

## **2021 BLDC Year-End Report Operating Projects and Activities**

Public Authorities Reporting Information System (PARIS) Under the Public Authorities Law (PAL) passed in 2005, the BLDC became subject to specific and detailed reporting requirements in 2010. These include an Annual Report (with several sub-reports) due each March and an Annual 5-year Budget Report due each October.

These reports are submitted to the NYS Authorities Budget Office (ABO)

- The 2017 PARIS Annual Report was prepared and submitted in August of 2018.
- The 2018 PARIS Budget Report was prepared and submitted in November of 2018.
- The 2019 PARIS Annual Report executive order allowed for the extensions. The report was submitted in July
- The 2020 PARIS Annual Report is delayed due to the impact of Covid 19 and was submitted in August
- The 2021 PARIS Annual Report was prepared and submitted in March of 2022.

### **Forest Reserve at Smallwood Project**

- The Smallwood Golf Course property totaling 196 acres 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 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 an outdoor recreation area offering a variety and mix of walking trails with signage and exercise equipment. Many subsequent benefits are being realized from the sale:

Projected saving of 2m projected over the next 20 years due to mined road sand

- Outdoor recreation area improves the quality and quantity of leisure experiences
- Outdoor recreation is a critical element in the economic recovery from COVID-19 Positive impacts on the physical, mental, and social health of the community
- Social bonds improve when families and seniors recreate together
- Linkage to the Healthy Bethel Program to encourage health and wellness in the Town of Bethel

### **Grants, In-kind Contributions, and Donations**

Overall grant activity in 2021 has either been significantly reduced or eliminated due to Local, State, and Federal budget cuts. The Coronavirus pandemic has placed pressure on local entities including record unemployment, rising health costs, limited supplies, and, impacted spending for infrastructure. We continue to explore opportunities to support existing and new programs; we remain confident for 2022. In 2021 (1) one grant was awarded for the program titled Bethel Lakeside Music. The one grant awarded was from Delaware Valley Arts Alliance. Cash donations and in-kind increased over the prior year. Details listed within each program 2021 Delaware Valley Arts Alliance Grant In 2021, the BLDC initially secured a 2360.00 grant from the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance to partially fund the 11-week spring-summer concert series Bethel Lakeside Music (BLM) program now in its 5th year. Later in the year, BLM received an additional 640.00 for a total of 3000.00 from the DVAA when additional funding became available. This grant exceeds the prior-year award.

### **The Kauneonga Lake Farmers & Artisan Market**

This important community program also in its 5th year supports our local farm and, art community by bringing together farmers, artisan, and value-added providers. Short-term actions created the Bethel Council of the Arts

as a result of a Town resolution. Potentially this group can assist with identifying needs. Community Programs and Organizations

### **Bethel Business Association.**

In 2015, a partnership was formed with the Bethel Business Association. Effectively, the local chamber of commerce, this group needed a strategic partner to continue its activities. After several meetings, it was agreed by the BLDC board that the BBA should become a committee of the BLDC and operate under its auspices. In 2018 the BLDC supported BBA initiatives in advertising, training, and public outreach in support of local businesses and the enhancing of the local economy. These initiatives are still active and include the production of a Bethel Guide directory produced in partnership with the local newspaper Sullivan County Democrat. BBA Membership fees were discounted by 50% due to COVID. Membership increased by 40%.

### **CEAP Program**

To assist local citizens that are having trouble heating their homes in the winter months the BLDC accepts donations for the Citizens Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) program. People in distress can apply for assistance and if deemed eligible can receive help with heating costs. This program is ongoing and is listed in the annual financials. Save Your Life Planning for the Save Your Life initiative to offer free installation of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors began in 2017. This program receives donations from local citizens and works in concert with the local Red Cross chapter. This program was implemented in 2018 and has been well received by the public. This program is ongoing and is listed in the annual 2021 financials.

### **Kauneonga Lake Farmers and Artisan Market (KLFM)**

The Kauneonga Lake Farmers and Artisan community-based open-air market feature a unique blend of over 21 vendors, farmers, artisans, crafters, and County agencies; Office of the Aging and Public Health. The KLFM supports the mission of another BLDC initiative the Bethel Council of the Arts by promoting artists at the market. The Saturday market is a social and informational meeting place whereby various government agencies such as Public Health and the Office of the Aging provide the latest news to the community.

### **Bethel Lakeside Music (BLM)**

Bethel Lakeside Music celebrated its 5th season bringing free music to the community in an open-air, safe, healthy environment. This 11-week concert series is for all ages and is sponsored by BBA and local businesses. This event is an economic driver for Bethel as it brings hundreds of people into our town and restaurants. In-kind donations exceed 1000.00 for the season. The DVAA grant provided partial funding for the musicians and other operating expenses.

### **Nourish Your Neighbor (NYN) /Shepherds Pantry**

Bethel Healthy, Cornell Cooperative, and, Sullivan 180 introduced NYN in response to food insecurity. With support from donors, volunteers, and highly committed community partners we are working to ensure families and other vulnerable individuals can access nutritious food to maintain good health. This program works in with tandem Bethel Healthy and Shepherds Pantry. This program was extremely well supported as food insecurity during the COVID. Food insecurity among adults and children has increased during the COVID-19 pandemic due to rising levels of unemployment, poverty, and limited access to school nutrition programs because of school closures

### **Bethel Healthy**

Bethel Healthy partnership with the Town of Bethel was established to encourage health and wellness through access to healthy food opportunities including NYN. This program is ongoing This Annual Report was approved at the BLDC Board meeting