**THE ROWLAND COOPERATIVE**

**Minutes**

 **Meeting April 24, 2022**

 **Lackawaxen Firehouse 3:00 – 5:00 pm**

Participants: Eric Abrahamsen, Lorraine Bentley, Kenny Christianson, Christine Foland, Robin Hoose,

Marian Keegan, Carole Linkiewicz, Winnie Olsen, Bergit Pinkston, Anna (guest)

1. Call to Order: 4:15
2. Approval of minutes from March 27, 2022: Motion to accept minutes made by Robin, seconded by Marian.
3. Treasurer’s report:

- The annual insurance bill of $1185 to Utica Insurance has been paid.

- Sales taxes for the first quarter of 2022 have been paid.

- The Coop account is currently at $166.80.

 Outstanding checks: Calkins $141.35

 Unpaid bills: DeFilippi’s $93.50
 Eastern Propane $113.83

 Pocono Pro Foods $476.64

- Kenny is still working on 2021 finances, will need for 501c(3) application.

- The well fund account currently has a balance of $1916.46

4. Water Update: Kenny has resumed communications with Mary Ann Seese, the PADEP Sanitarian. She has discouraged us from using Fritz Brothers or Williams for drilling, since the have not been submitting the necessary paperwork to the state. She recommended Cresswell Drilling. We will follow up soon. The cost may be less than our budgeted $30,000.

5 Membership report: 8 membership renewals, 1 new member so far for 2022.

6. Updates:

 - Kenny applied for a grant from the Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund for the Lackawaxen River Conservancy for $120,000 on March 31. The funds will be used to renovate the toll house and establish an office for The Lackawaxen River Conservancy. The lower floor can be used for a bait shop and outdoor store, and the top floor can be a meeting room. The rear of the first floor may also still be used for commerce.

Since it is a matching grant, then Kenny will provide $100,000 with a ten-year lease to the conservancy, and the coop has pledged $20,000 of labor for the project.

 - Kenny attended a non-profit workshop sponsored by the Greater Pike Community Foundation in Milford at the Tom Quick Inn on April 12. There are many potential funding sources, especially for projects such as handicapped access or low-income housing. The workshop helped to highlight our need for 501c(3) status. Once we achieve that, the township will be able to help us with other public grants.

 - Kenny has actively started to apply for 501c(3) status for the cooperative. The IRS no longer accepts paper applications and the website is clunky.

 - Kenny notified the Delaware and Hudson Transportation Heritage Council that The Lackawaxen River Conservancy will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the canal on March 12, 2023. The Pennsylvania Legislature officially allowed the Lackawaxen to be canalized on March 13, 1823. We still have to find a date for the coop celebration

8. Upcoming events-

 Saturday, May 14 – Norway Festival, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm. Norwegian baked goods would probably be a popular bake-sale item. A possible raffle item to consider is a kransekake. Games will be included in the festivities. Winnie can provide CDs of Norwegian music. Planning and advertising need to be discussed.

9. Next meeting – Sunday, May 29, 2022 back at the coop.

10. Member issues and concerns. We need to plan for festivals and advertise more. We can use the Lackawaxen Connection, River Reporter, and banners and signs. T-shirts are selling well. We need to order more,

11. Adjourn: 5:00 pm