

Regular Town Board Meeting
1-10-13

Members Present: Supervisor Nayer, Councilperson Miller-Simmons, Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney and Councilperson Mettler. Councilperson Gabaccia was absent.

A motion was made by Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney and seconded by Councilperson Miller-Simmons to waive the reading of the minutes of the Yearend Meeting 12/29/12, the Organizational Meeting 1/2/13 and the Special Meeting 1/5/13. Motion was carried.

A motion was made by Councilperson Miller-Simmons and was seconded by Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney to accept the minutes of the Yearend Meeting 12/29/12. Motion was carried. Councilperson Mettler abstained as she was absent from this meeting.

A motion was made by Councilperson Mettler and was seconded by Councilperson Miller-Simmons to accept the minutes of the Organizational Meeting 1/2/13. Motion was carried.

A motion was made by Councilperson Mettler and was seconded by Councilperson Miller-Simmons to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting 1/5/13. Motion was carried. Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney abstained as she was absent from this meeting.

Correspondence:

From Ed Ferratto, C.E.O. – A letter advising the Board that the following Motor Vehicle Area Storage Permits be renewed; Davis Auto Body, Jacquelyn Decker, Del's Auto Body, Jim's Auto Body and Performance Auto Body.

From Charter Communications – a letter advising that their rates will be going up in 2013.

From Marcia Becker, Chairperson, Copake Planning Board – a letter requesting the Board appoint the following officers for 2013; Marcia Becker, Chairperson, Chris Grant, Vice Chairman, Gray Davis Secretary and Jon Urban Treasurer.

From Barbara Filipovits – requesting to be reappointed to the Park Commission.

From Copake KOA – A letter informing the Town that they will be renewing their multi-year convenience store liquor license to sell packaged goods.

From Egremont Planning Board - a notice of a Public Hearing January 14, 2013 regarding a modification of a Special Use Permit for Divine Automotive.

From The Columbia Paper – requesting to be designated the Town’s Official paper for 2013.

From Gloria Lyons – a letter requesting to be reappointed the Town Historian for 2013.

From Jon Strom – a letter requesting to be reappointed to the Copake Z.B.A.

From Veronique Fabio, Secretary Copake Z.B.A. – a letter requesting the Town Board reappoint Jon Strom to the Z.B.A. and appoint Hilarie Thomas as Chairperson and Frank Peteroy as Vice Chairperson for 2013.

Supervisor Nayer announced that 60+ program will be starting at the Park Building on February 26th Tuesday and Fridays 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Also last week there was a meeting at the Copake Falls Post Office regarding reducing their hours opened to the public and they will be having a second meeting March 8th and they have been offered the use of the Town Hall.

Public Forum:

Neil Howard, Superintendent Taconic Hills Central School District introduced himself to the Board and the Public.

Diana Wilson once again brought up her concerns about the parking in front of the Copake General Store and asked if anyone has come up with a solution to this problem. Ed Ferratto, C.E.O. asked the County DPW to look into this issue and they were unable to come up with a remedy to this problem. Councilperson Mettler apologized for not coming up with a solution and recommended that the Hamlet Committee look into this issue further. Supervisor Nayer added that the County stated as long as the vehicles are parked behind the white fog line there is nothing that can be done. Mrs. Wilson went on to add that there already has been two people hit in this location in the past that had to taken to the Hospital by ambulance and proposed that the Town purchase the parking area between the General Store and Pharmacy as a possible solution to this problem. Supervisor Nayer stated the Town already has a Municipal Parking Lot in the Hamlet that is available for people to park in. Marcia Peteroy suggested that possibly the installation of signs indicating that only small cars can park in that location. Ed Ferratto will meet with the owners of the General Store to try to work out a solution to this on going problem. Councilperson Mettler requested that this issue be added to next month’s agenda.

Harvey Weber asked the Town Board to look into installing a sidewalk between the First Niagara Bank and the Post Office as this is a dangerous area for people to walk.

Department Head Reports:

Ed Ferratto, C.E.O. welcomed Jack Shultz as the new Deputy C.E.O.

Harvey Weber, Environmental Committee reported that he has left information on fracking in every ones mailboxes and is working on the request for a panel to discuss the pros and cons of fracking.

New Business:

Supervisor Nayer advised the Park Mower is 14 years old and has broken down a couple of times last year and we had to borrow one from Taconic Hills to get by. We have money in this year's budget to replace this mower and requested permission to advertise for bids.

A motion was made by Councilperson Miller-Simmons and was seconded by Councilperson Mettler to authorize to bid a new mower for the Park. Motion was carried.

Per the recommendation of the Code Enforcement Officer the following motion was made by Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney and was seconded by Councilperson Mettler to renew the Motor Vehicle Storage Permits for Davis Auto Body, Jacquelyn Decker, Del's Auto Body, Jim's Auto Body and Performance Auto Body. Motion was carried.

Supervisor Nayer clarified that at the end of six months the Board is going to reevaluate the Building Department not the employees.

Old Business:

A motion was made by Councilperson Miller-Simmons and was seconded by Councilperson Mettler to adopt the Town of Copake Policy Manual. Motion was carried. Supervisor Nayer stated in lieu of printing hard copies out for everyone he will be sending the policy digitally to everyone he can.

Supervisor Nayer stated he is still working out some details on the Agricultural/Farmland Grant with the State.

Councilperson Mettler advised on the status of the Conservation Advisory Committee mission statement and the means that the Town Board should use establishing this committee. Councilperson Mettler and Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney will have the proposed mission statement for the Board to review in approximately two weeks.

Roberta Roll, Chairperson of the Copake Hamlet Revitalization Task Force read the following statement.

1. Since our inception we have been meeting twice a month. Our first few meetings were dedicated to defining our work, some preliminary brainstorming, and creating an overview for our work. We also met with the Copake Economic Advisory Board and the Hillsdale Hamlet Committee. We have recently met with the Copake Land Use Review Committee. We will maintain an ongoing exchange with these groups, as our interests and scope of work overlap and complement each other.

2. Since October, we have set aside some time at our meetings to talk with business owners in the hamlet as well as in Hillsdale. This has proved to be a valuable way to acquaint ourselves with the business climate, get to know the business owners better, brainstorm about ideas that would help current businesses survive, and talk about what would help Copake grow and prosper into the future.
3. We are currently working on developing a town-wide e-list in coordination with the CEAB. This list will be useful in several ways. It will enable businesses to market themselves; it will assist in communication between town government and the citizens of Copake; and it will help citizens keep abreast of activities in Copake and the greater Roeliff Jansen area via a periodic newsletter which we hope will be set up in conjunction with the Copake website.
4. We recognize the need for Copake to welcome prospective business owners and help them set up their business as easily and as quickly as possible. In anticipation of new businesses coming into the hamlet, the Task Force is developing a brochure which will welcome and guide prospective business owners in their process. This will include town requirements, as well as information about county and state regulations and how to contact the appropriate agencies. The one piece of information that is not available yet is an updated fee structure; we are hoping that the Town can provide this information in the near future.
5. Although new businesses may come to Copake for various reasons, the Task Force recognizes that we will need to actively court prospective businesses. To that end, we have been discussing and pursuing various possibilities which would address the needs and desires of the community. Healthcare, the arts, retail, and services industry are some of the areas we are reaching out to.
6. Grants are an important part of our work in revitalizing the hamlet. Planning for the design and growth of the hamlet will take time and funds, but we believe we can do this in a cost effective way. We have identified foundations which provide funds appropriate for our needs. We believe that our efforts so far have been quite positive, and we look forward to continuing to work for the revitalization of the hamlet and the town. There are many things this task force can accomplish. However, we have come to firmly believe that there are things for which we need professional advice from a professional planner. Although the town has recently adopted a Comprehensive Plan, that plan enumerates goals and action plans for the whole town. In planning for revitalization, there needs to be a cohesive design plan that takes into account the varied elements of commercial, residential and community growth specific to the hamlet. The task force can identify certain elements, such as appropriate businesses or initiatives such as public water and waste management, but many of these require siting and specifications which we are not qualified to make. It is also important that the various elements of growth do not conflict, but occur in logical, compatible, cost effective, and beneficial ways. The design of the downtown is a crucial element in the revitalization process, as it will facilitate vehicular as well as pedestrian traffic flow throughout the hamlet; provide for gathering spaces; and connect the downtown with surrounding areas, such as the park and Town Hall, Taconic Shores, and Rt. 22. Again, this, as well as the maps which will be produced, is an aspect which needs some professional assistance. Another important advantage of having a planner is that many companies (e.g. senior living facility) will not consider an initiative in the hamlet unless there is a full-fledged plan. Much of the information that a planner

might need, e.g. water and soil studies, census data, public input, etc., has already been done for the Comprehensive Plan. The task force can gather other information and inventories that a planner might require. The task force members will be actively involved in creating the plan so that it meets the needs of Copake. In this way, we believe that we can obtain a high-quality plan for a reasonably low cost. Many towns create down town/hamlet plans for \$50,000 - \$80,000 or more. We are aiming to create a plan for approximately \$25,000 - \$30,000. Funding would come from grants; we are not asking for money from the Town. Some of these grantors may require matching funds, which can usually be met through in-kind donations. Two grants for which we would like to apply come from the Berkshire Taconic Foundation and the Greenway. The deadlines are February 1 and 15, respectively. Other sources include the Rheinstrom Foundation and Hudson River Trust. I emphasize that this Task Force is very hard-working and we feel we can accomplish our goals, but without the assistance of a professional planner, we will be at a great disadvantage. Just as the decline of Copake involved a complexity of factors, we know that the revitalization will involve the synergy of this task force, members of the community at large and technical expertise of a professional planner. We respectfully request that the task force be given permission to submit an RFP to area planners. We also request permission to submit grant applications to the above mentioned foundations for the purpose of funding a hamlet plan.

A motion was made by Councilperson Mettler and was seconded by Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney that the Town Board of the Town of Copake does hereby authorized the Copake Revitalization Task Force to submit grant applications to Hudson River Valley Greenway as well as the Berkshire Taconic Foundation and authorize the Copake Revitalization Task Force to distribute an RFP to seek the services of a professional Planner to assist them in the development of a Hamlet Plan. Motion was carried.

A motion was made by Councilperson Mettler and was seconded by Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney to authorize Supervisor Nayer to re advertise for the following positions; Z.B.A. Member, Planning Board Member, Park Commission Members and E.A.B. Members. Motion was carried.

The Board set the following dates for special meetings to interview for vacant positions Saturday, February 2nd at 9:00 AM and Wednesday, February 6th at 7:00 PM.

Per the recommendation of the Copake Zoning Board of Appeals the following motion was made by Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney and seconded by Supervisor Nayer to appoint Hilarie Thomas as Chairperson, Frank Peteroy as Vice Chairperson of the Copake Zoning Board of Appeals. Motion was carried.

Per the recommendation of the Copake Planning Board the following motion was made by Councilperson Miller-Simmons and was seconded by Councilperson Mettler to appoint Marcia Becker as Chairperson, Chris Grant as Vice-Chairman and Gray Davis as Secretary of the Copake Planning Board. Motion was carried.

A motion was made by Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney and was seconded by Councilperson Miller-Simmons to reappoint Barbara Herman as the Town's Ombudsman for 2013. Motion was carried

A motion was made by Councilperson Mettler and was seconded by Councilperson Miller-Simmons to consider the following grant resolution as an emergency resolution so it does not have to wait the required five days. Motion was carried.

The following resolution was offered by Councilperson Mettler and was seconded by Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney:

WHEREAS, the Town of Copake is applying to the Hudson River Valley Greenway for a grant under the Greenway Communities Grant Program for a project entitled Design and Development Plan for the Hamlet of Copake to be located in Copake, New York,

WHEREAS, the grant application requires the applicant municipality to obtain the approval/endorsement of the governing body of the municipality or municipalities in which the project will be located;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the governing board of the Town of Copake hereby does approve and endorse the application for a grant under the Greenway Communities Grant Program, for a project know as Design and Development Plan for the Hamlet of Copake and located within this community

Resolution # 4	Supervisor Nayer	yes
Dated January 10, 2013	Councilwoman Gabaccia	absent
Copake, NY	Councilman Mettler	yes
	Councilwoman Winchell-Sweeney	yes
	Councilwoman Miller-Simmons	yes

Budget:

Supervisor Nayer advised that he has completed the audit of the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals and they are available to anyone that would like to review them as well as the Supervisor's Financial Books. Supervisor Nayer reported that the Town is in much better financial shape than it was a few years ago.

A motion was made by Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney and was seconded by Councilperson Mettler to increase the spending cap for Department Heads prior to getting Town Board approval to \$250.00. Motion was carried.

Councilperson Miller-Simmons reported that the last LURC was very productive and the Park & Recreation Commission did not have a quorum but did discuss some issues.

Public Forum:

Stosh Ganzowski reported that they are trucking material that looks like sludge into Casino's in all hours of the night and dumping and wanted to know what the status is. Code Enforcement Officer Ferratto stated that he was not aware of any dumping going on and any information the public can supply would be very helpful. Stosh also thanked for keeping the budget well in hand.

Marcia Peteroy stated that she also has seen many trucks in the wee hours of the morning pulling in and out of the Casino site.

Diana Wilson questioned why no one plowed the sidewalks between the General Store and the Church Street Deli and who is responsible for clearing them? Supervisor Nayer asked C.E.O. Ferratto to talk to the businesses involved to see if something could be worked out to keep these areas free of snow and ice.

A motion was made by Councilperson Miller-Simmons and was seconded by Councilperson Mettler that the bills from General Abstract # 1 and the bills from Highway Abstract # 1 be paid. Motion was carried.

A motion was made by Councilperson Winchell-Sweeney and was seconded by Councilperson Miller-Simmons that the meeting be adjourned. Motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted,