

Minutes

Copake Economic Development Advisory Committee
Thursday August 27, 2020, 4pm
via Zoom

Present: Tom Goldsworthy, Chair; Deb Cohen; Julie Cohen; Austin Urban; Kevin Davis; Richard Wolf (Town Board Liaison)

Absent: Rich Lee; Roberta Roll

The committee tabled review of the Minutes from August 13, 2020 until the next meeting.

1. **Initiatives:** The committee returned to the list of initiatives generated at the last meeting to begin to prioritize them. The discussion included the following:
 - A. Roe Jan School - The committee agreed rehabilitation and reuse of the Roe Jan School is a priority for the town, given its large size and prominent location. The project will be a lengthy one, and will require substantial financing. The committee will inspect the property to understand its potential uses. Julie Cohen will contact the listing broker and arrange a tour.
 - B. Housing - Tom Goldsworthy noted that Hillsdale had previously formed a committee and did a survey to determine housing needs. He will investigate what Hillsdale found out.
 - C. Retail Businesses & Institutions - The committee will continue to refine a list of desirable enterprises that should be priorities.
 - D. Sewer District - The committee will investigate whether a sewer district in Copake hamlet would be desirable for attracting businesses. Tom Goldsworthy will contact representatives of Hillsdale to understand their history with setting up a sewer district.
 - E. Harlem Valley Rail Trail Connection - The committee will defer to the Project Committee formed by the Copake Hamlet Revitalization Task Force.
 - F. Copake Lake parking area - Austin Urban will reach out to the Copake Lake Conservation Society to get their input on whether improvements should be made to the county-owned parking area at the corner of Lakeview Road and County Route 7.
 - G. Code Enforcement - Deb Cohen made a motion to encourage the town to separate the jobs of Building Inspector from Code Enforcement Officer, and that

the town provide more resources for code enforcement. The motion passed unanimously.

2. **Business Survey:** Rich Lee prepared an online survey to be sent to businesses in Copake. Tom Goldsworthy will obtain a mailing list of businesses to be notified.
3. **Copake Identity:** Tom Goldsworthy encouraged committee members to consider how we would define Copake's identity that would focus our engagement with businesses and visitors. Defining that identity would help set priorities for events, tourism, and infrastructure.

The next meeting of the CEDAC will take place on Thursday, September 10, 2020 at 4PM EDT via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Goldsworthy