

Here is the Planning Commission's **PROPOSED DRAFT REVISION** of **Appendix A: Consolidated 'GOALS'** section of the **Bethel Town Plan**. By State Statute, the Town Plan is revised every five years. The Planning Commission will hold a duly warned public hearing in mid-June on this and, depending on comments received then, will transmit it to the Select Board, which will hold a hearing at the end of July. Public comments are appreciated. Formal adoption by the Select Board is anticipated by August 13, 2006.

APPENDIX A

CONSOLIDATED GOALS

[Goals: Broad-based statements setting forth the long-term objectives of the community.]

V. HOUSING

1. To provide the opportunity for Bethel residents to have access to decent and affordable housing.
2. To encourage the retention of existing housing and construction of new housing.
3. To encourage the preservation of historic structures in ways that serve housing needs.

VI. PUBLIC UTILITIES & FACILITIES

1. To encourage that public investments in governmental facilities, services, and lands be located within the designated village center and other growth areas.
2. To promote effective, efficient, public services, including schools, highways, recreational facilities, and municipal buildings.
3. To ensure that any expansion, development or new construction of utilities or facilities does not impose an unreasonable burden on municipal resources or services.
4. To support innovative sources of public facility spending to supplement traditional resources.

VII. TRANSPORTATION

1. To promote a transportation system that is safe and efficient.
2. To coordinate land use and transportation planning initiatives.

VIII. ENERGY

1. To promote a pattern of settlement and land use that uses energy efficiently.
2. To encourage the design and construction of buildings and structures which are energy efficient.
3. To encourage the development of local renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, and hydro power.
4. To increase public awareness of energy conservation practices.

IX. LAND USE:

1. Promote continued use and rehabilitation of existing structures.
2. Promote the efforts of revitalization and the 'Village Center Designation.'
3. Promote growth in established areas of housing, as density permits, allowing for residential, agricultural, and forestry uses to be the primary and dominant land use in Medium Residential and Rural Residential Districts.
4. Manage development, in the Resource Conservation District, in a manner as to minimize any impact on significant or critical wildlife habitats and

wetlands.

X. NATURAL RESOURCES:

1. To encourage protection of the quality and quantity of groundwater in Bethel.
2. To evaluate potential groundwater impacts associated with development and to regulate land use activities in accordance with acceptable management practices.
3. To maintain or improve surface water quality and quantity for the purposes of recreation, and aquatic habitat within the watershed of the White River.
4. To support the on-going designation of Class B “Waste Management Zone” for the main stem of the River for the disposal and treatment of effluent from Bethel’s wastewater treatment facilities.
5. To support ongoing monitoring and educational programs for improvement of surface water quality throughout the community and to participate in activities which are intended to maintain or improve water quality.
6. Support the White River Partnership.
7. To encourage the conservation of all wetland areas.
8. To verify locations of Class 1 and 2 wetlands and to map the locations of Class 3 wetlands.
9. To avoid development or land uses with adverse impacts to wetlands.
10. To maintain or enhance the natural diversity and population of wildlife by maintaining critical habitats, large blocks of forest and wildlife corridors.
11. To promote an environment where rare and endangered species can exist.
12. To encourage the reduction of air pollution.
13. To enable appropriate utilization of mineral resources.
14. To accommodate the extraction and processing of mineral resources where such activities are appropriately managed.

XI. AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY:

1. To encourage the conservation and careful and sustainable use agricultural and forestry resources in the Town, to maintain their environmental integrity, and to protect their natural features and the ecological processes that they support.
2. To protect rural agricultural resources from unplanned or poorly designed land development.
3. To support planning and taxation principles which sustain agriculture and forestry land, and their associated value-adding industries.
4. To promote agriculture and forestry in those areas of Bethel where they are the predominant land uses and where soils, site conditions, and other factors enable them to remain sustainable and economically viable.

XII. HISTORIC & SCENIC RESOURCES:

1. To preserve and enhance historic buildings and sites where there is a clear public interest, including the Town Hall.
2. To promote sensitive economic development in historic areas such as in Bethel village and East Bethel.
3. To set forth design guidelines to be used by those involved in the review and preparation of development proposals as a means of ensuring the conservation of historic, scenic, and cultural resources.