

Rosendale Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes for March 14, 2024

Approved April 11, 2024

Present:

Amy Worley, Chair

Susan H. Gillespie, Secretary

Penny Coleman

Sean Nixon

Town Liaison: Tim Craven

Excused: Darrell Hamlin, Vice Chair; Jenn Sturiale

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 p.m. The agenda was approved.

With a quorum established, Amie moved to accept the minutes from the January 11 meeting; Penny seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

1. *Plant Swap*

The Plant Swap, which is being organized cooperatively with the Rec Commission, will take place on Sunday, April 7, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Rosendale Rec Center. Susan and Sean will be present in addition to Amie and Jenn, who are setting up the event. Penny will be away.

ACTION: Amie will arrange for publication in the *BlueStone Press* and *Shawangunk Journal*

2. *Compost program*

The Kingston model will not work for Rosendale, since the town, unlike Kingston, does not employ trash collectors or own trucks that could be used for this. Some features of Kingston's program can be adopted, however. These include the strong emphasis on community education. A survey is one means to lay the foundation for a successful program and can be circulated at the Plant Swap among other means. Questions may include 1) Do you currently compost? 2) Where do you do it? 3) Are they prepared to pay for it? 4) Do they prefer to drop it off at the landfill, or at other sites in town, or have it collected from their residence or business?

Re: payment, we discussed options—will George at the transfer station take payment, and keep track of users? Alternatively, we can collect a fee that is good for a year. We could also imitate Kingston's focus on personal connection -- residents would be asked to visit the Municipal Center and pay for a sticker that would entitle them to deposit their recycling at the landfill. They

would also receive a packet like Kingston's and be given a # to open the collection bin(s). Under this version, Community Compost will pick up the compost weekly and transport it to UCRRA.

ACTION: Sean will create a survey to be distributed at the plant swap. It can also be given out in other ways to be decided.

ACTION: REC to appoint someone to monitor recycling at the Street Festival ("compost police").

3. Trees

Sean continues to pursue funding options. He proposes to plant native species, incl. arbor vitae and flowering trees like dogwood, at the entrances to town. Amie can provide info on trees hosting animal life. We will still need to run plans by the Highway Department (Robert Gallagher, Superintendent; Deputy Superintendent: Dorene Whitaker; Town Board Liaison: Councilman Havranek).

ACTION: Sean will prepare a presentation for the Town's April 3 Workshop Meeting or April 10 Town Meeting.

4. CEC campaigns

Penny is working independently on meeting the campaign goals (5 new EVs, working on community solar sign-ups). She will work with Nick Wulczyn at the building department to collect info on new heating and cooling installations. She has drafted a press release.

5. Community Solar

The MHET proposal needs to offer access to different options. Central Hudson offers numerous companies people can sign up with.

ACTION: Susan will secure a new DRAFT letter that includes various options for residents, to be run by the Supervisor.

6. MS4

ACTION: Sean and Amie will design new ads to run at the Theatre.

7. Central Hudson rate hikes

Susan proposed to ask the Town Council for a resolution against Central Hudson's request for a 16% rate hike for electricity.

ACTION: Susan will DRAFT a Motion based on those passed by other municipalities, for presentation at the April 3 Town Workshop Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Susan H. Gillespie