**THE ROWLAND COOPERATIVE**

**Community Meeting Minutes**

**March 16, 2019**

**Rowland Cafe**

Attending: Bruce Bentley, Lorraine Bentley, Caryn Christianson, Kenny Christianson, Diana Potts, Brian Thompson, Charlie Weissman

The meeting began at 2:10 p.m.

The minutes of the community meeting of February 17, 2019 were approved.

Kenny started the meeting with a few announcements:

On March 12 Kenny met with Mary Ann Seese, the Sanitarian for the Pennsylavania Department of Environmental Protection. The current water supply comes from an artesian well across the street that is rusting and is not part of the property. We agreed that the best option may be to dig a well on the property. If the pipe broke under the highway we would have to dig up Route 590.

On March 12 Kenny also met with Rich Tussel of the Lackawaxen Township Building Department, Jay of the Highway Department, and Ryan and Mitch from Kiley Associates, the consultants retained for the project. Rich said that the township is willing to grandfather the current use of the building as a grocery and restaurant. Expanding into the back of the store will present different issues, especially with parking and sewers. Obstacles that must be dealt with before the store is open include parking, locating the well, sewage, parking access, and handicapped access. The property only goes to the berm of the old canal, so PENNDOT owns a section of the parking lot closest to the road. This cannot be used for parking. The township has an old survey map that includes 12 parking spaces.

On March 15 Kenny met with Cassie Spencer of Binghamton University to discuss possibilities for an internship Program in Cooperative Development. We can devise a program where interns would receive academic credit for a summer position, as well as a small stipend and partial room and board.

Diana mentioned that we should also be hiring people in the local area, and expressed an interest in a position with the coop once we get started.

Sunpulse Solar has been contracted with to install solar panels on the building. The solar panels are on site.

Kenny has been contacted by Michael Hill of Hill Farms in Lord’s Valley. They are interested in supplying produce for the coop. Mike Mancini, Township Supervisor, called to express his support, and offered caution in moving forward. Matt Osterberg, County Commissioner, called concerning using the county Human Resource Center to employ disabled people from the area.

Brian said that we have a small window for well-drilling, since most well driller cannot operate in April when the ground is wet. He graciously offered to help when we need him since he lives so close to the store.

Bruce is interested in selling firewood from the coop. Other items discussed were possibly selling chairs and outdoor furniture, bulk food, and organic products.

Moving forward, we need to explore insurance, point of sale credit card systems, communications, payroll and parking. Skier Insurance has been recommend for insurance services, and Deb Solverson from the phone company should be contacted concerning parking.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenny Christianson

NOTE: The week after the meeting Kenny realized that he had forgot to hit the send button for the email announcement, which may explain why there were only seven people at the meeting. A new meeting was scheduled for March 31 so more could attend.