

## OPERATIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Public Authorities Reporting Information System (PARIS), under the Public Authorities Law (PAL) passed in 2005, the Bethel Local Development (BLDC) became subject to specific and detailed reporting requirements in 2010. The Bethel Local Development Corporation filed their certificate of Incorporation in May 1998 thereby in 2024 the BLDC celebrated 26 years of operations

The Smallwood Golf Course (SGC), one of many strategic projects, represents 196 acres and was purchased by the BLDC from Sullivan County in 2011 using funds borrowed from the Town of Bethel. The title for the 60-acre mining property was transferred to the Town from the BLDC in June of 2014 by resolution of the Town Board. Subsequent negotiations led to a new agreement with Sullivan County regarding sharing in the property's mined road sand, and the marketing of several parcels that were reserved for potential development as part of the original plans for the property. This transfer resulted in a \$19,080 value to the BLDC. The reserved parcels gave way to a Community Park known as the Forest Reserve at Smallwood. Many subsequent benefits are being realized from the sale including an outdoor recreation area with an inclusive playground, athletic exercise equipment, dog park and trails designed to improve the quality and quantity of leisure experiences. There is evidence that exposure to the natural world (blue-green spaces) have potential benefits for mental health and well-being. Forest Reserve was viewed as a critical element during COVID.

For the years ending 2024 and 2023, the Corporation received a commission from the Town of Bethel in the amount of 20,000 each year, for sand and gravel extracted from the parcel of land purchased in 2011.

In 2024, the BLDC received grants awards from Delaware Valley Arts Alliance, Sullivan County Legislative Discretionary Contract Program, and Cornell Cooperative Extension in addition to donations to finance local community events and programs. The list of events and programs in addition to the (SGC) include Bethel Business Association, CEAP, Farmers Market, Dog Park, Nourish Your Neighbor, Bethel Lakeside Music, Animal Abuse and Prevention, Literacy Center.

The Town of Bethel is in the same corridor that hosted the original Woodstock Music Festival, now the site of Bethel Woods Performing Arts Center and the Bethel Woods Museum. Due to its proximity many Community Events are held including Bethel Lakeside Music (BLM) in the spirit of the Woodstock's 1969 Festival. The BLM event has since expanded to showcase Sullivan County's rich talent by combining two big local events; Kauneonga Lake Farm and Makers Market with Bethel Lakeside Music. The combination offers musical performances, art exhibits, art & craft making, and culinary demonstrations. This yearlong "admission free" gathering held since 2016 unites families, friends, and tourists in a celebration of creativity, culture, and performance. The event also highlights a Tribute to First Responders. BLM takes pride in presenting a wide range of musical genres, a venue for both emerging and established artists, and makers, offering "free" live concerts, visual arts, kid-friendly activities, and culinary offerings. The 2024 schedule featured 27 yearlong holidays including live music concerts, art exhibits, art & craft making, & culinary demonstrations. BLM events are a one stop multi-sensory experience that aim to incorporate all 5 senses to benefit mind, spirit, and body.

The authority operates with 1 full-time equivalent employee. The BLDC collaborates closely with our auditors from Cooper Arias, LLP, to assist in analysis of financial implications so we can make informed decisions.

Looking ahead, we are excited to be working with Town of Bethel as grant funds were awarded to the Town by the New York State 2022-2023 Environmental Protection Fund Smart Growth Community Planning Program. The Town of Bethel will use the funds to update its 2006 Comprehensive Plan to guide future land uses, infrastructure, conservation, recreation, and housing to align with its community vision and the current economic, environmental, and social landscape.

The Bethel Local Development Corporation continues to move forward in keeping with its mission to drive the Town of Bethel economy by promoting and attracting new business, supporting the expansion of existing business, developing a capable workforce, sustaining a healthy environment, to maintain a vibrant community. To this end the BLDC places priority on the fields of agriculture, tourism, local art, and sustainable energy.

The intention of the BLDC is to develop and promote invaluable programs that are essential to the growth of the community including displaying the talents of local artists, makers, musicians fostering a strong community spirit, which has the potential to attract enterprises and visitors and engage residents in the local culture. This leads to increased patronage and sales.

We would like to thank the members of the Board of Directors and the people of Bethel for the goodwill and assistance they have continually exhibited.