

Minutes
Copake Economic Development Advisory Committee
Thursday, Feb. 25, 2021 4pm via Zoom

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

Copake Lake Triangle

Many members of the public were present to hear a discussion about the “Copake Lake Triangle” proposal. Tom gave some background on the formation of the CEDAC, its mission, and its focus on the core strengths of Copake - agriculture and the outdoor environment - which inform some of the ideas for committee projects. The Triangle project is only an idea at this point and CEDAC welcomes suggestions. The area is an asset that the town is not maintaining. Is it an asset that should be improved? Challenges: 1. Boats coming into the lake can carry invasive species, 2. no one is maintaining the area - should this be the responsibility of the county, town or homeowners?, 3. garbage accumulation, 4. trespassing on private property. Jane Landers spoke - she said that most home owners are opposed to anything except a beautification project. This could include refuse containers, better “no trespassing” signs, “no swimming” signs, basic landscaping, 4 or 5 designated parking spaces, monitoring and supervision of the area, “no parking” signs on either side of the road. Questions: Do we improve it? Do we leave it alone? Should the land be sold into private ownership?

Roe Jan School

Kevin was not present, so we tabled the discussion.

Internet

A bill in the legislature that called for a state-funded statewide mapping project for underserved areas was pocket-vetoed by the governor. The broadband office believes that 98% of people have high-speed broadband. This figure is perhaps accurate for urban areas, but rural areas likely have 80-85% access. Copake has taken on a mapping initiative and there will be dialogue with Spectrum and Consolidated. Consolidated has an agreement with the town for TV but has not implemented it.

Business Association

The Hamlet Task Force has worked on this for a couple of years and had a website created for a business association, and they are still investigating ways to put this into action. There was discussion of the need for the town to update the town website, and discussion of the distinction and separation of government functions and business. Austin spoke of his experience with his web account manager.

New Businesses

Tasting Room at the old Copake Inn. Kirk Kneller suggested Hillrock - Jeff Baker. Roberta volunteered to talk to owners of the building. Other ideas: chocolate maker, pharmacy (Roberta has been in discussion with CMH about this in the past).

Historic Preservation

The Hamlet Task Force has presented the idea to the Town Board that they take an active role in supporting historic designation in the town. Edgar Masters, Howard Blue, Tom Goldsworthy and Roberta Roll had a follow-up meeting to discuss how to go forward with this. Suggestions: "local listing" of properties, formation of a committee. Edgar has a list of properties compiled by the CAC many years ago, which could be a starting place.

Grants

Grants will be needed for the Waterfront Plan projects and for Historic Preservation nominations, as well as other things. We will need a grant writer.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, March 25 at 4pm on Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Roll