

Copake Hamlet Revitalization Task Force Minutes – January 23, 2013

Present: Jeanne Mettler, Roberta Roll, Nancy Schultz (phone), Rus Davis

Absent: John Pollok

Visitors: Adam Reznikoff, Larry Lampman, guests

Minutes

The minutes from December 12, 2012 and January 9, 2013 were approved with corrections.

Larry Lampman Presentation

The Great Field –The Field is still for sale. He feels that it should be preserved for agriculture. The reasons include climate change, food miles, carbon footprint, emphasis on diet, health and local foods, and food security. It is important to grow food for the people that consume it without using fossil fuels for transporting it. Our very best land should be saved for future generations food growing resources. The advantages of the Great Field are that it is flat, not rocky, not clay, not in the flood plain and good for people food. The Great Field needs to be saved from development.

He has been trying to find a group or person of means that needs the tax reduction who will conserve the Great Field for agriculture.¹ Then groups within the community can decide how to manage the agricultural use, including trying new types of agriculture.

Larry recommends the book “The Town That Food Saved” (Hardwick, Vermont), which discusses how they revitalized their economy using agricultural enterprises.

He also suggested branding local produce with the Copake name, e.g. “Copake Carrots’.

Discussion:

- Consider Mountain View wooded section for housing.
- Some kind of buildings would be necessary.
- Is it a possibility for the town to buy it? It could be done but would they be willing to spend the money?
- People have also talked about agriculture, including mixed use.
- A young produce farmer starting out would need an acre or two.
- If a mixed use came to be, how much should we set aside for agriculture?

¹ Larry’s contacts include Dutchess Land Conservancy, Jim Chambers of Cox Broadcasting (Long Hill Farm), Open Space Institute, Berkshire Taconic Foundation, Glenwood Center, Sean Lennon, Robbie Benson, Ellen Degeneris, Opra Winfrey and local banks. He has considered Crowd Funding. (on-line solicitation funding). He would like Jeff Nayer to consider getting the town to issue a bond.

Fund Raising

Grants are in process for Berkshire Taconic Foundation (Feb 1), Hudson River Valley Greenway (Feb 13), HRBT Foundation (continuous) and Rheinstrom Hill Foundation (continuous)

It would be helpful if we had a political letter of support for the Greenway grant. **Jeanne** will contact Didi Barrett. We might also consider working with Chris Gibson (Jeff Nayer or George Beneke), Marc Molinaro (Roberta) and Kathy Marchione.

We should develop a short briefing document for politicians. **Nancy** (done)

Jeanne will try to schedule a meeting with Didi Barrett (early February?) Also try to meet with Kathy Marchione?

Roberta talked to Bob Rosegarten, who served as the Mayor of Great Neck, NY. He suggested that we should go to Albany and talk to our supporters there. This would be especially helpful for the next round of State grants for implementation.

- Bob didn't have a development corp. He would solicit businesses in the town for funding for improvements.
- How should we find the people who have money? Look at the Library donor list.
- Consider whether we would benefit from being declared a historic district like Hillside to generate funds to spruce up businesses. Call Steve Tiger to figure out what gets people excited about sprucing up their buildings.
- Jeff needs to go to the business owners and talk to them directly. Jeff should build a personal relationship with business owners. (Rus said he does do that.)
- We should do a brainstorming session to generate more ideas for the planning consultant.
- We should focus on attracting businesses that already exist within 100 miles of Copake, like Daily Bread and sporting goods chains.
- Try to get some artwork in the buildings. Should we work with the school?
- We need to start talking to some people who are not so easy to schedule, even if we need to go to them. Jim Walton is the next target, and then Donna Peck and Don from the Deli.

CIRD - Citizens' Institute on Rural Design

Roberta talked to a contact there and Nancy participated on their conference call on Feb 23.

Their grant RFP is rigorous. They will award up to 4 of 20 to 30 applicants with assistance building community consensus. The services will be provided in the Fall of 2013.

Discussion:

- This is not an element we had originally planned, and it might take us off our timeline for hiring and deploying our planning consultant
- CIRD is a very valuable resource for us as we revitalize the Hamlet and we should continue to participate in their offerings (webinars, etc.)

More CIRD information:

We are following up to share with you a Podcast recording of the call and call notes in Google docs. There were far more questions than we could answer on the line, but we have answered all questions in the Google doc and there is a FAQ available online.

- Google Doc (questions, discussion and call notes): <http://bit.ly/136KqmF>
- Podcast: <http://communitymatters.posterous.com/pages/podcasts>
- CIRD FAQ: <http://rural-design.org/faq>
- Blog Post: <http://bit.ly/14dF0be>
[Watch the CIRD website](#) for program updates, please register to join us for two more application assistance calls, and be in touch with us through cird@pps.org if you have additional questions or comments about the CIRD program

Urgent Care

Meeting with Jay Cahalan at Columbia Greene Hospital is scheduled for February 13. John, Jeanne and Roberta will attend.

Nancy will put together more census information on population, number of households and growth rate.

Other

Neal Howard, Superintendent of Taconic Hills School, is willing to collaborate with us on workforce needs. **Rus** will direct him to talk to Mike Peschel directly.

The FAA is looking for a traffic control center in the Northeast Corridor. Should we solicit this? Would the old Roe Jan School be a better location than the Hamlet?

Executive Session: New members for the Task Force

We should do ½ hour interviews and place people within the next four weeks.

Next Meeting

Feb 13, **5 PM** one time only