

SUMMARY OF CPC 9-29-09 SESSION WITH BUILDING TRADES

In Attendance: Jeff Nayer, Kevin Hill, Calvin Miller, Joe LaPorta, Bill Schmolz, Fred Schweeberger, Chris Osswald, Scott Hedges, John Klein

Comments Focusing on Past and Present

Town is unfriendly to business

Zoning

Change 2 acre zoning to 3 acres

Currently available commercial acreage is between zero and nothing

Self-storage business was denied because of zoning restrictions.

Code should be in plain English.

Police

Stop people for trivial reasons

Debated whether Copake police should patrol State Rte. 22

Scenic Overlay too restrictive

Viewed as designed to stop types of business.

Industrial Park would help all building trades

Land could be found such that potential for being unsightly is reduced

Tax incentives would be helpful

Solve water/sewage problems

Both one and two home owners are good for contractors and building trades

Concerns-Suggestions About the Future

Absence of job growth hurts everybody including building trades.

Industrial parks would help; light manufacturing

Zoning Code should list allowed businesses even though not now available

Could revitalization be centered on the current auction house?

Anything that encourages building and renovation helps building trades.

Renovation ideas

Tired of hearing about unsightly southern entrance into Copake

Consider creating an alternate entrance into Copake between present North and South entrances

Consider development of a new Hamlet

New businesses needed are: grocery store, antique shops among others

Hillsdale has a Hamlet Committee. Shouldn't Copake?

Copake has many buildings available for new businesses.

Encourage businesses with tax incentives

Communication problems: need cell towers

Need bridge repairs

Local Contractors cannot work "outside" Copake but "outsiders" can work in Copake.

(Has to do with licensing restrictions)

Variety of Safety Considerations

New House Construction:

consider addition of sprinklers

better understanding and correction of Radon-222 problems

Building Inspector position needs review – fulltime and better technical background, overview of construction site safety; prefer enhancement of this position to having an architectural review board.

Review all aspects of Building Trades insurance policy requirements and how implemented

Expedite issuance of permits

Interest of young people in building trades is decreasing

Foresee fewer and fewer people involved

Can schools help in directing students into apprenticeships with current people?

Need to consider how to improve training in all business trades

“Green” building concepts will become increasingly important

Impacts energy needs especially: solar, wind, geothermal

Impacts overall design