

## **Copake Hamlet Revitalization Task Force**

### **Minutes**

Wednesday, January 24, 2018

Present: Roberta Roll (Chair), Peter Kelly, Andy Fisher, Tom Goldsworthy, Jeanne Mettler (Town Board Liaison), Richard Wolf (Guest). Absent: Lenny Barham

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- Minutes of the December 13, 2017 meeting were approved with minor changes.
- **Task Force Membership** - Roberta Roll announced that Jennifer Redman has resigned from the Task Force. The Task Force agreed it would make a public announcement seeking new members to join the Task Force.
- **Bike Copake** - Tom Goldsworthy reported no new information. However, planning for the Roe Jan Ramble will begin in a couple months. Victoria McGann, Public Health Officer for Columbia County distributed a "Guide to Physical Activity" in Columbia County, which includes biking in Copake. It will be distributed through the Copake Connection. A discussion ensued about generating new tourism brochures and whether the Columbia County Tourism Office could help with this.
- **Housing and Development**
  - Roberta Roll was informed that Habitat for Humanity had identified a potential homeowner for its Copake home, and is working to complete the application.
  - The Task Force reviewed a listing of distressed properties in Copake prepared by Tom Goldsworthy. It included 11 Bank-owned properties (all single-family houses or vacant land). The list also included 15 additional "pending tax foreclosures" identified by the County Attorney which were mostly vacant land and a few single-family homes, plus one farm and one commercial building. Tom also asked the County Treasurer if he could provide a list of seriously tax delinquent properties. The Task Force will use this information to identify properties that have potential for redevelopment, EDC grants or loans, or use as newly rehabilitated housing.
- **Former Roe Jan School Building** – Andy Fisher had no new information to report, but will continue to reach out to potential developers.
- **Historic District** - The Task Force received a letter dated January 9, 2018 from William Krattinger of the NY State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The letter detailed his thinking about the potential for Copake Hamlet areas to be considered for listing on the State and National Register of Historic Places, based on his visit to

Copake in October 2017. He believes the best area for consideration would be Main Street north from approximately Dad's Diner and a small portion of Farm Road. The Copake Clock and United Methodist Church have been previously listed. A next step would be to draft a map of the proposed area, and provide detail about the buildings within it, which he would be able to work on later this year. Peter Kelly will contact Mr. Krattinger and ask if there is any work the Task Force can do to expedite and assist.

- **Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP)** – Roberta Roll met with the Town Board at its January 11 meeting. The Board approved proceeding with the \$40,000 planning grant previously approved by the State. The next step involves obtaining a Work Order from the NY Department of State, which will enable the Town to hire a consultant to begin a planning study. Roberta will follow up with John Winbush at the NY Department of State to obtain the Work Order.
- **Vehicle Charging Station**- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYDEC) is offering grants to communities to install electric vehicle charging stations. Roberta will contact the NYDEC to see how Copake can do this. The deadline for applications is May 31, 2018.
- **Hamlet Streetscape Project** - The Town has previously been approved by NY Department of Transportation to begin an extensive project to repair, improve and enhance County Route 7A (Main St & Church Streets) in the Hamlet. Columbia County Department of Transportation (CCDOT) is the lead agency for the project, and Dean Knox is the Project Manager. Planning for this project will begin this year, and the Town will need to establish a Project Committee to coordinate the work with Mr. Knox. Roberta will talk with Mr. Knox to determine next steps.
- **Business Alliance** - The Task Force discussed ways to promote Copake businesses, possibly establish a Business Alliance, and perhaps a coordinated, cooperative advertising program. Jeanne Mettler suggested promotional signs identifying businesses be placed at the intersection of Main Street and State Route 22. Roberta Roll will invite business leaders from the Town to the next Task Force meeting to solicit ideas from them and get input.
- **Summer Events** - The Task Force brainstormed about potential summer events that could be held to bring residents, visitors and activity into the Hamlet. The Task Force could coordinate with the Parks & Recreation Department on an event. A Roeliff Jansen Birthday celebration and parade was suggested as a possible event.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at 7:00pm at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Goldsworthy