

Rosendale Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes for December 14, 2023.

Approved January 11, 2024

Present:

Amy Worley, Chair

Darrell Hamlin, Vice Chair

Susan H. Gillespie, Secretary

Penny Coleman

Sean Nixon

Jenn Sturiale

Town Liaison Carrie Wykoff

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m. The agenda was approved.

With a quorum established, minutes from the November 9 meeting were unanimously approved as amended.

1. *Membership*

We again reviewed the membership status of Commission members. Amie and Sean must visit the town office to take the pledge, but have difficulty getting there during working hours.

ACTION: Amie and Sean will confer with the clerks to discuss options. Darrel plans to submit a new application before his term ends on 12/31/23.

2. *Social media*

Darrell is working on a Facebook page.

ACTION: Darrel will ask Mindy serve as co-administrator so that the Town has a voice in day-to-day management and decision-making. He asks members of the Commission to submit pictures for consideration.

3. *Clean Energy Communities*

Penny reported that we now have 1,100 points, and need another 1,000 points and one more action to earn a grant of \$10,000 for the Town. The next step is to submit a scoping document to NYSEERDA, including events we plan to sponsor or join. It involves three campaigns: solar, EV purchases, and clean heating and cooling. Goals include 160 community solar subscriptions and 30 clean hearing installations. Penny will serve as project manager. Outreach opportunities include another plant swap, co-sponsorship of an event on saving money on your electricity bill that is scheduled for the Rosendale Library (Jan 11, 5:30-6:30 p.m. and online), participation in HV Climate Solutions Week, Kingston Earth Fair (May 11), the Farmers' Market, Frozendale,

the Pickle Festival, Ulster County Fair, Street Festival, or an event on batteries and fire safety that would respond to concerns expressed by the Supervisor. The Rosendale Theater's new director Rob Leitner is planning a series with an environmental theme and might be interested. Other possibilities for cooperation include the High Falls Food Coop.

ACTIONS: Penny will submit the CEC scoping document to NYSERDA for approval.

4. Tree planting & Trees for Tribs.

The committee continues to support tree planting in riparian areas at the entrance to town. Next steps include further conversation with the highway department and establishment of a budget or raising funds to buy saplings.

5. Compost

As previously discussed, the program with Community Compost has a cost: \$300 to join, plus \$175 per month (annual total: \$2,400). Kingston has a new, free composting system. Schools and local restaurants, which have large amounts of compostable material, are to be approached separately.

ACTIONS: Susan will investigate the Kingston program, which is free to residents. Jenn will check with Marbletown to learn more about their experience, and will bring a bucket to show at the next meeting.

6. Budget

REC has been allocated a budget of \$1,500 for 2024. This will cover the series of ads at the Rosendale Theatre. Additional items could include trees, plaques for information of the public about Rosendale's environmental sites/history, printing, and events. We would have to fundraise for the composting program.

ACTION: Amie will talk to the Rosendale Theatre to review the cost of our MS3 ads and other options.

7. Solar Siting

No discussion.

8. Seed and plant swap.

Possible dates include March 16 or 17.

9. Next meeting

The date of the next meeting is changed to **Thursday, January 18**, in order not to conflict with the event at the Rosendale Library on the 11th.

ACTION: Amie will inform the town about the meeting change.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Darrell Hamlin