

COPAKE ECONOMIC ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING
FEBRUARY 28, 2006

Draft

Present

Charles Dodson
Neal Klein
Lindsay LeBrecht-Funk
John Mastropolo
Bob Sacks
Milbrey Zellely

Excused

Ian Jarvis
Marcia Peteroy
John Spencer
Leslie Wood

Guests

Diane Cinque
Carol Sacks
Harvey Weber

Old Business

Minutes of Previous Meeting

John Mastropolo made a motion to accept the minutes with two minor corrections, that was seconded by Milbrey Zellely. They were unanimously accepted.

Website

According to the counter, there were almost 200,000 "hits" from January to February. Charles Dodson will check to see if these "hits" were self-propelling. Mr. Dodson will also follow-up to ensure that the names of elected officials and board members are current.

Charles Dodson distributed "Copake.org website Suggestions" that was reviewed by the committee. He will electronically distribute this to committee members, who are asked to review and "track" their suggested changes. It was suggested that links to forms should include Motor Vehicles and a building permit.

Discussion ensued concerning the Guest Book and the difficulty in keeping advertisers off. This would not be a problem if newer entries were at the bottom of the Guest Book. Charles Dodson will check with Webmaster Marge David to see if a filter might be installed.

Mr. Dodson was complimented on all the work he did on the suggested changes. Mr. Dodson will also contact Marge David regarding any charges that might be incurred to overhaul the website.

Strategic Planning Committee

The next public meeting on proposed zoning changes is Saturday, March 4th at 10:00 in the Town Hall.

Banners

They are hanging in Town Hall. Tabled until Leslie Wood's return.

Town Hall Sign

Lindsay LeBrecht-Funk to follow-up with John Spencer about the actual sign.

Rail Trails

No discussion took place.

Farmer's Assistance

Leslie Wood had e-mailed possible dates for Thom Shepstone to meet with the CEAB and interested farmers. Unfortunately, those date conflict with either Court (every Monday) or the next Housing Resources presentation to the Planning Board. It was noted that Mr. Shepstone's initial presentation will be at no charge. If we think he can help, we will charge for this advice. We will wait for Leslie Wood's return to discuss this further.

Roe Jan School

Bob Sacks reported that Linda Gabacchia has been in contact with an architect who has interest in the building. This Board would be interested in knowing for what use.

Church Street Deli

It was noted that a Super Bowl Sunday Chili Fundraiser by the Methodist Church raised \$2,200 for the displaced employees.

Traffic Tickets

Bob Sacks has no information to report back at this time. Mr. Sacks will follow-up with Tom Kane.

Bio-Diesel

Tabled.

Copake Community Day

Lindsay LeBrecht-Funk requested up to \$300 to purchase little flags that are distributed at the parade. It was decided to wait on this request until we know what the cost for updating the website will be.

Ms. LeBrecht-Funk also requested to spend up to \$200 for reusable signs to direct people to an "event". Motion made by Milbrey Zelle and seconded by Neal Klein. All were in favor.

Copake Clean-Up Day

Will be May 13th at the Town Garage. Lindsay LeBrecht-Funk will prepare the usual press releases.

CCOLA – Columbia County Tourism

On behalf of Marcia Peteroy, Lindsay LeBrecht-Funk distributed an e-mail about “I Love New York 2006 Fall Festival”. Bob Sacks suggested that a tour of the Bash Bill Falls area be submitted – Copake Foliage Trail. Maybe Marcia Peteroy could contact Ray at the Park. Also Margaret Roche for a fall garden tour.

2005 Annual Report

Lindsay LeBrecht-Funk distributed a draft document that was reviewed and revised that will be submitted.

Broadband Over Power Lines

Bob Sacks brought to this Board the important of Broadband over power lines. To be further investigated.

Brainstorming

Bob Sacks led the Board through a brainstorming session outlining perceived Strengths, Weaknesses and Opportunities. Below is a recap of that discussion. Thanks to Carol Sacks for writing down these suggestions.

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

Adjournment

A motion was made by John Mastropolo that was seconded by Neal Klein to adjourn. All were in favor. Minutes respectfully submitted by Lindsay LeBrecht-Funk.