

Rosendale Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes for March 20, 2025

Approved: April 17, 2025

Present:

Amie Worley, Chair

Darrell Hamlin, Vice Chair

Susan H. Gillespie, Secretary

Penny Coleman

Jenn Sturiale

Town Liaison: Carrie Wykoff

Absent: Sean Nixon

The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m.

1. Amie Worley, as chair, reminded Commission members that formal Commission approval is needed before outside groups may advertise support for events.

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

3. The Minutes of the REC meetings of September 2024, January 2025 were approved unanimously, following motions made by Susan and Jenn and seconded by Penny and Susan. Since the February meeting did not have a quorum, only Notes were available. Penny moved their acceptance, seconded by Amie and approved unanimously.

It was noted for future reference that meetings of the Environmental Commission must be held within the Town of Rosendale.

4. Plant Swap

The 2025 Plant Swap will take place on Sunday, April 6, at the Community Center, in cooperation with the Recreation Commission.

ACTION: Amie, Jenn Penny, and Susan will distribute fliers that Jenn developed.

5. Community Solar campaign

Penny reported that funding is no longer available through the CEC (Clean Energy Communities) program, meaning that there is no longer a financial benefit available to the town from introducing Community Solar. The Hudson Valley Regional Energy Committee (HVRRC), an

informal group, is working on introducing new solar at the County level, although it may take two years or more.

6. Solar on the Municipal Center.

The roof and electrical system of the Municipal Center are currently not adequate for mounting solar. Penny and Tom Konrad of the Marbletown Environmental Commission are on top of this. The immediate objective is to complete an electrical upgrade for the building and backup facility. Rosendale and Marbletown have secured \$200,000 for this project through the County, split 50:50. A grant proposal to NYPA has been completed and would provide an additional \$195,000 toward the building, including the audit.

7. Community Compost

Jenn has contacted all the vendors that were mentioned in the previous meeting with [TK]. As previously reported, the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency (UCRRA) did not receive that grant that would have allowed them to provide aerators for composting at municipal sites. Mark Rider continues to seek funding for operations; if successful it would be available at the end of 2027.

ACTION: Jenn will update info on the 5 companies that are currently available to haul compost in the interim. Drop-off sites could include UCCRA, New Paltz town recycling, Greenway Environmental Services.

8. Outreach and education; events

The film "Plastic People" is scheduled for the Rosendale Theatre Friday, April 25, at 7:00., with an accompanying presentation by Jen Metzger, Mark Rider, and Megan Wolf. Contributions to the event will be split between Marbletown and Rosendale Environmental Commissions. The event is also an opportunity for the two Commissions to reach out to the public, encourage participation in our work, and advertise opportunities for membership in the Commission(s) by distributing applications.

ACTION: Amie will talk with Rob at the theater about reserving space for tabling.

9. Zero waste and the Street Festival.

Penny reported that the Festival is not impacted by the County's zero waste law and it is too late to impose rules for 2025. A zero waste plan can and should be developed for 2026, and potentially for the Pickle Festival. The County legislature received \$25,000 for zero waste in 2019 that has still not been spent.

10. EV chargers

Jenn is in touch with an individual who is interested in organizing EV charging stations, possibly including funding that would be repaid in the form a percentage on customer charging costs. We discussed possible locations (Binnewater, the Bistro, Trailways or Rec Center, the bike store). More information on this is needed before approaching the Town.

ACTION: Jenn and Penny will seek further clarification from the individual.

The meeting concluded at 8:17 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Susan H. Gillespie

Susan H. Gillespie