

Minutes

Copake Hamlet Revitalization Task Force

Wednesday, July 24, 2019 7pm
Copake Town Hall

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

Minutes from the meeting of June 12, 2019 meeting were approved.

Roeliff Jansen Historical Society: Leslie Doyel, director of the Roeliff Jansen Historical Society appeared as a guest for the first half hour. The Task Force discussed how historical elements of Copake could be used to promote and revitalize the Town. Specifically discussed was the vacant former Connecticut New England (CNE) Railroad Depot, which is for sale, at State Route 22 and County Route 7A at the south entrance to Copake Hamlet. Also discussed were the original settler of the region, Roeliff Jansen, and cultural items unique to the area, such as Taghkanic baskets. Leslie will assist the Task Force in providing further background information which could be useful for promotion or development.

Hamlet Information Sign - Jeanne Mettler reported that the informational sign “Hamlet of Copake: Food, Shops, Gas, Rapid Care” has now been installed on State Route 22 before the northern entrance to Copake Hamlet. The Task Force initiated the sign, which was paid for by donations from local banks and CMH Rapid Care, and was purchased through Copake Community Service, Inc. Karin Newman generously allowed the sign to be installed on her property. The Task Force thanked Jeanne Mettler who tirelessly pursued this project.

Local Waterfront Revitalization Project (LWRP) - Roberta Roll reported that the Town has selected River Street Planning & Development, run by Margaret Irvin, as the planning consultant to prepare the Town’s Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan. The Task Force plans to meet with Margaret at its next monthly meeting to provide input for the plan. The plan is expected to take six months, and is paid for by a grant from New York State.

Copake Business Association - The Task Force arranged an organizational meeting for the nascent Copake Business Association on July 10. About 20 local businesses attended. Business members selected a steering committee of 5 members who plan to meet on August 13 to begin organizing the Association. Through a volunteer obtained by Alan Friedman, the Task Force provided a preliminary website for the CBA, and arranged for seed money donations to the CBA of \$650 from Bank of Greene County and the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce.

Roe Jan Ramble Bike Tour - Tom Goldsworthy reported that the volunteer committee for this community event has been meeting monthly. The bike tour will take place September 21, 2019 in Copake, Ancram and Hillsdale. Online registration is open, and currently has 104 riders registered, a bit higher than last year at this time. A new sixth route has been added which will be 62.5 miles and take riders past Copake Lake.

Friends of Taconic State Park - The Task Force received a request from the Friends of Taconic State Park for a letter of support for its application for a New York State grant to create a public native plants garden near Copake Iron Works. Roberta Roll provided the letter.

Community Event Day - The Task Force continues to brainstorm on ideas for an annual event day which would be symbolically identified with Copake, likely through some historical or agricultural connection.

The next meeting of the Task Force will be held on Wednesday, September 25, 2019, at 7:00 PM at Copake Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Goldsworthy