



PAC Meeting #11, February 10, 2021, 4:30-5:30 PM

Present: Roberta Roll (Chair), Alan Friedman, Andy Fisher, Peter Kelly, and Jeffrey Judd, Town Board Liaison. River Street Team with Margaret Irwin and Chris Snyder.

General Update

Roberta noted that Lenny Barham resigned from the PAC as he's on the siting board for solar project.

Community Zoom Workshop 2-13-21 – Projects

River Street reviewed the set up for the community workshop and said there would be capacity available to host 100+ participants. With almost 60 projects, the team needs to reduce number of projects that will be discussed at the meeting given the amount of time. Margaret noted that many projects are about environmental protections that are a given and may not need to be discussed as much. Need to highlight projects with best chance of being funded. NYS is honoring current grant funding commitments – new projects unlikely to move forward soon but NYS is supporting small businesses, pushing vaccine to market and **supporting improvements and master plans for State park to support people getting out of their houses.**

Roberta noted the range of recreational projects in Copake should be relevant to this goal. Margaret emphasized that State park adjacency with trail enhancements may be most likely be funded, so it's important to sit down with Taconic State Park administrators to see how Copake can work with them to coordinate. Roberta requested clarification on Copake's role working with the Park. Margaret indicated that the Park would have an operating budget and if there are Copake projects that align with TSP Master Plan – e.g., fishing access – the two may work together to get certain locations online. Potential for very beneficial partnership.

Copake needs to be strategic about putting forward a set of projects that can realistically be advanced – ready to go, few site control issues, documented community support, permittable, partners aligned and with broad benefit – for people of all ages and abilities. It's important to create a Copake track record of applying for projects, getting grants, implementing design/construction/projects. Other projects won't go away, but need the catalyst projects to show understanding of the current State context (i.e., library, Memorial Park enhancements, improvements that reduce impairments to waterways). Roberta asked how Town could support these projects in a non-monetary way. Margaret indicated the Town can endorse projects and their recommendations, make sure planning board understands work with green infrastructure solutions, ensure appropriate policies and capacity are in place.

The Library would be a catalyst design/construction project. For trails, Roberta described a loop trail concept originating on Peter Kelly's property that would abut Main Street, follow the creek towards Route 22, cross the creek and loop back to his property. She discussed another small but feasible project idea for using the fire pond in the middle of town as a small park. There are illustrations of this idea in the Copake Hamlet Design and Development Plan. Roberta also provided a simple explanation for the Spur Trail: From the Hub to east side Bash Bish, cross Rte 22, with possibility of going under bridge at north entrance of Copake, then following Weed Mine Road and finding a way to link with HVRT. Margaret noted that for the public meeting, it would not be feasible to discuss every route in detail. Roberta will present on the trails project component during the meeting. PAC discussed culvert and bridge standards.



Andy asked if it would be possible to provide maps of the area so people could visualize the locations. River Street will provide a base map of all the locations of catalyst projects and town landmarks.

Margaret asked the PAC which projects or areas need the most input on from public. The PAC discussed:

- Library Waterfront Park – Strongest project because it is owned, controlled, on primary waterway, can be phased in, public space, accessible.
- Fishing projects, including those aligned with the Taconic State Park Master Plan.
 - Jeffrey (Judd) noted there is a viable fishery by the library for stocked trout. Taconic Hills School District-Trout Unlimited partnerships – could they release trout that students raise at the library?
 - Discussed water flow and ‘muck’ in small streams as result of more frequent and more severe weather. Margaret suggested this might make the argument for restoration of even a small stretch through DEC partnerships. Adapting to climate is one of Copake’s goals and a big goal for the State. We could try to sustain a small project (high heat, drought, flooding)
 - Jeffrey –Planting willows or shade trees along riparian edge/banks makes a difference. Adding roots to stream side is great thing for the fish. Margaret noted that many DEC grants and habitat restoration grants apply to this.
- Trails Plan including the Spur.
 - Roberta noted the Spur involves private ownership. How would this be handled? Margaret said that trail projects will entail working with both DOT and property owners. It’s impossible to plan without talking about property the town doesn’t own. No one will speak for property owners – but we need to think about trails and access. It’s obvious the town doesn’t own every piece of property.
 - River Street will reach out again to Engineer after the public meeting to reexamine potential trail connections/ Spur. He has staff who will donate some preliminary conceptual sketches for this.
 - Will bring people together in next few weeks (DOT and partners) to see what current thinking is. Lies in hands of property owners ultimately. Need continuing conversation about this.
- Bike tourism – signage, mapping, promotion, GPS driven mapping.
- Need for ideas for West Copake and Craryville – hamlet project ideas such as Wayfinding.
- Memorial Park connection to the Copake Hamlet.
- Landowner education efforts, water protection efforts and importance of the riparian edge and the Resilience Corps idea. Help residents – especially newcomers- understand nature of the land they own and how it contributes to water conditions (temperature, aquatic life). Need to hear directly from people about what’s happening to understand it. Team will direct people to flood survey during workshop.
- Camp Hill Village – Jeffrey noted this is in his neighborhood – wonderful idea for a project. Not sure what would link them to greater community. Roberta noted Camp Hill wants to be involved in town and the grounds are always open for people to walk, tour, etc. Could partner with them on some sort of environmental farming practices. They lease a piece of land in the Copake Ag center. Margaret suggested there might be a partnership around Camp Hill members educating families at the Library about garden plots, healing gardens, etc. – putting their community in the teaching role. Sustainable agriculture... The PAC may want to have a conversation with them to look to build a bridge with them around something in the Plan that makes a connection.

The PAC will send Roberta a list of their top 5-6 priority projects for discussion at the meeting and River Street will identify the consensus projects. Roberta noted the PAC should keep in mind this is all of Copake so should



**Town of Copake
Waterfront &
Community Revitalization Plan**



This project is funded by the
New York State Department of
State under Title 11 of the
Environmental Protection Fund.

be inclusive of all hamlets (e.g., West Copake integrates into biking projects.) The team discussed public access points and that issues like the Copake Lake Triangle project are not related to this Plan, as it's not an eligible waterway. Team will ensure the Plan reflects what Copake residents want in the end. Everything is transparent – the purpose of the Plan is to communicate town interests to NY State.

River Street will follow up the community meeting with a survey on all the projects. PAC discussed project fruition timeline for different projects, with Margaret indicated it depends on agencies involved and CFA cycle. State will start with funding 2019 awards. Regional Economic Development Council critical relationship for grants.