

Minutes  
Copake Economic Development Advisory Committee  
Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2024 4pm  
Google Meet

Present: Tom Goldsworthy (chair), Larry Singer, Todd Proper, Bill Boris-Schacter, Roberta Roll  
Absent: Austin Urban  
Town Board Liaison: Will Morningstar

Minutes of Dec. 6, 2024 were approved.

CEDAC is down to 6 members, as Will Morningstar is now on the town board. Tom will ask Lynn to send out a notice recruiting new members. If any current CEDAC members know of anyone who might be interested, reach out to them and ask them to submit a letter of interest.

**Business outreach focus groups** Tom and Todd talked about how best to solicit useful information from the businesses about what their needs are for development and sustainability. Surveys may not be the most efficient way, as many people will ignore surveys. Todd suggested small focus groups. Invite a few business people to an initial focus group for an open-ended discussion and see what kind of information we get. Subsequently we may hold additional groups. We could also ask the participants about the usefulness of a survey. Perhaps we can start with the more high-profile businesses in town. We can submit our suggestion for participants to Todd and Tom.

#### **Events**

- \* The Roe Jan Ramble Bike Tour is scheduled for Sept. 21.
- \* A pickleball tournament is scheduled for June 1, with a back-up date of June 2. Will will check with the town board to see if anything else needs to be authorized by the town in order for the event to move forward.
- \* May Day event. Although there is a tight timeline now, Roberta and Tom will speak about organizing an event for the first weekend of May.

**Rapid Care** Larry is reaching out to the community to encourage donations to CMH for the reopening of Copake Rapid Care. He has approached Camp Anne, whose director wrote a letter and will contribute. Camp Pontiac will also write a letter and contribute. Larry will ask Berkshire Hills Camp for a letter and a contribution. Larry thought that perhaps the schools could participate through the Association of Schools; however NYS law does not allow students to go offsite for medical care, or for outside health organizations to come onsite to provide care. It was noted that CMH is a small and undercapitalized institution and that it would be advantageous if Albany Medical would be part of the solution. Tom said that Jeanne Mettler said that \$150K of the targeted \$300K has been raised.

**Roe Jan School** Tom has talked with the new broker, who is out of Poughkeepsie, and sent him the information we had put together about the school a couple of years ago. The current asking price is \$2.125 million, only slightly less than the previous asking price. The broker asked about economic opportunities provided by the town. Tom indicated that any economic incentives would come from the county, and he connected the broker to Mike Tucker at the CCEDC.

**NY Forward** Roberta contacted folks at the REDC to have an online call to discuss our 2023 application - strengths, weaknesses and how we can improve for the next round. The interview has not been scheduled yet. She will also contact businesses who were part of the NY Forward application to see who is moving forward with their projects. Roberta has also been in touch

with the owners of Tommy B's Pizza in Craryville and will meet with them tomorrow to discuss their plans and ideas for expansion of the business.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 6 at 4pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Roll