

TOWN OF BETHEL COMMUNITY SURVEY

Please help us plan for the Town of Bethel's future by checking the appropriate box or by writing in the answer. Some questions will ask for only one response while others will ask for multiple answers. Also, if more than one person in your household would like to respond to the opinion questions, please feel free to pick up an additional survey form at the Town Hall.

- 1) Please tell us where you reside in the Town of Bethel by checking the appropriate boxes below.

School District:		
142	Monticello	58.2%
59	Sullivan West	24.2%
43	Liberty	17.6%
244	TOTAL	100.0%

Fire District:		
70	Smallwood	26.6%
60	White Lake	22.8%
57	Kauneonga Lake	21.7%
40	Swan Lake	15.2%
20	Kenoza Lake	7.6%
16	Jeffersonville	6.1%
263	TOTAL	100.0%

- 2) How many years in total have you lived in the Town of Bethel? 3) How many years have you lived in Sullivan County?

32	Less than 5 years	11.7%
31	5 to 9 years	11.3%
33	10 to 14 years	12.0%
28	15 to 19 years	10.2%
23	20 to 24 years	8.4%
83	More than 25 years	30.3%
44	Part-time	16.1%
274	TOTAL	100.0%

21	Less than 5 years	7.7%
23	5 to 9 years	8.4%
28	10 to 14 years	10.3%
25	15 to 19 years	9.2%
15	20 to 24 years	5.5%
117	More than 25 years	42.9%
44	Part-time	16.1%
273	TOTAL	100.0%

- 4) What most influenced your ORIGINAL decision to live here? (Please check no more than 5)

1	2	3	4	5	Total		
34	44	46	22	8	154	Rural atmosphere/farmland	25.0%
22	31	17	9	0	79	Affordable housing costs	12.8%
76	1	0	0	0	77	Born or raised here	12.5%
59	14	0	0	0	73	Other	11.9%
37	26	3	0	0	66	Close to friends/relatives	10.7%
19	20	13	1	0	53	Low crime rate	8.6%
0	2	13	7	12	34	Low taxes	5.5%
23	10	0	0	0	33	Close to work	5.4%
1	7	5	2	0	15	Quality of Town services	2.4%
0	6	2	6	0	14	Quality of schools - Elementary School	2.3%
0	0	0	7	4	11	Quality of schools - High School	1.8%
0	0	4	2	1	7	Quality of schools - Middle School	1.1%
271	161	103	56	25	616	TOTAL	100.0%

- 5) Why do you continue to live in the Town of Bethel? (Please check no more than 5)

1	2	3	4	5	Total		
34	30	60	20	7	151	Rural atmosphere/farmland	24.8%
59	30	6	0	0	95	Close to friends/relatives	15.6%
58	22	2	0	0	82	Other	13.4%
13	31	13	1	0	58	Low crime rate	9.5%
50	2	1	1	0	54	Born or raised here	8.9%
38	10	0	1	2	51	Close to work	8.4%
8	18	17	4	0	47	Affordable housing costs	7.7%
5	1	7	10	4	27	Low taxes	4.4%
2	12	7	5	0	26	Quality of Town services	4.3%
0	2	0	6	0	8	Quality of schools - Elementary School	1.3%
0	2	0	3	2	7	Quality of schools - High School	1.1%
0	0	2	0	2	4	Quality of schools - Middle School	0.7%
267	160	115	51	17	610	TOTAL	100.0%

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6) Please indicate your level of satisfaction with the following for the Town of Bethel:

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Not Satisfied	Not Sure
Property attractiveness	38	106	76	10
Quality of Town services	12	129	76	34
Quality of schools	11	94	46	63
Retail selection	9	55	136	18
Costs of local taxes	8	111	124	10
Housing costs	7	128	49	31
Quality of County services	6	124	74	38
Job opportunities	0	44	118	44

What do you like most about the Town of Bethel?

Rural atmosphere - 67
Peace and quiet - 17
Attractive scenery - 15
Friendly - 13

What do you like least about the Town of Bethel?

Properties, poorly maintained - 29
High taxes - 21
Tax-exempt properties - 21
Code enforcement, poor - 10

7) So we can learn if the Town qualifies for certain grants, can you give us your household income range?

24	Less than \$20,000	10.2%
53	\$20,000 to \$40,000	22.6%
47	\$40,000 to \$60,000	20.0%
45	\$60,000 to \$80,000	19.1%
26	\$80,000 to \$100,000	11.1%
40	More than \$100,000	17.0%
235	TOTAL	100.0%

8) Please indicate the importance of each of the following aspects of the Town's environment:

	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not That Important	Overall Rating
Air quality	224	41	3	0	757
Drinking water quality	211	38	6	1	716
Streamwater quality	187	55	10	8	689
Wildlife habitat	156	67	26	9	637
Scenic views	149	76	25	7	631
Mature forests	142	84	26	8	628
Stream corridors	149	75	20	10	627
Farmland	129	88	34	11	608
Historic buildings	135	68	40	13	594
Wetlands	116	86	40	21	581
River access	108	89	37	22	561

9) How important is it for the Town to regulate or review each of the following aspects of development?

	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not That Important	Overall Rating
Density of development	165	59	32	4	649
Impact on streams	161	77	19	2	658
Proximity of commercial development to residences	157	67	27	8	640
Protection of farmland	139	83	31	5	619
Preserving existing trees at new development sites	142	71	33	16	617
Scenic impact	128	100	29	3	616
Commercial site design	139	73	35	12	610
Landscaping	119	97	43	5	599
Business signs	122	88	41	13	596
Historic character	119	83	43	17	583
Hillside development	112	76	45	13	546

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- 10) Is there a need for the Town to provide MORE recreation, NEW facilities or ADDITIONAL support for recreation programs? Consider "increase support" as your wish to have the Town spend more of your tax money on these facilities or programs. The Town currently has a Town Park and pool on Old White Lake Turnpike.

	Increase Support	Continue As Is	Decrease Support	Undecided	Score
Youth activities center	84	147	9	17	297
Public beach	77	147	11	26	279
Senior activities center	68	153	15	22	259
Playground facilities	75	142	22	18	248
Trail systems	75	134	22	22	240
Picnic facilities	56	160	19	19	234
Baseball/softball fields	43	171	22	20	213
Basketball courts	43	162	29	21	190

- 11) Would you favor spending your tax money ADDING, EXPANDING or IMPROVING the following public services and facilities?

	Strongly Support	Support	No Opinion	Oppose	Score
Town roads	154	89	14	5	383
Schools	65	90	59	48	161
Library services	49	103	69	41	132
Town Park and Pool	33	102	56	71	112
New Town Hall	14	65	85	96	8

- 12) If you have or are planning to establish a home occupation from which you earn your living, please indicate what type.

11	Internet related business	19.6%
9	Contractor business	16.1%
7	Professional office with no employees	12.5%
7	Greenhouse or agricultural	12.5%
6	Craft or other specialty retail shop	10.7%
6	Repair service (auto)	10.7%
4	Professional office with employees	7.1%
3	Health related service	5.4%
2	Repair service (other)	3.6%
1	Other	1.8%
56	TOTAL	100.0%

- 13) As the Woodstock Festival site is developed as the Bethel Performing Arts Center there will be increasing interest in development along Route 17B. Please tell us how you feel about this development and how it should be addressed by the Town.

	Agree	Disagree	Not Sure	% Agree
Protect agricultural districts in the vicinity of the project and along Route 17B from incompatible development (higher density residential, high traffic commercial, etc.)	207	22	22	82.5%
Allow some commercial development but establish strict landscape and site design criteria to apply to such development.	202	26	17	82.4%
Establish an Architectural Review Board or similar board to review the design of new buildings and site plans along the Route 17B, based on design standards that that will achieve high quality development.	192	40	23	75.3%
Restrict the range of new commercial uses along 17B to less intensive activities (bed and breakfasts, sit-down dining, small shops, professional offices, etc.) excluding big box stores, convenience stores and gas stations, fast-food, auto dealers, etc.)	166	59	24	66.7%
Restrict all new commercial development to the White Lake vicinity.	59	119	44	26.6%
Allow full range of commercial uses all along Route 17B.	59	167	27	23.3%

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14) Where is the last place you lived prior to moving to your current address?

94	NYC/Westchester/Rockland/Long Island	35.9%
52	Elsewhere in Sullivan County	19.8%
37	Always lived where I do now	14.1%
26	Pennsylvania/New Jersey/Connecticut	9.9%
22	Elsewhere in Bethel	8.4%
20	Elsewhere in Upstate NY	7.6%
11	Elsewhere in U.S. or outside U.S.	4.2%
262	TOTAL	100.0%

15) Are there any children under age 18 years living at home with you?

59	Yes	22.5%
203	No	77.5%
262	TOTAL	100.0%

16) Which of the following best describes your current employment status?

Principal Householder:		
90	Employed by others full-time	34.0%
10	Employed by others part-time	3.8%
55	Self-employed full-time	20.8%
10	Self-employed part-time	3.8%
96	Retired	36.2%
0	Student	0.0%
4	Unable to work	1.5%
0	Unemployed, seeking work	0.0%
265	TOTAL	100.0%

Second Householder:		
56	Employed by others full-time	29.8%
19	Employed by others part-time	10.1%
20	Self-employed full-time	10.6%
9	Self-employed part-time	4.8%
77	Retired	41.0%
0	Student	0.0%
3	Unable to work	1.6%
4	Unemployed, seeking work	2.1%
188	TOTAL	100.0%

17) Please indicate where you work.

Principal Householder:		
50	The Town of Bethel	27.2%
58	Elsewhere in Sullivan	31.5%
6	Orange County	3.3%
1	Ulster County	0.5%
45	New York City	24.5%
12	Elsewhere in NY	6.5%
12	Another state	6.5%
184	TOTAL	100.0%

Second Householder:		
27	The Town of Bethel	22.5%
50	Elsewhere in Sullivan	41.7%
3	Orange County	2.5%
2	Ulster County	1.7%
23	New York City	19.2%
10	Elsewhere in NY	8.3%
5	Another state	4.2%
120	TOTAL	100.0%

18) Please indicate your age bracket (principal householder only).

0	<25 years	0.0%
4	25-29 years	1.5%
8	30-34 years	3.1%
13	35-39 years	5.0%
25	40-44 years	9.6%
33	45-49 years	12.6%
28	50-54 years	10.7%
34	55-59 years	13.0%
41	60-64 years	15.7%
35	65-69 years	13.4%
17	70-74 years	6.5%
18	75-79 years	6.9%
3	80-85 years	1.1%
2	> 85 years	0.8%
261	TOTAL	100.0%

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19) How would you describe your present occupation?

Principal Householder:		
12	Clerical/administrative support occupation	4.6%
44	Executive/administrative/managerial	16.8%
14	Farming, forestry or mining	5.3%
4	Handler, cleaner, helper or laborer	1.5%
5	Homemaker	1.9%
1	Machine operator/assembler/inspector	0.4%
4	Precision production, craft or repair	1.5%
5	Private household occupation	1.9%
59	Professional occupation	22.5%
86	Retired	32.8%
7	Sales occupation	2.7%
9	Service occupation	3.4%
4	Technician or support occupation	1.5%
8	Transportation or material moving	3.1%
262	TOTAL	100.0%

Second Householder:		
17	Clerical/administrative support occupation	9.4%
19	Executive/administrative/managerial	10.6%
3	Farming, forestry or mining	1.7%
3	Handler, cleaner, helper or laborer	1.7%
18	Homemaker	10.0%
0	Machine operator/assembler/inspector	0.0%
0	Precision production, craft or repair	0.0%
5	Private household occupation	2.8%
37	Professional occupation	20.6%
56	Retired	31.1%
5	Sales occupation	2.8%
12	Service occupation	6.7%
4	Technician or support occupation	2.2%
1	Transportation or material moving	0.6%
180	TOTAL	100.0%

20) How would you rate the quality of the following public and semi-public services?

	High	Good	Fair	Poor	Score
Fire protection	73	159	10	3	544
Utilities (e.g. electric)	45	140	51	11	455
Ambulance services	45	142	36	16	439
Town police protection	39	126	53	24	398
Health care services	15	81	107	24	290
Maintenance of Town roads	25	95	68	64	269
Town code enforcement	20	77	81	51	244

21) If you are a farmer, please rate the following for importance to farming in the Town.

	Very Important	Important	Not Important	Score
Agriculture district protections	20	2	0	42
Limit increases in property taxes	19	4	0	42
Right to farm laws	18	4	0	40
Restricting development in or near agricultural districts	16	4	0	36
Help with environmental compliance (CAFO & NYC)	13	9	0	35
Farm neighbor education	13	7	0	33
Youth agricultural education	12	9	0	33
Access to support businesses	11	10	0	32
Purchase of development rights programs	12	8	1	31
Availability of skilled labor	12	8	1	31
Agricultural land cost	11	9	0	31
Direct marketing of products to consumers	12	8	2	30
Development of new products and markets	10	10	0	30
Financing availability	11	8	2	28
Consumer "buy local" education	7	14	0	28

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22) Should the Town establish or improve local controls with respect to the following:

Protecting the right to farm	242	Yes	93.8%	16	No	6.2%
Regulating dog kennels and large numbers of dogs	239	Yes	91.9%	21	No	8.1%
Regulating signs on Route 17B	236	Yes	91.5%	22	No	8.5%
Protecting right to timber using sound management practices	224	Yes	91.4%	21	No	8.6%
Regulating mobile home parks?	234	Yes	90.7%	24	No	9.3%
Regulating used car sales on private lots?	224	Yes	86.5%	35	No	13.5%
Regulating the construction of cellular communications towers	204	Yes	81.6%	46	No	18.4%
Restricting building heights on hotels and other large buildings	201	Yes	77.6%	58	No	22.4%
Restricting the size of commercial buildings on Route 17B	198	Yes	77.3%	58	No	22.7%
Regulating flea markets and yard sales	170	Yes	65.6%	89	No	34.4%
Eliminating jet ski operations on Lake Superior	158	Yes	65.3%	84	No	34.7%
Eliminating jet ski operations on White Lake / Kauneonga Lake	144	Yes	58.5%	102	No	41.5%
Eliminating jet ski operations on Toronto Reservoir	131	Yes	57.2%	98	No	42.8%
Eliminating jet ski operations on Cliff Lake	123	Yes	55.2%	100	No	44.8%

23) Where would you like to see the Town of Bethel in the next 10-20 years - what is most important?

	Very Important	Important	Not Important	Score
A "clean and green" environment	202	52	6	450
Profitable farms and farmland preservation	128	117	9	364
Preservation of historical heritage	129	94	29	323
Higher quality development	116	109	31	310
Improved recreational facilities for residents	92	130	37	277
Development of the tourism industry	101	112	43	271
More local shopping opportunities (e.g. groceries, gifts)	117	78	59	253
More small-scale industrial jobs	78	111	68	199
More second-home development	55	93	107	96
A thriving timber industry	34	103	114	57

Additional Comments:

Town Codes, enforce/remove old buildings	15	15.2%
17B, upgrade	11	11.1%
Tax exempt properties, too many	7	7.1%
Economic development, needed	5	5.1%
Junkyard laws, enforce	5	5.1%
Yards sales, none w/o parking area	5	5.1%
Character of Town, preseve	4	4.0%
Taxes, lower	4	4.0%
Growth, control	3	3.0%
Pharmacy, needed	3	3.0%
Home-based businesses, control	2	2.0%
Jet skis, prohibit everywhere	2	2.0%
Livery service, needed	2	2.0%
Parking regulations, enforce	2	2.0%
Public beach, needed	2	2.0%
Public transportation, increase	2	2.0%
Roads (other), upgrade	2	2.0%
Sidewalks on Rt. 55, needed	2	2.0%
Trucks, limit before 7 AM!	2	2.0%

Youth center, needed	2	2.0%
Assessments, unfair	1	1.0%
Casinos, don't need in Bethel	1	1.0%
Garbage, town pickup needed	1	1.0%
Newsletter, resume sending	1	1.0%
Performing Arts Center, a problem	1	1.0%
Police force, needed	1	1.0%
Pool, needed	1	1.0%
Power boats, regulate	1	1.0%
Schools, improve	1	1.0%
Senior housing, needed	1	1.0%
Summer residents, create problems	1	1.0%
Summer residents, needs ignored	1	1.0%
Supermarket, needed	1	1.0%
Trees cut along roadsides, remove	1	1.0%
Water park, needed	1	1.0%
Woodstock, stop destroying	1	1.0%
Yasgur's, stop harassing	1	1.0%
TOTAL	99	100.0%