

## **Copake Hamlet Revitalization Task Force**

**March 25, 2015 - 7:00 p.m.**

### **Copake Town Hall**

**Present:**, Peggy Lewis, Chris Quinby, Jennifer Redman, Roberta Roll, Chair

**Absent:**, Rus Davis, John Pollok

**Other Attendees:** Jeanne Mettler, Town Board Liaison

**CMH/Broadband initiatives** – The request letter to the Rheinstrom Foundation asking them to support the installation of broadband so that the proposed CMH rapid care center can operate will be sent out this week.

Another potential source of funding may be the Hudson River Bank and Trust.

Jeanne Mettler attended a meeting organized by the Columbia Economic Development Corporation on March 19<sup>th</sup> at which the Executive Director of Governor Cuomo's New NY Broadband initiative spoke. At the meeting it was announced that Columbia County has hired a firm to conduct an inventory of broadband connectivity in the county and that this was the first step for the County to participate in the New NY program. It is expected that the study will be completed by the end of the summer. The committee will continue to track this issue.

**Bike Team** – The bike team met on March 21<sup>st</sup>. The committee had hoped to meet with representatives of Ancram and Hillsdale to discuss the Roe Jan Ramble, but it is possible that the inclement weather prevented full participation. The committee will continue its effort to reach out to the other towns early in the planning process.

The Bike Team is going to request that the Roe Jan Ramble be sponsored by the Town of Copake and the CHRTF will write a request letter to this effect to the town board.

The Roe Jan Ramble will again be offered free to the public and have the option of raising funds for the Harlem Valley Rail Trail.

**Design Charrette** – The design charrette will be held on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the hamlet and at Town Hall. The consultants hired by the town have drafted promotional materials, a press release and an online survey. Posters are being produced to put up around town and a post card will be mailed to all Copake residents. A Facebook page has been created, as has an email address. As there is no central email list for residents of the Town of Copake, the members divided responsibility for emailing existing groups of people within the town to make sure that all residents have been apprised of the charrette.

**Revitalization Efforts** -- Jeanne Mettler researched the existence of a tax exemption for business owners. There is a New York State property tax abatement law which was adopted by the Town of Copake and which can be used by business owners. Tax incentives for business

**Land Use Committee** – The Town committee that has been reviewing Copake’s zoning laws is within six weeks of completing its work and making recommendations to the Town Zoning Board.

**Other Business –**

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: April 8, 2015 and April 22, 2105

Respectfully submitted, JENNIFER REDMAN