits its western boundary with New York State.

Poultney Village is the current hub of commerce, while East Poultney was the original settlement. The two villages are linked by Route 140. Major concentrations of seasonal dwellings are located on the shoreline of Lake St. Catherine. Despite the crowding of summer cottages, this area of town retains much of its natural beauty, namely: a geologic fault lake nestled between two hills with Route 30 running along its eastern edge.

Poultney originally established categories of land use through the adoption of a Town Plan in 1970 and zoning in 1971. This Plan seeks to create a future land use plan and associated map that meets the goals and objectives found throughout this document.

There has been minimal change in the geographical locations of planned/zoned areas such as residential, commercial, industrial, etc., or in the types of uses allowed in those areas. Recognizing the planning process recently completed to identify future sewer extension areas, this future land use plan has incorporated these areas into the Village and Future Utility District described below. Also recognizing the need to conserve and protect the natural wild area of the Northeast corridor, this plan is updated accordingly.

4.2 Village and Future Utility District

The Village of Poultney is not only the central focus of the town, but is the center for community functions, employment and commerce. The village offices, water and sewer services, schools, fire station and major employment and commercial uses are located in the village area. It encompasses a compact regional shopping area associated with Town and village offices and several commercial and industrial establishments arranged mostly on Main Street with Green Mountain College at its westernmost terminus. The Village is basically a district of services for water, sewage, street maintenance, and lighting with its own administration. Poultney's schools and several of its churches lie within the Village center. It is accessible from Routes 30, 31, 140 and 22A, connecting it with Castleton, Granville, NY, Middletown Springs, Wells, Hampton, NY, and Fair Haven.

New development in this district should be characteristic of the existing Village development pattern. It should occur at a similar density and continue the diversity of uses seen in the Village today. Future development should maintain and reinforce the village as town center, while continuing to preserve its distinctive residential, commercial and industrial mix of uses.

The Village and Future Utility District includes lands within the corporate boundaries of the village. Also, there are parcels of land contiguous to the outskirts of the village boundaries that are now served by municipal water and sewer or are planned to be in the future. Within the Village and Future Utility District, existing land use patterns of residential, commercial, college, and industrial areas are present.

The purpose of the Future Utility District is to provide for development that is characteristic of the existing Village Development pattern *in lands most suitable for growth*, where there is the capacity for extending water and sewer lines. Growth in this centralized location should also tie in to the existing sidewalk network wherever feasible, to continue to foster a walkable and bikeable village core. Development in the Future Utility District should not occur at a pace or in a manner that would create strip development along VT Route 30 or the Village roadways.

4.3 Agriculture and Rural Residential District

East Poultney, the one population center in this district, consists of a cluster of homes, mostly old and some of historical interest. The Village of East Poultney is centered around a triangular green along with a church and several buildings of historic significance including 3 museum buildings owned by the Poultney Historical Society. The Village of East Poultney is a recognized historic district by the National Register of Historic Places. It is also a designated Village Center through the Vermont Downtown Program.

Outside the population hubs of Poultney Village, East Poultney and Lake St. Catherine, the town is generally rural with open spaces, scenic vistas and heavily forested ridgelines. Residences and farms are located along the primary highways of Route 30, 31 and 140, as well as along side roads such as those located in Hampshire, Finel and Morse hollows. The hilly terrain, steep slopes and thin soils have limited development in the eastern section of the Town.

Commercial activity in this district is primarily natural resource based. The superiority of slate for roofing, flooring and other uses has served to make slate quarrying and processing the dominant industry. While agriculture is declining, farm and forestry operations also occupy this district. Home occupations and cottage industry are also appropriate in this district.

Some areas in this district require conservation and protective measures because of their fragile, unique or irreplaceable nature, or are necessary for the maintenance of environmental quality.

No area in this district is served by municipal water and sewer. Any development in this district is served by on-site sewage disposal systems as previously approved under the town's health ordinance. After changes in state law vesting exclusive authority within the state, any development with on-site sewage disposal and potable water requires a wastewater and water supply permit issued by the Agency of Natural Resources. Development in this district must also be reasonably served by the existing road network.

Due to the differing capabilities of the land in the various areas of town, and of the road network, density of residential development should vary according to the severity of those constraints.

a. Agriculture Rural Residential - 1 acre (ARR-1) - Areas suitable for development at 1 acre densities. Lands within this designation have slopes less than 15%, soils with slight or moderate limitations for onsite sewage disposal, a good road network of arterials and collectors, and are not susceptible to flooding.

b. Agriculture Rural Rural-Residential - 2 acre (ARR-2) - The decrease in permitted density is dependent upon the presence of one or more development constraints including limitations for onsite sewage disposal, high water table, or shallow soils. However, the vast majority of the lands within the town fall into this suitability category. A combination of arterial and collectors which are generally in good condition and are adequate to carry additional development suffice as an adequate road network.

c. Agriculture Rural Rural-Residential - 5 acre (ARR-5) - The density decreases again in this designation due to the addition of slopes over 15% to the list of development constraints. This district contains roads which are generally capable of carrying increased traffic loads.

d. Agriculture Rural Rural-Residential - 10 acre (ARR-10) - This designation includes lands which, in general, have very severe limitations for development due to steep slopes, shallow and/or wet soils and a severely limited road network. This area also includes much of the forested land in the town, as well as many of the soils identified as high potential for forestry.

4.4 Flood Hazard Area

A Poultney flood hazard area is designated on the Federal Insurance Administration Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM), last updated August of 2008. This area is identified in the Future Land Use Map and the Zoning Districts Map adopted by the Town. More detailed maps are available at the Town Office. All new development other than those uses and structures essential for the operation of agriculture, forestry, recreation and wildlife production shall be restricted within the Flood Hazard Area designation. Any permanent structure associated with the above uses, and any other structure allowed in the Flood Hazard Area shall be subject to the regulations set forth in the Poultney Unified Bylaws, Article VIII: Flood Hazard Area.

In 2009, the Planning Commission met with representatives of the Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District and determined that the Flood Hazard Area closely overlaps areas identified as susceptible to Fluvial Erosion Hazards. As a result, the Town has and continues to provide information to land owners about the risks of Fluvial Erosion Hazards and has informed owners that insurance provided through the National Flood Insurance Program does not cover damages resulting from Fluvial Erosion.

The Planning Commission continues to work with the Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District to ensure that risks to public safety, critical infrastructure, historic structures and municipal investments are mitigated or removed entirely from existing, expanded or proposed development. The Poultney Geomorphic Assessment and Stream Corridor Plan and the expertise of the staff of the PMNRCD and the Vermont River Management Section are routinely relied upon for development decisions.

4.5 Lakeshore District

Lake St. Catherine has served as a vacation destination since the 1880's. Much of the development consists of historic summer cottages and camps with direct lake access. Recently, some of these have been winterized or expanded upon. There are few rentals on the lake, and most homes are occupied only in summer and on holidays. Very few commercial establishments occupy this district, and even on busy weekends there is a peaceful, quiet nature to the area. This district was specifically created to preserve these qualities and to control water pollution, maintain the scenic value of the shoreline, minimize shoreline erosion and maintain vegetation and habitat along the shoreline.

4.6 Industrial District

Industrial and light manufacturing activities are an important component of Poultney's economy and landscape. This district reserves lands for expanded industrial, and associated commercial development outside the village on soils and slopes best suited to such intense use, and which are served by Town roads.

Industrial uses should be limited to those which are non-polluting and are not a nuisance within their neighborhood. This is especially important in the industrial areas within the Village and Future Utility Expansion District where dense residential development is present. Retail uses adjoining said industrial uses should be allowed, as should commercial uses that support or contribute to the viability of the industrial uses located within these areas.

Industrial designations are identified on the Poultney Future Land Use Map included in this Plan.

4.7 Northeast Conservation and Wildlife Habitat Area

This 2010 update now recognizes as a valuable natural resource area designated as the Northeast Conservation and Wildlife Habitat Area. It is generally defined as the Northeast corner of the Town, bounded by the Castleton and Ira town lines and in part by the Middletown Springs town line, and on the interior by Pond Hill Road to the West, both the North and South sides of Ames Hollow Road and easterly and northeasterly of Clark Hollow Road and along both sides of Morse Hollow Road. It includes generally the Town's highest mountain peaks or slopes from mountain peaks just outside of the Town boundaries, including Birdseye Mountain, Herrick Mountain and Spruce Knob, and connecting ridgelines within the town. It is characterized by steep slopes with thin soils and fragile vegetation that provides significant recharge to the ground and surface waters. It includes significant seasonal and year-round watercourses draining into the Poultney river watershed. More recently it has been identified as an area containing irreplaceable natural resources and provides an unparalleled significant expanse of unbroken, unfragmented and significant wildlife and natural habitat area. Significant tracts of land just outside the town boundaries are now owned by the State of Vermont as wildlife habitat areas. The pristine and unfragmented ridgeline frames the Northeast area of town as a significant scenic resource. The large tracts of land are in the ownership of relatively few individuals or businesses and have been traditionally devoted to uses involving forest resources, recreation and hunting. Access is difficult and limited and is traversed generally only by a single class 4 Town Highway and an "Impassable or Untraveled" trail, as defined by the Town of Poultney General Highway Map. The Northeast Conservation and Wildlife Habitat Area is specifically defined as that land having an elevation of 1,300 feet or greater above sea level and lying easterly of Hampshire Hollow

Road and easterly of Pond Hill Road, as depicted on Poultney's Northeast Conservation and Wildlife Habitat Area map. Significant Natural Communities recently identified by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department are depicted on the Natural Communities in Northeast Poultney map. This area has been identified as related to a significant wildlife corridor for the Northeast region of the United States of America.

The Poultney Mettowee Conservation District was recently involved in a more extensive research project to assess the wildlife habitat in the Poultney Watershed. In 2011, they released a report titled "Inventory and Assessment of Wetland and Upland Wildlife Habitat in the Upper Poultney River Watershed." This report largely confirms the presence of Significant Natural Communities and potential wildlife linkage in the Northeast Conservation and Wildlife Habitat Area, giving this block of land a high priority. Two other identified blocks are located within the Town of Poultney. See Chapter 9: Natural Resources and Chapter 19: Natural Resources Technical Report for details.

4.8 Future Land Use Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Maintain the historic character of the Village center while providing opportunities for social, cultural, and economic diversity.

Program 1: The density and character of any development should be compatibly integrated into the existing form of Poultney Village and its zoning districts. The existing mix of uses should continue, with industrial uses in the traditional industrial areas of the village.

Program 2: Plan and encourage development and settlement patterns that maintain the historic character of Poultney Village. Provide our citizens with healthy, diverse and desirable housing, recreational and economic opportunities, and encourage wise and efficient use of public and private resources.

Program 3: Plan and provide infrastructure to support the village center for economic, commercial and residential development.

Program 4: Maintain the designation status of Poultney and East Poultney through the Vermont Downtown Program.

Program 5: Develop capital plans and programs that will implement efficient public infrastructure planning in advance of development.

Program 6: Allow the orderly growth and development of college-owned property within the context of the Village center such that expansion of the college does not unduly impact the capacity of community services and facilities.

Goal 2: Maintain the traditional social and physical residential character of the Village.

Goal 3: Maintain the rural character of the town while encouraging economic use of the available natural resources in a manner that protects other natural resource values addressed in this Plan.

Goal 4: maintain the natural and aesthetic values associated with Lake St. Catherine.

Program 1: provide for a minimum 50' setback of structures, driveways and parking areas from the shoreline.

Program 2: encourage the establishment and maintenance of a vegetative buffer along the shoreline for erosion control, filtration and/or capture of nutrient and chemical runoff.

Goal 5: Maintain a viable industrial component to the Town's economy.

Program 1: provide for the limited expansion of existing industrial developments and appropriate new industrial developments within the Village and Future Utility District and Industrial District.

Program 2: Provide nearby industrial employment opportunities that do not unduly impact the capacity of community services and facilities, protect less intense adjacent land uses and maintain high environmental and siting standards.

Goal 6: Maintain, conserve, and protect the Northeast Conservation and Wildlife Habitat Area to maintain its irreplaceable natural and wild resources, its asset as a scenic resource and to protect watershed which is fed by this drainage area.

Program 1: Limit the use of this area to historical forest resource uses, but with a heightened requirement of adherence to sustainable timber management practices and consistent with protection of wildlife habitat and nondestructive recreational uses.

Program 2: Amend the zoning bylaws to create an overlay district to prohibit those types of development which would: require the upgrade, expansion or extension of the primitive and limited access roads and trails in the area; impact the pristine and unbroken viewscape of the ridgelines; lead to posting of the land and make it unavailable for hunting and other recreational purposes; and, negatively impact water courses or increase erosion on steep slopes.

Program 3: Encourage and promote the use of conservation easements by private landowners consistent with the goals of protecting the area.

Program 4: Encourage the use of the "Inventory and Assessment of Wetland and Upland Wildlife Habitat in the Upper Poultney River Watershed" in landowner education and planning.

5.0 Housing

Housing stock is a measure of community well-being and economic viability. A sufficient supply of quality housing is the basis upon which a community builds strong healthy families and a stable workforce, both necessary components of a sustainable economy. Stable housing also lets families establish long-term community involvement. The presence of quality housing in rural areas is important for three reasons: (1) Residents of the community must have adequate housing in order to satisfy their needs allowing them to remain in the community; (2) Since towns in Vermont are heavily dependent on property tax, quality housing is necessary in order to provide a solid tax base to support a community, and; (3) Good housing is needed to attract outside businesses to a community.

5.1 Introduction

The Poultney housing situation is characterized by a healthy balance of renter and owner occupied housing. The historic villages of Poultney and East Poultney provide older single-family homes as well as apartment and duplex housing, however these older structures are more likely to be highly inefficient and costly in terms of energy, and some may require energy efficiency upgrades, lead-based paint remediation, and other rehabilitation over the long term. The three elderly housing developments can also be found in Poultney village. Housing density is high in the villages, and residences are within walking distance to services, schools, and shopping opportunities. Housing can also be found scattered throughout the rural areas of town, as well as surrounding Lake St. Catherine. Housing on the lake is almost entirely seasonal. The U.S. Census Bureau reported an increase in the number of seasonal housing units in Poultney between 2000 and 2010.

5.2 Housing Affordability

While selling prices for homes increased by 43% between 2000 and 2003, homeownership is still reasonably affordable to most of Poultney's residents. "Starter" homes, or those homes most likely to be bought by young families and individuals, are only slightly less affordable to Poultney homebuyers than their counterparts across the state. Higher valued homes for households looking to "move up" and out of their "starter" home are more affordable for a Poultney household than their counterparts around the State. Even so, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, the number of Poultney homeowners in unaffordable situations has risen by 6% between 1990 and 2000.

While all communities generally view high rates of homeownership as a good thing, rental housing is essential as well, allowing residents to spend their whole lives in a community and for generations to continue to stay in the same town. Most Vermonters, regardless of economic status, spend at least some part of their lives in rental housing. Rental housing is essential to the formation of new households, and helps ensure a population of new employees to complement job creation activities. Rental housing plays a significant role in many life transitions, including the entry to adulthood, job relocation, divorce, and aging. While most Green Mountain College students live on campus, students occupy many of the rental units available in Town, especially in the areas in close proximity to the campus.

In Poultney, the percentage of households in unaffordable rental situations has dropped by 14%. Poultney also provides a number of subsidized rental units for elderly residents. Many of these are also handicap accessible. One sector of Poultney's population that may be presently underserved is low-income families. Poultney is the largest community in the Region with no subsidized housing available to families. Subsidized housing plays an important role in providing accommodations for families in varying situations— single parent families, families with only one “breadwinner”, the elderly and young residents just starting out.

Between 2007 and 2009, the United States faced a recession that affected the entire world economy. Despite the recession, the cost of rental housing in the State of Vermont continues to rise. According to a 2011 publication released by the Vermont Housing Finance Agency, a renter household must earn \$19.03/hour while working full time to afford a modest 2-bedroom unit at HUD's Fair Market Rent (FMR) and only pay 30% of their income for rent and utilities. This “Housing Wage” is well over two times the state's minimum wage, and would equal an annual income of \$39,595. Over 300 occupations, more than 53% of Vermont's non-farm occupations, have median salaries less than this Housing Wage. For more information on the recession of 2007-2009 and its impact on Poultney, see Chapter 15: Housing Technical Report.

5.3 Future Needs

There are noticeable shifts in the types of households seeking homes. Both the population and housing stock of the town are rapidly aging. Household sizes are decreasing which means the need for housing units is increasing even while the population size is on the verge of declining. The number of households living in unaffordable housing is also increasing. All of these trends point to the need to maintain current housing and, when possible, diversify the types of housing available to Poultney residents. This will ensure that housing available to Poultney residents meets the needs of a variety of household configurations and income levels. Accessory apartments, either within or attached to single-family residences, continue to provide affordable housing in close proximity to cost-effective care and supervision, for relatives, disabled, elderly and others. It is for this reason that the creation of accessory apartments is encouraged and the use is allowed in all areas of Town that are appropriate for residential development.

In September of 2007, the Selectboard approved amendments to the Zoning Regulations that had been proposed by the Planning Commission, including amending the Establishment of Zoning Districts (Section 201) to include a Future Utility District. The purpose of this District is to promote smart growth that expands the social and physical residential character of the existing Village and provides opportunities for social, cultural, and economic diversity. An approved village sewer and/or water permit is required before applying for a zoning permit in this District. The creation of this District enabled the Commission to plan for future water and sewer line extensions that support the continuation of current Village development patterns into adjoining areas of the Town, previously Housing Goal 2: Program 3.

Please refer to **Chapter 15: Housing Technical Report** for more information on Poultney's housing situation.

5.4 Housing Goals and Objectives

Housing Goal 1: To allow Poultney residents access to decent, safe, sanitary and affordable housing of a quality that encourages good maintenance and insures that the quality of the Town is maintained.

Program 1: Work with Neighborworks of Western Vermont, Rutland County Community Land Trust, Bennington Rutland Opportunity Council (BROC) and other housing agencies to rehabilitate existing units, upgrade housing stock and improve neighborhoods.

Program 2: Work with area housing agencies to provide cost-effective opportunities through the creation and maintenance of affordable housing opportunities for local residents and workers.

Program 3: Work with area housing organizations to determine need for subsidized family rental housing and possible ways to provide such.

Program 4: Make provisions for growth in housing for all income levels and household situations in the Town's zoning and subdivision regulations.

Program 5: Promote mixed income/mixed use developments where appropriate.

Program 6: Encourage the development of housing on a scale and design compatible with existing neighborhoods or rural landscapes.

Housing Goal 2: To provide for the future housing needs of the Village and Town of Poultney.

Program 1: Work to meet the needs of elderly residents by exploring options such as graduated-care living units, elderly/handicapped accessible units, and access to local public transit.

Program 2: Identify expansion areas for East Poultney village that will accommodate housing that follows existing village development patterns.

Program 3: Work with regional and state organizations to research and identify appropriate locations and incentives for subsidized family rental housing.

Program 4: Encourage the establishment of affordable accessory apartments in all areas of town appropriate for Residential development.

Housing Goal 3: To encourage life safety code improvements, energy conservation measures, and other home improvements through the nonprofit housing organizations providing services in the Region.

Program 1: Provide homeowners and landlords with information on USDA Rural Development grant and loan programs for housing rehabilitation and upkeep of older units.

6.0 Economic Development

6.1 Historic and Current Activities

Between 1771 and 1821 as the town was settled, the core of Poultney's economic activity was agricultural. Many distilleries popped up, including the manufacture of corn and rye whiskeys and cider brandy, until at one point there were 10 operations within the Town limits. Then a large part of the town's commerce, these operations swiftly disappeared in the 1830s due to the rise of the Temperance movement. Between 1824 and 1835, sheep husbandry boomed, followed by dairy associations and fruit growing. Mills and foundries connected the villages of Poultney and East Poultney, and the turnpike (now Vermont Route 30) cemented Poultney Village's role as a transportation center. The railroad arrived in 1851, and much of East Poultney moved west to meet it. By the 1900s, there was a huge boom in the slate industry, and the slate quarries that had opened in the 1840's were now employing hundreds of Welsh, Italian, Irish and Slavic immigrants, as Poultney was transformed and industrialized. At this time, Poultney Village housed 5 department stores, dry goods stores, restaurants, stables, and several photographic studios.

The vision for Poultney's economic development focuses on retaining and expanding the scope of current businesses, while also seeking to diversify and strengthen the Town's overall economic picture through the attraction of new businesses in certain identified sectors. The major focus of new business recruitment is two fold—the first being the attraction of those businesses that would support and grow Poultney's tourist economy, the second being the attraction of knowledge based businesses that focus on intellectual capital. The overall goal of new business recruitment is to provide meaningful, well-paying jobs for Poultney residents.

Poultney's economy is currently dominated by manufacturing, retail, and service sectors. The slate industry is a major component of the manufacturing trade. Green Mountain College, one of the top 25 employers in Rutland County in 2004, also provides many jobs for residents of Poultney and surrounding towns. Another large sector is government employment, mainly comprised of those employed by the public schools in the Town. Currently, employment in the leisure and hospitality sector does not constitute a large percentage of Poultney's economy, however it is the only service-providing industry that had grown between 2000 and 2010. Goals to continue strengthening this sector will allow for employment expansion in the areas of arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodations, and other tourism related trades and services. An expansion of employment opportunities will in turn stimulate retail growth in the Town. Growth in this sector is supported by the downtown revitalization activities occurring in Poultney, as well as efforts to expand business opportunities in the "creative economy."¹

Downtown Designation

Much thought and effort has been invested in planning for Poultney's economic future. This

¹The "Creative Economy" is seen as those creative businesses, nonprofit cultural organizations, and self employed artists that strengthen the overall economy through their creativity, innovation, and commitment to quality of life and sense of place. See *Advancing Vermont's Creative Economy—the final report and recommendations from the Vermont Council on Culture and Innovation* for more information.

activity has revolved around the Poultney Community Visit² in 2002 and work of the Poultney Downtown Revitalization Committee, associated with the Downtown Designation³ of the Village's downtown core.

In the past, revitalization efforts have included streetscape improvements (such as benches, streetlights, flowerbeds, trash receptacles, banners and improved signage), sidewalk expansions and connectivity, attracting new businesses to Poultney's Downtown, and encouraging the repurposing of historic structures for new and expanding businesses. These efforts continue today and remain a goal into the future.

Village Designation

The East Poultney Village Center designation has enabled us to preserve and celebrate the rich history of Poultney where the Town first began. The area consists of a beautiful green where many community events are held and the iconic and historic Baptist Church, surrounded by quiet residences, mixed-use residence/home occupations, the East Poultney General Store and many historic buildings, several of which have been turned into museums operated by the Poultney Historical Society. Through our Designation status we have been able to apply for grants to enhance the area, including a comprehensive sidewalk network and a pedestrian friendly bridge over the East Poultney Gorge.

6.2 Desired Future Development

The general vision for Poultney's economic development focuses on retaining and expanding the scope of current businesses, while also seeking to diversify and strengthen the Town's overall economic picture through the attraction of new businesses in certain identified sectors. The major focus of new business recruitment is two fold—the first being the attraction of those businesses that would support and grow Poultney's tourist economy, the second being the attraction of knowledge based businesses that focus on intellectual capital. The overall goal of new business recruitment is to provide meaningful, well-paying jobs for Poultney residents.

Business limitations of Poultney's small market and competition with retail and services found in Rutland and in Granville, New York are challenges that the town is working to address. The town is also working to effectively promote the assets that are present.

The unique, historic character of both Poultney and East Poultney villages makes the Town an attractive area to live and visit. Both villages are walkable, visually interesting, and offer basic services as well as specialty retail. Poultney also has access to many visitors—entering the state from New York, coming north from the Manchester Area, skiers and other recreation enthusiasts.

² The Poultney Community Visit was led by the Vermont Council on Rural Development

³ Downtown Designation is a result of the 1998 Downtown Development Act that recognized that vital downtowns are critical to the well-being of Vermont's communities. The designation strengthens downtowns by providing incentives to community-led revitalization efforts through partnerships created between town officials, organizations, business and property owners, and volunteers. A comprehensive revitalization strategy guides the activities in the Designated Downtown, and involves a long-term commitment to enriching economic opportunities, preserving historic buildings and using them to their fullest potential, improving infrastructure, and providing comfortable public spaces in the commercial district.

Lake St. Catherine State Park attracted 30,030 visitors in 2010, making it the 8th most visited State Park in the state. Town residents and educational professionals are working hard to improve the education system. Green Mountain College also provides incoming residents and visitors that participate in the Poultney economy, as well as offering many other resources that contribute to the quality of life of Poultney's residents.

The community is also sensitive to the fact that economic growth must be carefully balanced with the importance of maintaining high environmental standards, and growth should not outpace our ability to account for clear environmental and community needs, such as clean air, clean water, access to open space and ecosystem health. These topics are considered more carefully in other chapters of this document.

Please refer to **Chapter 16: Economic Development Technical Report** for more information on Poultney's economy.

6.3 Economic Development Goals and Objectives

General Economic Development Goal 1: Increase per capita and household incomes thereby improving the quality of life.

General Economic Development Goal 2: Increase the community's property tax base and ability to provide essential public services.

General Economic Development Goal 3: Foster entrepreneurship; promote small business development; support new business formation; and provide basic services and facilities required attracting private investment.

General Economic Development Goal 4: Diversify the retail and service opportunities available to current and future residents.

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION GOAL 1: Downtown revitalization efforts become a major component of Poultney's economic future—the activities benefit town and village residents & visitors, business owners and employees alike.

Downtown Revitalization Program 1: Improve downtown, diversify downtown businesses, and improve the attractiveness of its center.

Downtown Revitalization Program 2: Support streetscape improvements to downtown.

Downtown Revitalization Program 3: Support diversity of retail and services in downtown business district.

Downtown Revitalization Program 4: Complete Village Streetscape Improvement Plan to increase attractiveness to residents and visitors, better support retail trade and services, enhance business opportunities of local merchants, improve customer access and enhanced shopping environment, and provide incentive to new businesses coming to the area.

- Address aesthetics, infrastructure and safety needs, lack of public gathering spaces, lack of adequate parking and improved access management at key commercial businesses.
- Priorities—signage, lighting, landscaping, public utilities and infrastructure, focusing on Designated Downtown streets.

Downtown Revitalization Program 5: Utilize benefits associated with Poultney’s Vermont Downtown Designation under the Downtown Development Act.

Downtown Revitalization Program 6: Support those goals, policies and tasks identified in the Poultney Downtown Revitalization Committee Strategic 5-Year Plan as they relate to a healthy and vibrant Downtown.

TOURISM INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT GOAL 1: Poultney strengthens tourist industry by building on its unique historical and cultural assets.

Tourism Industry Development Program 1: Strengthen creative economy by marketing Poultney’s fine and performing arts and crafters to residents and visitors to the area.

Tourism Industry Development Program 2: Increase exposure of Poultney artisans by displaying crafts/products at Stonebridge Visitor Information Center.

Tourism Industry Development Program 3: Promote use of the visitor and tourist information center at the Stonebridge

Tourism Industry Development Program 4: Utilize strategies in Lakes Region Marketing Plan developed by Ghostwriters.

Tourism Industry Development Program 5: Use new Poultney website to market Poultney to visitors.

Tourism Industry Development Program 6: Continue participating in the Route 30 Stone Valley Byway Committee and promote benefits available for improvements that will increase the tourism potential of town.

Tourism Industry Development Program 7: Promote Town festivals and celebrations to both residents and visitors, i.e.: Chili cook off, town wide yard sale, Maple Fest, 4th of July, East Poultney Day, fishing derbies, Shakespeare festival, etc.

Tourism Industry Development Program 8: Promote the Poultney Area Artist Guild, Horace Greeley Writers Guild, Poultney Summer Theater Company and area art studios.

Tourism Industry Development Program 9: Include East Poultney Historic District and museums in tourism and marketing efforts.

Tourism Industry Development Program 10: Develop gateways as recognizable approach into town.

Tourism Industry Development Program 11: Maintain signage package developed by Poultney Downtown Revitalization Committee.

Tourism Industry Development Program 12: Support promotional programs to increase Poultney's share of retail trade and tourist spending, in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Revitalization Committee and Green Mountain College.

Tourism Industry Development Program 13: Develop new attractions to expand the region's appeal as a four-season recreation area.

JOB RETENTION AND JOB CREATION GOAL 1: To provide permanent, meaningful jobs for residents of Poultney and surrounding towns.

Job Retention and Job Creation Program 1: Retain existing jobs in all sectors.

Job Retention and Job Creation Program 2: Work with existing businesses to identify expansion opportunities when growth potential is present.

Job Retention and Job Creation Program 3: Work to attract new manufacturers and other businesses that provide employment for college-educated professionals, technical school graduates and skilled workers.

Job Retention and Job Creation Program 4: Develop training and apprenticeship programs for the slate industry in cooperation with area firms.

Job Retention and Job Creation Program 5: Provide technical assistance to existing and new businesses. Make appropriate referrals to available resources and consultants in appropriate fields of expertise.

Job Retention and Job Creation Program 6: Utilize the “Think Vermont” website—a resource for small businesses and entrepreneurs across the state.

Job Retention and Job Creation Program 7: Participate in business recruitment programs established by the Vermont Department of Economic Development and the Rutland Economic Development Corporation.

Job Retention and Job Creation Program 8: Foster entrepreneurship, promote small business development, and support new business formation by using the following resources:

- Utilize the Small Business Development Center, Thinkvermont.com, and other resources to initiate a small business counseling and technical assistance program.
- Conduct periodic workshops on starting, financing and managing your own business.
- Establish a small business financing technical assistance program to assist with business planning, loan packaging and financial management.
- Support plans for a business incubator and entrepreneurial center
- Develop 2 acres owned by the Town as a business/industrial park located off of Beaman Street. After securing tenants, support the construction of a 15,000 sf shell building.

- Promote the development of available business/industrial sites identified by the Poultney Planning Commission.
- Coordinate with communication providers to assure sufficient broadband Internet Communication capacity available to current and future businesses. Work with adjacent towns that are also attempting to expand access to this service.
- Focus on businesses the can provide meaningful long-term employment, and will increase per capita income and town tax base.
- Emphasize and strengthen quality of life Poultney offers employers and their employees.
- Apply for job training resources to increase the skills of Poultney employees

Job Retention and Job Creation Program 9: Utilize staff, technical and financial resources through Vermont’s Business Financing Programs (published by the Department of Economic Development) to provide technical assistance and loan packaging services to existing and prospective environmentally conscious employers.

Job Retention and Job Creation Program 10: Utilize information contained within the “Guide to the State of Vermont Economic Advancement Tax Incentive Program” Vermont Economic Progress Council

Job Retention and Job Creation Program 11: Utilize the staff and resources of Vermont's Community Development Program to provide technical assistance and grants through the Community Development Block Grant Program for economic development related activities to benefit low and moderate-income persons.

CREATIVE ECONOMY⁴ GOAL 1: Expand Poultney’s creative economy

Creative Economy Program 1: Develop a buy local, buy creative campaign for consumers and town businesses.

Creative Economy Program 2: Incorporate art into public and private spaces.

Creative Economy Program 3: Include Poultney’s artistic and cultural resources in tourism marketing program.

Creative Economy Program 4: Explore funding options for cultural activities to promote Creative Economy.

Creative Economy Program 5: Pursue practical experience (internships, mentors, etc.) for students interested in pursuing careers in technology, fine arts, and the applied arts through partnerships between Green Mountain College students and artists in the community as well as between Poultney students and Green Mountain College art students.

Creative Economy Program 6: Promote and support the rehabilitation and use of historic downtown buildings and structures for innovative and creative small businesses and cultural institutions, retail space and services.

⁴ Many of these recommendations were adapted from The Vermont Council on Rural Development 2004 Report *Advancing Vermont’s Creative Economy*.

Creative Economy Program 7: Continue to work with Vermont Council on Rural Development in using tools developed to promote Poultney as a creative economic destination.

7.0 Community Facilities and Services

7.1 General Community Facilities and Services

Publicly owned by the Town of Poultney are the Town Hall, the Public Library, a Firehouse, a Senior Citizen Center, a Highway Garage, Salt Shed, Sand & Salt Shed, and a Transfer Station for the receipt and sorting of waste material. The Town also acquired the Stonebridge Inn, a historic building that had been partially destroyed by fire.

The Village of Poultney owns the old fire station with Village administrative offices that is in fair to poor condition, a water system including a water reservoir and two well houses, two sewer pump stations, and a wastewater treatment plant.

The School District owns and administers the Poultney Elementary School and Poultney High School, as well as the land where recreational facilities are located. The Town owns and maintains the Poultney Recreational Facility building.

Town facilities are generally in good condition, with a few exceptions. The Town Office, built in 1969, is approaching functional obsolescence. Similarly, the Town Clerk Vault has reached capacity. One recent success is the Stonebridge Inn, which when acquired had extensive fire damage. Between 2004 and 2005 the Stonebridge Inn was reconstructed and transformed into a public facility housing a broad array of services to meet the needs of residents and visitors alike. The Stonebridge is now home to many valuable community organizations. The original firehouse, housing the Village administrative offices, is in fair to poor condition and needs continued maintenance.

The High School facility and the Elementary School are in generally good condition.

The town is generally lacking widespread universal access to Internet and high-speed telecommunications, however recent infrastructure improvements have been closing the gaps in coverage between 2010 and 2011. The latest available data for Broadband availability is shown on Poultney's Broadband Access map. A Public WiFi network is available at the Poultney Public Library, and in 2011, was expanded through the e-Vermont Program to cover Main Street from Maple Street to Beaman Street/Route 30.

There is a privately owned single wireless telecommunication facility on the Village reservoir property at the northerly end of the Windy Wood Acres residential development. The tower presently serves two cell phone service providers with a signal reception area in the village and other limited areas.

High School aged residents in Poultney lack creative outlets and activities. Community members are concerned over a perceived disconnection between youth, adults and elders. The Town could help address this situation by exploring the idea of expanding opportunities for youth, teens and adults such as recreational activities, employment, arts and drama, academic programs and outlets for community service.

Currently the Village and Town are separate governance units. The possibility of merging the two should be examined for potential cost savings and simplification of municipal management and decision-making.

Please refer to **Chapter 17: Community Facilities and Services Technical Report** for additional information on this subject.

7.2 General Community Facilities and Services Goals and Objectives

General Community Facilities and Services Goal 1: Provide adequate community facilities and services to the citizens of Poultney.

General Community Facilities and Services Program 1: Partner with Green Mountain College and other interested adjacent towns to assess demand and maximize the base of potential users of broadband, fiber optic and increased cell phone coverage. Work with potential providers to assess demand and identify possible ways of increasing coverage.

General Community Facilities and Services Program 2: Continue partnering with Green Mountain College to meet the needs of the Town's young adults.

General Community Facilities and Services Goal 2: Plan growth and development so that the capacities of local facilities and services keep pace with expanded needs.

General Community Facilities and Services Program 1: Research costs and feasibility of a Town Office expansion.

General Community Facilities and Services Program 2: Research costs and feasibility of a new vault for the Town Clerk's Office.

General Community Facilities and Services Program 3: Upgrade and repair the Village Office.

General Community Facilities and Services Goal 3: Provide an environmentally sound and energy and cost efficient system of public facilities and services to meet present and future demands for fire protection, public safety, emergency medical services, water supply, sewage treatment, solid waste management and disposal, and other essential services.

General Community Facilities and Services Program 1: Form a merger committee to analyze the costs and benefits of a Town-Village merger.

General Community Facilities and Services Goal 4: Provide for the continuing regular maintenance and upkeep of public buildings in a cost-effective manner.

General Community Facilities and Services Program 1: Anticipate capital costs and continue to plan for them through a capital budgeting program.

General Community Facilities and Services Program 2: Continue to revise and update a long-term Municipal Capital Program and Budget. List major capital investments and

improvements needed in the next 5 to 10 years; estimate costs and seek possible funding sources; and schedule and budget expenditures based on needs and priorities.

General Community Facilities and Services Program 3: Develop management plans for each municipally owned building and property and ensure that they are maintained, utilized and upgraded to meet the needs of citizens and employees. These plans should be incorporated into a comprehensive Capital Program and Budget for the Town, Village and School District.

7.3 Library

The Poultney Public Library's mission is to collect, maintain and make available to all members of the community resources that contribute to personal, educational, and recreational enrichment. The library occupies a historic building in the heart of downtown, and as a hub of community activity, plays an important role in the revitalization of Poultney's commercial and social center.

In 2011, in line with its mission, the Library added seven new public access computers and extended their existing wireless internet connection to cover the majority of the downtown business district on Main Street. This project was undertaken with the assistance of the e-Vermont Community Broadband Project.

7.4 Library Goals and Objectives

Library Program 1: Maintain, improve and expand building structure.

Library Program 2: Initiate energy conservation measures.

Library Program 3: Continue to work to maximize shelving capacity and make the most efficient possible use of available space throughout the facility.

Library Program 4: Integrate new technologies in ways that will improve service and enhance the Library's ability to fulfill its mission.

7.5 Education

Poultney Elementary School serves approximately 185 students in grades kindergarten through sixth. Poultney High School serves approximately 230 students, some of which are tuition students from surrounding towns.

The schools are governed by a five member elected school board. The school board sets policy and develops an annual budget for voters to consider on Town Meeting day.

Through the 2002 Poultney Community Visit, many Poultney residents have worked on identifying challenges facing the school system, and opportunities to address them. One of the largest challenges is the aging infrastructure of both the Elementary and High School. Both buildings need basic renovations such as roofs and are facing space constraints. As enrollment declines, upgrades to the current facilities holds priority over new facilities to address capacity

issues. Mobile learning facilities may provide a temporary opportunity to lessen space constraints. Upgrades in the facilities, such as the recently modernized science labs, are necessary to meet current and future educational goals. Long term planning for the future uses of the two school buildings would aid in the decision to proceed with these identified projects.

The Education Task Force, which was formed through the Vermont Council on Rural Development's Community Visit, is working on improving academic performance of Poultney's schools, understanding that this affects not only the students but the ability of the town to attract new employers and residents. Another public process addressing educational issues in the town was the Orton community video project, completed in 2004. The aim of the Orton video was to complement the Education Task Force and advance its goals. The initial focus of the Video project was to explore issues surrounding the adoption of the school budget, feature the historic significance of the schools, and raise interest in changing the negative perception about the high school. The level of civic engagement was highlighted by the numerous community members that were involved in the project through interviews, partnerships with town organizations and work in the production of the video.

Access to adult education is a community priority. The Poultney Public Library hosts many events that lend to ongoing education, and area opportunities abound, including those at Green Mountain College, Stafford Technical School and Castleton State College. The Town has also worked with the eVermont initiative in the past to host online business training seminars at the Poultney public school facilities, with help from Community Colleges of Vermont and the Vermont Small Business Development Center, and hopes to continue these partnerships in the future.

7.6 Education Goals and Objectives

Education Goal 1: Raise academic standards in schools serving Poultney students.

Education Goal 2: Provide students with highly qualified educators and administrators.

Education Goal 3: Involve the community in Poultney's education system.

Education Program 1: The Town/Village should continue to work with the School District to provide recreational, educational and cultural events for the community.

Education Goal 4: To promote continuing education opportunities for Poultney residents.

Education Program 1: The community should support the Stafford Technical Center programs that can provide an alternative educational experience and/or retrain persons to meet employment needs in the community

Education Goal 5: To provide a fair and equal education for every student in Poultney while operating on a limited budget.

Education Goal 6: To provide appropriate facilities for a comprehensive educational experience for all ages (academic, athletic, vocational, social, cultural and ethical).

Education Goal 7: Continue to work with the Poultney Public Library, Community Colleges of Vermont, the Vermont Small Business Development Center and similar organizations to offer training opportunities in the Poultney community.

Poultney High School

High School Program 1: Continue to raise academic standards and encourage best efforts on standardized tests.

High School Program 2: Educate all students in least restrictive environments.

High School Program 3: Continue to provide staff development opportunities in math and literacy instruction

High School Program 4: Continue to address climate issues and work on solution together.

High School Program 5: Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of keeping the High School by analyzing liabilities, completing a school improvement plan that is analyzed for costs and benefits, and study the long-term affordability of each option for the community.

High School Program 6: Explore ways to partner with Green Mountain College in academic opportunities and student mentoring.

Please refer to Poultney High School Action Plan 2008-2010 for Department specific goals and actions to address recommendations listed above.

Poultney Elementary School

Elementary School Program 1: To support learners in a caring, nurturing environment where the belief is that all students can learn through data-driven decision making and interventions for students, faculty and staff.

Elementary School Program 2: To provide professional development opportunities and on-going support for faculty and staff to ensure best practice and research-based instruction for our students is consistent.

Elementary School Program 3: Students will have an increased understanding of mathematical and problem-solving skills as evidenced on local, district and state assessments.

Elementary School Program 4: Students will demonstrate increased proficiency in literacy skills (reading and writing) as evidenced on local, district and state assessments.

Elementary School Program 5: To increase student proficiency levels in the area of science as measured on local, district and state assessments with focus on inquiry-based tasks and constructed response writing activities.

Elementary School Program 6: To promote health and wellness of all educational stakeholders as well as the community at large, through continued partnerships and increased communications and activities.

Elementary School Program 7: Students will demonstrate increased proficiency in the areas of technology in order to prepare them for 21st Century Learning and future careers as measured by classroom and library/media work samples and performance-based tasks.

Please refer to Poultney Elementary School Action Plan FY12-FY14 (reviewed and revised annually as necessary) for details and timelines as to the above Programs.

7.7 Childcare

Ensuring accessible, affordable, quality childcare is integral to sound economic development planning. In Poultney, there is currently one (1) registered family childcare home⁵. This provider can accommodate 6 full time and 4 part time children. According to Vermont Childcare Information Services, a part of the Child Development Division of the State, there are currently only 2 vacancies at this provider. There are currently two (2) licensed childcare⁶ and early education opportunities in the Poultney area, including the Rutland Southwest Supervisory Union Early Education Program and the Leap Frog Nursery School. All childcare facilities are shown on Poultney’s Utilities and Facilities Map.

To understand better the ability of these three (3) facilities to meet the child care needs of Poultney families, an analysis of the number of children estimated to need care, and the type of care needed is necessary. In Poultney there are presently 472 children under the age of 14. One hundred seventy one (171), or 36% of these children are under the age of 5. The number of children under the age of 5 has increased for the first time in two decades, by 7%, indicating the potential for an increased need for childcare in the town. The total number of children under 13 has decreased, indicating a staggering child cohort, from infants and toddlers to school age children.

Poultney—Children Ages 0-13 Years, 2000 / 2010

Age	2000	2010	% Change
Infant-Preschool (Under5 years)	160	171	7%
5 - 14 years	476	301	-37%
Total	636	472	-26%

Source: U.S. Census 2000, 2010

⁵ Registered Family Child Care Provider: in-home child care businesses regulated by the State of Vermont that can care for: 6 children under the age of 6 full time (up to 2 under the age of 2) and 4 school age children part time.

⁶ Licensed Child Care Providers operate under the same regulations as Registered providers, with the exception that directors must have specific related education and staff must complete 12 hours of training a year. Licensed providers can accommodate over 30 children, depending on the number of staff at the center.

Oftentimes single-parent households are more likely to need childcare, than married couple families. The total children (under age 18) in single parent households are decreasing, from 102 in 2000 to 90 in 2010.

The employment status of families with children can also affect their childcare needs. Poultney's economy is currently dominated by manufacturing, retail, and service sectors. Oftentimes, parents working in these sectors may need child care services that are available during non-traditional hours (evenings, nights and weekends). In Poultney, one registered childcare provider's hours are 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Another provider is slightly more accommodating, with hours from 7:00AM to 6:00PM, Monday through Friday. The third provider's hours are not listed. Poultney providers may not accommodate the needs of families working in the service sector. In 2000, there were 76 children under 6 years old that live in situations where both parents are employed. These children were more likely to need childcare than children in families where only one parent is in the work force.

This analysis provides information on the available childcare openings in the Town and specific family situations that may affect childcare needs. While the overall number of children potentially needing childcare services is declining, there is not enough data to determine whether the childcare needs of Poultney residents are being met. The Town has made an effort to maximize the availability of child care by providing space for Leap Frog Nursery in the Stonebridge and by encouraging the provision of childcare through the allowance of childcare facilities in all zoning districts.

While registered providers in the Town comprise part of the childcare picture, informal childcare arrangements may be meeting some of the need as well. There is the possibility of these situations being unstable and lacking the quality control offered by the registration and licensing process. Another scenario is when parents do not seek childcare providers in their town of residence, instead opting for an arrangement close to their workplace.

The information provided here begins to analyze the childcare situation in Poultney. Further assessment of the situation should be performed to determine the strengths/weaknesses of the available childcare infrastructure, the extent to which informal childcare providers are meeting the determined need, and the extent to which childcare providers outside of Poultney are filling the needs of Poultney families.

7.8 Child Care Goals and Objectives

Child Care Goal 1: Accessible, affordable, quality childcare is available to residents and employees of Poultney.

Child Care Program 1: Allow for the expansion of licensed childcare facilities and services.

Child Care Program 2: Work with neighboring communities to support childcare services.

Child Care Program 3: Encourage larger employers in Town to provide childcare options for their employees.

Child Care Program 5: Increase understanding of the correlation between strong economies and the availability of safe and affordable childcare.

7.9 Wastewater

Extensive upgrades to the Waste Water Treatment Facility were completed in 2002 to bring the Facility into compliance with the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, which regulates the discharging of effluent. These upgrades have reduced levels of phosphorus in released effluent and increased the efficiency of operation. The facility now has the capacity to accommodate more residential, commercial or industrial development in areas served by Village sewer and within the Future Utility Zoning District.

7.10 Wastewater Goals and Objectives

Wastewater Goal 1: Provide a safe, sanitary and efficient means of waste disposal.

Wastewater Program 1: Increase the number of users to offset the costs of the treatment plant upgrade.

Wastewater Program 2: Continue to study possible sewer line extensions.

Wastewater Program 3: Expand the Village's sewer infrastructure to guide growth in a pattern dictated in the Town's future land use plan.

Wastewater Program 4: Adopt the new Village Sewage Ordinance to comply with new State technical standards laid out in Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules.

7.11 Water System

The Village owns and operates a municipal water system. Water is supplied from two gravel wells located west of the Village. The water system underwent a major upgrade in 1983-1984. In 2010, well pumps were upgraded for energy efficiency, funded by a Climate Change Grant. In the same year, water lines were upgraded along Norton Avenue, York Street and York Street Extension, new water telemetry equipment and circuit board were installed, three new fire hydrants were installed, and the water meter replacement project was completed.

7.12 Water System Goals and Objectives

Water System Goal 1: Provide the public with a safe and dependable supply of clean drinking water.

Water System Program 1: Evaluate the condition of existing water lines prior to paving roads.

Water System Program 2: Continue to follow recommendations outlined in the Sanitary Survey of the Poultney Water Department dated November 24th, 2010.

Water System Program 3: Update the Town's Source Water Protection Plan every three (3) years (next update in 2013).

Water System Program 4: Continue to implement the recommendations of the water corrosivity analysis conducted by the Wright Engineering firm.

Water System Program 6: Develop and implement a long-range plan for improving the water system with the assistance of the Agency of Natural Resources Water Quality Division and the Northeast Rural Water Association.

Water System Program 7: Continue to study possible water line extensions.

Water System Program 8: Update Village Water Ordinance to comply with new State technical standards laid out in Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules.

7.13 Solid Waste

The Town of Poultney owns and operates a Transfer Station located on Hillside Rd. in East Poultney. This Transfer Station, located at the former Poultney landfill site, is a certified E-Waste Collector, collecting items containing toxic materials, including (but not limited to) lead, mercury and chromium. The Town of Poultney is a member of the Rutland County Solid Waste District.

7.14 Solid Waste Goals and Objectives

Solid Waste Goal 1: Dispose of solid waste in a cost-effective manner.

Solid Waste Program 1: Schedule additional special waste events for metal days, tire collections, and construction and demolition debris.

Solid Waste Program 2: Re-write a comprehensive Solid Waste ordinance.

Solid Waste Goal 2: Maximize public participation in the voluntary recycling programs at the Transfer Station.

Solid Waste Program 1: Pursue increased recycling efforts through educational information regarding the benefits and costs of recycling vs. mixed solid waste disposal.

Solid Waste Program 2: Extend recycling to waste products not presently provided for by the Town.

Solid Waste Program 3: Explore a composting program for yard wastes and to encourage composting at home.

7.15 Health Care and Social Services

A variety of health and human service facilities are available to residents. Some are located within the town, but many are provided by regional organizations. These include Rutland Area

Visiting Nurses, Rutland Area Community Services (formerly Rutland Mental Health), Rutland Regional Medical Center, Castleton Family Health Clinic, Mettowee Family Health Clinic, the Southwestern Vermont Area Agency on Aging, and the Vermont Department of Health Services.

7.16 Health Care and Social Services Goals and Objectives

Health / Social Service Goal 1: Provide accessible health and social services to all Poultney residents.

Health / Social Service Program 1: Provide information to local interest groups, organizations, and individuals about health care and related social service programs.

Health / Social Service Program 2: Support health care and social services through municipal tax dollar assistance and by providing space for meetings and educational events. Provide access to other funding sources which become available.

7.17 Public Safety

The Town of Poultney contracts with the Vermont State Police for law enforcement services. The Town entered into a contract for services under the State Department of Public Safety's new C.O.P. s program in 1991.

The Board of Selectmen appoints a Town Constable who also provides public safety services for the community on a part-time basis.

7.18 Public Safety Goals and Objectives

Public Safety Goal 1: Maintain visible, effective, and efficient law enforcement services to the citizens of Poultney.

Public Safety Program 1: Complete a study to help guide planning and funding for future crime prevention and law enforcement services.

Public Safety Program 2: Poultney Selectboard should analyze police coverage to address resident concerns about serious crimes, nuisance crimes, excessive speeding and lack of visible coverage.

Public Safety Program 3: Explore the possibility of setting up a locally based court diversion program to make sentencing recommendations for first time offenders.

Public Safety Program 4: Have the State Police in conjunction with the Town, school district, and merchants sponsor crime prevention seminars in the community.

Public Safety Program 5: Continue to investigate the 'Neighborhood Watch' program for possible implementation.

Public Safety Program 7: Continue to provide educational materials on fire prevention and safety particularly tailored to the characteristics of older structures because of the important historic structures in Poultney.

Public Safety Program 8: Continue to provide the Constable with the necessary training and equipment resources to provide a reasonable and effective presence for the community.

Public Safety Program 9: Improve the holding facility for dogs, on Town owned property, to assist the Animal Control Officer and/or Constable.

7.19 Emergency Management

Poultney has been involved in several activities related to emergency planning. The Town adopted a Basic Emergency Operations Plan in 2010. This plan helps coordinate and facilitate response activities in the event of an emergency. In January of 2004, the town took part in regional pre-disaster mitigation planning efforts, updated on August 8th, 2011. The creation of a Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Plan improves the community's ability to mitigate for future disasters, lessening the financial, social and environmental impacts stemming from possible disaster events. The PDM and Basic Emergency Operations Plan ensures accessibility to Federal Emergency Management Agency funds to aid in mitigation projects and disaster recovery efforts.

7.20 Emergency Management Goals and Objectives

Emergency Management Goal 1: Provide the community with an effective Emergency Management Plan.

Emergency Management Program 1: Ensure that the Town's Basic Emergency Operations Plan is reviewed annually and updated as needed with assistance from Vermont Emergency Management.

Emergency Management Program 2: Implement the risk and damages reduction strategies identified in the Rutland Regional Pre-Disaster Plan and Poultney Annex.

Emergency Management Program 3: Ensure that the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan is reviewed annually and updated as needed with assistance from Vermont Emergency Management and the Rutland Regional Planning Commission.

7.21 Fire Protection:

The Town of Poultney has a volunteer Fire Department that is commonly known as the Poultney Hose Company # 1. As of 2011, the Department consists of approximately 34 volunteers.

The Department moved into its new building located at 263 Beaman Street in 1998.

7.22 Fire Protection Goals and Objectives

Fire Protection Goal 1: To maintain an effective and well trained volunteer Fire Department.

Fire Protection Program 1: Continue municipal and community support for the Poultney Fire Department through tax dollars and community fund raising activities.

Fire Protection Program 2: Provide training resources and opportunities through The Vermont League of Cities and Towns Loss Prevention Programs and other professional fire training schools.

Fire Protection Goal 2: Maintain fire-fighting equipment including vehicles in a safe operating condition.

Fire Protection Program 1: Update a Capital Program and Improvement Plan for fire suppression equipment.

Fire Protection Goal 3: Increase public awareness of fire safety.

7.23 Emergency Medical Services:

The Town of Poultney is served by the Poultney Rescue Squad for emergency medical services. Advanced life support and paramedic services are available from the Regional Ambulance Service Inc. of Rutland.

7.24 Emergency Medical Services Goals and Objectives

Emergency Medical Service Goal 1: Provide adequate emergency medical and ambulance service

Emergency Medical Service Program 1: Continue municipal and community support for the Poultney Rescue Squad and the Rutland Regional Ambulance Service.

Emergency Medical Service Program 2: Rescue Squad participates in the next round of Town Capital Budget Planning.

8.0 Transportation

Good transportation facilitates getting to work, getting to stores and accessing the many opportunities and activities available within and without the confines of the community. It is essential to commerce in goods and services. The transportation system of a town is also the framework that directs land uses, development patterns, and overall character.

Town transportation plans are an essential part of general land use plans. Adequate accessibility to land parcels facilitates the likelihood of their development. Since traffic grows proportionately to such development, thought must be given to how much accessibility the Town can afford and provide in terms of road maintenance and improvements.

In providing for the common welfare, a community is obliged to maintain a satisfactory system of transportation accessible to all. This would include the maintenance of roads accessible year round for the vehicular transport of goods and persons. Since not all have access to the use of private automobiles, public transport should be available. In addition, provision should be made for safe pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

Since the movement of goods and services is important to the economy of Poultney, it is imperative that the highway system be capable of accommodating truck traffic for most of its length. The importance of highway traffic has grown in Poultney since railroad service has been abandoned.

Typically, at the Town level, new highway construction is undertaken in conjunction with new development. New development can be permitted with specific conditions on corollary road construction to protect important natural features. In accordance with safe and proper highway design practices, roads serving new development can be located so as to avoid or limit damage to sensitive natural areas. Additionally, the adverse impact of new development on existing Town roads should be considered and, where appropriate, minimized.

The Town and Village of Poultney, along with many organizations and businesses operating in Poultney gave their support to the drafting of the Route 30 Corridor Management Plan in 2004. The Corridor Management Plan, when approved by the Vermont Scenery Preservation Council, added Route 30 into the network of nationally recognized scenic byways. The Route 30 Stone Valley Byway extends along Route 30 from Castleton to Manchester. This designation focuses on stewardship, enhancement and interpretation of the byway's resources; tourism development; marketing and promotion of the towns involved; support and implementation of the management plan and transportation safety.

Several different forms of transportation, using the same roads for a variety of purposes – through-traffic, local trips, tourism, walking, cycling, etc. – continue to place pressure on the network.

Maintenance and improvement of existing roads constitutes the major portion of highway activity. Whatever damage to the environment occurred in the creation of the existing system usually cannot be undone at reasonable cost. However, structural changes in existing roads

should be done with as little additional damage to the environment as possible. Road improvements done to increase safety take priority over other considerations.

Road networks and the built environment are connected hand-in-hand. Development cannot occur without roads, and because of the complexity and high cost of highway construction, future development is most likely to occur along or adjacent to the existing road network in Poultney.

Please refer to **Chapter 18: Transportation Technical Report** for further information on Poultney's transportation network.

8.1 Transportation Goals and Objectives

Transportation Goal 1: Maintain a transportation system that provides for mobility throughout town that is safe, efficient, cost effective, environmentally sensitive and practical.

Transportation Program 1: Implement signage improvements from the recommendations of the Traffic and Engineering Report conducted in the fall of 2000.

Transportation Program 2: Identify road related erosion affecting water quality.

Transportation Program 3: Acknowledge any state and federal environmental regulations when planning transportation improvement projects.

Transportation Program 4: Cooperate with the Agency of Transportation and local / regional advisory groups.

Transportation Goal 2: Maintain or improve the current level of service on all roads.

Transportation Program 1: Continue to monitor commuter situation, to identify future need for park and ride lots.

Transportation Goal 3: Address parking deficiencies in Village

Transportation Program 1: Develop a parking plan within the Downtown Poultney Village.

Transportation Program 2: Increase available parking in Village by:

- Adding parallel parking spaces along Depot Street,
- Reserving on-street parking for storefronts
- Maximizing off-street parking for employees and residences through improved access and increased signage.
- Managing parking resources by clearly identifying public parking and maintaining on-street parking lines.
- Ensuring that increased parking demand by Green Mountain College must be accommodated on campus.
- Identifying areas in Village where new off street parking areas could be created.

Transportation Goal 4: Improve access to bus service

Transportation Program 1: Develop clearly signed and scheduled sheltered bus stop on Main Street.

Transportation Goal 5: Provide a transportation system that encourages efficient land use and directs development to designated growth areas.

Transportation Program 1: Acceptance of municipal ownership of private roads should only occur when doing so will be of demonstrable net public benefit. In general, new roads in outlying areas are discouraged.

Transportation Program 2: Develop a municipal policy regarding future use and development of Class IV roads to address the cost of maintenance of these roads.

Transportation Program 3: Using site plan review, encourage new street design in village expansion areas similar to and integrated with the historical street grid.

Transportation Program 4: Incorporate appropriate access management standards into subdivision and zoning regulations and road standards.

Transportation Program 5: Address access management issues in the Village, especially the excessively wide curb cuts at the four gas stations.

Transportation Goal 6: Improve and expand alternative, non-automotive means of transportation.

Transportation Program 1: Increase sidewalk continuity in Village in areas where wide access drives and lack of curb cuts disrupts pedestrian right of way.

Transportation Program 2: Complete extension of sidewalk system to connect Poultney and East Poultney Village.

Transportation Program 3: Repair and replace sidewalks in poor condition and construct new sidewalks to facilitate safe pedestrian travel.

Transportation Program 4: Address bike and pedestrian needs in all new construction and development projects.

Transportation Program 5: Encourage tree plantings, green strips, and sidewalks, particularly in designated growth areas.

Transportation Program 6: Using site plan review, ensure that village expansion includes pedestrian facilities that link to the current Village sidewalk network.

Transportation Program 7: Provide, where appropriate, directional and informational signage for pedestrian crossings, parking, schools, etc.

Transportation Program 8: Support initiatives through public education programs that provide children with skills and safety awareness on the roadways.

Transportation Program 9: Where possible, widen shoulders to facilitate pedestrian and bicycle traffic along higher speed-limit roadways.

Transportation Program 10: Encourage businesses and other destinations to install permanent bicycle racks.

Transportation Program 11: Educate adults about bicycle and pedestrian safety on Town roads.

Transportation Goal 7: Maintain the transportation system to support efforts to expand tourist economy of the area.

Transportation Program 1: Coordinate transportation with economic development objectives.

Transportation Program 2: Continue to support and partake in the efforts of the Stone Valley Byway Advisory Committee in accordance with the Scenic Byways Corridor Management Plan.

Transportation Goal 8: Evaluate existing and future transportation needs and recommend solutions.

Transportation Program 1: Prepare Capital Improvement Plan for Town and Village highway systems.

Transportation Program 2: Update road inventory.

Transportation Program 3: Prepare annual road improvement projects and prioritize problem areas.

Transportation Program 4: Replace Bridge on Hampshire Hollow.

Transportation Program 5: Construct needed sand and salt sheds.

9.0 Natural Resources

9.1 Introduction

Like the rest of Vermont, Poultney, geologically speaking, is the product of drastic tectonics and subsequent glaciation and erosive forces. Its landscape is a patchwork of hills, basins and other depressions and valleys with corresponding variation in its underlying bedrock, its soils and surface and subsurface water. These, in turn, have various suitability for commercial exploitation including quarrying, agriculture and forestry; for retention in the natural or near natural state woodlands and deeryards; and for human habitation and recreation. This section of the Town Plan is a summary of these features and their importance in an intelligent management of resources. A detailed description is provided separately in **Chapter 19: Natural Resources Technical Report**.

9.2 Land and Wildlife Resources

For many years a principal source of revenue, the slate industry is located on the western edge of town and in adjoining New York state and in the neighboring towns of Castleton, Fair Haven, Wells, and Pawlet. Currently, a booming economy has rejuvenated the industry both in the quarrying and processing of slate. A number of idle quarries have been resuscitated and, in the interest of minimizing future conflicts with other property owners, many of these quarries, active and idle, have been registered with the state under Act 30.

Associated with the slate belt is a long zone underlaid by greywacke, a sandstone apparent in ledge outcrops. A substantial part of eastern Poultny consists of various hills with bedrock of the St. Catherine formation, a complex including phyllites and quartzite. The soils are shallow and mostly occupied by forests of hardwoods and softwoods, excepting where they have been cleared for pastures. The shallowness of these soils, with occasional pockets of deeper soil, has important implication for the location of domestic water wells and conventional septic systems. Drilled wells in these areas are satisfactory if they tap into aquifers in fractured bedrock.

Rare and endangered species of plants and animals are present throughout the town. A total of fifteen sites have been identified by the Vermont Non-Game and Natural Heritage Program. The approximate, generalized locations of these sites are shown on Natural Resources Map 1. The town continues to encourage the protection of these sites. The Agency of Natural Resources Department of Fish and Wildlife has identified significant natural communities located in the Northeast Conservation and Wildlife Habitat Area, including wildlife migration corridors. The “Inventory and Assessment of Wetland and Upland Wildlife Habitat in the Upper Poultny River Watershed” confirmed and identified these areas in Northeast Poultny. The area has traditionally provided recreational opportunities including horseback riding, hiking, snowmobiling and hunting. The lack of easy access, the limited existence of primitive roads and trails, and its remoteness have contributed to its preservation. The Agency of Natural Resources has designated this area as worthy of special attention due to its unfragmented nature in a state in which development has caused increasing encroachments on, and fragmentation of, such habitats.

The town has a mix of forested and open land. Both provide critical habitat areas for significant flora and fauna. Outstanding natural areas that offer refuge for endangered species or are examples of the natural heritage of the town should be protected from development.

9.3 Land and Wildlife Goals and Objectives

Land and Wildlife Goal 1: Thriving natural ecosystems that support wildlife, rare and endangered species, and other significant natural areas and resources identified in this Plan.

Land and Wildlife Program 1: Educate the public about the functions and values of wildlife habitats and the protection of rare, endangered and threatened species.

Land and Wildlife Program 2: Prepare and publish wildlife habitat maps.

Land and Wildlife Program 3: Encourage the preservation of wildlife habitats and other natural areas.

Land and Wildlife Program 4: Ensure long-term protection of significant wildlife habitats and other natural areas through conservation easements.

Land and Wildlife Program 5: Develop and maintain a community based wildlife conservation program.

Land and Wildlife Program 6: Work with private conservation groups such as the Vermont Land Trust or the Nature Conservancy to acquire development rights or to purchase land to protect these resources.

Land and Wildlife Program 7: Identify significant natural areas as a priority for inclusion in open space lands in local regulations.

Land and Wildlife Program 8: Work with the Poultney Conservation Commission, the Poultney-Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District, Green Mountain College and local schools to encourage education of students and the general citizenry about the values and benefits of such natural resources.

Land and Wildlife Program 9: Support protection of significant natural areas in Act 250 and Act 248 land use hearings.

Land and Wildlife Program 10: Identify procedures for consideration of these resources in local development review.

Land and Wildlife Program 11: Land use designations should be based on easily identifiable boundaries like roads, stream, property boundaries, etc. The natural resource maps in this Plan should be referenced when planning activities.

Land and Wildlife Goal 2: Advance the protection and enhancement of wildlife habitats, natural communities and rare, endangered and threatened species, and, in particular to discourage

any further fragmentation of these areas. Discourage and refrain from industrial or large-scale development and roads in these areas.

Land and Wildlife Program 1: Encourage practices and land uses that decrease the amount of forest fragmentation to the extent possible.

Land and Wildlife Program 2: Discourage any further fragmentation of the Northeast Conservation and Wildlife Habitat Area.

Land and Wildlife Goal 3: Maintain and conserve with a heightened sense of awareness the Northeast Conservation and Wildlife Habitat Area.

Land and Wildlife Program 1: Limit the use of this area to historical forest resource uses, but with a heightened requirement of adherence to sustainable timber management practices and consistent with protection of wildlife habitat and nondestructive recreational uses. Discourage the type of development which could lead to posting of the land, making it unavailable for hunting and other recreational purposes.

9.4 Wetlands

Wetlands are land areas that are saturated with water at least part of the year and include marshes, swamps, sloughs, fens, and mud flats and bogs. Wetlands provide important wildlife habitats, but also provide other benefits such as storing stormwater runoff, purifying surface and groundwater supplies, recharging aquifers, controlling erosion, and providing areas for recreation.

Because of their many beneficial functions, direct loss of wetlands due to filling can have dramatic ecological effects in addition to habitat losses.⁷

9.5 Wetlands Goals and Objectives

Wetlands Goal 1: Protect Class I and Class II wetlands in accord with Vermont Wetland Rules.

Wetlands Program 1: To provide information and education to landowners and developers about the location and functions of wetlands and the requirement of the Vermont Wetland Rules.

Wetlands Program 2: Post maps of Class II wetlands, public water aquifers, and wellhead protection areas in the Town Office.

Wetlands Program 3: Make available a concise explanation of how these evolved and what restrictions apply within the areas.

Wetlands Program 4: Promote the importance of a vegetated buffer strip along the shore, to trap and filter nutrients and sediment in the Lake Shore Zoning District.

⁷Rutland Regional Plan, Rutland Regional Planning Commission, Last Adopted June 2001, page 90.

Wetlands Program 5: Encourage the use of the Vermont Handbook for Soil Erosion, Sediment Control on Construction Sites and the Streambank Conservation Manual as reference standards for use by the Development Review Board.

Wetlands Program 6: Preserve Class I and Class II wetlands and the functions they serve as defined by the Vermont Wetland Rules.

Wetlands Program 7: Educate the public about functions and value of the wetlands.

Wetlands Program 8: Prepare and publish wetland maps and make reasonable efforts to notify affected property owners of wetlands identified on their property before further development.

Wetlands Program 9: Assist owners in securing proper permits under the Vermont Wetland Rules before development occurs.

Wetlands Program 10: Discourage the use of riprap.

9.6 Sand, Gravel and Slate

Sand, gravel and slate are important resources to the town's economy and underly many areas in town. During much of Poultney's early history, the town's economy rose and fell with demand for these natural resources, especially slate. The possibility of a Slate Discovery Museum that would work to increase the use of slate and keep the industry economically viable is being explored.

9.7 Sand, Gravel and Slate Goals and Objectives

Sand, Gravel and Slate Goal 1: Promote the continued growth of the slate industry in a manner that is compatible with other goals of the Town.

Sand, Gravel and Slate Program 1: Identify potential future sand and gravel deposits based on factors such as ease of access to paved roads location relative to residential uses, visibility, location relative to wetlands and/or aquifers.

Sand, Gravel and Slate Program 2: Review existing standards to make sure such future sand and gravel operations are compatible with surrounding uses.

Sand, Gravel and Slate Program 3: Reference the NRCS handbook, "Vegetating Vermont Sand and Gravel Pits" in requirements for reclamation plans.

Sand, Gravel and Slate Program 4: Require a 200' setback from quarry pits to other buildings and land uses.

Sand, Gravel and Slate Program 5: Develop educational materials on the slate industry and local quarries for new homeowners.

9.8 Slopes Goals and Objectives⁸

Slopes Program 1: Settlement shall generally be restricted in areas where the slopes are in excess of 20%. Development in areas of 15%-20% slope may be permitted if it can be demonstrated that subsurface sewage disposal will meet all State requirements.

Slopes Program 2: Roads must be designed to allow year round easy access by emergency and service vehicles. Maximum slopes for unpaved roads should not exceed 7% finish grade. For paved roads the finish grades should not exceed 10%. Curve Radii should also be appropriate to the grade to allow easy traverse of curves.

Slopes Program 3: Erosion control on all roads should be governed by the Vermont Handbook for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control on Construction Sites.

Slopes Program 4: Erosion should be controlled by following the Vermont Handbook for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control on Construction Sites.

Slopes Program 5: Encourage the use of a hydroseeder where appropriate and as funding allows.

Slopes Program 6: Discourage the use of riprap.

9.9 Shallow Soils Goals and Objectives⁸

Shallow Soils Program 1: Onsite sewage disposal is difficult in shallow soil areas. There must be at least four feet of soil material between the bottom of the sewage disposal trench and bedrock or impervious strata.

Shallow Soils Program 2: All land development must meet State mandated regulations.

Shallow Soils Program 3: Conventional on-site sewage disposal should not be allowed in areas where the depth to bedrock or impervious strata is within four feet of the bottom of the trench or seepage pit.

Shallow Soils Program 4: Development should avoid shallow soil areas.

Shallow Soils Program 5: For soils with a depth to bedrock between four and two feet, an engineered system (mound) is required in accordance with current state guidelines adopted by the Town of Poultney.

9.10 Agriculture and Forestry

The prime lands for farming are found in the valleys of the several tributaries to the Poultney River and in the sand and gravel basin found along the lower reaches of the Poultney River.

⁸ After July 1, 2007 State of Vermont, Agency of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Rules Chapter 1—Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules, Effective August 16, 2002 will regulate sewage disposal. New technical standards regulating land capabilities and appropriate disposal technology will affect alter this analysis at that point.

Historically, farming consisted of several dairy and beef cattle farms. These agricultural operations have declined since the 1970's. There are still a number of active farms in beef, dairy, rabbit, and vegetable production. Farmers, squeezed by high costs relative to income, supplement their income through maple syrup production, harvesting of timber, and crop raising. Farmland is gradually being converted into other, primarily residential, uses.

While there is not a large forest products industry in the town, there is extensive forest coverage. Before its settlement in 1761 Poultney was covered with forest. Large white and red pines were found across the lower lands while the higher lands were predominantly covered with beech, birch and maples. The timber was hemlock where the East Village is now located. The area is considered transitional hardwood in type because of the diverse physical environment. The American elm was common especially in low areas.

Currently the lowlands are occupied by hardwood forests of maples, oaks hickories and young elms not affected by Dutch Elm disease. The high lands consist of birch and beech forests.

As the Town considers public goals and policies for preserving 'our' agricultural and forest resources, we must be careful not to disadvantage and disenfranchise those who own and have paid for these resources. The rights and economic interests of the owners of agricultural and forested lands in any planning or regulatory program that seeks to protect and preserve these lands must be respected as well. Where possible and consistent with the rights and interests of property owners, such lands should be protected and preserved. The manufacture and marketing of value-added agricultural and forest products on these lands is greatly encouraged.

Locally produced food products are a key indicator of a healthy community and a large driver of tourism in Vermont. As such, uses that provide access to locally sourced foods, including Farmer's Markets, CSAs, Co-Operatives, Community Gardens and Farm Stands are encouraged in Town.

9.11 Agriculture and Forestry Goals and Objectives

Agriculture and Forestry Goal 1: Encourage the conservation of the best agricultural and timber producing lands in the town for their beneficial influence on the watersheds, wildlife, aesthetics and character of Poultney as well as for their economic values.

Agriculture and Forestry Program 1: Increase public awareness of the important role that trees play in maintaining air and water quality. Promote an ethic of volunteerism in conservation of this arboreal resource.

Agriculture and Forestry Program 2: Increase public knowledge of forest stewardship concepts in the cycle of tree planting, care and maintenance and the value these have in reducing energy costs and in maximizing forestland and community trees for multiple use and enjoyment

Agriculture and Forestry Program 3: Development of prime agricultural soils should be planned in such a way as to preserve the future agricultural use of the land.

Agriculture and Forestry Program 4: There should be increased dedication and maintenance of open space and greenbelts in developed areas.

Agriculture and Forestry Program 5: Reduce impacts from urban/rural interactions by ensuring that natural resource management is an integral part of local and regional planning.

Agriculture and Forestry Program 6: Explore the use of compact subdivisions and planned unit developments to protect agricultural soils.

Agriculture and Forestry Program 7: Limit the use of the Northeast Conservation and Wildlife Habitat Area to historical forest resource uses, but with a heightened requirement of adherence to sustainable silvicultural practices, consistent with protection of wildlife habitat and nondestructive recreational uses.

Agriculture and Forestry Program 8: Support Green Mountain College's proposal to source biomass locally in an economically beneficial, environmentally conscious and biologically sustainable manner.

Agriculture and Forestry Program 9: Support the local production of food through Farmer's Markets, CSAs, Co-Operatives, Community Gardens and Farm Stands.

9.12 Water Resources

The town is traversed by the Poultney River and several tributary brooks running from basins and through valleys of alluvial gravel and sand. All of Poultney's surface waters have good water quality, although sampling at several sites along the Poultney River has found e. coli levels above the state standards for human use, especially after heavy rains. Because this type of contamination is not associated with a single source, greater study is needed to understand where the e. coli is entering the river and to what land uses it is attributed. High levels of fecal contamination can cause gastro-intestinal problems in humans using the river. Education of residents on the potential problems associated with elevated levels of e. coli could decrease the risk of illness. Areas of the Poultney River have also been identified as a high priority for restoration work as well to address bank stabilization and the re-growth of natural plant communities.

Stream headwaters located in the upper reaches of a watershed are usually cool and have a high oxygen content and low nutrient content. Because stream headwaters are usually forested, which retards erosion processes, headwater streams are clean and allow the photosynthetic zone to extend across the width of the streams. For this reason, upland streams tend to be highly productive in vegetative growth and are extremely sensitive to sedimentation and pollution discharges.

Many of these streams are ephemeral, flowing only during periods of high runoff when water tables rise and intersect the stream channel. All of these factors make headwaters and pristine streams extremely sensitive to perturbation resulting from logging and urbanization.

Some valley areas have been given over to farming, primarily dairy, for many years, although the number of operating farms has decreased steadily over the past several decades. Residential

development is also occurring in the valley locations, due in large part to the concentration of soils suitable for residential on-site waste disposal systems. Development of these areas increases the need for better understanding of the effects of human activity on the River. To this purpose, the “Poultney River Geomorphic Assessment and Stream Corridor Plan” was completed in December of 2006 and is available at the Town and PMNRCD Offices.

Individual domestic water supplies are drawn from various kinds of wells in the alluvium, and the leaching characteristics for septic effluent disposal are generally acceptable. Development in areas with high water tables risk pollution by septic tanks. Once contaminated, these waters may present health hazards and pollute surface waters if the ground water contributes to stream flow or wetlands.

The valley adjoining the Poultney River and some portions of the tributaries are designated flood plains subject to inundation in unusually high rainfalls. Development within the floodplain areas represent inherent hazards to human life, health, and property and are a threat to the general welfare of the community. The flood plains of Poultney are largely undeveloped. New development is discouraged from these areas, however, if new development is to be built, it should not exacerbate flooding and fluvial erosion and will be reviewed in accordance with the regulations set forward in Poultney’s Unified Bylaws.

In addition to the river tributaries, the town’s water resources consist variously of small ponds (including a number of artificial ponds), wetlands and a substantial part of Lake St. Catherine, a major summer resort. Lake St. Catherine is facing milfoil and alewife infestations, both invasive species that have the ability to negatively alter water quality and aquatic habitat and native species. The milfoil was treated with the chemical SONAR in the summer of 2004. Anecdotal reports suggest it was successful in decreasing milfoil.

After many years of milfoil harvesting with underwater cutter bars, the State of Vermont permitted the LSCA to use aquatic herbicide SONAR in 2004. It was successful for two years, then the milfoil slowly came back and has required annual herbicide treatment with RENOVATE OTF. The LSCA also operates a Suction Harvester to control small patches of milfoil.

The waters of Lake St Catherine are monitored by the Lake St. Catherine Association. The association has taken an active role in encouraging septic upgrades with the construction of additions to houses on the lake.

As charging areas for subterranean aquifers and as contributors to streams, wetlands are protected from contamination and encroachment by human uses by state regulation. Wetlands are crucial to the surface water regime. These areas store large quantities of water during periods of high runoff, and gradually release water during low flow periods. Loss of this sort of storage capacity will adversely affect stream behavior, and will increase floods during high runoff and reduce stream flow during critical low flow periods.

Wetlands are also important for the maintenance of water quality. The biological activity of a wetland area enables the absorption and assimilation of nutrients. This acts as a purifier to the water which is recharging groundwater.

The State of Vermont has adopted comprehensive Wetland Regulations. These regulations identify, classify and provide for appropriate buffer zones, and signify the permitted and prohibited uses for the wetlands. These regulations provide a framework for the conservation of wetlands and their adjacent areas, and for the protection of the property owner and the community. By regulation they must be used when planning development in Poultney.

9.13 Water Resources Goals and Objectives

Water Resources Goal 1: Protect and enhance the ability of Poultney’s water resources to provide wildlife habitat, travel corridors, and public recreational opportunities.

Water Resources Program 1: Plan for development that will minimize undue adverse impact on significant water resources.

Water Resources Program 2: Encourage water quality best practices by property owners and contractors to protect streambanks and shorelines.

Water Resources Program 3: Promote the use of adequate erosion control measures in areas of high erosion potential (e.g. steep slopes, roads and erodible soils) and high susceptibility to surface water pollution (e.g. along wetlands, streams and ponds).

Water Resources Program 4: Encourage the use of practices that will help address water quality by decreasing nutrient run-off, erosion and sedimentation

Water Resources Program 5: Establish reasonable, site specific stream buffers that preserve and conserve water quality, natural habitats, wildlife movement, and other processes along aesthetically, ecologically and recreationally important sections of streams.

Water Resources Program 6: Incorporate into zoning regulations measures to address sediment and storm water runoff during and after construction.

Water Resources Program 7: Provide information about permitting, proper installation and maintenance of septic systems as mandated by the State.

Water Resources Program 8: Provide information to encourage local farmers to use the best management practices (BMPs) reasonably available.

Water Resources Program 9: Provide forest landowners with information and incentives to protect water quality. (Acceptable Management Practices)

Water Resources Program 10: Support the Poultney Mettowee Natural Resource Conservation District monitoring of Poultney River water quality and efforts to identify methods to address concerns.

Water Resources Program 11: Support efforts of the Lake St. Catherine Association to deal with invasive species in the lake.

Water Resources Program 12: Support the Poultney Mettowee NRC and University of Vermont Lake Education and Action Program, which work with lake associations and area youth to implement water quality projects and develop long-term water quality education programs.

Water Resources Program 13: Development should be setback a minimum distance of 50' from the shoreline of all natural streams and natural and man-made ponds in the Town, including Lake Saint Catherine, unless an extreme hardship exists because of topography, size of land parcel, or other unusual circumstances, or the developer submits evidence that an adverse impact will not occur by closer development.

Water Resources Program 14: Support grant applications written by the Lake St. Catherine Association to improve water quality maintenance.

Water Resources Program 15: Support local, regional and statewide agencies and initiatives disseminating information regarding invasive species, including Didymo and others.

Water Resources Goal 2: Maintain high quality groundwater.

Water Resources Program 1: Protect groundwater recharge areas.

Water Resources Program 2: Assess impacts of new development and land use activities on groundwater quality.

Water Resources Goal 3: All development other than those uses and structures essential to the operation of agriculture, forestry, recreation and wildlife production should be restricted from flood hazard areas as designated on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) for Poultney, as well as taking into account information gained through the Geomorphic Assessment of the Poultney River. Those structures and use permitted should be allowed only as conditional use in conformity with the provisions of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973.

Water Resources Program 1: Support the use of the Poultney River Geomorphic Assessment and Stream Corridor Plan in development decisions.

Water Resources Program 2: Continue to hold flood emergency preparedness and response planning in the community.

9.14 Air Quality

Poultney, as a small, mainly rural community, does not have a concentration of commercial or business activities that contribute to air pollution. The town does have a large population of commuters though, which according to the 2005 Vermont Public Interest Research Group report “Driving Global Warming,” is the leading cause of air pollutants in the state of Vermont. Installing and maintaining efficient heating and cooling systems, providing opportunities for individuals to walk or bicycle to destinations instead of driving, and reducing the length and frequency of commutes are all ways to address air quality at the town level.

9.15 Air Quality Goals and Objectives

Air Quality Goal 1: Maintain high air quality standards for current and future residential, commercial and industrial development in Poultney.

Air Quality Program 1: Adopt regulations for the use of new wood fired heating units.

Air Quality Program 2: Ensure that new development and land use activities do not create undue adverse impacts on air quality, as measured by applicable air quality regulations.

Air Quality Program 3: Reducing vehicle trips by maintaining and enhancing the Village, where children and teachers can walk to school, and residents can walk to stores, services and other amenities.

9.16 Scenic Resources

Poultney's landscape is still primarily rural, with the exception of Poultney and East Poultney Villages. This pattern of development offers scenic vistas and open space for residents and visitors alike. The Route 30 Scenic Byways project is a recognition of the scenic resources found throughout the town. The continuation of open spaces and agriculture in the town benefits those in agriculture, as well as those who appreciate the scenic values associated with the rural landscape, whether they be residents or visitors to the town. The work to revitalize the Village areas contributes to the continuation of rural areas in town by offering vibrant and economically viable population centers appropriate for residential and commercial development.

The pristine and natural ridgelines and mountain peaks of the Northeast Conservation and Wildlife Habitat Area constitute a significant contributor to the scenic resources of the town and frames the viewscape to the Northeast.

9.17 Scenic Resources Goals and Objectives

Scenic Resources Goal 1: Encourage the protection and enhancement of the natural beauty and scenic characteristics of special significance to local landscapes.

Scenic Resources Program 1: Encourage the preservation of significant scenic and aesthetic values. Prohibit large-scale developments on ridgelines, and in particularly the Northeast Conservation and Wildlife Habitat Area which would have the effect of impacting its natural beauty as a scenic resource. Prohibit any development requiring structures containing flashing warning lights or navigational aids.

Scenic Resources Goal 2: Encourage residential, industrial and commercial development to avoid undue adverse impact on significant natural areas to the greatest extent possible.

Scenic Resources Program 1: Establish a process for conceptual review of proposed large-scale developments in order to influence project design to protect scenic resources and natural areas.

Scenic Resources Program 2: Investigate and evaluate the availability of a natural area Transfer of Development rights program to protect important natural areas and historic and

scenic resources while, at the same time, respecting the economic interests of property owners.

Scenic Resources Goal 3: Achieve appropriate balance between the desire to protect and preserve natural areas and features and the rights of property owners to make reasonable use of their property.

Scenic Resources Program 1: Encourage landowners to avoid undue adverse impact on natural areas and historic and scenic resources that are designated as important.

10.0 Energy

Homes, commercial structures, and institutional buildings presently draw on a variety of energy sources in Poultney. Fuel oil or kerosene (70%), bottled, tank or LP gas (16%), wood (9%), and electricity (4%) were the most common sources of heating fuel in the town, according to the 2000 Census. The Town is located in the service territory of Central Vermont Public Service Corporation, which provides electrical service to the Town.

10.1 Land Use and Energy Consumption

Automobile dependency is relatively high in Poultney, mainly because of its distance from Rutland City, the region's employment and retail hub. Relative to other towns in the region, though, a higher percentage of Poultney residents (13%) walk to work and another 5% work from home. Residents in Poultney and East Poultney Villages have the opportunity to walk to local services, such as the Post Office, commercial shopping, Town Office, or churches and schools. Residents living outside these developed centers use vehicles for daily trips.

The Town recognizes the link between promoting a reduction in resources and efficient patterns of land use development. The continuation of dense commercial and residential village development helps decrease automobile dependence and gives residents that do not wish to commute the opportunity to live in Town.

10.2 Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation

Firewood is still used as a heat source for close to 10% of Poultney's residents. While wood burning can have negative environmental impacts because of the carbon dioxide emitted through the burning process, this impact can be mitigated through sustainable management of forest resources. If timber harvested for firewood is replanted, the carbon dioxide captured by these new forests equals the amount of carbon dioxide emitted through the burning process. Wood pellets stoves have recently become more prevalent as a consequence of new technologies and in reaction to rising costs of fuel oil and propane.

Green Mountain College has recently installed a Combined Heat and Power Biomass Plant that utilizes green woodchips, a sustainable and renewable local fuel source, to reduce their use of #6 fuel oil from 230,000 gallons to 40,700 gallons per year. The biomass portion uses "scrubber" technology to further eliminate particulates. The existing facilities available at the College proved a viable location for this type of power generation, however, this application may not be practicable in other locations within town. Similarly, the use of fuel sources other than green woodchips may have detrimental environmental impacts.

Outdoor Wood Boilers (OWBs) sold or destined to be installed in the State of Vermont have been subjected to recent legislative control. Older models of OWBs, sometimes referred to Phase I models (based on manufacturers specifications) must be sited at least 200 feet from the nearest residence, school, or health care facility. Newer models, termed Phase II models, must be sited at least 100 feet from the nearest residence, school, or health care facility. For these reasons, operation of OWBs are discouraged within the Village of Poultney.

Local fuel dealers also provide energy efficient products for Poultney residents that heat their homes with fuel oil or propane.

Solar energy is an important renewable energy resource. The solar resource available to much of Vermont may not be enough to provide the total energy needs of a household, but can contribute significantly as a substitute to electric heat and hot water. Solar energy can be harvested through solar panels in the form of electric current, to power appliances, or as a passive energy used to heat a home. Passive solar design uses the sun's energy in heating a structure, so that the need for supplemental heat is greatly reduced.

While there are no areas in town appropriate for commercial scale wind farms, the Town encourages private wind projects for residents and small businesses. The Town Plan has historically deemed commercial scale wind farms inappropriate for any area within the town. Within the state there has been a recent resurgence in interest in harnessing industrial scale wind energy through industrial scale construction of wind turbines, particularly on ridgelines. Such projects have been constructed in Searsburg, and have been recently proposed in Lowell, Manchester, and Sheffield. Preliminary concepts for local development have included a proposal for the construction of numerous 400-foot tall wind turbines in areas of Clarendon, Ira, Tinmouth, West Rutland and Poultney. Sites under consideration in Town have included peaks and ridgelines in the Northeast Conservation and Wildlife Habitat Area. This recent exploratory commercial activity has caused a heightened sense of awareness and concern in the community about the adverse impacts of commercial wind farms on this community and the objectives of the Town Plan. The construction of industrial wind turbines, particularly in the Northeast Conservation and Wildlife Habitat Area would be inconsistent with the goals and objectives of the town plan in the areas of land and wildlife resources and scenic resources, particularly in the Northeast Conservation and Wildlife Habitat Area.

In recent years small-scale solar energy technology has been employed on some residential structures for passive solar heating and/or photovoltaic energy creation. It is recognized that solar panels, particularly in denser residential areas and in higher elevations visible for greater distances, may also cause reflective glare issues. Small-scale solar energy projects should be encouraged on a relatively smaller scale and constructed in such a fashion as to minimize or eliminate adverse glare effects.

Poultney electric users have another way to support renewable energy and Vermont dairy farms through Central Vermont Public Service's Cow Power program. The Vermont Public Service Board has approved CVPS Cow Power™, which is intended to help promote development and reliance on renewable energy in Vermont by creating a market for energy generated by burning methane from cow manure.

Efficiency Vermont, the nation's first statewide provider of energy efficiency services, works under contract to the Vermont Public Service Board to provide technical advice, financial assistance and design guidance to help make Vermont homes, farms and businesses energy efficient. Efficiency Vermont, was created in 2000 by the Vermont legislature and the Vermont Public Service Board to help all Vermonters save energy, reduce energy costs and protect Vermont's environment. Efficiency Vermont is operated by an independent, non-profit organization under contract to the Vermont Public Service Board. All Vermont residents, businesses and municipalities contribute to these energy efficiency programs through an energy efficiency charge on each electric bill.

In 2004 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) selected Efficiency Vermont to receive an ENERGY STAR[®] Product Campaign Award because of a project implemented in Poultney. Along with their partners, Green Mountain College, Williams Hardware, and the Town of Poultney Efficiency Vermont successfully implemented the national Change a Light/Change the World campaign to reduce energy use and protect the environment. All residents of the Village of Poultney replaced at least one incandescent light bulb in their homes with an energy-efficient one. The free bulb was provided to each household, through Poultney's Williams True Value Hardware store and Westinghouse. Students from Green Mountain College played a key role - posting signs, and talking about the effort with residents on front porches throughout the Village. In all, Villagers replaced more than 4,500 incandescent light bulbs with energy-efficient ones.

Vermont's new Energy Code affects all new homes (and additions over 500 square feet) built after July 1, 1998. The new code sets construction and energy standards. The Vermont Legislature passed the Residential Building Energy Standards into law in 1997. The Text of the Law is available on the Vermont Legislature's Web page.

In 2010, the Town of Poultney established its first Energy Committee to undertake energy efficiency projects within the Town. It is the duty of the Energy Committee to keep abreast of new and innovative technologies on a Regional, National and Global scale, and to prepare reports for use in future Town Plan updates. In this year, the newly formed Energy Committee participated in Efficiency Vermont's Vermont Community Energy Mobilization Project (VCEMP), installing efficient appliances and accessories in the homes of Poultney Residents (light bulbs, low-flow showerheads, pipe wraps, and similar items). In 2011, the Town participated in the NeighborWorks HEAT Squad program, disseminating information about the project throughout the town. This project is aimed at helping residents improve the efficiency of their homes by offering energy check-ups (audits) at a reasonable price and by offering incentives and financing towards energy efficiency improvements.

The Town of Poultney is committed to encouraging energy efficiency and the use of responsibly scaled and sited renewable energy resources in appropriate locations within the community to minimize the adverse aesthetic impacts the community. In all public and private energy needs the use of local, small-scale and noncommercial renewable energy should be encouraged. This includes firewood, small-scale solar power, passive, active and photovoltaic, geothermal ground source energy, and small-scale wind power where feasible. Some area farms might explore the uses of methane gas from manure. Weatherization and rehab programs for existing houses could be better utilized to help residents conserve their heating energy.

10.3 Energy Goals and Objectives

Energy Program 1: Create opportunities for walking, cycling and other energy efficient, non-motorized alternatives to the automobile.

Energy Program 2: Support clustered and multi-family housing development to concentrate energy consumption and decrease need for extensive electric transmission infrastructure.

Energy Program 3: Promote Efficiency Vermont in their energy conservation programs by providing information on Efficiency Vermont programs with building permits and in water

bills. Set an example by participating in conservation programs at Town buildings as applicable.

Energy Program 4: Provide printed information to builders on energy saving construction at the time zoning/building permits are issued. Require contractors to build homes that conform to the Vermont building code

Energy Program 5: Encourage the sustainable management of forests for firewood and other uses.

Energy Program 6: Ensure that proof of compliance with state Energy Code Standards by requiring documentation attached to permits filed at the local level.

11.0 Recreation

11.1 Town Facilities

The Town appoints a volunteer Recreation Commission, which is responsible for planning, implementing, and supervising programs and for maintenance of facilities. Their operations are supported by tax dollars, program fees, grants and donations. All public facilities used for recreation are in good condition at this time.

The Commission offers a variety of programs and activities within the community i.e. tennis, basketball, arts and crafts, miniature golf, and soccer. Special programs are provided to make use of residents' special skills and talents.

Outdoor facilities include the 13-acre park (Veterans Park) with facilities, located behind the elementary school. These facilities include 2 tennis courts, a basketball court, 4 softball fields, a soccer field and a playground area with play equipment and picnic facilities. The Poultney Community League, which administers the youth baseball and T ball program, also uses the fields. The tennis and basketball courts are open to the general public.

The elementary school gymnasium facilities provide meeting facilities for youth groups and basketball and classrooms for arts and crafts programs.

The Recreation Commission also sponsors swimming lessons at Green Mountain College.

As the community explores the possibilities for a community center geared towards meeting the needs of the Town's youth, recreational activities and other opportunities will be important components. Recreational opportunities for those youth that do not wish to participate in traditional team sports are needed in town. Facilities such as a municipal skateboard park would help fill this need.

11.2 Other Recreational Resources

Many other public and private recreational resources are available to the community. These activities are not sponsored or regulated by the Poultney Recreation Commission. The owners or operators establish rules, fees, hours, etc. for their use. Indoor facilities include swimming and fitness programs at Green Mountain College (GMC), rooms in the local schools for non-school activities, meeting rooms, kitchens and catering services of several churches, local clubs and restaurants.

As partners, the Town and Green Mountain College have an opportunity to open up the tremendous recreational resources of the college to the Town's residents, to the benefit of both. The recreational facilities maintained by the College are assets to town residents. Green Mountain College's newly acquired Dean Nature Preserve is an important recreational resource for both the college and the town. Town recreation programs, as well as private recreation providers, offer opportunities for Green Mountain College students looking for community learning experiences in the areas of education and recreation.

Outdoor facilities include a physical fitness course at GMC, an eighteen-hole golf course at the Lake St. Catherine Country Club, ball fields at the high school, access to hiking and riding trails, and a miniature golf course. The Bird Mountain Wildlife Management Area (350 acres) is located in the northwest corner of Poultney, and offers hiking trails and birding.

Lake St. Catherine, a 5.6 mile-long body of water, covers 1088 acres and is composed of 3 sections - Lily Pond to the North has 22 acres, Main Lake of 904 acres, and to the South, Little Lake with 162 Acres. These areas offer public swimming, camping, picnic facilities, private boat rentals, water skiing and fishing. Lake St. Catherine State Park located on the east shore has summer camps, full bath facilities, swimming, boating, fishing, a playground and a nature museum. It is the eighth most visited State Park in Vermont.

Pond Hill Ranch, located on Pond Hill Ranch Road in the northeast corner of Poultney, offers horseback riding, rodeo and similar events.

Area streams, rivers, and the lake, provide fishing for brook, brown, and rainbow trout and for bass and pickerel.

The Delaware and Hudson Recreation Path was created in 1986 when the Vermont General Assembly authorized the Vermont Agency of Transportation to lease the Washington branch of the Delaware and Hudson rail right-of-way to the Vermont Department of Forests and Parks for recreational use. The section of the trail within Poultney is 7.14 miles in length. The trail's 19.77 miles runs from the New York State line in Rupert through Pawlet, Wells, and Poultney, ending in Castleton. The trail is open to non-motorized recreational use except that snowmobiles are permitted in winter.

The trail within the four cooperating towns is supervised and maintained by the largely voluntary D & H Trail Advisory Council under the auspices of the State. In addition to one member each appointed by the four towns, the Council is made up of members representing such trail users as skiers, walkers, bicyclers, horseback riders, and snowmobilers. In addition to helping supervise the D & H Trail, the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (V.A.S.T) oversees an additional system of trails within and without Poultney. State and local police are empowered to enforce regulations of the trails.

New trails have been installed in and around Poultney Village. These networks are both educational and recreational in nature. Other trails in town include class 4 trails and old rights-of-way. A consortium of towns could form a committee to establish a trail link from the Adirondack Park west of Whitehall in New York through Poultney, Middletown Springs, Ira, and Clarendon, to the Appalachian Trail at Clarendon Gorge in Shrewsbury.

A current challenge is the lack of publicity of the recreational resources available to town residents and visitors. One way the town has addressed this is through the posting of municipally owned recreational facilities on the Poultney Area Chamber of Commerce and Poultney Downtown Revitalization Committee website. The town should explore other ways of notifying its residents and visitors of the recreational opportunities available in the Town. This issue is especially important as it relates to the Town's goal to develop its recreational and environmental tourist base.

As the Town grows, new residents will increase the demand for recreation facilities, programs, and other access to other natural resources. It will be important that the Town understand the needs of all recreation users, and manage its recreation resources accordingly. Development that hinders access to established recreational activities is discouraged.

11.3 Recreation Goals and Objectives

Recreation Goal 1: Increase public participation in recreation programs provided by the Poultney Recreation Commission.

Recreation Program 1: Cooperate with the State and the D & H Rail Trail Advisory Council to promote its use.

Recreation Program 2: Focus recreational resources on the publicity of current facilities and opportunities. This could include:

1. Increased signage and widely available brochures for the Poultney Village trails,
2. Increased information for Poultney residents on public use of Green Mountain College facilities,
3. Increase information on recreational resources and programs available in Town through distribution at Stonebridge Inn Visitors Center, in Chamber publications, Vermont Vacation and Tourism website, and through other media.

Recreation Goal 2: Develop new facilities, programs and activities to meet the needs of all age groups by encouraging citizens to share their skills, talents and knowledge.

Recreation Program 1: Work with the State Trails and Greenways Council and with V.A.S.T. to provide increased trail opportunities within and between Poultney and neighboring towns.

Recreation Program 2: Develop a youth center and provide for year round indoor and outdoor activities.

Recreation Program 3: Develop skateboard facility.

Recreation Program 4: Establish and maintain a community based system of trails and greenways, for non-motorized use, linking the Village Center and East Poultney in concentrated residential areas with centers of employment and recreation sites (rivers, streams and woods)

Recreation Program 5: Work to preserve public access to valued recreational resources when projects are brought forward to the town.

Recreation Program 6: Take advantage of access to the Dean Nature Preserve by hosting more town activities at the site.

Recreation Goal 3: Maintain and enhance outdoor / indoor recreational opportunities and public access to them.

Recreation Program 1: Maintain the fields, equipment, picnic areas, and courts at Veterans Memorial Park.

Recreation Program 2: Maintain playground equipment that was developed for safety and handicap accessibility.

Recreation Program 3: Provide for capital expenditures for recreation through the capital budgeting process.

Recreation Program 4: Bylaws should discourage development that harms access to recreational opportunities.

12.0 Historic And Cultural Resources

12.1 Historic Resources and Early Settlement Patterns

Information on the historic development of Poultney is obtainable in a booklet published in 1988 by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. The booklet is one of a set covering each of the twenty-seven towns in Rutland County published under the encompassing title of The Historic Architecture of Rutland County. The Poultney booklet includes maps of Poultney Village, its several historic districts and an inventory of buildings preserved by these districts. It covers eight different styles of buildings spanning more than 130 years of history. These and other materials may be available at the Poultney Historical Society, and more information can be found at www.poultneyhistoricalsociety.com. Recently developed Walking/Driving Tours are available for download on the website, and brochures for the Walking/Driving Tours can be found at area businesses and in the Stonebridge Visitor's Center.

12.2 Cultural Resources

Green Mountain College (GMC) is an outstanding cultural resource for a town of 3,600 residents. Founded in 1834 as the Troy Conference Academy (Methodist) it has become a private 4-year liberal arts college with Masters Programs available and approximately 700 students. In the summer the campus is the site of conferences, theater, sports camps, and most recently the Middlebury Monterey Language Arts Program. College facilities, like the library and swimming pool, are open to Town residents through out the year.

Castleton State College, located 8 miles to the north, is a public 4-year college offering a broad variety of educational opportunities. It is the home of the Castleton Summer Festival of the Arts and throughout the year, presents various activities and programs in the fine arts and other academically related programs, which are open to the general public.

The Poultney Town Library has a total book collection of 13,311 volumes and an adult annual circulation of 19,097, according to the 2010 Town Report. Both the elementary and high schools maintain libraries as well. (See Community Facilities and Services technical report for more information on the library).

There are 5 churches in Town in addition to the chapel at GMC. These institutions provide for the spiritual needs of the community and are also an integral part of the social and community service fabric of the Town.

The Poultney Area Artist Guild, Horace Greeley Writers Guild, Poultney Summer Theater Company, Tiny Theatre, and area art studios all contribute cultural opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy or participate in.

Community volunteer service organizations also contribute significantly to the well being of a community. Local volunteer organizations cover a broad range of interests including: health, recreation, safety, agriculture, environment, religion, arts, history, economic development, youth, senior citizens, social service public affairs, fund raising, and education. A representative listing of organizations follows:

American Legion (J. Claire Carmody Post 39)	Poultney Historical Society Horace Greeley Writers Guild
American Legion Auxiliary	Horace Greeley Foundation
Sons of the American Legion (SAL)	Poultney Hose Company #1
Boy Scouts Cub Scouts	Poultney Library Board of Trustees (Elected)
St. Raphael's Ladies Guild	Poultney-Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District (PMNRCD)
St. Raphael's Men's Club	Poultney-Mettowee Watershed Partnership
Area Chamber of Commerce	Poultney Planning Commission(Elected)
Fire Department Auxiliary	Poultney Recreation Commission (App)
Girl Scouts / Brownies	Poultney Rescue Squad
Lake St Catherine Association	Poultney Rescue Squad Auxiliary
Morning Star Lodge F&AM Order of the Eastern Star	Poultney Rotary Club Poultney Valley Snowmobile Devils
Poultney Booster Club	Retired Senior Volunteer Program
Poultney Development Review Board (App)	Young At Heart Senior Citizens Center
Poultney Downtown Revitalization Committee	Valley Grange Poultney Community League
Poultney Fish & Game Club	
Poultney Garden Club	

As Downtown Revitalization activities occur in Poultney Village, focusing on the town's historic charm and cultural experiences should be paramount. Understanding how these resources can support overall economic development activities is essential. The town supports the growth of heritage-based tourism in Poultney through its support of the Route 30 Stone Valley Byway and other activities.

As part of the Downtown Designation process the town completed in 2002, the Town encourages projects that successfully adapt historic structures for current uses.

12.3 Historic and Cultural Resources Goals and Objectives

Historic and Cultural Resources Goal 1: Recognize the role played by the historic quality and character of Poultney in creating the Town's identity, character and sense of community.

Historic / Cultural Resources Program 1: Promote the uniqueness of the history of the Poultney area as a cultural asset of interest to residents and to prospective visitors.

Historic and Cultural Resources Goal 2: Encourage the preservation of historic structures and the rich historic legacy which exists in Poultney.

Historic / Cultural Resources Program 1: Encourage the preservation of structures by promoting the State's Historic Preservation Tax Credit program and working with the Poultney Historical Society.

Historic / Cultural Resources Program 2: Pursue public and private resources for restoration of historic structures including business structures.

Historic / Cultural Resources Program 3: Consider land use regulations that encourage the preservation of historic resources, particularly in the Poultney Main Street Historic District and the East Poultney Historical District, while at the same time respecting the rights of the owners of the properties designated as historic resources to make reasonable use of their properties.

Historic / Cultural Resources Program 4: Continue to support efforts that enhance the walkability and preserve the historic characteristics of the East Poultney Designated Village Center.

Historic / Cultural Resources Program 5: Continue to seek Village Center Designation status for the East Poultney Village Center.

Historic and Cultural Resources Goal 3: Support promotional and educational activities by community groups relative to the Town's historic resources.

Historic / Cultural Resources Program 1: Support restoration of the buildings owned by the Poultney Historical Society by grants, donations, and municipal assistance.

Historic / Cultural Resources Program 2: Support the Historical Society in the planning and implementation of the 2011 Bicentennial Celebration of the births of Poultney's two great journalists—George Jones and Horace Greeley.

Historic / Cultural Resources Program 3: Support active Community Organizations by strengthening the www.poultneyvt.com website and pursuing funding opportunities to create websites for each organization that would link to the main Poultney VT site.

Historic and Cultural Resources Goal 4: Encourage and support a strong diversity of cultural opportunities in the Town.

Historic / Cultural Resources Program 1: Support the diversity of cultural opportunities available by providing meeting space, publicity and municipal assistance, as appropriate.

Historic / Cultural Resources Program 2: Support efforts of the Poultney Artists Guild to obtain and refurbish a downtown gallery space.

Historic / Cultural Resources Program 3: Develop new programs and activities for all age groups by encouraging citizens to share their skills, talents and knowledge.

Historic and Cultural Resources Goal 5: Build on the character and identity of Poultney as an historic place in commercial promotions and activities, such as tourism.

Historic / Cultural Resources Program 1: Promote the Stonebridge Inn for public use.

Historic and Cultural Resources Goal 6: Preserve Town cemeteries and its records relative to the community's historic resources.

Historic / Cultural Resources Program 1: Support restoration and maintenance of historic cemeteries through grants, donations, and municipal assistance.

Historic and Cultural Resources Goal 7: Insure that historic designations do not result in the imposition of unreasonable burdens or excess regulation on affected property owners.

Historic and Cultural Resources Goal 8: Utilize a range of tools to protect valuable historic resources and historic areas from threats, such as unplanned development, inappropriate treatment, and neglect, by becoming a Certified Local Government (CLG).

Historic / Cultural Resources Program 1: Create and enforce a preservation ordinance for the designation and protection of historical properties.

Historic / Cultural Resources Program 2: Create an adequate and qualified historic preservation review commission with local legislation.

Historic / Cultural Resources Program 3: Maintain a system for survey and inventory of historic properties that furthers the purpose of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Historic / Cultural Resources Program 4: Provide for adequate public participation in the local historic preservation program, including the process for recommending properties for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Historic / Cultural Resources Program 5: Satisfactorily perform the responsibilities delegated to the preservation review commission under the National Historic Preservation Act.

Historic / Cultural Resources Program 6: Request certification from the Vermont Certified Local Government Program.

13.0 Outreach Process and Relationship with Other Plans

13.1 Poultney Town Plan Update Process

The 2011 Poultney Town Plan is based on the work of townspeople and community organizations over several years. As noted earlier, a major public participation process to identify and address major issues facing the community was embarked on with the help of the Vermont Council of Rural Development in 2002.

The Planning Commission used this input to develop a draft plan. This process was undertaken using a Vermont Municipal Planning Grant awarded in the Spring of 2010.

13.2 Relationship To Development Patterns And Town Plans In Fair Haven, Castleton, Ira, Middletown Springs, Wells, Hampton And Granville

The 2011 Poultney Town Plan seeks to address pertinent issues currently facing the community through identification of goals and programs meant to guide development and other activities occurring within the town. The town, however, does not operate alone. Development in Poultney affects neighboring communities, and vice-versa. This is especially apparent along major roadways, on Lake St. Catherine, and where employment is concerned.

This plan promotes the preservation of Poultney's historical settlement pattern through the focusing of economic development efforts in Poultney Village, a designated downtown. Residential growth is also promoted in this area of town. Outside of the villages, residential and commercial sites are more dispersed, and the capability of the land and surrounding natural resources guides the intensity and nature of development activities. These outlying areas are characterized by agriculture and other natural resource industries, recreation, and low-density residential uses.

Poultney has the distinction of being a larger employment and residential hub on the western side of the County. While Castleton and Granville New York are similar in population, Poultney's other neighbors are smaller, more rural communities. That being said, Poultney's plan and development trends reinforce a rural character on its borders with Wells, Middletown Springs and Ira.

It is the belief of the town that this Plan is compatible with those of its neighbors, sharing many of the same values for water quality protection, concentrated development, and active natural resource industries.

Cooperation with neighboring towns can be seen in Poultney High School's acceptance of students from surrounding towns, the presence of emergency mutual aid agreements with surrounding towns, and the town's support of the Lake St. Catherine Association and the Poultney Mettowee Resource Conservation District water quality efforts affecting the surface waters of Poultney and its neighboring towns.

13.3 Relationship to supporting local plans

The 2011 Poultney Town Plan is the main, overarching plan for the town. Other more specialized plans have been consulted and will hopefully follow the overall guidance of this plan in the future. They include a pre-disaster mitigation plan, a rapid response plan, a Source Water Protection Plan, Action Plans for both the Elementary and High School, continuing planning efforts of the Poultney Downtown Revitalization Committee, and many others.

13.4 Relationship to the Rutland Regional Plan

The 2011 Poultney town plan is compatible with the Rutland Regional Plan, last adopted in 2008. The Town Plan addresses each of Vermont's Statewide Planning goals, and does so in a manner consistent with the broad direction provided by the Rutland Regional Plan.

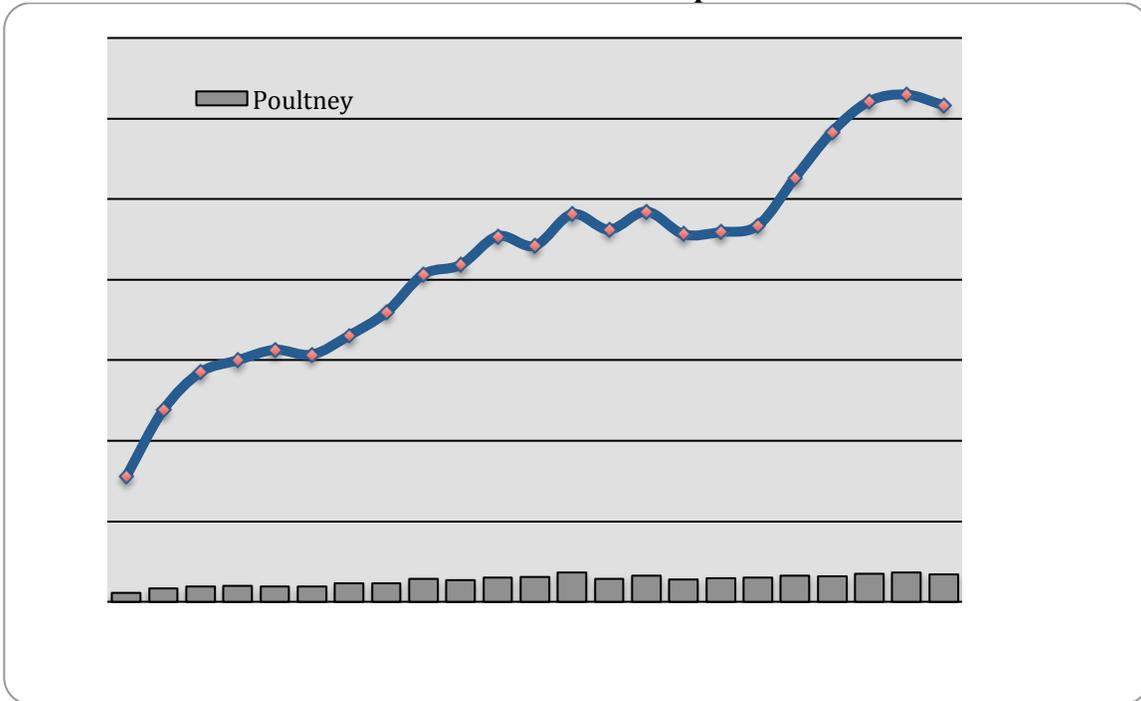
13.5 Acknowledgements

This Plan was prepared by the Poultney Planning Commission with technical assistance from the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, local organizations, and local consultant.

14.0 Socioeconomic Technical Report

14.1 Population

Historical Trends in Population



Population Estimates of Poultney, Rutland County and Vermont (1890-1990)

Year	Poultney	Rutland County	Vermont
1900	3,108	44,209	343,641
1910	3,644	48,139	355,956
1920	2,868	46,213	352,428
1930	3,215	48,453	359,611
1940	2,781	45,638	359,231
1950	2,936	45,905	377,747
1960	3,009	46,719	389,881
1970	3,217	52,637	444,732
1980	3,196	58,347	528,850
1990	3,498	62,142	562,758
2000	3,633	62,972	608,827
2010	3,432	61,642	625,741

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Historical Population Trends—Poultney, Region, State

	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	% Change 1990-2000	% Change 2000-2010
Poultney	3,009	3,217	3,196	3,498	3,633	3,432	3.9%	-5.5%
Rutland Region	46,719	52,637	58,347	62,142	63,400	61,642	2.0%	-2.8%
Vermont	389,881	444,732	511,456	562,758	608,827	625,741	8.2%	2.8%

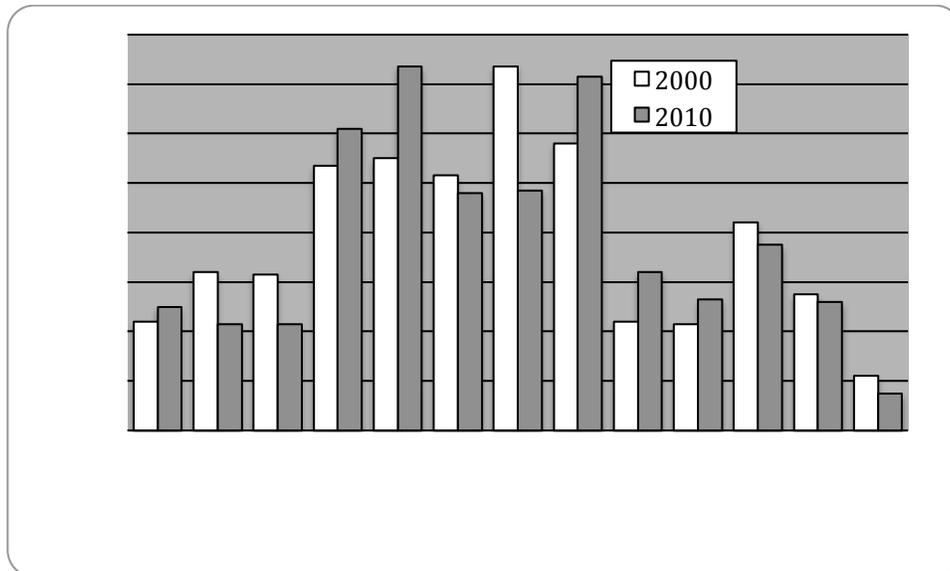
1960-1980 UVM Center for Rural Studies

1990-2010 US Census Bureau American Fact Finder

- The population of the Town of Poultney has fluctuated over the last century, closely following fluctuations in the Region.
- Between 2000 and 2010, population decline in Poultney outpaced Rutland County (-5.5% to -2.8%), while Vermont’s population rose (2.8%).
- Both the Region and the Town of Poultney saw their population growth rates decrease between 2000 and 2010.

Current Population

Age Distribution, 2000 and 2010, Poultney



Source: US Census Bureau, American Fact Finder

Age Distribution, 1990 - 2010, Poultney

Poultney	1990	2000	2010
Percent of Population < 18	22.2%	21%	17%
Percent of Population 18 to 54	56.3%	54.2%	53.1%
Percent of Population 54+	21.5%	24.7%	25.9%
Median Age	30.7	35.9	34.9

Source: US Census Bureau

Population by Sex – 1990 - 2010

Area	1990		2000		2010	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Poultney	1,740	1,796	1,786	1,850	1,678	1,754
Rutland County	30,078	32,064	30,832	32,568	30,385	31,257
Vermont	275,446	287,312	298,323	310,498	308,206	317,535

Source: US Census Bureau 1990, 2000, 2010

- Poultney’s population is no longer aging at the pace it had between 1990 and 2000. In 2010, the percentage of the population aged 65 and over decreased by 4% (from 16.0% in 2000 to 12.4% in 2010).
- The median age of Poultney residents has decreased for the first time in three decades, from 35.9 in 2000 to 34.9 in 2010.
- The percent of young residents is no longer declining at previous 1990 and 2000 rates, however those in age groups 5-14 and 25-44 have declined significantly.

Population Projections

Poultney and Rutland Region—Population Projections 2005, 2010, 2015

	Actual		Projected*			
	1990	2000	2000	2005	2010	2015
Poultney	3,498	3,633	3,532	3,517	3,505	3,451
Rutland Region	62,142	63,400	64,681	65,309	66,025	66,120

Source: University of Vermont Center for Rural Studies
 * Projections done in 1995 and were based on 1990 Census data

Source: University of Vermont Center for Rural Studies

- Population projections call for Poultney’s population to decline by 2.3% between 2000 and 2015, while the County’s population overall is expected to increase by 2.2%.

14.2 Households

- A household includes all the persons who occupy a housing unit. Persons not living in Households are classified as living in group quarters.
- A family consists of a householder and one or more other persons living in the same household related by birth, marriage, or adoption.

Number of Households 1990, 2000 and 2010—Poultney, Rutland County and Vermont

Area	Year			% Change	
	1990	2000	2010	1990-2000	2000-2010
Poultney	1,175	1,287	1,250	9.0%	-2.8%
Rutland	23,656	25,678	25,984	8.4%	1.2%
Vermont	210,633	240,634	256,442	14.2%	6.7%

Source: US Census Bureau

- Different living situations and family structures are affecting communities across the Nation. This was apparent in Poultney in 2000, where the growth in number of households (9.0%) has far outpaced population growth (3.9%). In 2010, as the population declines (-5.5%), we see a similar reduction in the number of households (-2.8%).
- These numbers indicate many residents are living in smaller households.

Households By Size 2000 and 2010 – Poultney

	2000	2010	2000 % of Total	2010 % of Total	Difference
1 Person	360	357	28.0%	28.6%	0.6%
2 Person	458	473	36.0%	37.8%	1.8%
3 Person	202	201	15.7%	16.1%	0.4%
4 Person	162	138	12.6%	11.0%	-1.6%
5 Person	79	44	6.1%	3.5%	-2.6%
6 + Person	26	37	2.0%	3.0%	1.0%
Total:	1,287	1250	100.0%	100.0%	

Source: US Census Bureau

14.3 Families

The number of families is decreasing relative to total households across the state.

Poultney, Rutland County And Vermont—Families

	Year	Families	Families as % of Total Households
Poultney	2000	844	65.6%
	2010	781	62.5%
Rutland County	2000	16,830	65.5%
	2010	16,018	61.6%
Vermont	2000	158,684	65.9%
	2010	160,360	62.5%

Source: US Census Bureau

- The number of children in single parent families increased from 116 in 1990 to 156 in 2000.
- In 2000, 20% of children in Poultney were living in single parent households. This is slightly less than the County overall, where 23% of children were living in single parent families.

14.4 Income

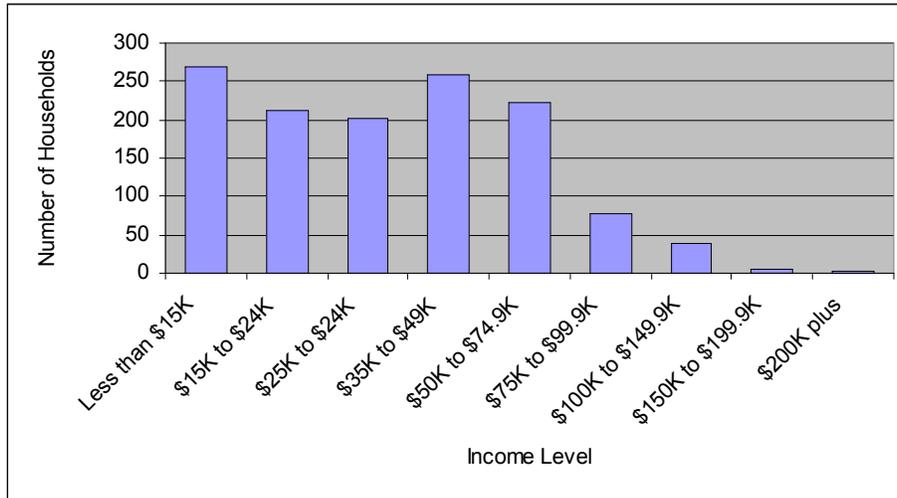
- Changes in income and poverty status are effective ways to assess the economic health of a community.
- Per capita income is the average income computed for every man, woman, and child in a particular group. The Census Bureau derived per capita income by dividing the total income of a particular group by the total population in that group (excluding patients or inmates in institutional quarters).
- Median income is the amount which divides the income distribution into two equal groups, half having incomes above the median, half having incomes below the median.
- While the income figures in Table C-1 have not been adjusted for inflation, looking at the percent of increase indicates how the income levels of Poultney residents have increased in comparison to the Region and State. Poultney incomes and Rutland County incomes have increased at similar rates, but both lag behind the increases at the state level.

**Poultney, Rutland County and Vermont
Per Capita, Median Family and Median Household Income**

Year	Poultney			Rutland County			Vermont		
	Per Capita Income	Median Family Income	Median Household Income	Per Capita Income	Median Family Income	Median Household Income	Per Capita Income	Median Family Income	Median Household Income
1990 [1]	\$10,302	\$30,389	\$26,057	\$12,780	\$32,74	\$28,229	\$13,527	\$34,780	\$29,792
1999 [2]	\$14,963	\$40,556	\$31,711	\$18,874	\$44,74	\$36,743	\$20,625	\$48,625	\$40,856
% Increase	45.20%	33.50%	21.70%	47.70%	36.70%	30.20%	52.50%	40.00%	37.10%

[1] US Census 1990 lookup, Database C90STF3A – Census Web Site
 [2] Center for Rural Studies/VCGI. 2002. US Census Bureau 2000

Poultney Household Income Distribution—2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

14.5 Poverty

- The general poverty rate in 1990 was 9.8%, which is similar to the rate in 2000 of 9.3%. (UVM Center for Rural Studies). Between 2005 and 2009, according to the American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, the rate was 13.3%. This hike may be explained by the recession that began in December 2007.
- The elderly poverty rate (persons 65 and over) had decreased significantly, from 14.5% in 1990 to 6.7% in 2000, and increased again between 2005-2009 to 8.4%. This is slightly lower than at the county level, where in between 2005-2009, 8.5% of persons over 65 are living in poverty. (UVM Center for Rural Studies, 2005-2009 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates)
- 6.7% of Poultney families were living in poverty in 2000 (US Census Bureau 2000)

14.6 Education

Educational Attainment 2000

	Total			% of Total		
	Poultney	Rutland	Vermont	Poultney	Rutland	Vermont
Less than 9th grade	187	2,324	20,769	8.4%	5.4%	5.1%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	247	4,478	34,127	11.1%	10.3%	8.4%
High school graduate	856	15,500	130,804	38.5%	35.8%	32.4%
Some college, no degree	296	7,844	68,440	13.3%	18.1%	16.9%
Associate degree	167	3,099	31,058	7.5%	7.2%	7.7%
Bachelor's degree	274	6,604	74,124	12.3%	15.3%	18.3%
Graduate or professional degree	199	3,440	44,901	8.9%	7.9%	11.1%

Source: 2000 US Census Bureau American Fact Finder

- Those 25 years old and older who had completed at least four years of high school approximated 79% of the population in 1990. By 2000, approximately 81% of the population 25 years and older had completed four years of high school. However, the percentage of high school graduates is higher at the county level (84.3%) and the state level (86.4%).
- In both 2000 and 1990, approximately 21.0% of the population 25 years old and older had obtained a bachelors or associates degree. Close to half of this number are people with master's degrees. This may be due, in part, to the faculty at Green Mountain College, which is located in Poultney. In 2000, 22.4% of the county population, and 29.4% of the state population, had completed a bachelors or associates degree. (U.S. Census Bureau)

15.0 Housing Technical Report

15.1 Current Housing Conditions and Needs Analysis

	2000	2000 % of Total	2010	2010 % of Total
Total Housing Units	1,673		1,670	
Total Occupied Housing Units	1,287	76.9%	1,250	74.8%
Total Owner Occupied	924	71.8%*	883	70.6%*
Total Renter Occupied	363	28.2%*	367	29.4%*
Total Seasonal, Recreational, Occasional Use	293	17.5%	330	19.8%
Total Vacant Units (including seasonal)	386	23.1%	420	25.1%
*Percent of Total <i>Occupied</i> Units				
Housing Stock	2000	2000 % of Total	2010	2010 % of Total
Single Family	1,218	73%	NA	NA
Multi Family	311	19%	NA	NA
Mobile Home, Trailer, Other	144	9%	NA	NA

1990 and 2000: Tenure by Units in Structure

	1990		2000		1990 to 2000	
	Units	Percent	Units	Percent	# Change	% Change
Occupied Housing Units by Tenure						
TOTAL (Owners)	843	100%	927	100%	84	10%
1, Detached	681	81%	758	82%	77	11%
1, Attached	11	1%	12	1%	1	1%
2	42	5%	42	5%	0	0%
3 or 4	4	0%	4	0%	0	0%
5+	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Mobil Homes	92	11%	111	12%	19	21%
Other	13	2%	0	0%	-13	-100%
TOTAL (Renters)	331	100%	360	100%	29	9%
1, Detached	66	20%	117	33%	51	77%
1, Attached	9	3%	2	1%	-7	-8%
2	91	27%	82	23%	-9	11%
3 or 4	86	26%	94	26%	8	9%
5+	50	15%	42	12%	-8	-16%
Mobil Homes	25	8%	23	6%	-2	-8%
Other	4	1%	0	0%	-4	-100%

Owner Occupied Housing Units

- A housing unit is an occupied house, apartment, mobile home, group of rooms, or single room (or if vacant, is intended for occupancy) as separate living quarters.
- Although the percentage of owners v. renters has remained constant, types of housing units have changed.

Renter Occupied Housing Units

	% of Rental Units out of total housing units	% of Rental Units built prior to 1940	# Subsidized elderly units (1)	# Subsidized family units (2)
Brandon	24%	50%	84	21
Castleton	27%	31%	41	34
Clarendon	18%	27%	0	2
Fair Haven	38%	68%	52	27
Pittsford	25%	37%	30	0
Poultney	28%	53%	45	0
Rutland Town	22%	19%	0	65
Wallingford	19%	62%	28	0
West Rutland	28%	51%	14	4
Rutland County	25%	54.50%	683	452

(1) A subsidized elderly unit is a housing unit specifically developed for elderly residents. The rent is not determined by the market place. Instead, the renter usually pays 30% of their monthly income.
(2) A subsidized family unit is a housing unit that is specifically for families of a certain income bracket, and the rent is based on 30% of the family's income, instead of a fixed price rent.

Source: Rutland County Housing Needs Analysis, 2004

- Between 1980 and 1990, the Town of Poultney saw an increase in renters living in multi-unit settings. This has not been the case between 1990 and 2010, with a 77% rise in renters occupying single-family homes. This could indicate that the available multi-family units were not able to accommodate the increase in renters, and the additional renters turned to single-family homes instead.
- The percentage of rental units to owner occupied units is above the County average and similar to other moderately sized towns (2,500 to 5,000 residents) in the Region.
- The percentage of rental units built prior to 1940 is similar to that of the County at 53%.
- There are a total of 45 subsidized elderly units in Poultney in 3 developments. Of the 45 units, 4 are wheel chair accessible.
- Poultney is one of the largest communities in the Region with no subsidized family rental housing.

- One key function of rental housing in any community is to provide housing for local jobholders, especially those working at the lower wage levels. Countywide there is 1 unit of rental housing for every 3.61 jobs. Poultney provides an even larger share of rental housing compared to the local workers it employs (1 unit for every 2 jobs).

Seasonal Housing Units

- Seasonal units include those used for summer or winter sports or recreation, such as lake cottages and hunting cabins. Seasonal units also may include quarters for such workers as herders and loggers. Interval ownership units, sometimes called shared-ownership or time-sharing condominiums, also are included here.
- Seasonal units increased slightly between 2000 and 2010.

Mobile Homes

- Poultney has 1 mobile home park that provides 14 lots, mainly rented to tenants. In 2011, there were 9 lots available for rent, the park provided sewer and municipal water hookup, and lots rented for \$235/month.
- In 2000, mobile homes represented 9% of Poultney’s housing stock. The number of mobile homes in Poultney had increased by 21 units since 1990. Mobile homes are an important component of a town’s affordable housing stock.

15.2 Housing Affordability

The issue of housing affordability is centered around the fact that everyone seeks adequate housing that is within the household budget, regardless of income. A very rough indicator of affordably priced housing is when a household is paying no more than 30% of their gross income on housing costs. National, state and regional indicators identify affordable housing as an issue that is affecting households regardless of socioeconomic status, profession or household type.

Median Home Price Change (2000 to 2003)		
	median home price (2003)	% increase from 2000
Brandon	\$105,000	33%
Castleton	\$125,900	20%
Clarendon	\$130,000	16%
Fair Haven	\$100,000	70%
Pittsford	\$148,500	44%
Poultney	\$115,000	43%
Rutland Town	\$130,000	33%
Wallingford	\$144,450	19%
West Rutland	\$100,000	21.20%
Rutland County	\$130,000	30%
Notes: Median Selling Price		

Source: Rutland Housing Needs Analysis, 2004

- Across the county, selling prices for homes have increased dramatically. In Poultney, this increase was 43% between 2000 and 2003.
- First Time Buyer Affordability: 1st time buyers typically buy “starter” homes, or those in the lowest quartile of the housing market. In Poultney, housing in the lowest quartile was about 5% less affordable to its own renters compared to the state as a whole. (Rutland County Housing Needs Analysis, 2004)
- Move Up Affordability: A key housing issue, given the lack of new construction since 1990, is the availability of higher quality move-up housing for the median income homeowner. It is important for these homeowners to be able to move out of their starter homes, so housing in the lower quartile is available for first time homebuyers and lower income residents. In Poultney, housing in the highest quartile is more than 10% more affordable than for the state as a whole. Therefore, there is a significant capacity for existing homeowners to move up to higher valued homes.

Income Category	% of Poultney Households	Annual Income Range	Affordable Monthly Housing Costs
Moderate (1)	~10%	\$25,685 - \$31,711	\$642 – 793
Low (2)	~16%	\$16,173 - \$25,360	\$404 – 634
Very Low (3)	~10%	\$9,830 - \$15,855	\$246 – 250
Lowest (4)	~11%	\$9,513 and lower	\$238 or less
(1) Household earning 81 – 100% of Poultney’s median income (\$31,711) (2) Household earning 51 – 80% of Poultney’s median income (3) Household earning 31 – 50% of Poultney’s median income (4) Household earning 30% or less than Poultney’s median income			

Source: US Census 2000

- Moderate and Low income households in Poultney are able to afford the median gross rents in Poultney in 2000. Rentals that are at or above the median price are unaffordable for the lowest income households in Poultney.

	Median Gross Rents		Median Selected Ownership Costs w/ mortgage		Median Selected Ownership Costs w/o mortgage	
	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
Poultney	\$413	\$479	\$581	\$875	\$264	\$351
Rutland County	\$440	\$517	\$703	\$942	\$275	\$373
Vermont	\$446	\$553	\$719	\$1,021	\$262	\$378

Source: US Census 1990, 2000

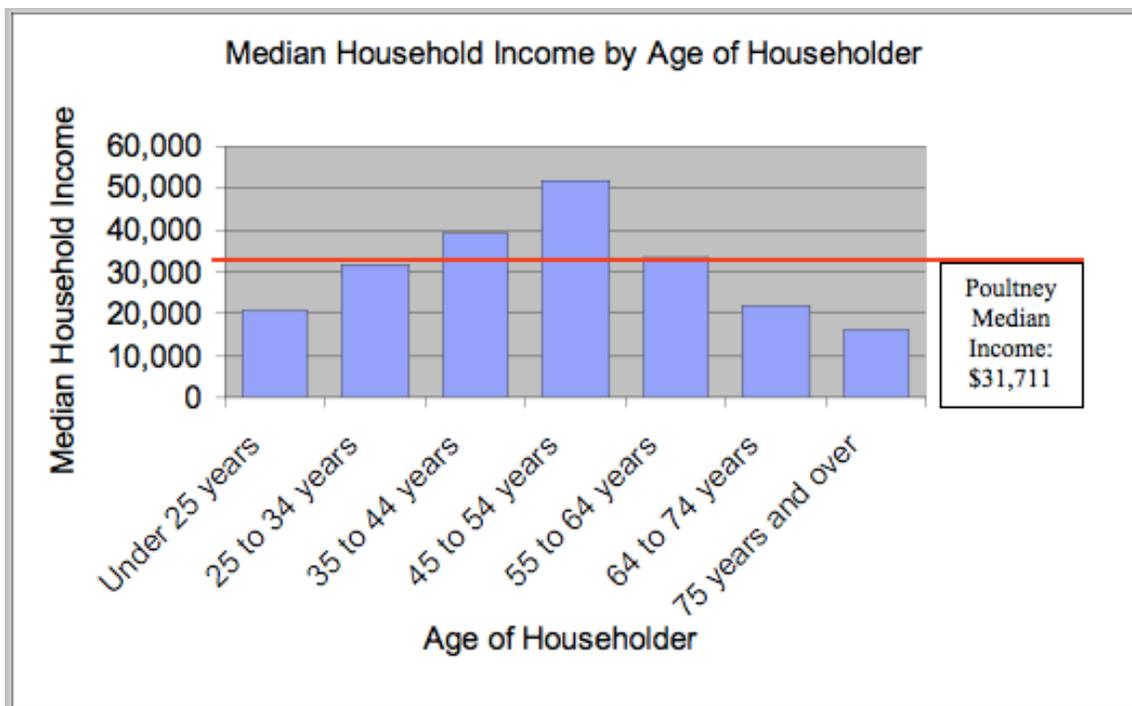
- Households earning below the median income of \$31,711 could not afford the monthly ownership costs of a median priced home (with a mortgage) in Poultney.

	% of households in unaffordable rental situations (1)		% of households in unaffordable ownership situations – w/ mortgage (2)		% of households in unaffordable ownership situations – w/o mortgage (3)	
	1990	2000	1990	2000	1990	2000
Poultney	50%	36%	31%	37%	32%	27%
Rutland County	43%	41%	27%	28%	19%	15%
Vermont	42%	37%	24%	27%	18%	15%

(1) Percent of households paying more than 30% of household income towards gross rent
(2) Percent of households paying more than 30 % of household income towards ownership costs (with mortgages)
(3) Percent of households paying more than 30 % of household income towards ownership costs (no mortgage)

Source: Rutland County Housing Needs Assessment, 2004

- Using the 30% standard, housing situations have become more affordable for renters and homeowners with no mortgage, and has become slightly more unaffordable for homeowners with a mortgage. The percentage of renters in unaffordable situations dropped the most dramatically between 1990 and 2000.



Source: US Census 2000

- The distribution of income within Poultney households is typical, with younger and more elderly households having lower incomes than middle-aged households with generally more established employment.
- It is important to note that those households generally bringing in the least amount of income represent a variety of housing needs...from small apartments for young people to housing situations that meet the specific needs of elderly residents.

15.3 Future Housing Needs

- Referring back to the population projections in Chapter 14: Socioeconomic Technical Report, it is noted that Poultney's population is expected to decline by 2.3% by 2015. Even so, household size is steadily decreasing, from 2.58 persons per household in 1980 to 2.39 persons per household in 2000, and holding at 2.34 in 2010.
- If household size continues to decline, the number of households will continue to increase, even as the population declines.
- Between 1990 and 2000, there was a definite shift in population composition, towards a more elderly population (median age had increased from 30.7 to 35.9 between 1990 and 2000), however the change was minimal (and decreased) in 2010 (from 35.9 to 34.9). An elderly population brings with it different housing needs than what are being accommodated by the Town currently.
- Over 52% of Poultney's housing units are over 60 years old. Maintaining and improving this housing stock will need to occur to ensure that these units are not lost to disrepair.
- The development of new rental housing units has seen a sharp decline in the county. Only 35 new units were constructed between 1990 and 2000, compared to the nearly 100 units constructed each year in the 20 years prior.

16.0 Economic Development Technical Report

Employment Status, 1990 to 2010

Poultney	1990	2000	2010
Total Labor Force	1,820	1,780	1,780
Total Employed	1,720	1,730	1,650
Total Unemployed	100	50	140
Rutland County			
Total employment	31,500	32,600	32,800

Source: Vermont Dept. of Labor (numbers rounded)

- Poultney’s labor force had decreased between 1990 and 2000, even as its population had risen. This was due to the increase in the Town’s elderly population above retirement age. Between 2000 and 2010, the total labor force remained the same, while unemployment nearly tripled.
- This shift in demographics places a greater strain on the working population to provide for services needed by the entire population.

Poultney, Rutland County and Vermont Annual Unemployment Rate, 2001-2010

	Poultney	Rutland	Vermont
2001	3.5%	3.5%	3.3%
2002	4.1%	4.1%	4.0%
2003	4.8%	4.9%	4.5%
2004	4.3%	4.1%	3.7%
2005	4.2%	3.7%	3.5%
2006	4.3%	4.0%	3.7%
2007	4.6%	4.3%	3.9%
2008	5.4%	5.3%	4.5%
2009	8.6%	8.3%	6.9%
2010	7.6%	7.3%	6.2%

Source: Vermont Department of Labor

- Between 2000 and 2010, Poultney’s unemployment rate has been slightly higher than that of the county, and much higher than that of the state.

ALPHABETICAL LISTING of TOP 25 EMPLOYERS		June 2004	
Employer	Employment Code	Employer	Employment Code
Carris Reels Inc	2	Price Chopper Operations Co of VT	3
Central Vermont Public Service Corp	3	Rutland Area Visiting Nurse Assoc.	2
Eden Park Management Inc.	2	Rutland Hospital Inc (The)	5
General Electric Co	5	Rutland Mental Health Services Inc	3
Green Mountain College	2	Rutland Plywood Corporation	2
Haven Health Center of Rutland LLC	2	Rutland Public School System	4
Herald Association Inc	2	Rutland, City of	2
Hubbardton Forge Corporation	2	State of Vermont	4
Killington Ltd	3	Vermont Country Store Inc (The)	3
Martin's Foods of South Burlington	2	Vermont Physicians Clinic Inc	2
Mckerley Health Care Centers Inc	2	Vermont State Colleges	2
Metrogroup Corp	2	Walmart Associates Inc	2
Omya Inc	2		
CODES TO INDICATE EMPLOYMENT DATA			
Employment		Code	
less than 50		0	
50 - 99		1	
100 - 249		2	
250 - 499		3	
500 - 999		4	
1,000 and over		5	
Based on UI Covered Employment			

- In 2004, the Vermont Department of Labor released a list of the top 25 employers in the region, including Green Mountain College in Poultney. Other “top 25” were found in surrounding towns. These employers provide employment within commuting distance for many of Poultney’s residents. As of 2006, the Vermont Department of Labor no longer releases these lists.
- According to the US Census Bureau, OnTheMap Application and LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics, in 2009, approximately 26.8% of employed Poultney residents work in the town of Poultney. Of employed Poultney residents, 37.5% travel fewer than 10 miles to work, and 71.1% travel fewer than 25 miles.
- Unlike some towns in the region that are increasingly serving as “bedroom communities,” Poultney is still a hub of residential and economic development in the region.

Covered Employment and Wages—Poultney, 2010

Industry	<u>Total</u> Employers (annual avg.)	<u>Total</u> Employment (annual avg.)	Total Wages (annual avg.)	Average Wage (annual)
Total Covered - all ownerships	94	969	\$30,025,654	\$30,994
Private ownership	88	791	\$24,227,015	\$30,638
Goods Producing	36	277	\$9,808,646	\$35,464
Natural Resources and Mining	6	74	\$2,302,199	\$31,110
Construction	19	41	\$1,392,705	\$34,038
<u>Construction of buildings</u>	6	c	c	c
<u>Heavy and civil engineering construction</u>	1	c	c	c
<u>Specialty trade contractors</u>	12	29	\$899,943	\$31,302
Manufacturing	11	162	\$6,113,742	\$37,817
Service Providing	52	514	\$14,418,369	\$28,042
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (wholesale & retail trade, building materials, retail supply stores (garden, health, sporting goods, hobby, book, utilities, etc.)	21	111	\$3,166,414	\$28,441
<u>Retail trade</u>	15	95	\$1,980,458	\$20,939
<u>Food and beverage stores</u>	3	35	\$648,439	\$18,571
<u>Gasoline stations</u>	4	26	\$457,145	\$17,471
<u>Nonstore retailers</u>	1	c	c	c
Information (publishing, broadcasting, etc.)	1	c	c	c
Financial Activities (credit activities, insurance, real estate, rental services, etc.)	3	14	\$474,029	\$34,684
Professional and Business Services (professional, technical, administrative, waste, support services, etc.)	7	23	\$386,638	\$16,810
Education and Health Services	3	c	c	c
Leisure and Hospitality (arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food service, tourism etc.)	9	97	\$1,357,494	\$13,971
Other services, except public administration	9	34	\$1,110,737	\$32,589
<u>Repair and maintenance</u>	7	29	\$1,049,526	\$36,505
<u>Membership associations and organizations</u>	1	c	c	c
<u>Private households</u>	1	c	c	c
Government Total				
Government total	6	178	\$5,798,639	\$32,577
Federal Government (services, trade, transportation, utilities, warehousing, postal services)	1	9	\$431,921	\$46,279
Local government	5	169	\$5,366,718	\$31,818

Industry	Total Employers (annual avg.)	Total Employment (annual avg.)	Total Wages (annual avg.)	Average Wage (annual)
Education and Health Services	2	140	\$4,704,406	\$33,703
Public administration	3	29	\$662,312	\$22,773
Executive, legislative and general government	2	25	\$537,392	\$21,496
Administration of environmental programs	1	4	\$124,920	\$30,595

Source: Vermont Department of Labor

- Covered Employment includes the employers covered by the unemployment compensation law. The major groups excluded from coverage are most agricultural production firms and the self-employed.
- Major employers in Poultney range from local government to goods producers to service providers such as private educational institutions, retail stores and leisure and hospitality businesses.
- Information on industry relates to the kind of business conducted by a person's employing organization.
- Changes in how industry information is collected and analyzed mean that comparison between 1990 and 2000 data cannot be made. Recognizing that the old classification system was created in the 1930's when manufacturing dominated the national economic scene, the new system has restructured and redefined every sector of the economy: developed using a production-oriented conceptual framework, groups establishments into industries based on the activity in which they are primarily engaged. Establishments using similar raw material inputs, similar capital equipment, and similar labor are classified in the same industry. In other words, establishments that do similar things in similar ways are classified together. Recent developments in information services, new forms of health care provision, expansion of services, and high tech manufacturing are examples of industrial changes that can now be studied under the new classification system.
- In Poultney, we can generally look at the changes in industry, especially those that are not new, emerging economic sectors.
 - Agriculture and other natural resource dependent industries declined considerably between 1990 and 2000, and again between 2000 and 2010 (-40%), as did employment in construction of buildings (however, specialty trade contractors increased by 140%, which could signal an increase in specialized services or the expansion of services provided by existing firms).
 - There was a marked decrease across the board in service providing industries, with the exception of Leisure and Hospitality services (namely food services and drinking places). Although the amount of establishments and employment generally decreased in all industries, the average annual wage increased.

Resources for Business Startup, Expansion and Viability

These resources include but are not limited to the:

- Rutland Economic Development Corporation
- Stafford Technical Center
- Small Business Development Center
- Local and Area Banks
- Vermont Department of Economic Development (ThinkVermont.com)
- UVM Extension Services
- Economic Advancement Tax Incentive Program (ThinkVermont.com)

Expertise can be obtained in areas of but not limited to:

- Starting your own business
 - Financing your own business
 - Managing your own business
 - Loan packaging and financial management
 - Business planning
 - Developing training and apprenticeship programs
 - Marketing assistance
-
- State agencies—Vermont Economic Development Authority, Vermont Economic Progress Council, Vermont Community Development program
 - Rutland Economic Development Corporation—seeks help with strategies ranging from permitting assistance to business attraction and maybe grant writing.
 - Vermont Department of Economic Development—access to state resources
 - Vermont Department of Housing and Community Affairs—support for efforts to promote viable downtowns.
 - Downtown Program—experts for downtowns make progress and know of all state and non-profit resources that can help downtown development.
 - Vermont Cultural heritage and Tourism coordinator
 - Crossroads of Vermont (the Regional Marketing Organization for the Poultney area)
 - Department of Tourism and Marketing public relations—ready to support efforts of the Task Force.
 - Create connection between GMC and economic development strategy implementation through Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility student membership program.

17.0 Community Facilities And Services Technical Report

17.1 General

Publicly owned by the Town of Poultney are the Town Hall, the Public Library, a Firehouse, a Senior Citizen Center, a Highway Garage, Salt Shed, Sand & Salt Shed, and a Transfer Station for the receipt and sorting of waste material. The Town also acquired the Stonebridge Inn, an historic building partially destroyed by fire.

The Village of Poultney owns the old fire station with Village administrative offices, a water system including a water reservoir and two well houses, two sewer pump stations, and a wastewater treatment plant.

The School District owns and administers the Poultney Elementary School and Poultney High School, and their respective recreation facilities.

The Town facilities are generally in good condition. One recent success is the Stonebridge Inn, a historic landmark in the center of town, which, when acquired had extensive fire damage. In 2005 the Stonebridge, after being fully renovated, reopened its doors as a multi-use community facility. In 2011, the Stonebridge housed:

- The Poultney Food Shelf
- Leap Frog Nursery School
- The Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District
- The Poultney Area Chamber of Commerce and the Poultney Downtown Revitalization Committee

The original firehouse, housing the Village administrative offices, is in fair to poor condition and needs continued maintenance.

The High School facility and Elementary School are in generally good condition.

17.2 Library

The Library was founded in 1895 and occupies a former bank building on Main Street that was constructed in 1910. An addition was added to the facility in the early 1970s. Since 1990, a handicapped accessible bathroom has been added and the entrance to the building has been regraded in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act.

As of fiscal year 2010-11, the Library:

- Had an annual circulation of 28,572.
- Maintained a collection of 14,300 books, 51 periodical subscriptions, 1158 DVD titles (all areas nearly at capacity).

- Loaned materials to 2,486 registered borrowers.
- Was open to the public 34 hours per week.
- Offered 42 programs attended by 761 people.
- Filled over 413 requests for specific items not available locally through the statewide interlibrary loan network.
- Added 6 new laptops and 1 new desktop for a total of 11 public access computers.

17.3 Education and Schools

Schools

Poultney has two school facilities: Poultney Elementary School and Poultney High School.

Administrative offices of the Rutland Southwest Supervisory Union are located within the new Central Vermont Public Service office building on York Street.

Poultney Elementary School serves 185 students and is proud to be recognized for its improvements over the past three years as measured on the New England Common Assessment Program in reading and math not only for increased scores for all students, but as well as for students in poverty; this is a direct result of members of our educational community working together to provide the best possible instruction for students and believing that each and every child can and will be successful. PES has implemented a technology-based progress monitoring system which assists us in the process of providing appropriate interventions when students are in need of supportive or challenging interventions. In addition, we are fortunate that we have core reading and science programs which provide us with common language and activities for grades 2-6, provide online science and social studies connections, as well as differentiated learning opportunities, and home-school connections. The research-based Foundations program is used in our grades K-1 to provide students with strong literacy skills necessary to transition and be successful in the later years, and we are one of the few schools in Vermont to have the technology-based intervention programs, FastForward and Reading Assistant available to our students as needed. We continue to work hard in the area of math through continued professional development with assistance from Castleton State College and host a variety of students from both Green Mountain College and CSC in our quest to support our local partners, and help our students become aware of the opportunities that are here in their own community. These partnerships, as well as our Challenge and Leadership/Mentoring Programs are just a few things that make our schools special and unique!

Poultney High School, located at 154 East Main Street, serves approximately 230 students some of which are tuition students from the towns of Middletown Springs, Pawlet and Wells in grades 7-12. Poultney High School operates on a four by four block schedule with semester classes of 85 minutes each. Graduation requirements include 24 credits distributed over four years with additional requirements of 4 credits in English- 3 in social studies- 3 in mathematics- 1 in art- 1 in health and 2 credits in physical education. In 2010, a wellness center was constructed, with treadmills, a weight room and other facilities. This center is open to the public.

A five member elected school board governs the schools. The school board sets policy and develops an annual budget for voters to consider on town meeting day.

The schools have an Action Plan developed under Act 60. The goals of the Action Plan are to improve literacy K-12, and to improve student performance in mathematics.

Both facilities are at capacity and are looking at expansion options due to present capacity levels. Temporary expansion options are most appropriate as enrollment numbers are gradually declining. Physical and program constraints have led to the appointment of a Facilities Committee, which is reviewing needs with an architect and writing educational specifications. Capital improvement projects are needed to address the following areas:

- Bring facilities into compliance with Department of Labor and Industries standards
- Make facilities handicapped accessible in accordance with ADA standards

Average Daily Memberships for Poultney Schools

Average daily membership figures are a compilation of the number of students drawn on the first 40 days of school.

Poultney Elementary School Enrollment (2007-2011)

Year	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
Enrollment	199	197	193	173
% Change		-1%	-2%	-10%

Poultney High School Enrollment (2007-2011)

Year	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011
Enrollment	268	250	244	230
% Change		-7%	-2%	-6%

School Budgets

Fiscal Year	Budget	School Tax Rate
2006	\$6,621,885	1.495*
2007	\$6,790,343	1.609*
2008	\$6,921,604	1.552*
2009	\$7,180,281	1.725*
2010	\$7,254,320	1.750*
2011	\$7,031,095	1.706*
2012	\$6,811,647	1.5145**
*Act 68 Equalized Homestead Tax Rate		
**The Town underwent town-wide reappraisal in 2011		

Land and Athletic Fields

Behind the elementary school is a 14 acre recreation complex. The facilities include 2 tennis courts, an outdoor basketball court, 4 softball fields, 1 soccer field, and picnic and playground accommodations. All facilities are used by the school, public groups, organizations and Green Mountain College.

The high school has a large play field adjacent to the school. This is used for interscholastic sports including football, baseball and cheerleading. Spring and summer organized baseball leagues also use this field.

Fields and courts at the elementary school are maintained by the Poultney Recreation Commission and many volunteers. The high school fields are maintained by the school district.

Stafford Technical Center

Students from Poultney High School may enroll in classes at the Stafford Technical Center. The Center, built in 1974, is located in Rutland City and provides secondary technical/vocational education to junior and senior high school students and adults throughout the Rutland Region. Students may choose from the following programs: Automotive Technology, Computer Information Systems and Accounting, Carpentry, Culinary Arts, Electrical/Plumbing, Forestry and Natural Resources, Health Services, Human Services, Manufacturing Technology, Marketing, Office Technology, Power Mechanics, Principles and Applications of Technology, Video/Media Technology, Student and Registered Apprenticeships, Jazz and Contemporary Music, Computer Hardware and Network Servicing, Horticulture/Landscaping and Diversified Agriculture.

The Superintendent of Rutland Southwest and a Poultney board member are part of an Advisory Committee, which meets monthly and assists with the governance of the Stafford Technical Center.

Rutland Southwest Supervisory Union

The staff of the Rutland Southwest Supervisory Union provides administrative and support services. The Supervisory Union comprises the districts of Ira, Middletown Springs, Poultney, Tinmouth and Wells. It provides administrative, financial and purchasing support, employment services, training, special education personnel and various other services to the schools. The Supervisory Union governing board consists of three representative members from each of the towns except Ira, which has one representative.

Teachers, administrators and board members actively participate in a number of committees formed by the Supervisory Union. These committees focus on curriculum coordination and planning for improving student programs and performance.

Community Use of Facilities

The high school and elementary schools are used by the community for a variety of purposes. The library classrooms and gymnasium are used by the public for educational, cultural, and recreational service- related activities. Groups and organizations must apply to the appropriate school office in order to use the facilities.

Transportation

The School District is presently under a lease contract with the STA Transportation/Betcha to provide transportation services to and from the elementary and high schools and to the Stafford Technical Center in Rutland. Buses are also leased to provide transportation to athletic and special events. The bus company provides maintenance services.

Costs of Education

According to the Vermont Department of Education, local education spending per equalized child is as follows:

Local Education Spending (per equalized child)					
Fiscal Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Spending	\$11,752	\$12,112	\$13,199	\$13,335	\$13,022

17.4 Wastewater

Extensive upgrades to the Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF) were completed in 2002.

The three-year annual average daily flow received by the WWTF between 2008 and 2010 was 262,000 Gallons Per Day (.262 MGD), which is under the current permitted level of 0.500 MGD.

The Village continues to meet the Department of Environmental Conservation 1272 Compliance order by eliminating unpermitted, partially treated sewage discharges to the Poultney River.

With the 2002 upgrades to the WWTF, the Village is also in compliance with its National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Discharge Permit. The WWTF upgrades reduced levels of Phosphorus in the discharged effluent, which in turn reduces environmental impacts to the Poultney River and Lake Champlain.

Other upgrades to the WWTF have increased the energy efficiency of the equipment and heating system. The upgrades also increased hydraulic design capacity, providing additional treatment capacity for future sewer connections, sewage flow increases from existing uses.

The system can now accommodate slightly more than double their amount of necessary hookups. There is 0.223 Million gpd uncommitted reserve capacity. The total committed reserve capacity was .277 MGD in 2011, with 15,000 gallons per day (0.015 MGD) in the Designated Downtown.

17.5 Water System

The Village owns and operates a water system. Water is supplied from two gravel wells located west of the Village. The maximum daily yield of the Well #1 is 393,120 GPD. The maximum daily yield of Well #2 is 364,320 GPD. Water is chlorinated and also fluorinated.

The water system underwent a major upgrade in 1983-1984. A 550,000-gallon concrete tank reservoir was constructed, and the second well was developed and placed in service. Prior to that time, the secondary water source was Crystal Lake (formerly known as Mud Pond).

In 1983-84, about 2/3 of the existing service lines, mains, valves and hydrants were replaced, and the system became 100% metered. In 2010, the Village completed a water meter replacement project and installed new water telemetry equipment and circuit board financed through the ANR Water Revolving Loan Fund. This equipment serves as the central communications link between the Village reservoir and both well pump stations which supplies water to residents who are served by the municipality.

The water system is designed to meet local water requirements through the year 2033. There are presently about 493 connections. The number of connections could be tripled with the excess capacity of the current water system. The system has proven adequate in providing emergency fire protection, while providing continuing service to regular customers.

In 2010, the Village replaced the water pump motor at well #1 and installed variable frequency drives at well #1 and well #2. The new variable frequency drives will improve the efficiency and longevity of the equipment, reduce maintenance costs for both well pumps and preserve the condition of the piping and valves that serve both wells. The variable frequency drive project was financed through the ANR Water Revolving Fund, and the water pump motor replacement at well #1 was financed partially through a Climate Change Grant from ANR with a rebate from Efficiency Vermont.

Also in 2010, the Village fixed two major water line leaks on East Main Street and installed a new 12" isolation valve at this location. The Village completed water line upgrades along Norton Avenue, York Street and York Street Extension, and installed three new fire hydrants.

The Town completed the process of updating its Source Water Protection Plan in 2011. Approved Source Water Protection Plans (SPPs) are necessary for public community water systems to receive an Operating Permit from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation. SPPs delineate the portion of a watershed or ground water area that contribute to the water supply, identify potential sources of drinking water contamination within this area, and determine the water supply's susceptibility to contamination from the identified sources of contamination. These activities, along with steps to decrease risk of drinking water contamination ensure a continued high quality water source for Poultney.

17.6 Solid Waste

The Town owns and operates a transfer station / recycling facility located on Hillside Rd. in East Poultney. The Transfer Station is open Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

Most households utilize the facility in addition to many commercial businesses, while a few commercial businesses and private residences contract with private haulers and pay for services directly to the commercial hauler.

The Town of Poultney is a member of the Rutland County Solid Waste District (RCSWD), a special purpose municipality governed by a board of directors representing member towns. The District has contracts in place to provide member towns a long term waste disposal contract, hazardous waste collection, recycling, tire disposal program, scrap metal collection, and demolition debris and yard waste collection programs.

In 2010, residents and businesses in our membership municipalities disposed of approximately 34,000 tons of municipal solid waste. The town utilizes an annual permit system at a fee of \$15 for the first vehicle and \$10 for each additional vehicle in the household; there is a separate charge for furniture, tires, appliances, carpet, metals and demo debris.

The Rutland County Solid Waste District operates an extensive Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program for district residents, to collect and safely dispose of hazardous, flammable and toxic materials, anti-freeze, pesticides, used motor oil, asbestos, fluorescent tubes, computers and electronics.

The Towns waste is transported by Cassella Waste Management through a contract negotiated for member Towns through the District.

Poultney's annual tonnage disposed of through the methods described above were as follows:

FY 2006	1,425 tons
FY 2007	1,410 tons
FY 2008	1,399 tons
FY 2009	1,346 tons
FY 2010	1,277 tons
FY 2011	1,333 tons

In 2010, an estimated 206 tons were recycled.

As of July 1, 2011, the Poultney Transfer Station became a Certified E-Waste Collector. Vermont's new [electronic waste law](#) bans the disposal of certain electronic devices and provides for convenient collection of computers, monitors, printers, computer peripherals, and televisions for consumers, charities, school districts, and small businesses that employ 10 or fewer individuals. The FREE Vermont E-Cycles electronic recycling program established collection locations, such as the Poultney Transfer Station, that are located statewide and operate year-round. All computers, monitors, printers, computer peripherals and TVs - regardless of brand, age, or condition - are accepted for FREE recycling. Other electronic devices are also accepted at the Transfer Station, however, there may be a fee to dispose of those items.

17.7 Health Care and Social Services

Rutland Regional Medical Center

The Rutland Regional Medical Center (RRMC) located in Rutland City provides acute medical care services to Poultney residents. It is the second largest hospital in Vermont, and provides specialized services available to Poultney residents. These services include emergency care, an outpatient/ambulatory care unit, a birthing center, a pediatrics unit, and a community cancer center which offers surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation treatments as well as cancer prevention program and patient/family support services. The Medical Center also provides an X-ray and diagnostic imaging unit able to provide mammograms, MRI, ultrasound scans and angiography as well as rehabilitation services to treat both patients and outpatients after an illness or injury.

In addition to these direct medical care services, the RRMC offers a wide range of other health-related community services to the residents of Poultney including Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, a diabetes support group, a support group for the recently bereaved, a multiple sclerosis support group, and Overeaters Anonymous meetings.

Health Wise, a community education program developed by the RRMC offers a series of free or low cost workshops, seminars, discussion groups and courses which cover a wide range of health-related topics.

Medical, Chiropractic and Dental Services

A dental office is located on Church Street in the Village of Poultney. A doctor's office is located on Main Street in the Village of Poultney.

The Rutland Region Physician Group has offices located within several miles of Poultney. The Castleton Family Health Center is located just north of Poultney on VT Route 30. The Mettowee Valley Family Health Center is located to the south of Poultney in West Pawlet on Route 149. Both Centers are within minutes of Poultney.

Other medical, chiropractic and dental services are provided by a variety of physicians, dentists, and chiropractors are located in the area.

Rutland Area Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice (RAVNAH)

Rutland Area Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice is a non-profit voluntary organization certified as a Home Health Agency under the Medicare Program. The Nurse Association offers many types of services to Poultney residents, including home nursing care for acute/chronic illness under the direction of a physician, physical therapy, speech therapy, elderly homemaker support, home health aid services, medical social services, and hospice services for the terminally ill and their families. These services are paid for by various sources, including Medicare, Medicaid, other types of health insurance, town funds voted annually, state grants, private contributions and the United Way.

The Association also offers occupational health services to businesses designed to improve employee health/safety practices such as screening for high blood pressure, diabetes, or cancer, health education courses, CPR training, and flu vaccination clinics. Costs for occupational health programs are based on staff travel and service time. Other community-based programs provided by

the Visiting Nurses are publication of a newsletter, school nursing services, pre-natal classes and various clinics.

The services that generated the most visits over the ten-year period were home health aides and skilled nursing care. In 2010, the Visiting Nurses provided 89,946 visits to 2,497 clients. In the same year, RAVNAH provided 4,200 visits to 112 Poultney residents, according to the Poultney Town Report.

Rutland Mental Health Services (RMHS)

Rutland Mental Health Services, Inc. (An affiliate of community Care Network) provides behavioral health services such as:

Community Access Program - assists people with developmental disabilities in achieving their personal goals.

Evergreen Center - is a comprehensive mental health and substance abuse outpatient treatment center, which serves children, adolescents and adults through a variety of programs such as alcohol and drug assessment and treatment, family recovery services, psychiatric evaluation and adult/child outpatient counseling.

In 2010, RMHS provided 1,152 hours of service to 85 Poultney residents.

Young-At-Heart Senior Center

The Poultney Senior Center, located on Furnace Street, is the primary meeting place for local seniors. The facility is used for the Meals-On-Wheels program for area senior citizens who are without transportation. The Center also serves as a recreation site as well as a meeting facility for health checks.

Southwestern Vermont Council on Aging (SVCA)

This program provides meals to senior citizens either on site or through the Meals on Wheels Program. A senior advocate program helps elders fill out application forms and works to resolve any problems related to receipt of benefit programs or other assistance. Guidance is also provided to persons having questions or problems related to health insurance claims or medical service payments. Advocates also help elders file Vermont tax rebate claims and provide assistance with program applications.

Other services available to elders include:

Long Term Care Ombudsman: This individual is available to provide assistance to residents of nursing and residential care homes in our region. The Ombudsman helps elders, or if appropriate, family members to understand information concerning financial assistance and other concerns related to long-term care.

- Information and Referral: SVCA maintains an up-to-date listing of programs and services available to elders. Older persons are able to get this information by either calling SVCA or visiting the Council office.

- Legal Service Attorney for Elders: Funding is provided by SVCA to help pay for the services of an attorney whose role is to focus on legal issues of concern to older persons. This attorney works out of the Vermont Legal Aid Office in Rutland.
- Essential Transportation: Through SVCA arrangements, a limited number of elders are provided with transportation to medical appointments or for essential shopping. Volunteer drivers receive reimbursement from SVCA for mileage costs incurred in providing this transportation. SVCA also provides a limited amount of funding to the One-2-One Program to help provide this important service.
- Rutland Community Programs (an affiliate of Community Care Network) offers services to elders in the community, such as:
 - RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) which offers an opportunity to use their skills and life experiences to serve their community through volunteering, from a few hours up to 20 hours a week.
 - Green Mountain Foster Grandparent Program focuses on one to one continuing relationships between low-income seniors and special needs children and youth in schools, day care centers and other settings.
 - One-To-One Program provides essential transportation, regular telephone contact and friendly home visiting to elders residing in Rutland County.
 - InterAge is a unique Adult Day program offering social activities and respite care to elderly in Rutland County. A newly developed medical model also provides health services, allowing individuals with medical needs to participate in the program.

Vermont Department of Health

The Vermont Department of Health provides various services to Poultney residents including the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Nutrition Education Program, Child Development Clinics, Well Baby Clinics, Care for Pregnant Teens, Partners in Health, Special Needs Clinics and other programs, such as AIDS education seminars, epidemiology and communicable disease follow-up services, a staff sanitarian who inspects restaurants and food service outlets, and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) counseling/education for bereaved families and to local police officials.

Association For Retarded Citizens

The mission of the organization is to advocate, nurture and support the right of each individual with mental disabilities to be valued with the same entitlements as a non-disabled individual, including the right to lifelong opportunities for personal growth and full participation in the community. The program is Rutland based and serves local residents.

Rutland County Parent/Child Center, Inc.

The Rutland County Parent/Child Center (RCPCC) is a community based, not-for-profit organization serving all of Rutland County. Its mission is to promote safe, quality life experiences for all children by providing information, education and support to the families and communities who care for them.

RCPCCC provides 8 core services to families with young children. These core service areas are early care and education, home visits, playgroups, parent education & support, information and referral, on-site support and community development. The center provides low or no cost assistance to families with young children assuring families of all income levels can participate. RCPCCC works in partnership with families. It helps to identify family strengths and priorities and then match them with services and supports that are right for them. It also refers families to other resources and encourages them to build their own connections with their community. In turn, the Center works with communities to identify and develop resources that best suit each community.

Vermont Association For the Blind (VABVI)

VABVI is the only private non-profit organization in the State providing comprehensive vision rehabilitation training and support services for visually impaired Vermonters of all ages. The organization teaches children and adults with visual impairments the skills essential to survival. VABVI served 9 residents from Poultney in 2010. (One student and eight adults)

The Rutland County Women's Network and Shelter (RCWN&S)

RCWN&S is a non-profit agency working within Rutland County to provide safety and support services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The Agency has served men, women, and children in Rutland County who live in danger.

The shelter served 225 Poultney residents in 2010. The Shelter provides housing for women and children. In addition to sheltering, their services include counseling, group work, help with relocating, a 24 hour crisis line for both domestic violence and rape, and many other support services that help to keep a family safe.

17.8 Public Safety

Police Protection

There is no local Police Department serving Poultney. Since 1991, the Town of Poultney contracted with the Vermont State Police (through the C.O.P.S program) for public safety services. In addition to the State Police, the Poultney Board of Selectmen has appointed a Town Constable in March 1999 for part-time coverage as well. The Constable provides basic traffic ordinance enforcement and patrolling services to the community. The voters have given the Town Selectboard the authority to appoint a Constable instead of electing one.

The Vermont State Police must serve 29 communities in Rutland County and maintains a local barracks outpost in Castleton 8 miles north of Poultney. Officials have stated this complete professional State service is seriously understaffed and inadequately equipped throughout Rutland County and the entire State.

Future Needs

The Vermont Department of Public Safety tracks criminal activity across the state, and issues the Vermont Crime Report each year. The following statistics have been provided by the Vermont Department of Public Safety.

Poultney, Vermont Law Incident Reports, 2005-2010	
Year	Total Calls Received
2005	488
2006	644
2007	578
2008	660
2009	625
2010	646

Emergency Management

Poultney has been involved in several activities related to emergency planning. The Town adopted a Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan in 2004, updated on August 8th, 2011. The following are mitigation strategies identified in the plan.

- Obtain generators for key town facilities (High School, and Water Wells)
- Continue efforts to add fire suppression/prevention measures to building within village area and on college campus.
- Incorporate proposed strategies into Annual Budget and/or Capital Improvement Plan
- Obtain ladder truck to fight fires in buildings above three stories.
- Update and maintain the Source Protection Plan for the town.
- Create long-term plan for moving pumphouse and wells out of floodplain.
- Work on Route 31 to drop road level in vicinity of Ruby Road and Route 31 and Upper Road and Route 31, in order to improve visibility at this intersection.

Fire Department

The Poultney Fire Department, known as the Poultney Hose Company No. 1, is located at 263 Beaman Street, and services all incorporated areas in the Town and Village. It also provides mutual aid services to neighboring communities including Wells, Castleton, Fair Haven, Hampton, Granville, and Middle Granville.

In 1986 the Fire Department responded to 45 calls. By 1999 the number of calls nearly tripled to 141. The increase in calls was due primarily to Rescue Squad assists and motor vehicle accidents. In 2010, Fire dept. responded to 170 calls, a significant number of which were due to false alarms at Green Mountain College. Other common calls were for Mutual aid, Medical Assists and Motor Vehicle Accidents.

The Department's duties include providing immediate response to fire and emergency call assists on a 24-hour basis. It also provides community education including school programs during Fire Prevention week. The Department has 34 volunteer members, including the Fire Chief and assistant officers. The volunteers are required to have a minimum of 50 hours of training annually. Changing state laws and federal regulations place greater time and financial burdens on the Department.

As development occurs outside the incorporated limits of the Village (where hydrants provide a reliable source of water for fire suppression) fire ponds or dry hydrants should be considered near rural housing developments.

Buildings and Equipment

The Poultney Town Fire Department moved to its new facility located at 263 Beaman St. in 1998. The building was the old Staco / Chase facility that was closed in 1986. The Town purchased the property in 1996 and developed it under the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's Redevelopment of Contaminated Properties Program.

Equipment is purchased through property taxes, grants and fund raising activities of the Fire Department and donations by the community. All equipment is fully outfitted with radio systems.

The Town has 911 Emergency Service for Fire, Rescue, and State Police. All calls are received at a Public Service Answering Point (PSAP) in Williston, Vermont. All Fire and Rescue squad emergency calls are then switched and dispatched by Washington County (NY). State Police calls are transferred to the PSAP in Rutland.

The Town's 2008-2013 Capital Budget included an inventory of department vehicles useful life projections and anticipated replacement costs. The inventory must be maintained and evaluated annually so that the Capital Budget can be revised.

Access & Water Availability

Within the Village roads are generally level and well maintained. Parking in narrow streets and driveways which are used for fire access may cause access problems. The fire chief and staff should have the prerogative to establish "Fire Lanes" in such cases.

Fire access varies greatly in outlying areas. While arterials and collectors are paved maintained and constructed with reasonable grades, areas of secondary roads are either steep, narrow, or both making fire access difficult. Private roads and individual or shared driveways are even more likely to present access problems.

The Town should continue to consult with the Fire Department in determining appropriate road standards for easy access to new developments for the purpose of providing fire protection.

Water supplies within the Village are generally adequate for fire fighting needs, however there are approximately 16 deficient hydrants lacking proper water pressure. Water supplies for fire fighting are not readily available in some rural areas requiring tanker and/or pumper relay systems. These ordinarily are not as effective as an on-site water source. The Town should continue to install dry hydrants as a means to address fire protection for rural residences.

Poultney Rescue Squad

The Rescue Squad, started in 1970, is located on Route 30 south of the Village. The Squad provides 24-hour coverage for all types of emergency medical care in all incorporated areas in the Town

and Village, Hampton, Middletown Springs, and Tinmouth. Its members teach first aid and CPR classes in the community. The Squad has two paid staff members during the daytime shift. The balance of the coverage is staffed totally by volunteers.

In 2010, the Rescue Squad responded to roughly 335 requests for services and treated 363 patients.

Buildings and Equipment

After a review of building and equipment needs, it was determined that the Squad needed additional space for rescue vehicles, training and classroom space, and living quarters for on-duty squad members. In 2008, the Rescue Squad moved into its present location in a building on Route 30 South.

Equipment and building operations have been purchased and maintained through fund raising, subscription service, donations, and insurance reimbursements. The Town contributes to their Vehicle Replacement Fund.

The Poultney Rescue Squad Auxiliary continues to operate a Thrift Shop in the old Squad building at 193 Ideal Way.

18.0 Transportation Technical Report

18.1 Road and Highway Network

Poultney’s transportation network is focused on its highway system. The highway system provides vehicle circulation to all parts of the Town. Because of this importance, a major part of the Transportation Section of the Town Plan is devoted to highways. Since the system can have a significant impact on economic development, protection of the traffic carrying capacity of these highways is of great importance to the town. Typically, areas with better highway accessibility develop economically and those with poorer highway accessibility do not.

The Town of Poultney has over 81 miles of local and state highways, over 7% of which are in the Village. A breakdown of roads and highways, by classification, is presented below. In general, these classifications reflect the capacity and level of use of each route. Towns receive different levels of state assistance for road maintenance depending on the class, with a maximum allowable percentage in each category.

Mileage Summary of State and Local Roads

Classification	Route Numbers	Mileage	
		Town	Village
State Highways	Rte. 30, Rte. 31	12.1	0.0
Class 1	Rte. 30 & 31 (in Village)	0.4	0.9
Class 2	TH2, TH3, TH4, TH5, TH6, TH7	12.4	3.1
Class 3	Remainder of Town Highways	41.5	1.5
Class 4		9.4	0.0
TOTAL ALL HIGHWAYS		75.8	5.46

State Highways

Vermont Routes 30 and 31 function as arterials, and both provide for regional through traffic to towns in western Rutland County, linking to Vermont Route 4, an east/west travel route of statewide significance⁹. Route 4 links Poultney and other western towns with Rutland City, the Region’s commercial and business hub. Route 30 is a Vermont Byway, called the Stone Valley Byway, which extends from Castleton to Manchester. The town participates on the Advisory Council and benefits from its marketing efforts and other potential grants.

Major changes in traffic volumes were not noted but generally north of Poultney Village, traffic on Route 30 has decreased over the past 16 years and only south of Farnham Road were volumes notably higher. The roads are not experiencing declining levels of service as the capacity is sufficient for the volumes..

Poultney is a sub regional center, and 2008 U.S. Census reported that while 20.9% of Poultney residents work in town, the remainder is employed in surrounding towns and Rutland City.

⁹ Arterials are highways, which are designed to accommodate volumes of more than 500 vehicles per hour and carry the bulk of through traffic.

Approximately 17.4% of employed Poultney residents commute to Rutland City. It was noted that 6.5% of the residents commute to Castleton and 6.2% work in Manchester; these comprise one sector of regular commuters traveling on Route 30. It is expected that some workers traveling to Rutland City also use Route 140 east of Poultney Village.

Poultney is also an employment hub for the western side of the county. Almost 5070% of the jobs in Poultney are filled by residents from surrounding towns-, 9.2% are coming from Castleton and the Rutland area. Wells and 7.2% from Granville. Another 4.8% travel from Fair Haven. It is assumed that Routes 30 and 31 carry many of these commuters travel on Route 30 to access employment in Poultney. Another 5%, traveling from Wells and Pawlet, most likely access the town by Route 30 from the south. Route 31 carries many of the 18% of Poultney employees traveling from these towns as well as others in Washington County, New York.

While both state highways and Route 140 (a town highway) carry most commuter traffic into and out of the town, there is currently no official park and ride lots along these routes.

State Highway Traffic Counts

Route	Location	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
VT 30	South of Castleton T/L	3400		3300				3800
VT 30	0.4 m South of Farnam Rd.				3500			
VT 30	North of State Park Entrance	1700		1700		1800		2000
VT 30	Furnace St. 0.2 m South of VT 31	2500		2300		2400		2500
VT 30	Grove St. between Bentley & Main	2800		2500		3000		3200
VT 31	100 ft. North of Bridge				1800			

Issues

Along the shoreline of Lake St. Catherine, Route 30 is extremely narrow, bordered by water or lakeside development on one side and steep slopes on the other. Certain stretches pose serious safety concerns to users, especially when multiple modes, such as bicycles and vehicles, use the road at once. Topography and congestion from lakeside development restrict the potential for widening and/or straightening the road to improve its sufficiency. Any improvements should encompass the concept of complete streets so shoulders for bike paths and pedestrian foot travel should be planned for safety. Short-term improvements to Route 30 along the lakeshore could include more guardrails, as well as better drainage and visibility along the eastern side of the lake. Regulations should be considered when dealing with future development along Route 30 focusing on the lakeshore portion of the road. All future improvements should enhance both the safety and scenic beauty of the road along the lake's eastern shore.

The VTrans Capital Plan for FY12 only includes one project in Poultney- replacing Bridge #7 on On the Green (TH#6). This is a candidate project which is defined as one approved by the Legislature but not anticipated to have significant expenditures during the budget year. The

Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) currently has allocated funding to study the feasibility of pedestrian accessibility on this bridge.

Three new and needed projects have been included and submitted by the Rutland Region Transportation Council on the regional list- Reconstruction of Furnace Street, the replacement of bridge #4 on VT 31, and reconstruction of bridge #2 on VT 140.

Municipal Roads

In Vermont, municipal roads are designated as Class 1, 2, 3, 4 or trail. Class 1 roads include all state highways under the jurisdiction of municipalities—typically state routes through village centers. Class 2 and 3 roads are defined for the purposes of state aid and must be negotiable, under normal conditions, year-round by a standard passenger car. Class 2 roads, determined by the state, act as trunk lines between towns and to places which by their nature have more than a normal amount of traffic. In the past 10 years, traffic volumes have not changed to the extent that levels of service have decreased. Class 4 roads are not generally maintained on a year-round basis. Class 3 and 4 roads are designated by the local Selectboard. A breakdown of road mileage, by class, is included in the Mileage Summary Table above. Roads are shown by classification on the Transportation Map included in this Plan.

In 2001, the town conducted and completed a road inventory and surveyed all Class 4 road rights-of-way. These roads have been reported to the state and are shown on the official Poultney Highway Map. Some of these roads are currently maintained, while some are used for trails or for accessing private camps.

Currently, Poultney has site plan review, subdivision regulations, and town road standards. Site plan review allows the Development Review Board to address access and circulation at commercial developments. The primary consideration in providing access is to insure adequate sight distance and safety. Subdivision regulations permit the Development Review Board to address roadway and intersection design and circulation patterns for subdivisions, especially if this transportation infrastructure is to be maintained by the Town.

Town road standards are necessary so the Selectboard can determine if the Town will take over maintenance of certain roads. A provision that town road standards will be met before a road is considered for Town maintenance ensures that the town is not accepting substandard roads that will require substantial maintenance.

Poultney town highways are currently in good condition. Regular spring maintenance to address mud spots is needed on the town's gravel roads.

Accident rates are low, and the most frequent complaints concern speeding. In 2001, the Vermont Department of Transportation studied this issue, and as a result, many speed limits were lowered. These actions have addressed much of the problem, along with increased enforcement by the town constable.

As revitalization activities continue in the Village, residential development adjacent to the current Village should also be expected. Where Village expansion occurs, site plan review should ensure that street design is related to the historical setting of the village and integrated with the present street grid. Especially in the Village, residential streets need to accommodate varied uses by both the pedestrian and automobiles. Complete Streets legislation will ensure that VTrans' funded roadway projects will accomplish this.

Town Highway Traffic Counts

Route	Location	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
VT 140	1.2 mi west of Thrall and Lewis/Hillside Rd				3200				2900
VT 140	0.25 mi west of Hampshire Hollow Rd				1300				1300
VT 140	0.5 mi west of Dayton Hill Rd								900
York St Ext	0.1 mi south of Farnam Rd	460						410	
Hannon Rd	0.2 mi east of VT 30	150							
Hillside Rd	0.1 mi north of E Main St	590	620						
Lewis Rd	0.3 mi south of Castleton T/L	130							
Griffin Rd	0.1 mi south of Castleton T/L	130							
College St N	50 ft west of TH54 /Potter Ave.	2100			2200				2000
Morse Hollow Rd	0.4 mi North of VT 140	270							
Ferncliff Rd	0.1 mi west of VT 30	40							
Granville St	0.3 mi. north of VT/NY border								1200
Allen Ave	Between School and Wheeler Ave			230					
Wilson Ave	Between Norton/Ext			430					
Endless Brook Rd	0.2 mi east of VT 30	200							
Thrall Rd	0.7 mi north of VT 30	270		440	410				
Thrall Rd	North of River St			570					
Saltis Rd	0.1 mi east of York St Ext	330							
Hampshire Hollow Rd	0.3 mi north of VT 140	180							
College St N	Between Rae Ter and Church St		2100						

18.2 Road Maintenance

Road maintenance, including repairs, upgrades, and winter clearing, is one of the most significant items in the town's budget and is a basic need of all residents. The proposed Town highway budget for FY 2011 is \$639,852. Maintaining and enhancing the local road network in a safe and cost effective manner is an important community responsibility. The town and village have separate highway departments with separate garage facilities. A Town and Village salt shed have both been completed to meet federal guidelines concerning the storage of road salt.

1. To most effectively manage road and bridge maintenance, and reduce the local match required for the District –managed roadway and structures grants, Poultney must: Adopt “road and bridge standards” for maintenance as promoted by the Department of Transportation, and
2. Complete a network inventory. The inventory includes identifying roads and the location and condition of all bridges and culverts with a global positioning system marker (GPS).
3. Adopt a highway Capital Improvement Program

Completed together, these programs allow a town to reduce the “match” it pays for special state highway grant programs from 20% to 10 % in addition to promoting sustainable, cost-effective and efficient planning of the maintenance of the transportation network. Poultney has completed the first two programs.

18.3 Access Management

Access management focuses on increasing the safety and efficiency of town roads and highways by reducing conflict points associated with traffic turning into or leaving properties abutting the highway. The primary design techniques used in access management focus on the control and regulation of the spacing and design of: Driveways, streets, medians and median openings and traffic signals. Several techniques may be applied through Poultney’s zoning regulations, subdivision regulations and road policies and ordinances. These include requirements for:

- Minimum sight distance at a driveway or street intersection,
- Maximum number of driveways per lot
- Shared driveways and parking
- Maximum width of curb cuts
- Minimum and maximum driveway lengths
- Standards for parking design
- Minimum area for loading and unloading
- Landscaping and buffers to visually define and enhance access points

Poultney’s zoning regulations define minimum area for loading and unloading, as well as required distance from intersections for new access driveways. The town should pursue incorporation of other access management tools.

Particular attention should be paid to access issues within the village, along roadway stretches with limited sight distance, and intersections where turning movements impede the flow of through traffic. The Poultney Main Street Improvement Plan (2002) identified areas where curb cuts in the Village, especially at the four gas stations in town, are excessively wide. These wide driveways create hazardous traffic situations as well as encouraging the use of the public sidewalk by vehicles. This situation should be remedied by constricting curb cuts at these businesses and ensuring that sidewalks adjacent to these land uses are continuous and clearly defined as separate infrastructure from the parking lots and driveways of these businesses.

18.4 Traffic Calming

Techniques to maintain relatively slow travel speeds in developed areas enhance pedestrian safety and decrease the risk of traffic accidents. Such techniques include narrow travel lanes, wide sidewalks, medians, on-street parking, roundabouts, well marked raised and/or textured crosswalks, bulb-outs, street tree plantings and street furniture. Traffic calming is especially important along roads in Poultney and East Poultney villages. Some of these techniques have been incorporated into the downtown streetscape improvement plan.

18.5 Parking

Parking is very important for residents, employees and visitors. Parking in the Village has historically been a problem. The Main Street Improvement Plan, a part of Poultney's Downtown Designation, is considering ways to make on and off street parking more accessible. Other important parking needs in the village include increasing the number of spaces available and resolving conflicts between landowner/tenant parking spaces.

In a January 2002 Main Street parking survey by the Downtown Revitalization Committee, a need for at least 35 more on-street parking spaces and between 38 and 166 off-street spaces was identified. The 35 on-street spaces are mainly needed along Main Street between Depot and Maple streets. Some of these parking spaces could be provided by parallel parking along Depot Street. This could also have the effect of narrowing that street as it intersects with Main Street, calming traffic as it approaches this currently dangerous intersection. The off-street spaces are needed behind businesses that currently do not have employee parking, and near residences that presently have inadequate parking spaces. Other solutions include shared parking with churches, reserving on-street parking for storefronts, maximizing off-street parking for employees and residences by improving spaces and increasing on-street signage directing users to the available off-street spaces.

Poultney zoning regulations require new development to provide sufficient parking spaces for the land use. It is recommended that locations be suggested, especially downtown, where employee and customer parking may be most appropriately located behind the storefronts and accessed by alleys and side streets. The location of parking can significantly affect the character of the village, and should, whenever possible, reinforce historic development patterns and frontages.

Green Mountain College also generates significant parking demand. While much of the College's parking needs are satisfied on campus, business owners on the west end of Main Street have cited student and faculty use of Main Street parking spaces as one cause for inadequate customer parking. As the College looks to expand, increased parking demand must be accommodated on campus. For special events that occur only occasionally, such as commencement, the Town and College should cooperate to ensure adequate parking and traffic circulation.

18.6 Pedestrian and Bicycle Circulation

Bicycle and pedestrian travel are important elements in creating a balanced and sustainable transportation system. Transportation Enhancement Grants continue to be the primary source of funds for bicycle and pedestrian facilities and other streetscape improvement projects. These

helped fund the visitor center in the Stonebridge Inn and other downtown revitalization efforts. Annual applications should be continued to link sidewalks.

Bicycling is both recreation and transportation. Recreationally, bicyclists use the experience as exercise or for touring. Touring often occurs on roads that form a regional or statewide route, where a variety of scenery and historic and cultural sites are desirable. The town has seen a significant increase in bicycle tours along its major thoroughfares, especially Routes 30 and 140. Shoulders for bicyclists should be added where feasible.

Bicycling is also used for commuting, and as a means of transportation for children, teenagers, and others without access to an automobile. Bike racks and other infrastructure should be concentrated in the village and built up areas, while bike lanes should occur along the major thoroughfares.

In Poultney Village, where historic settlement patterns reflect a pedestrian scale and orientation, an extensive sidewalk network exists. Sidewalks have been replaced along Main Street through the Downtown Streetscape Improvement project. Areas in the Village that need attention are along the east side of Route 30 and one block west (along Maple Street), between Main Street and Bentley Avenue. Along both streets, sidewalks are not continuous and are broken up by excessively wide access driveways to adjacent businesses. Another opportunity to enhance the village sidewalk system was partially completed when Poultney connected to East Poultney village with a sidewalk. The last remaining segment of sidewalk is scheduled for completion in FY 2012. Where no sidewalks exist, school children, walkers and joggers are currently forced to occupy the roadway when traveling this route. Also, as the existing development expands, pedestrian facilities that link to current Village sidewalk networks should be included in any new development.

Safe Routes to School is another program in which the town participates to teach children to walk and bike safely, and funds are available for infrastructure improvements.

Recreational Paths can be found skirting the Village, as well as throughout the rural areas of the town. The location of these can be found on the Transportation Map Since the 1920's many railroads have been abandoned. Many of the railroad rights-of-way have been redefined as trails for recreational use, notably biking, skiing, bicycling, and snowmobiling. The former D&H right-of-way from Castleton to Rupert via Poultney has been acquired and converted for trail use, however there is currently a gap in New York State.

18.7 Transit and Public Transportation

Local Transit

There is taxi service in the town, provided by a business in nearby Hampton NY.

Regional Transit

The Bus is the only fixed transit route between Poultney and other locations within the Region. A bus stop with shelter along Main Street, clearly signed and with schedule information available, should be integrated into the current Main Street design concept. Paratransit service is available for the elderly and disabled. Zip Cars are currently available from Green Mountain College. Residents of Poultney can sign up for this program online.

18.8 Rail service

Rail transportation continues to be vital to the economy of the State and the Region, as it is used to move bulk commodities. Rutland is one of the primary nodes of the Vermont rail network, with lines extending north, south, west, and southeast. Currently, the railroad system in the Region is being used for both freight movement and passenger rail service. Amtrak provides daily passenger service to Castleton and Rutland City via the Clarendon and Pittsford (CLP), line from Albany and Penn Station in New York City. Regional freight service also is generally available on a daily basis, although not on the segment of Vermont Railway south of Rutland City.

To the west, the former Delaware and Hudson (D&H) line to Whitehall now owned by the Clarendon and Pittsford, a Vermont Railway subsidiary, serves as the gateway for rail traffic entering the State of Vermont.

Freight: To the north, the Vermont Railway serves Burlington and communities in between. To the south, the Vermont Railway serves Bennington and Manchester. To the southeast, the Green Mountain Railway serves Ludlow, Chester and connects in Bellows Falls with the Central Vermont and Boston and Maine Railroads. The primary focal point for all this activity is Rutland, from which trains serving all these directions are originated and terminated.

18.9 Air Transport

Rutland Southern Vermont Regional Airport, located in Clarendon, is the only state owned, FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) certified airport in the Region offering scheduled service. The airport has two runways, 1-9 and 13-31, and offers daily flights to Boston.

Ongoing improvements and planned runway expansion using pavement and an Emergency Material Arresting System will increase the reliability and utility of airport operations. Charter aircraft demand is expected to increase with the installation of this approach improvement.

18.10 Impact of Regional Transportation Plan

The Rutland Regional Transportation Plan is based on the objective that town road mileage should be kept to a minimum to control the cost of maintenance and snow removal without any reduction in the quality of road maintenance.

Other recommendations of the Regional Transportation Plan include:

- Preservation of arterial and collector highways should be maintained by limiting curb cuts.
- New any development should only be allowed away from the main road corridors with limited access points to the main highways.
- Any new private roads should be constructed by the developers or the owners of the land being developed, and must be built to town standards to allow access by fire and emergency vehicles.
- Any road construction must meet state and local requirements.
- Incorporate elements of Complete Streets in all improvement projects
- A multi-modal transportation network is vital to the Region's economy

19.0 Natural Resources Technical Report

19.1 Physical Setting

Bedrock geology

The Town of Poultney is located in the Taconic Physiographic province, which extends from Brandon southwards into Massachusetts and New York. The Taconics run through the eastern portion of the Town. The western part of Town is occupied by the "Taconic Foothills", also known as the Slate belt. The Slate belt is comprised of true slates that are less metamorphosed than the mountains to the east. A Bedrock Geology Map can be found in Section IV – Resource Maps.

The geological formations underlying the Township consist of metamorphic rocks of Cambrian and Ordovician Age. The St. Catherine formation of Lower Cambrian age is the most widespread geologic unit. It consists of three distinct members: Mettowee Slate, Bomoseen Graywacke (sandstone) and Zion Hill quartzite. The Mettowee Slate is a purple, gray-green and variegated slate of prime economic significance. It has been mined in the western foothills of the Township and used for the manufacture of asphalt shingles, roofing materials and landscape construction.

Surface Geology

During the Pleistocene, Vermont was covered by several glacial advances. The most recent stage of glaciation was the Wisconsin, which occurred between 10,000 and 100,000 years ago. This ice sheet covered all of Canada, New England and major portions of the Midwest. The Wisconsin stage had three distinct advances over the State of Vermont known as the Bennington, Shelburne and Burlington stages.

As glacial ice advanced over the landscape, solid rock and unconsolidated materials were incorporated into the massive ice sheet, and helped to erode and polish the underlying bedrock surface. As the ice sheet continued to flow, it transported a wide range of materials varying in size from house-size boulders to very fine silts and clays. Many types of materials were deposited as the ice advanced, receded and melted resulting in a variety of landforms. Below is a description of each landform identified in Poultney on the Surficial Geology Map. The map shows the extent of deposits formed during the Holocene Period (in the last 11,000 years) and the Pleistocene Period (the period of glaciation).

Holocene Deposits:

Recent Stream Alluvium - As streams erode the landscape, they carry suspended fine grain sediment away and deposit it during periods of high water on the floodplain. Although a variety of materials may be found in recent stream alluvium deposits, the dominant materials are sands, silts and clays.

Muck and Peat - Muck and peat are organic deposits in under-drained depressional areas. These deposits have high fertility but have extremely poor foundation characteristics. The dominant vegetation types are used to classify these deposits: bogs, swamps or marshes.

Pleistocene Deposits:

Outwash - Outwash consists of stratified silts, sands and gravels deposited by glacial meltwaters.

Kame Terraces and Kame Moraines - These deposits are of a glacio-fluvial origin deposited along the margin of the glacier. These deposits form a complex of frontal kames that have moraine topography similar to a frontal moraine composed of till. Such materials are usually deposited along the ice margin during a period when the ice stops moving. These materials may be excellent sources of extractable sands and gravels and have moderate favorability for groundwater.

Lacustrine Deposits - Analysis of the surficial deposits clearly indicates the presence of glacial lakes in the Poultney area. Glacial lakes may be formed between the melting ice, and moraines or other land obstructions. The lakes leave several landforms including beach gravels, deltas, littoral pebble sands and sediment carried in by streams and deposited in the lake environment as the water velocity decreases.

Beach Gravels, Deltas, & Pebble Sand and Gravel Deposits - Course textured materials deposited in shallow soil areas. These materials tend to be well sorted and have very high ground water potentials. Such deposits are usually formed where a stream carrying suspended materials enters a lake or other large body of water.

Lacustrine Silts and Clays - These deposits are comprised of silts and clays of extremely fine textured sediments deposited near the center of an ancient lake in areas of deep water. The landform is characteristically flat to undulating. These landforms are very fertile agricultural areas, but have extremely poor foundation conditions and are undesirable places for development.

Terminal and Lateral Moraines – Glacial ice sheets advanced, pushing before them soil and rock materials that formed a moraine after the ice receded. These moraines are similar in composition to ground moraine but tend to have much rougher topography. Terminal moraines represent the furthest down-slope advance of a particular stage, while a lateral moraine is formed along the edge of an ice sheet.

Ground Moraine - Soil and rock materials absorbed by glacial ice may be compressed and deposited directly under the ice sheet. This basal till, or ground moraine, is comprised of unsorted and unstratified, heterogenous mixtures of sand, silt, lay gravel and boulders.

Soils

Along the Poultney River valley, in the areas of Poultney and East Poultney Villages and along the eastern side of Lake St. Catherine, soils are coarse textured, sandy and gravelly glacial outwash. These soils are very permeable and, for the most part, occur on slopes of less than 20%. The location of these soils corresponds with the “Well Suited” soils on the Poultney Septic Suitability map.

Thin layers of soil, which are sometimes saturated by springs and high water tables, are generally found in higher elevation and steep slope areas

Soils suitable for agriculture are found most often along the Poultney River and its tributaries.

Slope

Septic Suitability

The key to mapping septic suitability is soil ratings developed by the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). In 2002, the State of Vermont adopted new regulations affecting on-site wastewater systems. Some significant technical changes were made, including allowing for traditional and mound septic systems to be installed in more shallow, wet, and steep soils that would previously have been considered marginal or unsuitable. These changes have increased the amount of land available for residential development. In response to the 2002 regulation changes, NRCS developed new soil ratings. NRCS has noted the following kinds of soils that are now more likely to accommodate septic systems: floodplains; sloping, wet soils; and steep, moderately permeable soils. Map 8 depicts these changes.

Areas well suited for residential on-site waste disposal are found mainly in valley locations, along the Poultney River and in close proximity to the lake. Areas that are not suited for residential on-site septic generally correspond with higher elevation and steep slope areas in town. Refer to the Septic Suitability Map included in this Plan for further information.

Implications of development in high slope areas

Development in areas with slopes exceeding 15% may cause irreversible damage to the natural environment in the form of soil erosion, stream siltation and contamination of groundwater.

The Slope Map included with this Plan, identifies ranges of slope gradient found in Poultney. Generally, the steepest slopes (greater than 20%) are found in the northeast section of Town.

Excessive slopes present unfavorable conditions for construction of roadways and homes. Removal of vegetation and grading of these slopes for foundations and driveways may cause severe problems of erosion. As root systems and subsurface soil structures are exposed, the erosive force of rainfall and surface runoff increases. With this comes the siltation of streams and rivers, often resulting in high acidity levels and the destruction of fish habitats. Additionally, soil erosion may cause increased flood stage levels, clog drainage ways and diminish the physical life of reservoirs. Soils on the more severe slopes are generally shallow and therefore restoration of vegetative cover is difficult especially at high elevations. Private Roads, Public Roads and major construction in these areas should be avoided. The Town should disallow any upgrade of class 4 roads in the Northeast Conservation and Wildlife Habitat Area.

Beneficial function of slopes

Upland slopes also perform a beneficial function in the replenishment of valley water tables. Rainwater and moisture occurring at higher elevations filters down through forest soils and accumulates in the basins of the watershed. This assures a reduction of the surface area of absorption for precipitation thereby degrading the quality of groundwater supplies.

Sewage system malfunctions

The incidence of sewage system malfunctions in subdivisions where steep slopes are present has been very high in the past. Traditional sewage disposal systems function best on soils with slopes

less than 8 percent. Slopes from 8 to 15 percent may be suitable provided soils and depth to bedrock are otherwise satisfactory. On slopes exceeding 15 percent, decreased absorption rates can cause difficulty in controlling downward flowing effluent. Effluent will often flow above any impervious subsurface layer and rise to the surface down-slope from the absorption field causing an unhealthful sewage "spring". Past experience has shown that conventional drainage fields constructed on slopes in excess of 20 percent is considered prohibitive for all intensive uses.

New State Septic Regulations that took effect in 2007 set forth a new series of technical standards regulating on-site septic suitability. These new standards are not as rigorous as the those laid out above, if the site is using one of several new septic technologies approved for use in the new regulation. This change in policy means that some areas, for examples those with increased slope, shallow depth to bedrock, or high water tables that have not been suitable for development may be opened up to residential use.

Financial implications of development in high slope areas

Upland development in areas with steep slopes may also have hidden financial burdens for the town. Construction of new roads that will be maintained by the town on slopes exceeding 10 percent may be costly to construct and maintain in comparison to the revenue generated by the development they serve. Narrow, winding, mountain roads are often hazardous and may be difficult to plow in winter. Access by fire, emergency, medical and law enforcement agencies may be difficult or impossible especially in winter or on poorly graded roads. Where the burdens of development on the financial resources of the Town are demonstrated to be potentially excessive, development of such areas may be restricted unless the developer proposes and implements a plan to adequately mitigate such impact.

19.2 Important Natural Areas

Poultney has many ecologically important natural areas. Some of these, like, Lake St. Catherine, the National Wildlife Bird Refuge, the Deane Natural Reserve, the Poultney Educational Trail, the Northeast Conservation and Wildlife Habitat Area, and many private properties are also valuable as recreational resources. Other naturally important areas are not appropriate for recreation because of their sensitive nature, such as buffer area along Poultney River and the Buczek Marsh wildlife management area. The values of all of these areas should be taken into account when land use decisions within the Town are made.

19.3 Land Resources And Uses

Agriculture

Agricultural soils

The prime lands for farming are found in the valleys of the several tributaries to the Poultney River and in the sand and gravel basin found along the lower reaches of the Poultney River. Since a large part of the charm of the Vermont mystique lies in the old agricultural fields, there may be substantial value in efforts to sustain local farming -limited as it may be. Landowners have the option of protecting agricultural land thru the sale of development rights to the Vermont Land Trust and through the State Housing and Conservation Fund.

Land use patterns

Farming - largely confined to several dairy and beef cattle farms - has been steadily reduced in extent since 1970. There are still a number of active farms in livestock, vegetables and nontraditional agricultural practices.. Farmers, squeezed by high costs relative to income, supplement their income through maple syrup production, harvesting of timber, and crop raising. Farmland is gradually being converted into other uses: primarily residential sites.

Economic impact on town

Only about 1% of Poultney's workforce is in agriculture, but farming still has many indirect economic values. The open space agricultural fields provide is an important component in the overall rural character of the town, which is appreciated by residents and tourists to the area.

Forestry

Before its settlement in 1761 Poultney was covered with forest. Large white and red pines were found across the lower lands while the higher lands were predominantly covered with beech, birch and maples. The timber was hemlock where the East Village is now located. The area is considered transitional hardwood in type because of the diverse physical environment. The American elm was common especially in low areas.

Currently the lowlands are occupied by hardwood forests of maples, oaks hickories and young elms not affected by Dutch Elm disease. The high lands consist of birch and beech forests.

A rating model for Forest Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (FLESA) is available from the Vermont Department of Forests and Parks. The model includes separate ratings for timber productivity, recreation, wildlife habitat and scenic values. The USDA Natural Resource Conservation District has prepared a Soil Potential Study, and Forest Land Value Groups for Vermont Soils (1991).

Forest health is affected by fragmentation, which has an impact on the quality and quantity of wildlife habitat, and can potentially degrades water quality and recreational opportunities.

Economic Impact

Sugaring is still an important part of Poultney culture and its economy. The Annual Poultney Maple Fest not only attracts visitors to the celebration, in 2004 it brought the governor. There are also some small-scale timber operations. It is important that responsible forest management is followed, for the health of the forest, as well as the Town's surface waters. The Loggers Education Awareness Program promotes responsible forestry as well as reducing workers compensation costs for those employers participating in the program.

Earth Resources

Sand and Gravel and Slate

Sand, gravel and slate deposits underlie several areas of Poultney. Commercial sand and gravel excavation from streambeds is now prohibited by State law.

Supply shortages

Statewide sand and gravel resources are increasingly in short supply. Certain grades of gravel such as that used in drain fields for subsurface sewage disposal systems and for some sections of sub-base in roads are particularly in short supply. Much of the sand and gravel resources in Poultney are used for town road maintenance.

Therefore, it becomes more important to identify and plan for future use of those deposits, which are of sufficient quality, and for which the impacts of a sand and gravel operation can be successfully mitigated.

Sand and gravel in aquifer recharge areas

In determining which sand and gravel deposits should be planned for future extraction, it is important to identify those which are also recharge areas both for existing public or community wells, shown in Section IV – Resource Maps, and for potential public water supplies.

Slate

Slate is also an important resource in the Town. During much of Poultney's early history, the town's economy rose and fell with demand for the natural resource. The possibility of a Slate Discovery Museum that would work to increase the use of slate and keep the industry economically viable is being explored.

Land use patterns

Many mining operations, especially in the slate industry, will close as the market for the product decreases and then reopen as the economic tides turn in favor of the product. As increased residential development occurs in the Town, care must be taken to decrease potential future conflicts as old quarries reopen.

19.4 Plant And Wildlife Habitat

Deer Yards

State Mapping Program

The Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife has been working to discover the habits and lifestyle of white-tailed deer during the past twenty years. A major part of this effort has been the work devoted to mapping deer wintering areas. Maps have been produced over the last two decades using aerial infrared photography and extensive fieldwork that show areas frequented by deer during the winter. The Department updates these maps every few years by the Department.

Defining deer yards

Vermont Deer live near the northern limit of the white-tailed deer range in the northern limits of eastern United States. The animals require specific winter habitat when severe weather threatens the animals' survival. Wintering areas, or "deer yards", consist of two habitat components.

The deeryards in Poultney are shown on Natural Resources Map 1, included in this Plan. The core area is frequently composed of softwood tree species like white pine and other conifers. Such cover provides the advantages of reduced snow depths less wind and higher average daily

temperatures. The second habitat component consists of mixed hardwood and softwood trees near to the core areas providing browse for the deer.

Knowing the habits of deer is a key to discovering their wintering areas. State authorities declare Department biologists "do not need to actually see the deer" to know that areas are used as a winter cover or food supply. Biologists consider the physical evidence of over-wintering animals the most reliable indicator of a deeryard: trails, bud damage or bark scarring and droppings. Bud damage and bark scarring are particularly important signs because they can be visible to the trained eye for twenty years. Such nearly permanent evidence can indicate deeryards frequented by many generations of animals. This aids the Department of Fish and Wildlife in the long-term management of deeryards throughout Vermont.

The goals of the Department are to perpetuate shelter for deer maintain the mobility of and access of animals throughout all non-regenerating sections of the wintering area and provide preferred accessible browse for the deer.

Significant Natural Areas

Natural Heritage Program

The Natural Heritage Program is a nationally adopted system designed by the Nature Conservancy to manage information on rare and endangered species and natural communities. The program began by the Nature Conservancy in 1983 and was adopted by the A.N.R. in 1987. The four goals of the program are: site identification, creation of a site inventory information, management, and information application.

Developing the Natural Heritage Inventories

The Department of Fish and Wildlife is responsible for administering Non-game and Natural Heritage Program as well as maintaining the inventory of significant natural areas throughout the State. Rare plants and animals have been identified at six sites in Poultney through the Natural Heritage Program. These include two birds, a vascular plant community, and two habitat areas identified as necessary for the survival of significant natural communities. All of the species found at these sites are listed on the State's Endangered Species list. Prime plant community sites have also been identified, through the work of Green Mountain College professors and students, along the Poultney River for Alder Swamp, Cattail Marsh and Riverine Floodplain Forest, especially in the area behind Green Mountain College.

Flora and fauna included in the Natural Heritage Program

The rare plants and animals tracked by the Natural Heritage Program are native to Vermont. The inventory includes those species currently listed or under consideration for enlistment under the Federal Endangered Species Act. They are considered rare for it may be that they have particular habitat requirements are on the edges of their ranges or are vulnerable to disturbance. Many of these species exist at fifteen (15) or fewer known sites. Natural communities in Vermont are either rare habitat types or are among the best examples in the state of a common community type.

Uses of the Natural Heritage Program database

The inventories and database of the Natural Heritage Program are important because they represent an information resource for Act 250 reviews, environmental impact reviews, education, research

and land use planners. By providing data to those making land-use decisions, the Heritage Program seeks to reduce the accidental or unintentional destruction of ecologically important sites in Vermont.

Local contributions to the preservation of natural areas

Now that the Town knows the general location of significant natural resources/components, appropriate Town Plan policies and implementation measures should be adopted to protect them.

19.5 Water Resources

Surface Water

The Poultney River is a tributary of Lake Champlain entering at South Bay near Whitehall, New York. It originates in the Town of Tinmouth, Vermont, runs westerly through Middletown Springs, and enters Poultney near the southeast corner of Town about a half-mile southwest of the village. It then turns northward and serves as the state line as it winds and turns until entering the Lake. Total length is 40 miles within Vermont's border. The Mettawee River joins the Poultney River via the Champlain Barge Canal near Whitehall New York. These two rivers are responsible for draining 373 miles of Vermont's total drainage area.

Problems and issues relating to rivers and streams can be more completely understood by assessing how well rivers and streams attain state water quality standards. The Vermont Water Resources Board currently designates all surface waters in Vermont as a “class” or “type” as part of the state's water resource management efforts. Once it is classified, a body of water is managed in accordance with the standards that are associated with the class to which it belongs, as described in the 2004 Poultney Mettawee Basin Plan. A1 waters are ecological waters, managed to maintain a pristine condition and are generally found at higher elevations. A2 waters are public water supplies. Class A waters may also be suitable for recreational enjoyment in their natural condition. All other waters are classified as B and have management goals, which include good aesthetic values, contact and non-contact recreation, public water supply with disinfection and filtration, irrigation, and other agricultural uses. All water classes are expected to meet Vermont Water Quality Standards. The Poultney River and Lake St. Catherine are categorized as Class B waters.

All B waters have to be classed 1,2 or 3 in the basin planning process. Two unnamed tributaries to the Gully Brook in Poultney, that go through the Bird Mountain Wildlife Management area have been classed B1. Also an unnamed tributary of the Poultney river that flows southwest on the Poultney/Middletown Springs line from the headwaters has been classed B1. These classifications are still draft subject to approval by the state water resource board.

The Poultney Mettawee Conservation District has been doing volunteer sampling of the Poultney River for many years to monitor its condition. e. Coli levels at several sites have been found to be above the state standards for human use, and sampling continues to help determine reasons and methods for addressing this concern.

While there are no Poultney waters on the state’s impaired waters list, a section of the Poultney River upstream of the Rt. 30 bridge is recommended for further assessment for e. coli.

Where the Poultney River runs behind Green Mountain College property has been recommended as one of the highest priority sites for restoration according to the “Wetland and Riparian Habitat Assessment of the Poultney River watershed” done by Drs. Jim Graves, Kathy Doyle, and John Field in 2001. There are prime plant community sites for Alder Swamp, Cattail Marsh and Riverine Floodplain Forest in this stretch. A more recent research project, titled “Inventory and Assessment of Wetland and Upland Wildlife Habitat in the Upper Poultney River Watershed” was undertaken in 2010 and 2011 by Dr. Kathy Doyle on behalf of the Poultney-Mettowee Natural Resource Conservation District. This report supported the data from 2001, identifying key areas in Poultney and the surrounding towns (Middletown Springs, Ira, Tinmouth and Wells). These areas contained Significant Natural Communities, important habitat blocks and potential habitat linkage. The report is available at the Town and PMNRCD offices.

Planning focusing on allowing channel movement to provide a natural depositional areas for gravel and allowing the river to shift its position and cut off meanders without causing human losses would greatly increase the health of the river system. This project would also allow the river to reach equilibrium with the imposed sediment load, enabling downstream reaches to stabilize. A high profile restoration project such as this could be a demonstration that integrates stream and wetland restoration goals, and provide excellent educational opportunities for students at Green Mountain College and local schools.

Lake St. Catherine, located in the trough of an ancient riverbed sculpted by glaciers, is the most significant body of water in the township. Approximately 500 of its 1088 acres are located in the Town. The lake’s average depth is 37 feet, with a maximum depth of 68 feet. Little Lake (the most southern portion of Lake Saint Catherine), located entirely in Wells, covers 162 acres at an average depth of four feet and a maximum depth of five feet. Lake Saint Catherine, an extremely beautiful and valuable resource is a focus for summer recreation and winter ice fishing. Summer, and, increasingly, winter homes line the lake and make use of the many amenities they provide. Public access is also available via the Lake. St. Catherine State Park and the Fish & Wildlife Department Boat Launch located in Wells adjacent to the bridge that connects the Main Lake to the channel feeding Little Lake. The following concerns are applicable for the whole of Lake Saint Catherine:

The reliance on septic systems for these residences presents considerable water quality threats to the lake.

Spring phosphorous concentrations are among the primary concerns for the lake, measured at 14 micrograms per liter. Elevated phosphorous concentrations indicate high levels of nutrients can lead to excessive plant and algae growth, dissolved oxygen depletion, and altered natural habitats for plants and animals.

While phosphorous occurs naturally in lakes, elevated levels are often caused by human activity, which includes sewage waste matter, land drainage and run-off from residential and agricultural fertilizers. These are concerns for Lake St. Catherine and Little Pond.

Aquatic nuisance species, including Eurasian Milfoil, are a second serious concern for water quality in Lake St. Catherine and Little Pond.

Eurasian Milfoil is a stringy, submerged plant that competes aggressively with native plant communities (reducing biodiversity), clogs propellers, impairs swimming, affects boating and fishing access, and affects water quality.¹⁰ Eurasian Milfoil was first found in Lake St. Catherine and Little Pond in 1982.

The Lake Association, in a large-scale effort, is controlling its spread, first by applying the aquatic herbicide Sonar in 2004, and subsequently annually treating certain areas of the Lake with herbicide Renovate OTF. Suction Harvesting is used by divers where the milfoil plant colonies are small. These methods leave the native vegetation essentially undamaged, providing cover for fish

Lake St. Catherine supports a large fish community, which includes rainbow smelt, yellow perch, bluegill sunfish, pumpkinseed sunfish, common white sucker, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, black crappie, northern pike, brown bullhead, and various minnow species including golden shiner and emerald shiner. Lake trout, brown trout and rainbow trout are stocked annually on a put, grow and take basis... Although currently contained within Lake St. Catherine, the direct water connection between Lake St. Catherine and southern Lake Champlain makes migration of alewives to Lake Champlain very possible.

The alewife is a fish that is native to the east coast of North America. Typically, it feeds and grows to maturity in the ocean, then migrates into freshwater rivers and lakes to spawn, but under certain conditions, can exist solely in freshwater lakes. Alewife was first discovered in Lake St. Catherine in 1997, the first Lake in Vermont to be affected. The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation writes indicate that based on the impacts which exotic alewives have had on native ecosystems in the past, we can predict the specific impacts they are likely to have in Lake St. Catherine. The main impacts of alewives will likely result from competition for zooplankton and predation on eggs and larvae of other fish.

Water Chestnut, a glossy, triangular-leaved plant can, like Eurasian Milfoil, the waterbody it invades. While Lake St. Catherine is not currently affected, nearby waterbodies including Lake Champlain and Lake Bomoseen are.

Stormwater Runoff

Vermont stormwater management rules are now in effect that enhance and clarify the management of stormwater runoff to waters that are not stormwater-impaired. Stormwater management is necessary to reduce stream channel instability, pollution, sedimentation and local flooding, all of which have adverse impacts on the surface water and land resources of the State. Stormwater management is also necessary to protect groundwater. The new rule established a state permit program for any construction that results in discharge from impervious surfaces over 1 acre. It also sets forth treatment standards designed to minimize the adverse impacts of regulated stormwater runoff. These steps should help to protect Poultney's surface waters from stormwater runoff.

Ground Water

The majority of groundwater results from precipitation that has infiltrated and percolated through the soil and stored in the surficial deposits and bedrock units.

¹⁰ "Aquatic Nuisance Species in Vermont," VT Department of Environmental Conservation website: www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/waterq/lakes/htm/ans/lp_ans-index.htm

Unconsolidated aquifers consist of stratified drift material glacially deposited during the Pleistocene Period. Their porosity and permeability allow kames terraces, outwash and lake sands and gravel deposits to have very high groundwater potentials. Well records indicate that wells located in the contact gravels produce in excess of 25 gpm at an average depth of 85 feet.

In this highly metamorphosed region, the occurrence and distribution of water is controlled chiefly by rock fracture and jointing patterns and subsequent physical and chemical weathering. Joints and rock fractures may permeate rocks to considerable depth (up to 440"); solution cavities provide the main avenues for ground water movement. Metamorphic rocks in general contain little or no pore space, and consequently groundwater occurrence in hard rock aquifers is very much of a local phenomenon making investigation and analysis very difficult.

An unconsolidated aquifer is located in the Poultney River Valley paralleling Routes 30 and 140. This aquifer represents a significant source of potable and process water for domestic, commercial, industrial and municipal use.

Ground Water Protection Program

The Vermont Groundwater Protection Strategy seeks "to maintain high quality drinking water..." in the State. Title 10 Chapter 48 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated provides the impetus for Vermont's ground water protection program. However, the statute does not create any new permit procedures for ground water protection, but rather it directs the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) to do so through existing regulations. In addition, 10 V.S.A. 48 establishes a strategy to "assist in coordinating ground water management statewide..." which includes prohibitions, restrictions and standards for groundwater protection. Agricultural activities not regulated by ANR are the responsibility of the Commissioner of Agriculture. Similarly, 10 V.S.A. contains a blanket exemption for the Wellhead Protection Program that is administered by the Commissioner of Health.

Mapping the wellheads

Under the Wellhead Protection Program, Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPA) are delineated through using sophisticated mapping techniques. The wellheads in Poultney are shown in Natural Resource Map 2. Each WHPA is comprised of two to three zones varying in size from a radius of 100 feet from the water source to more than several thousand feet. All existing public water sources require WHPA delineations for renewal of the water system's permit to operate. This does not automatically mean that all public water sources in Vermont must be re-mapped. In 1985, the Vermont Department of Health began requiring WHPA delineations for all new public water supply sources so some systems already have WHPA's that have been surveyed to the requirements of the Wellhead Protection Program. Some existing WHPA's created for community systems using techniques other than those required by the Department of Health have been "grandfathered" as acceptable so that re-delineation will not be needed for permit renewals for these supply sources.

Interim wellhead protection areas

Finally, all community water supply sources without a delineated WHPA have been given an interim WHPA zone. An interim WHPA consists of a buffer of 3000 feet in a fixed radius surrounding the water source.

Restriction of activities

The restriction of human activities within ground water areas is the principle method of maintaining ground water quality. For example, all human activities are prohibited within Class I ground water areas save for five sets of exemptions. The exemptions from restricted activities include: those necessary to maintain a public water supply, low density pasturing of livestock, maple sap collection, fishing, hiking, skiing, snowshoeing and the harvesting of lumber by the selection method. Enforcement of restrictions on human activity within ground water areas occurs through the joint efforts of the Commissioners of Agriculture, Health, and Forests Parks and Recreation in concert with the Secretary of Agency of Natural Resources.

Monitoring programs

The VWHPP also creates procedures for the inventorying and monitoring of potential sources of water contamination. Such threats to water quality include: solid and hazardous waste disposal sites, underground storage tanks, septic systems, agricultural practices and road salting. The inventory of possible contamination sources are to be digitized into the GIS system of the Department of Health. A framework for developing contingency plans in the event of contamination of a public water system has also been established by the VWHPP. The emergency response system is designed to be a joint effort of Federal State and local governments. The Program directs that both short and long-term water supplies be addressed including bottled water, trucked-in water, the drilling of new wells, conservation measures and the purchasing of water.

Local Water Quality Protection

Poultney protects water quality in several ways. The Town has adopted health (sewage) regulations and lakeshore zoning.

The health regulations are administered by the Sewage Officer. They regulate the design and installation of subsurface sewage disposal systems on pre-existing vacant lots and subdivisions, as well as repairs to existing systems. They require that systems be designed and installed in a manner consistent with Vermont Department of Health Rules Chapter 5 subchapter 10. After July 1, 2007, new technical standards set by the State of Vermont, Agency of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Rules Chapter 1—Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules, Effective August 16, 2002 will regulate sewage disposal.

Lakeshore zoning was adopted in 1986. The lakeshore zone extends one thousand (1000) feet inland from the mean high water mark on Lake St. Catherine including the Lily Pond.

One of the policies enunciated in the Town Plan is that development should be set back a minimum distance of fifty (50) feet from the shoreline of all natural streams and ponds in Poultney. Topography may qualify a hardship stipulation because of size of the parcel or other unique circumstances or when the developer can submit evidence that an adverse impact will not

occur by closer development. This policy recommendation responds to one made by the State Lake Protection Program personnel.

The Town also has subdivision regulations which require sedimentation basins be constructed to retain sediment from stormwater run-off prior to its entrance into surface waters. The Town may also require vegetation mulching and other control methods to prevent siltation of lakes, streams and rivers. This section of Town regulations could be strengthened by requiring conformance with the guidelines and techniques included in the Vermont Handbook for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control on Construction Sites.

The subdivision regulations might also be strengthened to protect water quality by incorporating stream bank protection measures. The Streambank Conservation Manual published by the Agency of Natural Resources and other similar documents can be utilized for guidance in this area.

Floodplains and Flood Hazard Areas

Nearly every stream and river in the state of Vermont is undergoing change. Sometimes these changes are natural or imperceptible. Other times, and more often, streams and rivers are adjusting to channel, flood plain, or watershed changes imposed in years past by human activity. Full geomorphic assessments of a waterbody aid in understanding the natural tendencies of a stream, its current condition, and what changes may be anticipated in the future is invaluable to making sound protection, management, and restoration decisions.

The Poultney Mettowee Natural Resource Conservation District completed a full geomorphic assessment of the Poultney River in 2006. The District continues to work with the town of Poultney to use this information in river corridor mapping and development of recommendations for flood erosion hazard areas.

Any development in floodplains and/or flood hazard areas is strictly regulated by a mix of Federal State and local laws. Poultney floodplains and flood hazard areas are shown on Natural Resources map 1.

Wetlands

The term "wetland" is a broad one. It includes swamps, marshes, sloughs, potholes, fens, floodplains, beaver flowage, mud flats and bogs. The term is often defined as an area of land saturated or inundated by surface or ground water for varying periods of time during the growing season. Regardless of their size or type, all wetlands share three basic characteristics. It is these characteristics which make them both unique components of the environment and recognizable as a wetland. The keys are:

1. The presence of water at or near the surface
2. The types of soils which form in these conditions
3. The kinds of plants which grow in such conditions and soils.

The location of hydric soils in Poultney is shown Natural Resources Map 1. These can be used as an indication of wetlands in Poultney until the United States Department of Interior Wetlands Maps have been entered into the State GIS database.

Vermont Wetlands Act of 2009

In 1986, the Vermont Legislature passed the Vermont Wetlands Act. Prior to the enactment of this law the Federal government was primarily responsible for regulating wetlands. The Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency jointly administer Section 404 of the 1972 Clean Water Act. Section 404 as amended regulates the placement of dredged or fill material into wetlands and waterways. However, Vermont's 1986 statute does not supersede Federal authority but merely supplements it. The Vermont Wetlands Act mandated the Water Resources Board to adopt rules that identify and protect the significant wetlands of the State. In 1990, the Wetland Rules became effective. A major concern of the Rules is that logging operations follow certain restrictions with regard to activities conducted in mapped wetlands. Even so, any wetland, mapped or not, may still be regulated at the Federal, State or local level. A comprehensive book entitled Vermont Wetland Rules, published by the Vermont Water Resources Board in 1990 details wetlands and wetlands regulations in Vermont. A number of fact sheets answering many of the questions residents and developers have concerning wetlands can be obtained from the Agency of Natural Resources. Copies of these fact sheets are also available in the Poultney Town Clerk's Office.

In addition, Vermont's Department of Forests Parks and Recreation publishes a booklet detailing Acceptable Management Practices (AMP's) for maintaining water quality on logging jobs in the State. The AMP's deal with subjects including the construction of skid trails, truck roads, stream crossings and log landings. Although not mandatory, following AMP's is the best way for a logger to avoid violation of the Wetlands Rules. Like AMP's, Accepted Agricultural Practices (AAP's) have been created which seek to maintain water and soils quality in connection with farming activities. A leaflet prepared by the Vermont Department of Agriculture details the more than a dozen AAP's which deal with erosion control, manure handling, pesticide application, cattle in streams, stream fording and bank stabilization. As an example, the AAP's state "animal manure shall be stored at least 100 feet from shallow wells or springs." Farmers who voluntarily follow the AAP's gain an exemption of their farming activities from the Wetlands Rules.

There are no Class I wetlands in Poultney.

Class II wetlands are what the majority of Vermont's wetlands have been designated. The base inventory comes from all wetlands shown on the National Wetlands Inventory maps for the State of Vermont (1978) published by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Class II wetlands are those which are significant resources deserving of protection under the Wetland Rules. Because of the reduced significance of Class II wetlands as opposed to Class I wetlands, the possibility that the Water Resources Board will allow either on or off site development is increased.

Class III wetlands are those which are not designated either Class I or Class II wetlands. Essentially this means that such wetlands have not been determined to be so significant as to merit protection under the Rules. This could be because they have not been evaluated or when last evaluated they were determined not to be sufficiently significant to merit protection by regulations.

Buffer zones

The Wetlands Rules establish buffer zones around Class I and Class II wetlands. The buffer zone is intended to serve as the outer shell of the wetland to protect the functions and values of it. Currently, the Rules designate a one-hundred foot buffer zone adjacent to each Class I wetland and a fifty foot buffer zone adjacent to each Class II wetland. However, depending on the particular circumstances involved, the protection of a wetland may require wider or narrower buffer zones.

Activities taking place inside a wetland or its associated buffer fall into two categories with respect to the regulations. The first category is that of allowed uses. These are exempt from the Conditional Use Determination process administered by the Agency of Natural Resources. Farming and logging are considered agricultural or silvicultural activities therefore they are allowed uses. Silviculture in particular is defined in the amended Rules as "those activities associated with the sustained management of land for silvicultural purposes including the planting harvesting and removal of trees." However, while exempt from the CUD process such allowed uses in Class I or Class II wetlands or buffer zones are regulated indirectly through a series of provisions. The Rules state that all allowed activities must not alter the outlet or flow of water in a Class I or Class II wetland. Similarly, no draining dredging grading or filling of Class I or Class II wetlands is permitted except as provided for in AMP's and the Department of Fish and Wildlife standards for silviculture in deer wintering areas. Other provisions of the Rules restrict road construction, road maintenance, the building of log landing areas, removal of beaver dams and equipment maintenance activities in Class I or Class II wetlands or their buffer zones.

Conditional uses

Any activity not outlined in the Vermont Wetland Rules is a conditional use. These require a Conditional Use Determination (CUD), which is the Agency of Natural Resources' responsibility. A new road in a significant wetland, regardless of its purpose, must go through a CUD. Still the Rules do not constitute a permit process. A CUD is more similar to a zoning variance at the local level. As such, the burden of proof is on the applicant to show that the conditional use will not adversely affect the value and functions of the wetland. An application must be filed with the Department of Environmental Conservation. Complete copies of the application must be sent to each town and regional planning commission in which the wetland is located.

19.6 Air Quality

Maintaining clean air is a complex issue because it involves multiple communities, regions, and states. The impacts of actions in one community may be felt more strongly in another to the east. Poultney, as a small, mainly rural community, does not have a concentration of commercial or business activities that contribute to air pollution. The town does have a large population of commuters though, which according to the 2005 Vermont Public Interest Research Group report “Driving Global Warming,” is the leading cause of air pollutants in the state of Vermont.. Installing and maintaining efficient heating and cooling systems, providing opportunities for individuals to walk or bicycle to destinations instead of driving, and reducing the length and frequency of commutes are all key.

One method of reducing vehicle trips is to maintain and enhance the Village, where children and teachers can walk to school, and residents can walk to stores, services and other amenities.

Heating with wood can affect air quality, although this can be alleviated by sustainable wood harvesting and forestry methods. Please refer to the Energy Element for more information. The State regulates wood fired outdoor units, helping decrease the air quality problems associated with this heating method.