**THE ROWLAND CO-OP**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**February 23, 2020**

**Participants:** Lorraine Bentley, Kenny Christianson, Caryn Christianson, Karen Havens, Robin Hoose, Laurel Mason, Karen Mond, Mariah Moyles, Jane Olsen, Scott Olsen, Diana Mae Potts, Charlie Weissman

1. **Call to Order:** 2:21 pm
2. **Minutes of meeting of December 21, 2019:** Approved as presented. Moved by Robin, seconded by Charlie.
3. **Treasurer’s report:** None was provided
4. **Water Update:** Kenny contacted Rich Tussel of the Township Building Department, Mitch Jacobs of Kiley Associates, and Craig Williams of Williams Well Drilling asking for information about licensed professional geologists in the area. Still waiting to hear back.
5. **Christmas Party:**  The coop sponsored a Christmas Party on December 21 with a dish-to-pass and a secret Santa. Members agreed that a good time was had by all, and that we should make the annual Thanksgiving Dinner and Christmas Party a tradition moving forward.
6. **Nominations:** At the last meetings the coop agreed to increase the size of the Board of Directors to nine. Robin Hoose and Diana Potts agreed to run for the vacant seats. They were both unanimously appointed to the board. Moved by Kenny, seconded by Robin. The board currently consists of:

 **Kenny Christianson, President**

 **Winnie Olsen, Vice President**

 **Christine Foland, Secretary**

 **Laurel Mason, Treasurer**

 **Elsie Andersen**

 **Lorraine Bentley**

 **Robin Hoose**

 **Diana Mae Potts**

**7. Opening date:** Members discussed the need to open soon since the building is just sitting there and community interest may begin to wane. The inability to have the water supply approved by the state is preventing us from opening a restaurant, but we may still be able to open as a grocery store selling only packaged goods. That would not require a public water supply. It was agreed that we should try to open as a grocery store in the beginning of April, to coincide the opening of trout season. The following issues were raised:

We need to

* Obtain a sales tax license
* Get an EIN - This has been done.
* Contact local economic development agency and SBA
* Deal with Parking issues
* Develop a labeling system and point of sale system, cash register
* Look at staffing and HR issues. Karen Mond and Mariah Moyles indicated they are interested in working there.
* Find vendors for Scandavanian goods, hot dog rollers, bagels, popcorn, dairy, newspapers, bulk purchasing, grocery items
* Inquire about need for licenses for farmer’s market, outdoor barbecue, hot dog truck, ice cream stand etc.
* Contact Katie Collins of the News Eagle and other media for publicity.
* Laurel indicated she would be willing to help with shopping.
* A customer suggestion box will be helpful in determining the items members would like to see at the store.
* Insurance issues
* Hours of operation

 **8. Stuff to sell:** The rest of the meeting was spent brainstorming the items that members would like to see sold at the store. Robin and Caryn have been working on posting electronic lists on Google docs. The items discussed at the meeting included, in no particular order:

Dairy – milk, cream, cheese, butter, ice cream newspapers

Aspririn/health care products camping supplies/sterno

Ice soap

Fishing stuff toiletries

Toilet paper, paper towels feminine hygiene

Cleaning supplies pet supplies – cat food, litter, dog food, toys

Beans. Rice, Rahman noodles Hormel – spam, beef stew, corned beef hash

Tuna fish bread

Mayonnaise, mustard, ketchup, relish chili

Peanut butter and jelly microwave/ hot pockets

Norwegian products frozen foods

Hot dogs, bagels, popcorn – microwave

 **9. Next meetings:** The next meetings are scheduled for Sunday, March 8 at 2:00 pm and Sunday, March 29 at 2:00 pm at the Rowland Coop. We need to increase the frequency of our meetings so that we can prepare for the opening.

Respectively Submitted,

Kenny Christianson

President