

Minutes – Copake Hamlet Revitalization Task Force – 5/8/13

Attendees: John Pollok, Robert Roll, Jeanne Mettler, Chris Quinby, Nancy Schultz

Absent: Rus Davis

New Business Initiatives in Copake Hamlet

Gary Singh is moving forward on his project to rebuild the old JJ's Pizza building. With no stumbling blocks he will open it as a liquor store and sports bar. The top floor will be removed because he needs lower square footage to avoid building requirements that are triggered by square footage.

We don't believe there are any design guidelines for hamlet construction. Jeff Nayer has suggested to Gary that the building should fit in with the current architecture. We want the Singh's to know that the Task Force wants to be supportive of their project.

Rapid Care

Roberta talked to Vince Dingman, the CFO at Columbia Memorial Hospital. They would like to establish a Rapid Care facility in Copake but they are concerned that the numbers don't work, especially for the start up years. They don't want to do the investment right now. Roberta suggested partnering on grants. \$250,000 of start up funding would make them reconsider. They have someone on the staff who could help write the grant with Nancy.

Grant Issues:

- We would need political support.
- Who would be the proposer and grant administrator?
- When are applications due for the NYS common grant cycle?
- The USDA is gives grants or loans to construct, enlarge or improved community facilities for health care and public safety. Roberta will follow up on that angle.

CMH is seriously looking at the Callan Center to make it a more active enterprise in the community.

Should we suggest that the rescue squad to put their offer of two years free rent it in writing?

Supporting hamlet building projects

Roberta has a call into Ed Ferrato, Code Enforcement Office, about creating a handout for citizens planning to do a building project ('Before you start read this'). Jeanne spoke with Jeff and thinks it is a good idea. It will be available at town hall and on-line.

Part of the task force mission is to help new businesses. We need to determine how the task force finds out about who is applying for permits. (This is public information)

How can we help people avoid problems? Ask the Building Department, Planning Board and ZBA how we can make it easier for applicants to do projects in Copake. We will ask the Building Department, ZBA and Planning Board to meet with us individually as soon as possible. Start with the Building Department.

Other

Congratulations for Chris Quinby for having his high wheeler photo on the front page of the Columbia Paper.

John said that USDA focus is to provide assistance to rural communities, especially from farm related industries. The Chatham Brewery is looking to expand. John had lunch with Jake Cunningham, the owner and suggested he consider a brewery and brew pub in Copake Hamlet. John will put Jake in touch with the Bob Bernstein who has a binder on the Great Field. John called Mr. Bernstein, but he hasn't gotten back to John.

No news on adult day care. (Find a better name for this concept.) Nancy will send Kary Jablonka's information to John. (Done)

Events for the town this summer

We will plan another free 'fun' bike ride in conjunction with town businesses. Voluntary donations can be made to the Bike Copake fund. Consider doing this on Labor Day weekend. Consider a 'poker run' where merchants give out playing cards with the best hand winning prizes donated by the businesses. Businesses may choose to give out coupons for discounted services as well. Riders can select the businesses they want to go to on the Bike Copake map. The ride will start and end in the Copake Hamlet. Consider a BBQ by the Fire Department at the Fire Pond Park. Perhaps Jerry Krause would help

Block party – Roberta hasn't heard from Fiona Hutchinson (John Visconti). Jeanne may have her cell number. Marcia Peteroy might have her phone number.

Nancy will staff a table at Copake Community Day from 1 to 4 PM. Roberta will type up an information sheet. We will hand out bike brochures. Locate a banner for our table.

The task force will distribute our farm products brochures with our Bike Copake brochures. The Agricultural Committee may update the brochures if they choose. Nancy will stock brochures at The Greens in both the pro shop and the restaurant.

The Town has received several viable proposals on their web site RFP.

Someone asked to place a job ad in the Copake Connection. This would be more appropriate on a CCS web site or electronic newsletter.

The next Copake Connection publication is scheduled for May 17. Roberta will ask the friends of Taconic State Park to submit articles.

We received an e-mail from Matthew White of the Hillsdale Hamlet Committee regarding working together collaborative to ready the Roe Jan School building for potential buyers, e.g. joint grant applications. Jeanne will contact Matthew and let them know we are willing to discuss this more.

George Beneke shared information about the history of the Copake movie theater. The article also mentioned there has been some interest in restoring the Copake Train Station

Additional hamlet contacts to interview

Dave Valden from the Church Street Deli - Could we meet him at his place?

Kirk Kneller, Brad Peck Insurance – For further consideration.