

## BBA OFFICERS

Pres: Nick Nikolaidis  
VP: Bev Washburn  
Sec: Heidi Nikolaidis  
Treas: Carroll Ketchum

# BBA NEWS

Dec 2005

Bethel Business Association

## COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, January 4

6:30 PM

Regular Meeting  
at Paradigm Consulting Co.

Thursday, January 19

6:30 PM

Regular Meeting  
at Paradigm Consulting Co.

Monday, January 30

7:30 AM

Legislative Breakfast  
at the Black Forest Cafe

Wednesday, February 1

6:30 PM

Regular Meeting  
at Paradigm Consulting Co.

Thursday, February 16

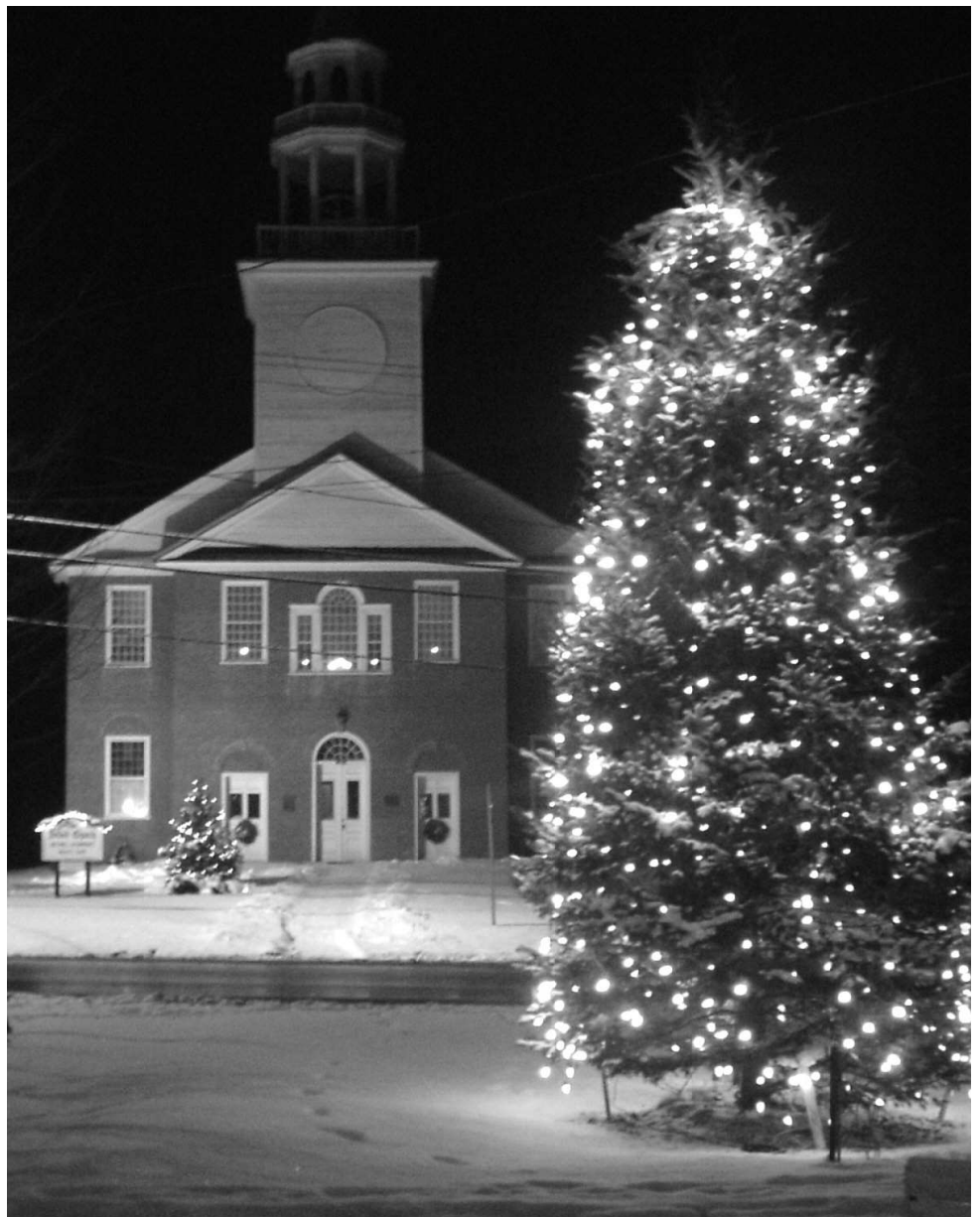
6:30 PM

Regular Meeting  
at Paradigm Consulting Co.

## JOIN THE BBA !!!

The BBA is a non-profit, unincorporated association of professional and business people dedicated to improving the commercial, aesthetic, civic and environmental aspects of the town of Bethel. We want YOU to join the BBA. Come to our meetings and see what we are all about. You may write us at: **BBA, PO Box 342, Bethel, VT 05032,** or call the membership chairperson Geneva Gaiko at 234-9876.

**THE BETHEL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION  
WISHES YOU  
A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON  
AND A  
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR**



The Christmas Tree on the Bethel Common  
and the First Proprietors' Meeting House (now the Brick Church)

**Check it Out!!!**

**[www.bethelvermont.com](http://www.bethelvermont.com)**

### **SELECTBOARD CONSULTS BBA ON BRIDGE ILLUMINATION**

In late November, the Bethel selectmen studied designs for four light poles to be erected on the new Church Street Bridge. The bridge lighting is intended to conform aesthetically to light poles already in the village. The selectboard decided to consult the Bethel Business Association for advice or suggestions.

Accordingly, at the association's meeting on December 7, president Nick Nikolaidis appointed a committee consisting of Bev Washburn, Peter Nikolaidis, and Kirk White to study the issue and make recommendations. Those with thoughts on the matter should contact Washburn at 234-5562, Nikolaidis at 234-6368, or White at 234-9670.

### **BETHEL MILLS WILL GO TO COURT**

On November 16, 2005, Bethel Mills filed a notice of appeal with the Vermont environmental court against a "jurisdictional opinion" by Julia Schmitz, the coordinator of the district environmental board. The opinion placed under Act 250 jurisdiction a residential parcel of land owned by Bethel Mills that is contiguous to the northern side of the Bethel Mills industrial facility in Bethel.

Schmitz' opinion was in reply to a request from Bethel Mills to find that the residential parcel is not "involved land" with respect to any Act 250 requirements placed on its contiguous industrial facility. Bethel Mills noted that it acquired the residential property long after it had made the improvements to its industrial facility, that it has never used the residential property for any commercial or industrial activity, and that it has made no physical change to the residential parcel in support of activities in the adjacent industrial facility.

But in denying the request, Schmitz noted that the contiguous residential property screens the operations of the industrial facility from other residential homes, and that Bethel Mills acquired the property before it received its permit for the various improvements to its industrial facility. As such, the coordinator found that the residential parcel is indeed "involved" in the Act 250 permit that Bethel Mills received.

### **TOWN BILLS SCHOOL FOR TOXIC MISHAP**

In November, the town invoiced the Bethel schools for expenses that the town incurred in connection with the infusion of contaminants into the town's wastewater system last spring.

Town, school and state officials believe that the school's art department was the source of the contamination, since the paints and glazes used in making ceramics in the art courses contain the same heavy metals detected in the wastewater tests.

The contamination impeded the normal ultraviolet treatment of the wastewater, forcing alternative disinfection procedures, palliative measures, and testing to determine the cause of the contamination. The total expense to the town was \$10,294, roughly equivalent to one penny on the municipal tax rate.

School administration is exploring the possibility of insurance reimbursement to cover the expenses resulting from the incident. The school has also been working with school officials to institute procedures to ensure that there will be no repetition of the incident.



BBA President Nick Nikolaidis and Paradigm Consulting Company owner Peter Nikolaidis are greeted by Mascoma's Bethel branch manager Sheila Jacobs at Mascoma's mixer on Thursday, December 8. The bank has been a pillar of the Bethel community and a key factor in the town's economy for generations.

## ***TOWN HALL REQUIRES A SAVINGS PLAN***

In early December the town hall finance committee met to discuss funding issues related to the building's eventual rehabilitation.

Committee members agreed that the reasons for restoring the town hall (that will be declared on grant requests) are threefold: 1) to serve as a multipurpose community center for civic meetings, social events, exhibits and performances, 2) to preserve a well-known historic landmark, and 3) to function as a vital element for the revitalization of Bethel village.

It was underscored at the meeting that, in order to qualify for outside grant funding, the town will have to match about 25% of the funds from its own resources, which would probably mean total commitments in the \$250,000 range. Such commitments can accumulate over a protracted period in the form of volunteer work (quantified on an equivalent dollar basis), official town appropriations, and individual private donations. There is already \$50,000 in the town hall fund from voter appropriations and some donations over the past few years, and it will count towards the town's commitment.

Selectboard chair Neal Fox noted that in order to achieve a meaningful financial match of around \$250,000, there will have to be significant voter appropriations in coming years, as well as substantial gifts from some of the wealthier citizenry and from the larger companies in town that have had a close relationship with the town. Small fundraisers, contributory projects, and widespread small donations from Bethel residents are of also of value to demonstrate to potential grantors the breadth of public interest in the town hall, but by themselves will probably not be sufficient to generate a significant monetary commitment.

In the ensuing discussion, a consensus emerged that the best way to generate the necessary funds would be through a recurring appropriation of a fixed annual amount, as was done for other town projects in the past. Such appropriations need to be supplemented by pledges of recurring annual donations from individual and corporate sponsors, many of whom have had a close and symbiotic relationship with the town for years and even generations, and who should have an interest in the preservation of Bethel's icon.

A recurring annual infusion in the town hall fund of perhaps \$25,000 from town appropriations and private pledges would raise enough money for substantial progress towards current priority work on the building---such as fixing the drainage problem and restoring some of the brick veneer. It would also provide an important dollar number to match against potential outside grants to pay for other aspects of the town hall's preservation and restoration.

Fox said that the selectboard will study the town's 2006 budget needs over the next several weeks, and will come up with a suggestion for an annual town appropriation.

## **OUR BEST WISHES TO ALL OUR LOYAL BBA MEMBERS**

A M Turk Tax Associates, Inc.  
Acme Carriage Works  
Barry, Kevin  
Bethel Mills  
Bethel's Brick Store  
Black Forest Cafe & Caterers  
Bob Gauthier Real Estate  
Cardinal Business Services  
Chuck Adams Builder  
Clifford of Vermont, Inc  
Costanzo, Christopher  
Dean's Auto Service  
Ellis Music Co, Inc.  
Eric Benson Appraisal Company  
Gaiko, Robert  
Green Mountain Economic  
Development Corporation  
Kathy's House of Styles  
Ketchum, Carroll  
Ladybug Beauty Salon  
Laurelin Health Center  
Acupuncture Clinic  
Locust Creek Country Store  
Logan Enterprises  
Louie's New & Used Furniture  
Lucky's Trailer Sales & Parts  
Mascoma Savings Bank  
Masters, Chris

Mills Hardware  
Mt. Hunger Equipment Services  
My Little Jessie Press  
Nobile, Ellen  
Noble Beckwith American Legion Post 66  
Northfield Savings Bank  
O'Dell, Ola  
Onion Flats  
Paradigm Consulting Co.  
Perry, Dick  
Poulos Insurance Inc.  
Quality Painting/Wall Papering  
Randolph National Bank  
Bob Gauthier Real Estate  
Richardson, Joyce  
Rock of Ages  
Spaulding Press, Inc.  
Ted Green Ford, Inc.  
The Herald of Randolph  
The Travellin' Willy B's  
Tozier's Restaurant  
Ultramotive Corporation  
Upcountry Chimney Sweep  
Vallee Improvements  
Valley Motors Sales, Inc.  
Viera, Meg  
Washburn's Laundromat  
White River Credit Union

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

2005 was a very good year for the BBA in carrying out its goal to make Bethel a better place for all of us.

The flower basket project, which beautified our downtown, was achieved with the financial help of many Bethel residents and out of town donors. A very big thank you to all! We also installed trash receptacles on Main street, with help from town government.

Of course, the BBA continued to sponsor its Legislative Breakfasts, and will do so again in 2006. We initiated a series of business mixers that helped promote member businesses, and underscored the role each one plays in our community. We have also launched a Bethel Revitalization Initiative to coordinate the efforts of civic groups in the community and to tap the latent energy therein. Plans are in progress for Bethel's first Home and Garden show next year. Also in the works are some fundraising dinners and accompanying entertainment. During this Holiday season a dedicated group of BBA members, with the help of our Volunteer Fire Department, decorated the downtown and the village green.

I would like to see these examples of cooperation expanded to greater levels next year. I would like to share with you a slogan from an old postcard, which reads "United we stand, divided we crawl."

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you!!

Nick Nikolaidis