

Minutes

Copake Economic Development Advisory Committee
Wednesday, July 15, 2020, 4pm
via Zoom

Present: Tom Goldsworthy, Chair; Deb Cohen; Julie Cohen; Kevin Davis; Rich Lee;
Roberta Roll; Richard Wolf, Town Board Liaison
Absent: Austin Urban

The previous meeting, our first, on July 1, was an introductory meeting, so no minutes were taken. We introduced ourselves and generally got acquainted with each other and the mission of the CEDAC.

Copake Comprehensive Plan We prepared for this meeting by reviewing the Comprehensive Plan. While it is not our mission, per se, to make recommendations about the plan, we discussed those aspects which are relevant to our mission and some of the aspects which have already been fulfilled in some manner. Our projects will be informed by the comp plan and must be aligned with the comp plan.

We discussed the following, taken from **Priorities for Copake**:

1. Town Center and Economic Development - Business development in the last few years - Copake Front Porch Market, which then became Copake General Store; Copake Wine Works; Clock Tower Grill. Vacant buildings - the Hub, RR depot, Old Meeting House. Also the need for code enforcement. (See Town Government, below) We also discussed zoning - Julie will send the zoning map and town code. Of particular note, the table of uses and prohibited uses in each district. We will probably have development pressure due to COVID. The need for a pharmacy was raised. The Task Force has pursued this in conjunction with Copake Rapid Care. Roberta will inquire again.
2. Historic Preservation and Hamlets - There is currently no historic preservation mechanism set up in Copake. Buildings that are already designated: Copake Grange, United Methodist Church, the Clock Tower, and also the Ironworks District and the Roe Jan Historical Society in Copake Falls. We discussed the Copake Hamlet Revitalization Task Force initiative for an historic district designation for Main St. This will require some dissemination of information about the benefits of historic designation. There are also a few individual buildings in West Copake and Craryville that may qualify.
3. Town Government - Shared services: we share the code enforcement officer with two or three other towns; however, it may be that Copake could use a full-time code enforcement officer separate from the building inspector. Other shared services: the Rescue Squad. The Fire Companies, while specific to each town, share and cooperate.
Task Force is creating brochure to facilitate knowledge of building permit process.

4. Housing - There is a need.
5. Open Space and the Environment - Most real estate is privately owned, except for the Library, the Roe Jan Park, Copake Park, Taconic State Park, and a small corner by Copake Lake.
6. Agriculture - Shagbark Tree Farm, dairy farms, Copake Agricultural Center, Farm On.
7. Arts and Culture - Has been a catalyst for development in many towns in this region, as well as across the country.
8. Infrastructure - Broadband is much more widespread. There is one cell tower in town on High Meadow Rd. An application for a second has been withdrawn. Discussed water and sewer, relationship to density. Flooding in Copake Hamlet may be a factor in decisions regarding water treatment and sewer. Trout Unlimited may be helpful in obtaining information regarding the need for these systems. Green energy has taken on another aspect with the proposed solar project.
9. Community Facilities and Recreation - The Task Force is in the process of creating a Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan, including a spur from the Harlem Valley Rail Trail into Copake Hamlet, as well as other biking and walking paths, fishing spots, etc.

The old Roe Jan School - An important piece of the development process. Perhaps make a subcommittee to address this.

Grant writing - A grant writer will probably be needed. They know where the money is allocated. Roberta will review her past conversations with the grant writer for Hillsdale.

Items on this agenda to discuss next time: What types of business, institutions, activities do we want to actively encourage here? What does Copake need to attract these things? What challenges need to be overcome to attract these things?

The next meeting will be via Zoom on Wednesday, July 29, 2020 at 4pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Roll