

Minutes
Copake Economic Development Advisory Committee
Wednesday, June 23, 2021 4pm via Zoom

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

Absent: Austin Urban

Guest: Guest: Amy Lawton

New Business Opening

Amy Lawton, Germantown resident and owner/chef of Zinnia's Dinette in Craryville, was invited to speak about her new business. She has been interested in the building for several years and has extensive experience in catering and working and consulting for restaurants and food shops in the Hudson Valley. Zinnia's will be a New England-style fish fry restaurant with lots of salads and local vegetables, as well as ice cream. Planned hours of operation are 11am to 9pm, serving lunch and dinner. Closed Tues. and Wed. She is applying for a beer and wine license with the help of the CEDC. Her goal is quality, affordable food. She is looking to hire staff to start in 3-4 weeks. At the end of July, a well-known New Orleans brass band will play there; she expects to open the first week of August. We offered any help she might need, including for the opening.

Wastewater

The Town Board will have to pass some resolutions related to the wastewater study by Oct. 31. The town needs to hire an engineer to do the study. We will interview three firms; once the firm is chosen by the Town Board, we will submit the name of the firm and the resolutions to the state. In Jan. 2022, the town will receive 50% of the grant. The other half will be distributed in June '22.

Community Broadband

Deb Cohen will participate in a Roe Jan Library community broadband discussion at the Barn in the Roe Jan Park. The purpose is to find out what issues the community has. We still don't know which individuals don't have access to broadband - neither Consolidated Communications nor Spectrum have released names that they are able to serve.

Roe Jan School

Kevin Davis is putting together a list of potential developers. Tom Goldsworthy received a call from Scott LaCasse, who is doing a study on whether to build a hotel at Cata mount. Tom showed him the school. Mr. LaCasse said Catamount wants to build on site, but he would pass along the information to other developers he knows. Kevin contacted other hotel owners to discuss options. The property has never been actively marketed. The call from Catamount came after the article in the Columbia Paper.

Copake Hamlet Revitalization Task Force

Roberta Roll said that the Task Force was disbanded at the June Town Board meeting, and the mission of the Task Force will come under the auspices of the CEDAC. She

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spoke about the upcoming CFA grant round. The town will apply for funding for construction and design of the Copake Spur; the application will be written by Margaret Irwin of River Street Planning & Development. Applications are due July 31. Roberta will send around the final report for the Task Force that was submitted to the Town Board.

Events

Tom would like to form a subcommittee for events and nominated Roberta and Rich Lee, both of whom accepted. The Roe Jan Ramble will take place in Sept. and the Grange will have a Columbus Day dinner. We might want to organize an event for the town in the autumn.

Non-profit Fund

Over the years, the formation of a not-for-profit organization to support projects in Copake has been discussed. In addition, citizens have asked where they might donate funds for projects. Tom, as a private citizen, will set up a 501c3 and open a bank account for the organization. This will not be a town organization. A minimum of three board members will be needed. Roberta has agreed to be a board member, along with Tom.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, July 31 at 9:30am in person at Tom's house to celebrate our one-year anniversary, pending notification and acceptance of Kevin and Rich, who had to leave the meeting at 5pm, and Austin. Meeting ended at 5:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Roll