

## **COPAKE HAMLET REVITALIZATION TASKFORCE**

Copake Town Hall  
November 28, 2012

Present: Roberta Roll, Rus Davis, Jerry Kraus, John Pollak

Absent: Nancy Schultz

### **INTERVIEW OF LOCAL BUSINESSPERSON**

Roberta reported that Linda Nielsen called earlier in the day to say she could not attend the meeting. She talked to Roberta at some length on the phone, however, and Roberta reported that Ms. Nielsen made the following comments:

*Ms. Nielsen has been in business for 40 years. The reason she ended up in Copake was simply that she sold her home, and moved to Copake Lake. The building in Copake was for sale, and she bought it.*

*She reports that business is good. She gets people from Lee, MA and even further.*

*She does not wish to expand.*

*She likes being in the center of Town.*

*When asked about her relationship with the Town, she responded that she has never asked the Town for help. She added, however, that she was dissatisfied with one of her business neighbors, and had some disagreements with him. She has had good relations with other of the business people.*

*Ms. Neilson was appreciative that a neighbor had installed blacktop, but she says that a big problem is that the snow from the private plows ends up in front of her store. The county eventually clears it, but in the meantime she is blocked in. She wishes that there were sidewalks in Town.*

*A few years ago there was a break-in in her place.*

*Asked about cooperation between businesses, she said that Donny and KeyBank have been great. She said that she has the menu from the Diner and the Deli and she posts them in her place.*

*As far as joint publicity effort: she said she would think about it.*

*What other businesses would be good in town? Gift Shop, Steak House, a Pharmacy, a bakery, a theater.*

*Asked what she else she needed, She talked about the "locals". Many of them do not patronize her business and many of them do not even walk in to say hello.*

*She loves having the General Store there—thinks that it is great.*

## Other discussion of Businesses

Roberta thinks that some businesspeople will not come in to talk with us—and that we will have to go to them. Roberta also mentioned doing an advertising piece for all of the businesses, and suggested that maybe CEAB would like to collaborate on this.

Rus: maybe we should not try to get them to do a “special”. More of “what’s here”, than to do a “special”. Roberta said she will make up a form for businesses which will include their hours and what they offer...to be used for publicity.

## **ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**

- 2 Approval of minutes: deferred until next meeting
- 3 Checklist for prospective business owners—Roberta will speak to Ed Ferratto.
- 4 Review of rapid care facility: John has written a third draft. We reviewed this, and made some suggestions: e.g., include the fact that we have a huge summer population.
- 5 Update on independent/assisted living facility- not too much new; table until next meeting.
- 6 Meeting with LURC— It is scheduled for December 11 at 7:45.
- 7 Other business
  - a. New Ideas: John is suggesting we contact Camphill Village. Could they open a bakery? Or even an Independent Living Center? Roberta will contact Richard Neal to ask if any of this is a possibility.
  - b. Can we do something to encourage the heart of Copake? Copake Falls has a lot of good energy.
  - c.. New Members- Jerry feels he should resign. The Committee asked him to reconsider and expressed their appreciation to him.  
  
We suggested possible new members. John will speak to Bob Rosengarten.
  - d. Berkshire Taconic Grant— Jeanne read an e-mail from Nancy Schultz, regarding the possibility of applying for this grant. The deadline for submission is February 1, 2013. Nancy’s suggestion was that we consider submitting the application under the auspices of the Copake Community Service, Inc. The

Taskforce agreed that Roberta should bring this proposal to the Corporation.

Meeting Dates: Meeting with LURC: December 11, 2012

Regular meetings: January 9, 2013; January 23, 2013.

We will not meet on December 26, 2013.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

JEANNE E. METTLER