

## **Minutes**

Copake Revitalization Task Force  
Wednesday May 11, 2016 7pm

Present:

Lenny Barham, Andy Fisher, Peter Kelly, Roberta Roll  
Jeanne Mettler - Town Board liaison  
Absent: Chris Quinby, Jenn Redman

Doug Clark of Doug Clark/Ryan Biggs Engineering gave a presentation on water and waste water systems.

### **Economics**

There is money available but not enough to cover whole costs. We should consider how much the Town can pay and also low interest loans.

Major funding is through NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation - Clean Water State Revolving Fund, and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. Grants and loans.

Also through USDA - Rural Utilities Services and through CDBG and HUD - federal grants and loans.

We don't have density so the cost of pipe per ft. is greater.

There are maintenance and testing fees.

Hillsdale had loan from USDA, EFC and CDBG. Fees: \$500/yr per family dwelling unit. 75 parcels/130 dwelling units. Gov't standard is 2% of median household income for water, 2% for waste. Hillsdale did income study. EFC money is available for engineering studies, but need income below \$60,000. Also have to do environmental impact study. Hillsdale's system cost 2.5 million.

### **Justification for grant money**

Usually is pollution or contamination by chemicals or natural flooding, e.g. nitrates from groundwater and runoff.

Primary concern of health depts. is drinking water quality. E.g. Copake Lake is an impaired body of water due to phosphorus, but it's an environmental issue, not drinking water. DEC is concerned with environmental pollution.

According to Mike Deruzzio at the CC Health Dept., Copake has no nitrate violations reported after 2009.

Based on the Rural Water Study, there is not justification for a town/hamlet water system. This is a surprise to us, since we have heard that the study did cite nitrates and poor water quality.

If we were to have a system, the intermediate design standard is the one we would use: 6-11 people(dwelling) per acre. If the Town were built out under current zoning, we would qualify in terms of density. We could go out and do a nitrate study - get volunteers to test water in 50 homes with test strips.

We should find out what kind of wells we have - shallow or deep. Rural Water can help with this.

We can also do a sanitary survey through the health dept.

Copake has a very high-yield aquifer and good soil drainage.

We discussed the problem of development in view of the health dept. guidelines concerning distances between septic and wells.

### **Other considerations**

Sprinkler systems are required with new housing or restaurants with housing upstairs.

Fire insurance - reduced premiums if there is water systems and hydrants

Constructing a septic tank system - if you use directional drilling, you don't need to tear up the street.

### **Options and next steps**

1. Find five acres and set it aside for future use, e.g. 15 years from now. Should be flat land with good soil and not in a flood plain.
2. We could put in deep wells with a water storage tank.
3. There are private solutions to situations, e.g. owner of a small parcel might work out a deal with an adjacent lot owner.
4. Can drill deeper individual wells.
5. Enhanced treatment - individual business owners can do this on their own lots; however, this undermines the public works idea.
6. Research cancer cluster data
7. Roberta will follow up with Steve Winkley (US Geological Service and Rural Water) about water quality and wells
8. Roberta will follow up with CC Health Dept. about septic and well setbacks
9. We need an income study - follow HUD guidelines so we could use CDBG funds.

### **Summary**

Pending conversations and further knowledge through the EFC and Rural Water, it seems that Copake does not have much chance of obtaining funding for a water or waste water system. However, future needs should be taken into consideration regarding hamlet development.

### **Other items on the agenda**

Minutes were approved from April 13, 2016

Peter will follow up with the CFA application.

Andy will attend the next CC broadband committee meeting on Tuesday, May 17 in Ghent.

Meeting was adjourned at 9pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Roll