

Rosendale Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes for January 11, 2024

Approved February 8, 2024

Present:

Amy Worley, Chair

Susan H. Gillespie, Secretary

Penny Coleman

Sean Nixon

Jenn Sturiale

Town Liaison Tim Craven

Excused: Darrell Hamlin, Vice Chair

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. The agenda was approved with one change in the order of items.

With a quorum established, minutes from the December 14 meeting were unanimously approved.

1. *Presentation by Michael D’Arcy, Environmental Outreach Manager for Ulster County*

Mike made a presentation on food waste, with a focus on Ulster County’s Food Waste Prevention and Recovery Act. He stated that within the County compliance has been terrific. He also sketched out the broader context of waste management, mentioning that in the US 38% of all waste consists of food. Food waste also takes up the most space in landfills, while at the same time 44.2 million people in the U.S. do not have enough to eat. For Ulster County, the scale of food waste is such that every day between 10 and 15 tractor trailers full of waste make a total of 60 or more 250-mile trips to Seneca Meadows.

In Ulster County, waste disposal by schools and hospitals is regulated. The County maintains a list of all affected businesses: Rosendale does not have any Regulated Large Food Scraps Generators.

NYSERDA has a Green Schools Initiative that has been very successful. Grants are available for many of these programs – Julie Noble, Sustainability Manager for Kingston, would be a good source of info on this and will attend the REC’s February meeting.

2. *CEC Progress*

Penny reported that our proposal was submitted to NYSERDA, and was accepted. It involves three campaigns: solar (including community solar), EV adoption, and heat pumps. So far, we have earned 1,100 points under the CEC program, and we need one more “high impact action” to be eligible for a grant of \$10,000. When we reach 3,000 points, we will be eligible for \$50,000. Currently, Penny is entering information on fleet usage, putting together documentation on monthly energy usage of 6 facilities, with a deadline of mid-February. Tim Craven will facilitate.

3. Next meeting

We will invite Julie Noble to the next meeting, scheduled for Thursday, February 8.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Minutes were prepared by Susan H. Gillespie.