THE ROWLAND CO-OP

Board Meeting Minutes

April 23, 2017

Prior to the meeting Laurel shared her new email address: canalhouse20@hotmail.com

1. Call to Order: 5:00 PM
2. Attendance: Elsie Andersen, Lorraine Bentley, Kenny Christianson, Christine Foland, Laurel Mason
3. Kenny reported that the Keystone Development Co-operative, a grant providing organization, can’t provide financial assistance to the co-op at this time. The Rowland Co-op is presently too small in scope.
4. Laurel reported:
* The situation at the Rowland Café is still in limbo. The mortgagee, Zaya, has not responded to inquiries regarding the money already paid to him.
* She questions the legality of the handling of Bobby’s mortgage. Bobby has an attorney in Hawley, and she is working with Bobby and the attorney.
* If Bobby or another buyer can come up with $100,000 by September, Bobby or the other buyer can own the building outright.
1. Lorraine suggested that perhaps an investor could be found to buy the café building.
2. Kenny reported:
* The Rowland Co-op could consider taking over the cafe building if funding could be found.
* Kenny believes the co-op could create a market for local economic activity by creating jobs.
* As the current owner of the toll house, Kenny is painting and refurbishing it. Volunteers in the community are helping.
* Kenny sees the toll house as the home for the co-op. He hopes the co-op can begin as a presence in the community by selling ice cream at the toll house and then establishing a buyers’ club. He foresees adding groceries, local produce, local crafts and an outdoor grill for grilled foods.
* He is currently investigating alternative ways to compensate for the lack of running water and bathroom facilities at the toll house.
* Kenny is going to go to Pike County’s record office to look at the deed for the café building. He is also going to look into the status of the tax obligations.
1. Meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.