

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 ease of reading through them.]

**#9. “The Bethel Zoning Ordinance allows for construction of wireless telecommunication towers. Is your personal, professional or business life affected by lack of these services at the present time?”**

Yes: 272 – 54.2%

No: 205 – 40.8%

No response: 25 – 5%

Let's get in the same place as those around us in telecommunications; *Wait for new shorter / Boxier towers that can be hidden easily from views when necessary*; Towers should NOT happen; *Please build*; Being able to make a cell call could be the difference between life + death; *We need wireless communication*; Would / could be better for all; *No comment except there good and bad about that one*; No cell service or very little; *I said my piece, thank you [anti- VT looking like Conn., Mass. etc.]*;

More towers please; *Time to get in the 21<sup>st</sup> century*; Cell phone works poorly in several locations; *No cell phone service in area*; Would like to be able to use my cell phone in my home; *We need some cell phone towers – especially for emergencies*; We need more cell service for Public Safety; *Needed*; I can not get cell reception, not much of an interference. But I would love to see a progressive approach to giving wi-fi access to the Internet for those of us outside the town, up in the hills; *When we move back*;

Encourage a tower near downtown – at town garage would be perfect; *Cell phone*; Mine is only affected by lack of online services (DSL- Verizon); *Lack of cell service – allow towers – never mind what the float-in Flatlanders say*; Let towers go up; *DSL / Broadband would be nice, only or personal convenience*; A lack of cell phone reception in Bethel area has been a real inconvenience both personally + for our business; *Haven't found it necessary. DSL is available, as well as able internet @ home. Moderate cell phone availability*; Cell service would be nice, and a money maker for the town I'm sure; *I am impacted by the lack of this type of service but not negatively*;

Cell phone coverage is almost nil; *Very much so!* ; My son needs service; *Although not important to me personally, the writing on the wall is that Bethel is going to require telecommunication access eventually, whether by towers or less intrusive technology*; If you hope to attract people who work from home offices, this is essential; *One tower was proposed on Christian Road and was turn down. Don't we know how important communi-cation is these days. Vermont has already contributed to some death due to lack of communication*; Should have some Tower for cell phone and TV; *Unable to get signal at home. Wireless service is not very good now!!*; I have had 4 emergency calls I could not make, the “tree” towers are great; *We would love to have wireless access in Bethel Gilead for business use*;

No service at home; *Wireless communication is fairly new, but I think we'll all be using it eventually, even though many of us are resisting these new-fangled devices*; Put a tower at the town garage; *I have no problems with the towers*; Not really, it would be nice to have better but not necessary for survival; *It would be nice to have cell phone service everywhere*; Need more towers, more service, cell phones; *Towers are unsightly – and we would lose rural appearance. However, possibly in some areas – least obvious*; Wireless communication and associated infrastructure will become increasingly necessary for sustaining a healthy business and community center. Retaining small town virtues and a rural environment do not have to be at odds with availability of technology-related services; *This would help tourists. Visitors complain*;

Not a good question. Communication is limited but I DO NOT want a tower in Bethel; *Would hope for improved telecommunications in general*; Lets put the service near the town garage. Aestheti-cally it would be ok; *We are a major cell reception dead zone. If we are going to attract business this needs to*

*be fixed; However, improved wireless service will be critical to increased growth. A minimally impacting tower or other technologies will be necessary at some point; No service directly in town; Too spotty for my use; Close to retirement, planning to spend more time in Bethel – would like to be able to use P.C. + cell phone – access not good at present; They are ugly. Wait until technology advances and they are not needed; Look into with more depth;*

*I dislike the sight of these towers so much I won't consider using a cell phone; Don't need it; No service in village center; Need more towers if that's the way we are going; One or two towers in a township is not going to ruin scenic view; Where does it allow it? And why aren't we doing something about it? Lack of telecommunication is a major inhibitor to anyone wanting to do business in this area. We need to become up to date with this technology. Quite frankly I don't care if towers are ugly or look like fake trees. I don't think aesthetics should rule. We need to get into the 21<sup>st</sup> century; I had no reception in my apartment but felt ok about it b/c I didn't want to compromise ridgelines w/ towers; We have no service in our area + no telephone. In an emergency we must drive to White River for cell service. Consider using camouflage tree towers; We seem to be a black hole for telecommunications; Yes, but not much;*

*Cannot get service within village limits; I think it's time to change that ordinance; Need more coverage; Yes – sort of – we would like to have cell phone - but there's no reception in the village; It is part of almost everyone's life + business. We need to catch up to the rest of the world. P.S. what is the difference between a 150' cell + 150' wind tower?; Located at town garage would be ok; Not affected at all. Keep them out. Satellite phone will be along soon enough; Sporadic service at best; If construction of wireless telecommunication towers is allowed, then how come the Eddy family was refused? An honest answer would be nice; Towers, yes! It's an obvious disadvantage not having service;*

*No cell phones in Bethel. What if there was an emergency; Personal life; Limited Wireless Towers could be useful, especially during recreational + outdoor emergency; I cannot use my cell phone at home – and I need it for work – I can get wireless now; I'd rather not have these; Most definitely! I do not know of any business or businesses here in Bethel (or surrounding this community) who wouldn't like to see a wireless telecommunication tower(s) constructed; No cell service in Bethel; No signal available in our living area; Definitely need more towers for emergency help for 2 disabled people; May be important in future;*

*Allow Dave Eddy to have his tower; Yes, can I live with the inconvenience, YES!; The reason we have no cell phone is lack of service in this area; Look like trees; Most everyone uses cellular phones today because of the lack of pay phones. We can not get out from most areas of Bethel. This shows how the man-made restrictions of a few, hurt the many. We need cellular telephone service in Bethel; No towers!; Possibly for cell phones; I do think it would be very helpful to be able to use a cell phone on Gilead Brook Rd.; We would oppose these; Cell phones are marginal at best with the signal now;*

*We don't get cell service in Bethel; We have excellent cell phone service. Have no service in most of Bethel; Cell phone is virtually useless; Can't call anyone out of town on cell phone in an emergency; I'd rather be cell phone free; It would be nice to have better cell phone reception in the Bethel area; Cell service is sporadic, but it works; Proud to say I'm cell-phone-free and computer free; Need for (↑ed) wireless service especially along 89 I between Randolph exit 4 to Sharon exit 2;*

*Most cell phones don't work in Bethel; It's nice to have wilderness but we need to be practical + keep up with progress; I wish I had better communications. But even so, I don't want to give towers a blank check; I need to know more about future technology. It seems to me line of sight telecom is diminishing not growing. Satellite tech is the future and you don't need high towers for sitcom; If I break down in "Bethel area" I can never get any service to call for help. Kids can't use cell phone to call parents; Need more access to phone services; I think cell towers should have been in Bethel a long time ago. They can save lives in emergencies, they are a convenience for families, an advantage for businesses, and they can be made to blend into the environment; My life is affected in a positive way by the lack of*

*these in that I am less pulled into a lifestyle I do not want; My cell phone does not work in Bethel; Major problem – need service;*

*Technology age is here to use – we need to plan aesthetically “with it”; Not impact not having service – towers are needed – no one cares if they’re not pretty – people want service – could never understand why a previous proposal was shot down; Of course they are affected. As I understand it, some proposals have been turned down for tower placement. We need progress in this area; No service at home; I would love to be able to use my cell phone – especially if I have the need to call home and no public phone is available; We must have cell service for us to grow. It is such an integral part of everyone’s life now. I would also feel safer with the ability to use a cell phone in emergencies; No. They could probably use some, but they should be painted to better blend with their surroundings; The well being of our environment and the voices of our fellow citizens should never be muffled by the need of others to have something simply unnecessary. That will eventually prove to be like all other technology, eventually trash!; This is a very big issue!; Please don’t construct these;*

*Poor reception of cell – no DSL – maybe the latter would not be affected; Communication is always a very important asset; I get wireless service in most areas; Emergency calls from anywhere are important. cell phones are popular these days as many people have them; Spotty phone coverage makes Bethel + surrounding area a dead zone for cell service. To be commercially successful area, we need better cell service; If towers are built, they should use the type that is concealed and looks like trees and surrounding foliage; No one likes these towers but its essential for police, ambulance, etc. I’ve seen these towers look like tall xmas tress to camouflage; We should take a serious thought about where we could locate a tower to improve the service in our area; High speed internet access needed in rural areas; I prefer my work car phone not working at my house;*

*More would be good; Both are affected – and I know tourists and other visitors find it very inconvenient; I have lived happily all these years without a cell phone, does our economy fall without them? Let’s not have them just for convenience - living in Vermont isn’t about convenience; Put a cell tower in town; It is inconvenient not to have cell phone coverage in this area – but not devastating; Should be located along interstate + a reasonable number; Sometimes, I like towers ever since I was in high school. Former radio amateur. Towers help us communicate more easily, more rapidly and impact environment minimally. See # 7 above; Certainly the coverage is awful which affects the health and safety of our citizens as well as the ability to modernize commerce in our town. However your question is not quite telling an accurate story. Better put “The Bethel Zoning Ordinance makes it nearly impossible to construct a wireless tower because the people who wrote the language had an agenda to prevent all such structures. Question: Are you satisfied with the current cell reception you receive in and round town? Would you like to see this ordinance improved so the cellular industry isn’t discriminated against in hopes they would invest in our community?” – worded this way, my responses would be NO and YES respectfully; In Bethel = no service now; No service anywhere near my home on River St.;*

*It would be helpful if cell phones were operable in Bethel; In today’s business climate a person needs cellphone + high speed internet to compete; Pay for a cell phone and I can’t use it. Towers can be made to look like trees; Unable to get service (cell phone) in a lot of areas; We’ve lived this long without a cell phone, I guess we can get by just fine. But nice for emergency calls; There is little or no cell signal from my property; Cell phones don’t work in many areas; If you are trying to talk business on a cell phone; I can’t comment – I am an employee of wireless communications; Big time – I can’t believe what is going on – I would put a tower on my property for rent.*