

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.]

8. "Should the Town pave more dirt roads? If yes, which roads should be paved?"

Yes: 128 – 25.5%	No: 315 – 62.7%	No response: 59 – 11.8%
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Christian Hill Road – It used to be paved – it should be paved as in past years; *Too many paved roads cause more spending; Fix the existing ones; Connecters to already paved roads; Back Road to Randolph; Dirt roads need to be improved. Attention should be focused on one particular road at a time instead of band aid work on all roads; Slack/Dartt Hill Road. Unless paving worsens the driving – could it be more slippery; I live in Bethel. Have no idea of roads to be paved. "Money" depends on which maintenance costs would be less, also would encourage tourist businesses; No new taxes please. When you improve our roads and other 'paths' it invites more undesirables to hit and run at their convenience (security measures must be built into any planning in order to thwart law breakers.); Extend current but not at the expense of current roads;*

I haven't noticed any roads that should be paved, but I mostly use paved roads; *Let people on dirt roads get a P.O. Box and save the government money; Would only make some go faster. "Fast enough now." I was thinking of we used the granite quarry for small chips to put on roads that would benefit. Just a thought *mud season and heavy rains are a concern, the way it is now slows some people down; Peavine and Lilesville Road; Please maintain (plow/grade) existing roads, rutted roads are a hazard; No one from the top down knows spit about dirt roads. Check our Stockbridge dirt roads. They crown them... water runs to the sides. Better gravel, smooth as black top; Gage Hill Road; Dirt roads maintain the character of Vermont; Should maintain all roads better; Well taken care of dirt roads are fine;*

If we pave more roads it is going to cost us a lot more to maintain them. If we start paving more roads we will need a bigger tax base; *Pave it all !!; Sterns Drive; North Road. Spring '06; Those who use these roads already have vehicles appropriate for use on them & relatively few residents would benefit. Funds allocated for roads should be used where most residents would benefit; Teach the town crew to crown the roads – put gravel on roads; Town roads are worst in state; Should set up a long term project and prioritize all roads and work down the list over time; Just gravel the ones we have. Most roads are below grade. Because of not replacing gravel that goes away –wait too long – and it's a major rebuild like is needed now; Too expensive – lets concentrate on applying more gravel to the existing roads;*

Camp Brook to Lillisville and Lympus; *Many class 4 Roads need to be upgraded. The Town is trying to restrict growth to Village; You just need to dig ditches; Christian Hill where it was previously paved to Ansel Pond; Sand Hill Road; Christian Hill has been better without pavement. Thanks to road crews!; Paved roads have been torn up because they don't last. Rt. 12 is already breaking up after being repaved just a few years ago. Dirt road should, instead, have better drainage ditches and more gravel applied; Christian Hill Road – too much traffic from quarry makes the road VERY dusty; Gilead Brook Rd. Christian Hill; Christian Hill Rd. was or taxes should go down for dirt road;*

Christian Hill Rd. This road should never have been torn up in the first place. It is a dirty, muddy, pot-holed disaster. I don't know whose idea it was to reclaim the road, but he should be fired; *Seems to be a waste of funds – where grading properly seems to cost less in the long run than degrading asphalt which needs absurd funding for maintenance; Bethel does not grade dirt roads often enough. Repave some of the roads that need it and there are some; Anything that increases taxes in not the way to go; Just take care of the ones we have; Back Rd. to Gaysville/Back rd. to Royalton. If better gravel were used and graded more often they would not need paving; Yes. But most of us are getting poorer each year just heating our homes in this cold damp are is getting impossible. Where do we get the money?; Sterns Drive; Back Road to Randolph; Gilead;*

Findley Bridge Rd.; *Can't answer because we live on a paved road; Can we afford to maintain what we have with the taxes you now get? We should focus on the roads we have ... Main St. is awful; Would have to assess this question on a case by case basis – does pavement ultimately cost more to Town than regular grading/maintenance of gravel roads? Does paving encourage speeding?; If it is economical to do it. Upkeep etc.; Don't know... dirt roads are not kept up well. Would paving them make upkeep easier? And would we spend enough to do a good job of paving?;*

Peavine Blvd.; Dartt Hill ... please!; Repair the ones you have; Maybe - I don't like the paved roads except when we have icy conditions then dirt is a hazard; Mainly roads that busses travel on; The Town should put more effort into maintaining the existing dirt roads. Clean culverts, ditches and fill pot holes with good quality gravel or hardpack; Bethel should choose 2 miles of dirt road each year and widen and fix what they have before they consider paving; Delay until we can afford; Maybe more attention should be given to maintain the dirt roads we now have. Peavine Blvd. to Gaysville;

Not unless they can figure how to do it without raising taxes; Dirt roads are better for walking and enjoying or riding horses; This is a tough one, paved roads are cheaper to maintain, I like Vt. dirt roads; The ones which heavier traffic demands or will demand; Dirt saves on cost, easier maintained and adds character; There is too many paved roads already; Bottom portion of Christian Hill ; Sand Hill; In areas subject to erosion by flooding – NO but in areas where a paved road is cheaper to maintain – if the resident users want it –sure; Do not know;

People go too fast as it is. Paved roads are too slippery in winter. Please do not pave Christian Hill road; Most of your dirt roads are better than paved in some states; Redo Christian Hill – improve present paved roads and Dirt Roads ditches and clean culverts yearly; Peavine Blvd.; Our tax dollar needs to count toward the roads. The existing roads are not maintained well (paved or otherwise) we need a knowledgeable road crew, including foreman; Christian Hill Road; Again the cost/benefit ratio needs to be analyzed. Will the paved roads provide significant benefit to a given population in direct proportion to the cost; River Road – doesn't all have to be done at once; No, but focus more on maintaining the dirt roads that we have; Christian Hill – the roads are very worst in the spring. Becomes very muddy and hard to drive;

Maintain present roads; The one that are in worst shape and most traffic; North Road – Back River Road; Maybe; Only if you're going to take care of them afterward. I'm not at all impressed with Bethel Road maint. I have seen several areas where 'cutting corners' is costing more; Put \$ into critical wildlife habitat; Bethel Gilead; Main roads where residents are year round and dirt road requires constant upkeep because of rain/snow damage; Only to support designated growth areas or where dirt roads are more costly to maintain; No opinion;

Dirt roads are part of our town's character and heritage. No road should be paved without 100% of residents agreeing; Hill roads – probably yes – cut the brush back, clean the ditches; We can't take care of the gravel roads as it is now. The cost to do proper bases would not be worth it; It could maintain the ones it has better; PAVE = Speed = Death. We could be renamed "Deathel"; We need to preserve character of town – no paved roads; Brink Hill / Slack Hill; Dartt Hill Road; Which roads are more expensive to maintain – gravel or blacktop; Bethel Gilead Brook Rd. Each year there is more problems – not enough gravel – each spring more and more mud. Also is very rough – potholes everywhere; Christian Hill;

Mackintosh Hill Rd. should be paved. Trout Brook Rd. should be paved and made wider. Also finish paving Gilead Rd.; Just improve the already paved roads; Along the Back Road (River Road) to Gaysville; Wilson Rd. due to trucking; Spooner Rd.; Any roads where buses (school) travel or the town crew must get out and about earlier; Give Camp Brook to the State; Dart Hill – it's about time – come on; The dirt roads, especially the hills, leave a lot to be desired. If the Town would use crushed gravel and crushed stone and crown the roads there would be no reason to discuss paving dirt roads in Bethel.

I urge the Town of Bethel to take a look at the roads in the town of Stockbridge; maybe our crews should take lessons from them on how to maintain roads; *Christian Hill Rd.*;

Where this reduces sedimentation near water bodies + supplies – also to increase road safety; *Christian Hills*; People with more knowledge on that should be answering it. Citizens do not know the impact (\$, runoff, increase in taxes!) it can make; *This is a question that Gary Slack only knows the answer to*; Christian Hill Road – Road better when paved without holes – awful now (unacceptable); *Those that are difficult to drive on in winter time*; We should focus on making improvements and maintaining the roads we have; Yes, *not a priority*; Not sure; *People drive too fast now*;

Steep areas that get wash boarded quickly; *Anytime, it is the most cost effective*; North Road; *Most of the back roads are really bad*; Christian Hill Road again. There is a lot of traffic and a lot of DUST. Paved road are a lot better than dirt on car ware; *Sand Hill Road*; Christian Hill up to Lake Ansel; *Steep grades*; Christian Hill; *Not sure of road names but most of them*;

No, but take care of (maintain) the Dirt Roads we have; *Gilead Brook Rd. to Chas Young property*; Too expensive; *The North Road*; Just take better care of the roads we have; *Findley Bridge, E. Bethel Rd., road that goes past P.O. towards Findley Bridge*; Christian Hill; *This needs to be studied and a long range plan developed, i.e. \$ per mile, miles needing pavement + amt. of traffic on these roads*; Sander Road; *If people don't like Vermont's dirt roads, they should move to where there are more paved roads*;

Maybe you pave the back river road or pave as part of development but well built mountain dirt roads are great; *I don't know*; Paving is not the answer – however maintaining dirt roads properly is very important and something Bethel is horrible at. Get better materials for dirt roads & crown them in summer; *Fixing existing roads (paved) would be real helpful*; Christian Hill Road – paved roads are less expensive; *Gilead Brook Rd.*; Christian Hill; *Road passed Town Garage, old Rt. 12*; Undecided; *Back River Road*;

Roads with steep grades should be paved to prevent scouring and silty stormwater runoff; *This should definitely not be a consideration for our town. Paved roads cost far more to maintain & repair and encourage speedy travel and senseless travel. Pollution too*; Back Road to Randolph. Lillyville, Lympus; *Existing gravel roads should be better maintained. Current road foreman needs to do a better job or be gone*; Better dirt roads w/ proper gravel beds and good gravel and crowns would be just as good; *Christian Hill to the Pond. Heavy truck traffic on Christian Hill quickly damages the road surface currently*; Maybe x – paving equals speed – mostly I would like what we have maintained a little better. If it's cheaper in the long run to pave, then let's not be short sighted; *The major hills – do it right from the base up*; If we can afford it; *Peavine to Lillyville*;

Christian Hill; *As requested by those who live on them*; Brink Hill Road. The continuous expense of re-grading this road year in + out exceeds the cost of paving; *It should first find ways to better maintain their dirt roads before thinking about paving them*; Back river road; *Olympus Area – Dartt Hill*; Peavine to Stockbridge line. Town should try to improve / properly grade existing dirt roads. Most town roads are not properly graded which causes problems; *Dartt Hill Rd. Bigger Randolph / Rutland / Stockbridge thru-fare*; Not sure – dirt roads slow traffic (a good thing). It would be nice if the paved roads we have now were in better shape; *For one thing dirt keeps the speed down*;

If deemed so by the road crews; *Except for portions of road that may be too steep for safe winter travel*; It seems the past 2 years dirt roads have not been maintained in the off-winter season; *I don't know. Balance environmental impact with convenience*; Dirt roads should be crowned, avoid excessive random ditching (sod holds runoff better than raw dirt) – use hardpack on steeper inclines – keep road sides mowed; *Please crown roads. There are schools for road crew methods (or workshops). We constantly see washouts due to lack of crowning*; Christian Hill Road; *Let's take care of what we have now, then look at possible additions*; Peavine Blv. If Rt. 107 is shut down – the only way to Bethel, Randolph (Hospital) is Gaysville to Bethel via Peavine; *Extended Peavine Blvd.*;

We should take better care of the roads we have, for instance Camp Brook Rd., North Rd. We need a new road commissioner! We should have a ten year plan for all roads in Bethel, and completely revamp 1/ 10th of them each year; *Especially for school busses; River Road; Grading and cleaning / replacing ditch lines and culvert would be nice; Campbell Rd., Peavine Rd., River Rd., Lillyville Rd.; Try to keep our dirt roads in better condition – take a lesson from Stockbridge!; Isn't it easier to maintain dirt roads; Instead of paving more roads, why not put money into improving dirt roads with good culverts, proper ditching & gravel.*