**THE ROWLAND CO-OP**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**August 30, 2020**

**Participants:** Lorraine Bentley, Caryn Christianson, Kenny Christianson, Christine Foland, Robin Hoose, Marian Keegan, Carole Linkiewicz, Laurel Mason, Randy Nilsen, Bergit Pinkston, Diana Potts, Charles Weissman, Lori Emanuele, Tom Shelp

1. **Call to Order:** 2:40 PM
2. **Minutes of last meeting:** Minutes for the June 28 meeting and the July 19 meeting were approved as presented.
3. **Treasurer’s report**: The Co-op bank account currently has a balance of $294. Outstanding check to Brian Oram, $1850.

Here are the monthly sales figures:

April 2020 $2991.70

May 2020 $6895.30

June 2020 $6624.95

Month Sales revenue Cost of goods sold Net sales revenue

Apr-20 2991.70 1901.81 1089.89

20-May 6931.12 4849.84 2081.28

20-June 7113.49 4754.98 2358.51

20-July 8188.53 4836.96 3351.57

1. **Water Update**: Kenny has been in touch with Brian Oram of BF Environmental Engineering through emails. Also, there is now a third supervisor in the water department for DEP. The Co-op may be able to use the original well which is across the street from the Co-op and above grade. The new supervisor also seems to be more amenable to allowing the Co-op to drill the well at the site first selected by the Co-op, which is on Co-op property at the end of the parking lot. This site is also more than 100 feet from the post office, which is a requirement. Use of this location for the well will not require filling in a portion of the canal.
2. **Membership report:**  One June 23, the Co-op has 47 paid households, representing 120 individuals. We have received $1175 in dues.
3. **Updates:**

* A new cooler for produce has been purchased.
* Caryn is planning a fair from 1-5 on Labor Day. The fair will be outdoors. Music will be presented on the porch. The band, Strange Brew, will play from 1-2, Danny Engvaldsen will play from 2:30-3:30, and Bobby Tellefsen will play from 4-5. Mask decorating will be available. 550 masks have been donated to the Co-op for this purpose. Vendors will be available, as well as free food samples from the Co-op Market. Social distancing will be required. The event will be canceled in the event of rain.
* The application for participation in the SNAP Program is in progress.
* Kenny contacted Matt Osterberg, County Commissioner, concerning hiring special needs individuals and starting a youth employment program. A youth employment program would allow the Co-op to open a restaurant without a food permit. Kenny is awaiting a decision from Matt Osterberg.
* On October 17, The Lackawaxen River Conservancy is planning a towpath cleanup in conjunction with the Sons of Norway and the Men of Bethel. The Co-op will also join in the cleanup and provide an outdoor barbeque at the end of the event.
* The Co-op has a license to sell tobacco. Kenny has found a distributor. An issue for the Co-op is the requirement that anyone selling tobacco must be at least 21 years old. Not all employees who work at the cash register have reached the age of 21. The group decided that all tobacco products will be removed from the premises overnight, and a sign will be placed on the door to that effect.
* Workmen’s Compensation has been approved for the Co-op Market.

1. **Other Business:**

* The group discussed planning a fall festival to take place on Sunday, October 18. The festival could include a celebration of local Native American history as well as other history. A final decision was not made. Included in the discussion was including Halloween and harvesting themes.
* The Care Cabin will be holding a silent auction of spaceship lawn ornaments. The group discussed whether the Co-op should make a bid. No decision was made. The Co-op has a good cooperative relationship with Jeff Thompson of the Care Cabin. The Co-op donates food items to the Care Cabin that are close to the expiration date. The suggestion was made that the Co-op donate $5 gift certificates. Robin has extra gift certificates from her previous business, which she will donate to the Co-op for this purpose. Randy made a motion that providing $5 gift certificates to the Care Cabin be approved. Robin seconded. The motion carried.
* Kenny is considering adding a security system to the Co-op Market. He is looking at Blink, which requires a one-time expenditure and is monitored from a cell phone, and he is also looking into Simpli Safe.
* Kenny plans to use business cards that he has already purchased to make Co-op membership cards.
* The suggestion was made that the Co-op provide discounts and designated shopping times for seniors. The consensus was not to add these features to the Co-op Market at this time.

1. **Volunteers:**

* Lorraine continues to coordinate Co-op volunteers. An on-going need is for drivers to pick up items to be sold at the Co-op. These trips include pickups at the Lake Region IGA in Hawley, Grandma Goldsachs in Lord’s Valley, the DiFilipi bakery in Montecello, and Lake Wally. Pickups are usually made on Tuesday, Friday and Sunday. Woodloch and the River Market in Barryville are other possible sources of inventory.
* Howard put up a railing for the Co-op. Kenny is painting and scraping. The door will be painted red.

1. **Next Meeting:** Sunday, September 27, 2020 at the Rowland Co-op, 2:30-4:30 PM
2. **Meeting adjourned:** 3:55 PM

Respectfully submitted: Christine Foland, Secretary