

Minutes

Copake Economic Development Advisory Committee

Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 4:00 PM

via Zoom

In Attendance: Deb Cohen, Julie Cohen, Kevin Davis, Thomas Goldsworthy (Chair), Rich Lee, Roberta Roll, Austin Urban, Richard Wolf (Town Board Liaison).

The minutes of July 31, 2021 were approved with minor changes.

Roe Jan School – Roberta Roll made a connection with a developer based in Syracuse familiar with historic rehab projects, who is also doing a mixed use redevelopment of an abandoned factory in the Adirondacks. They toured the school on August 16, and viewed the area, staying overnight in Hudson. They have engaged us with questions. Kevin Davis and Tom Goldsworthy will follow up.

Tri-Town Housing Committee - Julie Cohen and Meredith Kane attended and introductory meeting on August 17 on behalf of Copake. The committee is organized by Chris Kersten, Hillsdale's supervisor and has representatives from Copake, Hillsdale and Ancram. Details to follow in subsequent meetings.

Downtown Revitalization Investment (DRI) grant application - Roberta Roll is in the process of filing a grant application for Downtown Revitalization, and will have a public meeting to obtain community input on September 9. A consultant is preparing the grant application.

NY Department of State (DOS) grant application - Roberta stated DOS will let us know by December if we get the grant we applied for in July. The grant is for design and engineering studies to build a rail trail spur into Copake hamlet and will include flood mitigation along the Bash Bish Creek behind Main Street. (design work/engineering study).

Town Government Website & Business Directory - The Town has formed a committee to redesign and update the Town's website. Rich Lee and Austin Urban have volunteered, and will get an update for next time. Alan Friedman advocates that the town website include a business directory. The NY Association of Towns does not advise that a business association website be hosted by towns. CEDAC will not initiate a business directory website, but will try to get stakeholders from the business community to take on this project.

Fall Events - Many public events have been postponed because of Covid safety concerns. Roberta and Rich will meet on October 20 to discuss planning a 2022 event. Bash Bish Bicycle Shop - Grant Hermans is selling this business and retiring, and it is not clear if the business will remain open in the future. The committee discussed ideas that could help promote having a bike shop in Copake.

Waste Water Study Update - Tighe & Bond Engineering has been hired by the Town to do a wastewater study or ground water conditions in Copake hamlet. Tom and Deb Cohen will be meeting with Erin Moore of Tighe & Bond to kick-off this study.

Hamlet Holiday Tree Decorations - Each year shortly after Thanksgiving, volunteers help set up holiday trees to decorate the hamlet using donations provided by citizens. Russ Davis typically organizes this but is not doing it this year. The committee will see if we can get someone to organize it this year.

The next CEDAC meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 5:00 PM via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Rich Lee