

Minutes

Copake Economic Development Advisory Committee

September 6, 2023 at 4:00 PM via Google Meet

Present: Bill Boris-Schachter, Tom Goldsworthy (Chair), Will Morningstar, Roberta Roll, Larry Singer, Austin Urban, Richard Wolf (Town Board Liaison)

Absent: Todd Proper

Review of Minutes - The minutes of August 20, 2023 were reviewed and approved.

NY Forward Grant Application - Roberta Roll reviewed the contents of the Town's NY Forward grant application to NY State, which is due on September 28. A public workshop will be held on September 9, 2023 at Town Hall. The available grant amount is \$2.25 million which includes streetscape improvements, renovations to Copake Grange, public space improvements at the Fire Pond on Church Street, and planning for the Copake Spur (a trail connection from Copake Hamlet to the Harlem Valley Rail Trail). The grant would also include \$600,00 for local businesses and entrepreneurs who want to expand, develop or start their business in Copake Hamlet. Roberta described some of the possible business proposals that might be included in the application.

Comprehensive Plan - Richard Wolf said the Town will begin the process to update the Comprehensive Plan next year. A working group will likely be formed mid-2024. Right now CEDAC's role is not defined.

Pickleball - Bill Boris-Schachter reported that the pickleball sub-committee was working on picking a date for the proposed tournament for sometime in Spring 2024. He'd like to consult further with Richard and Tom Goldsworthy after this meeting to determine next steps.

Roe Jan School - Tom reported that he had been in communication with Kathy Robertson, the chair of the Roe Jan Alumni Association, which had expressed interest in helping to find a new use for the former school. Ms. Robertson was reaching out to the various class alumni chairs to network with them. The Town's Building Department has issued a notice of violation to the owner, citing unsafe conditions at the site, and threatening fines and enforcement actions. Richard spoke with the owner about the

need to correct the situation. The owner said it will seek out a local broker to help, with instructions to secure the building.

CMH Rapid Care Copake - Larry Singer spoke with the interim superintendent of Taconic Hill Central School District about a considering a Federal program that supports school health clinics, and how this might be a path to re-open the CMH Rapid Care facility. This discussion will continue once the new superintendent starts. Larry also expressed his concern that CMH was not actively working to find staffing for Copake Rapid Care, and that wage rates may not be competitive with other areas. He will also investigate other health care operators such as Optum and Hudson River Healthcare which operate other Rapid Care centers in rural and low income areas.

Local Business Outreach - Tom noted that Todd Proper will be looking into updating a local business survey that was last done in 2020. Todd had also proposed putting together a guide to best business practices that included ways to enhance their online presence in website development, mapping & location services, and social media.

Roe Jan Ramble - Tom also noted that the Roe Jan Ramble Bike Tour will be held on September 23, and gave a quick overview of prior years attendance. Local volunteers will be needed to assist.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Will Morningstar