

Mission Statement of the Copake Conservation Advisory Committee

The Copake Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 2011, recognized that the preservation of Copake's rural landscape is a primary goal for the Town (Comprehensive Plan, hereinafter CP, page 27). In order to protect that rural character, the Town of Copake must protect the Town's scenic resources, including open spaces, woods and meadows, lakes, ponds and streams, ridgelines and view sheds. Prior to the completion of the Comprehensive Plan, the Conservation Resources Committee completed a report which inventoried the natural and cultural (including historic and archeological) resources of the Town. That Report was incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan and was included in the appendix of the Plan (CP, page 29).

The Comprehensive Plan urged that the Town **“create a Conservation Advisory Committee with broad technical experience to serve in an advisory capacity to the Zoning and Planning Boards, upon request.”** The Comprehensive Plan stated that the Committee should **“continue to identify and classify scenic and historic resources, as a resource to the Town (CP, page 28).”**

Pursuant to a Resolution dated February 14, 2013, the Town Board has established a Conservation Advisory Committee. The mission of the Conservation Advisory Committee (hereinafter, CAC) shall be:

1. Upon request, to advise the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Planning Board, on matters affecting the preservation, development, and use of the cultural (including historic and archeological) resources of the Town. The CAC shall likewise, upon request, advise on matters affecting the preservation, development, and use of natural resources, features and conditions of the Town, insofar as environmental quality, biological integrity, natural beauty and other environmental factors are concerned. When requested, the CAC shall give an opinion regarding the impact of proposed development, subdivisions, or buildings.
2. Upon a request from the Town Board, to advise that body with regard to the matters set forth in Paragraph 1.
3. To update and maintain the inventory of the natural and cultural (including historic and archeological) resources of the Town. The Inventory shall also be presented in Map form.

The Committee shall be comprised of 3 to 9 town residents with a strong interest in the Committee's mission, as well as knowledge and experience in at least one of the following areas: the environmental sciences, cultural resources (including historic and archeological), planning, or environmental law.

The ZBA and Planning Board shall not automatically refer every matter to the CAC for review, but rather, shall only refer matters which present issues of preservation, development, or use of the resources of the Town, as set forth more fully in paragraph 1, above. The Committee shall meet as often as is necessary to fulfill its responsibilities in a timely manner. When the Committee receives a request for advice from the Town Board, the ZBA or the Planning Board, the Committee shall respond as promptly as the subject inquiry allows, so as not to unreasonably delay the matters before the respective Board.

Dated: February 14, 2013