

**TOWN OF BRISTOL
1999 COMMUNITY OPINION SURVEY**

- SUMMARY -

(All answers equal 100% of those who responded. Any discrepancies are due to rounding error.)

1. Are the following services/facilities satisfactory?

	Percent			# of Responses
	Yes	No	Undecided	
Police Services	84	7	9	601
Police Facilities	77	6	9	381
Road Services	77	14	9	576
Road Facilities	73	13	14	340
Health Services	52	11	37	556
Health Facilities	48	12	39	347
Recreation Services	77	11	12	567
Recreation Facilities	71	15	14	366
Fire Services	87	2	11	584
Fire Facilities	83	2	15	368
Town Offices Services	93	2	5	592
Town Offices Facilities	90	3	7	379
Trash / Recycling Services	62	25	13	574
Trash / Recycling Facilities	64	20	16	363
Library Services	61	14	25	556
Library Facilities	53	18	29	353
Cemetery Services	60	2	38	539
Cemetery Facilities	58	3	39	348
Emergency/Rescue Services	74	4	22	558
Emergency/Rescue Facilities	63	8	29	338

2. Are there enough of the following types of housing in Bristol?

	Percent			# of Responses
	Yes	No	Undecided	
Single Family Homes	60	8	26	569
Rental Units	54	15	30	570
Affordable Housing	54	15	31	568
Senior Citizen Housing	41	20	38	574
Low Income/Subsidized	54	9	37	557

3. Should Bristol allow more multi-family housing?

	Percent			# of Responses
	Yes	No	Undecided	
Buildings of 2-4 Units	37	51	12	587
Buildings of 5-8 Units	8	77	14	574
9 or more Units	4	83	12	574

4. Should multi-family housing be encouraged in the following ways?

	Percent			# of Responses
	Yes	No	Undecided	
Constructing new rental units	28	60	12	582
Converting large houses	38	53	9	591
Building new condos	18	71	11	586
Developing new mobile home parks	12	78	10	571

5. Should new residential building be encouraged?

	Percent			# of Responses
	Yes	No	Undecided	
In or near the village	43	48	9	567
In strips along existing roads	41	48	11	567
Distributed over more populated parts of town	31	59	10	567
Distributed over less populated parts of town	57	24	9	568
Clustered in new villages	48	38	14	556

6. Do you favor preserving the historic aspect of Bristol?

	Percent			# of Responses
	Yes	No	Undecided	
	91	4	5	588

7. Do you support town involvement to encourage/preserve the following?

	Percent			# of Responses
	Yes	No	Undecided	
Revitalization of the downtown area	87	9	4	604
Historic buildings	86	8	5	602
Farmlands	76	15	9	592
Working farms	80	13	7	593
Wetlands	80	12	8	594
Pemigewasset River	88	7	5	599
Areas of scenic or natural beauty	94	4	2	603
Areas of important wildlife habitat	87	7	5	599
Shorelines	91	5	4	580

8. Should the town improve the following recreational opportunities?

	Percent			# of Responses
	Yes	No	Undecided	
Town Beach	64	26	9	597
Skating	49	25	26	572
Indoor gym	40	33	27	569
Tennis courts	46	30	24	568
Basketball	47	26	27	566
Picnic areas	65	21	14	582
Multi-use trail	74	14	12	579
Shooting range	22	57	21	572
Boat access to river	43	42	15	576
Boat access to lake	39	49	12	582
Community building	52	29	19	573
Hunting areas	19	59	22	553

9. Would you favor allowing more of the following businesses in Bristol?

	Percent			# of Responses
	Yes	No	Undecided	
Hotels and Motels	37	54	9	577
Small Inns	80	15	5	602
Bed and Breakfasts	86	10	4	607
Supermarkets	46	47	7	599
Bars and Taverns	28	64	8	589
Restaurants	70	23	7	606
Fast food stores	24	68	8	597
Convenience stores	28	63	9	592
Bank	40	52	8	589
Antique/gift shops	59	32	8	600
Professional services	76	15	9	576

10. Should development occur:

	Percent			# of Responses
	Yes	No	Undecided	
New Business				
On NH 3A south	42	41	17	537
On NH 3A north	38	47	15	541
On NH 104 east	59	25	16	551
On NH 104 west	58	26	15	541
At current facilities	54	16	30	330
New Business				
On NH 3A south	23	50	27	363
On NH 3A north	26	49	25	372
On NH 104 east	40	34	26	368
On NH 104 west	37	36	27	366
At current facilities	55	18	27	325

11. Should Bristol encourage development of :

	Percent			# of Responses
	Yes	No	Undecided	
Shopping center/ mall	31	63	6	600
Industrial complexes	42	46	12	578
Manufacturing businesses	57	33	10	588
Home occupations	69	18	13	576
Professional business parks	62	28	10	581
Landscaped "buffer zones around businesses"	81	12	7	580
Architectural control of commercial buildings	74	17	9	569

12. Should school facilities in Bristol be encouraged in the following ways?

	Percent			# of Responses
	Yes	No	Undecided	
Use temporary buildings	29	52	19	536
Construct new buildings	21	57	22	545
Build addition to existing schools	69	16	15	590

Demographics

	Percent	# of Responses
Age		
Under 25	1	5
26-40	15	93
41-55	43	264
56-79	39	238
over 80	3	17
Education		
Less than High School	1	6
High School	22	134
2 year college	23	140
4 year college	26	156
Graduate school	27	162
Resident		
Summer resident	22	134
Year round	10	61
Rental resident	1	7
Own your home	42	253
Non-resident property owner	20	121
Business owner	5	32
Income		
Under \$15,000	3	12
\$15,000 - 30,000	12	55
\$30,000 - 50,000	26	123
\$50,000 - 75,000	25	117
Over \$75,000	34	157

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- **What is the best thing about living and/or owning property in Bristol?**

The town has managed to keep out the commercial aspect and kept the small town image.

Everything that is needed is within a short drive. No traffic. Plenty of room to breathe.

Living near the lake and mountains.

The people are so nice and the lakes is so clean and beautiful. All the services like gas, food, hardware store, drugs are close by and not out of the way.

The lake where summer residents can swim and enjoy themselves.

Newfound Lake.

Small town flavor. Mountains and lakes nearby. Good school system.

Rural setting.

Newfound Lake and its "uncommercialized" appeal.

Bristol is a beautiful little town. Whoever lives in Bristol knows what a special place this is.

Nice people, quiet town, reasonable taxes.

Convenience to the whole state, but not in the middle of congestion.

Have a business here. Zoning and Planning Boards have hurt this town over the years discouraging business. It is my hope that the present Zoning Board would be more liberal to business.

Nice historic community. A lot of spirit.

A small town atmosphere, family environment.

Lovely town that has great small town atmosphere yet lots to offer; feel safe. It's beautiful; love the lake; close to skiing.

The people.

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- What do you think is the one most important change that needs to happen to improve Bristol?

Maintain present town size and character.

Restore downtown. Too many trouble makers and youth with no parental supervision.

No Sea Doos on Newfound Lake - Noisy, dangerous and erodes the shoreline.

More recreational facilities, bike and hiking trails - camping.

Allow new business and housing to develop which will help build a larger tax base.

Stay small, maintain charm, resist concrete mentality.

Lower taxes. Need to bring in business and be very second home friendly.

Improve downtown as a center of interest and meeting area.

Control jets skis on lake.

More industry.

Keep current downtown buildings in good condition and pleasing to the eye.

Help to keep children off the street all hours of the night and out of trouble.

Clean up neighborhoods. Keep kids busy.

More industrial/commercial enterprises for a lower tax rate. More tax base.

Clean up and beautify the downtown area.

Eliminate littering and loitering.

Limit boats on the lake.

I would like to see a bike path or lane around the lake.

Control of new buildings and zoning.

Preserve what is there (i.e., historic area developed and addition of main street development with crafts, antiques, and B&B's, etc.)

To improve the schools, especially the curriculum and discipline.

Bring the sewer system to the Lake to preserve the town's most valuable resource. Should the quality of the lake and the purity of the water decline, the economic impact on Bristol would be devastating.

The town should consider sewers around Newfound Lake. The lake is one of Bristol's most important assets and it should be protected.

Improve the center of town.

Improve the central business district, while maintaining charm. Urge owners of Mill Stream to level the restaurant. It is a huge eye sore.

Make it easier (not more difficult) for new and current businesses to open/move locations. Start thinking about helping to attract new business.

More activities for teenagers.

Bring Bristol into the 21st century! Modernize, beautify, update - make it a pleasant place to be.

More Boards working together.

Lower taxes.

Encourage diversity in attracting new businesses.

Sewers for lake area.

An improved town square.

Bristol needs a good comprehensive plan to control growth, to encourage quality development and construction, to add to its tax base and control expenses to meet needs.

Downtown revitalization. Bring in new business.

Stop light in the center of town. Very important in the summer. Tear down the burned Mill Stream Restaurant...eye sore.

Encourage more tourism.

Planning Board needs to encourage business rather than putting up roadblocks.

More social activities, such as a theatre.

Reduce speed limit on 3A near lake.

Speed limit laws need to be enforced.

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- What is the one thing most important to you to preserve about Bristol?

Not to become commercialized like Meredith.

Water quality.

The clean lake.

Keeping it a small community.

The quality of Newfound Lake.

The natural scenery!

Preservation of the Lake, control boating and put restrictions on jet ski activity.

Preserving historic sites and teaching our children about Bristol's history.

Open space.

Wildlife.

- Quality of Newfound Lake.

The feeling of a small peaceful quaint town.

The historical buildings and small town atmosphere.

Property values.

Downtown Common.

Keeping the Square alive and well.

Small town feeling.

Continue to maintain beaches.