

Rosendale Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes for November 9, 2023. Approved
December 14, 2023

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 6:35 p.m. The agenda was approved.

With a quorum established, minutes from the October 12 meeting were unanimously approved as amended.

1. *Membership*

We reviewed the membership status of Commission members. Amie, Susan, and Sean were due to renew on 12/31/1922. All are in the process of renewing. All other terms will end 12/31/23.

2. *Community composting*

A DRAFT one-page statement, including costs, was reviewed and will be presented to the Supervisor. Costs are \$175/month plus a one-time \$300 consult fee. There is interest on the part of town officials, and Marbletown, which has used the firm Community Composting since 2016, is reportedly satisfied with the service. We discussed various possibilities for raising the needed funds through user fees, for example charging a \$10 fee per bucket, or \$1.50 per use, with a free bucket provided after 10 uses. Amie will research Kingston's composting policies. The consensus was that it would be preferable not to charge a fee.

3. *Social media*

Supervisor Walsh asks us to use the town's website, rather than creating an outside website. Mandy Donald is the clerk who is responsible for assisting town bodies with this. The group agreed that it is also important for us to be active on other social media, including Facebook and Instagram. REC members Darrell, Sean, Jenn, and Amie will work together to address this in cooperation with Mandy, with Darrell taking the lead on Facebook. Controversies can be addressed as they arise; state law does not allow us to delete or ban anyone. This issue is to be

discussed at every REC meeting until it is resolved. We still lack information on access to our email account Rosendale.cca@gmail.com. Amie will continue to seek information on this.

4. *MS4 Report*

The REC is responsible for publicizing Rosendale's MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) program, for example through ads in the Theatre. The town's Planning Department submits an annual report.

5. *Budget*

A bill for advertising at the Theatre was sent to the town and has been paid. In the past this was a REC responsibility; however, the REC does not have funds at present. Carrie will find out when the REC budget for 2024 is due. We discussed possible budget items including:

- MS4 advertising (\$?)

- Composting (\$2,400)

- Tree planting (\$500)

- Plaques @\$200 indicating sites of historical and/or environmental interest

- Events (\$300)

6. *CSC status update and scoping document discussion*

Penny reported that Rosendale's Climate Smart Community program has been awarded Bronze status, as confirmed by the DEC and reported in the *Bluestone Press*. Bronze certification requires completion of actions worth 120 points – Rosendale has completed actions worth 170 points. Silver status, which has so far been achieved by only 10 municipalities, including the City of Kingston, is the next level and requires 300 points. Penny compiled provided a list (attached) of actions Rosendale has taken as a Climate Smart Community to reduce energy use.

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Minutes provided by Susan H. Gillespie