

Copake Hamlet Revitalization Task Force  
Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 10, 2017 7pm  
Copake Town Hall

- Present: Roberta Roll, Peter Kelly, Andy Fisher, Lenny Barham, Jeanne Mettler - Town Board Liaison. Tom Goldsworthy (by phone), Jenn Redman (by phone)
- Guest: Margaret Avenia of Real Estate Specialists

**Approval of minutes from April 26, 2017**

The minutes were approved by all those present.

**Meeting with Margaret Avenia**

\* discuss real estate in Copake, plans for the town, recruitment of businesses. Margaret emphasized the importance of social media and especially Facebook. Posting events and other happenings on the Task Force will reach many people. Roberta will look into posting the DEC Grant and timeline of County DOT Hamlet project.

Margaret stated that people ask her often if open commercial space is available in the hamlet. The buildings behind the wine shop were discussed as possible retail options.

\* Other developers/ideas- Margaret explained to the group the challenges of renovating the old Inn as far as utilities and parking along with the poor condition of the building. The structure underneath appears to be solid. She feels it will be a "labor of love" to restore the hamlet buildings. Phil Gellert of Northern Empire Realty also has a hamlet property for sale next to the old inn that could be combined into one parcel since they share the parcel.

Also, discussed is the number of liquor licenses the town/state will allow in the hamlet.

\* other activities to promote Copake in the hamlet

Social media was discussed to promote the town and what is available for sale and rent

**Copake Park Celebration Day Aug. 5th**

\* business participation- Each member of the task force will approach a certain business and will ask how they would like to participate in Copake Celebration Day.

\* art show- The show will be held at the Grange and Slink Moss is eager to help. The discussion was had on how to display the work - perhaps on presentation partitions erected for more wall space. Andy claims Staples have the partitions and we should look into this option of renting them. The library does use this same treatment for showing art. The art show will be free; however a small commission will be taken from venders on any sold work. 10% seemed to be fair.

**Housing**

\* Habitat - Brenda Adams to visit on May 22 and the proposed Copake house will be discussed.

- \* **Octagonal House-** Peter will contact the owner of the Octagonal house and see if the owner is interested in a story on the Copake page about the history of it. Peter will also call the NYS Historic Preservation Office in Albany to see if some of our buildings will qualify.

### **Green Energy proposal**

Andy stated that his contact will have a business plan in place soon for the Roe Jan School. It will focus on green energy and Biomass energy may be part of it.

### **Promotion of Copake**

- \* working with Columbia County

- \* CEDC- The Columbia County Economic Development Corp. has agreed to meet with the Hamlet Task Force on Thursday, June 15 at 3:00pm at their offices in Hudson. Ways to spur development and promote the town will be discussed. Mike Tucker and other staff will be present along with Task Force members.

- \* press/media

The importance of social media especially Facebook was discussed from upcoming events in town, to real estate opportunities and pretty pictures could be posted to spur interest.

### **LWRP**

- \* current grant- RFP, work order

We are still waiting to hear about the next steps for the LWRP

- \* future grants

We will be on the lookout for any grant opportunities that we could apply for

### **Bike Copake**

- \* Ramble

Date is set and limiting to 300 riders

- \* other bike initiatives, brainstorm with Task Force

### **Meeting schedule**

It was decided to for the group to meet once a once and then on a “as needed” second time per month. All agreed to do home assignments between meetings and communicate via email.

### **Other business**

A beautiful Full Moon was rising above the Taconic range as we left town hall on the chilly spring night. This was a reminder of why we all reside here and want to improve this beautiful place.