

Attendees

Present: Roberta Roll, Jeanne Mettler, Chris Quinby, Rus Davis, Nancy Schultz

Absent: John Pollok

Minutes from November 13, 2013 meeting were accepted.

Ken Flood Dialog

Ken Flood, Commissioner of Columbia County Planning and Economic Development, and Executive Director of the Columbia Economic Development Corporation, met with the Task Force to discuss ways that we could advance our missions collaboratively.

Hamlet Plan – Ken suggested that we could do a plan as informally or formally as we want. Germantown developed their own plan without the assistance of a planner and improved their sidewalks, conducted an inventory of businesses, launched a small market, developed a tourist kiosk and marketed the community using their zip code as their brand. Hillsdale did an extensive formal plan focusing on drawing tourists from the Berkshires. He suggests we come up with three objectives and DO IT. Ken thinks signage is more important than sidewalks. Signage should be focused on attracting tourists to attractions. It is easier to get signage on state highways if they are tourism related. It is easier to get signs on county highways. Consider a visitor information center.

He also values rack cards and promotion, providing paint to building owners, putting out planters and sponsoring bike events.

Waste Water Disposal – Ken felt that it was appropriate to consider waste water disposal in our hamlet plan and cautioned that from planning to implementation it often took 10 years. Typically the town would need to put up a district bond, creating a taxing jurisdiction for the town. The first step is to raise money to do the engineering and determine the best kind of system for the need. Although funding is available through the State consolidated funding application (CFA)¹, the State likes to see matching funds from the town.

Funding Sources

Scenic Hudson should be considered for funding.

The Columbia County Economic Development Corp. could provide funds to help existing (their first priority) or new businesses open.² They can provide working capital and equipment and are helping the expansion at Catamount now. On grant requests they can provide a small amount of matching funds and in-kind benefits like copying and staff advice. They have not been approached by the Copake Agricultural

¹ We should come to Ken before we do a CFA application.

² Ken felt that it would be feasible to help a brew pub come to the Hamlet.

Center initiative yet. Ken likely could provide a low interest loan for our Rapid Care Center because funding is especially available for services that benefit poor people.³

NYS Department of Transportation (DOT) funding for updating the hamlet streets and sidewalks requires further research. **Ken** will check to see if we are on a funding list, and if so, for what year. He will also ask if there are any right-of-way issues impacting improvements. One DOT safety program that may help is called ISETEA.

He felt it was very instrumental to have a 501(C)(3) organization to work through (which we do – CCS). It will help with fundraising.

Other

Beer and wine licenses are much easier to get than liquor licenses.

When inventorying buildings document whether they have good septic and water.

Grants

Nancy put together the attached table to summarize the grants currently in process and potential future needs and funding sources.

There are two short term objectives:

- Revise and resubmit the 1st Niagara Foundation grant proposal in January. Nancy is awaiting feedback from 1st Niagara on the prior submittal.
- Ensure that the applicant entity, Copake Community Service Inc. (CCS). Is recognized as a legitimate not-for-profit. **Jeanne** will contact the IRS and Guidestar to determine if there are any issues that need to be addressed.

Nancy suggested that we reconsider our proposal for the Hamlet Plan. We agreed that we would benefit from doing a Request for Information (RFI) to get a better idea of what is a feasible amount to pay for what we want. **Nancy** will review the requirements in the current RFP draft to see how we might configure and RFI. She will submit her comments to the full Task Force for comments.

Web Site

The town attorney and supervisor have agreed that we can list businesses on the town web site. Jeanne and Karen DiPeri will publicize the opportunity in the Copake Connection.

Film Series

John has a movie screen that was delivered to Jeanne's house. Bill Newcomb will have the screen installed at the Grange. We need to decide whether to offer a movie before the spring Gangster Film Series.

³ Senior Citizens are automatically considered low or moderate income people.

Nancy will ask Barbara Rindler about other enthusiasts of the Chatham Film Club. **Roberta** will engage the people who did the films for the Friends of Taconic State Park.

Health Center in Copake Hamlet

Roberta spoke to Jay Cahalan, Chief Executive Officer at CMH. He would like a tour of the proposed Rescue Squad property. **Roberta** will coordinate the tour.

Roberta told Mary Daggett about the Dyson Foundation interest in potentially funding the Copake Rapid Care.

Other

General Store: A number of investors are pledging money. They will have a public meeting in January. Send investors to Roberta. They want to open in March.

The Copake Agricultural Center is still seeking funding to be able to close on the Great Field on December 27. They have been told that there are other buyers waiting in the wings.

There will be no meeting on Christmas Day, December 25. The next meeting will be Wednesday January 8. John & Nancy will be calling in.

Grant Strategy

ITEM	SOURCE/AMOUNT	TIMING	APPLICANT	COMMENTS
Hamlet Plan	Rheinstron \$5000	--	Town	Received
	Greenway \$9000	--	Town	Received
	Town \$10000	TBD	Task Force	Jeanne pursue with Jeff
	1 st Niagara \$10000	Jan '14	CCS	Rus ensure CCS info appears on Guidestar Address weaknesses in prior submittal. Nancy seeking more info from Gillian/Kelly
	Berk Taconic \$10000	Mar '14	Town?	Nancy read recommended Donor Advised Fund
	Camp Hill \$5000	TBD	Town?	Roberta discuss with Camp Hill
	Other	Nancy - Simplify the RFP. Consider a Request for Information (RFI). The plan should be simpler if the Copake Agricultural Center continues to move forward as an anchor initiative.		
CMH Rapid Care	Dyson Foundation \$TBD	TBD	CMH	Roberta pursue with CMH
Infrastructure				Contingent on Hamlet Plan
Acquisition				Contingent on Hamlet Plan
Broadband				Contingent on needs of lead initiative (Rapid Care?)
NFP Initiatives				
Business Initiatives				Can we do something for the Copake Agricultural Center or the General Store?
Residential Initiatives				
	HRBT Foundation			Focused on tangible initiatives

	NYS Consolidated Funding Application	July		CFA available for NFPs, Business and Residential initiatives. July workshops and application deadline.