

Copake Economic Advisory Board  
Minutes of Meeting  
March 20, 2007

**DRAFT**

Present:

Charles Dodson  
Bevin Harrington  
Neal Klein  
Lindsay LeBrecht-Funk  
Marcia Peteroy  
Chris Quinby  
John Spencer  
Mibrey Zelle

Excused:

Linda Gabaccia  
Bob Sacks

Absent:

Leslie Wood

Public:

Diane Cinque

**Old Business**

Subcommittees

Neal Klein made a motion to defer from the subcommittee format to a full open board meeting. The motion was seconded by Mibrey Zelle and unanimously approved.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Milbrey Zelle made a motion to accept the minutes with minor name spelling corrections. Charles Dodson seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously accepted.

Website

Charles Dodson presented a brief statistical review that showed the greatest increase in visits to the website is in the summer. The largest last year was 500 in a single day. There has been a 70% increase in visits with the new design. Every page is visited.

It was noted that Charles sent a memorandum in January to the Department Heads for input, etc. Only the Fire Department responded.

There had been a suggestion that the Senior Citizen Page be improved. Charles Dodson is working on it.

Charles is looking for feedback from small businesses as to what information they would find helpful.

Town Hall Sign

Tabled.

### Banners

Tabled.

### Alternative Fuels

Discussion ensued – where is the volume of corn, if we were to pursue 100-200 tons per day usage. Neal Klein will speak with Frank Peteroy. It was suggested that the Cooperative Extension would be a good resource to possibly get information about a smaller plant.

### Broadband Over Power Lines

Nothing new to report.

### Farmer's Assistance

John Spencer tried to contact the Chatham group several times, however there has been no response. Discussion ensued about the bill that our new Congressperson Kristen Gillibrand is working on for farmers. Charles Dodson suggested that she be contacted – what can we do to help you; we are interested in the bill. Milbrey Zellely to follow-up.

### Copake Clean-Up Day

The date is changed to May 12<sup>th</sup>. Lindsay LeBrecht-Funk will prepare the usual press releases.

### Copake Budget Monitoring

Charles Dodson gave a brief overview of the expenditures, i.e. personal services, contractual, etc. Charles will meet with Neal and report back.

### Business Development Survey

Bevin Harrington distributed an introductory letter with the revised survey. We will each do some and then bring them back. Chris Quinby will contact The Independent and The Register Star so that an article can be written. The personal financial questions have been eliminated. Bevin Harrington will email the forms to us. Milbrey Zellely will contact Bash Bish Bicycle; Lindsay LeBrecht-Funk will contact Copake Lake Country Club and the Dutch Treat; Marcia Peteroy will contact Frank Peteroy, Copake Pharmacy and Copake Auction; John Spencer will interview Spencer Painting & Wallpapering and Bob Flynn; Neal Klein will contact Camp Pontiac, Neal Klein and Hi Voltage Chris Quinby will contact Gina's B&B and TP Garden. Bevin Harrington will email the form to everyone.

### Business Directory

Charles Dodson shared a short version of his list of 186 conventional business, 35 LLC's and 16 community/public services businesses in Copake. He will resend the list to the committee by email.

#### Grant Writer

Charles Dodson mentioned that Morris Ordovery spoke at the last Town Board meeting about grants. For our next meeting, we will try to get some discussion going with the three towns – Copake, Hillsdale and Ancram. Bevin Harrington will contact Bob Sacks about taking the helm of this project and to reach out to knowledgeable people about grants in other communities. Our next meeting will be on grants, depending upon the outcome of inviting key people to attend. Lindsay LeBrecht-Funk will contact Art Baer, Morris Ordovery, Linda Gabaccia and Gerry Roberts. Mibs will contact Lucy (retired Morgan Library) and Janet Doherty and John Spencer will contact Mary Watkins.

#### Copake Community Day

Chris Quinby reported that everything is moving along nicely. Vendor forms and policies are in process.

#### **New Business**

##### Economics

Charles Dodson shared a new section for our books – 50 pages on the economics of the nation, New York and Columbia County and Copake. Do we think it is useful for Copake to join other strategic planning committees? Should we just be making recommendations as a model is being developed? Many questions were posed. Neal Klein suggested that we have the opportunity to read the material shared so that we can more readily discuss at our next meeting.

#### **Adjournment**

Neal Klein made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Chris Quinby. All were in favor.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lindsay LeBrecht-Funk.