

Town of Bethel  
Town Council Meeting Minutes  
July 2, 2024 – 7:00 p.m.

**1. Meeting Called to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by K. Phillips. Present were K. Phillips; K. Layfield; P. Kough; M. Shaver; and Bethel Town Clerk, M. Hawkins.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by K. Phillips.

**3. Secretary's Report:** P. Kough presented the June 4, 2024 Town Council Meeting Minutes. M. Shaver made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. P. Kough seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**4. Town Clerk's Report:** Town Clerk, M. Hawkins, presented the Town Clerk's report. M. Shaver made a motion to approve the Town Clerk's report. P. Kough seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**5. Treasurer's Report**

**a. Bills to be Paid:** K. Layfield presented the bills to be paid. M. Shaver made a motion to pay the bills as presented. P. Kough seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**b. Treasurer's Report:** K. Layfield presented the June 2024 Treasurer's report. M. Shaver made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. P. Kough seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**c. 2024/2025 Town Budget:** M. Shaver presented the 2024/2025 Town Budget. P. Kough made a motion to approve the 2024/2025 Town Budget. M. Shaver seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**6. Building Permits:** None were issued in the month of June.

**7. Bracken Property Status:** No report was given.

**8. Complaints:** No Complaints were filed.

**9. New Leaf Solar Farm:** This will be handled under Ordinance Committee.

**10. Ordinance Committee:** A discussion was held regarding New Leaf Solar Farm. The possibility of needing variances was brought up. It may be necessary to bring in a consultant. The questions we have from the attorney have to do with Article 9 definitions. A lot of issues were brought up that need to be discussed with the Town Solicitor. We need the Town Solicitor to verify what our obligations are regarding a project like this. We need to make a list of our questions. Ordinance meetings should be planned for days and evenings. Section 2-2(d): There was a discussion about the proposed changes made for clarification.

**11. Planning and Zoning Commission:** Steve Beers was sworn in as a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission. A meeting of the Commission will be held next Wednesday July 10 at 5:00 p.m. to approve the comprehensive plan.

**12. Feral Cats:** Arrangements have been made with the Brandywine SPCA Georgetown campus for a weekly appointment on Tuesdays for TNR of one cat. P. Kough made a motion to pay the fee of \$25.00 for each cat that is neutered or spayed and which receives shots for rabies and feline leukemia. This would be for one cat a week, if a cat is trapped. M. Shaver seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**13. Tree Trimming:** A discussion was held regarding how to notify people. Notices to the property owners will be put in tax bills. P. Kough will draft a letter. M. Shaver will assess the town streets.

**14. Old/New Business:** K. Layfield said paper is getting more expensive. She suggests that we project the agenda and the minutes on the tv.

K. Layfield said some work needs to be done at the dock. K. Layfield has decided to contact DNREC to see if they can help do anything with erosion. Working with Jim Sullivan they have come up with the idea that they might be able to get the grant written by DNREC. Anything done that touches Broad Creek needs to be approved by DNREC. K. Layfield wants the council to write a letter asking the home owners on each side to consider participating in allowing DNREC to go on their property to evaluate the shoreline with the idea of having a living shoreline installed.

An area to launch kayaks is being considered.

M. Shaver made a motion to allow Kathy to take the next step and send a letter to Baker and Anderson regarding the living shoreline. K. Layfield seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

P. Kough shared the pictures of the possible bushes for the triangle park.

K. Phillips showed M. Shaver that there was a sink hole behind the Community House. James Hill Company hand unloaded soil to fill the sinkhole and did not charge the Town.

**15. Adjourn Meeting:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.