

SUMMARY OF YOUNG PEOPLE FOCUS GROUP

Jan. 21, 2010

Members of the Young People Focus Group: Lilly Becker, Johanna Becker, Adam Reznikoff

Comments about Copake Currently

Copake is peaceful, quiet, friendly, clean. Relatives are here or close.

Likes the police force.

ATC is trying to do good things

Relatively easy to start home-based businesses here. Few people would open a business in a deserted building.

Absence of places to shop

no internet cafes

Absence of places to socialize. Need places for beer, pizza, sports games, music, dancing, high energy activities, a local band.

No place to celebrate St. Patrick's Day or New Years.

Little available here for young people to do. Taconic Wayside Inn is about it

Tend to go to Hudson or Great Barrington

Community Center is good, but it does not cater to this age group.

Skating Rink is good.

Most of their friends left the area: no jobs and no affordable places to live.

Areas of Interest for the Future

More interaction should occur with the school.

Town people should have access to all sports facilities. Pilates Classes would be good.

Mentoring programs that involve students and town people. Could train kids to help with building restoration and other improvements for the town. Weekenders and young people could get together for weekend mentoring. Get Copake adults involved with career day at THCSS.

Need Better Communication. Events are publicized poorly. Young people get some of their information from websites. Prefer emails; post things at Dad's Diner, at the laundromat. Could an email list be started--sign up at the post office. Send out "Events for the Week"

Use "Facebook", maybe a Copake blog. Maybe Copake needs an IT person. Some variation of "focus groups" should continue.

Athletic Events and Places

Young people like sports and fitness. Why not have:

a soccer team

a baseball team

leagues

hockey team

rock-climbing club

riding club

It doesn't matter if the teams or groups are good - it's having fun that matters.

More Social Events

a job fair - people gather for the day, you have a movie at night.

Copake Community Day on a smaller scale and more frequently

Irish Day

Superbowl Sunday celebration

Polar Bear Club Day

Use these as fund raisers for "selected charities " or a Copake project

Career Day at the park