**THE ROWLAND COOPERATIVE**

**Minutes**

**Meeting January 30, 2022**

**Rowland Cooperative Market 2:30 – 4:00 pm**

**Helen Weisman Memorial meeting room**

Participants: Lorraine Bentley, Kenny Christianson, Robin Hoose, Marian Keegan, Winnie Olsen

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:35 pm.
2. The minutes from October 31, 2021 were approved unanimously. Moved by Robin, seconded by Marian.
3. Treasurer’s report: See attached

The finances for 2021 are still a work in progress. Sales revenue for 2021 was $43,963.91, with a total cost of goods sold of $27,495.09, for a gross profit of $16,468.83. For the nine months we were open in 2020, sales revenue was $53,141.54, with a total cost of goods sold of $23,023.94, for a gross profit of $30,117.60.

Caryn’s available money from her inheritance has been exhausted. Kenny was able to take some money out of his pension and transferred $5000 to the coop account to pay off our bills.

The operating account currently has a balance of $1555.23.

The well fund (tax escrow) has a balance of $1915.51.

There are no outstanding checks.

Accounts payable include:

Bruce Bentley (firewood) $20.00

Defilippi’s $85.25

That is the extent of our debts at this point.

4. Water Update: We are currently waiting for Brian Oram of BF Environmental Engineering to

schedule a well driller to install a well at the end of the parking lot. I have not heard from him recently.

5 Membership report: On January 30, 2022, the coop has 71 paid households, representing 183 individuals. We received 20 renewals in 2021. Please consider renewing or joining today if you have not yet done so. We should form a committee to deal with membership issues and devise a recruitment campaign for 2022.

Members discussed the need for an email reminder to renew membership. Robin agreed to help with this. We need to keep better track of renewals. We have membership cards for some members but not all. We should emphasize that members receive a 10% discount.

6. Updates:

- Sales taxes of $86.46 have been paid to the commonwealth for the fourth quarter.

- There have been issues with the use of our parking lot by someone living on Solverson Road. They ripped one of the light strings from our Christmas Tree and obliterated one of the traffic cones. We can move the Viking ship for now to prevent cars from entering the parking lot from Route 590. PENNDOT prohibits this.

- Staffing has been a problem lately due to the weather and the pandemic. It would be nice to have another trained manager. Members agreed to look for potential candidates.

- We have had many challenges lately with supply chain issues and in attracting customers. Staff is working on obtaining a cigarette vendor. Issues to discuss include:

- Advertising and marketing

We should look into advertising in local papers.

- Norwegian items – Is Haram Christensen the best vendor? What should we order?

Ikea also sells Scandinavian items. Items to sell include Jarlsberg cheese, Gjetost, flatbread, fish balls, lingonberry jam.

- Reading soda order – We will wait until March when freezing is less likely

- Calkins and Alpine – Caryn will contact to renew orders soon.

- Adopt-a-highway – We need to contact PENNDOT to see if there are any available sections.

- Joining other organizations – DHTHC (Canal’s 200th anniversary)

The Rowland Cooperative agreed to join the Delaware and Hudson Transportation Heritage Council. The dues are $40.00 per year. This will allow us to participate in the canal’s 200th anniversary celebration. There are many dates involved with the opening of the canal, we need to choose which event we would like to celebrate. Robin agreed to assist with this.

Moved by Robin, seconded by Winnie. Passed unanimously.

- Website and fundraising – Some websites, such as Canva, are available to assist with non-profit fundraising. The Greater Pike Community Foundation may be a potential source of funds. There is a new Payment Protection Program grant, and funds may be available through the new infrastructure bill. We may be able to use infrastructure money to finance the well or an electric charging station.

8. Scheduling for this year

Members came up with a schedule of events for the year. Please see schedule attached to February agenda.

9. Next meeting – Sunday, February 27, 2021

10. Member issues and concerns.

- When running for Tax Collector last year, Michelle Thompson posted a political ad on our website. Since we are a non-profit, we cannot endorse political candidates. Caryn then took down the post, and Brian Thompson complained about a lack of cooperation in Rowland. My daughter Phylicia reported him to Facebook for hate speech.

- We should get a more secure side door before we start selling cigarettes. We will look into buying a new door.

11. Meeting adjourned at 3:25 pm – Moved by Robin, seconded by Winnie. Passed unanimously.