

Copake Hamlet Revitalization Task Force

March 11, 2015 - 7:00 p.m.

Copake Town Hall

Present: Rus Davis, Chris Quinby, Jennifer Redman, Roberta Roll, Chair

Absent:, Peggy Lewis, John Pollok

Other Attendees: Jeanne Mettler, Town Board Liaison

Minutes – The minutes from the February 11, 2015 and the February 25, 2015 meetings were approved.

Bike Team –

Roe Jan Ramble meeting with two other towns on March 21st.

Jeanne is going to be in touch with one of the leaders of the April 17th Antique Bike Ride so we can offer some coordination and assistance. The Copake Front Porch Market will offer some food at the end of the ride.

The Bike Copake brochure will have a new color and new routes for 2015.

Jeanne drafted a letter from the bike team asking the town to advocate for a sign noting a dangerous intersection at the junction of Route 7A and Snyder Pond Road and for a decreased speed limit.

CMH/Broadband initiatives –

Roberta followed up on other broadband providers and spoke to Richard Frank who designs and builds fiber optic networks. Mr. Frank is looking to apply for funds from Governor Cuomo's initiative to build networks. Doing a feasibility study now. Going to different towns upstate to see if there is interest.

Jenn Redman described her conversation with Mid-Hudson cable regarding bringing broadband to the Rescue Squad site. CMH needs secure transmission.

Roberta let the hospital know that the Copake community has committed to raise the necessary funds to pay for installation and suggested that CMH would now be able to go back to Senator Marchione to discuss moving forward on this project.

The committee reviewed a request letter to the Rheinstrom Foundation asking them to support the installation of broadband so that the proposed CMH rapid care center can operate.

USDA offers a grant program and a combination loan/grant program to fund broadband projects. The grant loan program offers funds for new infrastructure but the grant-only program does not. There is a presentation by the USDA on Wednesday March 18th to discuss these programs and members of the Copake HRTF and the Town Board will attend.

Revitalization Efforts -- Jeanne spoke to a potential business owner who asked about tax incentives for opening a business in town. The Comprehensive Plan suggests that this is a step that could be implemented. Jeanne will look into the existence of a tax exemption in the town and discuss it with the Town Board.

Taconic Shores is looking to rebrand itself as “Robinson Mills” to attract new owners to the development

Design Charrette – The committee reviewed drafts of a flyer/save the date, press release, a survey and a poster which would publicize the design charrette on May 2nd and 3rd. We discussed timing and design of a save the date mailing/emailing and the most efficient and cost effective way to send it. There will be an article in the Copake connection this week mentioning the charrette. Still approaching the Grange about holding the events there. Charrette will be announced at the Town Board meeting on March 12th.

Economic Round Table – Jeanne Mettler attended the March 5th meeting. There were about 18 people from various other towns that attended. Heard from David Colby who is the head of the Chamber of Commerce in Columbia County. The group also heard from Martha Lane who discussed a micro-business loan program. There was also discussion of promoting Columbia County in the Capitol Region.

Other Business –

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: March 25th

Respectfully submitted, JENNIFER REDMAN