

Minutes of Comprehensive Planning Committee
June 18, 2009, 7:30 pm
Copake Town Hall

Members Present: Jeanne Mettler, Dan Haas, Russ Davis, Marcia Becker, Bill Kiernan, George Beneke, Charles Dodson, Harvey Weber, Frank Peteroy, Roberta Roll

Members Absent: Fiona Hutchinson

The minutes from the June 9 meeting were approved with the following corrections: The fee for the mailing of the survey was \$200 less (rather than more) than originally expected, and 39.9% (rather than 30%) of renters are cost burdened. Also there was a question of whether we had decided on the venue for the vision meeting.

Mr. Dodson reported that all the bills are paid. Also, there have been many surveys already completed - 43 online and 119 on paper. He has helped 3 people get online to surveymonkey.

Dr. Beneke took flyers (encouraging people to fill out their surveys) to Little League; about 20-25% had already filled out their surveys and said they liked them. He will send notices to the church bulletins. Ms. Becker said she would put flyers in the Craryville P.O., Ms. Mettler sent a notice to the Copake Chronicle, Copake Politics Forum and the Columbia Paper. She will send one to the Register Star and to Lindsay LeBrecht for the Copake Lake list. Mr. Weber will send notice to the Robinson Pond listserve. Mr. Haas will have flyers and surveys at the Conservation Resources Committee booth at Copake Community Day; we estimated that he would need about 100 surveys.

The grant money from Columbia/Green College will not be available until July 6, so this will shorten our timeframe for analyzing the data.

We discussed meeting places for the vision workshop. Dr. Beneke said the firehouse is smaller now, probably not be suitable, and the Park building only holds 145 people and has poor acoustics. Mr. Weber suggested the auditorium and cafeteria at Taconic Hills. Ms. Roll said the acoustics are not good in the auditorium. The size of the room was discussed, and opinions were voiced that it would be discouraging to have only 200 people or so in that large room. The questions of having food there, needing to use school staff, air conditioning, and availability were raised. Mr. Weber offered to find out the answers. A vote was taken, resulting in 5 for having the vision meeting at Taconic Hills, 2 for Town Hall, and 1 undecided. The vote is dependent on the outcome of the above issues being investigated by Mr. Weber.

We discussed the Housing and Demographics information we received from Margaret Irwin. Mr. Dodson said he had questions about the numbers, data and grammar in the document. Others voiced similar concerns. As an example, he cited the census figure of 86 businesses in Copake; there are actually 222 conventional businesses. Other figures, such as the number of LLC's, public utilities and hobbies may also be inaccurate. We discussed how to get accurate figures, e.g. farm workers. Ms. Becker said the Columbia County projection for population was a decline of 10,000 by 2030 and questioned Claritas' projection for Copake to remain steady. We discussed needing to have figures for pre-school and school-age populations and a breakdown of numbers for the 5-20 age group. We did not want to take more time in this meeting to review the information, so Mr. Dodson agreed to take the information, make suggestions, corrections, additions and deletions; he will send them out to us to review and add our own suggestions. Although River Street's document is a draft, we all agreed that it is important to make sure the information we are working with and will include in our final plan is accurate to the best of our ability. Ms. Irwin had sent some questions concerning land use that she suggested we start discussing at this meeting. We decided that it was premature for us to discuss these now, as we thought we should wait

until we have more input from the community.

Ms. Mettler said she would convey our thoughts and concerns about the Demographics and Housing information to Ms. Irwin and also discuss meeting dates in July, aiming for the 14th and the 28th. Ms. Roll made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Weber seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Roll