**THE ROWLAND COOPERATIVE**

**Community Meeting Minutes**

**April 28, 2019**

**Rowland Cafe**

Attending: Laura Atkinson, Bruce Bentley, Lorraine Bentley, Caryn Christianson, Kenny Christianson, Brad Keller, Laurel Mason, Randi Nilsen, Brian Thompson, Janet Voss, Bob Wicksnes

The meeting began at 2:15 pm.

Kenny provided the following updates:

Yesterday, April 27, 2019, was the sixth anniversary of the coop’s first community meeting.

The solar panels were turned on on Friday April 26 2019.

The water from the artesian well across the street was turned on on Saturday April 27, 2019.

Craig Williams has been contracted for installing a well on the property.

The metal roof has been completed.

The minutes of the March 31 meeting were approved. Caryn moved, Laura seconded.

Discussion ensued on the following topics:

1. Where do we obtain membership cards?

Vista print was recommended as a low cost source of printing. We also need to print the brochures.

1. How do we encourage and reward volunteers?

Volunteers may be rewarded with store credit or some type of electronic currency.

1. For the toll house, suggestions were made to make the first floor a local history center and the basement could be used as a river store, with fishing supplies and tubes and rafts.
2. Diana Mason and Billy Benner have a local chicken farm and would like to sell eggs. We need to explore what legal requirements are necessary.
3. Bob Wicksnes is willing to grow produce, we will negotiate a fair percentage of the sales that Bob will receive for his efforts.
4. The coop should encourage the development of local greenhouses. Laurel Mason has expressed an interest in this.
5. The Towpath Cleanup last weekend was a success. Members of the Sons of Norway, Lackawaxen River Conservancy, Men of Bethel, and the coop all helped to clean the Towpath from Mount Moriah to the Rowland Bridge. We all met for lunch at the Lackawaxen House afterward.
6. Laura stated that we should focus on one thing and do it well.

Based on a question from Laurel, the group brainstormed this list of potential benefits for coop membership to be included in our brochure:

* 10% discount on all purchases from the coop
* Access to the Lackawaxen River via the stairs next to the toll house
* Be a part of coop decision-making
* Contribute to the economic revival of Rowland, help to develop the local economy
* Opportunities for family activities
* Develop markets for organic and local foods
* Develop markets for local craftsmen
* You get to choose what you buy
* Access to pizza, groceries and breakfast without driving five to fifteen miles
* Opportunities to purchase bulk foods
* Potential to expand into other areas such as a lending library, energy or health care

We can expand and refine the list at the next meeting.

Kenny agreed to put together a draft of a brochure for the next meeting.

The next meeting was scheduled for May 19 at 2:00 pm.

NOTE: The next meeting date was changed to June 2 at 2:00 pm due to a conflict with the Sons of Norway meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenny Christianson