

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

Absent: John Pollok

Applicants

Applicant Chris Quinby was interviewed for a position on the Task Force. He was unanimously endorsed by the members present. His name will be presented to the Town Board for approval at the March 14 meeting.

Minutes

The minutes for January 23 and February 13, 2013 were approved.

Columbia Memorial Hospital

Roberta wrote the letter to Jay Cahalan following up on the February 13 meeting at Columbia Memorial Hospital. A copy is in the DropBox.

Grange Opportunities

Roberta left a message with Bill Newcomb and has not heard back. She will contact him again.

Communications

- e-Newsletter – Karen DiPeri told Roberta that she will keep the Copake Connection going (this will cover all Town activities.) We can send her content. She is willing to connect the e-Newsletter to the web site. We will send issued a new edition the first week of March.
 - **Jeanne** will write a short article on the Farmland Committee
 - **Roberta** will write a short article on the progress of the Hamlet Revitalization Task Force
- Jeanne discussed the progress of the web site update with Karen DiPeri. The site will include the ability to sign up for the e-Newsletter. The RFP is taking longer than expected to be finalized, but it is almost ready. It will likely go out the first week of March, returnable by the end of March. Karen will send an example from the Chatham web site to use as a benchmark for Copake.
- **Nancy** is eager to start the blog so we can inform people about potential business opportunities in the hamlet (limited to Hamlet activities).

Bike Initiative

Jerry Kraus has agreed to coordinate a bike initiative focused on the Hamlet. **Jeanne/Roberta** will get together with Jerry to help him plan for a Bike Auction Community Event the weekend of April 20, 2013. We will recommend that he contact Arthur Rubenstein and or Mike Peschel to help with the cycling brochure layout.

Arts Center

Roberta talked to Nancy Rutter about Arts Center investors. Nancy backed off because she was getting mixed messages from Copake Community Service Inc. (CCS). Roberta told her we are interested in pursuing it. Nancy Rutter will e-mail her potential sponsors and get back to **Roberta**.

Assisted Living

Roberta spoke to Richard Neal at Camphill regarding their interest in a local assisted living facility. He said that prior to establishing Camphill Ghent they looked at options in the area. Ackley Stock Farm has a lot of wetlands. They looked at Dynhart Farm but the land wasn't right. Roberta and Richard discussed idea of a café in Copake. Camphill is not ready to take on another financial initiative right now. Roberta was invited to come to one of their weekly meetings.

Acquiring the Great Field

Roberta talked to Art Bassin from Ancram about the bond they issued for a highway building. A bond issue requires a referendum of the voters. You need to find a bank and attorney who specializes in that area. Ancram incorporated the payments in into their highway budget.

Jeanne spoke to town attorney Ken Dow about issuing bonds. He will get back to her after he researches it more. **Jeanne** will also ask Ken about actions the town can take to ensure availability of the field if we can put an offer together.

Nancy identified a colleague who used to manage issuing bonds for Albany County. He said that there is no better time than now to issue bonds because interest rates are so low. He offered to share his experience with the Task Force. **Nancy** will ask him is he can speak to us by phone at the March 27 meeting.

Roberta will make more inquiries about other potential buyers.

Real Estate Inventory

Rus Davis reported on his task to inventory all of the For Sale and For Rent properties in the hamlet so we are prepared as prospects approach us with opportunities. He is very grateful for help from Craig Surprise, Town Assessor. **Rus** will update his list and put it in the DropBox.

Grant Updates

Nancy reported on the status of grant requests for the Hamlet Design and Development Plan:

- Applications have been submitted to Berkshire Taconic Foundation and the Hudson River Valley Greenway.
- A letter of request is being finalized for the Rheinstrom Hill Community Foundation. Their board will meet to review the requests in May.
- We will not be able to apply to the Hudson River Bank and Trust Foundation for the plan because they only fund tangible assets, and only through not-for-profit associations.
- The First Niagara Foundation looks like a good alternative candidate and **Nancy** is awaiting more information from the foundation coordinator.

It is becoming clear that a number of potential future funders will want us to apply through a not-for-profit organization. Copake Community Service Inc. is a perfect partner for this purpose but we need to work together to prepare for this opportunity:

- We need to provide more general information to the CCS Board about the Task Force strategy and activities
- When we have a specific opportunity we need to spend more time discussing the opportunity with them prior to the board meeting
- The CCS will need more financial assistance to address government reporting and grant administration. Nancy suggested Neal Klein, a former member of the CEAB. **Nancy** will provide his contact information to **Rus**.

Interviewing Hamlet Businesses

Some candidates for future interviews are:

- Kirk Kneller at Brad Peck Insurance
- Mike Linkig at Globe Automotive

Roberta will try to contact them and set up interview dates.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Neil Klein candidate for CCS grant administrators

Invite Tim Manccia to talk to us by phone on March 27.