



**Project Advisory Committee (PAC)
Meeting Notes
Wednesday, September 16, 2020**

Present:

- Roberta Roll, PAC Chair
- Alan Friedman, PAC
- Andy Fisher, PAC
- Len Barham, PAC
- Peter Kelly, PAC
- Richard Wolf, Town Board Liaison
- Fred Landa, DOS
- Margaret Irwin, RSPD
- Chris Snyder, RSPD

Update - Working Group Meetings

- Roberta provided an overview of 1st volunteer meeting on wildlife habitat, land and agriculture preservation and flood mitigation. A dozen participants joined, most from Copake hamlet or Taconic Shores. Hot topic was flood mitigation; discussion revolved around involving homeowners in mitigation process on their own properties. The group also discussed mitigation along the proposed spur, plantings and desire for a walking trail along the spur, effect of flooding on septic and water, Robinson Pond and educational approaches to wildlife habitat.
- Margaret commented that it would be good to have a workshop on flood mitigation and what is allowable by DEC, including nature of what is occurring and relevant FEMA data. Understanding hydrology would help with decisions about potential feasible actions. Discussed State's position of supporting the stream "finding its natural path" and that elevating people above floodplain is ideal approach. River Street team could gather information for homeowners and lead discussion about local flooding.
- Roberta provided overview of 2nd volunteer meeting on recreation and revitalization, with roughly a dozen participants.
 - o **Fishing access** is popular topic but fishermen don't like to divulge their fishing spots which creates a barrier. Margaret noted this is a huge recreation opportunity. Is there some incentive that would make it worth indicating these areas, like quietly creating safe access?
 - o **Bicycling** was another topic of discussion: Idea of small repair stations at popular starting points.



- o **Wayfinding:** Maps and signage. Alan noted Copake has many distinct areas and people don't venture from these. This is a very compelling topic because it has a unifying quality. Margaret noted that wayfinding is an eligible activity; could tie information about trails into this (e.g., family friendly trails, amenities, etc.). Discussed rough cost, funding and potential range of solutions related to wayfinding. Margaret described possible eligible options, including developing downloadable apps rather than printed maps. Group discussed also providing signage, important points for signage and including retail in apps. Roberta noted app might be great way to unify hamlets.
- o **Spur trail connections: CRITICAL PROJECT.** Roberta identified the pressing need to walk places that volunteers are discussing as potential connection points. Roberta will convene group to walk and examine route, draw on map and provide recommendation by next month's meeting. Margaret emphasized importance of establishing which areas are feasible under which conditions. Need to speak in detail about this and reach consensus on top options. Margaret noted DOT can become part of the conversation as needed, though may take longer than usual for field visits right now. As well, it's difficult to know what funds will be available for time being.
- **Questions about working groups:**
 - o Is issue of developing an app for maps and signage separate from the spur and library?
 - This would be a separate project.
 - The plan will include as many projects as Town wants and needs. Group will need to set some priorities to projects based on goals and potential catalysts.
 - o Group discussed developing relationships with agencies: DOS, DEC, DEC Climate Smart Communities, OPRHP would be main opportunities. NYS Council on the Arts (NYSCA) and other unique programs might apply. Roberta noted they are still working on being designated as Climate Smart Community. Margaret noted that public application process for CFA will likely be delayed due to pandemic. Other grants outside this process would be best to pursue for now.



Vision and Goals

- River Street shared a variety of samples of vision statements and goals from NY communities. PAC should consider how they want to convey vision and establish fewest number of goals that reflect and help to organize desired projects.
- Shorter vision statement and shorter/fewer goals are easier for community to keep in mind.
- Useful to establish short tagline or phrase.
- **VISION statements:**
 - Useful only if memorable.
 - Explain what is unique about Copake.
 - Identify where Copake would like to be in future (5, 10, 20 years).
- PAC agreed to email ideas to each other to keep process moving. A short follow up meeting may be needed.
- RSPD will then create a draft for review based on the ideas.
- **GOAL statements:**
 - Larger categories of activities.
 - Consider and stay focused on the waterfronts (e.g., flooding, recreation, promoting community via strategies such as wayfinding). Does not need to be extensive.
 - May revise goals after brainstorming projects.
- Roberta noted Copake Economic Development Advisory Committee is doing something similar. Margaret - could become Town-wide goals at some point but for now stay focused on waterways and hamlets.

Next Meeting

- Discuss vision statement.
- Discuss catalyst projects.
- Request that at some point the group gets back to workshop attendees with a summary of what happened.
 - Margaret noted that River Street sent thank you out to all participants possible; website summarizes the workshop and other meetings.



- o Another public workshop will be held after draft vision, goals and projects are identified. Community workshop will allow public input on the draft plan. Workshop may have to be online via Zoom or other venue. Roberta noted that second homeowners may be staying in Copake at this point.
- Roberta asked about Inventory and Analysis including Community Profile. River Street will be working through extensive draft on this, including a Map Atlas.
- Margaret and Roberta will provide further information on establishing dialogue around flooding issues.
- Next meeting set for Wednesday October 14, 2020 at 3:30PM.