



PAC Meeting # 1, August 28, 2019, Copake Town Hall, 7-9 pm

Present: PAC members – Roberta Roll (Chair), Peter Kelly, Lenny Barham, Alan Friedman. River Street Team with Margaret Irwin and Monica Ryan.

Margaret Irwin summarized the DOS/EPF Local Waterfront Revitalization Program and funding and discussed anticipated scope that will be finalized by the Town with NYS DOS. She reviewed the scope of work, approach and budget proposed, NYS DOS role, PAC role and deliverables. The Committee discussed process for requesting a waiver of MBE participation based on small budget and lack of efficiency to further divide the scope, acknowledged difficulty finding appropriate planning and design consultants in the region, familiarity of the chosen team with the Town and desire for speedy completion. She clarified that completing the Plan makes the Town eligible to apply for design and construction of actual projects. Roberta Roll summarized that the Town plan will formulate vision and goals, analyze the waterways, and identify the need for feasibility studies, advanced design projects and timeline. The plan will glean information from the Comprehensive plan and other sources.

Margaret Irwin and Roberta Roll reviewed the role of community engagement to confirm and expand understandings, and especially identification and prioritization of projects was discussed. The group discussed the need for transportation networks for connecting people and work expansion; might be a project to be pursued including forms of public/quasi-public transportation. The PAC identified that the level of private property ownership along the waterways will limit sites for projects, though some easements may be possible.

The Committee will assemble meeting notes and deliverables critical to add to the Inventory and Analysis and preliminary potential priority project list. The PAC identified: Evaluate engineer's report on alternatives to using the cow tunnel as connector for the spur to the regional Harlem Valley Trail Network. NYS DEC Unit Management Plan and other research and reports. An evaluation of the flooding of Bash Bish Creek area following Hurricane Irene. Columbia County in partnership with the Land Conservancy has mapped a natural resource inventory. Recent water quality study on Roe Jan related to fecal matter.

Discussion of Potential Projects: The PAC anticipates the Planning effort to focus on the hamlets and Harlem Valley Rail Trail spurs – HVR Trail spurs a key part of the Plan. There's another old railbed from Pine Plains to the old depot which needs to be identified. It can be seen from aerials. Roe-Jan Kill Priorities: Hamlet of Copake Revitalization; Railroad depot; Robinson Pond (Not connected? Could it be addressed in some fashion?) Bash Bish Creek - Hamlet of Copake Falls revitalization opportunities. Taghkanic Creek – What can be done regarding preferred land use? Identified Craryville Contentious Gas Station Proposal; public access to the Creek runs behind Burt's Inn and the Taconic School; Harlem Valley Rail Trail will cross the creek. How will the Plan address infrastructure need such as sewer and water? The Plan will evaluate extensive work completed by the committees on this issue and integrate it. The Plan could recommend public infrastructure for economic development/revitalization, water quality etc. Hemp is becoming big in Copake. Team members will reach out to sources. PAC members will forward materials they have to PAC chair and the Team.