

Rosendale Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes for September 10, 2024

Approved: March 20, 2025

Present:

Amie Worley, Chair

Susan H. Gillespie, Secretary

Penny Coleman

Sean Nixon

Jenn Sturiale

Excused: Darrell Hamlin, Vice Chair

Town Liaison: Carrie Wykoff

The meeting was called to order at 6:44 p.m.

1. The agenda, prepared by Darrell Hamlin, was accepted, with the addition of an item on a potential Housing Smart Campaign.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the REC meetings of April 11, May 9, and June 13

Susan moved to accept the minutes of the three meetings. Jenn seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

3. Clean Energy Communities Report

Penny reported that the next Tier in the Community Campaign for EVs is, in the foreseeable future, unreachable. The heating and cooling category (installation of heat pumps) requires 5 more participants; the installations must have occurred since January 2024. Satisfying this requirement will result in a grant of \$20,000 and get us to the 5,000 points needed to be awarded the \$100 (150,000). Building Inspector Nick Wulczyn is helping tremendously. NYPA has agreed to carry out the energy audit of the Municipal Center. Marbletown is paying \$100,000 toward this project, Rosendale \$15,000. Previous grants of \$75,000 and (the expected 5000 point award of \$150,000 will be applied to the purchase of two needed EVs for the town. Any leftover funds will be applied to the cost of renovating and greening the Municipal Center. Brownfields could be of interest for September.

The Willow Kiln charger has been repaired with funds from NYSERDA.

Community Solar is lagging. There is much to be done to raise awareness and sign up community members.

4. Community Solar

The response so far has been poor. Many people seem not to have received the letter – including 4 members of the REC. The problem seems to come from the list that PowerMarket (PM) used; it was not the Assessor's list, which is accurate. PM is also moving to offer an incentive: \$100 to customer who signs up, \$100 to the person who signs them up.

ACTION: Susan will be in touch with PM about the lists. She will also get a copy of the original letter to share with REC members.

ACTION: Jenn will design materials for outreach (flyers, palm cards, posters).

ACTION: Jenn will create a Facebook post about the Community Solar opportunity.

5. Housing Smart Communities. Penny presented briefly on this program.

This is a program of Ulster County (<https://hsci.ulstercountyny.gov/>). It provides guidance and support to communities seeking to expand housing. Many local municipalities have joined. Joining requires a series of steps, as follows: (Step 1) passing a resolution, (Step 2) designating a Housing Smart Community Coordinator, (Step 3) establishing or designating a Housing Task Force, and (Step 4) submitting the registration to join the program.

Susan moved for the REC to take this up, with the expectation that a more formal motion will need to be passed by the Town.

Amie seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

6. Community Compost

Jenn is still working on researching options beyond Community Compost to carry out the program until such time as Ulster County's UCRRRA is able to provide composting facilities to individual municipalities, including Rosendale. These interim programs will require funding. We briefly discussed options for collecting the fee at the Transfer Station, or establishing a membership program like Kingston's.

ACTION: Jenn will seek information on additional potential partners and will draft a plan, including the membership option and financial implications.

7. Tree Committee

Sean reported that he plans to discuss possible riparian locations with the DEC and with Superintendent of Highways Bob Gallagher. It is too late now to secure trees for this year. The next application window is in 1925. Planting is better in the fall; for this to work, we envision the following schedule: Fall 2024, Town approval; April 2025, submission of grant application; Summer/Fall 2025, grant approval; Fall 2025, planting. The REC will take responsibility for watering.

ACTION: Sean will follow through on exploratory conversations and will create a presentation that can be shared with the Town Board.

8. Outreach and Education

We discussed holding an event at the Library, focusing on Community Solar and also introducing the REC, and continuing our presence at the Farmers' Market, to take place on the third Sunday of every month. Flyers, etc., can be used to create an expectation for these events. Susan has a table and chairs that are available in her lobby across the street from the Farmers Market. We assigned REC members responsibility for organizing the tabling, including staffing and materials, as follows:

September 8: Penny

September 15; Susan and Jenn

September 22: Sean.

ACTION: Penny, Susan & Jenn, and Sean will organize and carry out tabling on those dates.

ACTION: Jenn will update materials.

9. New meeting time

Going forward, the REC will meet on the *third* Thursday, beginning with September 19.

The meeting concluded at 8:10 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Susan H. Gillespie

