

COPAKE ECONOMIC ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
APRIL 25, 2006

**Draft**

Present

Charles Dodson  
Neal Klein  
Lindsay LeBrecht-Funk  
John Mastropolo  
Marcia Peteroy  
John Spencer  
Leslie Wood  
Milbrey Zelle

Excused

Ian Jarvis  
Bob Sacks

Guests

Carol Sacks

**Old Business**

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Neal Klein made a motion to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by John Mastropolo. The minutes were unanimously accepted.

Website

Charles Dodson advised that the current web site converted the 2004 annual report to PDF and sent it to Marge David. This was a correction. The number of hits is being over counted. Visits is a more accurate measure but is also inflated. Visits are not a measure of unique visitors, but the number of visits of different addresses. Some people may have different addresses for each visit and be counted multiple times while other groups of people might have the same address and be counted once. The number of visits is a number that can be used well to trend traffic. He shared a report on the site statistics and the kinds of information available.

The redesign continues. Charles Dodson shared a description of his work plan. See attached. The original site had 203 pages. The redesign will have 576 pages. Of these, 361 are completed and 183 pages have information collected but not yet loaded. From this, it is clear that the redesign is on schedule. With the exception of the Park Commission, all minutes are currently either up online or in hand.

Town code is available by both scanning all of the pages and loading, or could also be purchased from General Code Publishers. The cost is \$200 to install with \$300 a year to maintain and update. The zoning code could be done alone or any combination of chapters in the code. Leslie Wood will investigate if the town code is available in an electronic form and will report back at our next meeting.

Charles Dodson suggested that we make a plea for photos for the web site. It was agreed that a request for digital photos be put in the paper. The maximum size of each digital photo should be 1 megabyte. They can be emailed to [selarchd@taconic.net](mailto:selarchd@taconic.net) or given to him in CD form. Lindsay LeBrecht-Funk will write the press releases.

If Charles Dodson is to find blatant errors in minutes that are submitted to him, the errors will be passed to the chair of that board through our liaison to the board.

The committee was left speechless, and appreciates the enormous amount of effort, thoroughness and dedication this effort entailed. Lindsay LeBrecht-Funk made a motion to accept the suggestions as made in the attached. This was seconded by Milbrey Zolley. This motion unanimously carried.

#### Town Hall Sign

A variety of designs for the sign were presented and one chosen. Neil Klein made a motion to accept the design. John Mastropolo seconded and it was unanimously carried. A motion was made by Lindsay LeBrecht-Funk that a plaque be purchased by the CEAB to be put on the brick on the sign thanking those who donated time and material for the sign. It was seconded by Marcia Peteroy and unanimously carried.

#### Banners

The digital photos were received by Leslie Wood and were passed along to Mettje Swift. Designs will be shared when ready.

#### Rail Trail

The old granite mile markers were discussed, with no action necessary or taken.

#### Copake Community Day

Lindsay LeBrecht-Funk updated the committee on the progress. The "Event" with an arrow signs have been ordered. The date is fast approaching.

#### Copake Clean-Up Day

Is scheduled for May 13<sup>th</sup> at the Town Garage. Lindsay LeBrecht-Funk has submitted the usual press releases to The Independent and The Register Star.

#### Alternate Fuels

Bio-Diesel has been renamed Alternate Fuels. Neil Klein reported that companies are over-whelmed with requests for data and information. Information gathering will continue.

#### Columbia County Tourism

A historic and fall foliage "tour" is a priority and can be easily accomplished. Marcia Peter will follow-up with Ann Cooper of Columbia County Tourism. We very much want to be a part of the fall foliage campaign.

Broadband Over Power Lines

Topic tabled.

Brainstorming

It appears that we need to have a person on the committee who will be responsible for each item. For the agenda items already being discussed, Web Site will be Charles Dodson, Town Hall Sign will be John Spencer, Banners and Bio Diesel are Leslie Wood, Rail Trail and Broadband Over Power Lines is Bob Sacks, Copake Community Day and Copake Clean-up Day are Lindsay LeBrecht-Funk, Tourism is Marcia Peteroy. Farmer's Assistance is Neil Klein and John Spencer.

Motion by Milbrey Zellely to support and work with Susan Bohl-Ferguson with her Farm and Cuisine Trail. Lindsay LeBrecht-Funk will let her know that Random Harvest is closed for the season. Seconded by Leslie Wood, and unanimously carried.

Marcia Peteroy agreed to contact the Columbia Tourism for the Fall I Love NY Tour and let them know that we will be submitting an event.

Lindsay LeBrecht-Funk suggested we add something for the business community. This subject will be focused on for the June meeting. The list below will be prioritized. Leslie Wood will invite Melissa Cockerham to the May meeting to discuss grant writing.

Strengths

Rural Charm  
People  
Lake Environment  
Natural Beauty  
Outdoor Recreation  
Sporting Activities  
Proximity to Cultural Activities  
2 Banks  
Sense of Community  
Schools  
Copake Theatre Company  
Clarion Concert Series  
Town Park  
Catamount  
Day & Summer Camps

Weaknesses

Rural Nature  
Lack of Businesses  
Lack of Central Attraction  
Lack of Grant Information  
No Central Clearing House  
Cultural Events  
Local Attractions  
Services  
Entrance to Town Bus. Dist.  
Lack of Broadband Capacity  
Hotel/Motel Rooms  
Restaurants  
Perception of School as  
Mediocre  
Lack of Gov. Contact w/  
Local Businesses  
Falling Apart Properties

Opportunities

Broadband over Power Lines  
Cottage Industries  
Movie House  
Agritourism/Agritainment  
Farmer's Market/Flea Market  
Winter Sport Expansion  
List of Town's Historical,  
etc. Assets  
Copake Business Group  
Increase Connection w/Camps  
Recruit Farmers  
"Welcome to Copake"  
sign on Route 23/MA  
Research Grant Opportunities  
Awards Banquet for Greatest:  
Contribution to Economic  
Development in Copake

**New Business**

Little League

Leslie Wood brought to this committee's attention that the Little League requires \$40 from each child. This seems to be a large amount of money. Should the Town cover some of this cost? Could sponsorships by local businesses be increased? Lindsay LeBrecht-Funk will contact an appropriate representative from the Little League.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by John Mastropolo that was seconded by Neal Klein to adjourn. All were in favor. Minutes respectfully submitted by Leslie Wood.