

Minutes

Copake Economic Development Advisory Committee
Thursday, February 4 at 4pm via Zoom

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

Absent: Austin Urban and Julie Cohen.

Minutes – The committee accepted the minutes of December 17, 2020 and January 15, 2021 as presented.

1. Waste Water Engineering Planning Grant – Tom reported that at a Special Meeting, the Town Board had approved a resolution to authorize Erin Moore of Tighe & Bond to apply for the Engineering Planning Grant to undertake a water study. Tom thanked Richard for facilitating the Special Meeting and Deb thanked Tom for organizing several letters of support. Tom noted that competition is great for the grant and that preference is given to Towns with known septic issues.
2. Broadband Access – Deb and Rich reported on their research into a request from Carl Atkins, a Ghent resident, to undertake supplying broadband to Copake residents who do not yet have high speed access. The committee agreed that the proposed plan did not seem practical. Deb will make a report to the Town Board at its Regular Monthly meeting on February 11th.
3. Historic Preservation – Roberta noted that the Hamlet Revitalization Task force agrees that pursuing National and State Register of Historic Places designation is the best path to initiate the process of historic preservation. Roberta will recommend this approach to the Town Board at its February meeting.
4. Roe Jan School – Kevin reported that his contact from an experienced hotel management company has reviewed plans and done some financial analysis to determine the viability of developing the property as a hotel. Kevin noted that we are approaching the point where there is little else for the CEDAC to do that wouldn't cost money. Kevin agreed to approach the owners to gauge interest in actively marketing the property.
5. Copake Lake Mini-Park – no report.
6. Copake Business Association – Alan Friedman, a member of the Hamlet Revitalization Task Force, is enthusiastic about the formation of a business association and is considering organizing the association. The committee discussed ways to encourage and support a possible undertaking by Alan as a volunteer including supplying him with lists of businesses

in town and issues that have come out of the survey. Tom emphasized that this is not technically the CEDAC's initiative.

7. New Business – Deb agreed to have a lengthier discussion with Kirk Kneller about the feasibility of attracting an operator to create a bourbon tasting room in the former Copake Inn.
8. The next meeting of the Committee will be Thursday, February 25th at 4PM via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Cohen