

Minutes
Copake Hamlet Revitalization Task Force
Wednesday, July 25, 2018 7pm
Copake Town Hall

Attending: Roberta Roll, Alan Friedman, Andy Fisher, Peter Kelly (by phone), Tom Goldsworthy, Jeanne Mettler (Town Board Liaison). Absent: Lenny Barham

Minutes from the June 27, 2018 meeting were approved with minor revisions.

Bike Copake: Tom Goldsworthy reported that preparations for the Roe Jan Ramble Bike Tour, to be held September 22, 2018, continue. With over 100 registrants at this date, participation is running ahead of last year. Focus is on an after-event party with music and food in the Copake Memorial Park after the ride. The discussion included thoughts on how to attract more young people to participate.

Signage on State Route 22: Jeanne Mettler reported regarding work to establish “gateway” signage north of the Route 22 entrance to Copake Hamlet. She has obtained agreement from a property owner to allow a 48 x 72 inch sign on private land approximately 1/4 mile north of North Main Street (County Route 7A) and State Route 22, facing southbound traffic on Route 22. It would read “Copake Hamlet - Food, Shops, Banking, Rapid Care” with a directional arrow. It would be paid for by private funds, with no taxpayer dollars expended. She has commitments from local organizations for the funds, and is getting bids for the sign.

Local Waterfront Revitalization Project (LWRP): Roberta Roll reported working with a consultant to finalize paperwork required by New York State for the issuance of our approved \$40,000 planning grant. She is gathering reporting on volunteer hours expended as part of the State’s requirement for the Town’s matching investment (which is made up of volunteers’ contributed time).

Summer Stroll Event: Roberta also reported on volunteer work being done to promote Copake Hamlet, through an event to be held August 4, 2018 called “Copake Summer Stroll”. Local businesses will be holding sidewalk sales and specials, a treasure hunt for children, and live music. The Copake Grange is organizing the event to coincide with the Copake Fire Department’s annual “Trash & Treasure” flea market event.

Housing: Peter Kelly reported on the status of a couple buildings in the Hamlet. He has contacted the owner of the former train station, located across from High Voltage, Inc. on South Main Street (County Route 7A), and invited them to attend a Task Force meeting and discuss their plans for the building. Peter also reported that the Octagon House located on Main Street appears to be going into mortgage foreclosure. The lienholder has begun mowing the lawn, and told Peter the property will likely be listed for sale. Roberta Roll has been in touch with Amy Raymond to discuss affordable housing in Copake.

Investor Fund: Andy Fisher is investigating how to establish a private investment fund that would focus on investments in businesses, organizations and projects in Copake. He has been in touch with several brokers and investment advisors.

Kneller Insurance Building, 1676 Church St: The commercial building on Church Street currently housing Kneller Insurance (formerly known as Brad Peck Insurance) will become vacant once Kneller Insurance moves to its new location in the Bank of Green County branch on Main Street. The Task Force discussed ideas about businesses that could be beneficial to the Hamlet that could be possible tenants for the building. Alan Friedman has been in touch with someone who would like to open a Fitness Center in the Hamlet. He will be showing him that space and others in Town. Roberta also suggested that a shared workspace, where small businesses and entrepreneurs could work outside the home, would be valuable to the Hamlet.

Making Copake Business Friendly: The Task Force discussed ideas on how to promote local businesses, and make Copake more “business friendly”. Alan Friedman would like to update and expand the business listing that appears on the Town’s website. The Task Force discussed how a Business Alliance or Chamber of Commerce might get established. The discussion also included ideas for new websites that are business and/or tourism focused. Roberta suggested that the Task Force consider creating a “handbook” for businesses, to give them guidance on how to navigate the Town’s building, zoning and planning laws.

The next meeting of the Task Force will be held on September 26, 2018. There will be no August monthly meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Goldsworthy