

## Minutes

### **Copake Economic Development Advisory Committee**

August 20, 2023 at 9:30 AM

Present: Tom Goldsworthy (Chair), Bill Boris-Schacter, Todd Proper, Larry Singer, Richard Wolf (Town Board Liaison)

Absent: Will Morningstar, Austin Urban, Roberta Roll.

**Review of Minutes** - The minutes of July 5, 2023 were reviewed and approved.

**CMH Rapid Care Copake** - Larry Singer presented information concerning the economics of running Copake Rapid Care, and the number of patient visits required to reach financial breakeven. Generally, all medical facilities are having difficulty finding and retaining staff. In addition, salaries in rural areas may not be competitive with more other higher paying urban areas. There is a concern that Copake Rapid Care may not be sustainable without subsidies from government agencies. Other possible operators besides CMH are likely not interested because of our low population numbers. Larry will check out the possibility of participation in the Federal School Health Program which does subsidize clinics for public school students in lower income demographics, which might be available in cooperation with Taconic Hills Central School.

**Pickleball Tournament** - Bill Boris-Schacter reported the committee has moved the tournament from this Fall to a new date next Spring. The tournament needed an indoor venue in case of rain, and Taconic Hills School gymnasium was not available this September. The delay provides more time to plan and promote the event. The tournament was changed to a Round Robin format, such that each participant will get at least 5 game plays, and winners will have a maximum of 11 game plays. There will be 64 participants (32 two-person teams), and the event will now be held all within one day. The committee has arranged to hire a professional referee. Bill must confirm with Town Board, and get Town insurance certificate for use of the Taconic Hills School as a rain date backup location. The \$2,500 budget will be funded by sponsorships that Vicki Sander is raising.

**Roe Jan School** - Tom Goldsworthy reported that there was no new interest among developers, and those who had previously considered it have grown cold. The Town Building Inspector sent the owners an official Notice of Violation concerning unsafe conditions. Richard Wolf will also call the owner to express the Town's concerns. A member of the The Roe Jan Alumni Association contacted Tom, and they are

networking amongst their membership to search for possible developers, and may also be considering raising funds to purchase school to secure it from further deterioration while a new use is sought.

**Roe Jan Ramble** - Tom reported that the annual event is set for September 23. The organizing committee has added a 100 mile route which will start one hour earlier at 7:30AM. Also under consideration is a “Childrens Ramble” which would be held at 4 PM in Copake Hamlet.

**Local Business Outreach** - Todd Proper suggested a revised survey of local businesses should be done, which he will work on formulating. He proposed that local business might benefit from some help in building public websites, online ordering, and inclusion in a directory listing. Another idea would be to prepare a list of best practices to give them guidance. The survey may also involve calls to businesses to get more input. The idea of a local Business Association was also raised again.

**Comprehensive Plan** - Richard Wolf noted that the Town is beginning the process of developing an updated Comprehensive Plan. The Town would like CEDAC’s involvement.

**Community Calendar** - Bill suggested that it would be helpful if someone could publish a common community calendar showing event dates and significant meetings for both non-profit and community groups, which would be helpful in planning future events. Perhaps CEDAC could spearhead this.

Next CEDAC meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, September 6, 2023 at 4:00 PM via Google Meet.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Goldsworthy