

**Minutes of the Comprehensive Planning Committee**  
**Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2009**  
**Copake Town Hall**

Members Present: George Beneke, Russ Davis, Dan Hass, Harvey Weber, Frank Peteroy, Charles Dodson, Marcia Becker, Jeanne Mettler, Roberta Roll  
Present from River Street: Margaret Irwin  
Members Absent: Bill Kiernan, Fiona Hutchison

Minutes from the Jan. 27th meeting were approved.

Mr. Haas gave a brief update on the Conservation Resources Committee. He said it is on hold for now. They have lost two members and are soliciting new members for four openings. Their mission is to catalogue and prioritize the natural, economic, historic and recreational resources to be preserved. Mr. Dodson said the information on the comp plan website has been moved to the town website. The GIS software will be installed on a computer in the assessors' office in order to have public access, and it will be up and running by the end of the month. He also reported that the County Board of Supervisors said GIS will be functioning in the county by summer or, the latest, by the end of the year.

Discussion on Principles and Mission based on handout from River Street.

Ms. Irwin asked, What are the large things that this plan will accomplish?

It will be readable, accessible, have broad support, usable, comprehensive, online as well as paper, able to be implemented.

Social Aspects - bring different groups together, people are involved, bring more open communication and understanding about our shared values and interests.

Quality of Life - gateway/entrance to Copake, central hamlet, rural character, sustainable preservation, medical services, cultural activities, town services, do something to change tax base from homeowners to business, water quality.

Economics - new jobs and services, address people of various economic status, home-based economics, small businesses flourish and people of varying means can live and work in Copake.

History - (this is our "anchor") Copake Iron Works, camps, Livingston family, settlers - Iroquios, Mohegans, Dutch. Historic buildings in Park and hamlets, Rail Trail.

Transportation - sidewalks or footpaths connect town center to Town Hall, park and new library; transportation provided to Hillsdale, Hudson and Great Barrington; Rail Trail access to town and school; user-friendly; encouragement to and partnership with county about our views on what needs to be done with roads and sidewalks; identify places for bike paths; formalize what is already being used.

Land Uses - sustainable, result in common sense zoning, balance between needs of various groups, fair, equitable, development is appropriate for small town, balance open space with development.

Environment - clean and adequate supply of water, waste disposal, clean air, clean soil, habitat for wildlife, parks.

Agriculture - sustains, protects, encourages ag-based business - e.g. machinery, feed supply (need to have density), farmers allowed to diversify.

Community Design - revitalize the hamlet and all the centers of Copake - Copake Falls, West Copake, etc., make the centers user-friendly and aesthetically pleasing, parking, lighting, traffic flow.

Government - structure: school, town, county - interaction and cooperation

Recreation and Parks - greener, more activities

We then discussed Stakeholder Identification

Elected Officials - Town Board, assessors, highway superintendent, DA, county clerk, town clerk, county

legislature, Bd. of Supervisors. Best way to reach them is in person, mail and email.

Town Staff - reach by email

Town Boards - Planning, Zoning, Econ. Advisory, CRC, Parks and Rec. email

Activists - Friends of Copake, church groups, Grange, Young at Hearters, library, Rail Trail, political parties. use newsletters, email, postcards.

Farming - Shagbark, agriculture/dairy.

Property Owners not Residents - use assessment rolls.

Tenants - use voting rolls and postal carrier lists, distribute on site.

Residents - use voting rolls and assessment lists.

Developers - if they own land - builders, contractors, realtors.

Taconic State Park

Transportation - Zancelli (sp?)

Retail/Service Providers - list of businesses (Mr. Dodson has this)

Fraternal and Other Organizations - Young at Hearters, Masons, VFW, Legion, Grange, Churches, Knights of Columbus, Eagle Scouts, Copake Theatre, 4-H, Taconic Hills School, Leaf Peepers, Camphill, Audubon, Bronx House Emmanuel Camp.

Next on the agenda was the Survey

Ms. Irwin felt that the 2004 survey done by the Econ. Advisory Bd. was more of a community value survey, identifying present-time activities and values. She said that our use of a survey would be for specific issues in planning. How do we look forward with specific priorities? The survey will have a few "vision" questions and also questions specific to planning issues. We looked at the first draft of the survey she created. The language needs to be neutral and clear. We thought it looked like a good start; we will edit and revise.

Ms. Irwin said we should distribute it by mail and also online. We discussed how to protect the integrity of the results, especially online. A survey system will do this quite well. It will allow only one (or two) surveys from each computer. We will send one survey by mail to each household and make others available if needed. Cost of this is \$2100. After discussion, we agreed that the risk of duplication is minimal and not significant. Choice of mailing lists is 1) assessment database - 2,411 names or 2) postal carrier list - 998 names. The latter is too low a number; there are other postal routes which originate in Hillsdale and Craryville. If the postal routes are spilling over into other towns this is probably not a good method to use 3) voter rolls.

Ms. Irwin gave us various prices for mailing options. She suggested we use a mailing company to save time and money.

Before the next meeting, we need to review the survey contents and mailing/price options

The next meeting will be on Thursday, Feb. 19 at 7:30 pm

Ms. Roll made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Beneke seconded. The meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Roll