

Bethel Planning Survey January 2006. Response Results and 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.]

## # 6. "Should Bethel try to attract tourist-related businesses and activities to town?"

Yes: 370 – 73.7%

No: 87 – 17.3%

No Response: 45 – 9%

Promote agricultural enterprises; *Not to the exclusion of other businesses*; Only if we have something to offer, currently downtown is not it; *Do not limit to tourist*; We need a better mix of businesses; *If it wasn't for tourists, VT wouldn't be on the map*; We are a location to access other areas of state interests; *Tourists buy goods and services with no impact on school budgets*; To a certain point; *Not sure*;

Restaurant would be nice; *We sit just north of towns like Barnard, Pomfret and Woodstock and do not benefit from even a trickle down effect from their tourism dollars. A waste with the White River running through town*; Broaden the base; *That's where the money is – this is a tourist state*; Important to the economy; *e.g. the White River has big potential as a draw, plus mountain biking, skiing, etc*; given the proximity to Killington, we should try to capitalize on the skiing related businesses. A decent restaurant /café would be nice. + foliage – season; *A huge aspect of the Vt. economy*; We need businesses locals can utilize, more so than tourist related; *Tourism ruined Woodstock*;

I think it is worth while to try, but tourists want a more "cute" looking location. We would need to improve the image of the downtown; *Many tourists travel through town. We should encourage them to stop and spend money here. We will create more jobs that way*; Too many changes would have to be made (at much cost) to the existing infrastructure of the town; *Possibly a moderate sized hotel on 107 or Bed/B's better advertised*; With what?; *No. Main St. is already congested*; Biking is a hazard to cars in small narrow roads. Rt. 12 is not wide enough, riding two and three abreast and coming on to that on Rt. 12, in a curve, it's just a matter of time before someone gets killed; *Yes, but we need to help people to paint their homes and clean up property instead of penalizing us with higher taxes for every little improvement – coming into Bethel needs a lot of improvement*; Not without considerable improvement overall in the aesthetic preservation and condition of the village; *We desperately need a place to sit for a coffee and sandwich*;

We are turning into a ghost town. Can't even buy a greeting card; *Bring in \$ !*; Do not underestimate the value of Vermont's natural beauty in encouraging tourism... man made ugliness harms tourism in Bethel and in VT. In general; *Too hard to compete with Wdstk, Killington, etc.*; Our biggest problem – we don't have a place people can sit down to eat lunch or supper; *Bethel is uniquely situated close to I-89 and oriented along multiple tourist corridors (Rt. 107 to Killington, Rt. 100 North, Rt. 12, Rt. 14). We could benefit greatly from tourist-related business (and associated taxes)*; A restaurant... other than pancakes; *Richardson's + the Brick Store + other small businesses could have country store/antique businesses*; Bethel needs a "creative" economy based on tourism + the arts; *Nothing as big as Disney or Six Flags please*;

If the businesses are consistent with the values and primary mission of Bethel; *Skate park / restaurant / café*; If it doesn't interfere with common sense; *More B + B's, etc*; Tourists bring helpful revenue. But consideration needs to come first when it affects personal properties;

*Let Stowe have them, or Woodstock. Let's concentrate on the needs of our own people recognizing most jobs are somewhere else; This is the new economy of Vermont. We must accept that and work in that framework; Downtown revitalization would be an enormous benefit to the town; Maybe. I would be pressed to think of activities however... we do have great river, frontage for kayak events; Since I live in E. Bethel I can't make an intelligent comment on that;*

*Any focus on Bethel is good for the town; If they are not junk cheap sale item stores; Most definitely; There's nothing to do or see here; What is there to see in the Town of Bethel; Build a decent café + coffee shop; Any business in town would be good; Need better fishing + camping + motels – we have none / some properties need to be cleaned up to be presentable enough to attract visitors; Zoning revision could encourage proper location; As long as it doesn't raise our taxes;*

*Not if it cost money or raises taxes. If zoning were removed more good business would come in on their own – just like Rt. 107 at Royalton Medical clinic., etc.; Need to find ways of protecting the earth; I'm not sure; But be careful; Improve Library; Art galleries, sugar making, White River Tours (tubing, kayaking, etc.); More festivals / fairs – the White River is a great attraction to the town; We need something strong to vie in this field – would be very expensive; Comments for # 1, 5 & 6: Anything that would bring jobs and possibly tourists to the area. I don't know why people are so resistant to change. Anything that would allow Bethel residents to work, live and stay in Bethel; May help with taxes;*

*Diversify; Close to ski areas, easy access to I-89, great natural resources; (No) why not?; Because of towns location this type of business would do well; To help the economy out; Tourists bring people and money to help generate growth; I would prefer smaller, family type as opposed to Wal-mart, McDonalds & the like, etc.; Bethel needs to attract businesses for growth, that is return brings people in, that brings growth, not the passing tourist; Flea markets, fly fishing, kayaking, Nordic skiing, etc.; Small scale businesses;*

*Tourists spend money; They should be geared towards "small town" style, such as in Woodstock; Bethel should serve its citizens needs first; Tourism is where the money is; But not McDonalds or other fast food and convenience shopping chains. Let's not become another Woodstock. Let's have a protected historic district for old buildings downtown; We need everything we can get; Definitely; I don't see how we can. If we are a well run place to live. I think that would work better for the town than being a tourist trap; Bethel was the first town in the Republic of Vermont; Bethel (the town) should be in the business of making it easy to do business in town. I don't believe it should be in the business of attracting specific businesses. By providing friendly rules, good infrastructure, good schools and fair taxes, business will find Bethel;*

*Some one has suggested a civil war museum. NO ATV Trails; Not junk tourist attractions, but good, affordable restaurant would greatly enhance life in the village; Need quality attractions – exhibits – conventions, educational quality – not like Forward Festival; Increase the tax base; Not sure it could handle the traffic, especially downtown; How about working on allowing to let the townspeople do activities in town – school 1<sup>st</sup>; Anything that promotes the out of doors; Bethel is attractive because it is not geared towards tourists.*