

Present:

John Pollok, Roberta Roll, Jeanne Mettler, Rus Davis, Nancy Schultz, Chris Quinby (all present)

Guests:

Bob Haight, Copake Planning Board

## Bike Events

Jeanne summarized the statistics from the September Community Ride with improvement actions for next time.

The fall antique bike ride will be on 10-18-13 at 3 PM. No refreshments; just join the ride; piggyback on the Wheelmen's ride.

## Grants

**Roberta** is working with Didi Barrett to get a date to meet with her. The key agenda items will be to solicit funds for the Hamlet Plan and Rapid Care initiatives. (We may also have some agenda items for developing the old Roe Jan School building – see below.)

Chris spoke with Kathy Marchione's Director of Governmental Affairs, Ken Girardin, during her Hillsdale listening tour. Ken is looking to see if he can find some funding for us. **Chris** will follow up from him.

First Niagara strategy – We are considering resubmitting our grant proposal to First Niagara Foundation. Gillian Sims-Elster, Manager of the Copake and Hillsdale First Niagara Banks advised Nancy that we may have asked for too much money on our declined grant request. She suggested that **Nancy** contact Kelly Fishbach, First Niagara Foundation's regional representative again for more information. If Kelly does not respond, Gillian will advocate for us to get the information. Gillian also shared that she had a recent visit from a First Niagara vice-president who was very interested in the hamlet revitalization. (First Niagara has professional space potentially for rent in their Copake office. Please keep it in mind if we find an appropriate prospect.)

**Nancy** call Mary Daggett at CMH to revisit the opportunities using a Department of Agriculture Grant.

**Nancy** will look for newspaper article in the Register Star referenced in 9/11 minutes.

**Nancy** will continue to work on defining Copake Hamlet as a census designated place to make it easier to acquire census information to support our grants.

## Other

Roberta talked to architect Marty Kravits about developing the Roe Jan School. He plans to meet with the owner, Mr. Holland, on Oct 7. Marty feels there are sources for money for mixed housing. He will get back to us after October 7.

Great Field – Bob Bernstein is still looking for funding. He has received an extension for the closing until November.

Grange – Chris talked to Bill Newcomb. They will try to move forward with movie program. Roberta has left a couple messages for Carl Ritchie. She will follow up with him and some other theater people. Would the Friends of Taconic State Park be interested in doing movies there in the winter? **Chris** will talk to them.

Recreation idea –Could we establish a covered, lighted skating rink in the town park? Kids could do the fundraising. Long term, it would be great to have an indoor tennis court, privately funded.

**Jeanne** will give the left over tee shirts from the Roe Jan Ramble to Grant Herman to sell. Notify people through the Copake Connection.

### **Conversation with Bob Haight from the Copake Planning Board**

One of the problems is that applicants for building approval do not always bring the documentation they have been asked to provide and/or they do not submit them ahead of time (requested 10 days before the meeting) to give the board sufficient time to review it.

Bob thinks the most beneficial thing we can do to be more customer friendly during the building approval process is to create a checklist. Bob will put together a draft. Much of the information is in the Columbia County Planning Guide. The town attorney, Ken Dow, has objected to a checklist in the past so we will need to discuss it with him again.

If an applicant requires a board approval and has everything they need it could take as little as two months to get approval.

Communication among the Building Department, Planning Board and ZBA is not an issue.

In the past there were situations where applicants were paying money to meet requirements that were not mandated. This is no longer done.

The culture of the boards has changed to be more customer friendly.

Applications are on the town website.

Rus asked whether the boards should meet more than once a month. After discussion we concluded that perhaps the town board should require some data be provided by the boards to see if this is necessary.

They average about six applicants per month.

The Land Use Review Committee will be making building applications easier by clarifying some of the vague elements of the current zoning law. Bob is the Chair of the LURC.

The Planning Board currently has vacancies on the board. In the past they have had difficulty achieving a quorum to make decisions.

Adjourn at 9:25.