

Minutes
Copake Hamlet Revitalization Task Force
Wednesday, September 26, 2018 7pm
Copake Town Hall

Attending : Roberta Roll, Alan Friedman, Peter Kelly, Tom Goldsworthy, Jeanne Mettler (Town Board Liaison), Lenny Barham. Absent: Andy Fisher

Minutes from the July 25, 2018 meeting were approved as submitted.

Report on the Ramble: Tom Goldsworthy reported on the event that it was successful and a great time was had by all. Since some number of people may not have registered, the statistics were extrapolated based on the known data. The event had 418 riders, of which there were 75 walk-ins. This is a 40% increase from last year's ridership of 297. 50 of the 418 riders were under 18 years of age. Actual ridership for each category was 10 miles - 92 riders, 18 miles - 83 riders, 25 miles - 72 riders, 35 miles - 60 riders and 50 miles - 111 riders.

A geographic breakdown of the riders showed 27% were from Columbia County, of which 2/3 were from Hillsdale, Copake and Ancram. 22% of the riders were from NYC, 21% were from Dutchess County, 16% were from Westchester, Long Island and other NYS localities, 12% were from CT/Mass and 2% were from other states.

Donations totaled \$19,106; when compared to last year's approximate \$15,000, the event clearly was successful in raising funds for the bike trail.

Signage: Jeanne explained that the sponsor for the signs are all set, and we are awaiting Town and DOT approval. Jeanne will follow up with county on two signs on the south entrance into town, one on route 22 which has the 7A sign pointing to the ground instead of to route 7A, and the other the sign that should say West Copake but only says W. Co, since the sign is broken in half.

LWRP: Roberta reported no news other than we are awaiting the final approval from the state on the grant.

Charging Station: Roberta explained that we could apply for rebates of \$4000 per port once the town up fronts the funds for the two ports. Roberta will investigate if the site of the Bank of Greene County could be a possible location for this activity.

Housing: Peter explained that the Octagon house is still in the foreclosure process and that this could take up to a year to be resolved. In addition, it was noted that the two yellow houses across the street are in this process as well, and that soon another house in this area may also be going into foreclosure. Peter explained that the owner of the RR depot has been contacted again but he has not been able to arrange a time for us to meet. In addition, he has been talking with Bill Krattinger from the State about creating an historical district in Copake. The advantage of becoming an historical district or site is that possible tax credits may be applied.

Roberta will be setting up a meeting with Mike Tucker from the CEDC, as well as inviting Amy Raymond to our next meeting to discuss rental properties. In addition, Roberta will be inviting the real estate broker from Copake Lake to one of our future meetings to discuss housing. A discussion on tax incentives and rental/owner occupied buildings ensued, but much more discussion on this is needed.

Business Association: The committee was pleased with the draft website, and after discussion, agreed to the following: Jeanne and Roberta will visit three of the local vendors to try and get them to agree that Copake needs a business association. Then Roberta will do a letter to all local Copake vendors inviting them to a meeting to be held at the Grange, where a power point presentation on the website would be presented.

Alan will contact Greg Larson, who built the website, to thank him for all of his work and review suggested changes that the committee made - i.e. build the data base, estimate any fees or maintenance costs, etc. The meeting will most likely be held on a Sunday afternoon to allow a maximum number of businesses to attend, as well as Greg.

Conservation Advisory Committee: Roberta will be contacting Edgar Masters and Dan Haas to try to resuscitate the committee.

Roberta also described conversations she has held with staff from a company called Beehive regarding shared work space. In addition, Roberta explained that a person was looking to open up a brewery in town and is actively looking for space/land.

Roberta introduced the idea of having a Meet-up group focussed around recreational opportunities, and will follow up with several people to try to get it started.

Jeanne agreed to do the Holiday Tree project with the target of November 23 for all sales of the trees.

The Light Parade will be on December 8.

The next meeting of the Task Force will be held on October 24, 2018.

Respectively submitted,

Alan Friedman