

ROSENDALE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Meeting of July 13, 2023. Approved August 10, 2023

Present:

Penny Coleman

Susan H. Gillespie

Darrell Hamlin

Jenn Sturiale

Amie Worley

Excused:

Sean Nixon

Town Liaison Carrie Wykoff

REMINDER: Members whose terms expired in December 2022 (Amie, Susan, Sean) need to notify the Town Clerk of their intent to continue.

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

1. The agenda was approved. Susan noted that MHET would be presenting on CCA at 6:30 p.m. on July 14 as part of the Third Thursday Environmental Series. The video can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3kUqIBoy82Q&ab_channel=ThirdThursdayEnvironmentalSeries.

2. Approval of outstanding Minutes. The Notes of the June 8 meeting were approved (there was no quorum in June so there are no formal Minutes.) Motion was made by Penny, seconded by Susan. Unanimous.

3. Social media presence. Darrell, Amie, and Jenn have developed a model of the REC website; it will feature new items, events, and accomplishments. The team is looking for a banner photo, which should be horizontal.

ACTION: Darrell will schedule a meeting with Supervisor Walsh to review the process for getting it approved.

ACTION: Susan will search old Minutes for past events to be listed. The purpose, focus, and schedule for updating the site will be discussed at future meetings.

4. Willow Kiln Parking Lot Swale Clean-up follow-up discussion. At the June meeting, the proposers were asked to come back to the REC with ideas about funding opportunities. We discussed the need to understand any connections between invasives removal and water flow. Highlighting the link with the D&H Canal as an aspect of Rosendale's history could be interesting. The REC would also like to see attention paid to the walk behind the former canal, which leads from the Willow Kiln to Stewart's. Knotweed is a serious problem and is spreading; the REC will consider potential actions.

ACTION: Amie will look into research on possible actions by Erik Kiviat and others.

5. Climate Smart Communities Task Force report and discussion. Penny reported that she successfully submitted documentation for Rosendale's recognition as a Bronze-level Clean Energy Community on July 7; a response is expected by September 18.

6. Solar siting committee. Susan reported that she and Tom Konrad had spoken and that Tom had arranged for Peak Engineering to examine the roof of the Municipal Center. The cost will be low and can be covered from shared funds; Jill LaFera is informed.

ACTION: Susan will follow up with Tom.

7. Tree Committee report. Ailanthus is regrowing where trees were removed, and there are numerous weed trees behind the Youth Center, including where the REC planted

trees some years ago. We again discussed Amie's proposal to hold an auction for trees that people could plant in town, once we understand where suitable locations are.

ACTION: Amie will invite the Rec Commission to join us in an action to remove the invasives behind the Youth Center.

ACTION: Penny will reach out to the Planning Board to ask whether they can help identify possible sites for tree planting on town property.

8. Outreach and Education

Penny and Amie have volunteered to table at the Farmers Market. For tabling, the REC needs a banner and materials that we can distribute. We decided that we can aim to table monthly, starting in August.

9. Transfer Station

Penny described a request from Supervisor Walsh for action at the Transfer Station, where there are heaps of bottles and cans that could be turned in for money to refurbish the town playground behind the Community Center.

ACTION: Penny will research costs to put up a proper sign, after speaking with George at the Transfer Station.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56.

Minutes taken by Susan H. Gillespie