

Supervisors Report

In the past week, the town of Copake has been visited twice by members of New York State government. On October 7, members of the board of the new Office of Cannabis Management and the Cannabis Control Board visited a small farm just up the road from Town Hall. Today, members of NYS Empire State Development came to Copake to tour the Hamlet of Copake in relation to our Grant Application under NY Forward.

Friday's tour highlighted a small farm owned by husband and wife team Jasmine Burems and King Aswad. The couple is farming land which is part of the Copake Town Center Farm. NYS officials were in Copake to applaud the couple's venture in growing cannabis.

As this brand-new industry takes off, New York State says that it is seeking to achieve social equity and create a "national model for [a] safe, equitable and inclusive industry." Both Ms. Burems and Mr. Aswad are black, and spoke eloquently about how exciting it was as minority farmers to be part of this new industry. The State's presentation stressed the potential economic impact of this new industry. I was pleased to welcome these new farmers to our community.

Today members of the New York State Empire State Development team participated in a tour of the Copake Hamlet, visiting various businesses which are included in the Town's NY Forward Grant Application. If the Town is successful Copake could be awarded a grant in the amount of between 2.5 million and 4.5 million. The funds can be used for local business projects and also public works projects.

In this regard, huge thanks must go to Margaret Irwin of River Street Planning who has assisted the Town pro bono. Additionally, the Town owes huge gratitude to Roberta Roll, who, as a member of CEDAC, has spearheaded and shepherded this entire effort. Roberta, we cannot thank you enough.

It is expected that the Town will learn the results of the application later this year.

Finally- news from the Board of Supervisors. Last night I spoke against and voted against a resolution to eliminate \$1 tags for garbage and charge \$3 for a 30 gallon bag. The County has been losing a large amount of money and has attributed the "hemorrhaging" to the people who toss in garbage without any tags, or toss in great big bags with only a \$1 tag. I argued that eliminating the \$1 tag only penalizes the people who were obeying the rules and that it would not resolve the cheating which is the real problem and would continue. I was not successful.