

COPAKE ECONOMIC ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING
JUNE 27, 2006

Draft

Present

Charles Dodson
Neal Klein
Ian Jarvis
Lindsay LeBrecht-Funk
John Mastropolo
Marcia Peteroy
Bob Sacks
Milbrey Zelle

Excused

John Spencer

Absent

Guests

Carol Sacks
Diane Cinque

Old Business

Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

Board Structure

Bob Sacks shared a proposal that we divide into three groups in order to focus our energy and perhaps accomplish more. Many options for tackling our large list of agenda items were discussed. These ranged from separating into three councils, having a single council and many committees, enlist citizens to join members for each agenda item. Bob Sacks shared that there have been many volunteers and there are people that can help.

It was pointed out that all meetings would require minutes since we are an open government. Marcia Peteroy made a motion to go forward with establishing committees to work with CEAB members to accomplish our agenda items. The motion went on to include bringing it to the town board and to investigate what our legal responsibilities are in order to move forward. Leslie Wood seconded. The motion was accepted unanimously. Bob Sacks agreed to write a press release. He also agreed to follow up with the appropriate town government.

Website

The web site is up and is beautiful. Charles Dodson advised that we have 500 of the 580 pages up. At the end of this week there will be three items left, the town code, the town rolls and the GIS maps. There are three hundred photos of Copake Community Day. Charles Dodson is being inundated with suggestions and requests for changes, minutes and additions. He suggested that these be done once a week. It was suggested that there be a single day each month. The schedule of updates and methods for working with the web updates will be posted on the web.

Lindsay LeBrecht-Funk made a motion that Marge David be paid her requested \$40 per month for the maintenance of the Copake web site and that it come from the town's general operating budget. Charles Dodson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Charles Dodson also shared that the town code local law is written here, and sent to the Secretary of State in Albany with only one company doing the publishing. All towns are responsible for negotiating for a town e-code or book. There is an expense in submitting these changes. The actual costs were not available. The last time the Copake code was approved was several years ago. There appear to be a group of citizens who think that the changes should not be updated. Bob Sacks shared that the town has agreed to send all of the updated laws to Albany after this next town board meeting when an additional town law may be passed.

If the cost of publishing is substantial, we may consider self publishing. Bob Sacks will take this up with Larry Proper and report back.

Town Hall Sign

We have an additional price quote for the sign. It is from John Reilly, for \$1500. This was the low quote. A motion was made by Milbrey Zellely to accept that quote. It was seconded by Lindsay. Motion was accepted unanimously. John Spencer will be asked to contact John Reilly.

Banners

The banners are up, the design for two additional banners for West Copake and Copake Lake have been requested. The design was donated by Leslie Wood. An additional Craryville banner for the school has been requested. Pictures will be added to the web site.

A suggestion for a grommet to keep them from scrunching up will be solicited from Mettje Swift from Banner Arts Studio who made the banners.

Ian Jarvis offered to write a press release for more banners. Leslie Wood agreed to send her original write-up.

Rail Trail

Nothing new to report.

Strategic Planning

A fourth public information meeting was held last Saturday. This completes the planning phase. The law has been submitted to the town board for approval at the next town board meeting.

Farmer's Assistance

Tabled.

Copake Community Day

Lindsay LeBrecht-Funk reported that it was very successful. The numbers were down slightly with between 1,500 and 2,000 people, perhaps due to the forecast of poor weather. This was the first year that Philmont also had a community day on the same day.

Alternate Fuels

Neal Klein had followed up on this topic. He has tried to meet with NYSEG, and will continue to pursue this.

Columbia County Tourism

The tourism information kiosk opened and will be manned.

Copake Brochure

The Cultural Affairs and Tourism Committee will take on developing a Copake brochure.

Broadband Over Power Lines

Bob Sacks reported that Taconic Technology reported they have 95% broadband use in the town. NYSEG is not interested. Bob Sacks also spoke with Senator Saland about the possibility of bringing broadband to the town.

Columbia-Hudson Partnership

Bob Sacks will continue to pursue them.

Business and Economic Support

Lindsay LeBrecht-Funk suggested we add something for the business community. This subject will be focused on for the July meeting. The list below will be prioritized.

Strengths

Rural Charm
People
Lake Environment
Natural Beauty
Outdoor Recreation
Sporting Activities
Proximity to Cultural Activities
2 Banks
Sense of Community

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.

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

Schools
Copake Theatre Company
Clarion Concert Series
Town Park
Catamount
Day & Summer Camps

Lack of Broadband Capacity
Hotel/Motel Rooms
Restaurants
Perception of School as
Mediocre
Lack of Gov. Contact w/
Local Businesses
Falling Apart Properties

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

Rural Charm versus Jobs:

Charles Dodson shared the Town's Existing Goals and Objectives for the Towns of Copake, Ancram and Hillsdale. A Master Plan was also updated several years ago. Bob Sacks suggested that we consider a 25 year plan. Charles Dodson offered to collect all elements of the Master Plan.

New Business

Order of business for the next meeting will be business issues first, reorganization and then the rest of the agenda.

Adjournment

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