Minutes: Copake Economic Advisory Board

November 17, 2009 7pm Copake Town Hall

Present: Marcia Peteroy, Neal Klein, Bob Rosegarten, Leslie Wood, Mibs Zelley, Chris Quinby, Karen Diperi, Noah Elkin: 5 guests. Linda Gabaccia, Town Board

1. Meeting called to order at 7 pm by Chair, Leslie Wood, who welcomed guests.

2. Bob Rosegarten moved waiving a reading of the minutes; seconded by Neil Klein

3. Dean Knox, Director of Engineering of the County Department of Public Works, gave a presentation on the projected revitalization of County Rte 7A, beginning at the intersection of Church Street and Center Hill Road, extending east to the clock, and then north and south to the intersections with State Route 22. First will be the initial design phase of the project. The project will include a rebuilding of the road, putting in adequate drainage, sidewalks, crosswalks, and various "street enhancements' such as lighting, curbing, flowers, bike racks, benches and plantings. The project is still several years away but the planning will begin soon. Leslie asked what the town could do to assist. Most importantly would be the formation of a village advisory board to work with the DOT. There was discussion about the possibility of connecting downtown Copake to the HVRT, about rain gardens, and about working with the Around the Clock Committee. Mr. Knox suggested that we take a look at what's been done in downtown Chatham where a similar revitalization project has just been completed. He also said that he would be happy to take a look at any plans and ideas the Around the Clock Committee has. Leslie suggested that the CEAB might come to Mr. Knox with our visions for the project, and our knowledge of specific problems that needed to be addressed.

The CEAB agreed to write a letter to the Town Board, urging the creation of a village advisory board; and to suggest the need for close work with the Comprehensive Planning Committee as the project goes forward.

4. Charles Dodson gave an excellent and detailed report on the Copake Website. Most notable has been the dramatic increase in visits to the website. Charles also noted the difficulty he has in obtaining minutes from the various town committees for posting on the website. The open meeting law requires that minutes be submitted within two weeks of the meeting. The CEAB agreed to send a letter to the Town Board to request that Vana, as town clerk, request the minutes from delinquent committees.

Charles next reported on his investigations re: broadband. He felt that the CEAB should talk to the broadband people, and volunteered to do this for the Board.

Charles then reported on the status of the Comprehensive Planning Board Committee's survey.

Charles then said he was learning to use ARCGIS. Copake's membership in NY State Data Shaping Cooperative gives the town access to all GIS maps and data.

Finally, Charles reported on the status of the Tri-Town Grants Office. He strongly recommended that the CEAB should create a list of priorities for grants projects to be presented to the Town Board, rather than assume that the Town Board would do such prioritizing, so that when the Grants Officer is hired, he/she knows right away what projects to start working on for Copake.

The complete texts of Charles Dodson's reports to the CEAB are filed as an attachment to these minutes.

5. There are three seats open on the CEAB. Advertising of these vacancies has been done, and the Board will interview the candidates at the December meeting. There was discussion of the possibility of adding a second alternate member, in order to have the seat of absent members filled, and to bring more ideas to the table for discussion.

6. The Around the Clock Committee will meet on Monday, November 23 at 6:30PM at the Town Park Building. After some discussion a tentative agenda was set: the selection of a chairperson(s); the selection of someone to take minutes; Break-out groups on these specific topics: Holiday decorations for downtown; the general store; the creation of a bi-monthly farmers' market, the Copake Inn; the clock; and any other topics someone in attendance would also like to champion. Linda Gabaccia said she would get the park building scheduled and the key.

7. As it was getting late it was agreed to table the discussion of the Salisbury Bank.

8. The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 15th at 7 pm at the Town Hall.

9. Bob Rosegarten moved that the meeting be adjourned; seconded by Marcia Peteroy.

Respectfully submitted,

Mibs Zelley

Acting secretary for the meeting