

## **Minutes**

Copake Economic Development Advisory Committee  
Annual Meeting - Saturday, July 31, 2021  
In person at 1029 Center Hill Road

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

Excused: Julie Cohen, Austin Urban and Kevin Davis.

### Minutes

The committee accepted the minutes of June 23, 2021 as presented by Roberta.

### Agenda

Tom noted that the agenda for this “annual meeting” is to review the past year, get an update on current items, and start to identify priorities for the future – a “big picture” meeting.

### Update on Current Items

Tri-town Housing Resource Committee - Tom reported that Supervisor Mettler had asked him to join a three town initiative to improve workforce housing in the Roe Jan community. He noted that the current membership of the committee is Ellen Levy and Janice Smythe from Hillsdale and Paul Riccardi and Bonnie Hunt from Ancram.

In response to Tom’s request for suggestions of volunteers to represent Copake, the following names were proposed: Julie Cohen, Linda Senk and William Kettler. Tom will follow-up accordingly.

New Restaurant – Zinnia’s Café in Craryville held an opening celebration on July 29<sup>th</sup> with about 300 people attending. The official opening is scheduled for 8/5/21.

Wastewater Engineering Study – Requested documentation, including official resolutions, go to the Town Board for review and approval at the 8/14/21 meeting. Tom noted that the New York State contract should be ready before the State deadline of 10/31/21 and that Bond & Tighe hope to begin work before the ground freezes.

State of Community Broadband Meeting – Deb reported that the community meeting organized by the Roe Jan Library was sparsely attended with only herself representing Copake. Nevertheless, she reported at that meeting that at least 85% of Copake residents have access to high speed internet, either through cable or fiber.

Roe Jan School – Tom reported that based on contacts he has received from various developers, there appears to be increased interest in the rehabilitation and development of the building.

Grants – Although the Hamlet Task Force was dissolved in March, the implementation of the Waterfront and Community Revitalization Plan has now become part of CEDAC. Roberta reported that a grant application for the design of the HVRT spur and the design of flood mitigation have been submitted to NYS Department of State via the Consolidated Funding Application system. The Spur Trail grant request is \$225,000 with a 25% (\$56,000) required match. Roberta emphasized that the grant request is for the engineering study and not for construction. A decision is expected in December 2021. If the engineering costs are funded, we will apply for construction funding thereafter.

The Copake Improvement Society, Inc. – Tom reported that he had established a non-profit fund, the mission of which is to be a fundraising vehicle for any public improvements desired within town. Organization by-laws have been drafted by Roberta, Tom and Ronnie McTiernan and Tom intends to apply for 501(c)3 tax exempt status.

#### New Business

Tom circulated a summary of the CEDAC's early objectives and reviewed its progress around each item. He noted that several major initiatives are well underway, including, for example, the wastewater engineering study, the Rail Trail Spur project and the Copake development fund. He noted further that there were many efforts that still need attention including improved promotion and communication for business in Copake.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 4 p.m. via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Cohen