

December 13, 2009

Dear Neighbor,

As you know the Comprehensive Plan Committee for the Town of Copake was appointed by the Town Board in the Spring of 2008 and charged with the task of drafting a Comprehensive Plan for the future of Copake. We feel that we are making good progress, and so we wanted to give you an update before the close of this year.

Our job is to write a Comprehensive Plan which will reflect the visions and aspirations of the people of Copake. This Plan will set forth a blueprint for what the people of Copake want their town to look like in fifteen or twenty years. The Plan is to be long range, and it should address the needs of the entire town – not just “downtown” Copake, but also Copake Falls, Copake Lake, Craryville, Taconic Shores and West Copake.

We have enjoyed the support of the Town Board throughout our existence. With their approval, we hired River Street Planning, a consulting firm from Troy. Many of you were at our Town Meeting on November 7, 2009, when Margaret Irwin, of River Street, led us in a thoughtful and thought provoking discussion. There were well over a hundred and twenty participants, representing a broad cross section of the town, and lots of people voiced their opinions and concerns. A report from that meeting is being finalized and we will send it out to everyone by the end of the year.

At the meeting we also discussed the results of the survey we conducted during the summer. By the beginning of the New Year, these results will be available in their entirety at the Copake website. In the meantime, the results can be found online at <http://tinyurl.com/2009copakesurveyresults>

In furtherance of our goal to elicit the views of as many people in Copake as possible, we have also been conducting “focus groups” at our regular meetings. We have invited various groups of stakeholders in Town who reflect particular perspectives or needs. Since August, we have heard from businesspeople, artists, home business owners, individuals involved in the building trades, representatives of the Fire Department and the Rescue Squad, leaders in Copake government, representatives of “not for profits”, individuals involved in the tourism industry, and farmers. In January we will meet with representatives from Hillsdale and Ancram, as we wind down this phase of our process.

We will conduct another town wide meeting on a Saturday in late spring or early summer (scheduled so that seasonal residents will be able to attend). And, if all goes as we hope, we will be able to present our Plan for approval sometime in the summer. (The plan has to go through various hearings, and will eventually be presented to the Town Board.)

Please feel free to be in touch with us with questions, and comments. You may e-mail us here, or contact any one of us.

We wish you Happy Holidays and the best for the New Year.

Jeanne E. Mettler, Chair
William F. Kiernan, Jr.
George Beneke
Charles Dodson
Harvey Weber

Russ Davis
Marcia Becker
Frank Peteroy
Roberta Roll
Dan Haas

PS We are trying to clean up our e-mail list. If you got more than one copy of this, please let us know and we will correct that next time. Also, if you do not wish to receive these occasional e-mails, please do tell us!