**THE ROWLAND COOPERATIVE**

**Community Meeting Minutes**

**September 29, 2019**

**Rowland Café meeting room**

Attending: Lorraine Bentley, Caryn Christianson, Kenny Christianson, Karen Havens, Robin Hoose, Marian Keegan, Richard Luther, Laurel Mason, Randy Nilsen, Jane Olsen, Diana Potts, Jane H. Quattrochi

The meeting began at 2:10 pm with introductions. Marian introduced Jane Quattrochi, who is running for Pike County Prothonotary. Jane explained that the Prothonotary serves as the county clerk and that she would like to see technological improvements in the department.

Kenny started the meeting by providing the following updates:

The Rowland Cooperative was officially incorporated with the State of Pennsylvania as a non-profit cooperative corporation on September 1, 2019.

There is some better news concerning the water problems. Charles Maroni is a new hydrologist for the Department of Environmental Protection in Wilkes-Barre. He believes we may be able to adapt the old well for our water supply. We need to locate the well drilling log.

The pizza oven is cracked in the back and we need to find a new one.

The back room has been set up to be used as a meeting room for the community.

Even though we have not solicited for membership yet, we have twelve paid members. Membership will officially start once the business is up and running.

Discussion ensued on the following issues:

With winter approaching, should we heat the building for the winter or turn off the water? Jane offered to have Olsen Mechanical check on the furnace in the basement.

What should we sell? The group was mixed on whether to sell cigarettes since they are a public health hazard, yet they are profitable and residents drive long distances to obtain them. The group was generally against selling beer or lotto tickets. Jane pointed out that alcohol sales may impose excessive liability problems with our close vicinity to the river. Consignment and craft sales are also issues that will need to be addressed. The group agreed that we can vote on these issues at future meetings.

Minutes from the meeting of June 30 were approved. Laurel moved, Robin seconded.

We will vote on the board and officers for 2020 at the October meeting. The group met as the nomination committee and suggested the current slate of officers and board members:

President: Kenny Christianson

Vice President: Winnie Olsen

Secretary: Christine Foland

Treasurer: Laurel Mason

Elsie Andersen, Lorraine Bentley.

No other nominations were offered from the floor.

Treasurer’s report – We currently have a balance of $169.29. The PPL and Eastern Propane bills are paid.

Further points raised were:

What type of events should we sponsor? Suggestions were to have a yard sale with 10% of sales to the coop, an annual meeting barbecue, or sponsoring a food pantry.

How is water quality? The water has been a little cloudy in the past week, but it was clear at the meeting.

The upstairs apartment could be used as an art studio, music studio or lounge.

We need to update the website, and form a committee to be in charge.

We need to develop a mechanism to keep track of and to reward volunteer hours.

The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 27 at 2:00 pm in the back room of the Rowland Café.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenny Christianson