

REPORT TO THE TOWN BOARD

May 8, 2008

The Comprehensive Planning Board has been meeting since March 5, 2008. We decided early on that the best way to start our work was first, to become informed about what is actually involved in creating a Comprehensive Plan, and second to understand the work that various committees in Copake have already accomplished since their findings and input will assist us as we move forward in our task.

The committee received two hours of training from a Senior Planner from the New York Planning Federation, and various members have also participated in individual training. Four committee members (Jeanne Mettler, Roberta Roll, Harvey Weber and Madeline Nicholson, as well as our Board Liaison Bob Sacks) are attending a four day program presented by the Pace University School of Law Land Use Law Center. Our member Bill Kiernan attended a three day training with regard to Wind Energy.

We decided that hearing the experiences of other nearby towns would also assist us. We heard from Art Bassin, who is the Chair of the Ancram Comprehensive Planning Committee, and later this month we will hear from a gentleman who was involved in the Amenia Plan.

Beginning this month we are also hearing from representatives of Copake's Committees. We intend to hear from the Economic Advisory Board, the Conservation Resources Committee, the Planning Board and the ZBA.

All meetings of the Committee are open, and it is our intent to solicit the views of the community throughout this process. More details regarding outreach will be available in the future, but in the meantime we invite you to visit our website. Two of our members John Brusie and Stuart Carduner have created a website with information on our committee as well as lots of information regarding comprehensive planning. If you visit that site you can read plans from throughout Columbia County. That website can be reached at <http://copakecompplan.googlepages.com/home>

Our committee is meeting twice a month. Our meetings in May are May 15, and May 29 at 7:00 in the Town Hall.

If you have any questions, you may always contact one of our members, or call Chairperson Jeanne Mettler at 329-2206.