

ROSENDALE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Meeting of October 12, 2023. Approved 11-09-23

Present:

Penny Coleman
Susan H. Gillespie
Darrell Hamlin
Sean Nixon
Jenn Sturiale
Amie Worley

Absent:

Town Liaison Carrie Wyckoff

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. The agenda was approved.

1. Climate Smart Communities

Rosendale has been awarded Bronze Certification status as a CSC municipality. We will receive a sign that can be installed somewhere in town. The current point count is 140 points, against 300 that are needed to advance to Silver Certification. Completion of the new water and sewer system, already underway, will add points, as will the town's use of a natural weed-killer.

MOTION: Sean moved that the REC add this to the agenda of every meeting, and strategically discuss how to advance CSC and CEC (Clean Energy Commission) status, in consultation with the Supervisor. Unanimous.

ACTION: Penny will set up a meeting with the supervisor to discuss.

2. Solar Committee

Susan reported that no progress has been made on an engineering study of the roof of the Municipal Center. A conversation with Tom Konrad resulted in information that Building Mgr. Joe LaFera also seeks funding for a new electrical system. Susan suggested an application to Partners for Climate Action for both. Information on the grant opportunity can be viewed [here](#). The deadline for this round is November 21.

ACTION: Susan will contact Supervisor Walsh to advance this project.

3. Community Compost Committee

Jenn and Sean visited the transfer station; the manager was responsive. Rosendale can join the program offered by Community Compost [CHECK], at a cost of \$175/month plus a \$300 consulting fee from the town. Residents then pay \$1 per drop-off. The company sells the compost. Jenn will develop a one-pager for further discussion and presentation to the Supervisor and Town Board.

ACTION: Jenn to develop and circulate a one-pager.

4. Tree Committee

At the entry to town, Sean reported that the walnuts have come back above the rocks but below the road. Sweet gum is an alternative possibility. Tree planting could provide shade for pedestrians and an attractive entry to Rosendale for drivers. The Highway Department said they “would think about it.” Amie reported that the area by the memorial is available and is managed by the Ladies Auxiliary. Trees for Tribes apparently doesn’t work in riparian buffer zones like the one we are considering. Ultimately, these matters would be decided by the town board.

ACTION: Sean will talk to Brian at DEC (Rosendale resident).

5. Social media

ACTION: Next step is to get a meeting with the Supervisor. Susan will create a list of issues to discuss with the Supervisor.

6. MS4

The REC is required to circulate information on MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System). The system discharges water into the Rondout without treatment, and thus requires the town and its residents to avoid actions that could pollute the stormwater. (Additional info is [here](#).) The REC fulfills its responsibilities by posting ads at the theater. The theater has invoiced the town for \$900 for this year, which exceeds our budget of \$700.

7. Budget

We have been reminded that we need to request a budget for next year.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58.

Minutes were prepared by Susan H. Gillespie