

Rondout Creek 9/26/18 Meeting Notes

Recorded by: Jen Epstein, Riverkeeper & Rebecca Martin, Riverkeeper

Start time: 4:10 PM

Present: John Messerschmidt; Sarah Underhill; Eric Stewart; Laura Finestone; Tom Konrad; Jen Epstein; Rebecca Martin

Regular Business

1. Minutes from August were accepted without changes.
2. Select dates for 2019 at the next meeting. We will need a COI to continue to meet at the Marbletown municipal offices.

Upcoming Events

1. Tom Konrad mentioned the 100% Renewable Marbletown Community Forum on October 9th.

Old Business

1. Hudson River Watershed Alliance. The group will submit materials to be welcomed/featured when ready.
2. RCWA Guiding Document
 - a. Steering Committee. The group decided that the steering committee did not need to be just ECC or CAC members, that it was open to committed members of the public living in any of the mission area communities. Eric Stewart and Tom Konrad committed to represent the Town of Marbletown on the steering committee. Other potential steering committee members include Andrew Faust, Adrianna Magana, Matt Igoe, Bosch Purvis. There are two spots per community available, that includes: Towns of Neversink, Wawarsing, Rochester, Rosendale, Esopus and Ulster. Village of Ellenville. City of Kingston. There are also two at-large and NGO openings, too.
 - b. Working Committees. The group decided to call 'working' committees, 'project' committees.
 - i. Communications is an umbrella for the Brochure and Article projects. Could also include social media/website.
 1. Eric Stewart is the point person for the Brochure project.
 - a. Eric spoke with designer Maryann McCorkle who did the O&W Rail Trail brochure. Before she can do an estimate she needs the following:

- i. The number of brochures to be printed.
 - ii. Map: will we give her the map or will she be designing the map?
 - 1. Laura to discuss with John Mickelson about pro bono design.
 - iii. Will it be mailed?
 - 1. The group decided for it not to be designed to be mailed.
 - iv. General ideas about brochure content.
 - 1. RCWA could write a letter to all municipalities in the mission area to ask them to contribute. This could be an important outreach opportunity as well.
 - 2. Topic of brochure could be: watershed boundary, tributaries, municipalites, major roads; General introduction to concept of watershed for residents, school kids, realtors.
 - v. **ACTION: Need a logo. Eric is going to give a few concepts to Marian: Water, blue, bird, or plant.**
- 2. Laura Finestone is the point person for Articles. [Communications Document](#)
 - a. Winter months is a good time to write articles.
 - b. Discuss the order, frequency, placement of topics.
 - c. Laura Finestone would like comments on the list of topics.
- 3. Social Media/Website
 - a. Tabled.
- ii. **A “Riparian Zone Planting” Project Committee** was also established, though a contact for the committee has not yet been identified. The group was encouraged to review the Trees for Tribs project summary of applicable planting locations advised by Beth Roessler.
 - 1. Marbletown is going to be taking ownership of a parcel on Rondout in High Falls for a creek trail and sewer district project; RCWA should get in on the ground floor for that project. Linking O/W rail trail and creek walk, on the creek side. ToM / Barton and Lojudice is working together to secure grants. The town will get the land. There is already Riparian coverage, but there could be potential improvements made to it and could provide the RCWA with publicity. Partners could include the D&H Canal, High Falls

Conservancy, High Falls Civic Association, O&W Rail Trail, Riverkeeper, Ulster County gov and now RCWA. **Laura asked to speak to planning to get information on the plot.**

2. Looked & talked about planting information sent by Beth; talked about why various site ideas have failed so far. Jen Epstein stressed value of talking to Beth Roessler before jumping to conclusions, and generally to get ideas, insight, advice.
3. Tom Konrad suggested that instead of doing a new planting in 2018, the alliance could visit all Rondout sites on Beth's list and provide a mapping document to give an update on the success or not of previous plantings.
4. Reminder that a riparian zone planting with the Trees for Tribs/DEC program deadline is March 1st.
5. **ACTION: Laura Finestone to reach out to Beth Roessler.**

c. Events

- i. Host guests when more organized. The following names were added to the RCWA's guiding document.
 1. Nate Nardi-Cyrus, HREP Conservation and Land Use Specialist (other HREP staff?)
 2. Jared Buono and Nordica, CCE

New Business

1. Sarah U. offered to announce at this evening's EMC meeting that RCWA wants members from other towns, particularly lower watershed.