

Minutes of the Comprehensive Planning Committee
Feb. 9, 2010 7:30pm
Copake, NY 12516

Members Present: Charles Dodson, Jeanne Mettler, Rus Davis, Frank Peteroy, Bill Kiernan, Marcia Becker, Roberta Roll, Harvey Weber, George Beneke
Members Absent: Dan Haas

The minutes of the Jan. 21 meeting were approved with the following changes:
Charles Dodson was present. Rob Lopez is the deputy director of 911.
The minutes of Jan. 12 are not available yet.

Ms. Mettler said she received the 28-page Farmland Protection Strategies report from Harry Dodson. She had some reservations about it which she stated that she expressed to Margaret. Margaret will tighten it up and distribute it to us.. Some of the data will go into the grant application she is submitting to Ag. & Markets. There is a NY Main Street grant with a deadline in April which provides funding for downtown revitalization, housing code compliance, building renovation, etc. We discussed whether to turn this over to ATC. Ms. Becker asked, if that were the case, would they turn the info. over to CPC so we could integrate it into the plan. Charles said that Main St. also offers planning grants. It used to be only for 501C3's; now it is for govt. groups as well. \$500,000 is the maximum, the usual award being about \$50,000. Ancram received a planning grant. We thought perhaps both ATC and CPC should apply. Mr. Dodson suggested that we call NY Main St. Program and ask how we should approach this. Ms. Mettler commented that we are at a good time to ask for money, especially in the wake of all the attention on the plight of farming communities; Copake has lost 90 cows in four weeks with the tragedies of the Miller and Pierson farms. Mr. Dodson said there is another type of grant we might apply for. The State Dept. make funds available to encourage cooperation among municipalities (e.g. fire dept. schools, towns). There are four categories, and there needs to be at least two municipalities involved. There are large and small awards; the deadline is June. Ms. Mettler wondered if we could do the application or do we need M. Irwin. Mr. Dodson said we could do it, but asked what we think about the concept of consolidation. Ms. Mettler said she could reach out to Tom Carty from Hillsdale. Mr. Dodson said that Hillsdale, Copake and Ancram have applied previously but were rejected; the State Dept. insists on cooperation between towns. Mr. Kiernan wondered how the Town board felt about this. We discussed the issue briefly; Mr. Dodson said that Town board permission is required for this grant. Ms. Becker said it seems, in all our

discussions, that we haven't decided, that we are skirting around the issue of consolidation. Ms. Mettler said she sensed that we will come to a consensus by June. She also said that M. Irwin has some other grant ideas, including Berkshire Taconic Community Fund, Rheinstrom Foundation, and Greenway. She suggested we form a subcommittee to investigate grant opportunities. We discussed whether the Town could help, but we decided that would result in too many delays. Mr. Dodson said that some grants require matching funds. Ms. Mettler said she thought we if we need permission from the Town board it will be forthcoming. We decided we should proceed with appropriate applications and then invite the Town board to participate if desired or necessary. Mr. Dodson, Ms. Becker, Ms. Mettler and Ms. Roll offered to be on the committee. We need to make contacts and find out what the deadlines are.

Ms. Mettler asked Mr. Peteroy if he would be the liason to ATC; he agreed.

Ms. Mettler said she had asked M. Irwin to come on Mar. 9. We will meet with ATC on Mar. 18.

Mr. Dodson said he has enough information for one more focus group report. He needs the Jan. 12 minutes to complete the last one.

We then looked at the Community Profile. We went through 12 pages, making corrections, and will resume next meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Beneke, seconded by Ms. Mettler. The meeting was adjourned at 9pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Roll