

Copake Economic Development Advisory Committee

Mission Statement

The Copake Economic Development Advisory Committee (CEDAC)'s mission is to promote sustainable economic development in the Town of Copake by encouraging and supporting existing businesses and attracting new business opportunities to the Town. Within this framework, the CEDAC advocates for and balances the needs of residents, business owners, environmental sustainability, quality of life, and public works.

The CEDAC shall address the needs of the entire Town, including the Hamlets of Copake, Copake Falls, Craryville, West Copake, and Copake Lake as well as the many communities within the Town. The CEDAC will be guided by the Comprehensive Plan adopted by the Town of Copake in 2011, and shall collaborate with existing Boards and Committees, including the Road Advisory Committee, the Agricultural Advisory Committee, the Conservation Advisory Committee, the Copake Hamlet Revitalization Task Force and the Project Advisory Committee. The CEDAC shall also interface with local groups such as the Copake Falls Day Committee and the Copake Grange and the Roe Jan Ramble Bike Tour Committee in assessing the needs of Copake residents and developing plans for economic development.

Suggested Strategies and Tasks

The agenda to be pursued by CEDAC may include:

1. Dialogue with existing businesses in Copake to learn what specific measures the Town can take to help them thrive, and where appropriate, act as an intermediary between businesses and Town Government.
2. Inventory and assess market trends, housing and transportation needs, cultural, recreational and tourism opportunities and local assets including existing businesses, buildings, infrastructure, public amenities and the local workforce and use this information to identify and promote new economic opportunities for the Town of Copake.
3. Recruit new businesses through research and outreach.
4. Effectively market Copake in order to recruit businesses and support existing businesses.
5. Work with new businesses to help entrepreneurs move through necessary approval and permit processes.
6. Obtain grants from government and private funding sources where appropriate.
7. Support the efforts of local businesses to create and maintain a Copake Business Association.

8. Continue the work of the Copake Hamlet Revitalization Task Force in revitalizing the Hamlet of Copake. In this regard, the Copake Hamlet Revitalization Task Force shall be considered a Task Force within the purview of the CEADC.

Role of the CEADC

The CEADC shall serve as an advisory committee to the Town Board and shall make recommendations for strategies which would contribute to the economic vitality of the Town. The Committee will make monthly reports to the Town Board. Upon notice to the Town Board, the Committee shall also be authorized to embark on studies, projects and strategies which will benefit Copake. Commencing in 2021 the Committee will have a budget, but all expenditures must be approved in advance by the Town Board.

Membership of the CEDAC

The Committee shall consist of five to seven members. With the approval of the Town Board, the Committee may form Task Forces and or Sub Committees, which may include members of the CEDAC in addition to other individuals.

All members of CEADC shall either be residents of the Town of Copake, or stakeholders in the Town with strong ties to the community (e.g. business owners, property owners, or individuals with some demonstrated stake in the Town).

Adopted by the Copake Town Board

February 13, 2020