

Rosendale Commission for Conservation of the Environment
Minutes July 16, 2015

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Naja Kraus, Chair.

Present: Naja Kraus, Chair; Kelli Havranek, Vice Chair; Mike Brophy; Laura Heady; Susan Gillespie; Joe Liuni (arrived 7:40 pm); Joan Jordan; Chris Pryslopski, Liaison to Town Board.

Excused: Jessica Barry.

Guests: John Maylie, Rosendale resident; John Messersmith, Town of Rochester Environmental member; Ben Ganaon, T'n Rochester Environmental Commission member and WAVE volunteer; Nicole Laible, Rockland County Environmental Mgmt. Asst. and WAVE volunteer; Jen Metzger, Town Board member.

Review of Meeting Minutes: The draft minutes of the June meeting were reviewed and amended. A motion was made by Laura to accept the June minutes as amended; seconded by Mike. Roll Vote: Unanimous "Yes".

Guest Speakers – WAVE: Ben Gannon has taken training to coordinate and train volunteers on DEC protocols for conducting water quality assessments. Ben has "kick nets" and specimen vials available for use during our Ulster County Creek Week assessment of the Rondout Creek water quality to secure specimens and will have necessary forms for filing reports. One volunteer per group (town) needs to be trained to conduct the assessment. Our responsibilities are:

1). Select sites: We should pick three (3) sites that are accessible by volunteers in shallow, fast moving water. Samples should be taken in 15 sq. ft. sections, 1000 feet apart with the "kick net" in place for five (5) minutes then dumping the specimens into a bucket for sorting. About one (1) hour will be needed to sort through the macro's and placing them in labeled vials; more blue macro's indicate the health of the stream, red indicates toxicity. Samples will be picked up by the coordinators and will be sent to Atlanta for study and evaluation. Our choices were: Under the Trestle; the end of Snyder Ave. and Lower James St... Laura will forward these to Ben and he will forward to Alena Onion at DEC, she will either accept or reject sites.

2). Forms: A). Perception form is completed while standing in the water; answers are simple and made from observations. B). Habitat Assessment form is completed from collection of macro's.

Creek Week will run from September 19th (Saturday) until October 3rd; the WAVE sampling season will officially end on September 30th. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, July 20th, 7:00 pm in the Town of Rochester to solidify plans. Naja suggested that the Town of Marbletown could come on board with us.

We will further discuss and finalize our plans at our August meeting.

Street Lighting: Jen Metzger gave an overview of the Street Lighting Study conducted over the last 3 years. The recommendations seem to be to keep lights at intersections and talk to Central Hudson about removing excess lights. Jen stated that of the 192 street lights in town we own one (1); there is a formula that CH follows for removing lights based on "undepreciated value" which would cost us quite a bit of money based on existing lights; NYSERDA is offering grants for the LED lights and encourages towns to purchase their own lights. There are three (3) local companies that install LED lighting in Highland and Newburgh and LED lights require little maintenance compared to current lights. Joe will scan and copy Jen's report for RCCE members to study. Joe stated that the Town of Esopus is going with solar street lights.

Old Business:

Inter-municipal Creek Week Outreach: Kelli stated that she had reached out to kayaker Jeff Boos and he would be on board; he inquired about time.

Naja inquired if the issue to insurance had been settled; Joe responded that our volunteers might be covered under WAVE; Joe will inquire and confirm whether a larger outreach group (public event) would be included.

NRI & Map Framing: Laura stated that Ulster County DEC has agreed to print the full set of the 11"x17" NRI maps. The frames that we had selected were available through Michael's Crafts on special of 2 for 1 price of \$34.99; she will recheck since this will be an online purchase which would total \$384.89 for 22 frames; these maps/frames are for the hallway at the New Town Hall. Further discussion took place about adding frames for the current NRI maps on display at the Community Center which are unframed at the present. It was decided that if the price prevails we should purchase a total of 44 frames and complete both projects. The money will come from our current budget line. A motion was made by Joan that the RCCE purchase 44 11"x17" frames from Michael's Crafts for a price not to exceed \$800.00; seconded by Naja. Roll Vote: Unanimous "Yes".

Town Emissions Inventory: Due to the absence of Jessica no status update was available.

Recommendation for Appointment of New RCCE Member: Naja proposed recommending the appointment of Danyelle Davis to the RCCE since the Town Board accepted the resignation of Lou Mastro and announced an opening on the Commission; no new applications have been received to date. **A motion was made by Naja; seconded by Laura recommending the Town Board appoint Danyelle Davis to the RCCE to fill the unexpired term of Lou Mastro. Roll Vote: "YES" by Laura, Naja, Susan, Mike, Joe. "ABSTAINING" were Kelli and Joan.**

Joan will forward letter of recommendation to Supervisor Walsh and the Town Board and requesting the appointment be made at their earliest convenience.

Chris advised the members that the "Chicken Law" is coming up for a public hearing on August 12th at the Town Board meeting; individual comments are welcome. Naja asked Chris to bring up to the Town Board that RCCE is disappointed that we were not given notice about the proposed changes to the chicken and wood burner laws which we worked on in their original drafting.

Meeting Reports:

Planning Board:

Mike stated he did not attend the Planning Board meeting.

Solarize: Susan reported that there was a local "kickoff" last night at the Rosendale Café; about twelve (12) signed up for consultation. Two firms, Lotus and Apex Sun are available for those interested in obtaining more information. Rosendale and Woodstock are hubs for solar information. On July 25th Bob Vosper will host an open house to demonstrate his ground solar display at his residence on Lucas Ave. in Cottekill at 1:00 pm. Susan reported that the current program run until November 15th, the Federal Tax benefit runs until 2016; there is a 10-15% discount currently built in.

Smart Climate: There was no report as no one attended the meeting.

Next meeting: Thursday, August 20th, 7:00 pm. Naja and Laura will be on vacation, Kelli will chair the meeting.

A motion was made by Kelli to adjourn at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Jordan, Secretary