Bethlehem Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
Bethlehem Selectmen Office
September 19, 2016

Present: Chairman Glavac, Selectman Staples, Selectman Lalame, Selectman Ubaldo, Selectman Blanchard.

Chairman Glavac opened the meeting at 6:30pm. He announced that it will be a work session with no public input.

John Casella and Kevin Roy came before the Board and did a slideshow presentation on a Bethlehem Sustainability Park.

Chairman Glavac said it was bold and ambitious and said the Board was not planning on this. He said it would have to be a town vote and that there will be a lot more questions to come. Selectman Ubaldo said the Board doesn’t decide about this because it would be a town vote. He said it was a wonderful presentation but would need more details. Selectman Blanchard asked about the Economic Development part of the presentation and asked if they are intending to set it up or if it would be an outside source. Mr. Casella said they would fund it by giving $75,000 a year to it. Mr. Roy said it would probably be a real estate developer but should put it out to bid to market it. Mr. Casella said they could help with that and provide some of their talent. Selectman Blanchard asked for more information about the gas to energy and geothermal plan. Mr. Roy explained it and said they use the waste heat to heat their shop and won a national award for that. He said they had some BTU leftover so they developed a green house for Bethlehem Elementary School. He also said with the expanded District 5 there would be 1.2 million BTU’s per hour. Mr. Roy said the type of businesses they think would be interested in utilizing the industrial park would be wood processing, pellets, and paper mulch. He said with the gas to energy it would bring energy users to the source. Selectman Lalame said there would need to be a future meeting with the public involved. She said it affects zoning also and other Boards would need to be involved because the ordinance would need to be changed. Selectman Lalame said when the agreement was made it was final. She asked Mr. Casella what do you say to people that question that. Mr. Casella said it is in the hands of the town, the taxpayers can decide on economic plan. Selectman Staples had the same questions as Selectman Lalame. Chairman Glavac said the Board will decide on how to go forward with an informational meeting.

At 6:50 Chairman Glavac moved to adjourn. Selectman Staples seconded. Carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,
April Hibberd