

**Copake Hamlet Revitalization Task Force**  
**Minutes**  
**October 26th, 2016**  
**7PM Copake Town Hall**

Present: Roberta Roll, Chris Quinby, Lenny Barham, Peter Kelly, Andy Fisher  
Absent: Jennifer Redman  
Town Board Liaison: Jeanne Mettler  
Guest: Tom Goldsworthy

**Minutes**

The minutes from October 10<sup>th</sup> were approved

**LWRP\_**

Roberta has been told the The Dept. of State will announce the winners of the Inland Waterway Planning Grants in December 2016. The grant would be in \$40,000 range for planning purposes only.

**Grange Update**

The projector has not been hung yet due to it being installed free of charge by David Valentino. The cables also need to be installed and the equipment needs to be tested. The Grange had received a grant to install the movie equipment and Jeanne and Chris will push to get the equipment installed ASAP. We discussed joining and getting new members to the Grange since they have limited membership and interest now, and it is hard to get a group meeting together. 6 members are needed to approve funding to pay someone to install the equipment.

**Broadband**

Deb Cohen has suggested that it would be important for the town to form a broadband committee. She was scheduled but did not appear at the last town board meeting. She and Andy have written a mission statement, and we hope the town will approve a broadband committee at the next board meeting. Jeanne will follow up with Deb.

**Bike Copake**

The Task Force is interested in what else can be done to promote biking to increase tourism. It is felt that marketing Copake as a destination for biking will be a economic catalyst. Bike Copake is a sub group of the Copake Hamlet Revitalization group. Roberta has contacted Jon to ask about attending part of their next meeting to brainstorm and start putting a plan into action. Jon wrote back to say that the seasonal wrap up meeting will be in mid-November. The distribution of the wrist bands during the Ramble gave people the sense that they were positively contributing to a good cause.

**Christmas Trees**

The Hamlet will once again offer sponsorship of 25 Christmas trees for \$30.00 each. A name tag will be placed on each tree with the sponsors wishes. Last year Itsy Bitsy Tree Farm near Pittsfield supplied the tree for a reasonable price of \$20.00 each. Town employees picked up the trees. Peter looked into Collier Tree Farm in Livingston and will ask Hardscrabble Nursery for a price. The lowest price will be the supplier. The Saturday after Thanksgiving will be the day to install the trees and Jeanne asked for volunteers.

**Housing**

Peter visited the open house at “The Falls” in Hudson which is a new 116 unit apartment building carved out on the old Greenport School grounds. Peter met the developers, a father/son team of JMS Construction, and they had looked at Roe Jan School but are seeking more information. Jeanne will investigate information about the owners and the asking price of the school site. JMS is interested in looking at the site again. The rents at “The Falls” monthly rents range from \$1,400 for a 1 bedroom and up to \$2,300 for a 3 bedroom. It was discussed that The Falls rents seem high for Copake. It also was discussed if another use could be had for the Roe Jan School. An educational facility seems like an ideal development, such as a college or prep school.

There was a discussion on doing a housing inventory of the hamlets homes. Chris said about 12 hamlet homes are empty and banks own some of them. Could the banks be asked by the town for better upkeep etc.? An empty house is not good for the Hamlet for many reasons. A tax map from Larry will be marked up to determine what houses are empty as a starting point.

**Other Business**

Discussion was had about the new Clock Tower Restaurant and how they are doing well and working out the kinks. A few members commented how great the “Irish Nachos” are!

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 9, 2016.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Kelly