
Bethel Local Development Corporation

2009 Year-End Report

The Bethel Local Development Corporation ('BLDC') is a not-for-profit corporation formed to assist the Town of Bethel, NY in promoting economic activity and job creation. The purpose of this report is to inform the Town Board and the public of our accomplishments during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2009. Suggestions and comments from the public are always welcome and help to identify new and interesting opportunities.

During 2009 the BLDC had the following significant accomplishments:

1. An application to NYS Parks and Recreation for land acquisition was submitted in 2008. In 2009 we were informed that this grant would not be approved.
2. The plan to renovate the old Youth Center behind the Justice Court was abandoned because the building was not structurally sound. The building was demolished. A new plan has been developed using a modular building to house the Youth Center and a facility for the Literacy Volunteers of Sullivan County. Private donations of \$3,185 were received in support of this project.
3. A fundraising project titled 'Friends for Friends' was established to assist in the renovation of Friend's Restaurant following a fire that severely damaged the building. Private donations of \$1,715 were received this year. Friends requested that the funds be donated to the three local fire companies. The three Fire Companies redirected their shares to the Bethel Reformed Church Food Pantry. [Some of the financial transactions were recorded in January 2010.]
4. The two-year paperwork process for the Golden Feather Award was continued during 2009. The funds are expected in 2010. The Town of Bethel has advanced the \$50,000 and is awaiting reimbursement.
5. Save the Lake fund was initiated with private donations totaling \$3,441.75. A study of the lake by Allied Biological was commissioned and executed at a cost of \$5,900.
6. The first \$200,000 Kauneonga Lake Main Street grant (KLMS I) was largely completed with the reimbursement of two additional commercial projects totaling \$55,000 and streetscape reimbursement of \$25,000.
7. The second \$200,000 Kauneonga Lake Main Street grant (KLMS II) that was approved in 2008 was allocated to four building renovation projects. These projects are expected to be completed and reimbursed in 2010.
8. The Citizens Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) was continued through the winter of 2009-2010. In the fiscal year 2009 donations of \$175 were received and \$2,169.70 was paid to assist local residents. At the end of 2009 funds of \$5,055.30 remain available.
9. The Kauneonga Lake Farmer's Market completed a successful season. Allison Mehr-Ruef was hired as Market Manager with \$2,500 in funds provided by a Community Enhancement Grant from the Gerry Foundation.
10. The Community Enhancement Grant noted above also included \$7,500 to fund the development of a Kauneonga Lake District Marketing and Business Plan. That plan was prepared and delivered to the BLDC by Pattern for Progress and is available to the public for review.
11. The BLDC participated in the Town's Bicentennial celebration. The BLDC received \$12,008 in private donations and fundraising proceeds and paid \$551.82 in related expenses. The majority of the expenses were paid by the Town's General Fund. The BLDC will need to reimburse the Town for these expenses in 2010.

The town of Bethel continues to experience growth, opportunity and challenge. The BLDC stands ready to help manage these developments for the benefit of the town and its visitors.