

Bethel Plan of Conservation and Development



Draft Themes and Goals

February 26, 2019

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION

Overview

Each of the following slides contain an overarching theme and the goals that pertain to that theme. The listed goals are not an exhaustive list so please feel free to add, remove, or modify goals as you see fit; your input is invaluable.

Re-energize the village center as a distinctive healthy, vibrant and pedestrian-friendly community, while preserving its unique sense of place

Goals:

- Focus on restoring existing historic buildings
- Place making - create new cultural and social opportunities
- Invest in infrastructure
- Provide incentives to encourage and support development
- Build more entry level and affordable housing downtown for seniors and young professionals

Pursue context-sensitive development in the Route 6 Corridor

Goals:

- Support human-scale development and public-realm improvements
- Encourage redevelopment of underutilized or obsolete land uses
- Grow the number of housing units in the Route 6 Corridor through mixed-use development
- Provide a safe transportation network for all users, especially pedestrians, that aligns with the Plan's land use goals
- Ensure proper transition areas and buffers between commercial uses and residential neighborhoods

Position the local economy and workforce for the 21st century

Goals:

- Provide an attractive and supportive business environment
- Invest in infrastructure to support the 21st century economy
- Provide a high-quality and well-educated workforce that meets the needs of area businesses

Provide housing opportunities for Bethel's changing demographics

Goals:

- Promote universal design techniques (ensuring the built environment is accessible to anyone regardless of age, disability, etc.)
- Provide quality affordable housing for Bethel's workforce and senior population
- Provide housing opportunities for all ages, incomes, and household types
- Support a range of housing densities with higher-density housing concentrated in the downtown and lower densities in rural neighborhoods

Maintain high quality public facilities and services

Goals:

- Continue to provide high-quality educational facilities and programs
- Provide residents with high quality and diverse recreational opportunities
- Align future facility investments and services with the Town's demographic needs
- Make investments in public utilities that align with the Plan's land use goals

Protect, connect, and enhance Bethel's open spaces and natural areas

Goals:

- Improve the quality and utility of existing open spaces
- Foster open space connectivity and wildlife corridors
- Work with public and private partners to protect environmentally sensitive areas
- Reduce stormwater runoff and non-point-source pollution to preserve and improve water quality

Build and compatible and connected transportation network for all users

Goals:

- Continue to enhance the local roadway network
- Enhance bicycle and pedestrian connectivity
- Improve safety for all users
- Enhance rail connections and level of service

Capitalize on Bethel's sense of community, character, amenities, and quality of life

Goals:

- Market Bethel's sense of community and quality of life to prospective residents and businesses
- Preserve Bethel's historical, scenic, and cultural resources
- Promote and encourage community events and civic opportunities
- Continue to invest in the arts and community spaces

Improve Bethel's resilience and sustainability

Goals:

- Strengthen resiliency to climate change and improve disaster preparedness
- Encourage sustainable waste management practices
- Encourage energy efficiency and green energy

Participate in cooperative efforts to promote the health and well being of the Region

Goals:

- Work with neighboring towns to enhance transit connections between Lower Fairfield County and Greater Danbury
- Work with neighboring towns in areas of land conservation, greenways, hiking trails, wildlife corridors, and other conservation issues that cross town boundaries
- Work with neighboring communities to identify cost-effective shared-services opportunities
- Continue to participate in regional land use, economic development, and transportation initiatives through the Western Connecticut Council of Governments