**THE ROWLAND CO-OP**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**July 19, 2020**

**Participants:** Lorraine Bentley, Kenny Christianson, Christine Foland, Robin Hoose, Howard Leifman, Carole Linkiewicz, Randy Nilsen, Win Olsen, Bergit Pinkston, Charles Weissman

1. **Call to Order:** 2:40 PM
2. **Minutes of last meeting:** Approval at next meeting. Minutes accidentally unavailable.
3. **Treasurer’s report**: The Co-op bank account currently has a balance of $1,196.92.

Outstanding debts include:

Pocono Pro Foods $906.32

PA sales tax $177.74

Contractors $660.00

Here are the monthly sales figures:

April 2020 $2991.70

May 2020 $6895.30

June 2020 $7113.49

July 2020 $5140.73

For the first quarter (April-June 2020), the Co-op had sales revenue of $17,000.49. At that pace the Co-op will have $68,000 for the year. Initial estimates were $70,000.

There was $2,960.51 in taxable sales. Sales tax of $177.74 for the quarter (our first, 2020’s second) was paid on July 19, 2020.

Expenses are still being derived. There is a glitch in the computer with COGS (cost of goods sold).

1. **Water Update**: On July 4, Kenny met with Michael (Jimmy) Sandor, a local engineer and long-time friend of Kenny’s. Jimmy has previously recommended filling in the canal and putting the well on Co-op property. That option allows the Co-op to avoid deed issues, working with neighbors, and crossing any roads. Using the canal area would require extending the drain pipe from the post office runoff. The concern with this option is the negative connotation of filling in a portion of the historical canal. Consensus was reached among the participants that this option was less onerous than working with the owner of the home across 590 to get permission to run a waterline from that property under Route 590 to the Co-op Market. The option to dig a well on Co-op property by filling in a portion of the canal could possibly be completed by next spring.
2. **Membership Report:**  As of July 19, the Co-op has 40 paid households representing 103 individuals. The Co-op has received $1000 in dues.
3. **Updates**:

* The July 4th river parade was a great success. The event had over 50 participants with many colorful floats. Prizes were awarded in several categories. Should this become a Co-op tradition?
* Access to the river for the parade is a question. Glen Johnson kindly gave access to the river this year. Howard Leifman will likely be able to offer access next year. He is planning to build a stairway down to the river on his property at Lockhouse 19 on the Towpath. This would enable a longer float journey.
* The Co-op has hired its first two employees. Jimmy Christianson will work full time on Sunday and Tuesday-Thursday. Aliyah Oba will work on Mondays and Tuesdays. On Fridays and Saturdays the Co-op will use contract and volunteer labor.
* The kitchen has been painted and cleaned.

1. **Discussion:**

* Marian Keegan emailed suggesting that the Co-op discuss the basement ramp. She had a mishap when parking her car, because she didn’t realize the ramp was there. It was suggested that the Co-op mark the ramp withorangetraffic cones.
* The old historic General Store sign can still be used, and Kenny is considering ways in which that can be done. The sign has great nostalgic appeal in this community.
* Recruitment of members and funding sources are an ongoing issue. Kenny is exploring foundations that support local co-ops. The Community Foundation is an example. He is also looking into programs that provide funding for hiring the disabled and individuals with special needs. Pennsylvania has a program for Youth Employment. The county pays for the labor.
* The members present discussed political connections and agreed that it is a good strategy to take advantage of them.
* The issue of selling cigarettes was raised. The group discussed the pros and cons. The cons expressed are the health hazards of smoking, and the fumes emitted by smokers. Some people are very sensitive and even allergic to these fumes. The pros included the revenue, and the increase in customer traffic that the sale of cigarettes would enable. People would spend less time burning fuel to purchase cigarettes if cigarettes are available locally. Christine made the motion to sell cigarettes, and Robin seconded. The motion carried.
* Mike Sorce is considering helping with the Co-op website.
* Howard suggested buying security cameras through a company called Blink. He owns these security cameras and is very happy with them. The cameras are a one-time expense. Monitoring of the cameras is done by the owner via cell phone.
* The Co-op has a wish list. One of the wished-for items is a desk. Randy Nilsen has a desk that she will donate to the Co-op.

1. Volunteers: Lorraine has volunteered to be the volunteer coordinator. Thanks to Lorraine and Jane Olsen for doing dishes, Jeff Thompson for shuttling floaters during the July 4th Parade and traveling to Reading for soda. Thank you, Winnie for offering to drive. Thanks to everyone for your support!

Meeting adjourned at 4:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Christine Foland, Secretary