

Rosendale Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes for January 16, 2025

Approved: March 20, 2025

Present:

Amie Worley, Chair

Susan H. Gillespie, Secretary

Penny Coleman

Sean Nixon

Jenn Sturiale

Excused: Darrell Hamlin, Vice Chair

Town Liaison: Carrie Wykoff

The meeting was called to order at 6:48 p.m.

1. The agenda, prepared by Darrell Hamlin, was accepted.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the REC meetings of November 21, 2024

Amie moved to accept the minutes of the REC meeting of November 21, 2024. Susan seconded.
The motion passed unanimously.

3. Community Solar campaign

Brad Tito of PowerMarket has informed us that the array offering the 15% discount for LMI customers has been fully subscribed. Hence the 15% option, which is dependent on special federal funding called the Inclusive Community Adder, is no longer available. Brad will let us know if he is able to identify other eligible solar projects in our region.

ACTION: Susan will check with PowerMarket to confirm the status and figure out what to tell people who signed up.

ACTION: Carrie will send Susan a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding that was signed with PowerMarket.

4. Solar on the Municipal Center.

NYPA is evaluating whether the roof can be used. Penny and Tom Konrad of the Marbletown Environmental Commission are on top of this. The project will include an electrical upgrade for the building and backup facility. Rosendale and Marbletown have \$200,000 for ground-mounted solar as well.

5. Community Compost

Penny reported that she had spoken with Mark Rider, Executive Director of the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA). Unfortunately, UCCRA did not receive that grant that would have allowed them to provide aerators that would support composting at municipal sites. Following on the Commission's previous meetings with Angie Peony (Community Compost) and Julie Noble (City of Kingston), Rosendale is now on its own to develop funding to either 1) hire a company like Community Compost to transport compost, or 2) purchase and aerator and bear-proof containers for a municipal facility at the transfer center.

ACTION: Jenn will update the spreadsheet reflecting her research on potential carriers, in preparation for a presentation to the town.

6. Outreach and education; events

Plant Swap: Jenn and Amie are planning another Plant Swap, scheduled for April 6, from 11:00 to 1:00 or 1:30 at the Rec Center, working with the Rec Dept. (Kristina Carr and Claudia Joseph). The previous one was considered successful and is a good way for the Commission to reach Rosendale residents.

ACTION: Jenn will take the lead in making arrangements, including preparation of a flyer, posting on Facebook, and other outreach.

Weeding the riparian buffer behind the Rec. Center. This was successful in previous years but we need to see whether it is needed.

ACTION: First, members of the REC will check out the condition of the area to see whether weeding is needed. We will decide on potential action at our monthly meeting in April.

7. Dark Sky initiative

Members of the Commission expressed concern about lighting in town. Sean suggested the city of Flagstaff, Arizona, as an example of how this can be approached and possible actions, including designation as a Dark Sky Community.. The town has apparently switched to LED bulbs

ACTION: Sean will check the town's code as it applies to our "light industrial district" or other locations. The REC will also want to contact the Heart and Soul initiative and the Economic Development Commission (Carrie Wyckoff is the town liaison).

8. Plastics in restaurants

With a number of new restaurants opening in town, the time seems propitious for the Commission to reach out about using compostable take-out containers. Penny and others suggested a campaign that may include a sticker for restaurants that use only compostable packaging. We can also check on whether restaurants are complying with the Ulster County

"Skip the Straw" law. We want this to be a friendly contact, along the lines of "We want Rosendale to be amazing and on top of this. How can we help you do your part?"

ACTION: Penny is gathering examples of acceptable packaging, drawing on Marbletown examples. She will create a leaflet, which can be based on Marbletown's.

ACTION: Various members of the REC will meet and talk to restaurants in town.

- . Well, Nice, Jan. 24, 5:00 p.m. (Amie, Carrie, Jenn, Sean)
- . Lift, Jan. 31, 12:00 (Jenn, Sean, Susan)
- . Rosendale Café
- . Parillada
- . Creekside
- . Truss and Trestle.

The meeting concluded at 8:20 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Susan H. Gillespie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Minutes prepared by Susan H. Gillespie