

COPAKE ECONOMIC ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
MARCH 28, 2006

**Draft**

Present

Charles Dodson  
Ian Jarvis  
Neal Klein  
Lindsay LeBrecht-Funk  
John Mastropolo  
Marcia Peteroy  
Bob Sacks  
John Spencer  
Leslie Wood  
Milbrey Zellej

Excused

Guests

Diane Cinque  
Linda Gabaccia  
Dan Haas  
Brian Herman  
Harvey Weber

**Old Business**

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Neal Klein made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded by Milbrey Zellej. The minutes were unanimously accepted.

Website

Over 220k increase from last month. The counter is being looked at. We have been advised that it is not considered accurate information. It would be helpful to know what people looking at on the website. Charles Dodson advised that the new design may have a counter on each of the seven sections, not the first counter. A counter on each of the seven sections is one possibility, but other ways of tracking use are also under consideration. This data would produce useful information

Charles Dodson advised that the town government page has been up-dated. In addition, there have been 60 changes made to the business directory. Work continues on the Guest List problem.

The redesign continues. All the local forms have been collected. Lindsay LeBrecht-Funk voiced concern about going beyond a link to County assessment information on the website and our liability in case of property theft.

Bob Sacks shared information on a presentation he saw today on a computer program that shows tax maps and identifies abutters. It can also automatically produce mailing labels. This will help the Zoning and Planning Boards immensely. Currently this research is being done manually and is very time-consuming.

Marge David, Webmaster, has not been charging the Town for changes. A quote of \$300 to redesign the website was presented. Charles Dodson made a motion to pay \$300 for the redesign. That motion was seconded by Marcia Peteroy. The motion was unanimously approved. Mr. Dodson advised that the redesign concept/information gathering should be done in about two months. Once the information is given to Marge David, it should actually be on the website in 45 days. We would like to have the revisions complete by Copake Community Day and have some type of display/demonstration available to show the public.

### Strategic Planning Committee

The last public meeting was held on Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. Leslie Wood shared that recently a proposed subdivision was presented. Each parcel was 8 acres – it met the proposed new guidelines, however, didn't meet the concept of having larger tracks of vacant land. Someone had suggested "clustering" the homes closer together and leaving more open space.

It was also suggested to leave 3 acre zoning, however, make some modifications. A possible example would be a 100 acre major subdivision: First take out the property that could not be built on and subtract it from the 100 acres. So, let's say that leaves 60 acres. Divide the 60 acres by 3 acres, which leaves 20 home sites. Now there is more property that is actually left open. This example would be for areas outside of the overlay zone. Bob Sacks shared a list of issues that the committee is tackling. Marcia Peteroy recommended that the definition of clustering be used correctly.

### Banners

We have a request from Taconic Hills Central School District for a Craryville banner. John Spencer made a motion to provide Taconic Hills with a Craryville banner, that was seconded by Leslie Wood. All were in favor. Lindsay LeBrecht-Funk will seek funding outside of the CEAB budget.

We need ideas for a West Copake and Copake Lake banner. John Mastropolo has digital photos of Copake Lake that he will e-mail to Leslie Wood. We are looking for ideas about West Copake -- Linda Gabaccia will ask Julie Newman. Neal Klein will go on line and forward to Leslie Wood aerial photos that might be helpful. Leslie Wood will donate set-up charges.

### Town Hall Sign

Larry Proper is pouring concrete this week so we need to finalize the sign details. John Spencer will follow up with Steve Rosenzweig and touch base with Larry. Signage details to be confirmed by Lindsay. [www.copake.org](http://www.copake.org) should be on the sign.

### Rail Trail

Dan Haas of Rail Trails updated the committee. He has spoken with a Mr. Rapoli who works for DOT – Region 8, Poughkeepsie Office concerning connecting the Rail Trail to Copake – assigning a bike route. The next step is to provide a skemmatic diagram. It was suggested that off of Route 22, we could get those generic food and gas signs. Off Valley View to 22 to Copake should have less travel distance on 22. Mr. Haas also reported that the connection to Millerton is slated for 2007. A representative from the CEAB will communicate with Mr. Rapoli the “path”. His contact information is 845-431-5991 – [jrapoli@dot.state.ny.us](mailto:jrapoli@dot.state.ny.us). Before anything proceeds or Mr. Rapoli is contacted, need to meet with Larry Proper. Bob Sacks to follow-up with Larry. In addition, Ray Doherty of NYS Parks should be included in conversation. Please keep Dan Haas in the loop. His e-mail is [parkhaas@taconic.net](mailto:parkhaas@taconic.net) Neal Klein will help too.

### Farmer's Assistance

Leslie Wood will try to arrange a Monday meeting with Tom Shepstone in the Park Building. Discussion ensued about farmer's getting busy this time of year – what can we do? Red Hook has a transfer tax that goes towards a fund the buy development rights. How do we help Copake stay the town of rural charm? Community supported farm? A subcommittee was formed with Neal Klein and Leslie Wood. Bob Sacks will come to their first meeting. John Spencer also offered to work on this project. Charles Dodson suggested we investigate what Thom Shepstone has to offer first. In addition, we need to provide him with statistical information on our town. Bob Sacks suggested that we should communicate with other towns who are already working on this type of project.

### Roe Jan School

An inquiry came in about the School. They were referred to the owner's representative. The potential buyer would be looking to develop a retirement/ assisted living community.

### Church Street Deli

An architect is working with Dave Valden. Lindsay reported that the plans just about done.

### Traffic Tickets

Judge Brian Hermans, who was in the audience, advised that the Copake PD grosses about ¼ million dollars in fines and we net about \$240,000 fines, criminal fees, etc. There are five police departments that ticket for Copake. About ¾ are for speeding tickets and many pleaded down. Speeding tickets are usually at least 15 miles over the speed limit. Councilperson Linda Gabaccia, who was in the audience, will follow-up on getting the automated speed signs out on the streets and also on obtaining an additional sign. Will be taken off the agenda.

### Bio-Diesel

Neal Klein will bring additional information to a future meeting.

Copake Community Day

Lindsay LeBrecht advised that we do have some of the small flags on hand to pass out at the parade and lots of the plastic bags that the CEAB had made up several years ago. In addition, the “event” signs were ordered. We would get about 18 for the \$200 that was approved at the last meeting.

Bob Sacks advised that we have volunteers for the dunking booth.

Copake Clean-Up Day

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

CCOLA – Columbia County Tourism

We really want to participate in this event – “I Love New York 2006 2006 Fall Festival”. The dates are September 23 through October 31. Maybe have a festival day and list photo opportunities at Sunset Rock, Copake Lake, Rail Trail, Bash Bish Falls, Iron Works. Mebs Zelley will follow-up with Ray Doherty at the Park.

2005 Annual Report

Lindsay LeBrecht-Funk submitted what was reviewed at the last meeting. Next meeting Bob Sacks will take photos for the next annual report. Take off agenda.

Broadband Over Power Lines

Bob Sacks distributed map that towns have across the country. Bob will have more information for next month. Need to educate the community.

Brainstorming -- we have a lot to review and this topic will be put at the top of our next agenda. Need to accomplish tasks before moving on to the next. Also need to prioritize.

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 –**

Demographics

Charles Dodson suggested adding Copake demographics to the website. This has a value on a broader basis. Leslie Wood has census data and will give it to Charles Dodson. Lindsay suggested that Chris Grant, Chair of the Affordable Housing Committee be contacted. A lot of the data is already available.

**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.