

The Listening Sessions

During the public sessions, residents identified specific issues, and desires for Belmont's Village Center

What comes to mind when you think of Belmont, NH/

what are the issues?

- ◆ Lack of sidewalks
- ◆ Hard to find
- ◆ QUIET
- ◆ Clean
- ◆ Nice use of older buildings
- ◆ Limited parking
- ◆ Great potential
- ◆ Graffiti
- ◆ Houses in village are rundown
- ◆ Lack of youth activities
- ◆ No community center for youth activities
- ◆ Very rich but unknown history
- ◆ Pass through town
- ◆ Architectural inconsistency
- ◆ Labeled "the best town near a dam site"
- ◆ Lack of shade trees
- ◆ Little reason to go downtown
- ◆ Lack of green space for community use on Main Street
- ◆ Sargent Park is hidden, unsafe, confining, needs lighting
- ◆ Quaint Library
- ◆ Rural attitude
- ◆ Old Home days
- ◆ Award winning school system
- ◆ No public bathroom facilities for town events
- ◆ Aging population
- ◆ Good volunteer base
- ◆ Blue collar town
- ◆ Lack of cultural events
- ◆ Most properties in town are kept up with pride

What are the obstacles facing the town?

- ◆ Traffic doesn't stop
- ◆ Signage is lacking
- ◆ River needs to be cleaned out
- ◆ The Penstock needs to be cleaned out
- ◆ Neighborhood watch system needs to be established
- ◆ Police beat needs to be established
- ◆ No corporate sponsor donors in town
- ◆ Need a bank in the downtown
- ◆ Route 140 needs reconstruction
- ◆ No service industries or good restaurants, sports bar
- ◆ No opportunities for young people after college graduation

What would you do to change downtown?

- ◆ Change the bandstand location; you can't see it where it is. Cut the bushes around the bandstand if it stays in its present location
- ◆ Make the downtown a destination by implementing the following:
 - ◆ Create a river walk
 - ◆ Space for interesting shops, coffee shop, restaurants
- ◆ Buy the bank building, remove it and move the Gale House to this location
- ◆ Clean out trees and brush to open up and expose the river
- ◆ Create more housing downtown
- ◆ Lower the tax rate so owners can afford to improve their buildings
- ◆ Create incentives to the tax payer so they will improve their buildings

What is your wish list for Belmont Village?

- ◆ Basketball courts
- ◆ Recreation Center
- ◆ Playing fields
- ◆ Riverfront Café
- ◆ Professional office space
- ◆ Professional Associations based in Belmont
- ◆ Establish cost free community involvement
- ◆ Concerts in the bandstand
- ◆ Downtown antique store
- ◆ Sidewalks
- ◆ Bridge across the river
- ◆ Village to become an active spot for residence
- ◆ Establish better access to Sargent Park
- ◆ Picnic tables near the Penstock crossing
- ◆ Pout Pond area to become a state park
- ◆ Establish a flea market
- ◆ Dog park
- ◆ Indoor sports center
- ◆ Traffic lights need to be synchronized to alleviate traffic problems
- ◆ Public pool
- ◆ Bus to the seacoast
- ◆ Create historical trail with land markers and banners
- ◆ Renovate upper floors of buildings
- ◆ Additional parking for downtown
- ◆ Post office should be downtown
- ◆ Establish a business incubator
- ◆ Grocery store and a year round farmers market
- ◆ Information kiosk downtown
- ◆ Connect sidewalks
- ◆ Follow-through with library addition
- ◆ Outside movie theater
- ◆ Create gateways into the downtown from all directions

