Village of Montour Falls

Sustainability Committee Meeting

September 25, 2020

Present –James Ryan, Chairman; Amanda Rodriguez-Demaria, Ascend Collaborative Development; Mark Wilber, Montour Market; Elizabeth Watson, Schuyler County Public Health; Marissa Nolan, CEC Food Waste Educator; Heather Gilbert, Finger Lakes Compost; and Emily Byers, Deputy Clerk.

The meeting began at 10:00 a.m.

Grant Administrator, Amanda Rodriguez-Demaria updates:

-USDA grant for Montour Market denied

-NYS is not accepting grant applications this year

-The Federal Government regulations are changing often

-Climate Smart Communities Grant

-Initial CSC certification planning, work plan completed and accepted, simplified

-Climate Vulnerability Assessment and Levy Recertification Study grant has been approved

-Complete Streets Grant – approved, draft agreement has not been finalized due to NYS hold

James Ryan purposes that the Sustainability committee have a substructure grouping into categories for example food and energy.

Mark Wilber update the status of the Montour Market:

-reopened June 1, 2020, restructured to introduce Montour Market brand

-invested $15,000 (25 shares) to local farms for produce, 70% committed membership

-able to provide additional farm products 6 days a week, 5 hours a day

-tripled revenue in 2020 compared to same period last year

-in process of trying to accept WIC and Snap

Marissa Nolan introduces herself to the committee as Food Waste Educator for Cornell Cooperative Extension. She started in July, and her focus is food waste in the Village of Montour Falls. She has created a survey to measure what residents already know and where there needs to be more educational information provided.

Heather Gilbert created her composting business Finger Lakes Composting LLC in 2018 after recognizing a need for composting and education in the Finger Lakes area. She found her passion in keeping the Finger Lakes region clean, healthy and beautiful while providing the service of food waste reduction to the communities within. Her business is registered with NYS DEC and works in Chemung, Schuyler and Yates counties. She operates on 11 acres and accepts many items including bones, meat and dairy also.

Goals for this Quarter:

* Continue working on the community garden idea

Next meeting scheduled for December 10, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting finished at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Byers, Deputy Clerk

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