

Copake Hamlet Revitalization Taskforce Mission Statement

The Copake Hamlet Revitalization Taskforce (CHRVT) is charged with the task of implementing the Comprehensive Plan in taking “all steps necessary to revitalize and rehabilitate ‘downtown Copake’ as a mixed use, walkable, compact livable and affordable place”. (Comprehensive Plan, hereinafter CP, page 30). Included in the task of revitalization are the following Actions, all set forth in the Comprehensive Plan:

- a) Protect existing small businesses by encouraging a “buy local” campaign, marketing their services and supporting streetscape and building to improve the physical environment (CP p. 31).
- b) Attract new service and retail businesses that meet the needs of all residents, both full time and seasonal (CP p.31)
- c) Develop a plan for the Hamlet of Copake which would incorporate the current Hamlet, the Town Park, the Town Hall and surrounding lands (CP p. 46)

The CHRVT will be guided by the Comprehensive Plan and shall collaborate with existing Boards and Committees, including the Copake Economic Advisory Board and the Round the Clock Committee. The CHRVT shall:

1. Dialogue with existing businesses in downtown Copake to learn what specific measures the Town can take to help them thrive, and where appropriate, act as an intermediary between businesses and Town Government.
2. Inventory and assess market trends, existing businesses, and local assets including buildings, infrastructure, public amenities and the local workforce and use this information to identify and promote new economic functions for downtown Copake.
3. Recruit new businesses through research and outreach.
4. Effectively market the Hamlet of Copake in order to recruit businesses and support existing businesses.
5. Work with new businesses to help entrepreneurs move through necessary approval and permit processes.
6. Obtain grants from government and private funding sources to upgrade and improve the appearance of the downtown, where appropriate.
7. Work with existing businesses to obtain grants and or private funding for improvements; support businesses in taking steps to address code violations; where necessary, refer apparent code violations to appropriate Town authorities.

June 8, 2012