

Minutes

Copake Economic Development Advisory Committee
Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 4pm via Zoom

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

Absent: Rich Lee.

Survey Update: The Committee received 34 responses to date. The committee discussed the biggest issues reported by respondents which were Internet Access, difficulty with Permits & Approvals, and with Water & Sewer. Regarding Internet Access, the Town has received a proposal from Carl Atkins and Andy Fisher to establish a Town-owned network. Deb Cohen and Rich Lee will review and report back their recommendations to this Committee. Regarding permits, Roberta Roll has been working with the Town Building Department to prepare a public informational brochure describing the permitting process in easy to understand language. The new Building Inspector is reviewing the brochure now. Regarding Water & Sewer, see below.

Real Estate Report - The committee reviewed a recent report from the State Association of Realtors showing greatly increased real estate activity and rising home prices in Columbia County. Julie Cohen confirmed similar information specific to Copake.

Historic Preservation Law - Roberta Roll reported on the Hamlet Revitalization Task Force's work with the State Historic Preservation Office and its review of establishing a historic district in the Hamlet. All committee members agreed that enacting a local historic preservation law and the establishment of local Landmarks Commission was too restrictive for Copake, and that the honorary designation of National Register listing was more feasible and could bring enhanced tax benefits without burdening property owners with restrictions. CEDAC will coordinate with the Task Force to make a recommendation at the next Town Board meeting.

Sewers: Tom and Deb met Erin Moore, a waste water engineer with the firm Tighe & Bond. She worked on Hillsdale's sewer system and is familiar with issues facing our area. She recommended that the Town apply for an Engineering Planning Grant from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Grants are available up to \$30,000 for studying water quality and treatment, and the deadline to apply is February 12. Tom and Deb will follow up with Erin on next steps.

Copake Lake Mini-Park - Tom talked with Jed Luchow of the Copake Lake Conservation Society to get further input on issues surrounding the triangle at Lakeview Road and Route 7. Jed gave Tom the history of CLCS's effort to clean up the Lake and concerns they have regarding maintenance of this area. Austin Urban volunteered that Copake Country Club could help with maintenance. He will also reach

out to Jed. Tom spoke with Town Board member Stosh Gansowski, who gave input regarding his prior discussions with the DEC about lake access.

Roe Jan School - Kevin Davis will reach out to Main Street Hospitality to see if we can get their input on a financial pro forma of operating a hotel there.

New Business - An idea was brought to the Committee regarding opening a distillery tasting room at the former Copake Inn across from the General Store. The committee will investigate this further.

The next meeting of the CEDAC is scheduled for February 4, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Cohen