

Here is the Planning Commission's **PROPOSED DRAFT REVISION** of **Appendix C: Consolidated 'RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION'** 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 C

CONSOLIDATED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

[Recommendations for Action: Specific activities Bethel could take to implement the Town Plan goals.]

V. HOUSING

1. Affordable elderly and family housing is needed. The Town, in cooperation with housing development and housing non-profit groups, should continue to evaluate the extent of need and the options available to address this need.
2. New information on housing studies that becomes available should be reviewed by the Planning Commission to see if revisions to the Plan are necessary.

VI. PUBLIC UTILITIES & FACILITIES

1. The Town and School District are encouraged to continue their efforts on capital improvement plans, budgets, and the school consolidation study. Periodic consultation with the Planning Commission on the land use implications of major capital investments is recommended.
2. The Town should continue to support efforts to promote and enhance Bethel's downtown as the center for community services, commerce, and governmental services.
3. Relocate the Bethel Town Offices to a site that provides sufficient space for the long-term governmental needs of the community.
4. Make Bethel's disaster planning more public.
5. Develop a recordkeeping management system for Town cemeteries.
6. To establish an emergency shelter on the east side of the White River.

VII. TRANSPORTATION

1. Continue participation in the Regional Transportation Planning Program through the Two Rivers - Ottawaquechee Regional Commission and the Transit Advisory Committee
2. Participate, along with neighboring communities in the White River Valley, in the long-range planning for possible changes to Routes 100 and 107.
3. Invest in appropriate improvements to parking, pedestrian, and transit facilities.
4. Support development of a Park & Ride at Exit 3 off I-89.
5. Encourage speed and traffic law enforcement.

VIII. ENERGY

Construction or renovation of buildings, such as the Town Offices or the Town Hall, should include the priorities of energy conservation and efficiency.

IX. LAND USE:

1. Continue the 'Village Center Designation' and efforts to restore the Town Hall.
2. Work with other governmental agencies to promote the upgrading of underutilized buildings within the Village, to provide suitable and affordable housing for its citizens.
3. The Town should do a 'Build Out' study of the current zoning districts to determine their capacity.
4. The Town should look at the current zoning districts to see if the boundaries can be adjusted if soils and slopes allow.

X. NATURAL RESOURCES:

1. The Town shall continue the Bethel Source Protection Plan to limit or prohibit land use activities that unduly threaten groundwater.
2. The Planning Commission or Conservation Commission, in cooperation with the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, and other resource agencies, should identify and map significant aquifer protection areas in Bethel. New or revised plan policies should be developed as necessary to protect and monitor land use development activities on these resources.
3. The Planning Commission, as part of its next revision of the Zoning Regulations and Subdivision Regulations, should evaluate the adequacy of these regulations to enhance, identify, and protect wetlands. Where necessary, revisions to these bylaws should be developed.
4. In cooperation with the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife and other conservation agencies or organizations, the Town should consider undertaking a more detail inventory and maps of wildlife and critical habitats as well as rare and endangered species.
5. Revisions to zoning regulations and use of land conservation techniques to address development options should be considered following the inventory.

XI. AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY:

1. Key farm and forestlands in Bethel should be inventoried and evaluated.
2. Local land use planning activities and programs affecting and promoting agriculture and forestry should use USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service's Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) method as a way to objectively evaluate land for conservation.
3. Explore ways the Town can promote sustainable farming and forestry and value-added industries and activities to strengthen our local economy.

XII. HISTORIC & SCENIC RESOURCES:

1. To enable a more complete understanding and evaluation of scenic resources, the Planning Commission or Conservation Commission (if one is formed) should inventory and analyze scenic resource areas throughout the Town. This effort should be done in consultation with the townspeople. Following completion, this section of the Plan should be reviewed and perhaps amended.
2. The Planning Commission should consider incorporating a lighting section into the Bethel Zoning Regulations to cover outdoor lighting installations.
3. The Planning Commission should continue to support efforts to promote downtown Bethel as the center for economic and civic activity. Efforts should continue to strengthen the viability of the village as the town center through work with business owners, Bethel Business Association, local officials, the Agency of Commerce and Community Development, the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission and other organizations.