

Supervisor's Report

Resolutions for 2022

With the arrival of the New Year, it's appropriate to take a look back, and a look forward. In the past two years since I took office, both the proposed solar project in Craryville and the pandemic have posed outsized challenges to Copake. Sometimes those challenges were so much in the forefront that other challenges and achievements were overlooked.

In past reports I have listed achievements of this Board, but the one which I want to highlight tonight is that, we are about to have new generators installed in both the Park Building and the Town Hall. This improvement to infrastructure is largely due to the persistence of Councilperson Stosh Gansowski. The generators being replaced were over 20 years old. They had to be started manually whenever the electricity went off. This was particularly worrisome since both of these buildings are emergency facilities. As of now, the new propane tanks have been installed and we expect installation of the actual generators in February. Our thanks to Stosh. Stosh spent hours and hours, in fact many months on this.

Now on to 2022. In no particular order, the following are projects and goals which I want to achieve this year.

- **Get a traffic light installed on Route 23 at the intersection with Center Hill Road.**

This was attempted a few years ago, and the Department of Transportation denied Copake's request. Now that the Gulf station has opened it is all the more critical that we have a traffic control device installed. This is on our Agenda for tonight.

- **Discuss ARPA funds and how to spend them.** We will receive \$348,000 which must be spent no later than December 31, 2024.
- **Consider recommendations of the Zoning Advisory Committee.** In December we opted out of allowing "on-site consumption of cannabis". At that time we set up a three person committee to recommend what if any changes should be made to the Code, if Copake decides to allow cannabis on-site consumption. They will be meeting for the first time, next week.
- **Continue to pursue projects as recommended by the Waterfront Revitalization Plan and assess grant opportunities to address both the flooding of the Bash Bish and also the building of the Copake Spur.** We

were disappointed that we did not win the CFA grant in 2021 but we need to improve our grant application and reapply.

- **Advocate for the acceleration of the Copake Hamlet road reconstruction, so that it is completed prior to the Bicentennial of Copake.**
- **Launch the Bicentennial Committee.**
- **Hire an Administrative Assistant.** Our 2022 budget includes a line for this position. I will be proposing a job description and ask for Board support in creating this position.
- **Acquire Gmail Accounts for all Town Offices.** More on this later tonight.
- **Review and enhance the Town's cyber security policies.**
- **Continue to pursue Climate Smart status,** and improve systems in the town be energy efficient and responsible.
- **Continue our efforts to enforce zoning fairly across the Town.** More on this when we hear from Stosh later tonight.
- **Create and install a new website.** Under the leadership of Town Clerk Lynn Connolly we are interviewing companies qualified to create a new site. The current website is almost 10 years old, and cannot be updated. We are looking forward to a state of the art municipal site.

As you might notice, I have not mentioned the Hecate project as a priority- even though it will continue to consume our time. We will continue to advocate the Town's position that the project is too large and poorly sited. We will continue to rely on Deputy Supervisor Wolf for his excellent leadership on this front. We will continue to keep the Town apprised as we go forward in this process.

On a final note- it is worth talking about taxes. What's important is that none of the initiatives listed above will require an increase in taxes. As the Board has discussed, Copake has a very healthy fund balance, including substantial designated reserves. This Board has been very prudent and fiscally responsible and always will be. But there are certain smart investments which would make our Town government more modern, more efficient and more productive. And, there are more improvements to Town infrastructure which, through grant funds and proper budgeting, could benefit the lives of residents without increasing taxes.

We have high hopes for a busy, productive year.

Jeanne E. Mettler

Supervisor