

Rosendale Commission for Conservation of the Environment
DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting held on 4-21-16

In attendance: Kelli Havranek (chair), Danyelle Davis, Susan Gillespie, Laura Heady, Sharon Wiacek

Excused: Chris Pryslopsi (town liaison), Mike Brophy, Joan Jordan

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

We welcomed **Sharon Wiacek** and reviewed the purpose of the RCCE with her. Sharon offered to take on the task of water sampling with Riverkeeper, replacing Mike Brophy, who cannot do it this year. Laura reported that Riverkeeper is seeking funds to improve the analysis of water to identify human vs. animal waste. Sharon may also be able to help with WAVE, DEC's state-wide volunteer sampling program. Laura reported that Ulster County Creek Week in September will include another outreach event with WAVE. She plans to take the 8-hour WAVE training this year.

Action:

- . Sharon will get information on Riverkeeper Sampling from Mike Brophy and Jen Epstein.
- . Kelli will introduce them.

1. Pilgrim Pipeline Outreach/Mapping

Dany and Laura presented the GIS analysis they produced, with assistance from Naja Krauss, based on the Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) prepared by RCCE. Within a 1000-foot buffer they identified potential impacts that should be included in the scoping. These include impacts on groundwater, surface water, ecological communities, protected lands, historical resources, agricultural resources and rare species. The Commission reviewed the report, which is nearing completion but still lacks data.

Action:

- . Laura made and Susan seconded a motion to forward the analysis to the Town Board with the understanding that Laura will add to the incomplete information. The motion was unanimously approved.
- . Laura will forward the DRAFT report to Chris.

We discussed overlaying parcels on the map and asking Jen and Chris to give us direction on what kind of outreach might be needed.

2. MS4.

Kelli read a letter from a resident who was concerned about Rosendale's follow-through on Storm water protection. We discussed the message we want to put out to the town in an ad at the Rosendale Theater, possibly as a regular series highlighting different issues and events. Kelli has obtained a PO request.

Action:

. Laura, Dany and Sharon will get together to design a slide or slides with a message or messages to review at the next meeting.

3. Membership

We reviewed the candidacy of **Laura Wyeth**.

Action:

. Laura made a motion that the Commission recommends **Laura Wyeth** for appointment. Dany seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor and will bring total membership of 8 out of 9.
. Kelli will convey the recommendation to Chris for approval by the Town Board.

4. Report on the Solar Leasing event on May 4 and other Solar Events

It was reported that the Solar Leasing event on May 4, co-sponsored by the Ulster County Climate Smart Committee, Citizens for Local Power, and the Town of Rosendale, drew approximately 100 people to the Rec Center despite the late-season snowstorm, and that the panel was very well received, with a welcome by Jen Metzger; presentations by Orange County Planner Dave Church, Sullivan County attorney Steve Mogel, assessors Tom Jackson and Michael Dunham, and RCCE member Susan H. Gillespie; and a discussion moderated by County Legislator Manna Jo Greene that also included Max Joel of NYSEDA. In addition to the discussion of serious legal concerns about some of the lease offers, there was discussion of Community Distributed Generation (CDG) as an alternative option for landowners and communities to gain from solar development. The video of the event will be posted on the CLP website.

Action:

. Susan will circulate a link to the event video when it is available. She will also circulate a list of resources on CDG that CLP is preparing.

Laura reported on the Mohonk Mountain House event on solar development. At that event, Ethan Winter of the Land Trust Alliance discussed solar as a possible source of income for some land trusts and landowners to maintain conserved land. Rosendale planner Dave Plant was present. We discussed opening up a dialogue on zoning for solar with the Planning Board, and of inviting Billy Liggan to a future meeting.

Action:

. Kelli will ask the Planning Board for information on current zoning for the RCCE to review at the next meeting, and discuss next steps with the Planning Board.

5. Rondout Creek Watershed Summit

Laura and Kelli reported on the meeting and we discussed the potential of cooperating with other towns to educate about and improve our waterways. We reviewed the issues that came up at the recent meeting in Rochester about watershed protection, incl. the state of culverts and streamside enhancements. We discussed the desirability of finding new ways to make the Rondout more attractive and encouraging people to make use of it.

6. Trashfest

Chris was going to talk to the Recycling Center and the Chamber as to whether the initiative to ban or restrict the use of plastic bans by merchants is an option for Rosendale. We discussed exploring the possibility of working on this when we have more time in the future, and agreed to hand out flyers for the Trashfest event if they become available.

Meeting reports

7. EMC

Danyelle has permission to represent RCCE but has not yet attended a meeting: no report.

8. Climate Smart Community Report

Susan reported that the Public Service Commission (PSC) has made changes to Interconnection rules to make it easier for municipalities and others to connect to the grid. A new screening process should allow some projects to proceed very quickly, and the State will appoint an ombudsman to address problems. The PSC will hold public hearings on the Clean Energy Standard, which is designed to help New York meet the goal of 30% renewable generation by 2050. There will be two hearings in Kingston on Thursday, May 26. Citizens for Local Power are organizing community participation at these hearings and will provide talking points.

9. New Business

We decided that the RCCE will not meet in June or December.

We discussed plans for an event at which Erik Kiviat would make a Hudsonia presentation on the report on the Binnewater Hills and Lake Conservation Assessment, which has not been publicly presented. We would like to talk to the Planning Board about co-sponsoring. A tentative date is Thursday, October 20, at 7:00 at the Municipal Building, following an RCCE Meeting at 6:30.

Action:

- . Laura will check with Hudsonia.
- . Kelli will check with the Rec Center.
- . Kelli will talk to Billy about co-sponsorship with the Planning Commission.

Adjourn:

At 9:15 Susan moved that we adjourn. Sharon seconded.