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
- 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