

## **DRAFT DRAFT DRAFT**

### **ARTS AND CULTURE FOCUS GROUP**

**October 27, 2009**

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**SUBMISSION IN WRITING:** Clarion Concerts in Columbia County (see report annexed and incorporated herein)

#### **HOW CAN ART SERVE AS A REVITALIZATION TOOL IN COPAKE?**

- Ask every shop to show Copake Art.
- Boarded up stores are disconcerting: what about murals or using empty stores as gallery space
- Bring galleries to Copake
- Poetry readings, art auction or facebook page
- Copake needs a focal point—there has to be something in Copake to make it a “destination”. The Movie Theater made in a place to go; Copake needs something new to attract people.
- Copake needs “connectivity”. You cannot walk around Copake. If there is an event (for instance at the Grange) there is no way to walk from there, to any place else.
- The arts are draws for tourism—and tourism is a huge economic engine.
- Copake should focus on “branding”. Copake should be known as a place where the arts are thriving.
- Develop an occasion similar to Millerton Fall for Art
- Copake should encourage the arts—but people do not want to come to Copake because it is so run-down. There should be stricter code enforcement to improve the area around the clock. If the government would support zoning, this would support the growth of the arts.
- Hamlets should be connected.
- Better signage would benefit Copake.
- A sign on the Rail Trail indicating the way to Copake and what is available in town would benefit the town.
- The entrance to the south side of Copake gives Copake an “industrial” feel.

## **CONSENSUS POINTS (the recurring themes about which most seemed to agree)**

We need to revitalize “downtown” Copake—we need to make it a destination. The Arts can play an important part. There are lots of artists in Copake. It would be a start if we could at least get art into every business. Ideally, we should have galleries in Town, and develop the reputation of Copake as a arts center. Arts festivals or arts weekends would encourage tourism, which would benefit the town.

The town should be proactive in their support of the arts. The arts are a great resource and could help the town to become thriving once more. A “focal point” such as a theatre or movie theater would help the town. But in order to encourage such businesses to invest in the town, the town must enforce zoning. Boarded up buildings and no sidewalks discourages growth.