

Minutes

Copake Economic Development Advisory Committee
Thursday, December 3, 2020 at 4pm via Zoom

Present: Tom Goldsworthy (Chair), Deb Cohen, Julie Cohen, Kevin Davis, Rich Lee, Roberta Roll, Austin Urban, and Richard Wolf (Town Board Liaison).

Minutes – The Committee accepted the minutes of November 12, 2020.
Notes: Rich Lee

Copake Lake Mini-Park - The following community members joined the Committee for the discussion: Trudi Haberman, Jeffrey Judd, Jane Landers, Lindsey Lebrecht, and Jed Luchow. The participants noted various concerns with current and future uses of the County-owned corner at Lakeview Road and Route 7: trash and cleanliness, the lack of sanitary facilities, boat launches that might contribute invasive species to the lake, and parking and erosion. Currently no funds have been allocated for this project, however the Committee is seeking public input about ideas for improvements that could be made. It was noted that a portion of the shoreline is owned by an adjacent homeowners association. A survey will need to be done to determine legal property lines. Any development within 150 feet of shoreline will require NYS DEC approval. Swimming is currently prohibited, but could hazards be cleaned up to make it safe? The Committee expressed its desire to generate a project that would improve current conditions and help address these concerns and current problems with the area.

Survey - The Committee has emailed a survey request to local businesses. Only 17 responses have been received online so far. A paper survey will be sent out by regular mail next week. Roberta will add something to the Copake Connection to get the word out. Richard will ask Jeanne Mettler to add an item about the survey to the town's Facebook page.

Roe Jan School - Jack Alvarez, a historic preservation architect, has measured the spaces at the school and provided square footage figures to Kevin. Kevin has forwarded the information to a hotel management company familiar with the region to get their input on the financial feasibility of operating a hotel there. Their input will drive what is viable. The Committee also discussed whether some element of housing could be added to the project.

Historic Preservation Law - Tom proposed that the Committee should consider recommending the Town Board adopt a local landmarks preservation law to help protect vulnerable properties from demolition, in particular the Roe Jan School. State and National Register listing is also a possibility and provides certain tax benefits, but those listings would not provide protection from demolition which only a local law can do. Deb Cohen expressed concern that, given the Roe Jan School has sat unused for 30 years, a landmark designation may further limit the property's marketability. Tom

and Roberta noted that the Hamlet Revitalization Task Force has done a lot of research recently on historic preservation, and will provide information they obtained to the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Rich Lee