

Bethel Planning Survey January 2006. All comments. [Each individual's comment(s) are followed by a semi colon (;). Comments are clustered in groups of ten only to increase the ease of reading through them.]

10. "The Bethel Town Hall will be restored as a community / recreation center. What activities would you like to see take place at the Town Hall?"

Theatre, activities for children, teens; *Bingo, senior suppers, teenage activity*; After-school programs, weekend programs; *More community activities*; Whatever the community needs. It should be free (or for a small fee) for town events and related activities; *Contra dances, boy and girl club activities, Public meetings and gatherings, theatre, concerts*; Town meetings; *Teen nights, community dances, tourist attractions, festivals, town plays*; Space available for non-profit organizations to use, meetings, etc.; *Town meetings, concerts, stage (theatre) performances, graduations, dances*;

Town meetings; *Any for town of Bethel. As in other towns*; Something for children to do, arts, attraction to public, bring activity into Bethel; *(Restoration) not a good idea. Too expensive. Minimal community use does not justify the cost*; Activities that help the town hall be self sufficient; *Town of Bethel offices in addition to community/rec center*; Classes- yoga, crafts, book groups, meetings; *Roller skating, movies, exhibits, plays, any other activities*; Pot luck dinners, fundraisers for community groups – i.e. dinners, sales, movie night – tax prep assistance for elderly & disabled. Anything that suits people who want a small town community to thrive; *Teen center*;

Foosball, pool, ping pong, meeting room, activities room; *Concerts, performances, town meetings, legislative breakfasts, award ceremonies*; community suppers; *Feature movies, plays, arts & exhibits, craft shows*; Bethel Town offices; *Bridge*; Weekly movies, teen dances, plays; *Dances, dinners, movies, plays, craft fairs, dance classes, craft classes, game nights*; Food shelf; *Music / AA / Dance / film. Also good spot for craft fair., etc.*;

I am not sure; *Fitness classes like aerobics, step*; Dances, dinners; *Senior citizen meetings, recreation, health activity*; I believe any community center should support primarily the old and the young as well as help working families maintain health and employment. Development programs to help broaden activities for children outside the scope of what the school can offer. Programs/activities to support older people beyond what the churches offer. Volunteerism; *Yoga*; This is a stupid project. Far too much time, energy, and \$ have been put into it; *Concerts – art shows*; Bring back teen scene – make it a place with activities for kids; *Town rec performances – some meeting and small convention meetings – some educational classes*;

Any and all activities and groups on a reservation first basis; *Don't care*; None- think it's too expensive – should be torn down or sell it to the Town Hall Committee for a dollar; *Any business that has a chance of paying for the space it occupies*; Legion, weddings, private parties, any and all civic functions; concerts; *Rent out the town hall for businesses and let them do renovations*; Town meetings – town social functions (annual meetings for organizations); *Activities for our youth*; Social – dances, theater, concerts, dinners. Civic – club/committee meetings, day care, teen center; *Kids off the street*;

None; *The town offices should be on the first floor (ground floor). A teen center, after school activities and weekend dances, etc. that is open during the summer as well would provide a place for young people to gather in a safe, supportive environment. A small café/snack bar would be nice & perhaps a walk-in low cost clinic for non-emergency needs staffed by a nurse would be very helpful to residents*; Teen scene; *Concerts, Artistic activities*; Town offices – musical performances – talent show – historical display; *Senior related activities, civic events., etc.*; Play, school activities, weddings; *For one, the town offices*; Ummm... town businesses?; *Shows, receptions*;

Town meeting? Enough parking? Dances, teen activities, holiday celebrations, craft sales. It's a beautiful building. Restoration will catch the attention of people traveling through town; *Waste of money*; Plays, concerts, shows; *Ice skating*; Meeting space/ book club/ parent child activity space/ mini craft fairs/boy scouts/girl scouts/Rotary; *Arts – music – meetings- concerts- classes (i.e. yoga) or outreach college type offerings*; Something for senior citizens; *Never mind the recreation center. If recreation is*

needed, utilize the school! (Isn't that why we spent an exhorbitive amount of money on the gym.) Town offices and administrative offices belong in here! It seems we have a lot of youth with nothing to do. Let them get jobs!; Move offices there; Theater, music, concerts, teen center, banquets for local organizations and for preservation;

Town hall should be available for any legal activity that people wish to rent it for. It should also be available for all governmental activities that fit in it; *It should be available for all public or private activities. I'd like to see the performing arts; Meetings, discussions, presentations; Activities [similar to?] to what the Council of Arts do during summer in band shell; Activities that will keep kids off the streets. It does not mean that all will stay out of trouble, even if there is a place for them; Lots of activities for the school children; American Legion and V.F.W on ground floor – roller skating upstairs; Kids activities; Adult ed. classes – boy scouts – town group meetings – conferences – all type of exhibits – quilting groups and meeting – wedding receptions – private parties – reunions of all kinds - town meeting - dance classes; Plays, musicals, something for young people;*

Not interested in this matter in any way. We don't have enough people or money in town at this time to worry about these extra expenses; *Bingo; Town offices; Plays, musicals; Community dances and talent shows – rented out to group not supported by the school (i.e. Dance Classes); Town offices; Dances, craft fairs; Indoor concerts, daycare; Concerts, plays, musicals, meetings; Any and all;*

Receptions, dances, maybe be a place for teens to go play pool, ping pong, etc., community/family dinners, etc.; *Activities which support the cultural, sociological, municipal (civic) and economic health of the downtown and the entire Bethel community; Yoga. Art classes – children & adult; Concerts; Dances, plays; Everything!!! Dances, receptions, sales, parties, yoga, classes...; Appropriate games/activities for young adults; Concerts – plays – community meetings – children's activities; Concert- theater/ arts classes/ craft classes – meeting place for organizations (Historical Society, BBA, Arts Council, etc.); Swimming, art classes, yoga; Town meeting;*

Activities for youth, "teen scene" etc.; *Plays, Musicals,. Function Hall for a fee, Meeting hall; Any community/recreation that would support the Town Hall; Volleyball – pick one night a week from 7-10 pm; Youth Center. Gatherings public; Plays – musical programs; Plays/concerts – different groups use it for fundraisers if their space is limited, play area for pre-schoolers; As a community center, not a recreation center. The school is a better place for that; Substance abuse prevention activities for teens and adults. Keep alcohol and drugs of the community center (and the school); Roller skating/ice skating;*

Anything for the locals – dinners, concerts; *Youth activities, senior activities, cultural events, plays, music (winter) art shows; Senior activities, scouts, art display, book reviews, etc.; Food shelf, Town Meeting, comm. chorus, dances for youth; Dances (family orientated) – community dinners; Music, movies, ping pong, dances, card games, exercise and cooking classes, other adult education which includes teenagers as participants; Most everything; Take building down; Cultural, social, those which serve community needs; Theater, town functions, art shows, discussion groups;*

Keep the youth of Bethel off the street; *Concerts, meetings, coffee house, art shows, community chorus, community theatre... a creative culture to draw tourists and event attendees who while here, will then hang around and spend money; Town meetings – social functions – rented out to others; Town meetings, basketball, recitals, operas, plays, etc.; 1.) Cultural activities 2.) Community groups meeting place 3.) Public hearings on development issues; Dances, theater, music, dinners, discussions, food shelf, town offices; Town meeting, government hearings and meetings of all sorts. Theater, concerts, exhibits, dances, conferences and meetings of local clubs and state wide groups to take advantage of our central location and proximity to I-89. Private weddings and gatherings, movement classes, services clinics for seniors, food shelf; Town meetings; Plays, musicals, concerts, service projects, dances, etc.; Youth and adult activities – volleyball;*

Movies, especially foreign, documentary or 'art films' or some educational; *Community shows, Rental to wedding parties, etc.; Exhibitions, lessons (work shops) play groups for kids. Classes (ballroom dance, yoga, art, language, etc.); Youth and adult programs (educational social, etc.); Senior Center – also place for kids to spend time; Pizza shop, small movie theater/movie rental, bowling (candlestick bowling); Movie theater; One's that would be used by most people – not one that would be used once in awhile;*

Somehow we should put the town offices there. It would help justify the costs; *Youth programs – plays – musical/events*; More youth activities to keep kids out of trouble;

Town offices; *Youth activities/senior activities*. I think all Towns should do more for their elderly, take a survey of residents over 65; *The two areas which are always a good choice, senior center and teen center. If these exist, then a place to meet for all or allow classes*; Rentals for receptions – community dances – seminars, community orientated classes; *No opinion, possibly teen use*; Theatre productions, musicals, Town Meeting, dances; *Everyone that can – from parties to plays*; As many local activities as possible. We have many town social groups that should be able to use it; *Plays, meetings, weddings, town functions, musicals*;

I'd like to see space be available to residents for private functions, community gatherings. Activities for youth + children as well as seniors; *Could it be rented out for events*; Roller skating; *Senior citizens activities. Teenagers have broken every bench at the parking area and have no respect for anything nice*; Small meetings, teen dances, perhaps a play like at Chandler; *Town offices should be in the town hall. What else are you going to do there during the day? After school activities, so parents working 2 jobs to pay taxes have some place for the kids to go*; Whatever would bring money into town; *Senior activities*; Any reasonable activity (or activities) that will keep our children off the streets and away from non-compliance activities of their own; *Teen and Family*;

Receptions + Family Gatherings; *Whatever is appropriate for the building*; Meeting Place for groups / plays / concerts / craft sales. Keep 1 bay downstairs to house the town cruiser / sidewalk plow / empty sand bags for flood use; *Concerts, plays – Meetings (Public)*; Skating – Musical shows. *Adult Ed. – Children's Music, Dance, Art*; Stages Show, Teen Recreation Center – maybe rolling skater on Thurs night; *Cub Scouts, girl scouts, seniors mtgs., etc. – Bake sales, tag sales, non-denominational bingo – exercise, yoga, self defense classes and counseling for battered women & children*; A "great hall" or other place for hearings, town board + selectmen mtgs.; *Restore at the cost of the people interested.... Not our tax dollars*;

Plays, talent shows, meetings; *A teen center, youth group, drop in center. Something to give kids something to do other than hang on the street*; Movies, Game nights, Dances – also - rent it out for private functions; *Don't restore the Town Hall!! Take the money cited to the town hall and put into gravel for the town roads. We need this*; Learning activities – speakers on topics; *This is a terrible waste of money. The building should have been torn down and a new one build on the property if needed*; Indoor sports; *If space is (?) held concerts – town activities in shared 'people's place'. Rent out for small gatherings (showers, parties)*; Anything for kids; *Basketball, roller skating, tennis, volleyball*;

Maybe historical exhibits – on history of the town; *Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas activities*; Yoga, Guest lecturers; *After school programs*; Gym; *Meetings, youth activities*; Use it for the Town Hall, again??; *Mud season talent show (now held at Chandler), trade shows – craft fairs – senior citizens activities*; Youth games & arts – teen scene – computer/tech center. Winter volleyball; *Town Meeting*;

Free space for local groups – rental space for others – entertainment and arts programs – town meeting; *Bingo – community dinners – sing-alongs. Movies (Fr. Sat Sun.)*; Movies – rentable event space – exercise classes – music/dances/ dinner – community events; Yes, *don't know*; Anything that everyone in town can enjoy; *Recreational, plays, musicals, meetings*; I do not feel the tax payers should have to pay for the restoration of the Town Hall; *Town Meeting – rental of facility for functions (defray costs)*; Any and all; *Activities for teenagers*;

Story nights – basketball? Babysitting - teen nights – movies. Family geared fun – art shows, Quilting, knitting classes; *Small drama/community theatre – venue for music/art shows/crafts – venue for Historical Society*; Meetings of small groups; *Craft classes for kids + teens (Knitting, beading, cooking), health awareness classes for all – anti-smoking support classes – yoga classes – community gardening*; Community fund raisers. Suppers, dances, etc. Community recreation and sports; *Movies, Bingo, Town Dances. Rent out for private parties*; Keep as broad in use as possible; *Activities for school aged children – after school programs. Activities for senior citizens, and dances for everyone*; Weddings, Town Meetings, School plays, concerts, etc. Art displays, Community Groups – scouts, political debates, church groups. The possibilities are endless; *Voting – catered parties, receptions, meetings*;

Performing arts, both school + public; *Theatre events*; Activities for children. Flea Market occasionally; *Smart civic+ recreational uses*; Youth activities, Senior activities – community events – activities to attract tourism; *Town offices, Concerts, Dances, Public Meetings*; Theatre, social and music events. Bring troops (theatre etc.) to town; *Space (probably shared) including office space, for community organizations*; Public meeting space, there is limited floor space so it seems it is only available for small groups or gatherings; *Activities for teen's and children. Pool table, foos ball, table tennis, dances, movie nights*;

Hundreds of uses typical of town halls in the past – meetings, social functions, municipal business (not town offices) the things that caused every town to build one originally; *For the reason it was originally built – municipal functions*; Don't know; *Small civic + recreational use*; Town offices in added space in front of BLDG.; *Town offices; Meetings & classes*; Activities that will Intrigue all ages from toddler to senior citizen; Alumni, wedding, Banquets, personal party central, exhibits with reasonable rental fees; *Theatre, musicals, public + private meetings*; Plays, movies, youth activities, rain place for bandshell activities, winter social events, art shows, local crafts; *Theater, music performances, community meetings*;

Everything economically feasible to cover costs of overhead; *Entertainment, social functions, adult education, meeting hall*; Meeting hall for community groups – Arts + Entertainment – use of stage. It would be nice to have an area for practicing basketball in winter even if ½ court. Most any physical sports that can be played inside. We need to get the towns youth away from video games!; *No comment*; Family – town events – *Alcohol Free*; *Plays, concerts, youth activities (dances, roller skating, etc.) A place for youth groups to meet (cub scouts, girl scouts etc.) Rented for receptions and private parties*; School activities when gym is busy w/ sports. Maybe a place for teens to hang out rather than in the streets; *Meetings/ social events – classes for adult – education*; A place for youth to gather and play recreational games, classes, programs; *Pool, Dances, recreational games, chess, foosball, etc. Class – dance, Tai Kwan Doe, etc.*;

Concerts / food Festivals; *Suppers, dances, community meetings*; Town offices; *Not sure*; Meetings, Flea markets, Bingo, Dances. etc.; *Unless we get grant money for this I don't think we can afford to restore it*; Children, children, children! Give the kids something to constructive to do; *Movies, Teen events, Roller skating*; Teen night; *Plays, Talent shows, youth dances, pot luck Dinner, Bingo, Town wide tag sale (winter months)*;

Any desired community activity that a hall of that type is able to support. No single group should have “claim” to a significant portion of the hall, e.g. history museum. There should be an egalitarian approach to its use; *Town Meetings – community dinners*; Movies, theater, poetry readings. Community pot lucks – dance lessons, all kinds of workshops and classes. Cross cultural activities – local talent shows – lectures. Art shows. Flower shows, craft shows, meetings. Roller skating, bingo. Town Business meeting, concerts; *Local theatre, educational forums. Seminars. Craft shows*; Town Meetings, Play or Movies, Auctions; *Youth Activities*; Town Meeting. Arts center – recreation; *Concerts. Lectures. Teen dances., dinners, crafts, activities*; Well, it has a nice stage and seating area, so shows (amateur, pro. etc.) could be enticed here a' la Chandler Music Hall in Randolph, smaller now but over time?; *Something for all citizens*;

Dances for kids + teen scene type of activities – art shows – movie nights – concerts – classes – lecture series – craft shows – family dances. Rental for weddings; *Anything that builds community + gives Bethelites a place where they feel they belong + where they are known – and where they can make a contribution*; Town offices + also a community center – a place for activities + cultural activities for our young people; *Community theater, meeting place for non-profits, Boy/Girl scouts., etc.*; We need another basketball court /activity room somewhere; *A space where people can gather for things like dances + meetings*; Activities for senior citizens – movies/ plays for all ages – town fair - host organizational meetings, etc., service clubs; *Social functions – meetings, concerts, plays, etc.*; Meeting, plays, concerts, historical exhibits + activities; *Philosophy classes*;

Civic, Cultural, religious, family, fraternal, commercial and more, but nothing illegal, immoral or fattening; I haven't given up on this being the town office and I think it's clearly the best use for the building. Simply asking the above question suggests we are struggling to find a use for the building. Puppet shows and poetry recitals don't justify the investment that it will take to return the building to public use; *Town*

meeting/ other meeting/ school plays, etc. /Art shows / music / auctions/ things that will bring the community of Bethel together; Let's remove this old building (hard and expensive to maintain) and replace it with a new building with similar outward appearance but modern on the inside with elevator. Put town offices there; Ping pong; Safe place for kids to gather – meetings for groups like scouts, Sr. Center. Make Main St. more attractive – rent empty store fronts + help develop small businesses. Tear down structures that aren't sellable (Town should buy and redevelop); Art shows. Plays, town meetings – rented out for private parties (weddings, etc.); Activities that would generate income and make it self-sufficient; Exercise classes – line dancing – plays – music - teen dances; Plays. Theater – roller skating for kids – Teen center – Dances – young and old; Have different groups of speakers, health, what businesses in the town, state fish & game people, job bank;

Art movies, Concerts, arts & crafts center for children and adults; Contra dancing – food shelf – school dances – open mike – music lessons; Coffee house concerts – plays; Physical activities – classes for whatever can be offered; Dance or something for the kids to do – tax place for seniors / disabled persons; If should be used for a community center – available to anyone – a place where activities will draw people to town; Nothing – it's a waste of money; Not sure; I've been against this project – who's going to pay for it? Up keep? As a taxpayer I'm already paying for property/facilities in Bethel that as a taxpayer I am not allowed to use. Why should I/we pay for more? Meetings, dances, weekly activities for youth might help bring our community back together; Family orientated + social activities;

Meetings; Small group meetings – cultural activities – use by Bethel citizens for meetings + activities – boy scouts – girl scouts – food shelf – Halloween party; Ping pong- pool table, arts + crafts, performing arts – self esteem counseling, community service projects; Place of young people; Mixed activities for young people, families and senior citizens; Anything to benefit the community; Fri night – teen dances with a Band – good chaperons – Sat night – get togethers for adults – Oh Boy; Needs a good kitchen. Town Crier bulletin board for public notices, etc. Kitchen would make the hall more versatile and desirable. All municipal meetings – Select board, Planning Comm, DRB. Public Hearings. Town or Act 250 – any community gathering or event. Community Dances – School performances. Pot lucks – weddings. Alumnae of WHS reunions. Art shows. Historical Society displays, Corporation lunches + dinners for rental \$. Private parties (rental \$). Bethel Food Shelf – if you put in a kitchen – cooking lessons.